



News Release

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ARMY CORPS TO BEGIN CONSTRUCTION ON MURRIETA CREEK FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT

Los Angeles – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will mark the start of construction on a much-anticipated flood control project along Murrieta Creek with a groundbreaking set for Wednesday, November 12, 2003. Federal, state and local officials will attend the 10 a.m. ceremony to be held at the Temecula Community Center, 28816 Pujol Street, in Temecula. The Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, Mr. John Woodley, will speak at the ceremony. U.S. Reps. Ken Calvert, Mary Bono and Darrell Issa have been invited to attend.

The project, officially called the Murrieta Creek Flood Control, Environmental Restoration and Recreation Project, will widen seven miles of existing earthen channel and will provide 100-year flood protection for the cities of Temecula and Murrieta. Included in the project are a wildlife habitat corridor, a 250-acre detention basin, 160 acres of wetlands and wildlife habitat enhancement and a 50-acre sports park. The project also will provide equestrian, pedestrian and biking trails along its full length and includes construction of several bridges.

Murrieta Creek drains an approximately 220 square mile watershed. Over the past century, the creek has flooded numerous times. One of the most severe occurred in 1993 when the creek overtopped its banks and inundated large portions of the cities of Murrieta and Temecula. Estimated damages to businesses, residences and public improvements were in excess of \$10 million.

The schedule calls for completion of the roughly-\$90 million project in October 2007. The Corps will cost-share construction of the project with its local sponsor, the Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District.

“This ceremony is the culmination of an enormous effort that has brought us from the drawing board to construction of this long anticipated, much needed project,” said Col. Richard Thompson, commander of the Corps’ Los Angeles District. Thompson recognized the significant contributions by Calvert, Bono and Issa in gaining Congressional authorization for the project. He also noted the cooperation of community leaders, environmentalists and developers in identifying a solution to the flooding problem.

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