

**MONDAY MORNING GROUP
OF
WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNTY**

**ANNUAL ADVOCACY TRIP – WASHINGTON, DC
MARCH 5 – 8, 2012**

**MURRIETA CREEK FLOOD CONTROL,
ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION, AND RECREATION PROJECT**

ISSUE: Murrieta Creek poses a severe flood threat to the cities of Murrieta and Temecula. Overflow flooding from the undersized creek with a tributary watershed area of over 150 square miles has periodically wreaked havoc on the communities. As the area continues to develop, the actual and potential damages (direct and indirect) will only continue to increase.

Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, local sponsor of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Murrieta Creek Flood Control, Environmental Restoration and Recreation Project, needs an appropriation of \$17 million in Federal FY2013 to complete construction of critically needed Phase II facilities and to complete the design, including the preparation of plans and specifications, for Phase III through Old Town Temecula, one of the areas hardest hit by the 1993 floods.

ACTION: The Monday Morning Group urges the Administration and Congress to support an appropriation of \$17 million in FY2013 to complete construction of Phase II and to complete design, including the preparation of plans and specifications, of Phase III of the critically needed Murrieta Creek Flood Control, Environmental Restoration, and Recreation Project through the City of Temecula, particularly Old Town.

BACKGROUND: Murrieta Creek traverses the cities of Murrieta and Temecula in Riverside County before confluencing with Temecula Creek to form the Santa Margarita River, which flows through Camp Pendleton Marine Base to the Pacific Ocean.

The 1997 Energy and Water Appropriations Act dedicated \$100,000 to conducting a reconnaissance study of watershed management in the Santa Margarita Watershed "including flood control, environmental restoration, storm water retention, water conservation and supply, and related purposes". The reconnaissance study, initiated and completed in 1997, identified a Federal interest in flood control for the Murrieta sub basin, and recommended moving forward with a detailed feasibility study.

The Murrieta Creek Feasibility Study and Environmental Impact Report, completed in 2000, resulted in a recommendation for the implementation of the Locally Preferred Plan for flood control, environmental restoration, and recreation; it was endorsed by the cities of Temecula and Murrieta, and by the community as a whole. The Energy and Water Appropriations Act of 2000 (H.R. 5483) included specific language authorizing the Corps to construct the Locally Preferred Plan.

The Murrieta Creek Flood Control, Environmental Restoration and Recreation Project is being designed and constructed in four phases. Phases I and II include channel improvements through the City of Temecula. Phase III involves construction of a 270-acre detention basin, including 160+ acres of wildlife habitat and 50 acres for a regional sports park, which will reduce or alleviate flows, capture or control sediment, and improve water quality downstream, particularly benefiting the Santa Margarita River Ecological Preserve and Camp Pendleton. Phase IV involves channel improvements through the City of Murrieta. Equestrian, bicycle, and hiking trails, as well as a continuous habitat corridor for wildlife, are components of all phases of the project.

Essentially, Phase I has been completed. Phase II construction, Phase III design, and incidental services and work will be completed with the appropriation of and implementation with the \$17 million in FY2013. Phase III construction and incidental services and work and Phase IV design and construction and incidental services and work will follow with future appropriations and implementation.