

MINUTES - DRAFT

City of Orange

Santiago Creek Commission

July 23, 2025

The Santiago Creek Commission of the City of Orange, California convened on July 23, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. in a Regular Meeting in the Council Chamber, 300 E Chapman Avenue, Orange, California.

1. OPENING/CALL TO ORDER

Chair Moeller called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

1.1 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Led by Commissioner Michael Knight

1.2 ROLL CALL

Present: Galera, Adams, Baca, Hillman, Knight, Tillou, and Moeller

Absent: None

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Public Speakers:

Jeff Haysom is interested in a community teaching garden in East Orange, specifically in the Grijalva Park open area.

Marc Kenton shared his concerns about the unhoused and speeding e-bikes he regularly encounters on trails.

Jensen Hallstrom would like to see ecological conservation efforts for ancient sycamore trees lining Santiago Creek.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3.1 Approval of minutes of the Santiago Creek Commission Regular Meeting held on April 23, 2025.

A motion was made by Commissioner Tillou, seconded by Commissioner Adams, to approve the minutes as presented. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Galera, Adams, Baca, Hillman, Knight, Tillou, and Moeller

Noes: None

Absent: None

4. COMMISSION BUSINESS

4.1 Review and discuss the Santiago Creek Strategic Plan - Segment Three vision statement.

Senior Assistant to the City Manager Jack Morgan presented the staff report.

Public Speakers:

Jensen Hallstrom would like to see native vegetation, ancient sycamore ecological opportunities and native trees referenced in the vision statement

Les Hall suggested water should be considered in the vision statement.

Peter Wetzel likes and endorses the vision plan.

Joel Robinson suggested this segment include considerations for supporting local wildlife.

Commissioners discussed an overarching version of the vision statement focusing on natural habitat, wildlife, water, and continuing items from Segment Two. Commissioners requested that history, recreation and natural vegetation be incorporated. Discussed the potential inclusion of creating connected a trail system.

A motion was made by Commissioner Tillou, seconded by Commissioner Adams to approve the Segment Three vision statement. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Galera, Adams, Baca, Hillman, Knight, Tillou, and Moeller

Noes: None

Absent: None

4.2 Review and discuss the Santiago Creek Strategic Plan - Segment Three recommended projects.

Senior Assistant to the City Manager Jack Morgan presented the staff report.

Vice Chair Galera reviewed proposed projects in her Segment Three Planning Sheet report.

Public Speakers:

Jensen Hallstrom suggested including a map highlighting ancient sycamore trees in the region.

Joel Robinson suggested habitat restoration should be addressed by specialists and biologists.

Les Hall emphasized a focus on wildlife and water.

Commissioners requested an exhibit from the Orange County Water District about the water network that would support the OC Vibe project. Suggested historical markers with creek history specifically identifying the former China Town site, providing information about Native American tribes in the area and mapping the ancient sycamore trees.

Written Comments:

Lisa May submitted an ecomment supporting opportunities to beautify/maintain the area to increase recreational usage and is opposed to a remote control car and bike track.

A motion was made by Vice Chair Galera, seconded by Commissioner Tillou to incorporate the Segment 3 projects as presented with the additional recommendations of: 1) removal of the remote control car and bike pump track; 2) the separation of multi-modal trails in specific areas; and 3) the inclusion of a water network map which supports the OC Vibe project. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Galera, Adams, Baca, Hillman, Knight, Tillou, and Moeller

Noes: None

Absent: None

5. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:38 p.m.

The next Regular Santiago Creek Commission meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 22, 2025, at 5:30 p.m., in the Council Chamber.

Jack Morgan
Sr. Assistant to the City Manager