



Jarad L. Hildenbrand  
City Manager

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Senior Assistant City Attorney

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Deputy City Manager

# AGENDA

## Santiago Creek Commission April 22, 2026

### 5:30 PM Regular Session

City Council Chamber  
300 E. Chapman Avenue  
Orange, CA 92866

BRENDON MOELLER  
Chair

PAMELA GALERA  
Vice Chair

ADDISON ADAMS  
Commissioner

ROBERT BACA  
Commissioner

DAVID HILLMAN  
Commissioner

MICHAEL KNIGHT  
Commissioner

SUSAN TILLOU  
Commissioner

Welcome to the Santiago Creek Commission meeting. Regular meetings of the City of Orange Santiago Creek Commission are held on the fourth Wednesday of January, April, July, and October at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Chamber.

#### Agenda Information

The agenda contains a brief general description of each item to be considered. Written materials relating to an item on the agenda that are provided to the Santiago Creek Commission after agenda packet distribution and within 72 hours before it is to consider the item will be made available for public inspection in the City Clerk's Office located at 300 E. Chapman Avenue, Orange, during normal business hours; at the Santiago Creek Commission meeting; and made available on the City's website.

#### Public Participation

Santiago Creek Commission meetings are streamed live and on-demand on the City's website at [www.cityoforange.org](http://www.cityoforange.org).

Pursuant to Government Code Section 54954.3, members of the public may address the Commission on any agenda items or matters within the jurisdiction of the governing body by using any of the following methods:

##### 1) In-Person

To speak on an item on the agenda, complete a speaker's card indicating your name, address, and identify the agenda item number or subject matter you wish to address. The card should be given to staff prior to the start of the meeting. General comments are made during the "Public Comments" section on the agenda. Public comments are limited to three (3) minutes per speaker, unless a different time limit is announced.

##### 2) Written Public Comments

Members of the public can submit their written comments electronically for the Santiago Creek Commission's consideration by using the eComment feature on the Agenda page of the City's website at [www.cityoforange.org](http://www.cityoforange.org). To ensure distribution to the Santiago Creek Commission prior to consideration of the agenda, we encourage the public to submit written comments by 3:00 p.m. the day of the meeting. All written comments will be provided to the Commissioners and posted on the City's website after the meeting.

Please contact the City Clerk's Office at (714) 744-5500 with any questions.

ADA Requirements: In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need accommodations to participate in this meeting, contact the City Manager's Office at (714) 744-2222. Notification at least 48 hours in advance of meeting will enable the City to make arrangements to assure accessibility to this meeting.

**1. OPENING/CALL TO ORDER****1.1 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Vice Chair Pamela Galera

**1.2 ROLL CALL****2. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

At this time, members of the public may address the Commission on matters not listed on the Agenda which are within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Commission, provided that NO action may be taken on off-agenda items unless authorized by law. Public Comments are limited to three (3) minutes per speaker.

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES****3.1 Approval of minutes of the Santiago Creek Commission Regular Meeting held on January 28, 2026.****Recommended Action:**

Approve minutes as presented.

**Attachments:** Staff Report  
January 28, 2026 Minutes

**4. COMMISSION BUSINESS****4.1. Review the proposed Santiago Creek Strategic Plan implementation strategy for future City Council approval.****Recommended Action:**

1. Receive a grants and funding presentation from Townsend Public Affairs.
2. Receive a presentation on the proposed implementation strategy.
3. Select Santiago Creek Commissioners to one of the three subcommittees, and direct staff to present the implementation strategy to the Orange City Council for approval.

**Attachments:** Staff Report  
Santiago Creek Commission - Grants Report

**5. ADJOURNMENT**

The next Regular Santiago Creek Commission meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 22, 2026, at 5:30 p.m., in the Council Chamber.

I, Lilibet Woolsey, Executive Assistant for the City of Orange, hereby declare, under penalty of perjury, that a full and correct copy of this agenda was posted pursuant to Government Code Section 54950 et. seq., at the following locations: Orange Civic Center kiosk and Orange City Clerk's Office at 300 E. Chapman Avenue, Orange Main Public Library at 407 E. Chapman Avenue, Police facility at 1107 N. Batavia, and uploaded to the City's website [www.cityoforange.org](http://www.cityoforange.org).

Date posted: April 16, 2026.



# Agenda Item

## Santiago Creek Commission

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**Item #:** 3.1

4/22/2026

**File #:** 26-0234

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**TO:** Chair and Members of the Santiago Creek Commission

**THRU:** Jarad Hildenbrand, City Manager

**FROM:** Lilibet Woolsey, Executive Assistant

### 1. SUBJECT

Approval of minutes of the Santiago Creek Commission Regular Meeting held on January 28, 2026.

### 2. SUMMARY

Submitted for your consideration and approval are the minutes of the above meeting.

### 3. RECOMMENDED ACTION

Approve minutes as presented.

### 4. ATTACHMENTS

- January 28, 2026 Regular Meeting minutes.



# Agenda Item

## Santiago Creek Commission

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**Item #:** 3.1

4/22/2026

**File #:** 26-0234

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**TO:** Chair and Members of the Santiago Creek Commission

**THRU:** Jarad Hildenbrand, City Manager

**FROM:** Lilibet Woolsey, Executive Assistant

### 1. SUBJECT

Approval of minutes of the Santiago Creek Commission Regular Meeting held on January 28, 2026.

### 2. SUMMARY

Submitted for your consideration and approval are the minutes of the above meeting.

### 3. RECOMMENDED ACTION

Approve minutes as presented.

### 4. ATTACHMENTS

- January 28, 2026 Regular Meeting minutes.

**MINUTES - DRAFT**

**City of Orange**

**Santiago Creek Commission**

January 28, 2026

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The Santiago Creek Commission of the City of Orange, California convened on January 28, 2026, 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 5:32 p.m.

**1.1 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Led by Chair Brendon Moeller

**1.2 ROLL CALL**

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

**Absent:** None

**2. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Public Speakers:

Theresa Sears shared the biological assessment survey of select locations in the Creek and provided an update on 2025 grant funding opportunities.

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**3.1 Approval of minutes of the Santiago Creek Commission Regular Meeting held on October 22, 2025.**

Commissioner Tillou requested the minutes include community gardens and educational workshops as ways to engage schools and environmental groups.

A motion was made by Commissioner Tillou, seconded by Commissioner Baca, to approve the minutes as amended. 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 of the draft Santiago Creek Strategic Plan.**

Deputy City Manager Jack Morgan presented the staff report.

Public Speakers:

Theresa Sears thanked staff for their work and suggested the strategic plan be renamed to the Santiago Creek Greenbelt.

Jensen Hallstrom suggested changes be made to the definitions page and would like ancient trees to be declared historic sites.

Joel Robinson suggested various modifications to the Santiago Strategic Plan.

Written Comments:

Bonnie Robinson recommended the Plan address landscapers and suggested various modifications to the Strategic Plan.

Shari Dalai requested habitat protection and ecological restoration be the highest priority.

Susan Schwartz recommended various changes to the Strategic Plan regarding electric vehicles and illegal activity.

Robert H shared his priorities that included extending the trail for recreation, monitoring illegal activity and improving lighting.

Zak Goldman suggested more trees be planted, monitoring illegal activity, addressing trash in the creek and limiting electric bike speed.

Kristen Norton would like to see more trash removal and graffiti removal.

Susan Inman shared a list of recommendations regarding electric bike safety, user education, trail design, ecosystem management and community engagement.

Gene Lawson would like to see more trash removal and replacement of non-native plants.

Anne OMalley suggested dog waste bag dispensers be placed along the trail.

Bryce would like to see security patrolling around the Creek.

Fadi Aoun suggested repairs be made to asphalt when needed, shared his safety concerns for electric bikes and suggested additional lighting.

Ron Newcomb suggested adding "safety" to the Values Section, creating a cohesive and corresponding aesthetic and extending the trail to improve recreation and access opportunities.

Carson Tinucci supports efforts to restore the Creek.

Commissioners discussed various administrative changes to the Santiago Strategic Plan and made the following suggestions: collaborate with Public Works and Community Services on potential projects, add the Santiago Creek Greenway Alliance as a collaborator, provide a link to relevant documents used for the Strategic Plan review, modify the land acknowledgment page and bike path maps, remove the duck feeding stations and focus on educational signage.

A motion was made by Commissioner Tillou, seconded by Commissioner Knight, to approve the draft plan with the incorporation of the features highlighted during discussion. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

**Noes:** None

**Absent:** None

#### 4.2 Selection of Santiago Creek Commission Officers.

Public Comment:

None

A motion was made by Commissioner Tillou, seconded by Commissioner Adams, to

nominate Brendon Moeller as Chair for a term ending January 27, 2027. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

**Noes:** None

**Absent:** None

A motion was made by Commissioner Tillou, seconded by Commissioner Adams, to nominate Pamela Galera as Vice Chair for a term ending January 27, 2027. 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 6:50 p.m.

The next Regular Santiago Creek Commission meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 22, 2026, at 5:30 p.m., in the Council Chamber.

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Jack Morgan  
Deputy City Manager



# Agenda Item

## Santiago Creek Commission

Item #: 4.1.

4/22/2026

File #: 26-0203

**TO: Chair and Members of the Santiago Creek Commission**

**FROM: Jarad Hildenbrand, City Manager**

### 1. SUBJECT

Review the proposed Santiago Creek Strategic Plan implementation strategy for future City Council approval.

### 2. SUMMARY

On February 24, 2026, the Orange City Council adopted the Santiago Creek Strategic Plan, and directed the Santiago Creek Commission to bring back options to help put the Santiago Creek Strategic Plan into action. Townsend Public Affairs provides grant writing and legislative advocacy services to the City of Orange. Townsend Public Affairs has reviewed the Santiago Creek Strategic Plan and has developed grant and funding opportunities for the Santiago Creek Commission's consideration. Additionally, subject to City Council approval, staff developed a potential implementation strategy for the Santiago Creek Commission's consideration.

### 3. RECOMMENDED ACTION

1. Receive a grants and funding presentation from Townsend Public Affairs.
2. Receive a presentation on the proposed implementation strategy.
3. Select Santiago Creek Commissioners to one of the three subcommittees, and direct staff to present the implementation strategy to the Orange City Council for approval.

### 4. FISCAL IMPACT

None.

### 5. STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS

Goal 2: Enhance Economic Development and Achieve Fiscal Sustainability.

Goal 3: Enhance Public Communication Strategy and Quality of Life.

### 6. DISCUSSION AND BACKGROUND

On February 24, 2026, the Orange City Council approved the Santiago Creek Strategic Plan (Plan). Since then, the Plan has been published on the "[City's website for the public review](https://www.cityoforange.org/our-city/strategic-plan) <<https://www.cityoforange.org/our-city/strategic-plan>>. As a part of the Plan's approval, the City Council discussed next steps for the Santiago Creek Commission (Commission).

After considering different options, the City Council directed the Commission to work with Townsend Public Affairs (TPA) and community groups to develop an implementation strategy for the City Council's consideration.

TPA has reviewed the Plan and developed a list of immediate grants the City could pursue to help implement the Plan's projects. The proposed grants are further detailed in Attachment 1. Regarding community group engagement, staff recommends the SCC submit to the City Council the following option to expeditiously implement the Plan:

- Three SCC subcommittees are created.
- No more than three SCC members are appointed to each committee.
- Each SCC subcommittee will exclusively focus on a Plan segment or topic (e.g., history, ecological, and funding/trail improvements).
- The respective subcommittees will be advisory and work with TPA, staff, and community groups in the implementation of Plan projects.
- The subcommittees will dissolve in January 2027, and a progress report will be submitted to the City Council at that time.

Should the SCC approve staff's recommendation, staff will draft a formal workplan and implementation strategy for the City Council's consideration.

## **7. ATTACHMENTS**

- Townsend Public Affairs - Grants Overview



# Agenda Item

## Santiago Creek Commission

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## **7. ATTACHMENTS**

- Townsend Public Affairs - Grants Overview

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**GRANT OPPORTUNITIES**

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**To:** City of Orange, Santiago Creek Commission

**From:** Townsend Public Affairs

**Date:** April 22, 2026

**Subject:** Overview of Programs with Potential Benefit to Santiago Creek Projects

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**POTENTIAL OPPORTUNITIES**

<p style="text-align: center;">California Wildlife Conservation Board</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Habitat Enhancement &amp; Restoration Program (HERP)</b></p>	<p><b>Overview:</b> The Habitat Enhancement and Restoration Program (HERP) is administered by the California Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) and is one of the oldest and broadest conservation grant programs in the state. Originally established when the WCB was created in 1947, HERP incorporated all restoration projects until other WCB programs were initiated in 1990, and continues to support a wide variety of restoration projects that fall outside WCB's other mandated programs. This Program usually funds larger-scale habitat restoration projects focusing previously on wildlife corridors, fisheries, and coastal or wetland restoration.</p> <p><b>Alignment:</b> HERP is a strong fit for projects to enhance, restore, and/or protect Santiago Creek. HERP has previously funded work related to riparian habitat restoration, wildlife corridor enhancements, and general habitat improvement. The creek's mix of degraded and semi-natural reaches, its role as a corridor between the Santa Ana Mountains and lowland areas, and its urban riparian character all align well with HERP priorities. Projects must receive a recommendation from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and provide for long-term maintenance following project completion</p> <p><b>Award Range:</b> Project-dependent; no minimum or maximum award amounts.</p> <p><b>Timeline:</b> The WCB is accepting pre-applications, then invites a select number of proposals to submit full applications. Proposal are reviewed on a rolling basis and presented to the WCB board at scheduled meetings.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">National Fish and Wildlife Foundation</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Five Star Program</b></p>	<p><b>Overview:</b> A federal/private partnership grant administered by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) in cooperation with EPA, USDA, USFWS, and private sponsors. The Five Star Program seeks to develop nationwide community stewardship of local natural resources, preserving these resources for future generations and enhancing habitat for local wildlife, with grants targeting water quality issues in priority watersheds including erosion from unstable streambanks, pollution from stormwater runoff, and degraded shorelines.</p>

	<p><b>Alignment:</b> The Five Star Program prioritizes smaller, community-facing projects with significant community partnerships and outreach components. Riparian revegetation, invasive species removal, and water quality monitoring at Santiago Creek would be eligible.</p> <p><b>Award Range:</b> Awards range from \$30,000-\$60,000, with an average of \$45,000; 1:1 match required.</p> <p><b>Timeline:</b> Applications are due on May 14, 2026.</p>
<p>California State Parks</p> <p><b>Habitat Conservation Fund</b></p>	<p><b>Overview:</b> The Habitat Conservation Fund allocates approximately \$2 million each year to seven unique categories: (1) Deer/Mountain Lion Habitat; (2) Rare, Endangered, Threatened or Fully Protected Species Habitat; (3) Wetlands; (4) Anadromous Salmonids and Trout Habitat; (5) Riparian Habitat; (6) Trials; and (7) Wildlife Area Activities. Eligible projects include: nature interpretation programs, protection of designated plant and animal species, and acquisition and development of wildlife corridors and trails.</p> <p><b>Alignment:</b> The HCF's Riparian Habitat category would align neatly with Santiago Creek restoration and enhancement work. The Rare/Endangered/Threatened Species category could also align, dependent on any special-status species in the watershed.</p> <p><b>Award Range:</b> No minimum or maximum awards, though OGALS recommends requests do not exceed \$200,000; 1:1 match required.</p> <p><b>Timeline:</b> The Habitat Conservation Fund lists the next anticipated application deadline as 2026/2027.</p>