

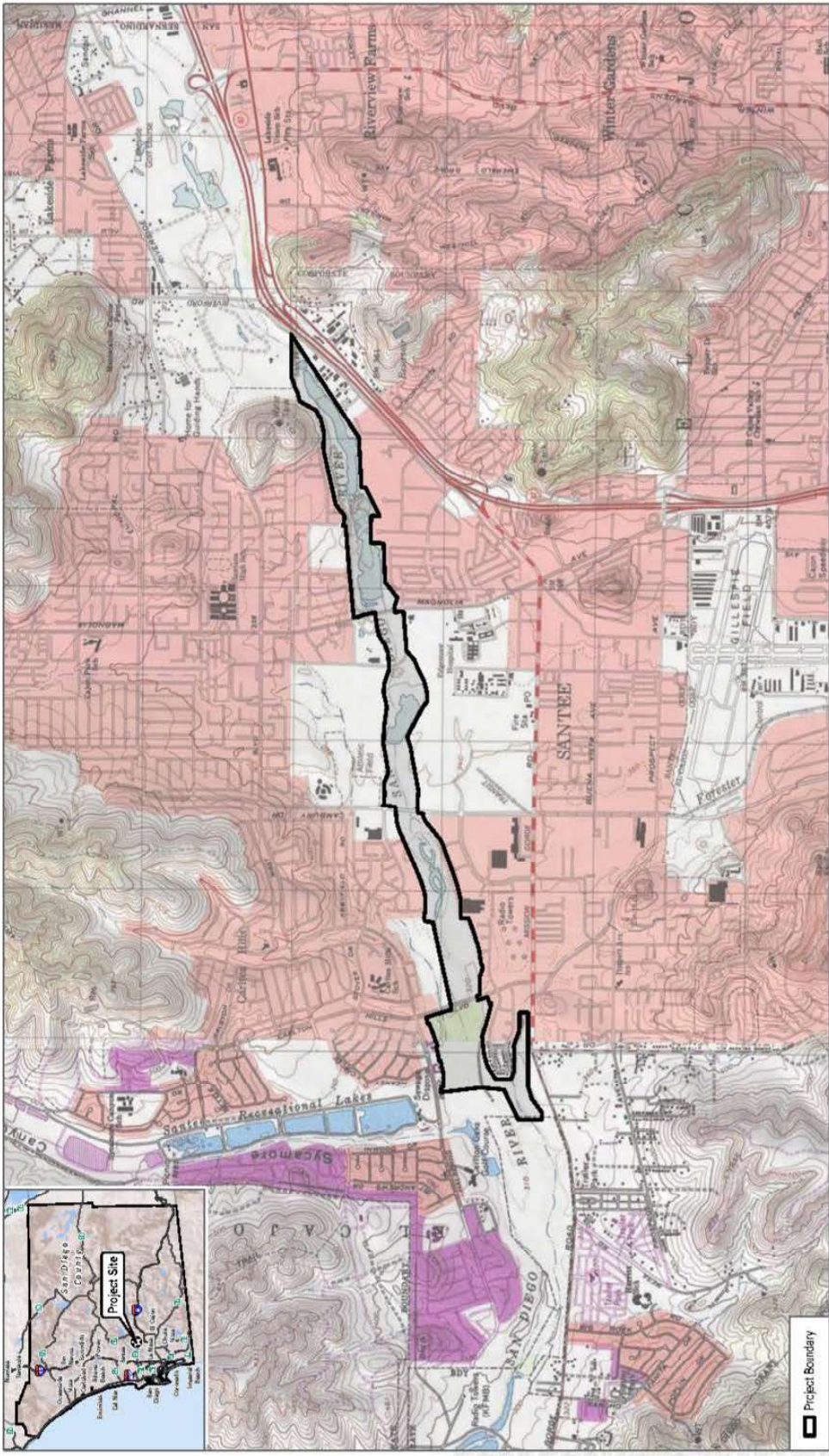
Mayor  
John W. Minto  
City Council  
Ronn Hall  
Laura Koval  
Rob McNelis  
Dustin Trotter

**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF DRAFT EIR**

Project Title:	San Diego River Hazard Mitigation Program
Project Location – Specific; Identify street address and cross streets or attach a map showing project site (preferably a USGS 15’ or 7 1/2’ topographical map identified by quadrangle name):	The almost 300-acre Project Site is composed of 33 parcels along the San Diego River corridor through the center of the City of Santee as shown in Figure 1, Project Location. The Project Site extends along the river corridor from Forester Creek at the western project boundary to the City border with the unincorporated Lakeside community in the east, including the open space areas of Mast Park West, Mast Park Wetland Restoration Area, Mast Park East, Mission Creek, Walker Trails Open Space, and Walker Preserve. Surrounding the corridor are urban neighborhoods, commercial districts, transportation infrastructure, parks, and open space preserves, creating a landscape typical of a wildland-urban interface (WUI). See map
Project Location – City:	Santee
Project Location – County:	San Diego
<p>Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: The City of Santee Fire Department has initiated development of the San Diego River Fire Hazard Mitigation Program (FHMP) to reduce wildfire risk in and around high-priority sites along the San Diego River corridor. This area lies within the wildland-urban interface (WUI) and includes critical public infrastructure, adjacent residential neighborhoods, and biologically sensitive habitats. The need for a targeted, ecologically conscious approach to vegetation management is underscored by increasing fire risk, invasive plant encroachment, and complex access and ownership constraints unique to the corridor. The Santee Fire Department responded to 174 fires near the Project Site in 2024 and 2025, 81 of which were on the Project boundary. On March 29, 2026, an approximately 10-acre fire occurred within the Project Site. Portions of the Project Site are located within Moderate and High Fire Hazard Severity Zones. As part of the FHMP, a Fuels Treatment Plan (FTP) provides a framework for vegetation management that includes treatment strategies tailored to each of the parcels’ wildfire exposure, access conditions, existing vegetation, and proximity to sensitive resources. The FTP outlines defensible space creation/maintenance standards, prescribes vegetation treatments, and identifies zone boundaries to minimize wildfire risk in the wildland-urban interface. It also documents the species and quantities of vegetation to be removed, defines potential removal processes, and incorporates best management practices to minimize or avoid impacts to resources in the project site. The objectives of the proposed project are identified below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Objective 1 – Define strategy for defined fuel treatment zones for reducing hazardous fuel loads within the San Diego River corridor.</li> <li>• Objective 2 – Enhance community safety within the City of Santee through the reduction of wildfire risk.</li> <li>• Objective 3 – Reduce horizontal and vertical continuity of fuels and hazardous fuel loads through the removal of non-native and invasive species.</li> <li>• Objective 4 – Reduce ignition potential and fire intensity within the San Diego River corridor.</li> </ul>	
Project Site – Specify if project site is included on any list of hazardous waste facilities:	The site is not listed as a hazardous waste and substance site pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code. This includes but is not limited to lists of hazardous waste facilities, land designated as hazardous waste property, and hazardous disposal sites, and the information in the



	Hazardous Waste and Substances Statement required under subsection (f) of that Section.
Place and time of scheduled meetings:	To be determined.
Lead Agency:	City of Santee
Division	Fire Administration
Date when project noticed to public:	May 8, 2026
<p>Address where copy of the EIR is available <u>and</u> how it can be obtained in an electronic format:</p> <p>The EIR can be reviewed during regular business hours at the following locations and on the City of Santee's website at the following link:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">City of Santee Fire Department (Building 5) and City of Santee Clerk's Office (Building 3) at Santee City Hall 10601 Magnolia Avenue, Santee, CA 92071</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Santee County Library 9225 Carlton Hills Boulevard, Santee, CA 92071</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><a href="https://www.cityofsanteeca.gov/services/project-environmental-review">https://www.cityofsanteeca.gov/services/project-environmental-review</a></p>	
Review Period:	May 8, 2026 to June 22, 2026
Contact Person:	Harley Wallace, Fire Chief Santee Fire Department Administration 10601 Magnolia Avenue Santee, California 92071 HWallace@CityofSanteeCa.gov
Contact Person's Telephone (Area Code/Extension):	(619) 258-4100 ext. 207



**FIGURE 1**  
**Project Location**  
 Notice of Preparation

SOURCE: USGS 7.5-Minute Series, La Mesa and El Cajon Quadrangles

