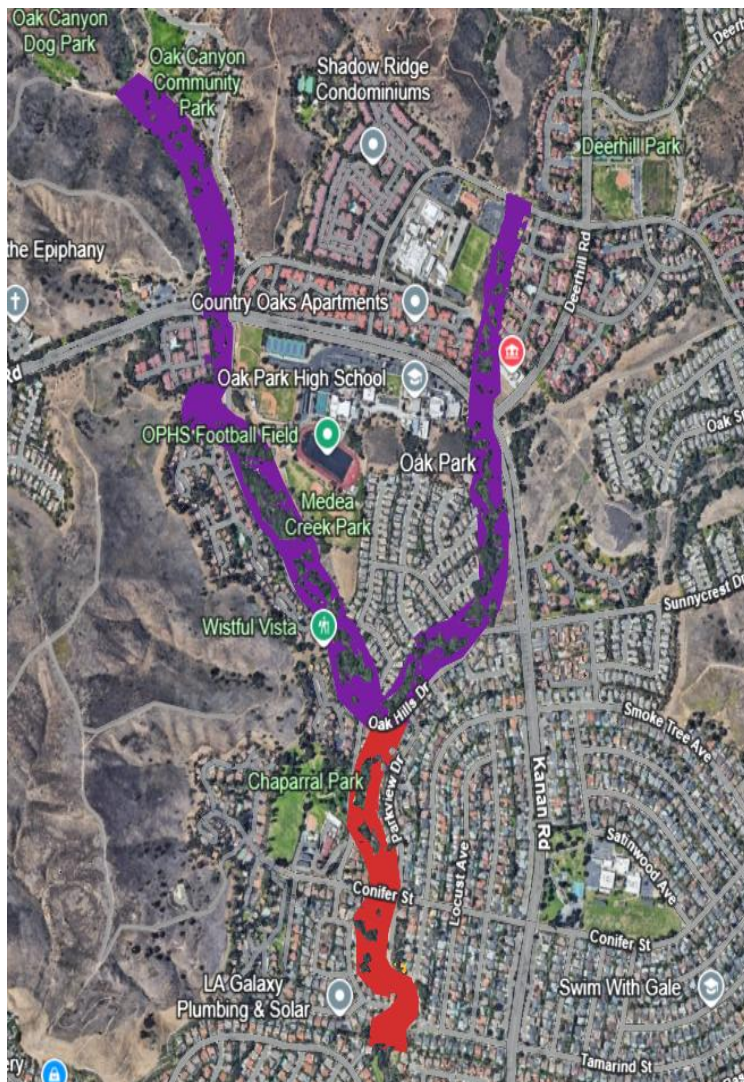


Oak Park MAC 2025 Work Plan
Medea Creek Long-Range Management Plan
June 2025 Progress Report

The Medea Creek corridor is owned by Rancho Simi Recreation & Parks District (RSRPD). Most of Phase 1 lands and a small section/ reach in Phase 2 immediately downstream of Kanan Road are maintained by Ventura County Watershed Protection District and the Public Works Transportation Department for flood control purposes under County Ordinance and California Department of Fish & Wildlife regulations and permit requirements.

The purpose of the Medea Creek Long-Range Management Plan is to provide a practical and fair approach for the long-term health and sustainability of Medea Creek by balancing community expectations for environmental, flood and wildfire protection, and community aesthetics. The Plan consists of two phases of planning and implementation. Phase 1 is currently underway.



Medea Creek Management Plan: Phase 1

Medea Creek Management Plan: Phase 2

(i) **Phase 1** is from the Oak Park/ Agoura Hills municipal boundary upstream to Oak Hills Drive (approximately 2,550 linear feet). This is a high priority area and significant environmental concern has been expressed over the past decade by Friends of Oak Park Open Space and numerous citizens in response to the County of Ventura annually clearing all existing creek corridor vegetation and wildlife habitat as part of their flood management mandate. This Work Plan progress report is the starting point for addressing Phase 1 with additional reporting to follow in 2025/26.

(ii) **Phase 2** (approximately 9,400 linear feet) consists of (i) the east branch from Oak Hills Drive upstream to Doubletree Road/ west of Deerhill Park, and (ii) the west branch from Oak Hills Drive upstream across Kanan Road to the Oak Canyon Community Park. Phase 2 will be addressed as part of the Oak Park MAC's 2026 Work Plan.

Medea Creek Project: Phase 1 Progress Report (June 2025)

Bottom Line Up Front: Phase 1 takes the position that a 30-ft. wide swath of land on both sides of Medea Creek, (60-ft. width in total) is to be set aside in perpetuity as a no-touch undisturbed area where non-invasive plants and other future plantings are allowed to grow in support of aquatic and wildlife habitat and other environmental benefits. At certain locations, the buffer width will need to be reduced to accommodate mandatory wildfire defensible space regulations as per Ventura County Fire Protection Department Ordinance and Standard 515.

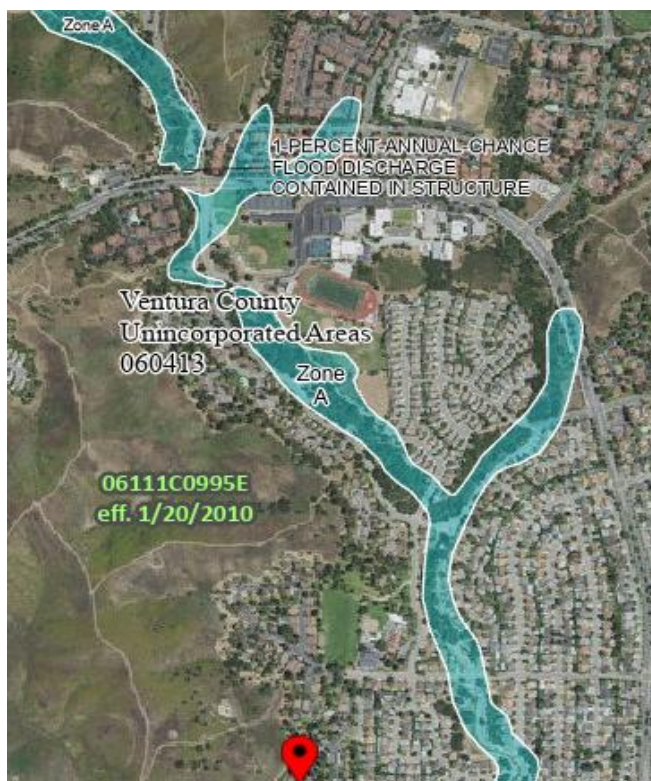
This report refers to these no-touch undisturbed lands as ‘vegetated creek buffer areas’ and illustrates what they could look like. Within these areas, the County’s annual practice of clear-cutting vegetation would cease. However, invasive plant species and wildfire hazard trees such as palms, for example, would still be regularly removed but by work crews using only low-impact, minimal environmental disturbance methods rather than widespread clear-cutting.

In the months ahead, I will be working with Supervisor Gorell’s staff to get feedback and support from those organizations that have jurisdiction over Medea Creek including Rancho Simi Recreation & Parks District (RSRPD), Ventura County Watershed Protection District, California Dept. of Fish & Wildlife (CDFW), and the Regional Water Quality Control Board. Key community stakeholders will also be contacted for input including the Fire Safe Council, Oak Park Friends of Open Space, and property owners that have approached the MAC on this issue in the past.

Once consensus has been reached, discussions will then move on to addressing other components of the management plan including:

- Possible planting of native species within certain buffer areas to increase biodiversity and habitat and are acceptable to the Ventura County Fire Department.
- Creating an activity management zone between the buffer area limits and adjacent properties, confined only to RSRPD lands:
 - Trimming/ thinning/removal/ of trees, shrubs, tall grasses and other vegetation within the Fire Department’s 100-ft. wildfire defensible space protection zone (RSRPD & County Watershed responsibility).
 - Potential future flood control maintenance and Capital Improvement Projects (County Watershed).
 - Educational signage on the management of Medea Creek (RSRPD & County Watershed, community groups).
 - Community projects to enhance the Medea Creek corridor such as plantings of native trees and vegetation (RSRPD & County Watershed, community groups).
 - Medea Creek walking trail maintenance (RSRPD).
 - Education and enforcement of unauthorized activities such as e-bikes and property encroachments (RSRPD, County Watershed, County Sheriff).

The main takeaway from this Progress Report is that the majority of Phase 1 Medea Creek can accommodate a minimum 60-foot-wide protected undisturbed vegetated creek buffer area. The long-term existence of buffer areas can still be compliant with the Ventura County Fire Department’s wildfire defensible space ordinance (100-ft. distance from houses, garages and other structures).



What is currently missing from the Phase 1 Progress Report is a technically sound and accurately delineated 100-year floodplain along Medea Creek. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has designated Medea Creek as an “Approximate Zone A” floodplain meaning there is likely to be a floodplain here but there has not been any engineering studies and hydraulic/ hydrological modelling conducted to accurately determine how wide the floodplain is and how high the 100-year storm floodwaters will rise with an established 60-ft. wide vegetated buffer area. It is imperative that the floodplain boundary be included in Phase 1 and included on the proceeding diagrams as some sections/ reaches of the creek may potentially have narrower buffer area widths.



DRAWINGS AND SPECIFICATIONS

ENGINEERING DOCKET

Medea Creek Restoration

Critical Planting

Job Code: 342

Farm No. : N/A

Tract No. : N/A

Engineering Class: N/A

In cooperation with:

Santa Monica Mountains Resource Conservation District

Prepared by:

Haejin Lee

Field Office Engineer

Somis Service Center

Ventura County

July 8, 2010

For years, both FEMA and the Ventura County Watershed Protection District have said that they do not have available funding to conduct the studies. Fortunately, in 2010, the National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), a federal agency within the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) completed an environmental restoration plan for a portion of Medea Creek primarily because the creek is situated in the headwaters of the Santa Monica Bay Watershed. County Watershed staff participated in the study and supported the conclusions. Since then, no action has been taken by the County to move forward.

To proceed with this MAC Work Plan item, it is necessary that Watershed staff revisit NRCS’s study and use the conclusions to undertake a floodplain boundary analysis of its own with the proposed vegetated buffer areas.

Currently, naturally growing vegetation is establishing nicely along some parts of the creek corridor. At some locations (see pages 16 and 17 of this report), one can see where buffer widths could be delineated and the resulting environmental benefits and desirable community aesthetics that this Work Plan item hopes to achieve.

**VC Fire Department Requirement for 100-ft. Wildfire Vegetation Management
From Oak Hills Drive to Conifer Street**



Yellow Line = Ventura County Fire Department's required 100-foot vegetation reduction zone: measured from houses and other structures. A "structure" is defined in the VC Building Code as four (4) walls and a roof. Property lines, fences, retaining walls, swimming pools, etc. are not applicable "structures" as per VCFD and VC Building & safety ordinances.

Red Line = 100-foot limit delineation.

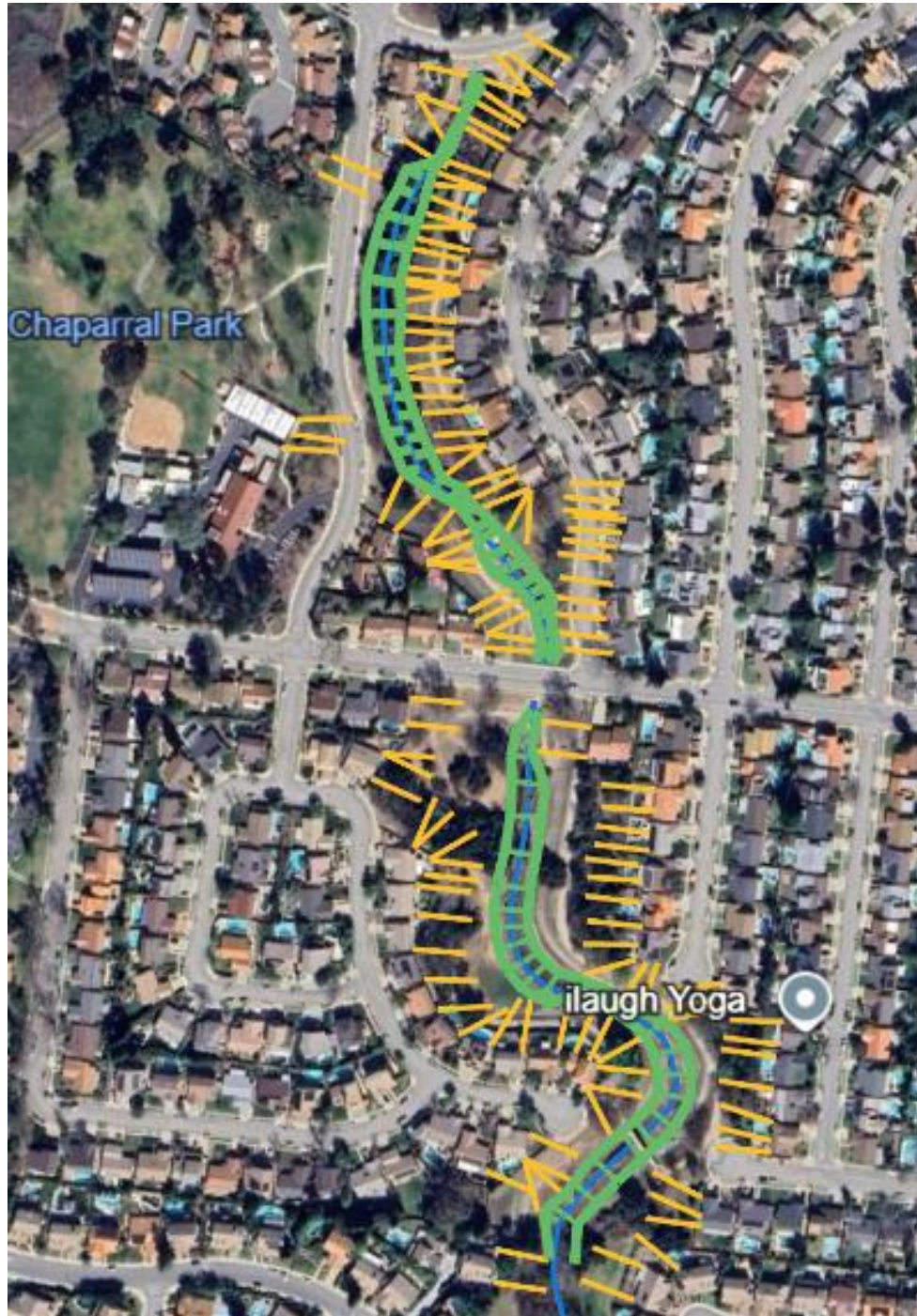
**VC Fire Department Requirement for 100-ft. Wildfire Vegetation Management
From Conifer Street to the Agoura Hills/ Oak Park Boundary**



Yellow Line = Ventura County Fire Department's required 100-foot vegetation reduction zone: measured from houses and other structures. A "structure" is defined in the VC Building Code as four (4) walls and a roof. Property lines, fences, retaining walls, swimming pools, etc. are not applicable "structures" as per VCFD and VC Building & safety ordinances.

Red Line = 100-foot limit delineation.

Medea Creek Management Plan: OVERVIEW of No-Disturb Vegetated Buffer Area



Green line = Limit of no-disturb vegetated buffer area. Most of the creek can easily accommodate a minimum of 30-feet of buffer on each side of the creek (west and east banks total 60-feet measured from the center of the creek channel). There are some “pinch points” along the channel, and a few locations where the buffer width gets reduced to 10-feet on a bank in response to VCFD wildfire requirements.

Yellow line – Limit of Ventura County Fire Department’s 100-foot wildfire management area from houses, garages, and other structures.

No-Disturb Vegetated Buffer Area: Oak Hills Drive downstream to Conifer Street

West Bank buffer width – Pinch point immediately downstream of Oak Hills Dr., buffer area broadens out to 20-25-feet wide, then gets wider to 30-feet along Medea Creek Lane, then reduces to 10-feet closer to the pedestrian “Arizona Crossing” walkway, then the buffer width varies between 10-feet and 20-feet wide to Conifer Street.

East Bank buffer width - Pinch point immediately downstream of Oak Hills Dr., buffer area broadens out to 25-feet wide, much of the channel then can accommodate a minimum 30-foot wide buffer until it gets close to the pedestrian “Arizona Crossing” walkway where it reduces to 15-feet, then the buffer width widens to 30-feet until it gets close to Conifer Street where the width reduces to 20-feet.



No-Disturb Vegetated Buffer Area: Conifer Street to Oak Park/ Agoura Hills Boundary

West Bank buffer width – Pinch point immediately downstream of Conifer Street where there is a 5 to 10-foot buffer width. The buffer immediately broadens to 30-feet for a long distance until mid-point of this map where it then reduces to less than 5-feet (to accommodate the VCFD wildfire requirements). The buffer area then immediately broadens out to 15-20 feet and remains a minimum 30-foot width up to the pedestrian bridge crossing. The buffer width stays a minimum of 30-feet downstream of the bridge to the Oak Park/ Agoura Hills boundary.

East Bank buffer width - Pinch point immediately downstream of Conifer Street where there is less than a 5-foot buffer width. The buffer immediately broadens to 30-feet for a long distance until mid-point of this map where it then reduces to 10-feet and then less than 5-feet (to accommodate the VCFD wildfire requirements). The buffer area then immediately broadens out to 15-20 feet and remains a minimum 30-foot width up to the pedestrian bridge crossing. The buffer width continues a minimum of 30-feet downstream of the bridge to the Oak Park/ Agoura Hills boundary.



**Buffer Area downstream of the Pedestrian Walkway Arizona Crossing
towards Conifer Street**

Note: Buffer area upstream to Oak Hills Drive is well established.

Green line = No-disturb vegetative buffer



Buffer Area downstream of Conifer Street with reduced buffer width to be compliant with VCFD wildfire mitigation requirements

Green line = Reduced buffer area width adjacent to 5998 Conifer Street

Yellow Line = Ventura County Fire Department's required 100-ft. defensible space zone



Buffer Area downstream of Conifer Street

Green line = No-disturb vegetative buffer



Buffer Area further downstream of Conifer Street towards Pedestrian Bridge

Green line = No-disturb vegetative buffer



**Buffer Area further downstream between Conifer Street
and the Pedestrian Bridge (“the Pinch Point”)**

Green line = No-disturb vegetative buffer



Buffer Area further downstream of the Pinch Point towards Pedestrian Bridge

Green line = No-disturb vegetative buffer



Buffer Area further downstream of Conifer Street towards Pedestrian Bridge

Green line = No-disturb vegetative buffer



Buffer Area immediately upstream of the Pedestrian Bridge

Green line = No-disturb vegetative buffer

Top Photo taken: March 20, 2025

Bottom Photo taken: June 11, 2025



Buffer Area immediately downstream of the Pedestrian Bridge

Green line = No-disturb vegetative buffer

Top Photo taken: March 20, 2025

Bottom Photo taken: June 11, 2025



--End of June 2025 Phase 1 Progress Report --