

NEWS

From Supervisor Gary Ovitt
Fourth District, San Bernardino County



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AGREEMENT REACHED WITH THE NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION SERVICE TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR THE SULTANA-CYPRESS STORM DRAIN PROJECT IN THE CHINO AREA

The San Bernardino Board of Supervisors today approved a Cooperative Agreement with the United States Department of Agriculture - Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in which the NRCS will provide funding in the amount of \$5,482,870 to assist with the cost of installing emergency watershed protection measures for the Sultana-Cypress Storm Drain in the Chino area.

Supervisor Gary Ovitt applauded the agreement and said, "this is badly needed to repair flood damage as a result of winter storms which occurred in 1998."

Heavy runoff from winter storms in February 1998 resulted in localized flooding of numerous dairies in the dairy land areas in San Bernardino County causing significant damage and loss of numerous livestock.

Local state and federal officials recognized the potential for similar future events. Consequently, on September 24, 2002 the San Bernardino County Flood Control District (District) approved an agreement with the NRCS in which the NRCS would provide funding under the Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWPP) for the Sultana-Cypress Storm Drain Project (Project).

The first phase started in early 2003 with NRCS providing funding under the Emergency Watershed Protection Program. Engineering evaluations resulted in the need to place a pipe under sections of the 60 Freeway. The County ran into problems with obtaining the right of ways to complete the micro tunneling under the 60 Freeway to put the necessary pipes in. These delays caused the NRCS to de-obligate the funding for the project. The rights of way have now been worked out and the funding has been restored.

The Project's improvements, which are along Euclid Avenue from Philadelphia Street to the existing Sultana-Cypress Storm Drain, include the construction of catch basins and storm drain facilities. The construction of 3 ft. retaining walls for freeboard along both sides of the 7,900 feet

of existing Cypress Channel, from Riverside Drive to just south of Edison Avenue, has been completed.

Ovitt said, "These improvements are needed to prevent future street and overland storm flows from entering the Dairyland and Agricultural Preserve Area of Chino."