

# SANTA ANA POLICE DEPARTMENT

DAVID VALENTIN · CHIEF OF POLICE

## TRAINING BULLETIN

*"Education promotes professional and responsive law enforcement"*

### Law Enforcement on County Flood Control District Property

#### Purpose

The purpose of this Training Bulletin is to review the Memorandum of Understanding between the County of Orange and the City of Santa Ana in regards to any activity that requires law enforcement within the Flood Control property, which is owned by the County of Orange. . It is the joint responsibility of both the County of Orange and the City of Santa Ana to enforce the rules and regulations of the Flood Control property that is within the Santa Ana City limits.

#### Introduction

There are numerous County-owned flood control channels running through the City of Santa Ana including the Santa Ana Riverbed. These channels are owned by the Orange County Flood Control District, maintained by the County Public Facilities and Resources Department, and patrolled by the Sheriff's Department.

For many years, the Santa Ana Police Department has provided general patrol and law enforcement services on the Flood Control channels within our City limits. Although the channels run through our city, they are technically County owned property and not part of the city. Thus, these areas are not subject to the provisions of the Santa Ana Municipal Code. Furthermore, there were concerns that Santa Ana Police Officers did not have the authority to enforce County Ordinances on Flood Control District property.

The attached MOU, which became effective August 01, 2000, describes the jurisdictional agreement between the County of Orange and the City of Santa Ana. It specifically gives the Santa Ana Police Department joint law enforcement authority on County-owned, Flood Control District property that lies within Santa Ana City limits.

#### I. Areas Covered

This agreement grants the Santa Ana Police Department jurisdiction over the riverbed and all flood control channels that lie within our City limits. The riverbed, as well as the bike and horse trails that run along either side of the riverbed, is actually considered a "County parks and recreation area." However, the entire area is still covered under this MOU (i.e. property line to property line).

#### II. State Laws

Santa Ana Police Officers can enforce any State law (Penal, Vehicle Code etc.) on Flood Control property. For State law violations, the “victim” should be listed as the “State of California.”

### III. Orange County Ordinances

Santa Ana Police Officers can now enforce any Orange County Ordinance on Flood Control property. An abbreviated version of the Orange County Ordinances relating to parks and recreation areas can be obtained at the Sheriff’s Office at 550 N Flower Street or upon availability from the Training Division of the Santa Ana Police Department. For County Ordinance violations, the “victim” should be listed as the “County of Orange, CA.”

### IV. Santa Ana Municipal Code

Santa Ana Police Officers can now also enforce any Santa Ana Municipal Code on Flood Control property. For Municipal Code violations, the “victim” should be listed as the “City of Santa Ana, CA.” Although the violation occurred on County property, the City Attorney will prosecute any SAMC violations.

### Summary

The attached MOU gives Santa Ana Police Officers full law enforcement authority over any and all County-owned flood control channels that lie within the boundaries of the City of Santa Ana. This modification to existing law specifically includes the authority to enforce County Ordinances and Santa Ana Municipal Codes on County property.

**Acknowledgment:** This Training Bulletin was researched and prepared by Officer John Byron #2112.

**Revised By:** Officer Michael Kuplast #1839

**Revision Date:** May 2008