

# COMMUNITY NOTICE

## NIGHT WORK: Villa Park Dam Water Release



OC Public Works will gradually release large amounts of water from Villa Park Dam into Santiago Creek.

**WHAT:** OC Public Works will gradually release large amounts of water from Villa Park Dam into Santiago Creek located within Santiago Oaks Regional Park. Staff will monitor the water release while performing air sampling procedures simultaneously. During the initial release, a sulfur-like odor created by decomposing leaves and debris, may be noticeable by nearby residents.

**Note:** Water release will take place after the park is closed and all trail access points within the park will re-open during normal operating hours.

As part of ongoing flood control maintenance, the release of water is necessary to reduce the potential for flooding. Project safety measures will be in place to ensure the safety of the public. Staff will also be on site until the project is complete. *The public is advised to avoid the project area during active water releases. (More information in FAQ on back)*

**WHEN:** **Monday, August 7, 2017** and continuing for approximately two weeks  
**Work Hours:** 9:00 p.m. to 4:00 a.m.

**WHERE:** Villa Park Dam through Santiago Creek located within Santiago Oaks Regional Park



**CONTACT INFORMATION:**  
**Project-Related Inquiries:**  
(714) 955-0200

-  [www.ocpublicworks.com](http://www.ocpublicworks.com)
-  [ProjectInfo@ocpw.ocgov.com](mailto:ProjectInfo@ocpw.ocgov.com)
-  [www.facebook.com/ocpublicworks](http://www.facebook.com/ocpublicworks)
-  [www.twitter.com/ocpublicworks](http://www.twitter.com/ocpublicworks)



**1) What is this project and why do we need it now?** OC Public Works (OCPW) maintains four dams and seven pump stations located throughout Orange County, including Villa Park Dam. Villa Park Dam serves an essential role for flood control and is located near Santiago Oaks Regional Park in the City of Orange. Due to a particularly wet winter, a significant amount of rainfall accumulated behind Villa Park Dam. As part of preventative maintenance, a water release is necessary in order to replace aging equipment and install a new valve and pipe. The maintenance work will help reduce the risk of flooding to neighboring residents before the next rain season.

**2) When was the last time water was released from the dam?** OCPW performed a water release from May 14 to 16, 2017. Prior to this, the last release was in July 2016. Notices were posted around Santiago Oaks Regional Park and posted on the OC Parks website ([www.OC Parks.com](http://www.OC Parks.com)). Due to an unanticipated odor and concerns raised by the residents, all water release work stopped until further notice. No releases have been performed since May 16, 2017.

**3) Will any additional work need to occur in the future?** The Villa Park Dam is usually drained every year to conduct routine inspections, perform maintenance activities, and clear accumulated debris and silt. This allows OCPW to perform Division of Safety of Dams required inspections. Over the past few years, the drought conditions reduced the need to drain water to perform maintenance activities.

**4) Who is overseeing the project?** Orange County Public Works, Operations and Maintenance.

**5) Where will the project take place?** Equipment replacement will take place within Villa Park Dam. The water release will start at the dam and flow downstream into Santiago Creek.

**6) When will water release begin and end?** The next scheduled water release has been scheduled for **Monday, August 7, 2017.**

**7) What are the work days and hours?** The water release hours will take place from 9:00 p.m. – 4:00 a.m., every night until completion. The night work will ensure all trail access points within the park will re-open during normal operating hours.

**8) Why was there a “sulfur-like” odor during the initial release in early May?** Any odors directly related to the dam are generally a byproduct of decomposing leaves and debris, that occurs naturally in lakes, ponds and other bodies of water.

**9) How will OCPW ensure environmental quality standards?** OCPW has contracted with an independent environmental firm that specializes in air quality measures and sampling. During the next release, the firm will be monitoring the area and sampling the air to ensure good, safe air quality is maintained.

**10) What can residents do to minimize potential impacts from odors during scheduled water release?**

Residents may wish to close all doors and windows and use fans or air conditioning as measures to dissipate the odor during releases.

**11) Who can adjacent residents or businesses contact if they have questions or concerns regarding this effort?** Please call OCPW at 714-955-0200. All calls will be documented and addressed by an OCPW representative.