

Map of Dog Regulations in the Santa Ana River Mouth



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Our mission is to protect swimmable, drinkable, fishable water and promote watershed resilience throughout our region.

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**Santa Ana
River Mouth
Monitoring
Project**

What is the Santa Ana River Mouth?

The Santa Ana River mouth is an outlet of a watershed that encompasses 2,700 sq miles and is managed by 4 different agencies.

The river mouth contains a **sensitive wildlife area** that is home to the endangered **California Least Tern** and threatened **Western Snowy Plover**.

Why was this project created?

Due to the overlap of agency jurisdiction, there has been a **confusion of enforcement** in the area, encouraging the creation of a **research and education** project in 2021: the **Santa Ana River Mouth Monitoring Project**.

We help **monitor** and **raise awareness** about the river mouth to ensure people and dogs respect the sensitive wildlife area to prevent disturbances to the bird habitat.



All photos taken by Project Manager Christina Giudice

What are the rules of the Santa Ana River Mouth?

Due to the sensitive wildlife area in the river mouth in addition to flood channel conditions, humans and dogs are **never** allowed to go into the channel per the Orange County ordinance (§ 3-9-35).

Additionally, Newport Beach rules state that dogs are **not** allowed on the beach between **10:00 AM** and **4:30 PM** and must be on a leash at the permitted times.

How do dogs impact the wildlife area?

Dogs are natural hunters, so it is an innate response to chase after a group of birds if presented the opportunity.

This causes sensitive bird species to expend extra energy to escape, so they end up losing finite opportunities to nest, forage, or mate.



Do your part and follow the rules

Not only are these rules in place to protect sensitive wildlife but they are also meant to respect other visitors at the beach, as well as:

- prevent waste build-up
- prevent dog fights
- protect small children

It is imperative to keep dogs on leashes as well as follow the beach and flood channel rules.

Though your dog may be friendly to you, it is easy for behavior to change quickly especially in an unpredictable environment!

Be sure to **stop** and **read** any signs you see on the beach:

