

**Table 1**  
**Otay Regional Trail Alignment Study Siting & Design Guidelines**

Guideline #	Siting & Design Guideline
<b>1.0</b>	<b>Biological Resources</b>
1.1	Locate trails, view overlooks, and staging areas in the least sensitive areas of the MSCP Preserve.
1.2	Avoid impacts to sensitive plant and wildlife species within MSCP Preserve areas to the maximum extent practicable, with priority given to avoiding breeding habitats for federally and state listed species and narrow endemics.
1.3	Minimize trail widths to reduce impacts to critical habitat and resources. To the maximum extent practicable, do not locate new trails wider than four feet in core MSCP Preserve areas or wildlife corridors.
1.4	Limit equestrian trails near sensitive resources in the MSCP Preserve, such as riparian, wetland, and coastal sage scrub habitats. Where trails are located in the vicinity of sensitive resources, best management practices shall be incorporated into the maintenance plan to reduce potential for invasion by brown-headed cowbirds and water pollution from horse manure.
1.5	Locate equestrian staging areas sufficient distance (e.g., 300 to 500 feet) from riparian and coastal sage scrub habitats in the MSCP Preserve.
1.6	Avoid siting trails in Wolf Canyon.
1.7	The trail design will adhere to the guidelines in the MSCP subarea plans relative to MSCP Preserve adjacency and consider access, non-native species/predators, lighting, runoff/drainage, and noise during trail planning, construction, and operation. This may include (but is not limited to) incorporating signage, physical barriers, visual barriers, and noise reduction measures to reduce detrimental edge effects.
1.8	Trail alignments shall incorporate appropriate buffers from sensitive biological resources inside MSCP Preserve Areas to the maximum extent practicable. Trail alignments will be evaluated in the context of the following buffers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 300 feet from any nesting site of Cooper's hawk</li> <li>• 900 feet from any nesting site of northern harriers</li> <li>• 4,000 feet from any nesting site of golden eagles</li> <li>• 300 feet from any occupied burrow of burrowing owls</li> </ul>
1.9	All wetlands and vernal pools should be avoided. Riparian areas must be avoided to the maximum extent practicable and crossed perpendicularly to limit detrimental effects (refer to Guideline 2.2). Set-back distances will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis and comply with all applicable regulations.
1.10	Avoid where possible routing trail alignments between habitat ecotones for longer than necessary due to the typically heightened resource sensitivity in those areas.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Aquatic Resources</b>
2.1	Trail alignments should incorporate set back distances from dams, intakes, pipelines, and other critical water infrastructure in the City of San Diego Cornerstone Lands, based on the City of San Diego Public Utilities' Vulnerability Assessment and Department of Public Health Source Water Protection Zones. Trail alignments will be assessed in the context of these source water protection zones: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2,500 feet from reservoir outlets</li> <li>• 1,000 feet from reservoir high water line</li> <li>• 200 feet from major tributary streams</li> </ul>
2.2	Trails should cross creeks and drainages perpendicular to channel in locations that travel through the source water protection buffer in the shortest distance possible while providing safe access. Drainage crossing structures should be designed to keep footings above the 100-year floodplain or top of bank, where feasible.
2.3	Trails adjacent to critical water infrastructure should incorporate access control measures such as fencing, signage, and barriers to prevent unauthorized access where necessary.
2.4	Runoff from staging areas shall be addressed through features incorporated into the project design, as well as the implementation of best management practices.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Cultural Resources</b>
3.1	All feasible efforts shall be made to avoid cultural resources when designing trail routes. In those instances where a cultural resource cannot be avoided, mitigation measures shall be developed based on the applicable jurisdiction's guidelines in consultation with the appropriate tribal representatives, to mitigate all direct and indirect impacts to below a level of significance.

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Guideline #	Siting & Design Guideline
3.2	Consult with appropriate Native American tribal representatives early in the planning process to obtain information regarding tribal cultural resources within the study area and avoid any potential conflicts. Tribal cultural resources should be avoided to the maximum extent practicable.
3.3	Evaluate appropriate treatments where trail alignments occur in close proximity to archaeological and cultural resources. Treatments may include preservation in place, fencing, and other access control measures to deter access, and/or revegetation to hide and protect the resource. Where appropriate, resources may be incorporated into the trail design for education and interpretation.
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Trail Siting</b>
4.1	Utilize existing access roads, fire roads, utility roads/easements, and existing, non-designated trails that already have a disturbed tread and sustainable grades/cross slopes for trail alignments.
4.2	Trail opportunities on public lands and public easements should be a priority over those crossing privately owned lands. Where trails are planned in concert with sewer or water utility easements, the trail width should consider the easement requirements (e.g., maintenance) for the utility, as well as the sustainability of the site (e.g., cross slope, grade).
4.3	Provide trails that connect to existing and planned regional trails, as well as existing and planned park facilities. Pathways should be considered when connections using a conventional trail aren't feasible, and be routed along scenic roads where such routing is feasible.
4.4	Locate trails along the edge of urban development and other land uses (e.g., agriculture) adjacent to MSCP Preserve areas and other conserved lands where feasible to reduce edge effects. Trails located near edges of urban development should utilize fire buffer/limited building zone areas to reduce impacts/edge effects. Trails should make connections back into communities at multiple distinct locations to promote responsible trail access.
4.5	Existing residents and property owners should be considered during design to avoid issues related to trespassing, noise disturbances, view, privacy, security, and safety. Additionally, the potential for unauthorized access points from neighborhoods and private property should be considered during design.
4.6	Accessibility shall be considered during the planning and design of trails within the study area. Current state and federal regulations concerning the Americans with Disabilities Act, Architectural Barriers Act, and the Final Guidelines for Outdoor Developed Areas shall be applied to provide access to a wide range of user capabilities where deemed appropriate.
4.7	Consider potential land use conflicts (e.g., agriculture, hunting, public utilities, detention centers, hazardous materials, privately-owned lands) and resolve such conflicts when designing the trail system.
4.8	Avoid siting trailheads, staging areas, and other facilities within Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Wilderness. New trails may be constructed only if they are needed to preserve wilderness values and resources and will not significantly impair the degree of naturalness or solitude within the BLM Wilderness, and must comply with all applicable federal regulations related to Wilderness.
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Trail Design</b>
5.1	<p>The following are optimum ranges for tread width based on trail type:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Type A – Urban/Suburban: 6 to 10 feet</li> <li>• Type B – Rural: 4 to 10 feet</li> <li>• Type C – Primitive: 2 to 5 feet</li> <li>• Type D – Pathway: 8 to 12 feet</li> </ul> <p>Trail width will be influenced by site conditions, and may vary from the suggested guidelines on a case-by-case basis. Tread will be limited to 2 feet in BLM Wilderness, except where a wider trail is justified to protect the wilderness resource. Where the tread width of multi-use trails is less than 6 feet, occasional passing areas or turnouts should be added at gentle slopes, where feasible.</p>

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Guideline #	Siting & Design Guideline
5.2	<p>Trails should adhere to accepted sustainability standards related to trail grade, while following natural contours to the maximum extent practicable. The following are optimum ranges for average vertical grade based on trail type:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Type A – Urban/Suburban: 5% to 12%</li> <li>• Type B – Rural: 7.5% to 15%</li> <li>• Type C – Primitive: 8% to 15%</li> <li>• Type D – Pathway: 0% to 5%, or existing road grade</li> </ul> <p>Vertical grade of trails will be influenced by terrain and environmental constraints, and may vary from the suggested guidelines on a case-by-case basis. Switchbacks will be considered when vertical grade exceeds the optimum ranges. Equestrian trails should not exceed 12% grade, and should consider steps at grades above 10%.</p>
5.3	<p>The following are optimum ranges for cross slope based on trail type:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Type A – Urban/Suburban: 1% to 6%</li> <li>• Type B – Rural: 2% to 8%</li> <li>• Type C – Primitive: 1% to 10%</li> <li>• Type D – Pathway: 1% to 6%</li> </ul> <p>Cross slope of trails will be influenced by terrain and environmental constraints, and may vary from the suggested guidelines on a case-by-case basis.</p>
5.4	<p>Horizontal clearance will be 2 feet beyond the tread edge for the following trail types: Type A (Urban/Suburban), Type B (Rural), and Type D (Pathway). Horizontal clearance will be 1 foot beyond the tread edge for Type C (Primitive) trails. Horizontal clearance will be accomplished through tree and shrub trimming in MSCP Preserve areas; however, no root grubbing will occur.</p>
5.5	<p>Vertical clearance will be between 7 and 12 feet for hiking and cycling trails, and between 10 and 14 feet where equestrian use is permitted.</p>
5.6	<p>Steep grades should be avoided on soils with a ‘Severe’ soil erodibility rating for trails, as defined by the Natural Resource Conservation Service, through the incorporation of switchbacks when feasible. Where steep grades cannot be avoided due to other environmental considerations, erosion control measures such as water bars should be incorporated into the trail design and long-term maintenance measures should be incorporated into the maintenance plan to ensure sustainability of trails in the long-term.</p>
5.7	<p>Trails should be designed with adequate lines of sight based upon user type.</p>
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Trail Construction &amp; Maintenance</b>
6.1	<p>Ground disturbance shall be minimized in BLM Wilderness.</p>
6.2	<p>Natural materials (e.g., native soil, decomposed granite) that complement the surrounding landscape are preferred for trail tread construction, where feasible. Recycled materials, without detrimental environmental effects, may also be used when appropriate. Avoid paving trails where feasible.</p>
6.3	<p>Trail grading, clearing, or construction shall follow distance, season, and impact avoidance requirements, when applicable, to reduce detrimental effects to vegetation and species.</p>
6.4	<p>Public access or management plans for each preserve’s trail system should be developed to address maintenance and management requirements. Measures should be developed during the trail planning process to ensure the sustainability of the trails and protection of species and habitats in the long-term, including (but not limited to) erosion control, run-off, manure management, access control measures. Measures may also include trail closures after rain or during specific breeding seasons, if necessary.</p>

## **ATTACHMENT 1**

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Matrix of Otay Regional Trail Alignment Study Siting & Design Guidelines With Relevant Trail Planning Documents

Guideline #	Siting and Design Guideline	CoSD's MSCP	CiCv's MSCP	CiSD's MSCP	Otay Ranch GDP/SRP & Phase 1 RMP	Community Trails Master Plan	OVRP Concept Plan	Ovrp Trail Guidelines	Greenbelt Master Plan	BLM Manual 6340	R.JER LMP	HCWA LMP	CiSD PUD Trail Guidelines	CoSD RPO	CiSD Biology Guidelines
<b>1.0</b>	<b>Biological Resources</b>														
1.1	Locate trails, view overlooks, and staging areas in the least sensitive areas of the MSCP Preserve.	X	X	X					X		X				
1.2	Avoid impacts to sensitive plant and wildlife species within MSCP Preserve areas to the maximum extent practicable, with priority given to avoiding breeding habitats for federally and state listed species and narrow endemics.	X				X	X		X						
1.3	Minimize trail widths to reduce impacts to critical habitat and resources. To the maximum extent practicable, do not locate new trails wider than four feet in core MSCP Preserve areas or wildlife corridors.	X	X	X		X			X						
1.4	Limit equestrian trails near sensitive resources in the MSCP Preserve, such as riparian, wetland, and coastal sage scrub habitats. Where trails are located in the vicinity of sensitive resources, best management practices shall be incorporated into the maintenance plan to reduce potential for invasion by brown-headed cowbirds and water pollution from horse manure.	X	X	X	X		X		X				X		
1.5	Locate equestrian staging areas sufficient distance (e.g., 300 to 500 feet) from riparian and coastal sage scrub habitats in the MSCP Preserve.	X	X	X			X		X						
1.6	Avoid siting trails in Wolf Canyon.		X						X						
1.7	The trail design will adhere to the guidelines in the MSCP subarea plans relative to MSCP Preserve adjacency and consider access, non-native species/predators, lighting, runoff/drainage, and noise during trail planning, construction, and operation. This may include (but is not limited to) incorporating signage, physical barriers, visual barriers, and noise reduction measures to reduce detrimental edge effects.		X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X				
1.8	Trail alignments shall incorporate appropriate buffers from sensitive biological resources inside MSCP Preserve Areas to the maximum extent practicable. Trail alignments will be evaluated in the context of the following buffers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 300 feet from any nesting site of Cooper's hawk</li> <li>• 900 feet from any nesting site of northern harriers</li> <li>• 4,000 feet from any nesting site of golden eagles</li> <li>• 300 feet from any occupied burrow of burrowing owls</li> </ul>	X	X	X			X								X

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Guideline #	Siting and Design Guideline	CoSD's MSCP	CiC's MSCP	CiSD's MSCP	Otay Ranch GDP/SRP & Phase 1 RMP	Community Trails Master Plan	OVRP Concept Plan	Ovrp Trail Guidelines	Greenbelt Master Plan	BLM Manual 6340	R.JER LMP	HCWA LMP	CiSD PUD Trail Guidelines	CoSD RPO	CiSD Biology Guidelines
1.9	All wetlands and vernal pools should be avoided. Riparian areas must be avoided to the maximum extent practicable and crossed perpendicularly to limit detrimental effects (refer to Guideline 2.2). Set-back distances will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis and comply with all applicable regulations.														X
1.10	Avoid where possible routing trail alignments between habitat ecotones for longer than necessary due to the typically heightened resource sensitivity in those areas.		X				X		X						
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Aquatic Resources</b>														
2.1	Trail alignments should incorporate set back distances from dams, intakes, pipelines, and other critical water infrastructure in the City of San Diego Cornerstone Lands, based on the City of San Diego Public Utilities' Vulnerability Assessment and Department of Public Health Source Water Protection Zones. Trail alignments will be assessed in the context of these source water protection zones: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2,500 feet from reservoir outlets</li> <li>• 1,000 feet from reservoir high water line</li> <li>• 200 feet from major tributary streams</li> </ul>												X		
2.2	Trails should cross creeks and drainages perpendicular to channel in locations that travel through the source water protection buffer in the shortest distance possible while providing safe access. Drainage crossing structures should be designed to keep footings above the 100 year floodplain or top of bank, where feasible.												X		
2.3	Trails adjacent to critical water infrastructure should incorporate access control measures such as fencing, signage, and barriers to prevent unauthorized access where necessary.												X		
2.4	Runoff from staging areas shall be addressed through features incorporated into the project design, as well as the implementation of best management practices.												X		

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<b>3.0</b>	<b>Cultural Resources</b>														
3.1	All feasible efforts shall be made to avoid cultural resources when designing trail routes. In those instances where a cultural resource cannot be avoided, mitigation measures shall be developed based on the applicable jurisdiction's guidelines in consultation with the appropriate tribal representatives, to mitigate all direct and indirect impacts to below a level of significance.					X							X		
3.2	Consult with appropriate Native American tribal representatives early in the planning process to obtain information regarding tribal cultural resources within the study area and avoid any potential conflicts. Tribal cultural resources should be avoided to the maximum extent practicable,					X					X	X			
3.3	Evaluate appropriate treatments where trail alignments occur in close proximity to archaeological and cultural resources. Treatments may include preservation in place, fencing and other access control measures to deter access, and/or revegetation to hide and protect the resource. Where appropriate, resources may be incorporated into the trail design for education and interpretation.										X	X			
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Trail Siting</b>														
4.1	Utilize existing access roads, fire roads, utility roads/easements, and existing, non-designated trails that already have a disturbed tread and sustainable grades/cross slopes for trail alignments.	X	X	X	X	X	X								
4.2	Trail opportunities on public lands and public easements should be a priority over those crossing privately owned lands. Where trails are planned in concert with sewer or water utility easements, the trail width should consider the easement requirements (e.g. maintenance) for the utility, as well as the sustainability of the site (e.g. cross slope, grade).	X			X			X							
4.3	Provide trails that connect to existing and planned regional trails, as well as existing and planned park facilities. Pathways should be considered when connections using a conventional trail aren't feasible, and be routed along scenic roads where such routing is feasible.					X									
4.4	Locate trails along the edge of urban development and other land uses (e.g. agriculture) adjacent to MSCP Preserve areas and other conserved lands where feasible to reduce edge effects. Trails located near edges of urban development						X		X		X	X			

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	should utilize fire buffer/limited building zone areas to reduce impacts/edge effects. Trails should make connections back into communities at multiple distinct locations to promote responsible trail access.														
4.5	Existing residents and property owners should be considered during design to avoid issues related to trespassing, noise disturbances, view, privacy, security, and safety. Additionally, the potential for unauthorized access points from neighborhoods and private property should be considered during design.				X								X		
4.6	Accessibility shall be considered during the planning and design of trails within the study area. Current state and federal regulations concerning the ADA, ABA, and the Final Guidelines for Outdoor Developed Areas shall be applied to provide access to a wide range of user capabilities where deemed appropriate.			X				X	X		X	X	X		
4.7	Consider potential land use conflicts (e.g. agriculture, hunting, public utilities, detention centers, hazardous materials, privately-owned lands) and resolve such conflicts when designing the trail system.	X				X	X				X	X			
4.8	Avoid siting trailheads, staging areas, and other facilities within BLM Wilderness. New trails may be constructed only if they are needed to preserve wilderness values and resources and will not significantly impair the degree of naturalness or solitude within the BLM Wilderness, and must comply with all applicable Federal regulations related to Wilderness.									X					
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Trail Design</b>														
5.1	<p>The following are optimum ranges for tread width based on trail type:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Type A – Urban/Suburban: 6 to 10 feet</li> <li>• Type B – Rural: 4 to 10 feet</li> <li>• Type C – Primitive: 2 to 5 feet</li> <li>• Type D – Pathway: 8 to 12 feet</li> </ul> <p>Trail width of trails will be influenced by site conditions, and may vary from the suggested guidelines on a case-by-case basis. Tread will be limited to 2 feet in BLM Wilderness, except where a wider trail is justified to protect the wilderness resource. Where the tread width of multi-use trails is less than 6 feet, occasional passing areas or turnouts should be added at gentle slopes, where feasible.</p>					X		X	X	X		X			

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5.2	<p>Trails should adhere to accepted sustainability standards related to trail grade, while following natural contours to the maximum extent practicable. The following are optimum ranges for average vertical grade based on trail type:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Type A – Urban/Suburban: 5% to 12%</li> <li>• Type B – Rural: 7.5% to 15%</li> <li>• Type C – Primitive: 8% to 15%</li> <li>• Type D – Pathway: 0% to 5%, or existing road grade</li> </ul> <p>Vertical grade of trails will be influenced by terrain and environmental constraints, and may vary from the suggested guidelines on a case-by-case basis. Switchbacks will be considered when vertical grade exceeds the optimum ranges. Equestrian trails should not exceed 12 percent grade, and should consider steps at grades above 10%.</p>				X		X	X					X		
5.3	<p>The following are optimum ranges for cross slope based on trail type:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Type A – Urban/Suburban: 1% to 6%</li> <li>• Type B – Rural: 2% to 8%</li> <li>• Type C – Primitive: 1% to 10%</li> <li>• Type D – Pathway: 1% to 6%</li> </ul> <p>Cross slope of trails will be influenced by terrain and environmental constraints, and may vary from the suggested guidelines on a case-by-case basis.</p>				X		X	X					X		
5.4	<p>Horizontal clearance will be 2 feet beyond the tread edge for the following trail types: Type A (Urban/Suburban), Type B (Rural), and Type D (Pathway). Horizontal clearance will be 1 foot beyond the tread edge for Type C (Primitive) trails. Horizontal clearance will be accomplished through tree and shrub trimming in MSCP Preserve areas; however, no root grubbing will occur.</p>				X		X	X							
5.5	Vertical clearance will be between 7 and 12 feet for hiking and cycling trails, and between 10 and 14 feet where equestrian use is permitted.				X		X	X				X			

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5.6	Steep grades should be avoided on soils with a 'Severe' soil erodibility rating for trails, as defined by the Natural Resource Conservation Service, through the incorporation of switchbacks when feasible. Where steep grades cannot be avoided due to other environmental considerations, erosion control measures such as water bars should be incorporated into the trail design and long-term maintenance measures should be incorporated into the maintenance plan to ensure sustainability of trails in the long-term.												X		
5.7	Trails should be designed with adequate lines of sight based upon user type.												X		
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Trail Construction &amp; Maintenance</b>														
6.1	Ground disturbance shall be minimized in BLM Wilderness.											X			
6.2	Natural materials (e.g., native soil, decomposed granite) that complement the surrounding landscape are preferred for trail tread construction, where feasible. Recycled materials, without detrimental environmental effects, may also be used when appropriate. Avoid paving trails where feasible.	X	X		X		X	X				X			
6.3	Trail grading, clearing, or construction shall follow distance, season, and impact avoidance requirements, when applicable, to reduce detrimental effects to vegetation and species.					X						X			
6.4	Public access or management plans for each preserve's trail system should be developed to address maintenance and management requirements. Measures should be developed during the trail planning process to ensure the sustainability of the trails and protection of species and habitats in the long-term, including (but not limited to) erosion control, run-off, manure management, access control measures. Measures may also include trail closures after rain or during specific breeding seasons, if necessary.														

CoSD's MSCP = County of San Diego 1997

CiCV's MSCP = City of Chula Vista 2003a

CiSD's MSCP = City of San Diego 1997

Otay Ranch GDP/SRP & Phase 1 RMP = County of San Diego 1993; City of Chula Vista 1996; County of San Diego & City of Chula Vista 1993

Community Trails Master Plan = County of San Diego 2005

OVRP Concept Plan = County of San Diego, City of Chula Vista, & City of San Diego 2016

OVRP Trail Guidelines = County of San Diego, City of Chula Vista, & City of San Diego 2003

Greenbelt Master Plan = City of Chula Vista 2003b

BLM Manual 6340 = Bureau of Land Management 2012

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RJER LMP = TAIC 2006  
HCWA LMP = TAIC 2008  
CiSD PUD Trail Guidelines = City of San Diego 2009  
CoSD RPO = County of San Diego 2007  
CiSD Biology Guidelines = City of San Diego 2012  
ADA = American With Disabilities Act  
ABA = Architectural Barriers Act  
BLM = Bureau of Land Management  
MSCP = MSCP

**REFERENCES CITED**

Bureau of Land Management

2012 Manual 6340- Management of Designated Wilderness Areas (Public).

Chula Vista, City of

1996 Otay Ranch General Development Plan. Amended June 4.  
2003a Multiple Species Conservation Program Subarea Plan. February.  
2003b Greenbelt Master Plan

San Diego, City of

1997 City of San Diego MSCP Subarea Plan. March.  
2009 Guidelines for the Establishment, Use, and Management of Public Access Trails on Public Utilities Land.  
2012 Biology Guidelines. San Diego Municipal Code - Land Development Code. Amended April 23.

San Diego, County of

1993 Otay Subregional Plan, Vol. 2. Adopted October 28.  
1997 Multiple Species Conservation Program Subarea Plan.  
2005 Community Trails Master Plan.  
2007 Resource Protection Ordinance. San Diego County Code – Zoning and Land Use Regulations.

San Diego, County of, and Chula Vista, City of

1993 Otay Ranch Resource Management Plan. October 28.

San Diego, County of, City of Chula Vista, and City of San Diego

2003 Otay Valley Regional Park Trail Guidelines.  
2016 Draft Otay Valley Regional Park Concept Plan.

TAIC

2006 Rancho Jamul Ecological Reserve Land Management Plan.  
2008 Hollenbeck Canyon Wildlife Area Land Management Plan.