

TIJUANA RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL PARK TRAILS AND ENHANCEMENT
PROJECT
RECIRCULATED DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT
August 1, 2006

The draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Tijuana River Valley Regional Park (TRVRP) Trails and Enhancement Project (project) was circulated for Public Review per CEQA Section 15087 for a 60-day Public Review period from December 7, 2005 through February 6, 2006. The County of San Diego (County) in response to public comment subsequently determined the park users would benefit from the addition of various trail linkages. Exhibit 1-3 depicts the revised project with the additions of two trail segments and the replacement of one trail segment previously described. The revised formal trail network will consist of 22.5 miles of both multi-use, and equestrian and pedestrian only trails.

The changes to the project description include the three additional trail segments. The first trail segment is located on an existing, informal trail north of Monument Road. The trail segment will extend from the previously proposed trail across the Monument Road to the previously described loop on the mesa to the south. The second trail segment is adjacent to a City of San Diego mitigation area. This trail segment was dedicated as a condition of the mitigation area project approval. It provides a link from the proposed staging area on Monument Road to the trails to the north-west. The third segment replaces a segment in the north-western portion of the TRVRP. The previously proposed trail was to the south of the existing ballfields and north of what is know in the equestrian community as Sherwood Forest trail. The alignment was changed so the currently proposed trail follows the alignment of the Sherwood Forest trail. These linkages would increase the acreage of significant biological impacts within the river valley not previously discussed in the December 7, 2005 draft EIR and the public should be afforded the opportunity to comment on these increased impacts. Therefore, the County has released the revised draft EIR in it's entirety for recirculation per CEQA Sections 15088.5 and 15087. Changes to the document are shown using strikeout/underline format. All additional biological impacts would be mitigated to below a level of significant.

No public meeting will be held to discuss these changes. If you wish to review the technical studies they are available at the address below. Per CEQA Section 15088.5(f)(1) & (2), previous comments submitted on the draft EIR are part of the administrative record. Responses to the comments will be included in the final EIR. New comments should be limited to the revised sections of the recirculated draft EIR and should be submitted by September 15, 2006. Please send comments to Esther Daigneault, Environmental Planner III, County of San Diego Department of Public Works, 5469 Kearny Villa Road, Suite 305, San Diego, CA 92123, via fax to (858) 874-4043, or via e-mail to esther.daigneault@sdcounty.ca.gov.

RECIRCULATED DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

FOR THE

TIJUANA RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL PARK

TRAILS AND HABITAT ENHANCEMENT PROJECT

SCH: 2004091159

Prepared for:

County of San Diego
Department of Public Works
5469 Kearny Villa Road
San Diego, CA 92123
Project Manager: Esther Daigneault

Prepared by:

Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc.
517 Fourth Avenue, Suite 301
San Diego, CA 92101
(619) 234-9411
Project Manager: Scott Barker, AICP

AUGUST 2006

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SUMMARY

S.1	Project Synopsis.....	S-2
S.2	Summary of Significant Effects and Mitigation Measures that Reduce or Avoid the Significant Effects.....	S-3
S.3	Areas of Controversy	S-3
S.4	Issues to be Resolved by the Decision-Making Body.....	S-4
S.5	Project Alternatives.....	S-4

LIST OF ACRONYMS

CHAPTER 1 – Project Description and Environmental Setting

1.1	Project Description and Location.....	1-1
1.1.1	Project’s Component Parts.....	1-1
1.1.2	Technical, Economic, and Environmental Characteristics	1-5
1.2	Project Objectives	1-6
1.3	Intended Uses of the EIR	1-6
1.3.1	Matrix of Project Approvals/Permits	1-7
1.3.2	List of Related Environmental Review and Consultation Requirements	1-7
1.4	Environmental Setting	1-8
1.5	Consistency of Project with Applicable Regional and General Plans	1-9
1.5.1	Tijuana River Valley Local Coastal Program and Land Use Plan.....	1-9
1.5.2	San Diego County MSCP and City of San Diego MHPA	1-9
1.6	List of Past, Present, and Reasonably Anticipated Future Projects in the Project Area	1-13
1.7	Growth-Inducing Effects	1-15

CHAPTER 2.0 - Significant Environmental Effects Which Cannot be Avoided if the Proposed Project is Implemented

CHAPTER 3.0 - Significant Environmental Effects of the Proposed Project which can be Mitigated

Sub-Chapter 3.1- Biological Resources

3.1 Biological Resources3.1-1

3.1.1 Existing Conditions.....3.1- 1

3.1.1.1 Regulatory Setting3.1-2

3.1.1.2 Regional Setting.....3.1-2

3.1.1.3 Local Setting3.1-3

3.1.2 Guidelines for the Determination of Significance3.1-18

3.1.3 Analysis of Project Effects and Determination as to Significance3.1-19

3.1.3.1 Overview.....3.1-19

3.1.3.2 Definition of Significant Mitigable Effects3.1-21

3.1.3.3 Project Elements and Associated Impacts3.1-22

3.1.4 Cumulative Impact Analysis.....3.1-31

3.1.5 Mitigation Measures3.1-34

3.1.6 Conclusions.....3.1-40

Sub-Chapter 3.2- Cultural and Paleontological Resources

3.2 Cultural and Paleontological Resources3.2-1

3.2.1 Existing Conditions.....3.2-1

3.2.2 Guidelines for the Determination of Significance3.2-2

3.2.3 Analysis of Project Effects and Determination as to Significance3.2-6

3.2.4 Cumulative Impact Analysis.....3.2-9

3.2.5 Mitigation Measures3.2-10

3.2.6 Conclusions.....3.2-12

Sub-Chapter 3.3 – Land Use and Planning

3.3 Land Use and Planning.....3.3-1

3.3.1 Existing Conditions.....3.3-1

3.3.2 Guidelines for the Determination of Significance3.3-1

3.3.3 Analysis of Project Effects and Determination as to Significance3.3-2

3.3.4 Cumulative Impact Analysis.....3.3-4

3.3.5 Mitigation Measures3.3-4

3.3.6 Conclusions.....3.3-4

CHAPTER 4.0 – Effects Found Not to Be Significant

4.1 Aesthetics.....4-2

4.2 Air Quality4-3

4.3 Agricultural Resources.....4-5

4.4 Geology and Soils.....4-5

4.5 Hydrology and Drainage.....4-7

4.6 Noise4-9

4.7 Public Health and Safety – Hazardous Materials4-10

4.8 Public Services and Utilities4-12

4.9 Recreation4-12

4.10 Traffic/Circulation4-15

CHAPTER 5.0 – Alternatives to the Proposed Project

5.1 Rationale for Alternative Selection.....5-1

5.1.1 Overview of the Alternative Selection Process5-2

5.2 Analysis of Alternative 15-4

5.2.1 Alternative Description and Setting.....5-4

5.2.2 Comparison of the Effects of Alternative 1 to the Proposed Project.....5-5

5.2.3 Rationale for Preference of the Proposed Project over Alternative 15-5

5.3 Analysis of Alternative 25-6

5.3.1 Alternative Description and Setting.....5-6

5.3.2 Comparison of the Effects of Alternative 2 to the Proposed Project5-7

5.3.3 Rationale for Preference of the Proposed Project over Alternative 25-8

5.4 Analysis of the No Project Alternative5-8

5.4.1 Alternative Description and Setting.....5-8

5.4.2 Comparison of the Effects of the No Project Alternative to the Proposed Project5-9

5.4.3 Rationale for Preference of the Proposed Project Over the No Project Alternative.....5-10

LIST OF REFERENCES

LIST OF EIR PREPARERS AND PERSONS AND ORGANIZATIONS

CONTACTED

LIST OF MITIGATION MEASURES AND ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN

CONSIDERATIONS

TABLES

Table S-1 Mitigation MeasuresS-8

Table S-2 Best Management Practices/Environmental Design Considerations.....S-14

Table S-3 Comparison ChartS-19

Table 1-1	Status of Existing and Proposed Future Trails.....	1-18
Table 1-2	Vegetation Restoration on Trails to be Narrowed	1-19
Table 1-3	Vegetation Restoration on Trails to be Closed	1-21
Table 1-4	Lists of Required Permits and Plans	1-23
Table 3.1-1	Vegetation Communities within the Tijuana River Valley Regional Park....	3.1-42
Table 3.1-2	Special-Status Plant Species Definitions	3.1-43
Table 3.1-3	Special-Status Plant Species Occurring within TRVRP Study Area.....	3.1-44
Table 3.1-4	Special-Status Wildlife Species Definitions	3.1-46
Table 3.1-5	Special-Status Wildlife Species Potentially Occurring within Project Area ..	3.1-47
Table 3.1-6	Total Amount of Impact to Existing Vegetation Communities	3.1-53
Table 3.1-7	Wetlands Mitigation Ratios – Impact and Mitigation within the MHPA....	3.1-55
Table 3.1-8	Upland Mitigation Ratios – Impact and Mitigation within the MHPA	3.1-56
Table 3.1-9	Habitat Restoration Site – Existing and Proposed Acreage	3.1-57
Table 3.1-10	Total Restoration of Vegetation Communities	3.1-58
Table 3.1-11	Quantifiable Cumulative Impacts, Vegetation Communities	3.1-59
Table 3.2-1	Archaeological sites within TRVRP and Potential Impacts and Mitigation ..	3.2-14
Table 4-1	Southern San Diego County (Chula Vista Station) Air Quality Data 1999- 2003.....	4-18
Table 4-2	TRVRP Construction Emissions (LB/DAY)	4-19
Table 4-3	Tijuana River Valley Soil Analysis	4-20
Table 4-4	TRVRP Visitor Count	4-23
Table 5-1	Alternatives Comparison Chart.....	5-12
Table 5-2	Summary of Environmental Impacts of Alternatives Relative to the Proposed Project	5-13
Table 5-3	Alternative 1 Trail System Detail	5-14
Table 5-4	Alternative 1 – Amount of Take of Existing Vegetation Communities due to Trails Widening.....	5-15
Table 5-5	Alternative 2 Trail System Detail	5-16
Table 5-6	Alternative 2 – Amount of Take of Existing Vegetation Communities due to Trails Widening.....	5-17

EXHIBITS

Exhibit 1-1	Project Vicinity Map.....	1-25
Exhibit 1-2	Project Boundary	1-26
Exhibit 1-3	Trail Network.....	1-27
Exhibit 1-4	Trails/Roads to be closed.....	1-28
Exhibit 1-5	Restoration Area	1-29
Exhibit 1-6	Habitat Restoration Site West of Dairy Mart Ponds – Existing Vegetation..	1-30
Exhibit 1-7	Proposed Eastern Staging Area.....	1-31
Exhibit 1-8	Alternative Staging Area Locations.....	1-32
Exhibit 1-9	Proposed Recreational Trail Bridge.....	1-33
Exhibit 1-10	Proposed Recreational Trail Bridge with Aerial Photo	1-34
Exhibit 1-11	Location of Trail Heads, Signage, Trail Furnishings and Trail Observation Blinds	1-35
Exhibit 1-12	Typical Trail Marker Elevation	1-36

Exhibit 1-13	Typical Bird Observation Blind – Plan.....	1-37
Exhibit 1-14	Typical Bird Observation Blind – Elevation	1-38
Exhibit 1-15	Typical Interpretive Signage Elevation	1-39
Exhibit 1-16	Typical Directional Signage Elevation	1-40
Exhibit 1-17	Typical Site Furnishings	1-41
Exhibit 1-18	Location of Cumulative Projects	1-42
Exhibit 3.1-1	City of San Diego Multiple Habitat Planning Area	3.1-61
Exhibit 3.1-2	Formal Trail Network and Vegetation Communities	3.1-62
Exhibit 3.1-3	Rare Plant Locations	3.1-63
Exhibit 3.1-4	Herptile Species	3.1-64
Exhibit 3.1-5	Sensitive Bird Species.....	3.1-65
Exhibit 3.1-6	Least Bell’s Vireo Locations, 1993	3.1-66
Exhibit 3.1-7	Least Bell’s Vireo Locations, 1998	3.1-67
Exhibit 3.1-8	Least Bell’s Vireo Locations, 2001	3.1-68
Exhibit 3.1-9	Least Bell’s Vireo Locations, 2003	3.1-69
Exhibit 3.1-10	Migrant Willow Flycatcher.....	3.1-70
Exhibit 3.1-11	Light – footed Clapper Rail Locations.....	3.1-71
Exhibit 3.1-12	California Gnatcatcher Locations	3.1-72
Exhibit 3.1-13	Impact Footprint for Equestrian / Pedestrian Bridge, New Trail and Associated Construction and Maintenance Access and Staging.....	3.1-73
Exhibit 3.1-14	Habitat Restoration – Concept Plan.....	3.1-74
Exhibit 3.2-1	Areas Previously Surveyed for Cultural Resources	3.2-16
Exhibit 3.2-2	Areas Surveyed for Cultural Resources By SWCA – 2004	3.2-17
Exhibit 3.3-1	Parcels with Use Limitations Based on Funding Sources	3.3-6
Exhibit 3.3-2	Existing Management Entities	3.3-7
Exhibit 3.3-3	Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve	3.3-8
Exhibit 3.3-4	Parcel Ownership.....	3.3-9
Exhibit 4-1	Prime Agricultural Lands.....	4-25
Exhibit 5-1	Proposed Project	5-19
Exhibit 5-2	Alternative 1.....	5-20
Exhibit 5-3	Alternative 2.....	5-20

APPENDICES

Volume I

A – Notice of Preparation and NOP Distribution List

A-1 Notice of Preparation

A-2 NOP Distribution List

B – NOP Comment Letters

C - Biological Resources Technical Report, Regulatory Setting and Jurisdictional Delineation

C-1 Biological Technical Report

Volume II

- C-2 Regulatory Setting Summary
- C-3 Jurisdictional Delineation Summary
- C-4 Programmatic Restoration Concepts and Guidelines for the Tijuana River Valley Regional Park

D - Cultural Resources Technical Report

E - Air Quality Modeling and Calculations

F - Soils Data

G - Hydrology and Drainage Data

- G-1 Hydrologic and Hydraulic Report for the Replacement of the Hollister Street Bailey Bridge Over the Tijuana River
- G-2 25-Year Hydraulic Study, Tijuana River

H - Noise Analysis Report

I - Standard Operating Procedure Manual

J - EDR Datamap Area Study