

MISSION TRAILS PROJECT Meeting Summary

DATE: Jan. 10, 2007	TIME: 7 p.m.
ORGANIZATION:	Mission Trails Volunteer Trail Guides
MEETING LOCATION:	Mission Trails Regional Park Visitors Center
ATTENDANCE:	15
PRESENTERS:	Craig Balben, San Diego County Water Authority Mark Tegio, San Diego County Water Authority Habib Hariri, San Diego County Water Authority
STAFF RESOURCES:	Emily Powell, Katz & Associates

PRESENTATION SUMMARY:

Craig Balben, public affairs representative, explained the Water Authority's goal of diversifying the water supply in the San Diego region to increase water reliability. Craig described the components of the Mission Trails Project and stated the purpose of the project is to eliminate hydraulic bottlenecks that occur in the pipelines that traverse the park, increase water deliveries to treatment plants in the southern portion of the county, and improve pipeline operations. He explained additional geotechnical drilling will be occurring in February or March 2007. Some of the park access roads will be closed during these drilling activities. Craig stated the design for this project is anticipated to be complete by mid-2007 and construction is anticipated to begin in late-2007 and end in late-2009. He also discussed the Pipeline 3 Relining project from state Route 52 to Lake Murray which is anticipated to begin in early-2008. Mark Tegio, environmental project manager, explained the Mission Trails Project environmental impact report.

QUESTIONS ABOUT THE MISSION TRAILS PROJECT:

- Q. How will the new pipeline traverse the hills in the Mission Trails Regional Park?**
A. The new pipeline will be a tunnel and is designed to reduce the hydraulic bottleneck that occurs in the pipelines in the park due to the varying terrain.
- Q. Why will most of the blue vents in the park be removed? I believe they were installed in the mid-1990s.**
A. The raw water pipeline was put in the park in the mid-1950s and the blue vents were associated with that project. In the 1990s, a treated water pipeline was installed. The current Mission Trails Project will replace the two existing pipes with one larger pipe so more water can flow through the pipelines to meet the demand of water treatment plants in the southern parts of the county.
- Q. Where will the additional water come from that will go through the new, larger pipe?**
A. It will originate from the Colorado River, where we currently get our water.
- Q. During the restoration of the area near the Pipeline 3 failure, were container plants used to augment hydroseeding?**
A. Yes. Container plants were used in some areas during the restoration.

- Q. How much did the Pipeline 3 restoration cost and which company completed the work? Is the Water Authority required to maintain that area?**
- A. The restoration cost approximately \$260,000 for three acres. A company called Habitat Restoration Specialists performed the restoration work. The Water Authority is required to perform residual maintenance at the site for five years.
- Q. Will the FRS II structure be earthquake-proof?**
- A. The FRS II structure will be built to withstand a 7.8 magnitude earthquake.
- Q. Can you explain the river crossing element of the project in more detail?**
- A. When the water level is high in the San Diego River, especially during rainy seasons, it is nearly impossible for park vehicles and emergency vehicles to access the park across the existing river crossing. The improved river crossing will be a concrete swell, not a bridge. When the improved river crossing is constructed, rangers and emergency vehicles will be able to more easily get across the river during periods of low flow.
- Q. Will all the trails indicated on the trail closure map be closed for the full two years of construction for the project?**
- A. All the trails near the pipeline tunnel and FRS II construction, as well as the Clairemont Mesa Boulevard entrance will be closed for approximately two years during FRS II construction. Trail access from Portobelo Drive will be closed for approximately two years during pipeline tunnel construction. Trail access from Calle de Vida will be available for park users most of the time.
- Q. What will the daily blasting schedule be for the pipeline project?**
- A. When a contractor bids on the project they will submit a blasting plan.
- Q. Who developed the cultural and biological reports for this project and are the results available on the Water Authority's website?**
- A. The reports were prepared by Tierra Environmental Services and can be found on the Water Authority's website (www.sdcwa.org).
- Q. Is there off-site mitigation required for this project?**
- A. The Water Authority is negotiating with agencies to obtain permits for mitigation efforts. For the Mission Trails Project, a large portion of the area has already been mitigated. Revegetation of the area is the only remaining requirement. However, some areas will still require off-site mitigation. The recently established Good Neighbor Policy sets expectations of the on-site mitigation for this project. The revegetation efforts on FRS II will include a hydroseed plant mix containing up to 16 species of native plants and native container plants.
- Q. Will the hydroseed mix be made up of native plants to the park?**
- A. Yes. The Water Authority worked with biologists on the plant mix to match with native plants in the park.

Q. There are sensitive plants in the area of construction. Do you know what species are present in the area and do you plan to restore the habitats at the end of construction?

A. Sensitive plant species observed in the project area include: federally threatened San Diego thornmint, CNPS list 1B species and narrow endemic variegated dudleya, CNPS list 1B species Nuttall's scrub oak, CNPS list 2 species coast barrel cactus, and CNPS list 4 species San Diego sunflower.

- Impacts to San Diego thornmint from project construction would be avoided with implementation of the Standard Conditions and Project Design Features (i.e., fence and avoid disturbing area).
- Variegated dudleya occurs within an approximately 100-foot-diameter area in the southern mixed chaparral that would be removed on the FRS II site. Removal of this relatively small population would not represent a substantially adverse effect on the larger population within MTRP. Therefore, impacts to this species would be less than significant.
- Nuttall's scrub oak, coast barrel cactus, and San Diego sunflower species are interspersed throughout the southern mixed chaparral, coastal sage-chaparral scrub, and Diegan coastal sage scrub vegetation that would be removed by the construction of the FRS II and tunnel portals. Their removal would not represent a substantially adverse effect on the overall populations within MTRP due to the relatively small size of the impact footprints. Therefore, impacts to these species would be less than significant.

As part of the Good Neighbor Policy, the Water Authority will implement a native plant revegetation program to restore areas disturbed by construction activities.

QUESTIONS ABOUT THE MISSION TRAILS RELINING PROJECT:

Q. Will the Pipeline 3 Relining Project impact traffic in the areas near the portals? Will traffic be re-routed during the project?

A. The portal locations are determined by considering impact on residents. Hopefully the relining project will not require the same level of traffic detours as was necessary during the Jackson Dr. Pipeline Interconnect Project.

Q. Are the new pipelines going to be reinforced with concrete?

A. Yes. The pipelines will be steel-welded with a concrete lining.

Q. What will be the approximate length between the portals for the relining project?

A. The distance between portals will range from 1,000 to 2,000 feet.

Q. Where does the pipe enter Lake Murray that runs through Mission Trails Regional Park?

A. The pipe connects to the Alvarado Water Treatment Plant and continues south.

Q. Will the portals for the relining project be permanent?

A. The relining portals are temporary. Construction at each portal site will include digging a hole to access the existing pipe, placing new steel liners in the existing pipeline, closing up the hole, and restoring the site.

Q. Will the work for the Pipeline 3 Relining Project be going on at the same time as the Mission Trails Project?

A. Yes. Work for both projects will occur simultaneously.

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