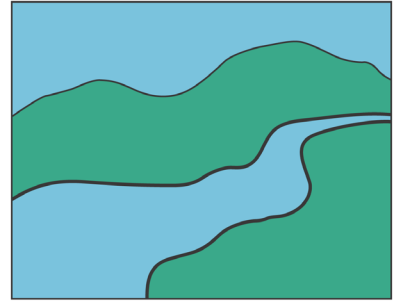


# San Dieguito River Park



## **TRAILS MANAGEMENT PLAN AND STANDARDS**

**Approved by the JPA Board of Directors on April 15, 2016**

**Updated August 26, 2021**



**SAN DIEGUITO RIVER PARK TRAILS MANAGEMENT PLAN AND STANDARDS**

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## SAN DIEGUITO RIVER PARK TRAILS MANAGEMENT PLAN AND STANDARDS

### FOREWORD

On April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2015, the San Dieguito River Valley Regional Open Space Park Joint Powers Authority (JPA) Board of Directors (Board) adopted the *AMENDED AND RESTATED JOINT EXERCISE OF POWERS AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO AND THE CITIES OF DEL MAR, ESCONDIDO, POWAY, SAN DIEGO AND SOLANA BEACH CREATING THE SAN DIEGUITO RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL OPEN SPACE PARK JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY* (JEPA). It became in full effect when all the member agencies governing bodies approved and executed the JEPA which occurred on July 30<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

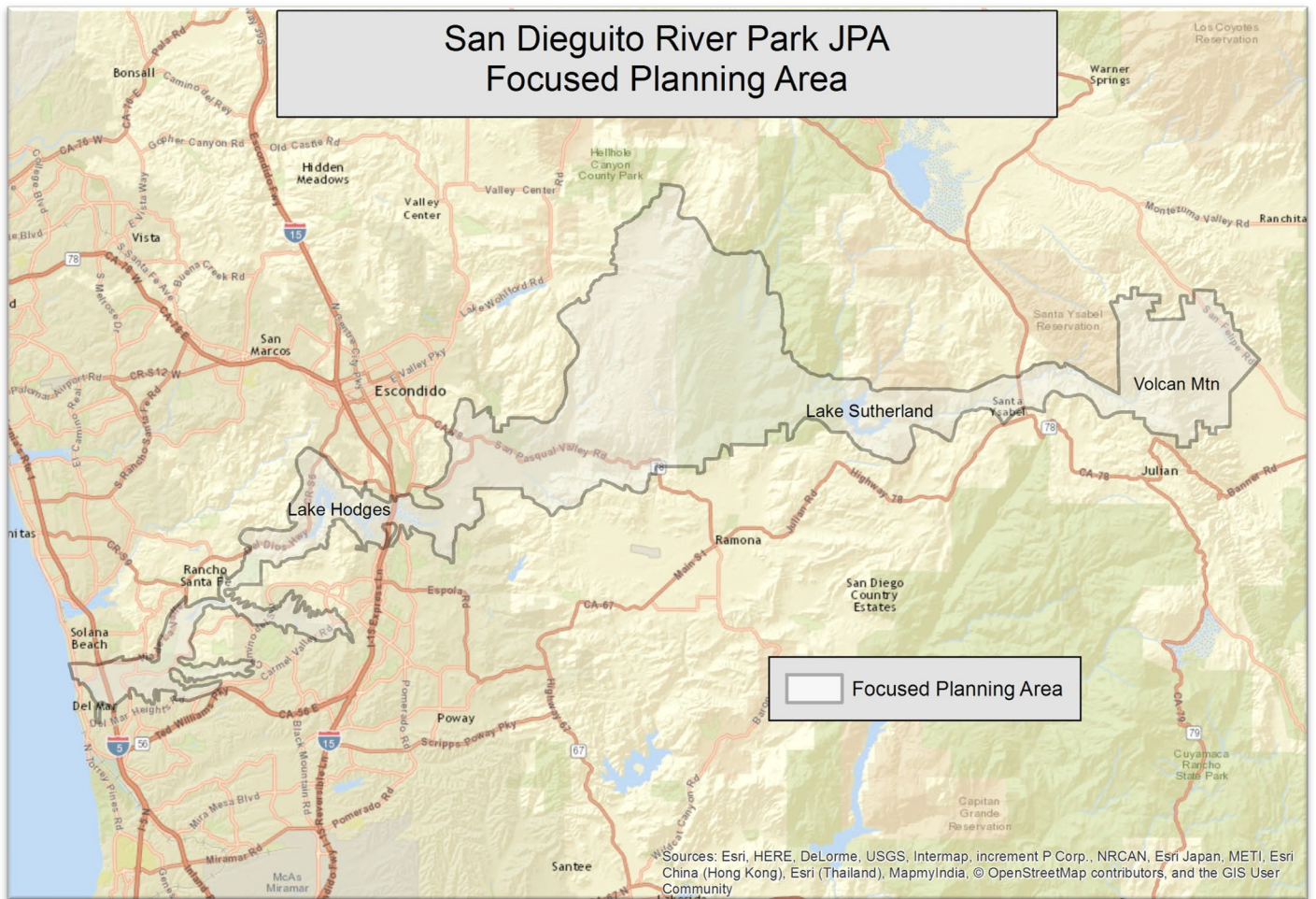
Section 13(b) of the JEPA states, *“The Board shall adopt trails maintenance and management standards specific to the Park within 60 days from the Effective Date of this Agreement. The JPA shall maintain trails in accordance with these standards.”* This document is intended to comply with this provision in the JEPA. In addition, this document is intended to delineate lands, waters, and facilities within the San Dieguito River Park Focused Planning Area (FPA) that the JPA considers primary, secondary, and supporting responsibilities in coordination with its member agencies’ land management departments.

The designation, development, and management of the FPA has evolved over a period which predates the formation of the to present day. Although some lands, facilities and developments were in place prior to the formation of the JPA, there has been much progress during the existence of the JPA in terms of land acquisition, preservation of open space and trail development. The designation of primary responsibilities between the JPA and its member agencies’ land management departments has taken various forms of agreement over the years. While the JPA has a designated FPA and adopted Concept Plan (1994; 2002) for park planning purposes, it does not have the resources nor authority to perform all land management functions throughout the entire FPA. Rather, the JPA, in coordination with its member agencies’ land management departments, have developed both formal and informal agreements delineating varying levels of responsibilities and functions. As stated above, this document is intended to establish trail maintenance and management standards specific to the Park, but also to further delineate the lands, waters, and facilities within the FPA where the JPA and its member agencies’ land management departments identify individual and/or coordinated responsibilities.

### Reporting Schedule

The JPA will give an annual update on trial status to the Board and member agencies. The JPA will review and update, as necessary, the plan every 5-years and/or when new segments are developed.

## SAN DIEGUITO RIVER PARK TRAILS MANAGEMENT PLAN AND STANDARDS



**Map 1: San Dieguito River Park JPA Focused Planning Area**

### SECTION 1

#### DESCRIPTION OF THE PARK

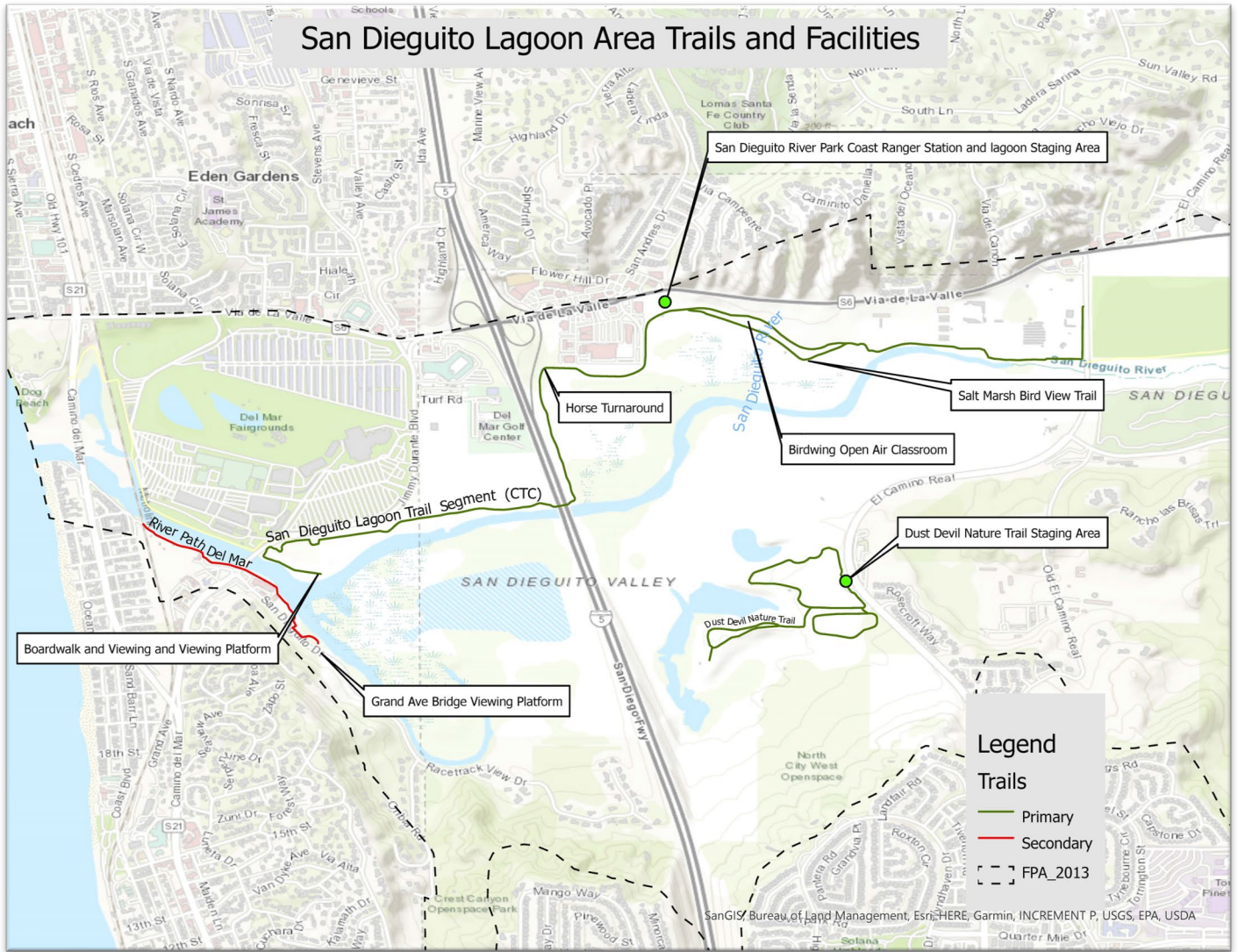
The Focused Planning Area (FPA) for the San Dieguito River Park extends along a 55-mile corridor that begins in the desert just east of Volcan Mountain and ends at the mouth of the San Dieguito River in Del Mar (Map 1). The FPA encompasses the San Dieguito River Valley and its major tributary canyons, as well as Lake Hodges, Boden Canyon and Pamo Valley, Lake Sutherland, the Santa Ysabel Creek drainage, Volcan Mountain, and portions of the high desert in San Felipe Valley. With the expansion of the FPA boundaries in 1993 to include the entire Rutherford Ranch, the San Dieguito River Park now proposes a greenway and open space park system that will link the Anza Borrego State Park to the Pacific Ocean.

The planning area encompasses approximately 94,000 acres of relatively open land that roughly corresponds to the viewshed of the San Dieguito River Valley and its major tributary canyons. The FPA is identified by the JPA as the area where planning and acquisition efforts for the Park are to be directed. The boundary of the FPA was first identified in 1981 (only to Lake Sutherland) but was later extended eastward in 1988 by the SANDAG San Dieguito River Valley Regional Open Space Park Plan Executive Committee (the predecessor to the JPA) to include the entire San Dieguito River drainage, as well as several major tributary canyons. The FPA was amended in the 1990s adding Boden Canyon, the eastern and western slopes of Volcan Mountain, as well as a portion of the San Felipe Valley, and again in 2007 to add the viewshed from Guejito Creek. Approximately 49 miles of the Coast to Crest Trail exists as of June 2021. When completed, the Coast to Crest Trail will extend 71 miles. In addition, many miles of other trails exist in the FPA.



## SAN DIEGUITO RIVER PARK TRAILS MANAGEMENT PLAN AND STANDARDS

Approximately 60 percent of the FPA is in public ownership and of that, approximately 3,000 acres is owned by the JPA. The rest is owned by other public agencies.



Map 2: San Dieguito Lagoon Area Trails and Facilities

### SECTION 2

#### PRIMARY TRAILS, FACILITIES AND OPEN SPACE LANDS

Primary Facilities are those for which the JPA performs the highest level of management. The JPA assumes responsibility for the integrity of the facility. Some trails are considered primitive and therefore inherent hazards associated with certain sections of trail may naturally exist. The facilities received this determination based upon the following criteria:

- Project installed by JPA and/or a formal agreement for management exists.
- JPA has historically maintained the facility, or part thereof.
- JPA is the Landowner.

Management of Primary Facilities is based upon three priorities:

## SAN DIEGUITO RIVER PARK TRAILS MANAGEMENT PLAN AND STANDARDS

1. Public Safety – Facilities are patrolled and maintained so that public safety hazards are quickly identified, and corrections are made to remove or minimize the hazard. In the event that long term corrections are required, the hazard is clearly marked, and those measures are monitored at a minimum of one time per week. Primary Facilities are well signed so the user can safely enjoy the Park.
2. Natural and Cultural Resource Protection – Facilities are managed so that their use does not adversely affect the natural and cultural resources that the JPA is obligated to protect. Features installed during the construction of a Park facility in order to protect resources are monitored and maintained until the problem is corrected. Additional measures are taken in the event that the original solutions are inadequate. When new problems arise, the JPA staff quickly identifies the problem and takes corrective action. In many cases, the JPA will notify the responsible jurisdiction that has land management and enforcement authority of any recurring problems that are outside of the JPA's authority. Access through sensitive areas is often controlled through the use of fencing, signs, and educational programming. Cultural and biological experts are often consulted for input into management decisions.
3. Visitor Amenities – The JPA identifies and installs appropriate additions to Park facilities in order to provide a better and safer user experience. Various forms of funding are utilized including grants and donations. Many visitor amenity projects are initiated by the community and reviewed by the citizen managed Trails Committee or the Interpretation Committee. The JPA policy on interpretive features and programming will help guide the process of newly proposed amenities and the JPA will consult with the jurisdictions on implementation. Amenities can vary from new structures to educational programming. The projects take into consideration public safety and natural and cultural resource protection.

### 2.1 PARK RULES

The following rules are identified on the SDRP website and trail maps and strictly enforced at the Primary Facilities:

1. Trails are open 6am daily and close at 6pm October 1-March 31<sup>st</sup> and 7:30 pm April 1 – September 30. The exception is the David Kreitzer Lake Hodges Bicycle/Ped Bridge which is open from 6AM to 9:00pm daily.
2. Stay on designated trails and obey posted information. Trails that are not explicitly shown on maps (2-7) are not considered authorized trails and may be closed at any time. Open space lands or preserves adjacent to the authorized trail system are not open to public access and will be signed accordingly.
3. Dogs are welcome and must be on leash at all times.
4. Pick up after your pet.
5. Open fires and smoking are prohibited.
6. Overnight camping is prohibited and overnight parking is not permitted in staging areas.
7. Possession of firearms or other weapons is prohibited.
8. Motorized vehicles are not allowed on trails except for administrative use by an authorized agency or within compliance of JPA [\*Policy for Use of "Other Power-Driven Mobility Devices" on San Dieguito River Park Trails\*](#)
9. Collection of plant, animal or cultural specimens is strictly prohibited.

### 2.2 MONITORING

JPA Ranger staff patrols the Primary Facilities with assistance from the JPA's volunteer patrol. Volunteer patrollers are trained and supervised by JPA Ranger staff. All patrol staff are required to wear their provided uniform. Patrol is conducted in a marked vehicle with a Park logo and "San Dieguito River Park Ranger" written on the door. The patrol

## SAN DIEGUITO RIVER PARK TRAILS MANAGEMENT PLAN AND STANDARDS

vehicles contain tools and equipment, shovel, SDRP information and maps for kiosks and public contact, binoculars, extra water, dog waste bag refills, radio or cell phone, clip board and log, and first aid. Patrol of remote areas can occur on foot or bicycle.

Rangers take all precautions when patrolling and are trained to be aware of their surroundings and not to enter into a situation that would harm themselves, other people, and/or the River Park. They consider the availability of assistance and are mindful of potentially dangerous encounters. Primary Facilities are monitored frequently. Facilities accessible by vehicle are monitored daily and the more remote primary trail areas vary from 1-4 times per week by SDRP staff. In addition, volunteers patrol the facilities 1-4 times per week.

JPA Rangers do not have powers of arrest and therefore do not issue citations. In the event that law enforcement is needed, the appropriate agency is called depending upon the jurisdiction. The response is coordinated by JPA staff.

Trails and landscaped areas are evaluated frequently in order to address maintenance needs before the problems become exacerbated.

The objectives of monitoring include the following:

- Staging area and trail head: Ranger staff visit the facility daily in order to; fill brochure boxes, check the information kiosk for vandalism, fill dog-waste bags, check and empty horse manure bins (as applicable), check solar gates, check for vandalism or disrepair of signs and benches, check trashcans and change trash can bag if needed, and clean trash from staging area, including along frontage road.
- Interpretive signage (if applicable): Interpretive signs along the trail are monitored for sun damage, dust, vandalism, and replacement.
- Rule violators: While on patrol, staff will attend to rule violators and monitor trail and staging area usage.
- Wildlife: Staff is in a unique position to observe wildlife and, when possible, encounters are documented.
- Public contact: Ranger staff will seek out contact with park visitors and answer questions, address their concerns, and interpret Park rules and features.
- Erosion: Problems are identified and work is scheduled to correct trail erosion problems. Trails are maintained so that erosion of the trail surface does not adversely affect the surrounding environment. Erosion across the trail is addressed in order to protect the trail tread and provide a walkable surface. Ponding and surfacing issues are assessed in the staging areas and other public use areas.
- Landscaping and habitat restoration: Plant health and weed control needs are assessed and work is scheduled.
- Inspection of Structures: Park staff checks for signs of disrepair with a focus on public safety.
- Field repairs: While on patrol, rangers are directed to fix or repair any minor problems identified and to notify their supervisor if the problem was not repaired and requires additional attention, materials, work crew, etc.
- Report: Park rangers report any concerns, repairs, or observations in their daily log and report any significant issues to their supervisor.

## SAN DIEGUITO RIVER PARK TRAILS MANAGEMENT PLAN AND STANDARDS

### 2.3 MAINTENANCE STANDARDS

Every site has particular maintenance standards and those priorities are outlined below in section 2.3.2.

#### 2.3.1 General Maintenance Priorities and Activities for Primary Facilities

When repairing trails, the JPA adopts the maintenance standards of the agency that has jurisdiction over the trail or the USDA Forest Service Standard Trail Plans and Specifications when there are none.

In general, there are common maintenance activities that are performed at the Primary Facilities, and they include the following activities:

1. Drainage mechanisms are installed and maintained.
2. Drain dips and culverts are cleared prior to the rainy season and kept open until the dry season.
3. Public areas, including trails, are kept free from new tripping hazards although some trail surfaces are inherently primitive.
4. Brush removal: Vegetation is managed to provide a natural appearance but is trimmed away from public use areas for line-of-sight benefits and often to provide fire clearance.
5. Trail tread and other public use areas are often maintained in order to provide a good walking surface. Aggregate is often imported in order to provide an enhanced surface. Some sections of trail are paved. Priority is given to non-primitive areas.
6. Damage by erosion is generally corrected or stabilized.
7. Fencing and signage is repaired or replaced as needed.
8. Graffiti is removed in a timely manner if it is within SDRP primary facilities. Graffiti observed near SDRP facilities on neighboring jurisdictions will be reported to the agency with primary land management responsibility and authority.
9. Dumping is removed in a timely manner.
10. Landscaping projects are maintained.
11. Projects to reconstruct the public use areas and/or to add drainage mechanisms are identified and scheduled.
12. Broken boardwalk, puncheon, and bridge planks are repaired in a timely manner.
13. Staging area gates are maintained by Park staff and service contracts are established with professional repair businesses.
14. Trail heads are furnished with pet waste pick up stations. ]

##### 2.3.1.1 Educational Programing

Education programs are focused on the primary facilities. The programs help to fulfill management goals by teaching the public about the cultural and natural resources. Educational programs also help to promote stewardship which supports the Park's effort to manage the facility.

#### 2.3.2 Site Specific Maintenance Standards and Activities

##### *Coast to Crest Trail – San Dieguito Lagoon*

The Coast to Crest Trail at the lagoon extends from Jimmy Durante Boulevard, adjacent to the Del Mar Fairgrounds to El Camino Real, adject to The Del Mar Horse Park, which is owned by the 22<sup>nd</sup> DAA (Map 2). The trail provides visitors with unique vantage points and the closest access to the sensitive marsh areas of the San Dieguito Lagoon. Intertidal marshes are some of the rarest and threatened habitats in California. The River Park was fortunate in the selection of the Lagoon as the site of the \$86 million Southern California Edison Wetlands Restoration Project, which began in the fall of 2006 after more than a decade of planning. The project, dedicated on November 7, 2011, created 115 acres of wetlands, including a deep-water basin and transitional upland habitat on the surrounding slopes. The Trail was constructed using a variety of grants and with support and cooperation from the 22<sup>nd</sup> DAA for the section from Jimmy Durante to Interstate 5 located on Del Mar Fairgrounds property. An easement from the 22<sup>nd</sup> DAA to the JPA for the trail and a wildlife buffer is in process.



## SAN DIEGUITO RIVER PARK TRAILS MANAGEMENT PLAN AND STANDARDS

**Length:** 2.20 Miles

**Monitoring:** Daily

**Jurisdictions:** City of Del Mar, City of San Diego, Caltrans (I-5 trail undercrossing)

**Agency Responsible for Construction:** San Dieguito River Park JPA

**Land Management Responsibilities:** Southern California Edison, San Dieguito River Park JPA, State of California 22<sup>nd</sup> District Agricultural Association (DAA)

**Use:** Equestrian from El Camino Real to the interface with Interstate 5, Bicycle and Pedestrian for entire length.

**Surface:** Imported aggregate.

### **Structures:**

1. Monument Sign – Clear vegetation.
2. Concrete walkway at Jimmy Durante (115 feet). – Clear vegetation. Repair concrete if needed.
3. Concrete undercrossing under I-5.
4. Wood Trail Bridges (180 feet. 6 bridges) – Clear vegetation. Repair decking and handrails if needed. Preserve wood. Two of the bridges span the channels adjacent to I-5 and are on Caltrans R/W.
5. Metal Trail Bridge (50 feet) on boardwalk – Clean out debris. Stabilize erosion.
6. Treatment Pond overflow: Clear vegetation. Repair concrete if needed. Clean out debris in Pond 1 when needed. Identify funding for repair and upkeep.
7. Boardwalk (.28 miles): replace broken planks and donor plaques as needed. (Not a part of the CTC trail).

### **Amenities:**

1. Landscaping – Projects are identified and implemented annually.
2. Kiosk (San Andres) – Events added monthly. Presentation redone every 6-12 months. Preserve wood.
3. Kiosk (Horsepark) – Events added monthly. Presentation redone every 6-12 months. Preserve wood.
4. Bike rack- Repair and replace as needed.
5. Trash can (3 total): Check daily. Bags changed as needed. Clean and paint as needed.
6. Treatment Ponds – Remove cattails from pond 1 annually in order to facilitate flow. Other vegetation is cleared annually for management of the other ponds, fire hazards, and to provide a safe walking or riding surface. Weed management.
7. Treatment Ponds – Excavate sediment in pond 1 once every five years.
8. Benches (8 total) – Re-surface, repair, and replace as needed.
9. Picnic tables (2 total) - Re-surface, repair, and replace as needed.
10. Interpretive signs (13 total) – clean, repair, and replace or remove as needed.

### **Other:**

1. Drains kept clear at interface with San Andres Drive.
2. Homeless population high near San Andres Drive.

## SAN DIEGUITO RIVER PARK TRAILS MANAGEMENT PLAN AND STANDARDS

### ***San Dieguito Lagoon Staging Area***

The trail staging area is open 7 days a week and provides parking for daily use, school buses, and events (Map 2). There is gated access from San Andres and a small entrance road. A coastal ranger station, nursery, and storage sheds are also located at this facility.

**Size:** 1.43 acres

**Monitoring:** Daily

**Jurisdictions:** City of San Diego

**Agency Responsible for Construction:** San Dieguito River Park JPA

**Land Management Responsibilities:** San Dieguito River Park JPA

**Use:** Equestrian, Bicycle, Pedestrian, school busses, and events.

**Surface:** Imported aggregate.

#### **Structures:**

1. Coast Ranger Station - Clear vegetation.
2. Shed- Clear vegetation and preserve wood.
3. Puncheon Bridge (12 feet) - Clear vegetation. Repair decking, if needed. Preserve wood.

#### **Amenities:**

1. Parking Area- Clear Vegetation, rake surfacing materials.
2. Portable Toilet- Serviced bi-weekly by an outside contractor.
3. Portable Toilet Cover- Preserve wood. Clear vegetation.
4. Nursery- Clear vegetation. Preserve wood.
5. Picnic Table (1 total) - re-surface, repair, and replace as needed.
6. Trash Can: Check daily. Bags changed as needed. Clean and paint as needed.

#### **Other:**

1. Erosion control maintenance along trail and bioswales.
2. Cantilevered gate - Electronic system check. Paint as needed.
3. Access gates (4 total) - Paint and repair as needed.

### ***Coastal Ranger Station***

*The Coastal Ranger Station is located adjacent to the Coast to Crest Trail, overlooking the restored San Dieguito Lagoon wetlands and preserved open space in the picturesque San Dieguito River Valley. The building functions as a ranger office and maintenance facility, public education space, and a space for River Park-run volunteer activities and events. The building also includes a permanent public restroom.*

**Main Office Size:** 3,280 Square Feet

**Maintenance Garage:** 1,080 Square Feet

**Monitoring:** Daily

**Jurisdictions:** City of San Diego

## SAN DIEGUITO RIVER PARK TRAILS MANAGEMENT PLAN AND STANDARDS

**Management Responsibilities:** *San Dieguito River Park JPA*

**Use:** *Office Space, park maintenance, events, education*

**Structures:**

1. *Ranger offices, restrooms, conference room, and storage*
2. *maintenance garage*
3. *Stormwater run-off biofiltration basin*

**Amenities:**

1. *Main public entrance (when open) with park materials (maps, etc.)*
2. *Classroom/meeting space with modular tables and chairs, podium, large screen, and storage*
3. *Two sets of glass accordion-style doors (LaCantina) and concrete patio*
4. *Ranger cubicles and separate small office with custom desk*
5. *Staff restroom*
6. *Outside entrance to public restroom*
7. *Kitchen*
8. *Separate maintenance garage for equipment and tools*
9. *Fenced DG work yard*
10. *Electric vehicle charging unit in work yard*
11. *Two ADA parking spaces*
12. *Native landscaping*
13. *Solar panels*

**Maintenance Tasks:**

1. *General upkeep, cleaning and repairs including paint, windows, LaCantina doors, work yard resurface as needed, signs, upkeep of fencing, and landscape maintenance.*
2. *Sweep and maintain patio*
3. *Maintain two ADA parking spaces and signs*
4. *Maintain solar panels and monitor performance*
5. *Maintain biofiltration basin – remove accumulated sediment, regularly check performance during storm events and repair as needed.*

### **Birdwing**

The Trailside Outdoor Classroom provides a facility for San Dieguito River Park rangers and teachers to gather students to teach about the importance of wetlands, aquatic species habitat, migratory birds, effects of climate change and much more (Map 2). From the Trailside Classroom, students can be led out to the lagoon or Treatment Ponds for further learning activities. The Trailside Classroom is also used as a venue for adult lecture series on these same topics and a variety of other low impact uses (e.g., yoga, ranger talks, celebrations, etc.). When it is not being used for organized events, the Trailside Classroom is a place where visitors and trail users can rest, enjoy the view of the lagoon, watch birds, find shade, and meet friends. All organized events must apply for a use permit from the JPA.

**Size:** 5 acres

**Monitoring:** Daily

**Jurisdictions:** City of San Diego

**Agency Responsible for Construction:** San Dieguito River Park JPA

**Land Management Responsibilities:** San Dieguito River Park JPA

**Use:** Pedestrian and events.

## SAN DIEGUITO RIVER PARK TRAILS MANAGEMENT PLAN AND STANDARDS

**Surface:** Imported aggregate. Excavated soil from wetland restoration project.

**Structures:**

1. Amphitheater Seating Area- Remove graffiti and repair concrete as needed.
2. Metal Shade- Check for maintenance.
3. Puncheon Bridge (2 total) – Clear vegetation. Repair decking, if needed. Preserve wood.

**Other:**

1. Erosion control maintenance.
2. Natural areas - erosion control and aesthetics, water, and maintain as needed

### *Salt Marsh Bird View Trail*

The pedestrian-only trail provides visitors with unique vantage points and the closest access to the sensitive marsh areas of the San Dieguito Lagoon (Map 2). The route is ideal for bird watching and provides a loop in connection with the Coast to Crest Trail. The trail was constructed along the bench of a disposal site for soil that was excavated to create important coastal wetlands.

**Length:** 0.40 Miles

**Monitoring:** Daily

**Jurisdiction:** City of San Diego

**Agency Responsible for Construction:** San Dieguito River Park JPA

**Land Management Responsibilities:** Southern California Edison and San Dieguito River Park JPA

**Use:** Pedestrian.

**Surface:** Excavated soil from wetland restoration project and Imported aggregate.

**Amenities:**

1. Benches (2 total) – Re-surface, repair, and replace as needed.
2. Interpretive signs (1 total) – Clean, repair, and replace or remove as needed.

### *Dust Devil Nature Trail and Staging Area*

Three trails that were constructed on the top of a soil disposal area from the wetland restoration project make up this loop trail system (Map 2). The trail is generally flat and open to pedestrian use only. Trail is popular with runners and, because of a seasonal pond, bird enthusiasts. The name Dust Devil honors a group of specially trained volunteers that assist Park rangers with weekly projects.

**Trail Length:** 1.70 Miles

**Staging Area Size:** 0.35 acres

**Monitoring:** Daily

**Jurisdictions:** City of San Diego

**Land Management Responsibilities:** Southern California Edison and San Dieguito River Park JPA

**Agency Responsible for Construction:** San Dieguito River Park JPA



## SAN DIEGUITO RIVER PARK TRAILS MANAGEMENT PLAN AND STANDARDS

**Use:** Pedestrian.

**Surface:** Imported aggregate.

**Structures:**

1. Concrete entrance to staging- Clear vegetation. Repair concrete if needed.

**Amenities:**

1. Parking Area: Clear Vegetation, rake surfacing materials.
2. Portable toilet: Serviced bi-weekly by an outside contractor.
3. Portable Toilet Cover: Preserve wood. Clear vegetation. Repair and replace as needed.
4. Kiosk – Events added monthly. Presentation redone every 6-12 months. Preserve wood.
5. Bike rack- Repair and replace as needed.
6. Benches (4 total) – Re-surface, repair, and replace as needed.
7. Picnic tables (1 total) - Re-surface, repair, and replace as needed.
8. Interpretive signs (1 total) – Clean, repair, and replace or remove as needed.
9. Trash Can: Check daily. Bags changed as needed. Clean and paint as needed.

**Other:**

1. Erosion control maintenance.
2. Cantilevered gate: Electronic system checks. Paint as needed. Serviced by an outside contractor.
3. Access gates (3 total): Paint and repair as needed. Damage is incurred frequently because the gate is often climbed over by trespassers accessing the Interstate 5 (I-5) bridge at night.
4. Natural areas - maintain as needed (weed, litter control, etc.).
- 5.

### *Grand Avenue Bridge Lagoon Overlook*

During the San Dieguito Coastal Wetland Restoration Project, which began construction in late 2006, the bridge was used for construction access to construct the deep lagoon on the west side of I-5 (Map 2). After completion, the northernmost two spans were removed to prohibit access to the protected habitat and to create a public viewing platform. The partial bridge structure is used as an interpretive area ideal for birdwatching and contemplation. Sea life can be observed below the bridge as well as the rush of water associated with the change of tides and subsequent draining and filling of the San Dieguito tidal wetlands. A small parking area is provided adjacent to San Dieguito Drive.

**Size:** 0.10 acres

**Monitoring:** Daily

**Jurisdictions:** City of Del Mar

**Agency Responsible for Construction:** San Dieguito River Park JPA and Southern California Edison

**Land Management Responsibilities:** San Dieguito River Park JPA and City of Del Mar

**Use:** Pedestrian.

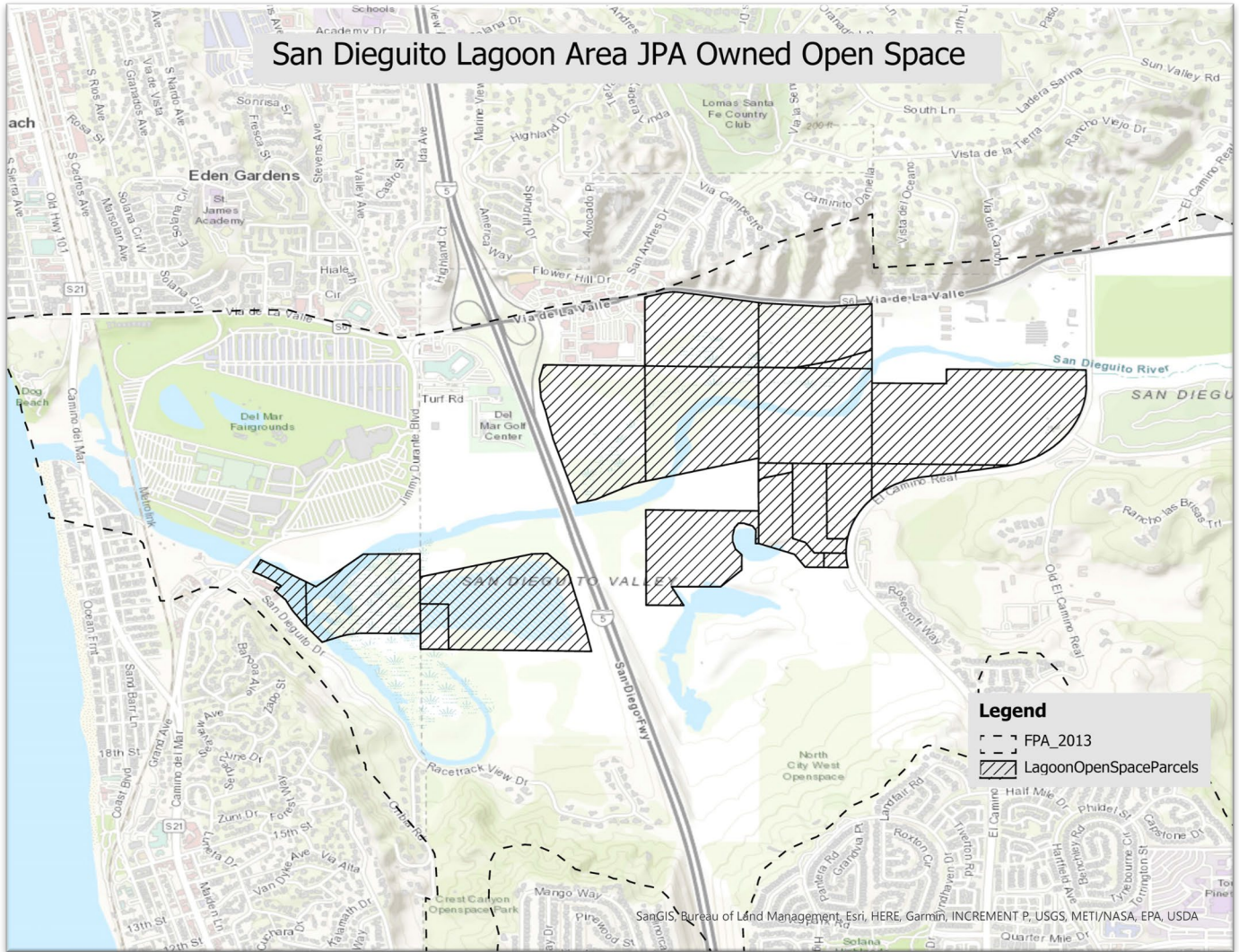
**Surface:** DG and wood.

**Structure:** Bridge – Repair handrails if needed. Preserve wood.

**Amenities:**

1. Benches (4 total) – Re-surface, repair, and replace as needed.
2. Interpretive signs (5 total) – Clean, repair, and replace or remove as needed.
3. Trash Can: Check daily. Bags changed as needed. Clean and paint as needed.
4. Bike rack- Repair and replace as needed.

## SAN DIEGUITO RIVER PARK TRAILS MANAGEMENT PLAN AND STANDARDS



**MAP 3: San Dieguito Lagoon JPA Owned Open Space**

### *San Dieguito Wetlands Restoration Project, SDRP Open Space Property*

The JPA has significant responsibilities for assuring the integrity of the wetland restoration project as defined in the *San Dieguito Wetlands Restoration Project, November 2005* and its agreements with Southern California Edison (SCE). The project is a tidal wetland restoration project at the San Dieguito Lagoon that will 1) restore the aquatic functions of the lagoon through permanent inlet maintenance and expansion of the tidal basin and 2) create subtidal and intertidal habitats on both the east and west sides of I-5. This project is part of the JPA's Park Master Plan adopted for the coastal area that also identifies non-tidal wetland and upland habitat restoration areas and public access. The JPA, SCE and several federal, state, and local agencies are involved in the implementation of the project.

The JPA has two full-time rangers dedicated to the wetland restoration project, which includes responsibilities for trails management, restoration, erosion control and education. The JPA contacts rule violators and coordinates police response when needed. Public access is prohibited except on designated trails.

## SAN DIEGUITO RIVER PARK TRAILS MANAGEMENT PLAN AND STANDARDS

**Size:** 410 acres

**Monitoring:** Daily

**Jurisdictions:** City of Del Mar. City of San Diego; 22<sup>nd</sup> DAA; Caltrans; San Dieguito River Park JPA

**Agency Responsible for Construction:** Southern California Edison

**Land Management Responsibilities:** San Dieguito River Park JPA; SCE; City of San Diego; City of Del Mar; State of California 22<sup>nd</sup> DAA (least tern sites).

### *Coast to Crest Trail – Santa Fe Valley and Santa Fe Valley Staging Area*

The trail follows the San Dieguito River and is located between the river and Crosby Estates golf course (Map 4). The trail can be accessed from the Santa Fe Valley Staging area or from the Coast to Crest Trail segment extending westward from Lake Hodges. The staging area is accessed from Del Dios Highway at 8175 Del Dios Hwy, Rancho Santa Fe, CA 92067, next to a roadside produce stand and onto an access road that crosses the river to the entrance to the parking area. From the trailhead, trail users can either go west on the Santa Fe Valley Trail or east on the Del Dios Gorge Trail. The western stretch of the Santa Fe Valley Trail extends past the switchbacks and follows a ridgeline overlooking the river below eventually connecting to Lusardi Creek Preserve. The County-maintained Coast to Crest Trail in Lusardi Preserve continues to the Black Mountain staging area on San Dieguito Road.

Travelling westward from the Santa Fe Valley staging area, users can follow the Coast to Crest trail for 3 miles. The river's flow is minimal most of the year due to the Lake Hodges dam, constructed in 1918, and flows more heavily during and after storms. The narrow canyon's riparian vegetation is complemented by coast live oak. Ponds can be observed from the trail although swimming is not allowed. The natural landscape here is made even more dramatic by the granite outcroppings covering the canyon floor. The west end of the trail contains an extensive network of switchbacks. The trail crosses a utility road at the top of the switchbacks and extends the final mile to Lusardi Open Space. The trail overlooks a private park (Arroyo) with two sets of gates that keep trail users on the trail. The natural lands adjacent to the trail are called Crosby Open space and are managed by a private contractor for the County.

**Trail Length:** 3 Miles

**Staging Area Size:** 0.68 acres

**Monitoring:** Staging area is patrolled on a daily basis. The trail is patrolled approximately 1-2 times per week by SDRP rangers. The trail is also patrolled by volunteers 1-2 times per week.

**Jurisdictions:** County of San Diego

**Agency Responsible for Construction:** County of San Diego and SDRP JPA.

**Land Management Responsibilities:** Trail: San Dieguito River Park JPA; Adjacent land: County of San Diego and Crosby Open Space land manager

**Use:** Pedestrian, Bicycle, Equestrian.

**Surface:** Mostly native soil.

### **Structures:**

1. Trail Bridges (150 feet. 7 bridges) – Clear vegetation. Repair decking and handrails if needed. Preserve wood.

### **Amenities:**

1. Parking Area: Clear vegetation, rake surfacing materials.
2. Shade Structure: Clear vegetation, repair as needed. Preserve wood.

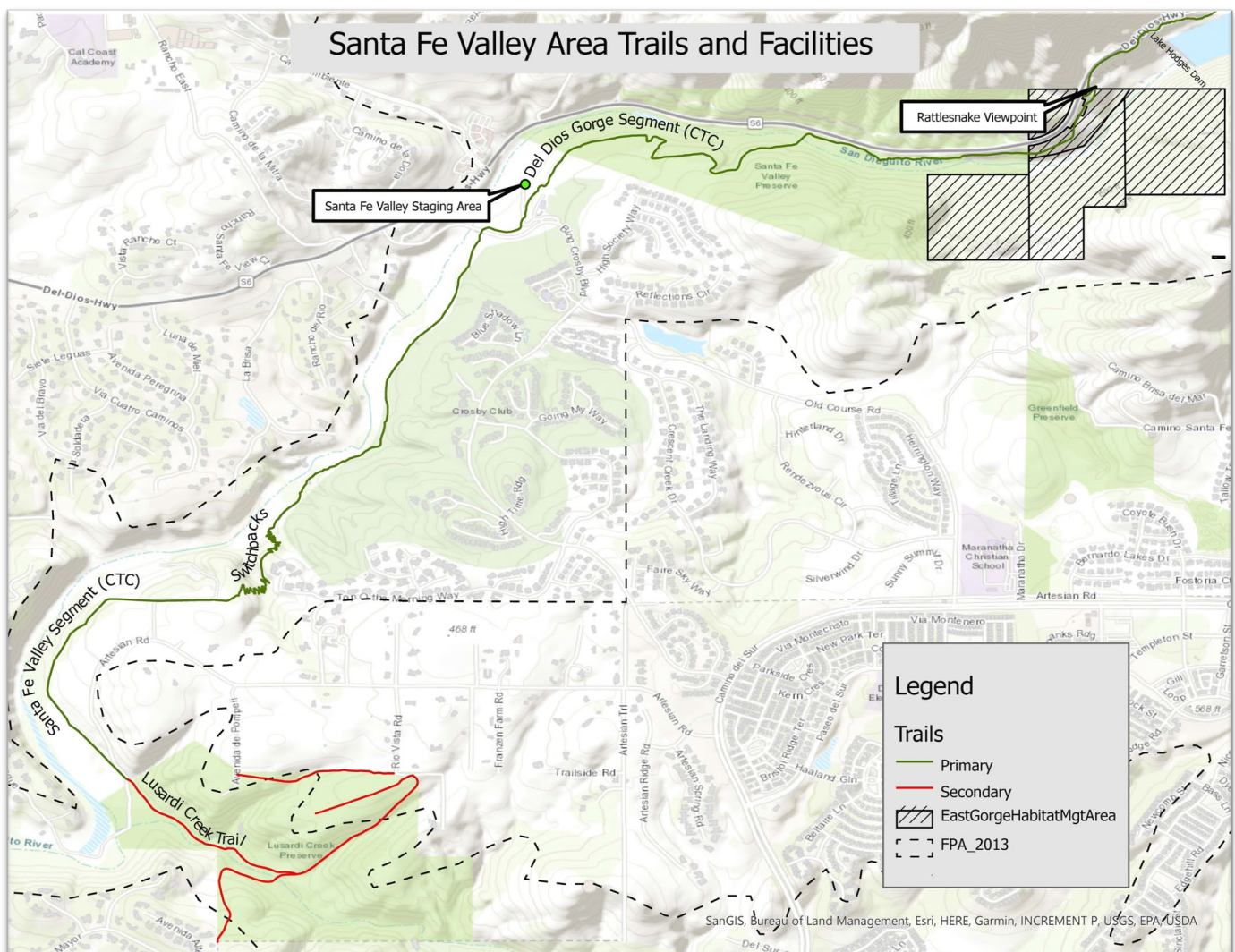


## SAN DIEGUITO RIVER PARK TRAILS MANAGEMENT PLAN AND STANDARDS

3. Kiosk – Events added monthly. Presentation redone every 6-12 months. Preserve wood.
4. Benches (6 total) – Re-surface, repair, and replace as needed.
5. Picnic tables (1 total) - Re-surface, repair, and replace as needed.
6. Trash Can (1 total): Check daily. Bags changed as needed. Clean and paint as needed.

### Other:

1. Switchbacks - West end of the trail contains extensive switchbacks: monitor for public safety, stabilize erosion, and restore trail tread and drainage mechanisms.
2. JPA staff assists the manager of Crosby Open Space with the task of excluding people from swimming in pond in the San Dieguito River very near the trail. Other land management issues are reported directly to the open space representatives.
3. Solar powered gate - Electronic system check. Paint as needed.
4. Two sets of gates at west end of trail along private easement to discourage trail users from entering the neighboring private park (Arroyo) on private property.



**Map 4: Santa Fe Valley Area Trails and Facilities**



## SAN DIEGUITO RIVER PARK TRAILS MANAGEMENT PLAN AND STANDARDS

### *Coast to Crest Trail – Del Dios Gorge*

The trail segment is located below Lake Hodges Dam which is the most prominent feature located on the east end of this section of trail (Map 4). The trail follows the San Dieguito River from the dam to the start of the Santa Fe Valley Trail and Staging Area. The river's flow is minimal most of the year due to the Lake Hodges dam, constructed in 1918. When the dam overflows, the trail provides access to view this remarkable event. There has been a dramatic transformation of the native landscape along the trail because of invasive species removal and habitat restoration work by the JPA, the Conservancy, and the community. The work has greatly improved the nesting and foraging habitat for the federally endangered Least Bell's Vireo and Southwestern Willow Flycatcher along with hundreds of other species that utilize the San Dieguito River. Visitors can see the historic Hodges Flume winding along the north slope of the gorge, partially on trestles. The flume transported water by gravity from Lake Hodges to the San Dieguito Reservoir four miles to the west until 2003.

**Trail Length:** 2.2 Miles

**Monitoring:** The trail is patrol approximately 1-2 times per week by SDRP staff. The trail is also patrolled by volunteers 1-2 times per week.

**Jurisdictions:** County of San Diego

**Agency Responsible for Construction:** San Dieguito River Park JPA

**Land Management Responsibilities:** San Dieguito River Park JPA; City of San Diego; County of San Diego

**Use:** Equestrian, Bicycle, Pedestrian.

**Surface:** Mostly native soil. Imported aggregate.

#### **Structures:**

1. Del Dios Gorge Trail Bridge (180 Feet) - Clear vegetation. Repair decking and handrails if needed. Preserve wood.
2. Trail Puncheon Bridge (12 feet) - Clear vegetation. Repair decking and handrails if needed. Preserve wood.
3. Small Block Retaining Wall (240 feet) - Clear vegetation. Repair concrete if needed. Remove graffiti.
4. Large Block Retaining Wall (335 Feet) - Clear vegetation. Repair concrete if needed. Remove graffiti.
5. Rattlesnake Interpretive Lookout – Add landscaping. Remove graffiti. Clear vegetation. Repair if needed.

#### **Amenities:**

1. Del Dios Gorge Interpretive signs (5 total) – Clean, repair, and replace or remove as needed.
2. Kiosk – Events added monthly. Presentation redone every 6-12 months. Preserve wood.
3. Benches (6 total) – Re-surface, repair, and replace as needed.
4. Picnic tables (1 total) - Re-surface, repair, and replace as needed.
5. Trash Can (3 total) - Check daily. Bags changed as needed. Clean and paint as needed.

#### **Other:**

The trail passes through County of San Diego managed Open Space. The JPA works to coordinate activities.

1. Crosby Open Space – (.85 mile) Contact trespassers. Observe and advise.
2. Mcrink Open space – (.85 mile) Contact trespassers. Observe and advise.

Lake Hodges Dam (.27 mile) - The trail section ends at the Lake Hodges Dam which is owned and operated by the City of San Diego.

## SAN DIEGUITO RIVER PARK TRAILS MANAGEMENT PLAN AND STANDARDS

1. Contact trespassers.
2. Close short cut trails to the dam.
3. Overlap with SDRP Managed East Gorge Habitat Management Area.
4. Observe and advise.

### *East Gorge Habitat Management Area (HMA)*

West of Lake Hodges Dam is an important wildlife corridor. The JPA implements the East Gorge Habitat Management Plan (HMP) which is focused on preserving, protecting, and enhancing the corridor (Map 4). The species of focus for the HMP are Southern Pacific Pond Turtle (*Actinemys marmorata-pallida*) and Coastal California Gnatcatcher (*Poliioptila californica californica*). Management activities include habitat restoration, biological surveys, patrol for trespassing, and invasive plant and animal control.

The Coast to Crest Trail passes through the area but the other land is off limits. The corridor connects the preserved lands near Lake Hodges to preserved lands near Rancho Santa Fe and beyond to the Coast. Controlling illegal access here presents a formidable management issue.

**Size:** 154 acres

**Monitoring:** The trail is patrolled approximately 1-2 times per week by SDRP staff. The trail is also patrolled by volunteers 1-2 times per week.

**Jurisdictions:** County of San Diego

**Land Management Responsibilities:** San Dieguito River Park JPA

### *Coast to Crest Trail – North Shore Lake Hodges.*

The most popular trail in the Park follows the north shore of the Lake Hodges reservoir (Map 5). The trail is heavily used and provides patrons with convenient points of access, long hikes and rides, views of the water, wildlife encounters, and areas of seclusion. The section of the Coast to Crest Trail is from the Lake Hodges Dam to the trailhead at Sikes Adobe.

The Coast to Crest Trail provides a wonderful opportunity to observe hundreds of species of resident and migratory birds at Lake Hodges which was designated a globally Important Bird Area in 1999. The reservoir, created when the San Dieguito River was dammed in 1918, is now a critical stopover for migratory birds on the Pacific Flyway. The reservoir captures the flow from the San Dieguito River watershed. The hillsides around the lake contain recovering coastal sage scrub and recognized as one of the largest strongholds of the federally-threatened California gnatcatcher.

The Trail passes close to the City's Public Utilities Department recreational facilities at Lake Hodges that contain a boat dock, launch ramp, restrooms, picnicking areas, and parking. There are opportunities here for fishing, kayaking, and boating. In the more secluded sections of the trail, it borders two Habitat Management Areas. The trail also bisects a small community park and passes very close to an energy generating facility. The JPA considers this trail to very important, but management of the Trail is more complicated than that of other SDRP trails. The trail has both primitive sections and paved pathways.

For the purpose of management, the trail is divided into three sections.

1. Del Dios Community Section – from the Dam to Del Dios Park (Lake Entrance).
2. Boat Dock Section – From Del Dios Park to the Boat Dock and Lake Facilities.
3. East Section – From the Boat Dock to Sikes Adobe Staging Area.

## SAN DIEGUITO RIVER PARK TRAILS MANAGEMENT PLAN AND STANDARDS

The “East” and “Del Dios Community” sections are considered to be a Primary Facilities. The Boat Dock section is considered a secondary facility. The management of Secondary Facilities is described below in Section 3 *Secondary Trail/Facility and Open Space Description*.

The Del Dios Community Section is located between the Del Dios Community Park, at the entrance to Lake Hodges boat dock, and the Lake Hodges Dam to the west. The trail follows the shore of Lake Hodges. At the north end this section the trail is flat and located adjacent to Lake Drive and the community of Del Dios. The JPA is responsible for trail signs, patrol, and trail maintenance projects. The open space along the Del Dios Section is actively managed by City of San Diego Public Utilities Department (Public Utilities).

The JPA has traditionally maintained the “East Section” of the trail from the east end of the boat dock parking area to the trail head at Sikes Adobe. The trail travels through land owned by various entities include the JPA, San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy, CALTRANS, and mostly the City of San Diego managed by Public Utilities. In addition to the trail, the JPA has conducted coastal sage and cactus scrub habitat restoration projects in the Public Utilities open space.

The East Section is characterized by flat paved sections near the main trail head at Sikes Adobe and more primitive surfacing near Bernardo Mountain. Much of the length of the trail is a utility access road, thus regular maintenance is the responsibility of the utility companies. There are 3 trails that connect to the East Section, Bernard Mtn. Lake View Trail, Bernardo Mtn. Summit Trail and the David Kreitzer Lake Hodges Bike/Ped Bridge which leads to the south side of the lake and the community of Rancho Bernardo (described in more detail below). The East Section also crosses Felicita Creek, a major tributary to Lake Hodges.

Trail work is generally not conducted on roads that are maintained by utilities.

**Total Length North Shore Trail:** 6.45 Miles (Excluding Boat Dock section <1.20 miles>)

**Width:** 6-8 feet, some utility road sections are much wider.

**Monitoring:** The trail is patrolled approximately 3 times per week by JPA staff. The trail is also patrolled by volunteers 1-2 times per week.

**Jurisdictions:** City of San Diego; County of San Diego; City of Escondido, Caltrans (I-15 undercrossing)

**Agency Responsible for Construction:** Historic route, JPA, City of San Diego

**Use:** Equestrian, Bicycle, Pedestrian.

**Surface:** Concrete, Old pavement, Native soil, utility roads.

### **Structures:**

1. Interstate 15 paved undercrossing (Constructed by JPA) - Clear vegetation. Repair concrete if needed. Remove trash. Remove graffiti. Coordinate projects with CALTRANS.

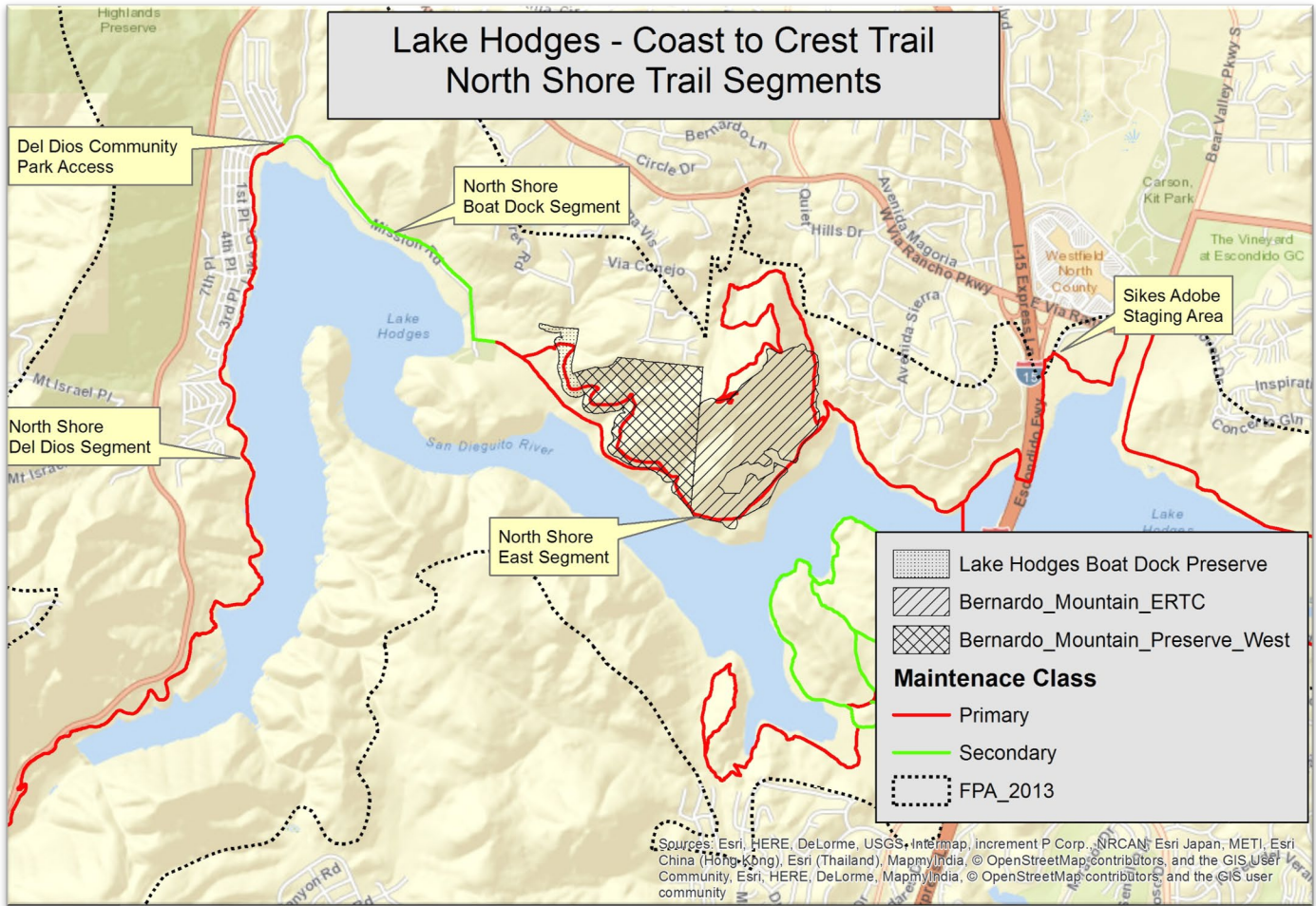
### **Amenities:**

1. Kiosk (Boat dock area) – Events added monthly. Presentation redone every 6-12 months. Preserve wood.
2. Benches (5 total) – Re-surface, repair, and replace as needed.
3. Picnic tables (1 total) - Re-surface, repair, and replace as needed.
4. Interpretive signs (3 total) – clean, repair, and replace or remove as needed.

**Other:** Drainage crossings: 4 ephemeral drainages and 1 Creek (Felicita) monitor for public safety, stabilize erosion, restore trail tread and drainage mechanisms.

Trash receptacles located at Lake Hodges Bridge, Sikes Adobe Staging, and the boat dock area.

**SAN DIEGUITO RIVER PARK TRAILS MANAGEMENT PLAN AND STANDARDS**



**Map 5: Lake Hodges -CTC North Shore Trail Segments**

**Lake Hodges Boat Dock Preserve**

Near the Lake Hodges Boat Dock Preserve is an 11 acre SDRP preserve adjoining the Bernardo Mountain Preserve West Habitat Management Area (Map 5). The property provides some habitat for Coastal California Gnatcatcher (*Polioptila californica californica*) and Coastal Cactus Wren (*Campylorhynchus bruneicapillus cousei*) which are two important species for this area. There are opportunities for habitat restoration. The preserved land borders 6 parcels and 4 are developed. Management activities include habitat restoration (periodic), patrol for trespassing, and communications with neighbors. The Bernardo Mountain Lake View Trail passes through the preserve, but the other areas of the preserve are off limits.

**Size:** 11 acres

**Monitoring:** The trail is patrol approximately 1-2 times per week by SDRP staff. The trail is also patrolled by volunteers 1-2 times per week.

**Jurisdictions:** County of San Diego

**Land Management Responsibilities:** San Dieguito River Park JPA.



## SAN DIEGUITO RIVER PARK TRAILS MANAGEMENT PLAN AND STANDARDS

### *Bernardo Mountain Lake View Trail*

This popular trail runs parallel to the North Shore Lake Hodges section of the Coast to Crest Trail and affords user exceptional views of Lake Hodges (Map 6). The route is ideal for mountain biking and provides a loop along with the Coast to Crest Trail. The trail bisects SDRP West Bernardo Habitat Management Area and several connector trails between have been closed. It is important that the trail use does not adversely affect wildlife, so usage is monitored closely.

**Trail Length:** 1.15 Miles

**Monitoring:** The trail is patrol approximately 1-2 times per week by SDRP staff. The trail is also patrolled by volunteers 1-2 times per week.

**Jurisdictions:** County of San Diego

**Agency Responsible for Construction:** Historic route

**Land Management Responsibilities:** San Dieguito River Park JPA and City of San Diego

**Use:** Equestrian, Bicycle, Pedestrian.

**Surface:** Native soil.

### *Bernardo Mountain Summit Trail*

Bernardo Mountain rises to over 1,100 feet on the north side of Lake Hodges. The area was protected from planned development with a citizen-led campaign that helped secure its purchase by the JPA and San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy (SDRVC) in 2004. The Summit Trail leaves the North Shore Lake Hodges section of the Coast to Crest Trail and takes visitors to the top of the mountain for breathtaking panoramic views (Map 6).

The trail travels through the SDRVC Bernardo Mountain Habitat Management Area but mostly in areas with lower ranking habitat value although there is an important population of *Ceanothus verrucosus* located on the North side. It is important that the trail use does not adversely affect wildlife, so usage is monitored closely.

**Trail Length:** 1.95 Miles

**Monitoring:** The trail is patrol approximately 1-2 times per week by SDRP staff. The trail is also patrolled by volunteers 1-2 times per week.

**Jurisdictions:** City of Escondido

**Agency Responsible for Construction:** San Dieguito River Park JPA and Historic route

**Land Management Responsibilities:** San Dieguito River Park JPA

**Use:** Equestrian, Bicycle, Pedestrian.

**Surface:** Native soil.

### *Bernardo Mountain North Preserve*

The preserved lands are located on the north facing side of Bernardo Mountain and are bordered by private development to the west and north and to the east and south by San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy property (Map 6). Bernardo Mountain Summit Trail passes through the preserve, but the other areas are off limits. An important population of Wart-stemmed Lilac (*Ceanothus verrucosus*) exists on the preserve. Opportunities exist for trail and habitat restoration projects although the Preserve borders several developed private parcels and encroachment issues

## SAN DIEGUITO RIVER PARK TRAILS MANAGEMENT PLAN AND STANDARDS

persist. Responsibilities include firebreaks and management activities including patrol for trespassing, trail maintenance, and communications with neighbors.

**Size:** 115 acres

**Monitoring:** Weekly.

**Jurisdictions:** City of Escondido

**Land Management Responsibilities:** San Dieguito River Park JPA

### *West Bernardo Mountain Habitat Management Area (HMA)*

The south facing side of Bernardo Mountain contains important coastal sage scrub habitat. The West Bernardo HMA (Map 6) contains significant habitat for Coastal California Gnatcatcher (*Polioptila californica californica*) and Coastal Cactus Wren (*Campylorhynchus bruneicapillus cousei*)

The JPA is focused on preserving, protecting, and enhancing the HMA by implementing habitat restoration projects, biological surveys, patrol for trespassing, and invasive plant control as outlined in the Habitat Management Plan for the property.

The Coast to Crest Trail passes below the HMA and the Bernardo Mountain Lake View Trail also passes through and off trail use is prohibited.

**Size:** 97 acres

**Monitoring:** The trail is patrol approximately 1-2 times per week by SDRP staff. The trail is also patrolled by volunteers 1-2 times per week.

**Jurisdictions:** County of San Diego

**Land Management Responsibilities:** San Dieguito River Park JPA

### *Bernardo Mountain Habitat Management Area*

The 117 acre Bernardo Mountain Habitat Management Area is mostly surrounded by other preserved land and includes the peak and a prominent south facing slope (Map 6).

The JPA implements the Bernardo Mountain Habitat Management Plan (HMP) which is focused on preserving, protecting, and enhancing habitat for Coastal California Gnatcatcher (*Polioptila californica californica*) and Coastal Cactus Wren (*Campylorhynchus bruneicapillus cousei*). As with the West HMA, two of the 3 remaining pair of cactus wren utilize the Bernardo Mountain HMA for part or all of their territory.

The JPA is focused on preserving, protecting, and enhancing the HMA by implementing habitat restoration projects, biological surveys, patrol for trespassing, and invasive plant control. Several habitat restoration projects and biological studies have occurred.

The Coast to Crest Trail and Bernardo Mountain Summit Trail pass through or along parts of the HMA but the other land is off limits.

**Size:** 117 acres

**Monitoring:** The trail is patrolled approximately 1-2 times per week by SDRP staff. The trail is also patrolled by volunteers 1-2 times per week.

## SAN DIEGUITO RIVER PARK TRAILS MANAGEMENT PLAN AND STANDARDS

**Jurisdictions:** City of Escondido, City of San Diego

**Land Management Responsibilities:** San Dieguito River Park JPA

### *Piedras Pintadas Interpretive Trail*

The southeast side of Lake Hodges contains important cultural and biological resources that require a great deal of management. The area was once heavily used for off-road vehicles and now, after the involvement of the JPA, is often referred to as “Bernardo Bay Natural Area”. The area is bordered by development on two sides and by the reservoir on the north side. The Piedras Pintadas Trail was installed in order to provide access to the south side of Lake Hodges but also as a mechanism for managing the high number of trails in the area (Map 6). Several trails around the Piedras Pintadas Interpretive Trail (not part of the CTC) have been closed but more work is needed. The City of San Diego Public Utilities Department is an active land manager here and is responsible for the cultural and biological resources. The JPA focuses on minimizing the impact of trail use and also educating the public about the value and sensitivity of the resources. This educational component is an effective method of trail management as well.

The focus of the interpretative program is the Kumeyaay people. They were, and continue to be, intimately connected to the land and its plants and animals. Information about the culture and resource management techniques of the Kumeyaay is provided on a series of interpretive panels along the Piedras Pintadas trail and discussed by docents and Park rangers while leading hikes. The protection and interpretation of the cultural resources in this area would not have been possible without the cooperation and assistance of the San Pasqual Band of Mission Indians.

**Total Length:** 2.20 Miles

**Width:** 6-8 feet

**Monitoring:** The trail is patrol approximately 1-2 times per week by SDRP staff. The trail is also patrolled by volunteers 1-2 times per week.

**Jurisdictions:** City of San Diego

**Agency Responsible for Construction:** SDRP, Historic route, City of San Diego

**Use:** Bicycle and Pedestrian.

**Surface:** Native soil. Imported aggregate.

### **Structures:**

Green Valley Creek Bridge- Clear vegetation. Repair wood decking and rails, if needed. Remove trash. Remove graffiti. Preserve wood. Add DG to approach.

Trail Puncheon Bridge (12 feet) - Clear vegetation. Repair wood decking, if needed. Preserve wood.

Permeable Trail Puncheon Bridge (12 feet) - Clear vegetation. Replace decking, if needed. Monitor during flooding.

### **Amenities:**

1. Kiosk (2 total) – Events added monthly. Presentation redone every 6-12 months. Preserve wood.
2. Benches (5 total) – Re-surface, repair, and replace as needed.
3. Picnic tables (1 total) - Re-surface, repair, and replace as needed.
4. Interpretive signs 3’x3’ – (12 total) – clean, repair, and replace or remove as needed.
5. Interpretive signs 1’x1.5 – (12 total) – clean, repair, and replace or remove as needed.
6. Trash Can (3 total) - Check daily. Bags changed as needed. Clean and paint as needed.

## SAN DIEGUITO RIVER PARK TRAILS MANAGEMENT PLAN AND STANDARDS

### Other:

Sensitive Cultural Resources – The trail passes near significant cultural resources managed by the City of San Diego. The resources have regional importance and effective management requires a great deal of resources. SDRP assists with the management of the site.

1. Contact trespassers.
2. Monitor for public safety.
3. Observe and advise.

Rancho Bernardo Community Park access (.44 miles) – The trail is accessed from a City of San Diego managed community park which contains parking, ball fields, dog park, recreation center, and Joslyn Senior Center. The access point near the recreation center is a primary trail head for Piedras Pintadas Trail and Bernardo Bay Trails. The second access point (.10 miles) is near the north side of the park close to West Bernardo Drive.

1. Contact trespassers.
2. Close short cut trails.
3. Monitor for public safety.
4. Observe and advise.
5. Maintain signage.
6. Stabilize erosion, restore trail tread and drainage mechanisms.

West Bernardo Drive Utility Access (.51 miles) – The trail is accessed from a Utility Road managed by City of San Diego Public Utilities.

1. SDRP maintains regulatory signs at the interface with the Piedras Pintadas Trail.
2. Contact trespassers.
3. Observe and advise.

Westwood/Poblano Public Access (.37 miles) – The trail is accessed from a public trail located on private land and is managed by a Home Owners Association and the City of San Diego.

1. SDRP maintains regulatory signs at the interface with the Piedras Pintadas Trail.
2. Contacts trespassers.
3. Observe and advise.

### *Bernardo Bay Staging Area*

The trail staging area is open 7 days a week and provides parking for daily use, school buses, and events (Map 6). There is gated access from West Bernardo Road. The staging area is heavily used and provides access to Piedras Pintadas Trail, Bernardo Bay Trails, West Bernardo Bike Path, Dave Kreitzer Bike/Ped Bridge, and also the Lake Hodges shoreline.

**Size:** 0.63 acres

**Monitoring:** Daily

**Jurisdictions:** City of San Diego

**Agency Responsible for Construction:** City of San Diego

**Land Management Responsibilities:** City of San Diego and San Dieguito River Park JPA

**Use:** Bicycle, Pedestrian, school busses, and events.

**Surface:** Imported aggregate. Native Soil.

## SAN DIEGUITO RIVER PARK TRAILS MANAGEMENT PLAN AND STANDARDS

### Amenities:

1. Parking Area: Clear Vegetation, rake surfacing materials. Add Aggregate.
2. Portable Toilet: Serviced bi-weekly by an outside contractor.
3. Trash Can: Check daily. Bags changed as needed. Clean and paint as needed.

### Other:

1. Extensive erosion control maintenance and installation of erosion control measures.
2. Solar powered gate - Electronic system check. Paint as needed.
3. Access gate – SDRP paints the gate but is maintained by City of San Diego.

### *David Kreitzer Lake Hodges Bike/Ped Bridge (including north side) and West Bernardo Dr. Bike Path*

The low-impact pedestrian and bicyclist bridge provides safe passageway across Hodges Reservoir for hikers and recreational cyclists between the north and south Lake Hodges trail systems (Map 6). The reservoir stores water from the San Dieguito River providing drinking water to the San Dieguito Water District, Santa Fe Irrigation District and the City of San Diego; therefore, water quality is an important aspect of maintenance for the bridge.

The bridge is also a major artery for non-motorized transportation in the area since there is no other way to cross the Lake and San Dieguito River except for Interstate 15, which does not allow for pedestrian crossing. The bridge gates are open from 6am to 9pm daily. No fishing or horses are permitted on the bridge.

The David Kreitzer Lake Hodges Bicycle Pedestrian Bridge, the world's longest stress ribbon bridge, was opened to the public in May 2009. The bridge has an inside width of 12 feet and a total length of 990 feet between abutments. There are only two piers in the lake, creating three equal spans of 330 feet each. The bridge is a stressed-ribbon design, at 990 feet long it is the longest of its type in the world. The stressed-ribbon design type was chosen for its narrow profile (only 16 inches deep) to keep its visual impact to a minimum.

The West Bernardo Rd Bike Path provides access to the bridge from Rancho Bernardo Community Park and The Bernardo Bay Staging Area.

**Bridge and Concrete Pathway Length:** 0.65 Miles

**Monitoring:** Daily

**Jurisdictions:** City of San Diego

**Agency Responsible for Construction:** San Dieguito River Park JPA

**Land Management Responsibilities:** City of San Diego and San Dieguito River Park JPA

**Use:** Bicycle and Pedestrian.

**Surface:** Concrete.

### Amenities:

1. Portable Toilet: Serviced bi-weekly by an outside contractor.
2. Trash Cans (3 total): Check daily. Bags changed as needed. Clean and paint as needed.
3. Benches (6 total) – Re-surface, repair, and replace as needed.
4. Interpretive signs (4 total) – clean, repair, and replace or remove as needed.

### Other:

## SAN DIEGUITO RIVER PARK TRAILS MANAGEMENT PLAN AND STANDARDS

Decking Maintenance – Debris and graffiti removal and cleaning.

### *Highland Valley Trail and Staging Area*

The Highland Valley Trail is located next to an agricultural lease on gentle oak covered hills on the south side of the river valley near the inlet to Lake Hodges (Map 7). It follows the San Dieguito River and Sycamore Creek and is located between Highland Valley Road and Rancho Bernardo neighborhoods. This is a standalone trail but connects to the David Kreitzer Lake Hodges Bridge by way of sidewalks and bike lanes maintained by City of San Diego and Caltrans.

The first section of the trail includes a Children’s Interpretive Walk, dedicated in 1999 to Ruth Merrill who contributed greatly to open space preservation and the betterment of children through her volunteer work. Youngsters can learn about native wildlife through Discovery Points along the trail.

The staging area is located at the western terminus of the trail and contains a seating area and habitat garden. The eastern terminus is near the JPA office. This is a narrow, out and back, trail with minimal change in elevation.

**Trail Length:** 2.1 Miles

**Staging Area Size:** 1.20 acres

**Monitoring:** Staging area is patrolled on a daily basis. The trail is patrol approximately 1-2 times per week by JPA ranger staff. The trail is also patrolled by volunteers 1-2 times per week.

**Jurisdictions:** City of San Diego

**Agency Responsible for Construction:** San Dieguito River Park JPA

**Land Management Responsibilities:** City of San Diego Public Utilities and Park and Recreation Department and San Dieguito River Park JPA

**Use:** Equestrian, Bicycle, Pedestrian. School buses.

**Surface:** Native soil. Imported aggregate.

### **Structures:**

1. Trail Bridge (30 feet.) – Clear vegetation. Repair decking and handrails if needed. Preserve wood.
2. Puncheon Bridge (12 feet) - Clear vegetation. Repair decking if needed. Preserve wood.

### **Amenities:**

1. Parking Area: Clear vegetation, rake surfacing materials.
2. Seating Area: Clear vegetation, repair as needed. Preserve wood.
3. Kiosk – Events added monthly. Presentation redone every 6-12 months. Preserve wood.
4. Benches (4 total) – Re-surface, repair, and replace as needed.
5. Picnic tables (2 total) - Re-surface, repair, and replace as needed.
6. Trash Can (1 total) - Check daily. Bags changed as needed. Clean and paint as needed.
7. Native Plant Garden- Trim vegetation, add native plants, water, weed control, repair, and replace signs.

### **Other:**

Solar powered gate - Electronic system check. Paint as needed.

Sensitive cultural sites – The trail passes over or near sensitive cultural sites.

1. Contact Trespassers

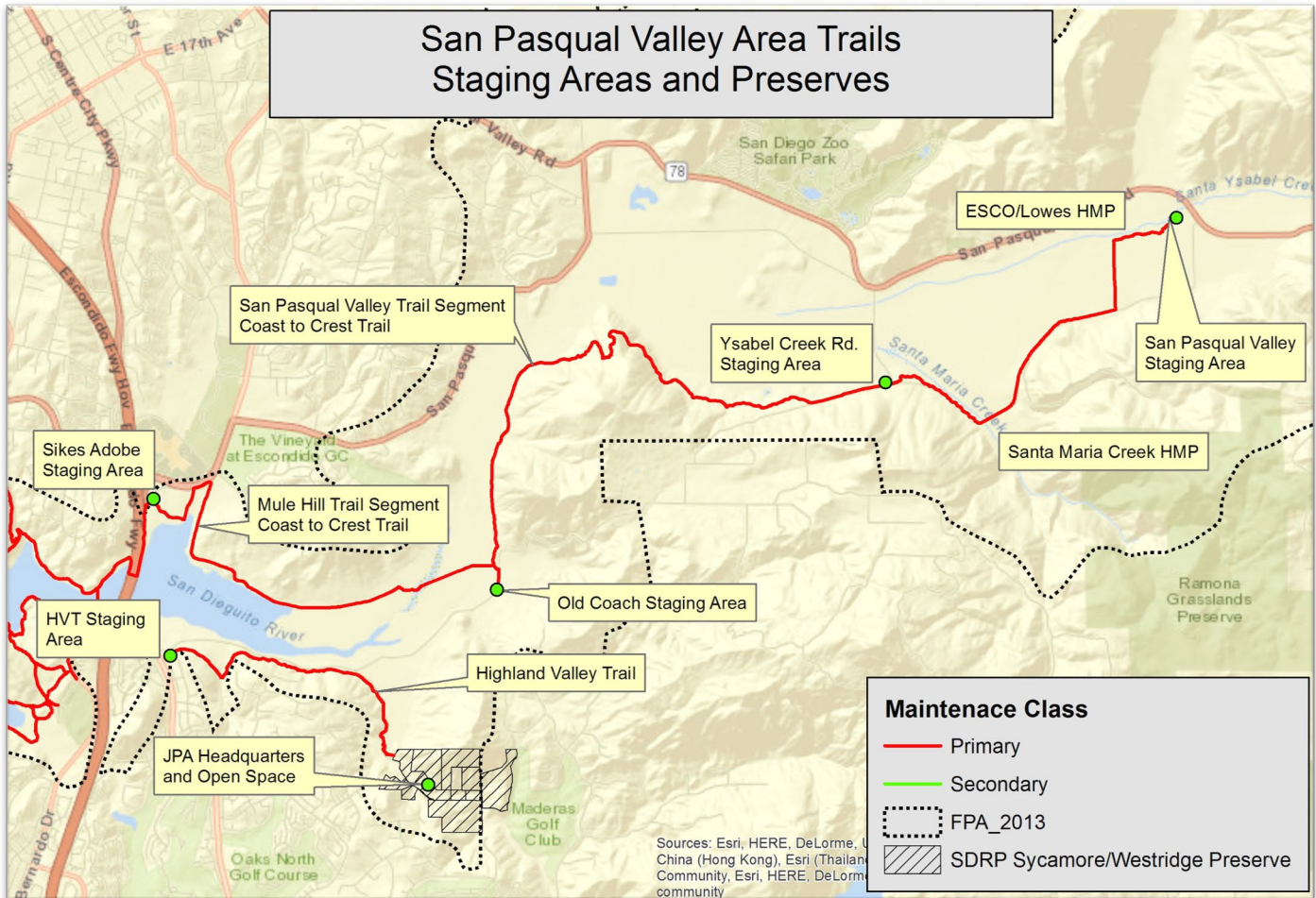


## SAN DIEGUITO RIVER PARK TRAILS MANAGEMENT PLAN AND STANDARDS

### 2. Maintain trail capping.

Ruth Merrill Interpretive Trail - The Children's Interpretive Walk coincides with the Highland Valley Trail. It provides an opportunity where people can learn about native wildlife through Discovery Points along the trail.

1. Distribute pamphlets.
2. Update materials.
3. Promote use.
4. Maintain markers – Clear vegetation, repair or replace as needed. Preserve wood.



**Map 7: San Pasqual Valley Trails Staging Area and Preserves**

### *Sikes Adobe Historic Farmstead and Staging Area*

The Sikes Adobe Farmhouse is a State Point of Historic Interest and a City of San Diego historic site that is being restored by the JPA to its period of significance (Map 7). Established around 1870 and featuring one of the area's oldest adobe homes from the American era, the Sikes Adobe Historic Farmstead is a remarkable survivor of San Diego's rural history and, as such, has a special role to play in preserving the legacy of old California. With the restoration, one can learn what life was like for the pioneer settlers in San Diego shortly after statehood.

The mission of the Sikes Adobe Historic Farmstead is that of "a historic site dedicated to the preservation and interpretation of the history of the settlement of the San Dieguito River Valley as experienced by the Sikes family during

## SAN DIEGUITO RIVER PARK TRAILS MANAGEMENT PLAN AND STANDARDS

the period from 1869-1899.” The dual goal of providing visitors and site users with a sense of the past and creating a venue in which to hold events.

The Adobe Farmstead includes a restored creamery, community gardens, landscaping, a picnic area, and shade.

In addition to the operations at the historic site, the North San Diego Certified Farmers Market is held every Sunday from 10:30am – 3:30pm. It features local farm-fresh produce, local flowers and plants, and arts and crafts from artisans in the area.

The Sikes Adobe Staging Area provides a great location for equestrian staging and a venue for events. The Sunset Drive Staging Area is adjacent to Sikes Adobe and provides quick access to the Coast to Crest Trail as well.

**Size:** 7.49 acres

**House Size:** 2250 Square Feet

**Monitoring:** Daily

**Jurisdictions:** City of San Diego

**Agency Responsible for Construction:** San Dieguito River Park JPA. Sunset Drive Staging Area was installed by City of Escondido

**Land Management Responsibilities:** San Dieguito River Park JPA. City of Escondido

**Use:** Equestrian, Bicycle, Pedestrian. School busses, and Events.

**Surface:** Native soil. Imported aggregate. Paved staging on Sunset Drive.

### **Structures:**

Sikes Adobe Historic Farmstead (2250 square feet) - Extensive maintenance and upkeep, clear vegetation.

Creamery (315 square feet) - Clear vegetation. Preserve and repair adobe if needed.

Shed- Clear vegetation and preserve wood.

### **Amenities:**

1. Portable Toilet: Serviced bi-weekly by an outside contractor.
2. Trash Cans (1 total): Check daily. Bags changed as needed. Clean and paint as needed.
3. Benches (4 total) – Re-surface, repair, and replace as needed.
4. Picnic tables (4 total) - Re-surface, repair, and replace as needed.
5. Interpretive signs (4 total) – clean, repair, and replace or remove as needed.
6. Kiosk – Events added monthly. Presentation redone every 6-12 months. Preserve wood.
7. Garden and fruit tree grove– vegetation management, watering, harvesting, and fencing.
8. Hitching Post – repair as needed and preserve wood.

### **Other:**

Interpretive programming – The primary use of the site is education.

1. Museum management
2. Coordination of docents
3. Coordination of school programs
4. Develop curriculum.

Solar powered gate - Electronic system check. Paint as needed.

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Custom Wood gate – Repair and paint as needed.

Vegetated Swale – Clear vegetation, vegetation management, and watering.

### *Coast to Crest Trail – Mule Hill*

The Mule Hill segment of the Coast to Crest Trail is rich with 19th century history, a time when the region was just being settled (Map 7). The trail takes visitors past Mule Hill, an 1846 Mexican-American War battle site and State-registered landmark. Portions of the trail follow the old Butterfield Overland Stage Route, which carried mail between San Diego and Texas. The town of Bernardo, founded in the 1870s and flooded in 1918 when the San Dieguito River was dammed to form Lake Hodges, was located just to the west of Mule Hill.

The Mule Hill section begins at the trailhead at Sunset Drive and continues east along the San Dieguito River to the start of the Agricultural Preserve where it seamlessly transitions to the San Pasqual Valley Trail segment of the Coast to Crest Trail. The Trail can be accessed from Via Rancho Parkway or Sikes Adobe Staging Area.

The trail is located adjacent to a golf driving range and part of the route contains significant utilities.

**Trail Length:** 1.40 Miles

**Monitoring:** The trail is patrol approximately 1-2 times per week by SDRP staff. The trail is also patrolled by volunteers 1-2 times per week.

**Jurisdictions:** City of San Diego

**Agency Responsible for Construction:** San Dieguito River Park JPA

**Land Management Responsibilities:** City of San Diego Public Utilities. California Department of Parks and Recreation.

**Use:** Equestrian, Bicycle, Pedestrian.

**Surface:** Native soil. Imported aggregate.

### **Structures:**

1. Kit Carson Creek Double Box Culvert (24 feet.) – Clear vegetation. Repair concrete if needed. Repair post and cable if needed.
2. Via Rancho Parkway Retaining Wall (450 feet) – Clear Vegetation. Repair concrete if needed. Repair fencing if needed.
3. Mule Hill Interpretive Stations (2 total) –Remove graffiti. Clear vegetation. Repair if needed. Replace or remove signs.

### **Amenities:**

1. Benches (2 total) – Re-surface, repair, and replace as needed.
2. Picnic tables (2 total) - Re-surface, repair, and replace as needed.
3. Trash Can (1 total) - Checked Weekly. Bags changed as needed. Clean and paint as needed.
4. Interpretive signs (4 total) – clean, repair, and replace or remove as needed.

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### **Other:**

Mule Hill Historic Site – The historic site is managed by California Department of Parks and Recreation. SDRP assists the State in managing the site.

1. Contact trespassers.
2. Close unauthorized trails.
3. Observe and advise.
4. Educate the public.

Town of Bernardo Site and Butterfield Overland Stage Route – The trail passes over or near the site of the Town of Bernardo and utilizes the stage route. Both are managed by the City of San Diego Public Utilities Department. SDRP assists the City of San Diego in managing the site.

1. Contact trespassers.
2. Close Trails.
3. Observe and advise.
4. Educate the public.

Beethoven Drive Access management – Instead of entering from Via Rancho Parkway, some trail users attempt to cross an area that is not open for trail use. SDRP prohibits trail use here.

1. Contact trespassers.
2. Close Trails

### ***Sycamore Creek Preserve***

This Preserve is located immediately south of the JPA main office, within the City of Poway, and includes an important wildlife corridor (JPA headquarters and Open Space Map 7) that connects the preserved lands with the San Dieguito River Valley. Blue Sky Ecological Preserve, Lake Poway, and Woodson Mountain are also connected to SDRP through this corridor.

The Preserve includes a conservation easement (CE) over a 6.4-acre portion of the Preserve. The US Navy acquired the CE in 2020 for permanent preservation and management as part of the Navy's REPI program. The CE area is surrounded by the Sycamore Creek Preserve and is managed by the JPA under a Natural Resources management agreement with the Navy as detailed in the Sycamore Creek Preserve Long-term Management Plan

The Highland Valley Trail terminates near the JPA office and trail users sometimes try to access the Sycamore Creek Preserve from this location. The JPA prohibits access into the Sycamore Creek Open Space although some trail apps incorrectly identify a trail system here. The JPA and the City of Poway provide recreational access approximately ¼ mile to the east via the Old Coach Trail in San Pasqual Valley, which connects Poway's trail system to the Coast to Crest Trail. Parking is provided at the Old Coach staging area off Highland Valley Road.

**Size:** 133 acres

**Office Size:** 5000 Square Feet

**Monitoring:** Weekly.

**Jurisdictions:** City of Poway

**Land Management Responsibilities:** San Dieguito River Park

**Use:** Main Office.

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### Structures:

4. Main Office (5000 square feet) - Extensive maintenance and upkeep, clear vegetation.
5. Shed- Clear vegetation and preserve wood.
6. Well – one active well and one closed well.

### Amenities:

1. Nursery- Clear vegetation. Preserve wood.
2. Materials Yard- Clear vegetation. Organize and maintain.

### Other:

Trail use exclusion-

1. Contact trespassers.
2. Close Trails.

Access gates (2 total): Paint and repair as needed.

Fire Breaks (2 total) – remove and/or manage vegetation.

### ***Sycamore Westridge Habitat Management Area (HMA)***

The preserve provides habitat for Coastal California Gnatcatcher (*Poliophtila californica californica*) and is characterized by healthy coastal sage scrub habitat (JPA headquarters and Open Space Map 7). The HMA is mostly bordered by the Sycamore Preserve and a golf course.

The JPA is committed to preserving, protecting, and enhancing the HMA by implementing habitat restoration projects, biological surveys, patrol for trespassing, and invasive plant control.

The City of Poway Old Coach Trail passes along the edge of the HMA but off trail is prohibited.

**Size:** 8.9 acres

**Monitoring:** The trails are patrolled approximately one time every month by SDRP staff or volunteers.

**Jurisdictions:** City of Poway

**Land Management Responsibilities:** San Dieguito River Park JPA.

### ***Old Coach Trail Connection and Staging Area***

The San Dieguito River Park and the City of Poway has established a north/south trail linkage between the San Dieguito River Park Coast to Crest Trail and the Trans County Trail through the City of Poway Trail system. The trail linkage almost doubles the length of continuous regional trail system available to trail users by joining the 23 continuous existing miles of the San Dieguito River Park system to the 14 miles of the Trans-County system through 8 miles of the Poway Trail system (Map 7). This regional trail backbone overlays the City of Poway neighborhood trail system which includes 55 miles of linked trails providing regional trail access to most of the city's 50,000 residents.

The JPA (in coordination with the cities of San Diego (property owner) and Poway, and the lessee that owns the tree nursery) constructed the trail link and maintains the staging area and the trail that connects to the Coast to Crest Trail, which is located in the City of San Diego (Map 7). The staging area is located on land that was previously part of the existing agricultural lease (tree nursery) and the trail crosses and shares part of the agricultural access road for the nursery. The City of Poway maintains the trail from the staging area towards Poway.



## SAN DIEGUITO RIVER PARK TRAILS MANAGEMENT PLAN AND STANDARDS

**Trail Length:** 0.18 Miles

**Staging Area Size:** 0.25 acres

**Monitoring:** Staging area and connector trail is patrolled on a daily basis.

**Jurisdictions:** City of San Diego

**Agency Responsible for Construction:** San Dieguito River Park JPA

**Land Management Responsibilities:** City of San Diego Public Utilities

**Use:** Equestrian, Bicycle, Pedestrian.

**Surface:** Imported aggregate.

**Amenities:**

1. Parking Area: Clear vegetation, rake surfacing materials.
2. Kiosk – Events added monthly. Presentation redone every 6-12 months. Preserve wood.
3. Trash Can (1 total) - Check daily. Bags changed as needed. Clean and paint as needed.

**Other:**

Solar powered gate - Electronic system check. Paint as needed.

Road crossing on Highland Valley Road - User activated lighted pedestrian and equestrian crossing now maintained by City of San Diego street crews.

### *Coast to Crest Trail - San Pasqual Valley*

Just beyond Mule Hill to the east, the Coast to Crest Trail drops into the flood plain and begins to pass through the City of San Diego's San Pasqual Agricultural Preserve and eventually crosses the San Dieguito River (Map 7). At this point the trail enters into an area considered to be more remote and isolated than other trails in the area. The route becomes more challenging as it climbs along Raptor Ridge and then drops back into the wide part of San Pasqual Valley which contains more agricultural lands owned by the City of San Diego. The trail follows Bandy Canyon road and weaves in and out of agricultural operations and eventually ends at the large San Pasqual Valley Staging Area.

This segment of the Coast to Crest Trail passes through many of the land uses that are associated with the San Dieguito River Park. Trail users experience agriculture, flood plain, oak woodlands, coastal sage and cactus scrub, non-native grasslands, road side trails, chaparral, and riparian forest.

Federally listed endangered species such as Arroyo Toad, Least Bell's Vireo, and Southwestern Willow fly catcher utilize the trail corridor. The part of the trail that travels through wildlife habitat is monitored closely for intrusions. In addition to management of the trail, SDRP has conducted extensive riparian and coastal sage and cactus scrub habitat restoration projects in the City of San Diego Open Space lands. There are also important cultural sites in the vicinity that are managed by City of San Diego Public Utilities. SDRP constructed the trail and installed fencing and signage prior to opening the segment to the public. Once open, there were clear boundaries established which have persisted.

This segment is an important part of the existing Coast to Crest Trail and connects the busy Lake Hodges area with the rural atmosphere of San Pasqual Valley.

**Trail Length:** 8.85 miles

**Monitored:** The trail is patrolled approximately 1-2 times per week by SDRP staff. The trail is also patrolled by volunteers 1-2 times per week.

## SAN DIEGUITO RIVER PARK TRAILS MANAGEMENT PLAN AND STANDARDS

**Jurisdictions:** City of San Diego

**Agency Responsible for Construction:** San Dieguito River Park JPA

**Land Management Responsibilities:** City of San Diego

**Use:** Equestrian, Bicycle, Pedestrian.

**Surface:** Mostly native soil. Imported aggregate.

**Structures:**

1. Low flow crossing structure at San Dieguito River (125 feet) – Clear Vegetation, repair post and cable if needed, erosions control at approach.
2. Santa Maria Creek Cantilever Bridge (260 feet) – Clear Vegetation, repair wood decking if needed.
3. Wood Retaining Wall (90 feet total) - Clear vegetation. Repair wood if needed.
4. Rock Retaining Wall (20 feet total) – Clear vegetation. Repair if needed.
5. Well – SDRP ungraded and manages a well on Park and Recreation property.
6. Specially designed ag fencing – lodge pole with wire.

**Amenities:**

1. Kiosk (1 total) – Events added monthly. Presentation redone every 6-12 months. Preserve wood.
2. Benches (6 total) – Re-surface, repair, and replace as needed.
3. Picnic tables (4 total) - Re-surface, repair, and replace as needed.
4. Trash Can (2 total) - Check daily. Bags changed as needed. Clean and paint as needed.
5. Interpretive signs (8 total) – clean, repair, and replace or remove as needed.
6. Hitching rail (1 total) – Repair as needed. Preserve wood.

**Other:**

Access gates (14 total) Paint and repair as needed.

Agricultural Interface- In the area where the trail interacts with active agricultural operations the interface is generally fenced. The San Pasqual Valley Trail contains almost 5 miles of fencing. The JPA works to minimize trail user access to the agricultural roads. Significant issues exist in the area of Be Wise Ranch and Orfila winery due to the proximity of neighborhoods. Farmers are to notify the JPA when they plan to spray pesticides so the JPA can close trails temporarily if needed.

1. Contact trespassers
2. Close Trails
3. Educational programs

Volunteer Habitat Restoration Site – There are two sites in this trail where SDRP actively manages habitat and utilizes volunteer assistance to restore habitat. In addition to the trail, SDRP has conducted coastal sage and cactus scrub habitat restoration projects in the City of San Diego Open Space.

1. Grasslands – SDRP upgraded a well and installed irrigation. Volunteers are directed to this site for habitat restoration events and projects.
2. Santa Maria Creek- SDRP restored habitat near the Santa Ysabel Creek Road Staging Area for Coastal Cactus Wren. Volunteers are directed to this site for habitat restoration events and projects.

## SAN DIEGUITO RIVER PARK TRAILS MANAGEMENT PLAN AND STANDARDS

### *San Pasqual Cactus Wren Preserve*

Located on a south facing slope in San Pasqual Valley near Cloverdale Creek the land contains important cactus scrub habitat (Map 7). The preserve is not open for public use.

Management activities include patrol for trespassing and cactus harvesting for restoration.

**Size:** 72 acres

**Monitored:** Weekly

**Jurisdictions:** City of San Diego

**Land Management Responsibilities:** San Dieguito River Park JPA

### *Santa Maria Creek Habitat Management Area (HMA)*

Located southeast of Ysabel Creek Road Staging Area, Rufous-crowned sage sparrow, coastal cactus wren, and California gnatcatcher are the species of focus for this project (Map 7).

The JPA is focused on preserving, protecting, and enhancing the HMA by implementing habitat restoration projects, biological surveys, patrol for trespassing, and invasive plant control. Expansion of the oak woodland habitat is also a goal. Requirements are identified in the Palomar Mitigation site HMP.

There is no public access to this property, but the neighboring property uses the area for horse riding. Significant issues exist with regards to the potential development of the neighboring properties.

**Size:** 86 acres

**Monitored:** Weekly

**Jurisdictions:** County of San Diego

**Land Management Responsibilities:** San Dieguito River Park JPA

**Structures:** Inactive well.

### *ESCO and Lowes Habitat Management Areas (HMAs)*

Located near where Santa Ysabel Creek and San Pasqual Valley Road, these HMAs covers one 3-acre restoration site (ESCO) and one 1.75 acre restoration site (Lowes) located adjacent to each other (Map 7). The sensitive wildlife species of focus are arroyo toad (*Bufo californicus*) and least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*), both federally listed endangered species.

JPA is focused on preserving, protecting, and enhancing the HMAs by implementing habitat restoration projects, patrol for trespassing, and invasive plant control. There is no public access.

**Size:** Total of 4.75 acres

**Monitored:** Monthly

**Jurisdictions:** County of San Diego

**Land Management Responsibilities:** San Dieguito River Park JPA.

**Structures:** JPA manages an active well

## SAN DIEGUITO RIVER PARK TRAILS MANAGEMENT PLAN AND STANDARDS

### *San Pasqual Valley Staging Area*

Located at the east end of the Lake Hodges and San Pasqual Valley Trail system, the trail staging area is open 7 days a week and provides parking for daily use, school buses, horse trailers and events (Map 7). There is gated access from Bandy Canyon Road and a small entrance road. The Coast to Crest Trail currently ends at this location and resumes several miles east at the Santa Ysabel Open Space Preserve.

**Size:** 2.58 acres

**Monitored:** Daily

**Jurisdictions:** City of San Diego

**Agency Responsible for Construction:** San Dieguito River Park JPA

**Land Management Responsibilities:** City of San Diego Public Utilities

**Use:** Equestrian, Bicycle, Pedestrian, school busses, and events.

**Surface:** Imported aggregate.

**Amenities:**

1. Parking Area- Clear Vegetation, rake surfacing materials.
2. Portable Toilet- Serviced bi-weekly by an outside contractor. This toilet is mobile and used for work projects.
3. Picnic Table (1 total) - re-surface, repair, and replace as needed.
4. Trash Can: Check daily. Bags changed as needed. Clean and paint as needed.
5. Kiosk (1 total) – Events added monthly. Presentation redone every 6-12 months. Preserve wood.
6. Manure bin – Clean and repair as needed.
7. Interpretive signs (1 total) – clean, repair, and replace or remove as needed.

**Other:**

Solar powered gate - Electronic system check. Paint as needed.

Access gates (3): Paint and repair as needed.

### *Ysabel Creek Road Staging Area*

Located on the San Pasqual Valley Trail at the corner of Bandy Canyon and Ysabel Creek Road, the trail staging area is open 7 days a week and provides parking for daily use and small events. There is gated access from Ysabel Creek Road (Map 7).

**Size:** 0.27 acre

**Monitored:** Daily

**Jurisdictions:** City of San Diego

**Agency Responsible for Construction:** San Dieguito River Park JPA

**Land Management Responsibilities:** City of San Diego Public Utilities

**Use:** Bicycle, Pedestrian, small events.

**Surface:** Imported aggregate.

## SAN DIEGUITO RIVER PARK TRAILS MANAGEMENT PLAN AND STANDARDS

### Amenities:

1. Parking Area- Clear Vegetation, rake surfacing materials.
2. Picnic Table (1 total) - re-surface, repair, and replace as needed.
3. Trash Can: Check daily. Bags changed as needed. Clean and paint as needed.
4. Kiosk (1 total) – Events added monthly. Presentation redone every 6-12 months. Preserve wood.
5. Hitching rail (1 total) – Repair as needed. Preserve wood.
6. Interpretive signs (3 total) – clean, repair, and replace or remove as needed.

### Other:

Solar powered gate - Electronic system check. Paint as needed.



**Map 8: Pamo Valley Trails and Facilities**



## SAN DIEGUITO RIVER PARK TRAILS MANAGEMENT PLAN AND STANDARDS

### *Coast to Crest Trail - Pamo Valley Segment and Pamo Valley Staging Area*

The 3.3-mile segment of the Coast to Crest Trail, the Pamo Valley Trail, ties two existing U.S. Forest Service Trails, the Lower Santa Ysabel Truck Trail (3.4 miles) and the Upper Santa Ysabel Truck Trail (6.11 miles) to create one continuous trail for a total of approximately 12 miles (Map 8). The trailhead begins at the northeastern corner at the Pamo Valley Staging Area, located adjacent to Pamo Road. The Lower Santa Ysabel Truck Trail also connects to the southwest corner of the staging area (Map 8). Additionally, there is a habitat restoration area between Santa Ysabel Creek and the staging area. The trail staging area is open 7 days a week and provides parking for daily use. The staging area is suitable for horse trailers. The trail runs parallel to Pamo Road, a rural and picturesque valley with oak woodlands, Diegan coastal sage scrub, and rolling grassland foothills. Most of the trail is relatively level with slight elevation gains as the trail bends along the slopes that frame the valley. The trail includes several wood bridge crossings, interpretive signs, and gates that cross large creeks and smaller drainages and Pamo Road at three locations. Temescal Creek flows northwest of the trail and converges with Santa Ysabel Creek (which becomes the San Dieguito River further down stream) and boulder outcroppings hide amongst the oak woodlands as the trail approaches Upper Santa Ysabel Truck Trail. Golden eagles and other raptors are common and squirrels, mule deer, coyotes, and at least one bobcat inhabit the valley. Pamo Valley is also home to several endangered species including the Arroyo Toad and Least Bell's Vireo along with other sensitive species. The City of San Diego leases the valley to cattle grazers and cattle are commonly in the areas adjacent to the trail or resting in the shade of oak trees.

**Trail Length:** 3.3 miles

**Staging Area Size:** 0.54 acres

**Trail Monitored:** The trail is patrolled approximately 1-2 times per week by SDRP staff. The trail is also patrolled by volunteers 1-2 times per week.

**Staging Area Monitored:** Daily.

**Jurisdictions:** City of San Diego owned land in Unincorporated County

**Agency Responsible for Construction:** San Dieguito River Park JPA

**Land Management Responsibilities:** City of San Diego Public Utilities. Pamo Road is maintained by County Public Works

**Use:** Equestrian, Bicycle, and Pedestrian.

**Surface:** Native soils, imported aggregate.

#### **Trail Structures:**

1. Wood Bridges (3 total) – Clear vegetation. Repair decking and handrails if needed. Preserve wood.
2. Culvert Crossings (5 total) – Clear vegetation. Repair if needed.

#### **Amenities:**

1. Parking Area: Clear Vegetation, rake surfacing materials.
2. Portable Toilet: Serviced bi-weekly by an outside contractor. This toilet is mobile and also used for work projects as needed.
3. Portable Toilet Cover: Preserve wood. Clear vegetation. Repair and replace as needed.
4. Kiosk – Events added monthly. Presentation redone every 6-12 months. Preserve wood.
5. Manure bin – Clean and repair as needed.
6. Interpretive signs (3 total) – clean, repair, and replace or remove as needed.
7. Trash Can: Check daily. Bags changed as needed. Clean and paint as needed.

## SAN DIEGUITO RIVER PARK TRAILS MANAGEMENT PLAN AND STANDARDS

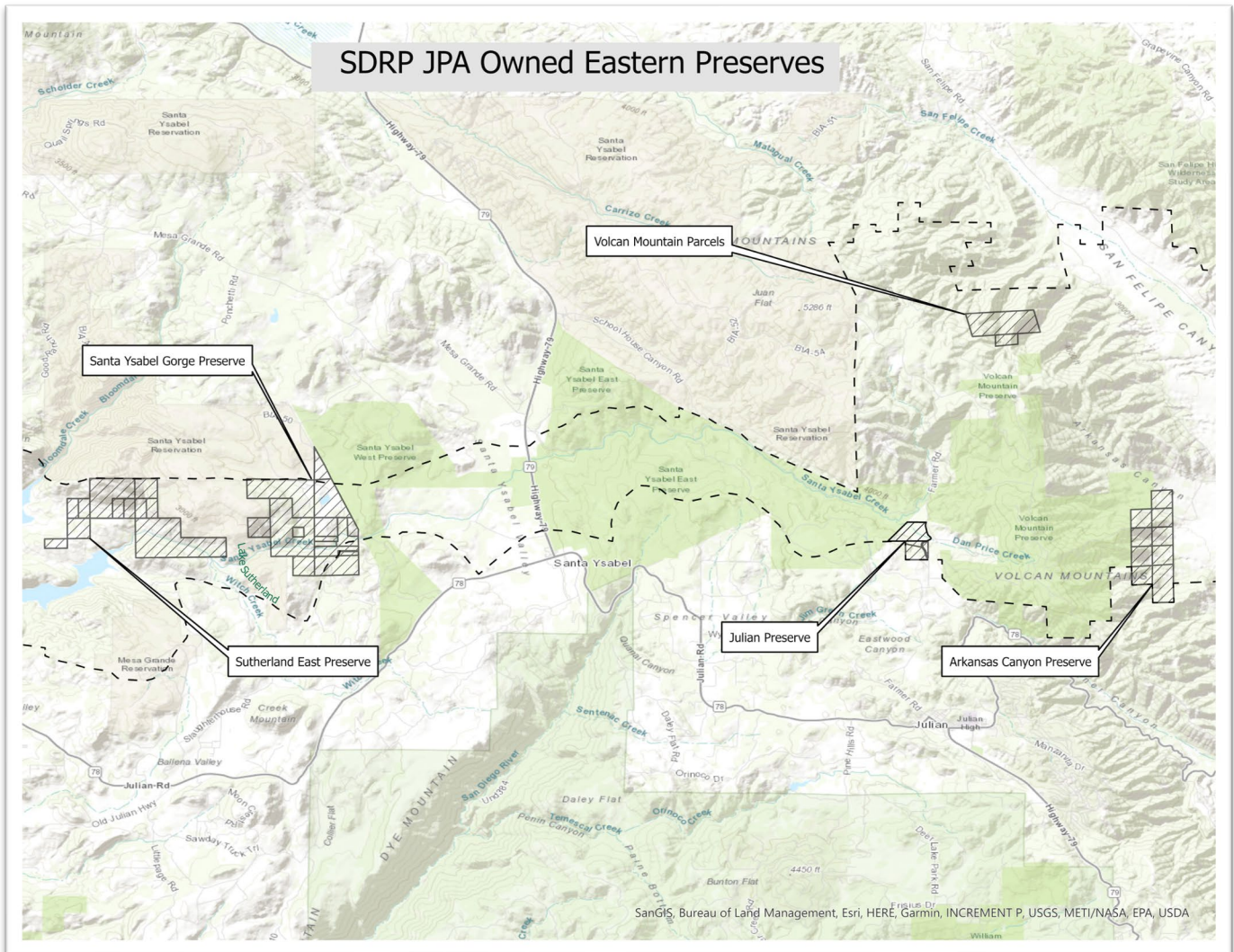
### Other:

Solar powered gate - Electronic system check. Paint as needed.

Trail gates (11 total) and fencing - Maintain and repair as needed.

Cattle Grazing along trail. Contact trespassers. Close Trails.

Habitat Restoration Site – Management activities include patrol for trespassing, habitat restoration, invasive plant and animal control, Arroyo Toad critical habitat restoration.



Map 9: SDRP JPA Eastern Preserves

### *Sutherland East Preserve*

The remote Sutherland East Preserve (Map 9) protects a wide range of wildlife habitat including habitat for Arroyo Toad (*Bufo californicus*) and mountain lion (*Puma concolor*). The preserve is important for wildlife and the Coast to Crest Trail will eventually pass through the property. There is no public access at this time.

**Size:** 608 acres

**Monitored:** twice annually

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**Jurisdictions:** County of San Diego

**Land Management Responsibilities:** San Dieguito River Park JPA

**Structures:** Several inactive wells.

### *Santa Ysabel Gorge Preserve*

The remote Santa Ysabel Gorge Preserve (Map 9) protects a wide range of wildlife habitat including habitat for Arroyo Toad (*Bufo californicus*) and mountain lion (*Puma concolor*). The preserve is important for wildlife and the Coast to Crest Trail will eventually pass through the property. There is no public access at this time.

Management activities include patrol for trespassing, habitat restoration, invasive plant and animal control, oak woodland restoration.

**Size:** 797 acres

**Monitored:** Monthly

**Jurisdictions:** County of San Diego

**Land Management Responsibilities:** San Dieguito River Park JPA.

**Structures:**

1. House/research station – 2,700 square feet. Clear vegetation. Repairs ongoing.
2. Well - One active well and several inactive.
3. Barn – 2,200 square feet.
4. Shed – 450 square feet.
5. Several covered areas.

### *Julian Preserve*

Adjacent to the 3800-acre Santa Ysabel Open Space Preserve East, this land protects the interface between Dan Price Creek and Santa Ysabel Creek (Map 9). The preserve is important for wildlife including mountain lion (*Puma concolor*). There is no public access at this time.

Management activities include patrol for trespassing, habitat restoration, invasive plant and animal control, oak woodland restoration.

**Size:** 136 acres

**Monitored:** Daily

**Jurisdictions:** County of San Diego

**Land Management Responsibilities:** San Dieguito River Park JPA

**Structures:** Active well and one inactive well.

House – 2000 square feet.

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### *Volcan Mountain Parcels*

Adjacent to the 2900-acre Volcan Mountain Wilderness Preserve, the preserve (Map 9) is important for wildlife including mountain lion (*Puma concolor*). There is no public access at this time.

**Size:** 169 acres

**Monitored:** As needed

**Jurisdictions:** County of San Diego

**Land Management Responsibilities:** San Dieguito River Park JPA

**Structures:**

1. Active well and one inactive well.
2. House – 2000 square feet

### *Arkansas Canyon Preserve*

The preserve is surrounded by thousands of acres of preserved land and is important for wildlife moving from Volcan Mountain to the high desert of San Felipe Valley (Map 9). There is no public access currently.

**Size:** 347 acres

**Monitored:** As needed

**Jurisdictions:** County of San Diego

**Land Management Responsibilities:** San Dieguito River Park JPA

**Structures:** Historic structures – mostly damaged by repeated fire.

## SECTION 3

### SECONDARY TRAILS, FACILITIES AND OPEN SPACE LANDS

Secondary Facilities are important areas in the Park for which the JPA does not have management obligations nor authority. The JPA does not assume responsibility for these facilities but participates with improvements as resources become available. Also included in this designation are trails that are established and maintained by the JPA partners and are important areas in the San Dieguito River Park.

Although SDRP considers these facilities as Secondary, the JPA has focused some resources towards helping to improve and monitor the trail system but much more resources are needed as there are many non-designated trails that exist. Some of trails pass through areas that contain sensitive cultural and biological resources managed by the primary land manager.

The facilities received this determination based upon the meeting the following criteria:

- Project aligns with the goals of SDRP
- Project not installed by JPA
- No formal agreement for management exists.
- The JPA is not the designated land manager and has not historically managed or maintained the facility.

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- Outside resources are most likely needed for effective management.

Participation in managing Secondary Trail Facilities is based upon available resources.

The priorities are:

1. Public Safety –Public safety hazards are identified and reported to the land manager
2. Natural and Cultural Resource Protection – The land manager is notified when new natural and cultural resource protection issues are identified.
3. Visitor Amenities – Visitor amenity projects are usually initiated by the community and reviewed by the citizen managed Trails Committee. Amenities can vary from new structures to educational programming. The projects take into consideration public safety and natural and cultural resource protection.

### Monitoring

The Coast to Crest Trail near the boat dock and the Bernardo Bay Trails are patrolled 1-4 times per week. The other areas identified below at Lake Hodges are only occasionally patrolled by the JPA rangers.

All patrol staff is required to wear their provided uniform. Patrol is conducted in a marked vehicle with a Park logo and “San Dieguito River Park Ranger” written on the door. The patrol vehicles contain tools and equipment, shovel, SDRP information and maps for kiosks and public contact, binoculars, extra water, dog waste bag refills, radio or cell phone, clip board and log, and first aid. Patrol of remote areas and can occur on foot or bicycle.

Rangers take all precautions when patrolling and are trained to be aware of their surroundings and not to enter into a situations that would harm themselves, other people, and/or the River Park. They consider the availability of assistance and are mindful of potential dangerous wildlife encounters.

SDRP Rangers do not have powers of arrest and therefore do not issue citations. In the event that law enforcement is needed then the appropriate agency is contacted depending upon the jurisdiction. The response is coordinated by the land manager.

Trails and habitat are evaluated and the land manager is contacted when issues are identified that should be addressed.

The monitoring objectives include the following:

- Familiarization with SDRP.
- Rule violators: While on patrol, staff will attend to rule violators and monitor trail and staging area usage.
- Wildlife: Staff is in a unique position to observe wildlife and, when possible, encounters are documented.
- Public contact: Ranger staff will seek out contact of park visitors and answer questions, address their concerns, and interpret Park features.
- Report: Park rangers report any concerns, repairs, or observations in their daily log and report any significant issues management issues to their supervisor.

### Educational Programing

Education programs occasionally occur at the Secondary Trail Facilities.

## SAN DIEGUITO RIVER PARK TRAILS MANAGEMENT PLAN AND STANDARDS

### Specific Priorities and Activities for Secondary Facilities:

#### *Crest Canyon Open Space*

**Monitored:** The trail is visited approximately once every 3 months by the JPA staff for education programs and to provide support to restoration activities carried out by other entities.

**Jurisdictions:** City of San Diego Park and Recreation Department

**Agency Responsible for Construction:** Historic and the City of San Diego

#### *High Bluff Open Space Park*

**Monitored:** The trail is visited approximately once every 3 months by the JPA staff for education programs and to provide support to restoration activities carried out by other entities (Map 2).

**Jurisdictions:** City of San Diego Park and Recreation Department

**Agency Responsible for Construction:** City of San Diego

#### *22<sup>nd</sup> District Agricultural Association Open Space*

The Coast to Crest Trail from Jimmy Durante to I-5 is located on land owned by the State of California 22<sup>nd</sup> District Agricultural Association (22<sup>nd</sup> DAA). The trail is allowed by agreement with the DAA (easement in process) and is within a biological buffer required by the California Coastal Commission (Map 2). Adjacent to the buffer and trail, the 22<sup>nd</sup> DAA is restoring the South Overflow Lot to salt marsh and extending the Coast to Crest Trail along the northern edge of the new restoration area. 22<sup>nd</sup> DAA is responsible for managing their land including the restoration area at the Fairgrounds and Horsepark.

#### *City of Del Mar River Path*

**Monitored:** The trail is visited approximately once every 3 months by the JPA staff for education programs and to provide support to restoration activities carried out by other entities (Map 2).

**Jurisdictions:** City of Del Mar

**Agency Responsible for Construction:** City of Del Mar

#### *Lusardi Creek Preserve*

**Monitored:** The trail is visited approximately once every 3 months by the JPA staff for education programs and to provide support to restoration activities carried out by other entities (Map 4).

**Jurisdictions:** The County of San Diego, Park and Recreation Department

**Agency Responsible for Construction and Maintenance:** The County of San Diego



## SAN DIEGUITO RIVER PARK TRAILS MANAGEMENT PLAN AND STANDARDS

### *Boat Dock Hill Lake Hodges*

**Monitored:** The trail is visited approximately once every 3 months by the JPA staff for education programs and to provide support to restoration activities carried out by other entities (Map 5).

**Jurisdictions:** City of San Diego.

**Agency Responsible for Construction and Maintenance: Historical:** City of San Diego.

### *Coast to Crest Trail – North Shore Lake Hodges, Boat Dock Section*

The Coast to Crest Trail is located adjacent to the entrance road to the Boat Dock recreation area (Map 5). The trail shares the road at times and trails are established on both sides of the road. Although trail users seem to negotiate this area well, the trail does not connect seamlessly at two or more major drainages that require engineered crossings. SDRP is responsible for some trail signs and patrol and trail maintenance here is unlikely. The open space along the Boat Dock Section is actively managed by City of San Diego Public Utilities Department.

**Monitored:** The trail is patrolled approximately 1-2 times per week by SDRP staff. The trail is also patrolled by volunteers 1-2 times per week.

**Jurisdictions:** City of San Diego.

**Agency Responsible for Construction:** Historical, City of San Diego.

### *Public Utilities Open Space North Lake Hodges*

A great deal of open space exists between Lake Drive, Via Rancho Parkway, and the entrance to the boat dock (Map 5). There are unmanaged trails throughout this area. SDRP does not promote the use of these trails. Closure of the non-designated trails was attempted by SDRP after the 2007 Witch Fire. The closures were funded by FEMA for the purpose of public safety. The required follow up maintenance and patrol did not occur because of SDRP funding constraints.

**Monitored:** The trail is patrolled approximately 1 times every 3 months by SDRP staff.

**Jurisdictions:** City of San Diego.

**Agency Responsible for Construction: Historical:** City of San Diego.

### *Bernardo Bay Trails*

The Bernardo Bay Trails provide a wonderful opportunity to observe hundreds of species of resident and migratory birds at Lake Hodges, designated a globally Important Bird Area in 1999. The reservoir, created when the San Dieguito River was dammed in 1918, is now a critical stop-over for migratory birds on the Pacific Flyway. The hillsides in the Bernardo Bay area contain recovering coastal sage scrub and provides important habitat for the federally threatened California gnatcatcher (Map 6). The Bernardo Bay Trails provide access to the shore of Lake Hodges and also provides longer routes in conjunction with Piedras Pintadas Trail, Dave Kreitzer Bridge, and the Coast to Crest Trail. The trail surfacing is very primitive. The area is popular and heavily used.

The JPA considers these trails to be very important. The JPA has not traditionally maintained the trails here but recently committed to maintain some trails that are considered primary access routes by the general public. These trails are now mapped by the JPA and recommended to trail users. The JPA only promotes the use of the trails that are historic in nature and used by City of San Diego Public Utilities and/or provide permitted fishing access or permitted access for flying remote controlled planes. These permits are issued by the City of San Diego.

## SAN DIEGUITO RIVER PARK TRAILS MANAGEMENT PLAN AND STANDARDS

There are trails established on the hillsides that are not part of the designated trails system but were established many decades ago. Closure of the non-designated trails was attempted by the SDRP after the 2007 Which Fire. The closures were funded by FEMA for the purpose of public safety. The required follow up maintenance and patrol did not occur because of SDRP funding constraints. In 2014, the JPA received funding for sign and fence work. Now, patrons can more safely use the area and resources protection strategies were implemented. Besides the important trail system here, the habitat is considered critical for the survival of many coastal sage scrub species in this part of the Park.

**Trail Length:** 1.6 Miles

**Monitored:** The trail is patrol approximately 1-2 times per week by SDRP staff. The trail is also patrolled by volunteers 1-2 times per week.

**Jurisdictions:** City of San Diego.

**Agency Responsible for Construction:** Historic. City of San Diego.

**Land Management Responsibilities:** City of San Diego Public Utilities.

### *Public Utilities Lands South Lake Hodges*

Important open space surrounding the Piedras Pintadas Interpretive Trail is managed by the City of San Diego Public Utilities Department (Map 6). Although SDRP maintains trail closures associated with the installation of the Piedras Pintadas Trail project, there are significant land management issues here that the Public Utilities land manager has primary responsibility. SDRP does not promote the use of trails in these areas.

Four trail areas exist that are managed by the Public Utilities:

1. South utility road: The gated road connects unmanaged access near the West Rancho Bernardo area and 4S Ranch to the Piedras Pintadas Trail. The road provides access for SDGE and Public Utilities. The road borders San Diego County designated open space that is closed to public use.
2. Westwood/Poblado Trailhead: Public access to the Piedras Pintadas Trail is provided by the City of San Diego at Poblado Drive.
3. Southwest utility road: Adjacent to Piedras Pintadas Trail loop there is a second utility road that provides access for SDGE. There are non-designated trails beyond the SDGE access road and also the Piedras Pintadas Trail loop. The non-designated trails provide fishing access and are historic in nature. Closure of the non-designated trails that were originating from the Piedras Pintadas Trail was attempted by the SDRP after the 2007 Which Fire. The closures were funded by FEMA for the purpose of public safety. The required follow up maintenance and patrol did not occur because of SDRP funding constraints.
4. Trails accessing sensitive cultural resources: SDRP installed the Peidras Pintadas Interpretive Trail project which provide for the management of trails accessing the cultural site. Several measures were taken including capping, habitat restoration, signs, interpretive programing, and fencing. The management of the cultural site was transferred to Public Utilities in 2002.

**Length:** Various Trails

**Monitored:** The trails are patrol approximately 1 times every 3 months by SDRP staff.

**Jurisdictions:** City of San Diego.

**Agency Responsible for Construction:** Historical. City of San Diego. San Diego Gas and Electric.

## SAN DIEGUITO RIVER PARK TRAILS MANAGEMENT PLAN AND STANDARDS

### *Old Coach Poway Trail*

The JPA and City of Poway manage this important regional trail connection. From the SDRP staging area, the JPA manages the trail into San Pasqual Valley connecting to the Coast to Crest Trail (see ***Old Coach Trail Connection and Staging Area***). The Old Coach Trail heading southeast from the staging area toward Poway is managed by the City of Poway (Map 7). The trail passes through agricultural land then utilizes a paved utility road to gain significant elevation overlooking San Pasqual Valley. The trail passes through SDRP open space (nearby Sycamore Westridge) and SDRP uses the trail for access and therefore receives a higher level of monitoring than other member agency trails. SDRP promotes the use of this trail.

Monitored: The trails are patrolled approximately one time every month by SDRP staff or volunteers.

Jurisdictions: City of Poway. City of San Diego.

Agency Responsible for Construction: The City of Poway

### *Clevenger Canyon Trails*

The City of San Diego, Park and Recreation Department, Open Space Division manages the North Clevenger Canyon Trail and South Clevenger Canyon Trail. The Coast to Crest Trail may intersect one of these trails but the route has not been determined. SDRP promotes the use of these trails. The trails are considered strenuous.

Monitored: The trails are visited approximately one time every year by SDRP staff. Issues are reported the City of San Diego Parks and Recreation Department, Open Space Division.

Jurisdictions: The City of San Diego, Park and Recreation Department

Agency Responsible for Construction: The City of San Diego, Park and Recreation Department

### *Lower Santa Ysabel Truck Trail*

This segment of Coast to Crest Trail is managed by the US Forest Service and provides a connection between Boden Canyon and Pamo Valley. SDRP promotes the use of this trail (Map 8).

Monitored: The trail is visited approximately one time every year by SDRP staff.

Jurisdictions: United States Forest Service, Cleveland National Forest. City of San Diego.

Agency Responsible for Construction: Historical. Cleveland National Forest.

### *Upper Santa Ysabel Truck Trail*

This segment of Coast to Crest Trail is managed by the US Forest Service and provides a connection between Pamo Valley and Black Canyon Road (Map 8).

Monitored: The trail is visited approximately one time every year by SDRP staff.

Jurisdictions: United States Forest Service, Cleveland National Forest. City of San Diego.

Agency Responsible for Construction: Historical. Cleveland National Forest.

## SAN DIEGUITO RIVER PARK TRAILS MANAGEMENT PLAN AND STANDARDS

### *Black Mountain Truck Trail*

SDRP Coast to Crest Trail may someday provide access to this side route to the peak of Black Mountain (4,048 feet). Use of this trail is not currently promoted by SDRP.

**Monitored:** The trails are patrol approximately one time every year by SDRP staff.

**Jurisdictions:** United States Forest Service, Cleveland National Forest.

**Agency Responsible for Construction:** Historical. Cleveland National Forest.

### *Santa Ysabel West Preserve*

Oak woodlands, native grasslands and fields of wildflowers are some of the settings experienced during within the boundaries of this 1,512 acre preserve (Map 8). More than 4 miles of multi-use trails wind through the various habitats in this scenic mountain preserve, including a section of the Coast to Crest Trail. SDRP passes through the Preserve to access SDRP open space therefore the Santa Ysabel West Preserve receives a higher level of monitoring than other member agency trails. SDRP promotes the use of this trail.

**Length:** 4 Miles

**Monitored:** The main trail is patrolled approximately twice a month by SDRP staff. The other trails are patrolled approximately one time every year by SDRP staff.

**Jurisdictions:** County of San Diego.

**Agency Responsible for Construction:** County of San Diego.

**Use:** Pedestrian. Bicycle. Equestrian.

**Surface:** Native soil.

### *Santa Ysabel East Preserve*

The Santa Ysabel East Preserve is surrounded by oak woodlands, native grasslands, and fields of wildflowers that portrays a beautiful natural setting during your hiking, biking, and riding adventures within the boundaries of this 3,800-acre preserve (Map 8). More than 18 miles of multi-use trails wind through the various habitats in this scenic mountain preserve, including the Coast to Crest Trail. Santa Ysabel Creek runs along the entire northern boundary of the preserve. The Coast to Crest Trail connects Farmer Road with Highway 79. SDRP promotes the use of this trail.

**Length:** 18 Miles

**Monitored:** The trails are visited approximately twice a month by SDRP staff.

**Jurisdictions:** County of San Diego.

**Agency Responsible for Construction:** County of San Diego.

### *Ramona Grasslands Conservation Bank*

The Ramona Grasslands Conservation bank is located across from the Ramona Grasslands Preserve. This conservation easement (CE) is managed by the San Diego Habitat Conservancy and is visited at least once a year by the JPA staff. An annual monitoring report is also written by the JPA staff per the CE.

## SAN DIEGUITO RIVER PARK TRAILS MANAGEMENT PLAN AND STANDARDS

**Acres:** 210.43

**Monitored:** Site visit once a year and annual monitoring report by SDRP staff.

**Jurisdiction:** County of San Diego.

**Agency Responsible for Construction:** County of San Diego.

**Land Management Responsibilities:** San Diego Habitat Conservancy.

### *Volcan Mountain Wilderness Preserve*

Volcan Mountain is iconic as both the location of the headwaters of the San Dieguito River and as the highest point in the San Dieguito River Park. Ironside Spring on this ridge feeds Santa Ysabel Creek, which meets Santa Maria Creek in San Pasqual Valley 25 miles further west to become the San Dieguito River. The eastern slopes of the mountain fall rapidly to the expanse of the Anza-Borrego Desert in the valley floor below. Volcan Mountain Wilderness Preserve is home to mixed conifer, oak and cedar forest, native grassland, and seasonal ponds. The woodland transitions to desert chaparral on the rugged, drier, east side of the ridge. The ocean beyond could be seen on clear days with the rolling expanse of Santa Ysabel Valley as a backdrop.

A striking entry monument and gateway to the Coast to Crest Trail was designed by architect James Hubbell and constructed by dedicated volunteers. The Five Oaks Trail is a beautiful retreat from the Coast to Crest Trail, veering off to the south and paralleling the Coast to Crest Trail for a mile before rejoining again. The trail has examples of each of the native Californian oak species that give the trail its name. Volcan Mountain Wilderness Preserve is accessible from Farmer Road north of Julian. Parking is available on Farmer Road.

**Jurisdiction:** County of San Diego.

**Land Management Responsibilities:** County of San Diego Parks and Recreation Department.

## SECTION 4

### Coordination and Development

The JPA is the primary planning agency for the Coast to Crest Trail and to some extent, land acquisition for trail/open space/habitat needs within the FPA.

The FPA encompasses 91,000 acres of land spanning the JPA's six different member agency jurisdictions. Planning for the FPA is guided by the JPA's Concept Plan establishing the goals, policies, and objectives for the San Dieguito River Park. The Concept Plan documents the vision, goals, and objectives adopted for the Park, and establishes the overall planning framework for future park implementation. The JPA does not have land use authority within the FPA; therefore, the Concept Plan provides guidance in the form of land use proposals and design recommendations for the JPA's six member agencies with land use authority within the FPA. The JPA works with each member agency to coordinate and develop the San Dieguito River Park in accordance with its Concept Plan.

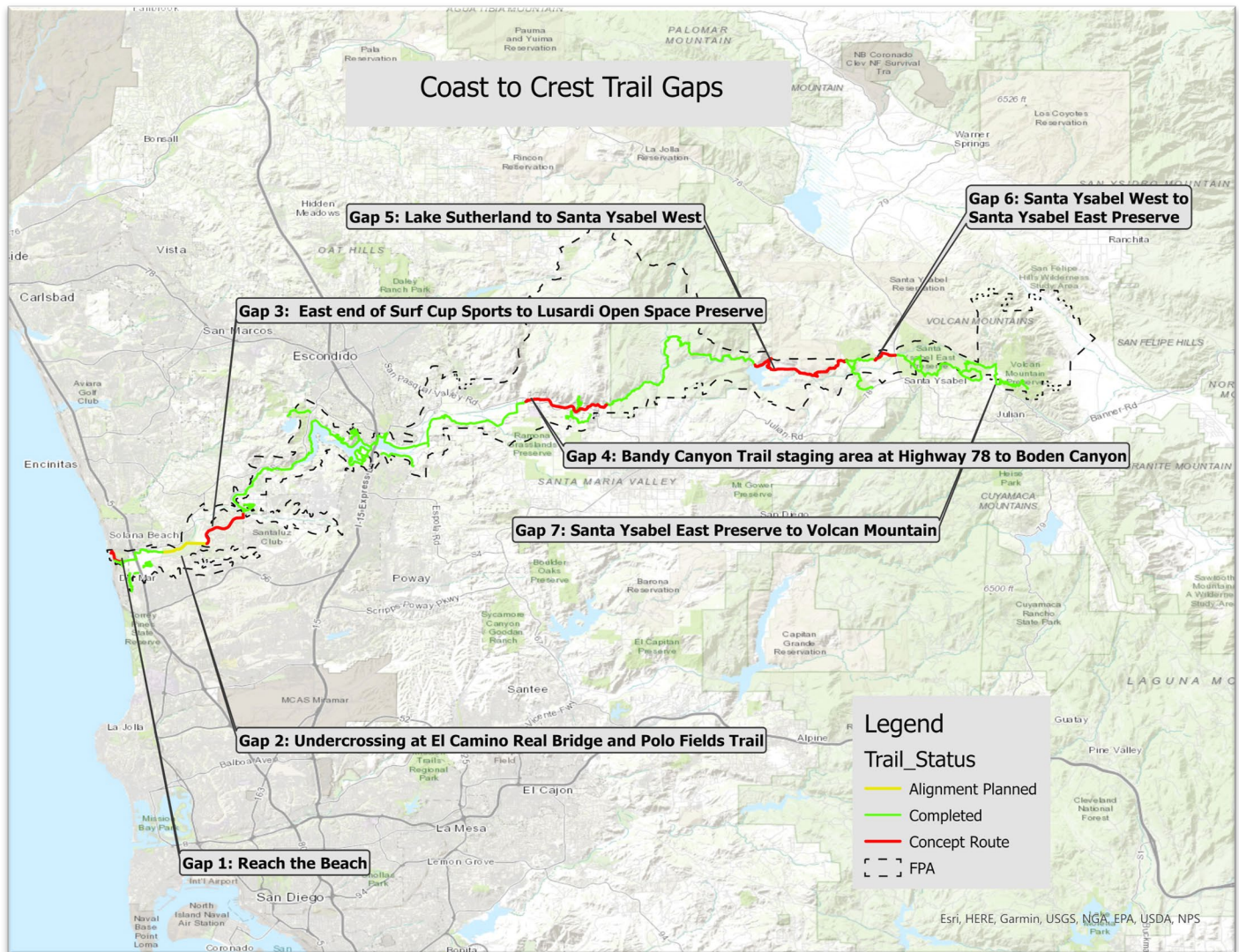
The JPA staff coordinates and consults with each of the JPA's member agency staff to plan and implement the components of the Concept Plan including the Coast to Crest Trail and other secondary trails, park projects, and open space acquisition and management. The JPA staff:

- Engages member agency department staff including planning, parks, and public works as individual segments of the Coast to Crest Trail and other Park trails are planned and further defined with respect to specific alignments.

## SAN DIEGUITO RIVER PARK TRAILS MANAGEMENT PLAN AND STANDARDS

The JPA staff continues to work with member agency staff to ensure that trail routes are consistent with the Concept Plan goals and objectives but also with member agency land use ordinances, plans and policies.

- Consults with member agency staff to obtain permit review and approvals, conducts CEQA, and public participation.
- Consults with member agency staff regarding land acquisition proposals, habitat management, restoration projects, and other management activities,
- Complies with individual member agency policies, regulations, ordinances, and permit processes in implementing individual Park projects.



Map 10 : CTC Gaps

### GAPS IN THE COAST TO CREST TRAIL (as of July 2021)

Currently (as of August 2021) there are 49 miles completed of the planned 71-mile long regional Coast to Crest Trail. Approximately 22 miles of gaps are either planned or conceptualized. The seven gaps are as follows:

#### *Gap 1: Reach the Beach*

**Miles:** approximately 1 mile from Jimmy Durante to the beach in Del Mar

**Jurisdictions:** City of Del Mar and 22<sup>nd</sup> DAA (Fairgrounds), NCTD (railroad R/W)



## SAN DIEGUITO RIVER PARK TRAILS MANAGEMENT PLAN AND STANDARDS

**Status:** Alignment Planned

**Description:** In 2012 the JPA completed the Reach the Beach Feasibility Study which studied alternative trail routes and identified a preferred route for the trail. Several constraints and planning issues are involved to complete this section including funding, coordination with SANDAG and the 22<sup>nd</sup> DAA to cross the railroad, design engineering, and environmental permitting (Coastal permit, CEQA).

Ongoing and Future Tasks: To be completed in phases including ongoing coordination with the City of Del Mar and 22<sup>nd</sup> DAA for a trail crossing at Jimmy Durante to connect the existing trail that terminates at Jimmy Durante to the trail easement along the southern edge of the Fairgrounds to the railroad bridge. Consulting with SANDAG regarding crossing the San Dieguito Railroad Bridge, to occur when rail is double tracked, and requires crossing the wetlands west of the railroad bridge and Camino del Mar. Requires more detailed plans and permits with Del Mar and Coastal Commission and permission (coastal permit amendment) from Coastal Commission to allow horses west of I-5. Construction would occur in phases over the next 10 to 20 years.

### *Gap 2: Undercrossing at El Camino Real Bridge and Polo Fields Trail*

**Miles:** approximately 1.5 miles from Horse Park to east end of Polo Fields

**Status:** Alignment Planned

**Jurisdiction:** City of San Diego

**Description:** The City of San Diego is planning a trail undercrossing as part of replacing the El Camino Real Bridge and widening the road to Via de la Valle. The City plans to construct a Coast to Crest Trail undercrossing as part of their bridge replacement project expected to occur in 2024. The Surf Cup Sports lessee on the former Polo Fields site (owned by the City) is required to improve an existing trail segment along the Polo Fields from El Camino Real to the east end of their lease on City property. Construction is expected to occur over the next two years.

### *Gap 3: Fairbanks Ranch from east end of Surf Cup Sports (formerly Polo Fields) to Lusardi Open Space Preserve*

**Miles:** approximately 3.6 miles

**Status:** Alignment Planned

**Jurisdictions:** City of San Diego, County of San Diego

**Description:** Osuna Trail Bridge feasibility study completed in August 2015 evaluated location and type for trail bridge crossing to continue trail upstream from Surf Cup Sports (formerly Polo Fields). Environmental and trail alignment studies kicked off in 2021 for the Osuna segment, from Surf Cup Sports leased property to San Dieguito Road (one mile). Construction is expected to begin in 2023 and be completed by 2024. The trail is planned to connect to San Dieguito Road and continue as a "pathway" along the west side of San Dieguito Road right-of-way to the Black Mountain trail staging area. The JPA has and will continue to work with County Parks and Public Works on the pathway planning along San Dieguito Road. The trail then uses existing trails in Black Mountain Open Space Park (City of San Diego) and Lusardi Preserve (County) to the north end of Lusardi Preserve near Artesian Road where the trail connects to the new (2021) segment of the Santa Fe Valley CTC trail

### **Gap 4: Bandy Canyon Trail staging area at Highway 78 to Boden Canyon**

**Miles:** approximately 4.2 miles

**Status:** Concept Route

**Jurisdiction:** City of San Diego

**Description:** Gap starts at the Bandy Canyon Trail staging area at Highway 78 and ends at Boden Canyon at 78. The JPA has done field reconnaissance through the area, which includes crossing Hwy 78. Trail route would pass along the edge of avocado groves leased on land owned by the City of San Diego and pass by Clevenger Canyon to reach Boden Canyon. Issues include crossing 78 (either under the existing highway bridge or possibly over with combination wildlife overcrossing), agriculture interface, and steep topography near Clevenger Canyon. Engineering studies, funding, and permits needed. The JPA is looking for grant opportunities to fund design and construction of this gap. In 2009, the

## SAN DIEGUITO RIVER PARK TRAILS MANAGEMENT PLAN AND STANDARDS

Conservancy conducted a feasibility study for a one mile stretch of trail from Clevenger Canyon to Boden at 78. Construction timeline is unknown.

### Gap 5: Lake Sutherland to Santa Ysabel West

**Miles:** approximately **8.3 miles**

**Status:** Concept Route

Jurisdictions: Cleveland National Forest, City of San Diego Public Utilities, Mesa Grande Reservation

Description: This gap includes several pieces including extending the Upper SY Truck Trail at Black Canyon Road to Lake Sutherland along land owned by the US Forest Service and continuing the trail along Lake Sutherland on City-owned property, and then east to the JPA-owned property through the Santa Ysabel Gorge. The JPA is pursuing grants for planning, permits, and engineering design for this segment.

After crossing Santa Ysabel Gorge, the trail must cross a short section of land in the Mesa Grande Indian Reservation. The JPA has been consulting with all involved jurisdictions regarding potential trail routes. Field reconnaissance, environmental analysis, and engineering are necessary to define feasible trail routes including crossing Santa Ysabel Creek and several smaller drainages. The trail would connect to the existing CTC Trail on the Santa Ysabel West Open Space Preserve. The JPA has consulted with all parties for this gap, but trail design, environmental analysis, and permitting are not yet funded. Construction timeline is unknown.

### Gap 6: Santa Ysabel West to Santa Ysabel East Preserve

**Miles:** approximately **2.3 miles**

**Status:** Alignment PlannedJurisdiction: County of San Diego

Description: This segment continues the trail on SY West Preserve to the east on the Preserve property (following a ranch road identified in the SY West HMP) and then crosses through property purchased by the County in 2017 to connect to the SY East Preserve. The JPA will coordinate this segment with County Parks staff for approval of trail connection to the two preserves. Construction timeline is unknown.

### Gap 7: Santa Ysabel East Preserve to Volcan Mountain

**Miles:** approximately **1 Mile**

**Status:** Concept Route

Jurisdiction: County of San Diego

Description: A connection is required between the east end of the trail on the SY East Preserve to the Volcan Mountain trailhead on Farmer Road.