



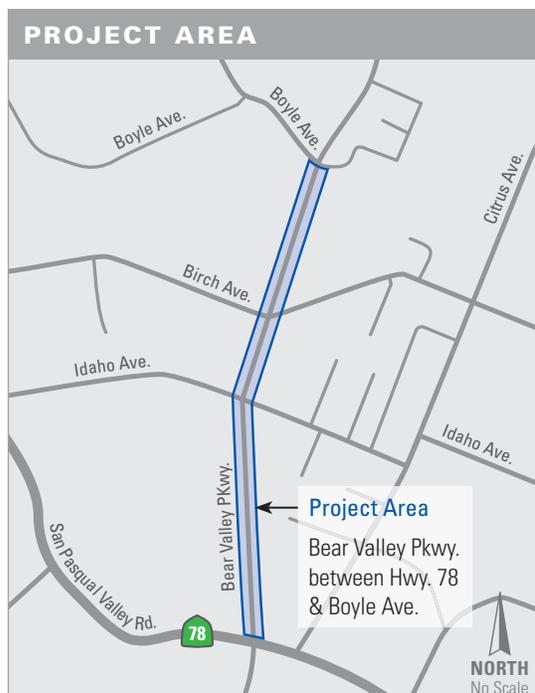
What's the Scoop on Excavation?

Construction crews are moving westward in August as they prepare for new roadway installations. They will be removing the old roadway and rough grading from SR 78 to Suburban Avenue. During this construction, pedestrians can use the designated walkway on the east side of Bear Valley Parkway.

The major activity in roadway preparation is excavation to remove dirt. Crews have special inspectors who monitor the excavation and are trained to identify anything that looks hazardous, or culturally or biologically significant. Inspectors also ensure quality and safety by testing materials being used in the construction process, like cement and soil. To guarantee material quality and safety for the public, crews must consider the following:

- › **Demolition:** This involves breaking up and removing the current roadway. Crews must be careful because roadway materials can contain unexpected elements or uncover new challenges.
- › **Rough Grading:** This includes flattening and compacting the base level of soil to create a stable roadway. It requires multiple phases to ensure the soil settles so that the ultimate paving has a stable foundation.
- › **Dust and Pollution Control:** Crews use mulch, spray waterproof adhesive on hills, and carefully coordinate to prevent strong summer winds from kicking-up dust, which could create breathing and visibility problems.

The process of removing the roadway may look easy—even fun—but crews have tirelessly coordinated and planned for every detail leading up to the excavation, making it more like working with a scalpel than with a machete.



Project Update: Current Construction Activities

This month, construction crews are working on:

- › **Curb and gutter installation** Crews are paving curbs and gutters to frame the roadway from SR 78 Eastward towards Idaho Avenue.
- › **Sidewalk installation:** Crews are installing sidewalks alongside curbs and gutters from SR 78 Eastward towards Idaho Avenue.

- › **Traffic signal poles:** Crews are installing traffic signal poles and lighting at Idaho Avenue to coordinate traffic flow.
- › **Utility relocation:** Crews are continuing to relocate utilities around the project site.

Our construction team is making every effort to protect the safety of the public and its crews while constructing the roadway on Bear Valley Parkway. Please obey traffic signs and respect efforts to make this process run as smoothly as possible during construction.



Meet the Team

County of San Diego
Materials Engineer,
Larry Horsman

Q How did you get involved with the County's Materials Lab ("Lab")?

A I was working in the Capital Improvement Projects Program as a designer and was offered an opportunity to work in the Lab. Working in the Lab



has allowed me a great place to work and a way to contribute to the maintenance and improvement of the County.

Q What materials do you typically test in the Lab for construction projects?

A The most common materials are soil, concrete, and asphalt concrete (AC). We also arrange for special inspections for welding, hazardous materials, specialty concretes, post-tensioning strands (to anchor segments of the roadway together), and provide engineering and design support.

Q Why is Lab testing conducted on construction projects?

A Whenever materials are going in or coming out of the project they should be tested to prove they are good to use in construction or safe for removal. Resident Engineers submit materials to the Lab throughout the project and the Lab also assists with engineering and design edits.

Q What common materials do you tend to find in construction jobs in San Diego?

A Buildings typically have many different materials and systems as opposed to road construction, which normally has fewer individual types of materials. The common materials in both types of construction are soil, rock, concrete, asphalt, metals, and plastics.

Q How do you determine the quality of materials you test in the Lab?

A Measures of quality include strength, durability, color, texture, uniformity, and conformance to industry standard tests. This verifies that materials and construction practices have the physical and chemical properties we need.

Q What do you do in your spare time?

A I like to travel and see how other people adapt to their place, time, and constraints to provide facilities and services that benefit the public.

The County tests materials on Bear Valley Parkway for quality, but it is also vigilant about protecting cultural resources. The Luiseño Native American Nation, who once populated 50 villages across North San Diego and Riverside counties, is composed of seven federally-recognized tribes – La Jolla, Pala, Pauma, Pechanga, Rincon, Soboba, and Twenty-Nine Palms. During preparation of the Environmental Impact Report for the project, extensive cultural and archaeological records research was performed. In addition, an intensive site field survey was conducted in conjunction with the Native American Heritage Commission.

Did
You
Know