



Planting for the Future

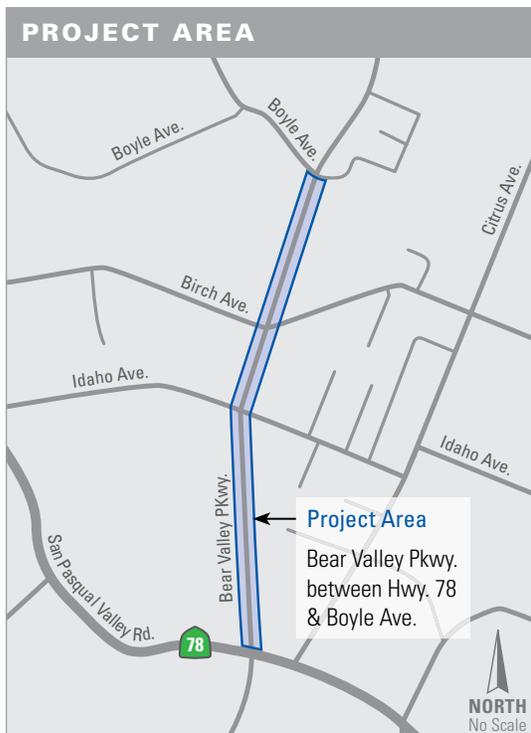
Earth Day is in April, so this month we focus on all things land, from identifying environmental impacts to securing right-of-way agreements to how land uses change over time. Our feature story is on mitigating impacts to protect native plants and habitats before, during, and after a project.

Before starting construction, the County conducted an environmental analysis to prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR). This analysis determines what natural resources the project could impact. In California, if a project creates *significant* impacts, it must include plans to *mitigate* those impacts. Mitigation can take several forms, including paying for the resource that was removed, purchasing land to protect in exchange for land that is being developed, and creating protection programs to watch and care for impacted species. These strategies can apply to soil, trees and plants, animal habitats, and other natural resources.

In the Bear Valley Parkway North Widening Project's EIR, the County identified potential plant and natural resource impacts and the following mitigation:

- > **Southern Coast Live Oak Riparian Forest:** The County will re-soil and re-vegetate a Live Oak area that is adjacent to the project site and *twice* its size.
- > **Channels/Floodways:** The County has identified non-vegetated seasonal waterways that will be impacted. It will mitigate these impacts by establishing an equal-size floodway habitat area adjacent to the project site and re-vegetating the habitat perimeter with native plant species.
- > **Wetlands:** The County will develop and monitor a wetland space for native plant and animal species adjacent to the south-end of the project area that is *twice* the size of the impacted wetland area.

Additionally, during construction crews work closely with on-site wildlife biologists, archaeologists, and ecologists to ensure that native plants and animals are protected. By protecting the environment, every day is Earth Day on the Bear Valley Parkway North Widening Project.



Project Update: Current Construction Activities

During the month of April, construction crews are working on several activities, including:

- › Grading and paving the northbound roadway between Birch Road and Idaho Avenue, which involves these steps:
 - ♦ Rough-grade: This is the first part of the grading process that will level and fill in the foundation of the road in preparation for fine grading.
 - ♦ Fine-grade: This is the second part of the grading process that will create the final grade layer that is ready for the paving process.
- ♦ Base-pave: This is the first part of the paving process that creates a layer of loose gravel texture on the graded roadway in preparation for the surface paving level. (Please note final paving will be done as part of final project completion).
- › Installing curbs and gutters on the northbound side of Bear Valley Parkway from Birch Road to Idaho Avenue. These improvements will direct storm water away from homes and protect the road from erosion.
- › Installing piles of rock (referred to as "riprap" in construction terms) around box culverts on the east side of Bear Valley Parkway. Crews will install these piles around box culverts to protect the soil and prevent water erosion.



- › Coordinating with San Diego Gas and Electric to prepare for the installation of 16" gas line on the east side of Bear Valley Parkway.

The County of San Diego thanks you for your patience during construction. Please call (760) 630-ROAD if you have questions.

Meet the Team

Senior Real Property Agent, Kathleen Hider

Q What is your role on the project?

A As the Senior Real Property Agent for the Department of Public Works Capital Improvement Projects, I am the point of contact in coordinating between the department and the County's Real Estate



Services Section regarding right of way needs. During the beginning phase of the project I contact property owners for permission to enter their property if environmental or engineering surveys are needed. In the acquisition phase, the Real Estate Services Section acquires property necessary for project construction. During construction, I respond to right of way issues that may arise from private property owners, utility companies, or other public agencies.

Q What other projects have you worked on prior to the Bear Valley Parkway North Widening Project?

A Projects range in size from major road widening projects, Sanitation District projects for wastewater management, flood control improvement projects, storm drain culvert repair, and sidewalk construction.

Q What is your favorite part of your job?

A Seeing all the parts come together, from planning phase to finish, and the completion of a project that benefits the public.

Q What is one important thing you would like people to remember about public improvement projects in their area?

A The County places high importance on working with individuals and the community as a whole to listen to their concerns, and whenever possible, to balance that with the public project construction.

Q What do you like to do in your spare time?

A My family and I like to hike, both in the local backcountry and in the Sierras, when we get the chance. I also enjoy gardening, and have quite a few roses around the house.

The project site area along Bear Valley Parkway wasn't always a residential area. In the 1930s, the roadside was lined with orchards and orange groves. Most of the development along Bear Valley Parkway occurred from the 1960s to the 1980s. By 1991, there was only one orange grove left, between Birch Road and Idaho Avenue.

Did
You
Know