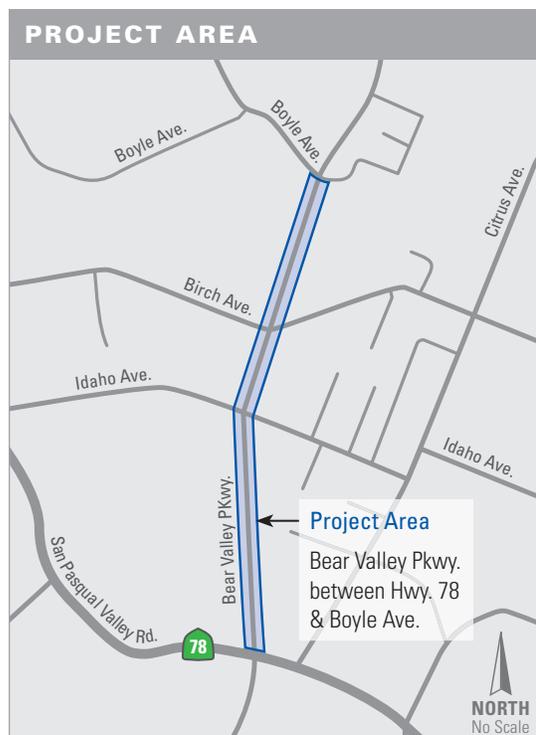




Protecting the environment during construction



Today, construction projects can start only after a rigorous environmental review process is completed. In California, this process is governed by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), a statute that requires state and local agencies to identify any significant environmental impacts proposed projects may have and the ways to mitigate these impacts, if feasible. CEQA was established in response to the passage of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in 1969 to enhance and protect the environment.

Prior to construction starting, an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is prepared. The overall purpose of an EIR is to inform the public and decision-makers about a project's potential environmental impacts, how to minimize or avoid these impacts and reasonable alternatives to the project. In 2010, an EIR was prepared for the Bear Valley Parkway North Widening Project. Its environmental mitigation measures include:

- › Controlling hazardous waste and materials
- › Surveying all structures that were scheduled to be demolished for asbestos and determining whether onsite abatement was necessary for materials when asbestos was found
- › Checking for residual pesticides with soil samples prior to demolition and grading work
- › Designing a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan for construction
- › Providing protective fencing and re-vegetating natural habitat areas

These mitigation measures help to protect the environment surrounding Bear Valley Parkway during and after construction. Once construction is complete motorists, bicyclists and pedestrians will be able to experience an improved roadway in a healthy environment.

Project Overview: Construction activities update

Crews have had a busy start to the New Year on Bear Valley Parkway to build you an improved roadway. Current construction activities are:

- Excavation for the storm drain mainline and construction concrete storm drain structures, including a box culvert north of Birch Avenue is continuing. These structures will allow water to flow under the roadway and help improve drainage on the new roadway.
- Installation of water laterals continues. These lateral pipes will deliver water from the new 24" polyvinyl chloride mainline pipe to each home and business in the project area along Bear Valley Parkway from SR 78 to just north of Boyle Avenue.
- Excavation and installation of the 16" gas mainline pipe and electric, cable and phone utilities underground is underway south of Idaho Avenue. Installation is anticipated to be complete at the end of January.
- Earthwork such as building and leveling slopes continues along



Installing gas transmissions pipe

Bear Valley Parkway to create the foundation for the new roadway.

Please call the project information line at (760) 630-ROAD if you have questions.

Meet the Team County of San Diego Environmental Services Unit, Land Use/Environmental Planner III, Sue Waters

Q What is your role on the project?

A I am part of a team at the Department of Public Works Environmental Services Unit. Our unit primarily functions as environmental representatives and facilitators for the project. We prepared the project's environmental document pursuant to



Land Use/Environmental Planner, Sue Waters

the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and obtained permits from various environmental resource agencies before the construction began. I have worked on the project since 2010. Currently, I am a consultant to the project management team on all environmental issues during construction. I am also responsible for the management and maintenance of the project's off-site mitigation area.

Q What is your favorite part of your job?

A Being part of a team to efficiently manage and complete a project from its beginning stages to completion. I also enjoy performing mitigation management tasks throughout the County related to habitat creation and restoration projects.

Q What are some environmental features or habitats unique to the area surrounding Bear Valley Parkway?

A There were eight vegetation communities within the study area for the project.

The majority of the study area was already urban and developed. The most unique vegetation community is located near the intersection of Bear Valley Parkway and San Pasqual Valley Road (SR-78). This area supports southern coast live oak riparian forest habitat and an unnamed tributary, which provides important connectivity to Lake Hodges downstream.

Q Why is it important that construction projects include environmental mitigation aspects?

A Besides the obvious answer of "we are required to adhere to relevant local, state, and federal guidelines," I believe it is imperative to design our projects to minimize and avoid impacting the environment. When we do that it is a win-win. We are stewards to guide the project to completion, adhere to our permit conditions and deliver a finished product for the public.

Constructing a center median is a part of the improved Bear Valley Parkway

A center median is a traffic-calming feature. Center medians cause vehicles to reduce their speeds and also make crossing a street much easier for pedestrians. They allow pedestrians to cross one direction of traffic at a time. Pedestrians can focus on crossing just two or three lanes, and are provided with a place to stop and rest in the middle so they don't have to cross the entire width of the road at one time. According to the U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration, medians and pedestrian crossing islands may reduce pedestrian accidents by 46 percent and motor vehicles accidents by 39 percent.

Did
You
Know