



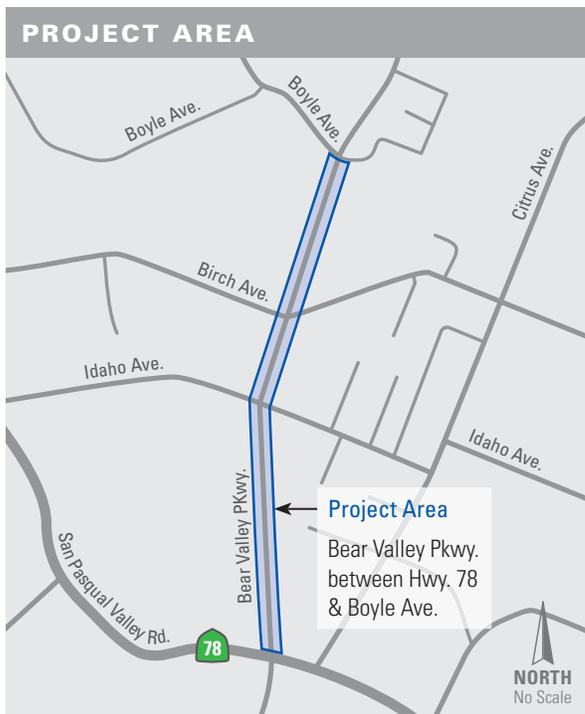
# Planting on the Parkway

September has arrived! School is starting, summer is ending, and work on Bear Valley Parkway is wrapping up. Crews have completed paving and striping the new roadway. Now, they are walking the project site to identify any final details to address and completing the plant establishment process in landscaped areas. This process ensures new native plants are supported until they are much more self-sufficient and require minimal watering to thrive.

The plant establishment over the next 120 days will include:

- › **Planting:** Crews have already completed most planting on Bear Valley Parkway. They will finish planting in the roadway medians and along slopes bordering some residences in September.
- › **Adjusting Irrigation:** Crews are adjusting the irrigation sprinklers in landscaped areas to efficiently spray shrubs and trees and avoid overspraying. Once crews have adjusted the water pressure to spray efficiently, they will regularly water plants for 120 days until they are officially "established" and deemed healthy enough for the County to reduce watering.
- › **Hydroseeding Slopes:** In October, crews will hydroseed slopes on the alignment with a grass seed fertilizer mixture that will plant grass on bare slopes to provide ground cover. Hydroseeding is scheduled in October due to cooler weather so that grass seed will germinate and grow.

By the end of September, plants will be well on their way to a successful future, just in time for a ribbon-cutting ceremony to officially open the project to full use.



## Project Update: Current Construction

**In September, crews are:**

- › **Monitoring Dormant Shrubs:** Crews are continuing to monitor shrubs along slopes and landscaped medians to ensure shrubs planted earlier in the summer are getting enough water to successfully become self-sufficient enough to reduce regular watering.
- › **Adjusting Signal Timing:** Crews are adjusting traffic sensors on newly-installed “smart” traffic light signals so they respond and actively help to manage traffic flows.
- › **Continuing SWPPP:** Crews are continuing to monitor the storm water pollution prevention plan that has been maintained by the County for the entirety of the project, until the end of the 120-day plant establishment period.
- › **Final Walk-Through:** The County and the contractor will walk the project site together at the end of September and review every aspect of the completed project to ensure quality construction and approval.



*Crews adjusting irrigation sprinkler heads*

## Meet the Team

**LaSalle Solutions**  
**Landscape Inspector,**  
**Tracy Wankner**

**Q** What is the best part of your job?

**A** I absolutely love being an integral part of the project’s quality assurance, especially as the project transitions into



*Landscape Inspector, Tracy Wankner*

the plant establishment phase. The landscaping (i.e. trees, plants, flowers, mulch, and hydroseed) are, in many ways, the icing on the cake. The road performs and looks its best immediately after construction. In contrast, the landscape grows and matures, becoming more and more beautiful with each passing year. The landscape is truly seen. Often times, it’s what is remembered - I love that!

**Q** How will the care and maintenance of landscaping change as plants develop?

**A** During maintenance, the plant and tree watering will be determined based on the time of year, time of day, temperature and slope aspect. The project’s Irrigation Controller has a rain sensor that will turn the system off in rain events. In two years’ time, the shrubs will need little to no supplemental watering as they are California natives. As the California native plants mature and acclimate, they will prefer receiving little to no water

during the summer months as well.

**Q** What is something important that you would like people to remember about the native plants here?

**A** California native plants are moody. They don’t like the summertime. During summer, they are dormant, or sleeping. Their active growing season is fall because they love when the temperatures cool, the days get shorter and the rainfall begins. Once spring comes, there will be beautiful blooms of red, purple, and white all along the roadway.

**Q** What do you like to do in your free time?

**A** In my free time, I’ve planted my own garden. Over 10 years in the industry, and I can now say I’m a gardener. I grow seven varieties of tomatoes, veggies, herbs and have all kinds of yellow flowers everywhere.

This summer, you may see some plants that look like they are dying on the project site. These plants are drought-tolerant, native species to the region. These plants are dormant in the hot summer months, conserving their energy for the cooler, wetter winter months. If you are driving along Bear Valley Parkway and see plants that look dormant, look for these plants to thrive in the coming winter season.

**Did You Know**