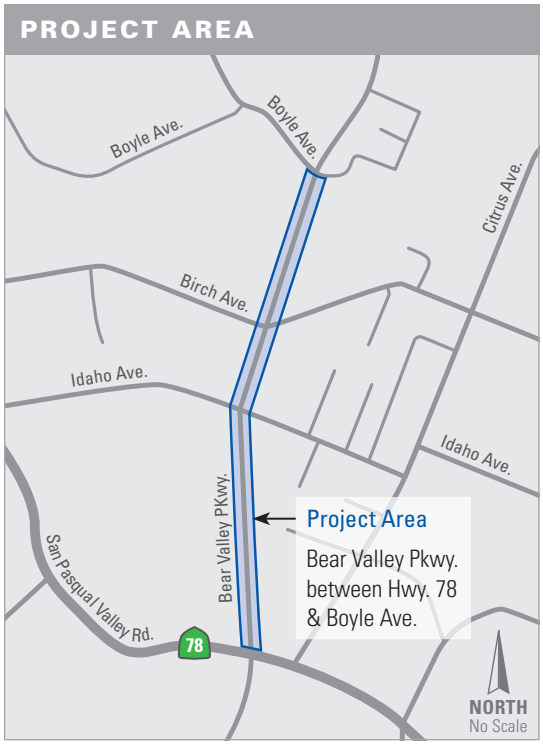
Bear Valley Parkway North Widening Project

March 2015 Project Update

Planning for a Rainy Day



March started with much needed rain. Although we need the rain, storms can flood project areas, undo days of progress, and carry soil and contaminants downstream. To protect our natural waterways, the Bear Valley Parkway North Widening Project has a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP). The purpose of the SWPPP is to prevent water runoff from carrying pollutants and sediment into storm drains and out to sensitive waterways within a watershed.

The project's SWPPP defines best management practices before, during, and after construction to minimize runoff. Its strategies include:

- **Silt Fences:** These temporary fences are a fine mesh and placed in the path of flowing water to catch sediment and reduce soil erosion while letting water flow through.
- **Hydro Mulching:** This mixture of water, fiber mulch, and fertilizer is sprayed on slope areas to build up soil and prevent erosion of the soil into the storm water system.
- **Box Culverts:** These concrete structures capture and direct water flow under a bridge or road, which prevent soil erosion and promotes a healthy ecosystem.
- **Sampling and Analysis Plan:** This document describes the sample collection, handling, and analysis process used at the project site to ensure consistent monitoring.
- **Storm Water Annual Report:** This document reports improvements made to the storm water infrastructure and is submitted to the state, as it monitors maintenance to the storm water system.

In the happy event of getting much needed rain, our crews are ready to ensure that the resulting storm water will be controlled around the project site to prevent pollution from entering the area's rivers and streams.

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Project Update: Current Construction Activities

In addition to controlling storm water runoff, crews are working on:

- Excavating and building concrete structures such as box culverts north of Birch Avenue. This work will control storm water runoff and prevent water from pooling in construction areas during the project.
- Building curb inlets across the project site. These curbs will direct water into storm drains and prevent street flooding.
- Base paving Birch Road to Boyle Avenue. Paving is a 3-step process, and base paving is the second step—it is added after the foundation paving and before the surface paving. This process ensures the road stays level and will not crack for decades.
- Installing street light conduits north of Birch Road. These electrical conduits make it easy to install streetlights after all the utility lines are paved over.
- Pouring cement to create curbs, gutters, and sidewalks on either side of Birch Road.

Installing one of the Project's box culverts

- Building and leveling slopes along Bear Valley Parkway to establish the foundation for the new roadway.

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

Meet the Team

County of San Diego Senior Civil Engineer (Design), Robert Torres, P.E.

Q What is your role on the project?

A I am the Senior Civil Engineer. I oversee all elements of the design.

Q What do you like about your job?

Senior Civil Engineer, Robert Torres, P.E.

A I like the level of responsibility and the challenge of coordinating all of the design elements. These challenges are rewarding because I have been involved with every aspect of the project's design—either reviewing, approving or designing.

Q What are some design challenges that you have faced on this project?

A Utilities coordination is a challenge. In this road, there are two (2) 48" San Diego County Water Authority lines, one (1)16" 800 psi Gas Main, one (1) 27" Escondido water line, plus electrical, telephone, and cable lines, all of which need to be relocated while not damaging the existing ones so service is maintained and the road kept open.

Q What is a design feature you would like people to know more about?

A The maintaining of the existing utilities and how we incorporated that into the design of their new locations. Also, undergrounding overhead electrical lines will result in a much more aesthetically pleasing roadway.

Q Why is a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) so important for this project?

A We need to be sure we are doing our part in keeping our waterways healthy. When I look at the health of the local lagoons in the San Diego Area today compared to what they looked like 20 years ago, I recognize that these Storm Water BMPs are working and makes me proud to know that I am part of these improvements with how I incorporate the Stormwater BMPs into my projects.

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

A In my spare time I raise my three lovely children Sophia, Parker, and Layla with my beautiful wife Niki. I also like to surf, play and coach soccer, and play music in a rock and roll blues band with my dad and our friends.

Question of the Month

What is a watershed and which watershed is Bear Valley Parkway Project in?

A watershed is an area of land where all of the water that is under it or drains off it goes into the same place. Bear Valley Parkway lies in two San Diego watersheds—The San Dieguito and the Carlsbad watersheds—and water flows through this area downstream to the San Dieguito Lagoon in Solana Beach before flowing into the Pacific Ocean. By developing a plan to prevent storm water runoff, the County is not only protecting the project site and community from environmental damage, but is also protecting the environment downstream, all the way to the Pacific Ocean.