COMMUNITY TRAILS MASTER PLAN (CTMP)
ROUTE STUDY

Both existing and proposed trail and pathway locations in San Diego County cross a
myriad of terrain, land uses, climate and vegetation zones as well as private and public
property, all of which will impact new trail development or improvements.

In general, there are several suggested steps, which will be considered in determining
the location of new trails or trail systems. The first step is to examine the most recent
topographic maps and aerial photos of the area to identify significant landforms,
drainage patterns, existing trails or dirt roads, and vegetation. The next step, for which
there is no substitute, is to walk the area for reconnaissance purposes and to apply
established trail guidelines. The reconnaissance process will include a systematic study
of the area that will identify and evaluate proposed and alternative trail routes. The final
selection of the best possible route will attempt to meet the established objective for
that trail or trail system. The application of established trail design guidelines and the
design and locational criteria (Appendix G of the CTMP) will avoid potential
environmental impacts and will help minimize future trail operation and maintenance
problems.

When an application for a discretionary development permit is submitted for land that
includes a trail corridor, the specific location of a proposed trail within the trail corridor
would be determined based on a “route study”. The route study could be as simple as
the developer meeting with County staff and agreeing to a specific trail alignment.
However, depending on site conditions or based on the steps described above, a more
detailed study may be required. The proposed alignment would be incorporated into the
development plans that include the site plan, grading and improvement plans. Below is
an outline of what information may be included in a more detailed route study for a
development project:

1. Natural Features
2. Opportunities and Constraints
3. (based on other technical studies prepared by applicant for overall project,
   including biological and cultural, soils and topography)
4. On-site and/or off-site existing or future connections
5. Alternative Trail Routes
6. Recommended Trail Route
   a. Consistency with CTMP
   b. Consistency with CTMP Design Guidelines
   c. ADA Access (if appropriate)
7. Trail Cross-sections