



San Diego County  
Water Authority

# Mission Trails Project

## FACT SHEET

The Mission Trails Project is a major component of the Water Authority's long-term capital improvement program to meet the region's water supply needs through 2030.

The Water Authority is a public agency serving the San Diego region as a wholesale supplier of water. The Water Authority works through its 24 member agencies to provide a safe, reliable water supply to support the region's \$171 billion economy and the quality of life of more than 3 million residents.

The San Diego County Water Authority is upgrading and expanding a portion of its untreated water delivery infrastructure in Mission Trails Regional Park. When complete, a new pipeline tunnel and flow regulatory structure will improve pipeline operations and help ensure a safe and reliable water supply for San Diego County.

### Improving Pipeline Operations

The Mission Trails Project is an important water reliability project that will increase the amount of water delivered to treatment plants serving the central and south sections of the county. Construction began in October 2008 and is scheduled to be completed by 2013. The project has several key components including:

- Construction of a pipeline tunnel
- Construction of a flow regulatory structure
- Demolition of the blue vent stacks in the park
- Construction of a stabilized river crossing at the San Diego River

### Pipeline Tunnel

Two existing untreated water pipeline sections will be replaced by two larger sections that will be able to carry more water. The north tunnel portal will be located just south of State Route 52 (see map). The south tunnel will connect Flow Regulatory Structure II to existing pipelines to the south. Most of the new sections of pipeline will be constructed within tunnels, reducing impacts to the park and neighboring Tierrasanta homes. Pipeline construction is scheduled from October 2008 through summer 2011.

### Flow Regulatory Structure II

A flow regulatory structure, or covered water tank, will be constructed to adjust flows in two untreated water pipelines. It is similar in size and function to the first flow regulatory structure built



in the same area of the park in the mid-1990s. The new underground tank will contain up to 12 million gallons of water. An access building will be constructed above ground for maintenance and operation purposes. Flow regulatory structure construction is anticipated to begin in mid-2011 and last approximately two years.

### Stabilized River Crossing

A stabilized at-grade crossing will be constructed at the existing unimproved San Diego

River crossing to allow Water Authority, park ranger, fire, police, and emergency vehicles to safely cross the river during normal water flows. Construction of this component is scheduled to begin late 2009.

**Vent Demolition**

When the new facilities are complete in 2013, the Water Authority will remove the existing above-ground blue vent stacks that are visible on hilltops in the park, as they will no longer be necessary. The two tallest vents will be replaced with two smaller concrete structures.

**Environment Considerations**

An environmental analysis of the project was conducted, and the report was approved in August 2006 by the Water Authority's board of directors. The studies evaluated traffic, noise, air quality, biology, and other environmental issues related to the construction and operation of the facilities.

The Water Authority will follow the measures identified in the report to avoid or minimize impacts to the park and the surrounding neighborhoods. In addition, the Water Authority will implement a comprehensive revegetation/habitat restoration plan that will include planning, design, construction/installation, and monitoring and maintenance.

**Involving the Community**

Mission Trails Regional Park spans nearly 5,800 acres and provides recreational enjoyment for hikers, joggers, bikers, equestrians, and nature enthusiasts. The Water Authority is committed to reducing the impact of construction to the greatest extent possible and is taking a proactive approach to informing park users and neighboring communities about the project.

Regular project updates are provided to neighboring community planning and advisory groups, including the Tierrasanta Community Council, San Carlos Area Council, Navajo Community Planners, and the Mission Trails Regional Park Citizens' Advisory Committee and Task Force. The Water Authority works closely with the park rangers and emails regular project updates to interested stakeholders.



*New facilities will eliminate the need for most of the blue vent stacks on hilltops in Mission Trails Regional Park.*

**For More Information**

Please call the toll-free project information line at (877) 682-9283, ext. 7004 for more information and to sign up to receive electronic project updates. You may also visit <http://missiontrails.sdcwa.org> or send an email to [CIPinfo@sdca.org](mailto:CIPinfo@sdca.org). Your inquiry will be returned within one business day.



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