

MT Working Group Meeting Summary

MISSION TRAILS PROJECT WORKING GROUP MEETING SUMMARY

DATE: May 19, 2005	TIME: 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
ORGANIZATION:	Mission Trails Project Working Group
MEETING LOCATION:	San Diego County Water Authority, Library Conference Room
PRESENTERS:	Gina Molise, San Diego County Water Authority Habib Hariri, San Diego County Water Authority
STAFF RESOURCES:	San Diego County Water Authority: Tad Brierton, Craig Balben and Gina Molise Katz & Associates: Patricia Tennyson and Jill Pasqualetto
PRESENTATION SUMMARY:	Discussion of the need for the Mission Trails Project and defining the project.

Mission Trails Project Working Group Members

Bob Frain, DePortola Middle School (alternate)
Brent Eidson, Navajo Community Planners, MTRP Citizens' Advisory Committee
David Oates, Tierrasanta Community Council (alternate)
Don Steele, MTRP Foundation
Donovan Geiger, Tierrasanta Community Council
Everett Neuman, San Diego Mountain Bike Association
Fiona Pallag, Belsera Homeowners' Association
John Pilch, San Carlos Are Council, MTRP Citizens' Advisory Committee

Absent:

Listy Gillingham, DePortola Middle School
Tracey Walker, Mission Trails Regional Park, MTRP Citizens' Advisory Committee

Welcome/Introductions

Gina Molise of the Water Authority welcomed the Mission Trails Project Working Group members and thanked them for participating. Meeting facilitator Patricia Tennyson, of Katz & Associates, reviewed the goals and purpose of the working group, including the desired outcome: a list of community issues and concerns about the project and a priority listing of ways the Water Authority might address them.

Presentation Summary

Habib Hariri, project manager for the Mission Trails Project, used a Power Point presentation to describe:

- The Water Authority's role as the regional water wholesaler
- The \$3.2 billion Capital Improvement Program
- Purpose of the Mission Trails Project
 - o Flow regulatory structure

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- Pipeline tunnel
- Vent demolition
- Possible trail crossing at San Diego River
- Project parameters
- Anticipated project timeline
- The environmental process

Questions, Answers and Comments

Key: Q = question A = answer C = comment

- Q 1: Are you working with Poseidon on the seawater desalination facility in Carlsbad?
- A: Yes, the Water Authority is currently discussing the proposed project with the city of Carlsbad and Poseidon.
- C 1: When I worked for the staff of Mission Trails Regional Park, it was always a pleasure working with the Water Authority staff.
- Q 2: How common is it for the member agencies to not use all of the water they order?
- A: It happens from time to time when an agency's need for water changes unexpectedly.
- Q 3: Is the flow regulatory structure a check valve?
- A: Yes, that is one of the functions of the flow regulatory structure.
- Q 4: How far would the new flow regulatory structure be from the existing flow regulatory structure?
- A: There are a few options for locating the new FRS; one choice is about 500 feet from the existing structure.
- Q 5: Does the Water Authority need to obtain a right of way easement from the city of San Diego?
- A: Yes, the Water Authority will need to obtain an easement, but that will happen later in the design process.
- C 2: Mission Trails Regional Park would be happy to work with the Water Authority to build an Arizona crossing over the San Diego River. It would be an improvement to the park.
- C 3: A big issue in the past was your contractors and sub-contractors who actually construct the project. The Water Authority needs to keep them in the loop.
- Q 6: Does the Water Authority certify its own Environmental Impact Report?
- A: Yes, our board of directors certifies our EIRs.
- C 4: Please make sure the Water Authority works with the Mission Trails Regional Park staff to post updates on the park's Web site. Sometimes people think we are drilling for oil or something when they see this type of activity in the park.
- Q 7: Where are the geotechnical contractors planning to enter the park?
- A: They will be using an entrance on Calle de Vida in Tierrasanta.

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Q 8: Why are they not using Clairemont Mesa Rd.?

A: The access route via Calle de Vida is not as steep.

C 5: Mission Trails Regional Park is currently trying to obtain a grant to conduct cultural and biological surveys. I am sure Ranger Tracey Walker, Mission Trails Regional Park, would appreciate copies of the Water Authority's cultural and biological surveys if possible.

Q 9: How long did it take to build the first flow regulatory structure?

A: I will investigate this question further.

Q 10: Will the tunnel be a straight bore?

A: Yes, a single tunnel will be excavated for the new pipeline, but there will be some surface construction, known as cut and cover or open trench construction, where the pipeline connects to the existing pipelines and the new flow regulatory structure.

Q 11: What will the Water Authority do with the excavated materials?

A: The Water Authority is still investigating the possibilities. One idea is that Mission Trails Regional Park can use the fill in areas of the park. The Water Authority will evaluate several options.

C 6: When you conduct your sub-surface grading, if you find any cultural artifacts the San Diego Archeological Center can curate the artifacts.

Q 12: What about unexploded ordnance left over from military exercises when the park was a military base?

A: The Water Authority is working with the Army Corps of Engineers, which has surveyed the park for unexploded ordnance. Also, our contractors will do additional surveys.

Q 13: What kind of opposition have you heard for this project?

A: The Water Authority has not heard of any opposition, only concerns and questions related to project impacts.

C 7: I am concerned that the equipment will disturb the berm.

Q 14: What will the truck traffic be like?

A: I do not have an answer for you at this time. It is hard to determine the level of truck traffic until we have a more detailed project design. I hope to have a better answer for you at future meetings.

Discussion on community concerns about the Mission Trails Project

Patsy Tennyson facilitated the discussion of community issues and concerns related to the project. To begin this discussion, she reviewed a list of community concerns related to construction and operation of the Mission Trails Project that the Water Authority had collected during earlier community outreach presentations:

Construction

- Work hours
- Noise

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- Night-time lighting
- Tunnel blasting
- Public use of access road
- Security
- Excavated materials
 - Truck traffic
 - Potential to use in the park
- Flow Regulatory Structure architecture
 - Height
 - Fence
 - Style
- Re-vegetation after construction

Operation

- Security
- Disturbance from safety lighting
- Hours of operation
- Vegetation maintenance
- Earthquake safety

Members of the Mission Trails Working Group identified the following issues and concerns at the Mission Trails Working Group meeting on May 19, 2005:

- Frequency of visits to facility and types of vehicles going to facility
- Trails – effect on trails for those who walk, ride or walk their dogs along them
- Notifying visitors to the park about construction
- Curation of historical and cultural resources
- Heavy equipment on Clairemont Mesa Blvd.
- Interrupting school traffic – 8:30 am to 9 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. @ DePortola Middle School
- Dust
- Access to project at Jackson Dr. staging area (potential damage to historic flume)
- Staging area for vehicles and equipment (overnight?) and impact on public areas
- Will there be storage of explosives? Where?
- Potential for soil contamination at staging areas from leaking trucks
- Contact people for community to call if there is a problem during construction and operation
- Repair of roadways and how long repairs will take - the condition of the finished repair and the attitude of the contractor being asked or required to make the repair
- Potential for damage of Belsera property
- Air quality and effect on students who are often outside
- Noise – how close will construction noise be to schools in the area; excessive noise will be a distraction during testing periods at schools?
- Will seismometers be used for/during blasting?
- Water runoff containment in disturbed areas

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- Will there be a hotline for blasting damage or potential claims; will there be a number to call to get a schedule of blasting?
- Will the site be secured on weekends (children play in the area)?
- What is the width of construction equipment and will it require neighborhood vehicles to be moved?
- Do San Diego Police Department or Fire Rescue have concerns (graffiti, etc.)?
- What is the weight of construction vehicles/trucks that might be using Calle de Vida?
- Fire plans – what is the evacuation plan for equipment or personnel in case of an emergency?

Working Group members also identified some potential ways to address these issues and concerns:

- Post a daily update at the park kiosk with a list of trails closed on that day
- Post signage in the park regarding closed trails, closed access
- Water truck at entry to keep down the dust
- Build new parallel trails to avoid trail closures near project
- Place decomposed granite on some trails as a park improvement
- Establish a hotline for blasting damage or potential claims, as well as a number to call for schedule of blasting

Working group members agreed to share this list of concerns with their neighbors and members of various community organizations before the next meeting to ensure that all concerns have been identified. The next task for the group is to develop ideas for addressing the issues and concerns that have been identified. This will be the task at the meeting on June 9, 2005.

Closing

Gina thanked the working group members for their participation. The working group members and the Water Authority decided to meet at the staging area at the end of Clairemont Mesa Blvd., for the tour of the park on Saturday, June 4. The tour will begin at 9 a.m. Gina reminded the group that she will bring a larger site map and a picture of an Arizona river crossing to the next meeting.