

June 14, 2005 MT Working Group Meeting Summary

Follow Up Questions and First Meeting Summary

At the first working group meeting, the members wanted to know how long it took to build the existing flow regulatory structure, or covered water tank, in the early 1990s. Habib Hariri, San Diego County Water Authority Mission Trails project manager, explained that the first flow regulatory structure consisted of a pipeline project and construction of the first flow regulatory structure. The different project components were not separated out so it is difficult to determine what the construction duration was for the first flow regulatory structure. The schedule for the current project is based on that past project schedule.

At the first meeting, working group members asked the Water Authority to research and explain an all-weather "Arizona" river crossing, which is what would be used to cross the San Diego River. At this meeting, Habib passed around a photograph of an Arizona river crossing while he explained the details: instead of dumping more gravel into a riverbed, an Arizona river crossing is built. Basically, it is a concrete pad over the riverbed but it does not impede the flow of the river. The crossing facilitates vehicles, pedestrian, and equestrians in crossing over the river. The Arizona river crossing prevents trucks from getting stuck in mud. Mark Tegio, San Diego County Water Authority environmental project manager, explained that an Arizona river crossing is less detrimental than laying gravel in the riverbed year after year. Don Steele, a member of the working group and a former staff member for Mission Trails Regional Park, commented that park staff prefers that an Arizona river crossing be built in the San Diego River.

The first meeting summary was passed out to the members. Gina asked the members to review the meeting summary and to identify if anything was not adequately captured in the summary.

In reference to Question 10, "Will the tunnel be a straight bore?" from the first meeting summary, Gina asked if this accurately described the intent of the question. The working group members agreed that the intent was captured but Habib wanted to further expand on the answer. Habib explained that outside of a single tunnel option another option is being explored. He stated that two shorter tunnels could be created because it would be easier to haul material out of two shorter tunnels. Habib said the decision most likely would not be made until the end of July. Gina emphasized that this new option is an example of the changing environment in which the project exists. During the planning and design phases, the Water Authority revises and refines project details. Habib further explained value engineering as part of the planning and design phases. He stated this is a process that occurs to identify and introduce cost-efficient and value-added engineering items to the project. Water Authority staff and design teams involve third party people.

Habib also mentioned that the eastern end of Clairemont Mesa Boulevard might be used as a staging area for equipment and for contractor, construction management team, and Water Authority field offices.

Another clarification to the previous meeting summary was in regards to Comment 7, which reads, "I am concerned that the equipment will disturb the berm." Don Steele explained that this was his comment and he was actually referring to the historic flume. A comment regarding the flume has been captured in the list of community concerns.

June 14, 2005 MT Working Group Meeting Summary

Discussion on community concerns about the Mission Trails Project

Patsy facilitated the discussion of community issues and concerns related to the project.

The following is the working list that has been created. Items may be added and/or deleted as the working group continues to work with the Water Authority's project team to prioritize these items.

Community and Park User Issues and Concerns:

Aesthetics

- Flow regulatory structure architecture:
 - Height
 - Fence
 - Style
- Disturbance to homes from safety lighting during facility operation.
- Disturbance to homes from lighting during nighttime construction activities.

Air Quality

- Air quality and the effect on DePortola Middle School students who are often outside during recess and gym.
- Construction dust may affect homes and lifestyles and keep residents from opening windows.

Biological Resources

- Re-vegetation maintenance after construction.
- Brush management during construction activities.

Cultural Resources

- Preservation of historical and cultural resources and artifacts found during construction activities.
- Access to project from Jackson Drive staging area may cause damage to the historic flume.

Hazards and Hazardous Materials

- Security of hazardous materials at project sites.
- Public sharing access road(s) and/or haul route(s).
- Homes and park visitors may be affected if there are not proper facility earthquake safety measures in place.
- Potential storage of explosives and where those explosives would be stored.
- Site security on weekends (children play in the area).
- Will there be a hotline for blasting damage or potential claims; will there be a number to call to get a schedule of blasting?
- Security for construction access.
- Potential for soil contamination at staging areas from truck leakage.

June 14, 2005 MT Working Group Meeting Summary

Hydrology and Water Quality

- Containing water runoff in disturbed/construction areas.

Noise

- Construction noise.
- Tunnel blasting may be heard and felt by park visitors and residents that are close to the blasting area.
- Will schools in the area hear construction noise and activities? Concern that excessive construction noise and activities will be a distraction to students and teachers during school testing periods.
- Night work with back up alarms may cause excessive and unwanted noise.
- Will seismometers be used for/during blasting?

Public Services

- Fire department concerns must be well documented.
- Find out what the San Diego Police Department, and Fire Department and Rescue concerns are regarding this project.

Recreation

- Effect on residents and park visitors who walk, ride, or walk their dogs along the park trails.
- Notifying park visitors about construction.

Transportation and Traffic

- Trucks hauling excavated materials.
- Frequency of visits to the facility and construction site(s) and types of vehicles going to facility and construction site(s).
- Heavy equipment on Clairemont Mesa Blvd.
- Interrupting DePortola Middle School traffic between 8:30 am to 9 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. to 4 p.m.
- Repair of haul routes and access roads and how long those repairs will take.
- Overnight storage of vehicles and equipment at staging areas and impact on public areas.
- Increased traffic impacts to schools - heavy equipment, vehicles, and trucks may slow down residents that run errands.
- Lock park access gates upon each instance of contractor and subcontractor entrance to and exit from the park.
- Width of construction equipment, vehicles, and trucks, and if vehicles parked along public streets will be required to be moved to allow construction equipment, vehicles, and trucks access to the park.
- Weight of construction equipment, vehicles, and trucks that might be using Calle de Vida.
- Disturbance to traffic during construction work hours.
- Disturbance to traffic during hours of operation.

June 14, 2005 MT Working Group Meeting Summary

Other

- Communicate with the Calle de Vida homes that were burned in 2003 in a sensitive way.
- Potential damage to Belsera homes during construction activities.
- Need a Water Authority point of contact.
- Lines of communication – ensure that Water Authority staff are identified for community to call if there is a problem during construction and/or operation activities.

Suggestions for Ways to Address Concerns

Recreation

- Post daily updates of trail closures at the park kiosk during construction
- Post closed trail and no trail access signage in the park during construction
- Build new parallel trails to avoid trail closures near project
- Place decomposed granite on some trails as a park improvement
- Update website with park map, closing hours, phone number of project contact. Allow people to sign-up for website updates.
- Specify that the contractors, subcontractors, and vendors (those that will be accessing the project site/sites) must recognize and abide by established trail etiquette (for example, yield to equestrians)
- Identify alternative routes to closed park trails
- Provide early notice of park trail closures
- Provide excavated material to the park for use within the park (possibly to use for erosion control)

Air Quality

- Have air quality monitors on-site
- Have a water truck at access to park haul route to keep dust to a minimum
- Proactively street sweep immediately adjacent to entry/access points for project

Transportation and Traffic

- Do not allow heavy equipment drop off or pick up during child drop off/pick up hours at local school hours
- Maximize efficiency of vehicles when they have to go to the construction site and/or staging areas – reduce the number of trucks that use public streets
- Block off streets for heavy construction equipment and notify the affected community(ies) in advance if there are street closures.

Noise

- Minimize construction activities before 7 a.m. and after 6 p.m., as well as on weekends
- Establish a hotline for blasting damage or potential claims, as well as a number to call to obtain the blasting schedule

June 14, 2005 MT Working Group Meeting Summary

- Relocate residents (who work at home or stay at home with children) to hotels if there is excessive noise during daytime or nighttime construction activities
- Use dB meters to get a baseline reading of natural and existing noise before construction begins

Hazards and Hazardous Materials

- Ensure contractors know and comply with contract language (speed within park, closing and locking gates)
- Hire a security company to keep the project and staging sites secure during and after construction hours, especially to keep children safe from construction equipment, vehicles, and trucks
- Do not store explosives on-site. Bring explosives on-site only when needed

Public Services

- Provide a water truck for fire suppression

Cultural Resources

- Have a certified archeologist on-site to determine if and recover when historical and/or archaeological artifacts are located during construction activities

Other

- Convey non conforming work hours with as much advanced notice as possible use local newspapers
- Place construction activity notices in council or community newsletters
- Establish a Water Authority website link from the Belsera HOA, community planning groups, Tierrasanta Community Council, and Allied Gardens' HOA websites
- While clearing construction materials, spray water
- Create evacuation plans for equipment or personnel in case of an emergency

Aesthetics

- Minimize the height and sight of aboveground buildings
- Berm any aboveground buildings to minimize visual impact to community and park users.

Working group members agreed to share this list of concerns and potential ways to address these concerns with their neighbors and members of various community organizations before the next meeting. The next task for the group is to prioritize the list of potential ways to address the community concerns.

Closing

Craig Balben, San Diego County Water Authority public affairs representative, thanked the working group members for their participation. Craig introduced himself to the working group and explained he would be the Water Authority contact while Gina Molise is out of town. An updated roster with Craig's information was given to each working group member.