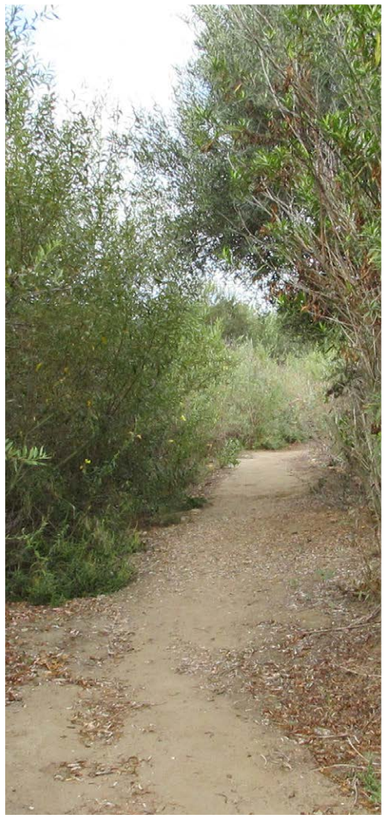






SAN DIEGO RIVER TRAIL

TRAIL ENHANCEMENT PLAN | ESTUARY SEGMENT

THE SAN DIEGO RIVER PARK FOUNDATION

MAY 6TH, 2016

TRAIL ENHANCEMENT PLAN | ESTUARY SEGMENT

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CHAPTER 1 | SAN DIEGO RIVER TRAIL MASTER PLAN

1.1 River Trail Origins & Background

The Estuary Segment of the San Diego River Trail (River Trail) represents the convergence of Pacific Ocean water and fresh water from the San Diego River which results in a flourishing, unique ecosystem. It is the farthest western reach of the River Trail and measures approximately 3.7 miles in length extending from the Pacific Ocean to Sefton Field in Mission Valley. This study focuses specifically on the southern River Trail alignment of the Estuary Segment.

The Estuary Segment of the Trail Enhancement Plan represents the next step in the realization of the San Diego River Park Master Plan (Master Plan). The Master Plan establishes a framework for the implementation of a comprehensive river park system with the primary vision of reclaiming the valley as a common; a synergy of water, wildlife, and people. The Master Plan identifies five principles from which future design and implementation decisions are to be measured. These principles are:

1. Restore and maintain a healthy river system.
2. Unify fragmented lands and habitats.
3. Create a connected continuum, with a sequence of unique places and experiences.
4. Reveal the river valley history.
5. Reorient development toward the river to create value and opportunities for people to embrace the river.

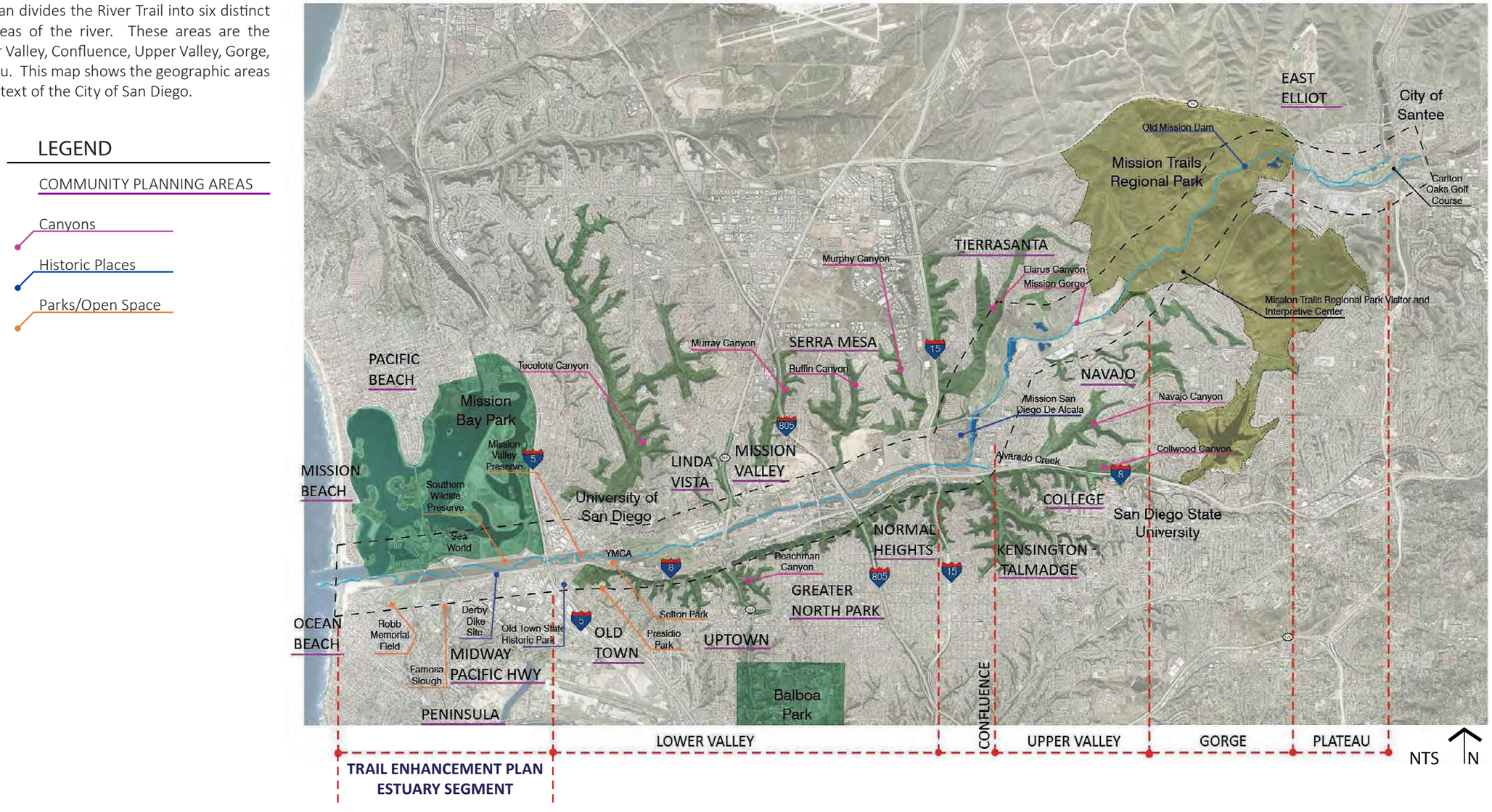


The Master Plan provides further recommendations for the Estuary Segment of the River Trail. These recommendations are explored throughout this document. Not all recommendations could be incorporated as they relate to portions of the trail which are outside the limits of this study. The recommendations include:

1. Create a San Diego River Park Trail kiosk at Dog Beach identifying the western entrance of the San Diego River Park.
2. Support the goals of Mission Bay Park Master Plan (including Dog Beach, Robb Field, and Southern Wildlife Preserve), the Famosa Slough Enhancement Plan, and the Mission Valley Preserve. Support the replacement and construction of the West Mission Bay Bridge that will contain class I bike lanes on both sides.
3. Improve pathway and trail connections to Mission Bay Park, Famosa Slough, Tecolote Canyon, Southern Wildlife Preserve and other open spaces from the San Diego River Pathway.
4. Create a kiosk at Robb Field identifying the entrance to the San Diego River Trail and re-landscape the area adjacent to the river with native vegetation that relate to the estuary and river edge.
5. Investigate options through a feasibility study to provide a river and estuary outdoor interpretive center along the north side of the river.
6. Create estuary overlook platforms along the San Diego River Park Trail that could include interpretive signs on the hydrology and habitat of the Southern Wildlife Preserve.
7. Study the potential to create a public park with a connection to the San Diego River Trail when the Valley View Casino (formerly know at the San Diego Sports Arena) redevelops.
8. Provide interpretive signage along the San Diego River Trail about the rich history of the estuary including the development of Old Town, the construction of Derby Dike and the creation of Mission Bay Park.
9. Coordinate with Caltrans to establish a ‘Green Gateway’ at the intersection of Interstate 5 and the river valley by revegetating the interstate rights-of-way with native vegetation.
10. Create a pedestrian/bicycle connection between the San Diego River Park and San Diego Bay.

1.2 River Trail Study Areas

The Master Plan divides the River Trail into six distinct geographic areas of the river. These areas are the Estuary, Lower Valley, Confluence, Upper Valley, Gorge, and the Plateau. This map shows the geographic areas within the context of the City of San Diego.



Source: San Diego River Park Master Plan

CHAPTER 2 | ESTUARY TRAIL ANALYSIS

2.1 Existing Conditions Analysis

THE TRAIL

The Estuary Segment trail is currently comprised of an existing class I bike trail, approximately 10 ft. in width. The existing trail surface is a combination of permeable concrete and asphalt. Permeable concrete is found from Sefton Field to the Interstate 5 overpass and transitions to asphalt westward to Dog Beach. The trail width is narrowed in areas constrained by overpasses and steep topography. The trail includes narrow volunteer dirt paths (+/-2'-0") directly adjacent on either side of the trail. A riprap levy by the Army Corps. of Engineers separates the river from the trail to the north. The southern edge of the River Trail is predominantly bordered by the Interstate 8 right-of-way. This right-of-way is planted with ice plant (*Carpobrotus edulis*) which has encroached beyond Caltrans lands and overtaken the River Trail. The western stretch of the trail is bordered by Robb Field, a regional recreational facility, and private residences prior to reaching Dog Beach. A large plaza at Dog Beach functions as the western gateway into the trail while Sefton Field and the Cottonwood Grove form the eastern gateway to the Estuary Segment.

CONNECTIVITY

Numerous overpasses span the River Trail. These include City facilities (Sunset Cliffs Boulevard, West Mission Bay Drive, Pacific Highway, and Morena Boulevard) in addition to Interstate 5 and bridges supporting the NCTD Coaster train and MTS Trolley. These structures compress the river trail and limit visibility affecting the perception of user safety.

Connectivity to City sidewalks and the City's regional bike network are available at Robb Memorial Field, Sunset Cliffs Boulevard, West Mission Bay Drive, Pacific Highway, and Morena Boulevard.

The developed lands south of Interstate 8 are anchored by the Valley View Casino Center and the Midway community. The City of San Diego is currently embarking on a community plan update for this area. The draft plan calls for increased density via multi-family housing and mixed-use development. The plan also calls for establishing a pedestrian bridge, spanning Interstate 8 connecting the community with the River Trail. The plan proposes a small passive park located along the River Trail to support the open space needs of the community. More information on the plan can be found on the City of San Diego website.



Existing River Trail Near Robb Memorial Field

ECOLOGY

The convergence of the San Diego River and Pacific Ocean create a truly unique environment resulting in a series of idyllic habitats for native vegetation and endemic and migratory bird species such as the California Least Tern and the Belding's Savannah Sparrow. Habitats include southern coastal salt marsh, coastal dunes, intertidal mudflats, open water estuarine, coastal brackish marsh, and southern riparian forest. This segment of the River Trail is known as a premier destination for birding enthusiast as a result.

A large portion of the River Trail is directly adjacent to the Southern Wildlife Preserve which provides protection for endemic flora and fauna of the San Diego River. The San Diego River is also protected under the City of San Diego's Multiple Habitat Planning Area. The Famosa Slough wetland is directly south of the Estuary Segment and supported by brackish water supplied by the San Diego River. These preservation areas present opportunities to educate trail users about the unique and vibrant habitats that thrive in and around the River Trail.

A Biological Constraints Analysis was prepared by Helix Environmental on July 17, 2015. It provides a detailed summary of regulatory jurisdictions and sensitive plant and wildlife species found within the limits of the River Trail. Refer to Appendix A for a summary of the report.



Dunes Along the Existing River Trail

2.1 Existing Conditions Analysis



Existing Signage Conditions

ART

Art can be found throughout the Estuary Segment of the River Trail. Two large murals celebrating the wildlife of the San Diego River are located east of Interstate 5. The murals are a combination of commissioned works and community-based beautification efforts. The existing murals are well preserved and experience minimal defacing from graffiti or vandalism.

Unconventional "guerilla" sculptural art can be found along the levy in the form of stacked boulder sculptures. These are temporary installations which provide moments of surprise and intrigue throughout the River Trail. These works set a strong foundation for the integration of additional art in the River Trail.

SIGNAGE

Numerous kiosks, interpretive signs, and wayfinding signage exist throughout the trail. The signs are a combination of timber and steel construction and their overall condition varies. Vandalism has had a significant impact on many of the signs, specifically those west of Interstate 5 in areas with low visibility. Ares were observed where signage clutter is prevalent and can be simplified. This is most evident at the eastern gateway to the Estuary Segment at Sefton Field. The following plan documents existing conditions, opportunities, and constraints along the River Trail.


Shorebirds at the Estuary


Existing Mural Near Cottonwood Grove

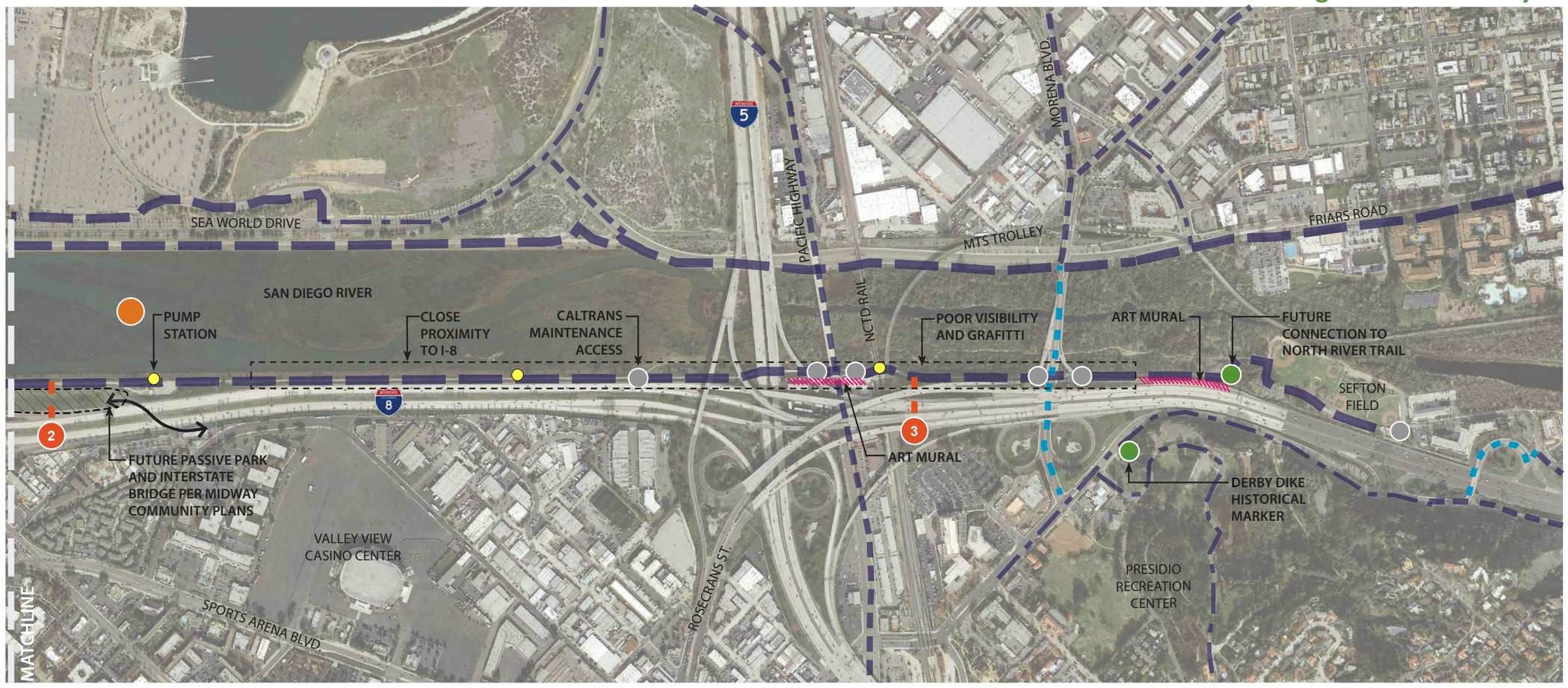
ESTUARY TRAIL ANALYSIS

2.1 Estuary Segment | Existing Conditions Analysis



LEGEND

- EXISTING CLASS I BIKE PATH
- EXISTING CLASS II BIKE PATH
- EXISTING CLASS III BIKE PATH
- SANDAG SUGGESTED BIKE ROUTE
- POINT OF INTEREST
- STORM DRAIN OUTLET
- AREA OF SIGNIFICANT AVIAN SPECIES DIVERSITY (EBIRD HOT SPOT)
- TRAIL ACCESS
- CONSTRAINED TRAIL SEGMENT
- ART MURALS
- MILE MARKERS


SEA WORLD DRIVE
SAN DIEGO RIVER
PUMP STATION
CLOSE PROXIMITY TO I-8
CALTRANS MAINTENANCE ACCESS
FUTURE PASSIVE PARK AND INTERSTATE BRIDGE PER MIDWAY COMMUNITY PLANS
VALLEY VIEW CASINO CENTER
SPORTS ARENA BLVD
MATCHLINE
PACIFIC HIGHWAY
NCTD RAIL
MTS TROLLEY
MORENA BLVD
FRIARS ROAD
POOR VISIBILITY AND GRAFITTI
ART MURAL
FUTURE CONNECTION TO NORTH RIVER TRAIL
SEFTON FIELD
ART MURAL
DERBY DIKE HISTORICAL MARKER
PRESIDIO RECREATION CENTER
ROSECRANS ST
5
8
2
3
0
400
800
1600
N
SCALE: 1” = 800’-0”

CHAPTER 3 | ESTUARY TRAIL VISION

3.1 Guiding Principles & Design Approach

The design team worked extensively with the community to better understand their desires and concerns for the trail. Meetings and presentations with the Mission Valley and Ocean Beach planning groups were held, along with a series of walking/cycling tours with over 50 community members in order to solicit feedback. Community members were provided workbooks to take notes as they experienced the trail. This feedback was synthesized into a list of observations and recommendations which have been integrated into this plan; where feasible. The summary can be found in Appendix B.

As previously stated, the global mission statement of the San Diego River Park Master Plan is to reclaim the valley as a common; a synergy of water, wildlife, and people. This enhancement plan builds upon this vision as it relates to the unique attributes of the Estuary Segment. The following guiding principles were developed to establish a framework for the Estuary Segment. They consist of the following:

1. Create opportunities for people to connect both physically and emotionally with the River.
2. Provide a diverse range of amenities and experiences to maximize trail use.
3. Utilize story-telling and interpretive education to connect users to the River and its diverse habitat.
4. Integrate public art that celebrates the River.
5. Provide a trail width which accommodates the needs of a diverse range of user groups.
6. Integrate improvements which contribute to a safe user experience.

The guiding principles, along with the recommendations found within the River Park Master Plan, set the stage for a series of enhancement opportunities within the Estuary Segment. This stretch of the River Trail can be separated into three distinct “outdoor rooms” or environments which offer users different and ever-changing experiences. These rooms consist of the Coastal Dunes, Avian Alley, and the Murals and are described in further detail below.

COASTAL DUNES

The Coastal Dunes are the western terminus of the greater River Trail system. It extends from the Pacific Ocean and Dog Beach to Sunset Cliffs Boulevard. Its overall character is influenced by the sandy beaches of Ocean Beach, a large least tern nesting area, and coastal dune habitat restoration found at the mouth of the river. It also shares its southern edge with Robb Memorial Field, a regional recreation facility that provides multiple connection opportunities to the trail.

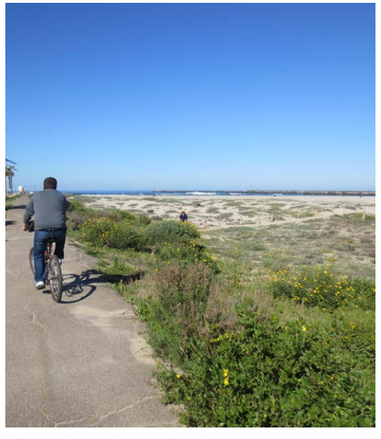
AVIAN ALLEY

Avian Alley is comprised of a long stretch of the River Trail in the heart of the Estuary Segment from Sunset Cliffs Boulevard to Interstate 5. This stretch of the trail is dominated by significant estuarine habitat supporting migrating avian species. The proposed Avian Alley is currently a regional destination for birding enthusiasts who have identified numerous eBird hotspots within this stretch of the trail.

THE MURALS

The Murals segment marks a clear transition in the experience of the River Trail with the introduction of numerous overpasses which redirect trail users under and around bridge abutments. This also marks the point at which Interstate 8 elevates above the River Trail creating a sense of enclosure and reducing visibility. The sense of enclosure is further influenced by the transition to riparian habitat which is more dense and vertical in its growth. Graffiti is prominent throughout this segment and has been countered with the installation of successful public art murals. The Enhancement Plan provides opportunites for the expansion of murals in this segment.

COASTAL DUNES

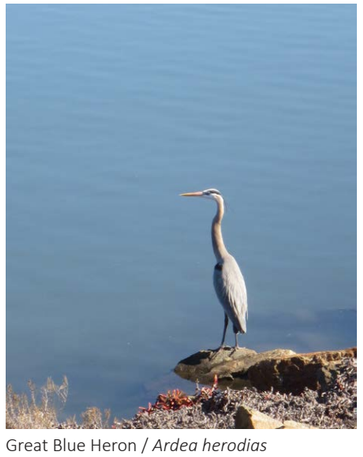


Existing Dune Restoration Area



Existing Beach Entrance Through Dunes

AVIAN ALLEY

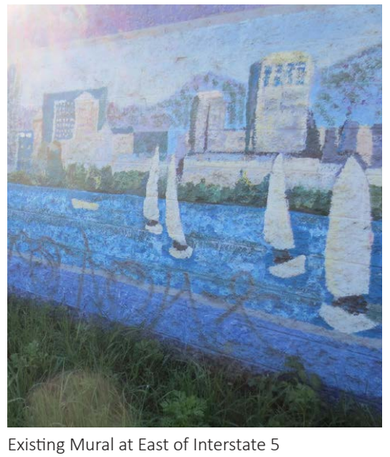


Great Blue Heron / *Ardea herodias*



Great Egret / *Ardea alba*

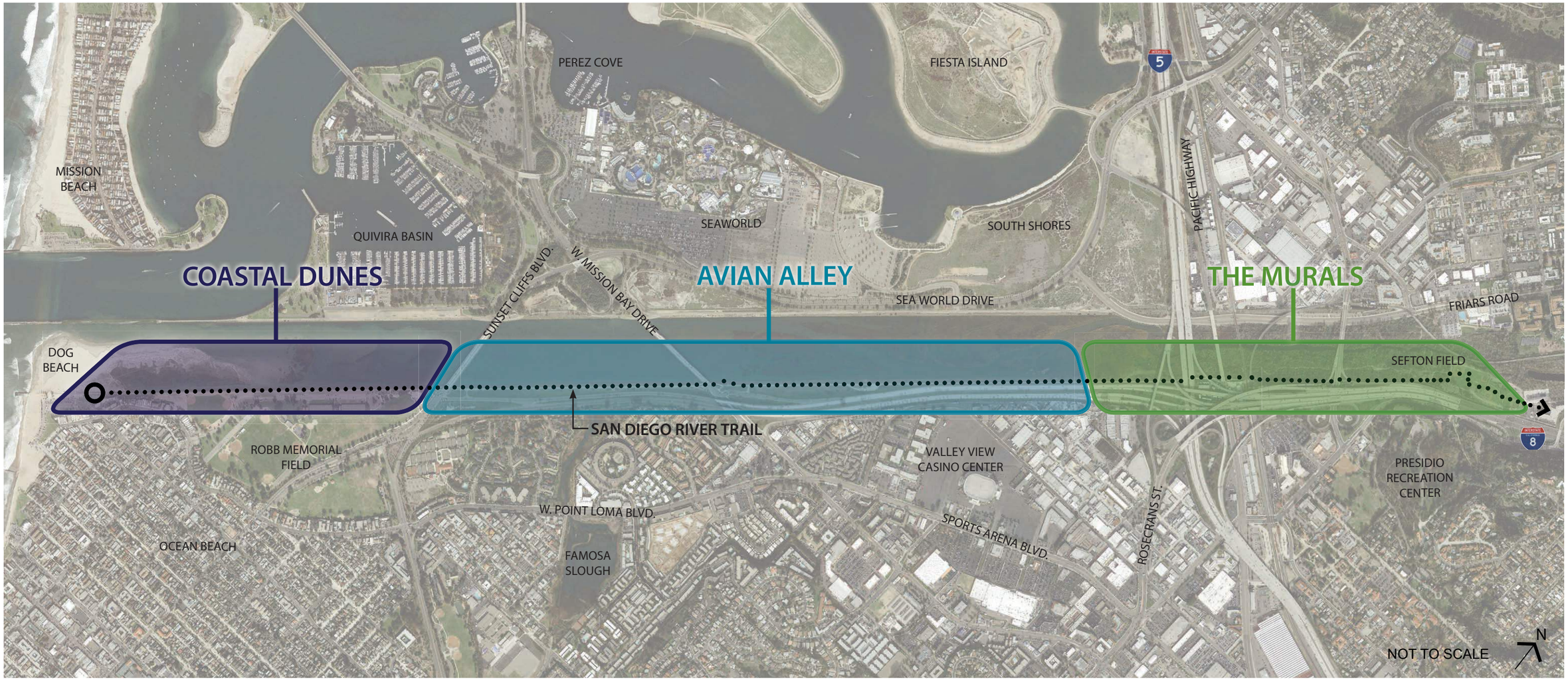
THE MURALS



Existing Mural at East of Interstate 5



Mural Inspiration at Chicano Park


PEREZ COVE
FIESTA ISLAND
5
MISSION BEACH
QUIVIRA BASIN
SEAWORLD
SOUTH SHORES
PACIFIC HIGHWAY
COASTAL DUNES
SUNSET CLIFFS BLVD.
W. MISSION BAY DRIVE
AVIAN ALLEY
THE MURALS
SEA WORLD DRIVE
FRIARS ROAD
DOG BEACH
SEFTON FIELD
SAN DIEGO RIVER TRAIL
8
ROBB MEMORIAL FIELD
VALLEY VIEW CASINO CENTER
PRESIDIO RECREATION CENTER
W. POINT LOMA BLVD.
SPORTS ARENA BLVD.
ROSECRANS ST.
OCEAN BEACH
FAMOSA SLOUGH
NOT TO SCALE
N

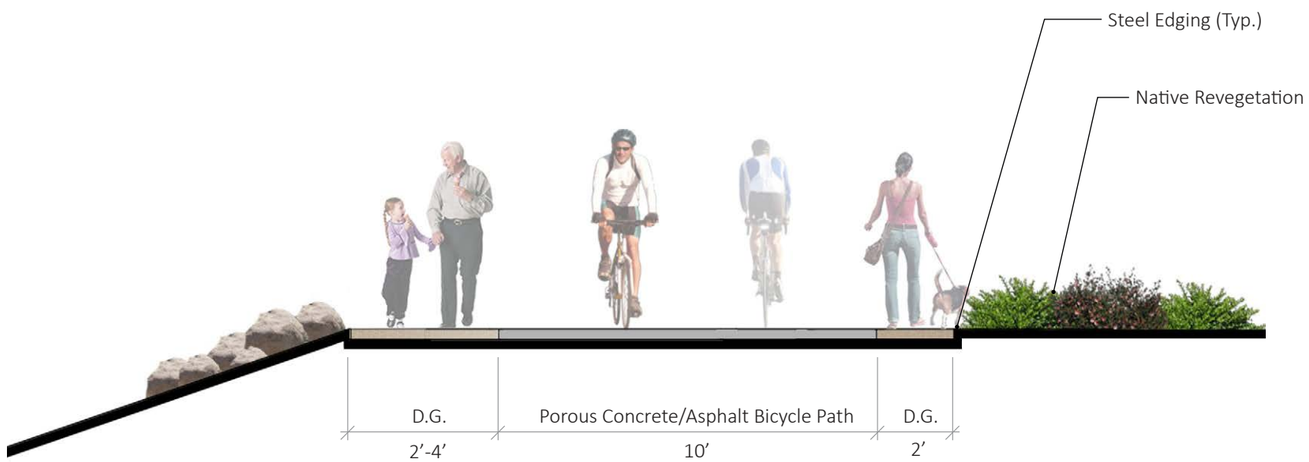
CHAPTER 4 | ESTUARY TRAIL TREATMENT

4.1 Trail Sections | Typical Trail Cross Section

The existing trail receives significant use from a diverse range of user groups including walkers, joggers, recreational and avid cyclists, dog owners, and birding enthusiasts. It is critical that the enhancement to the trail create a legible, enjoyable, and safe environment for all trail users.

As previously stated, the River Trail is currently composed of two primary surface treatments; asphalt to the west and permeable concrete to the east. It is recommended that both existing surfaces be preserved and the asphalt saw cut and repaired where needed. Doing so will redirect and maximize the impact of implementation funding to other enhancements. The following is a list of recommendations for hardscape enhancements.

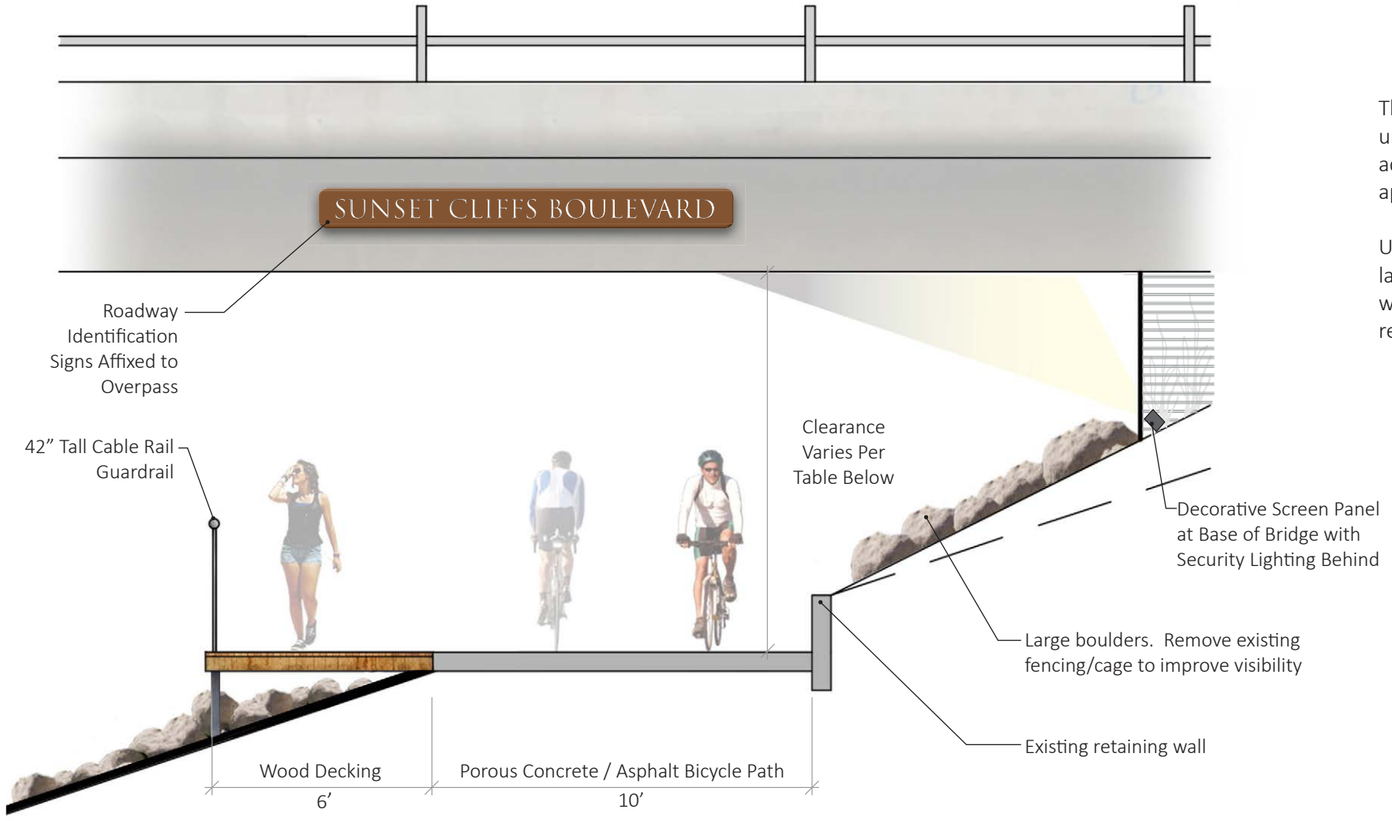
1. Retain existing surfaces and repair as needed.
2. Widen existing trail to sixteen ft. wide (fourteen ft. where spatial constraints exist), including:
    iii. twelve ft. permeable concrete or asphalt surface (vehicular rated to support maintenance vehicles)
    iv. Add a four ft. (two ft. min.) decomposed granite jogging/walking shoulder north of the trail edge adjacent to the river.
    v. Add a two ft. decomposed granite jogging/walking shoulder south of the trail edge.
    vi. Steel edging should be used to delineate decomposed granite paving from adjacent landscape areas.
    vii. All decomposed granite shall be stabilized.
3. Provide center-line striping along the trail.




Existing Bicycle Path Material - Porous Concrete/Asphalt


Pedestrian Path Material- Decomposed Granite


Existing Trail Conditions



Typical Underpass Trail Cross Section

The underpasses represent a distinctly different user experience. In these areas the trail depresses under the bridge abutments between eight and nine and a half ft. This places trail users below the adjacent grade resulting in reduced visibility. These conditions also compress the width of the trail to approximately eight ft.

Underpasses are also popular locations for the local homeless population to congregate due to the lack of high visibility. In response, the bridge abutments have been secured with large, industrial cages which constrain the perceived trail width and further limit user visibility and sightlines. The following recommendations take into consideration the trail user’s experience and safety:

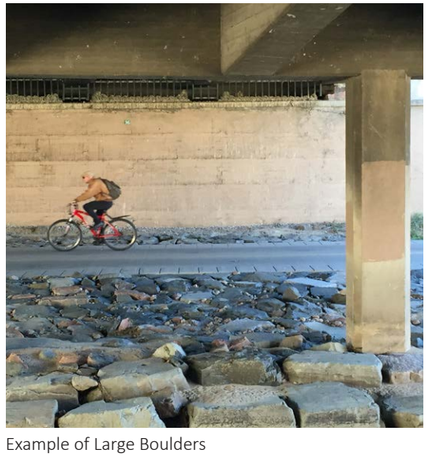
1. Retain the existing trail surface and install a new cantilevered decking system over the levy to achieve a total trail width of sixteen feet. Decking to abut and meet flush with adjacent existing trail surface.
2. The decking material should consist of sustainably harvested (FSC) hardwood material suitable for high traffic areas and placed over a galvanized substructure.
3. Provide a new 42” tall horizontal galvanized post and cable guardrail the full length of the cantilevered extension.
4. Remove the existing cages surrounding the bridge abutments. Install new caging within the recess of the abutment to block access.
5. Install up lights behind the new enclosure with a small lockable hand hole for maintenance access. The lighting is to shine upward onto the underside of the overpass to increase visibility while avoiding impacts to adjacent habitat.
6. Remove all existing material on the bridge skirts and replace with large (two to three foot) un-mortared decorative boulders.
7. Provide signage on the underside of the bridge façade denoting the name of the street crossing overhead.

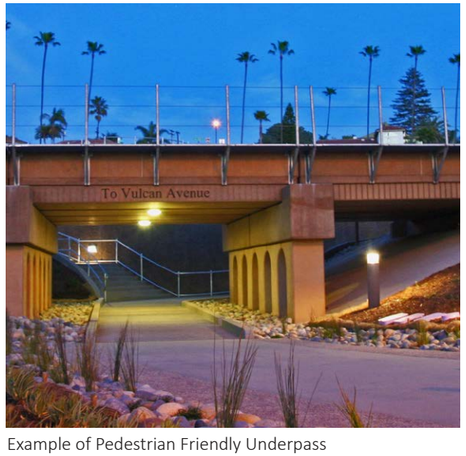
Overpass Clearances

Sunset Cliff Boulevard	9.5’ H
West Mission Bay Drive	9’ H
Southbound HWY 5	8.5’ H
Northbound HWY 5	8.5’ H
Pacific HWY	8’ H
Train Overpass	8.5’ H
Trolley Overpass	8’ H
Morena Boulevard to HWY 5	9.5’ H
Morena Boulevard	9.5’ H
HWY 8 to Morena Boulevard	9.5’ H


Existing Underpass Cage and Graffiti


Example of Pedestrian Decking and Guardrail


Example of Large Boulders



Example of Pedestrian Friendly Underpass

ESTUARY TRAIL TREATMENT

4.2 Signage/Wayfinding

The signage throughout the trail should be simple and easy to understand while reinforcing the River Trail identity. This plan incorporates the materials and design of the existing kiosks while introducing a new signage hierarchy program and aesthetic for the River Trail. It is anticipated that these improvements can be implemented throughout the entirety of the River Trail system.

Considerations have been made for sign legibility, durability, and constructability. It is anticipated that the larger signage elements will be fabricated and constructed by a hired workforce while smaller signs allow for installation by volunteer groups including the local Boy Scouts of America. The new signage program and interpretive elements include the following:

GATEWAY SIGN

The gateway signs are intended to mark the primary entries into the River Trail. Three gateways are currently identified in the enhancement plan. These would be constructed of a vertical redwood or cedar post inset with a corten steel panel. The steel panel shall have aluminum lettering, water jet cut out designs, and a San Diego River Park medallion on both sides. The medallion shall be porcelain coated aluminum; which is a highly durable surface that withstands the rigors of a heavily used public environment.

DIRECTIONAL SIGNAGE

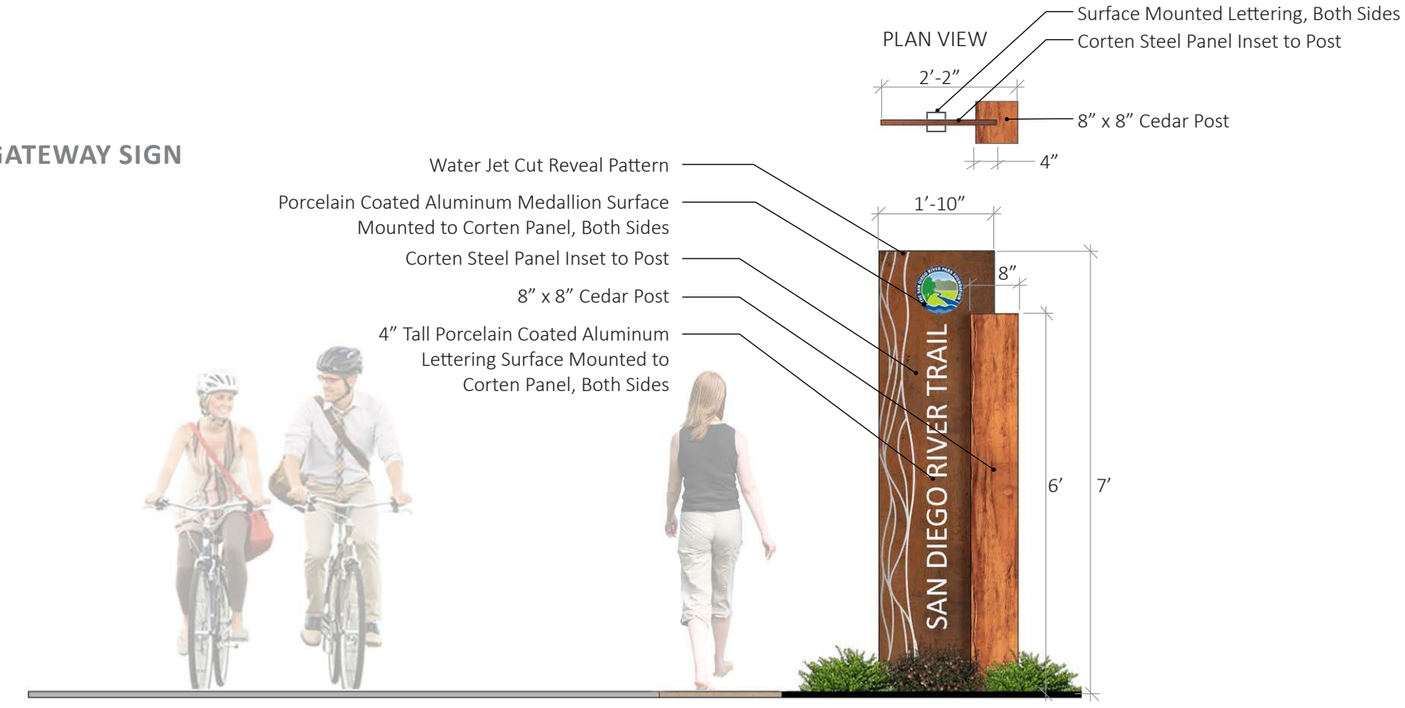
Directional signage within the trail should be placed strategically to minimize vertical elements obstructing views into the river. They will provide basic directional information to key points of interest along the trail. The materials and overall aesthetic reflect the previously described Gateway Signage. The sign will be slightly perched on a redwood/cedar post and secured with carriage bolts. Medallions and lettering shall be surface mounted on both sides of the sign. The simple materials and construction of this sign are conducive to volunteer installation efforts.

MILE MARKERS

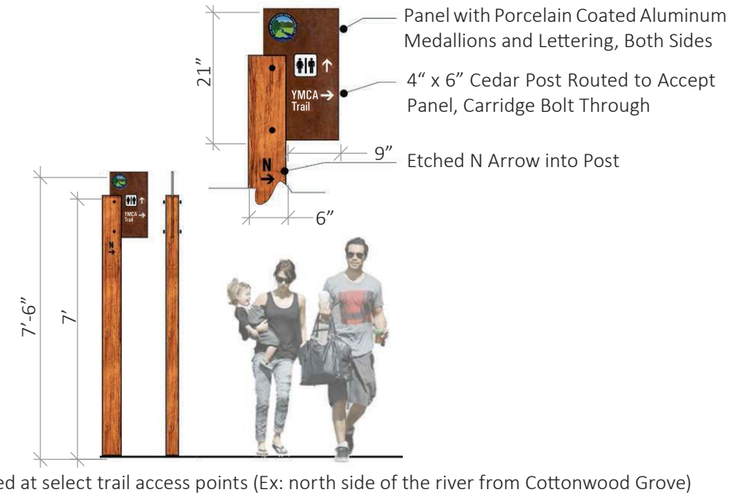
Two types of mile parkers are proposed within the River Trail. They include the following:

1. Small vertical sign markers are identified at quarter mile intervals throughout the trail. They will reference the distance from the Pacific Ocean on both sides, starting at the first quarter of a mile near Ocean Beach. They will be located on the south side of the trail. Similar to like the directional signs, they will be slightly perched on a redwood/ cedar post and secured with carriage bolts. The simple materials and construction of this sign are conducive to volunteer installation efforts.
2. Trail inlays: Concrete inlays are identified at one mile intervals. These consist of cast in place concrete with sandblasted text etching. They shall include inscription facing east and west identifying distances to Ocean Beach and Cuyamaca. The inlays provide a point of reference to the user and illustrate the significant span of the river.

GATEWAY SIGN

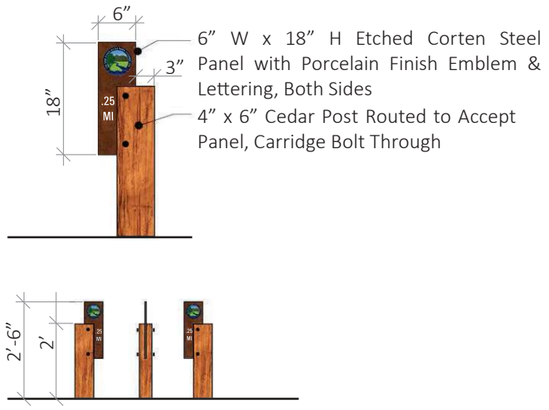


DIRECTIONAL SIGNAGE



- Located at select trail access points (Ex: north side of the river from Cottonwood Grove)
- Directs users to trails and restrooms, N arrow etched into support
- Materials: Cedar post, corten steel panel with porcelain finish emblem & lettering, aluminum/ ceramic, carridge bolts, with concrete footing
- Lettering and logos to read on both sides of sign
- Construction appropriate for a volunteer project

PRIMARY MILEAGE MARKER



- Marks .25 or .5 MI from ocean
- Materials: Cedar post, corten steel panel, aluminum/ ceramic, carridge bolts in concrete footing
- Construction appropriate for a volunteer project

KIOSKS

The existing kiosks are additional primary visual elements. The San Diego Park & Recreation Department developed the preferred design of these elements. Currently, three are existing within the Estuary Segment Reach. They shall be constructed of redwood or cedar with a cedar shake single roof.

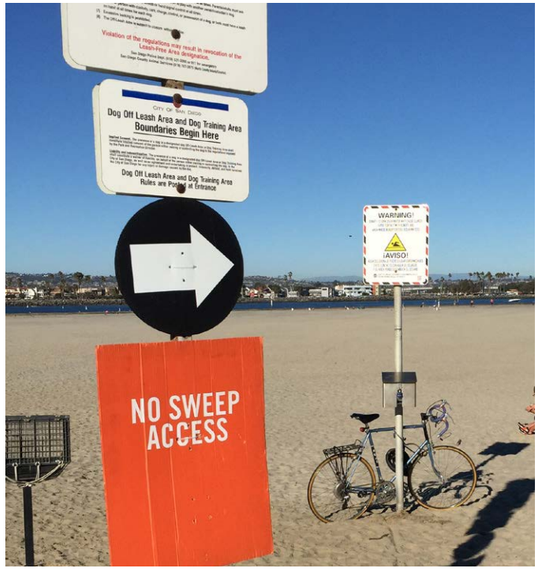
INTERPRETIVE SIGNAGE

The interpretive signage should be constructed of porcelain coated aluminum displays with a powder coated aluminum frame. The panels are designed in a series; each with a slight arch. Collectively they emulate the movement of the river.

The river provides inspiration for story-telling and environmental education. Key features to highlight include:

1. The coastal dune restoration and least tern nesting site.
2. The remnant piers of the historic boat starter house that once stood in the river.
3. The ecological value of the Famosa Slough and it's interrelationship with the river.
4. The diverse avian species found within "Avian Alley".
5. The regional storm drain infrastructure that outlets into the river and its impact.
6. The history of the river, its channelization, and the Derby Dike.

As stated earlier in this document, the existing interpretive panels east of Interstate 5 have been significantly vandalized due poor visibility into the trail. For this reason, interpretive signage is not being proposed in this area at this time; however, it can easily be integrated in the future when appropriate.

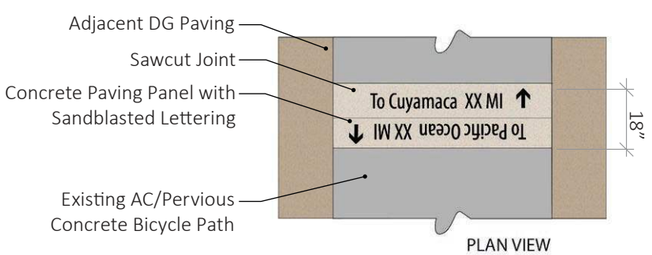


Consolidate Existing Signage



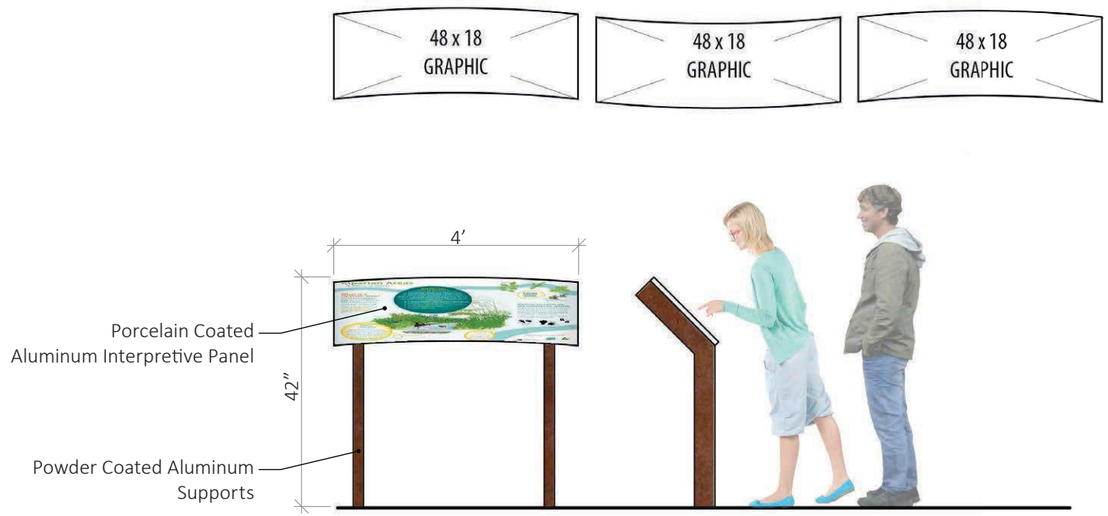
Existing Information Kiosk (Asphalt Roof to be Replace with Cedar Shake Shingles)

SECONDARY MILEAGE MARKER



- 18"W sandblasted in concrete at each mile interval
- Distance to Cuyamaca in one direction, distance to Pacific Ocean in the other

INTERPRETIVE SIGNAGE



- Located at overlooks and interpretive nodes
- Powder coated aluminum supports
- Custom 'ripple' ceramic/alum panels for grouping

ESTUARY TRAIL TREATMENT

4.3 Rest Points & Site Furnishings

Site furnishings will be provided at regular intervals along the River Trail corridor to provide rest and reflection points for trail users. Site furnishings are designed with rustic and reclaimed materials to connect and reinforce the natural trail experience. Existing exotic trees found along the river banks shall be removed from the river and repurposed as lumber for site furnishing elements. The various site furnishings proposed throughout the trail are discussed in further detail below.

BENCHES

Bench seating shall be proposed approximately every 1000 ft. as resting points along the trail corridor. Benches are located adjacent to the trail, but offset to create separation from the path of travel. Benches shall be constructed of lumber harvested from the removal of invasive trees currently found within the river. Two primary bench types are proposed within the Estuary Segment.

1. Backless Benches: These benches are natural logs inset into the decomposed granite paving. Bark shall be removed and the exposed surface sandblasted to create a weathered aesthetic, reminiscent of the drift wood carried downstream from winter rains. The surface of backless benches shall feature a natural gnarled forms to accommodate seating while remaining a sleep deterrent to the homeless population.

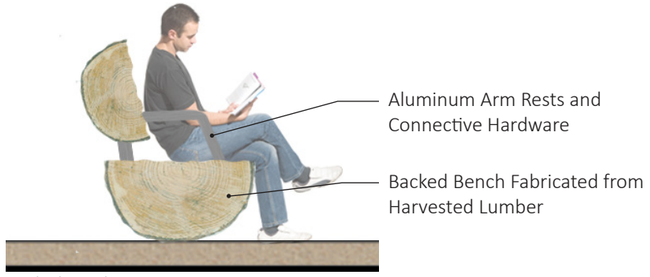
2. Backed Benches: Backed benches will be constructed from the lumber of trees removed from the river banks and include fabricated aluminum arm rests and connective hardware. Bark shall be removed and the exposed surface sandblasted to create a weathered aesthetic. Logs should be milled to create a flat seating surface. The smaller remnant timber is to be used as a back rest. Intermediate aluminum arm rests should be centered in the bench for ease of use and to serve as a sleep deterrent.

TRASH RECEPTACLES

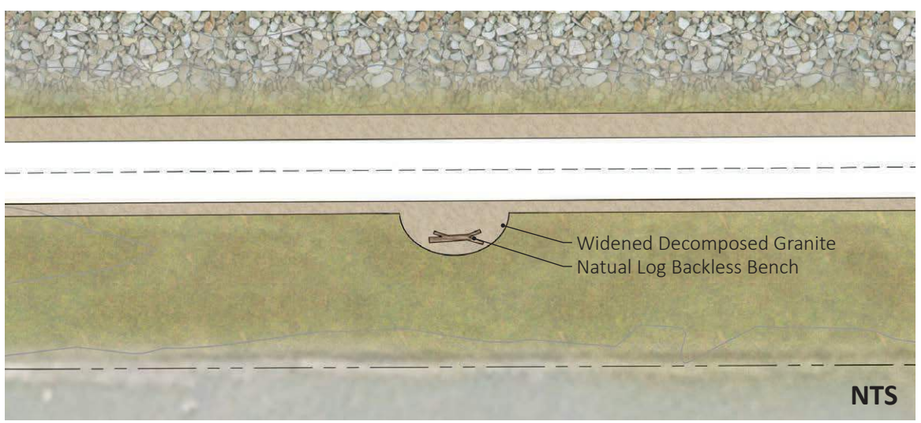
Trash receptacles shall be located at key gathering areas. These areas consist of overlooks, the Avian Interpretive Garden, and the Famosa Slough Overlook. Receptacles shall be concrete and of an earth-toned color to blend with the natural surroundings.



Concrete Trash Receptacle



Backed Bench



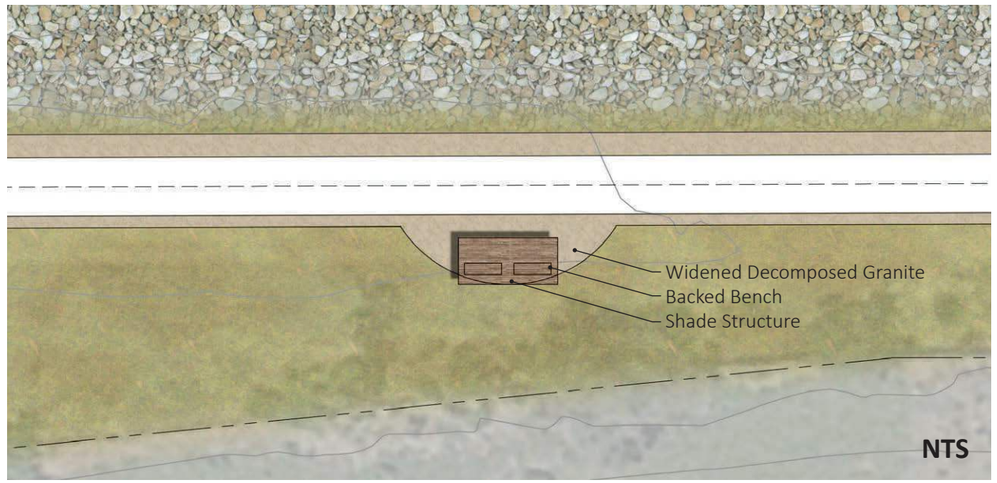
Plan View of Bench Seating Rest Point



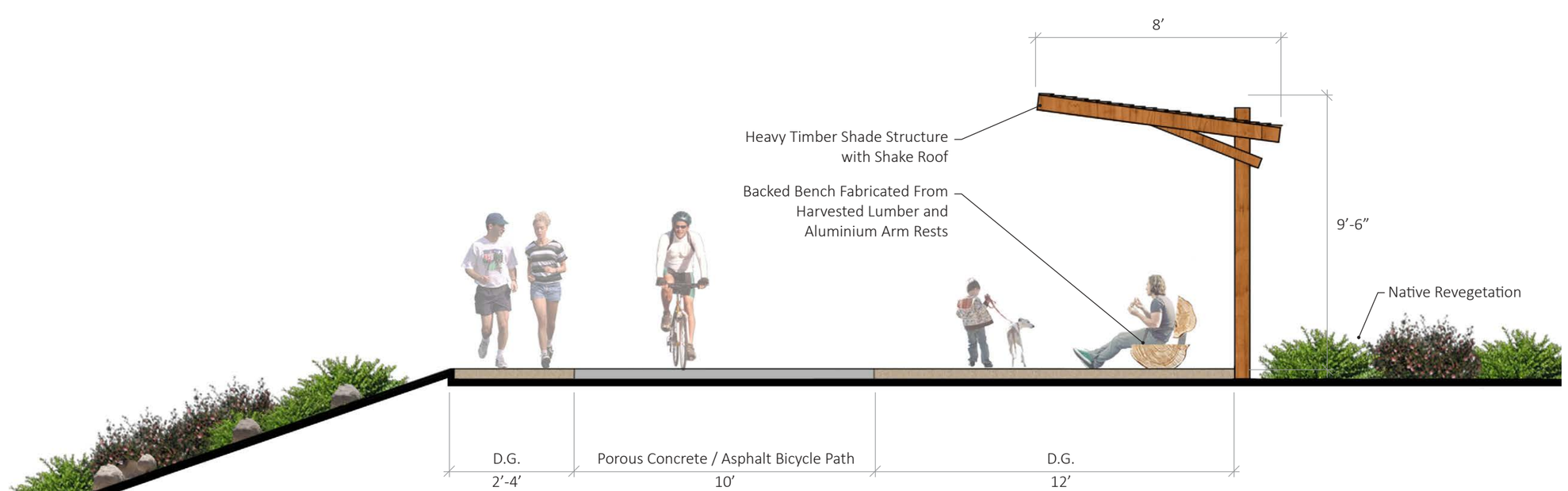
Natural Log Backless Bench Inspiration

SHADE STRUCTURES

Shade structures will be provided as shaded rest areas every ½ mile along the trail corridor. Shaded rest areas will be located adjacent to the trail but offset from the path of travel. They will feature cantilevered heavy timber framework with cedar shake roofs. These structures will be rustic in nature and consistent with the architectural style of the existing kiosks found throughout the River Trail. Backed benches will be located beneath each shade structure.



Plan View of Shade Structure Rest Point



ESTUARY TRAIL TREATMENT

4.4 Planting Palette

The presence of exotic species can be found throughout the limits of the River Trail. The primary species found is ice plant (*Carpobrotus edulis*) which has migrated from the Caltrans right-of-way. The exotic species shall be removed, including within the voids of levy riprap, and replaced with native plant vegetation appropriate to the River and estuary ecology. Native plantings will be selected and installed for ecological value, while providing aesthetic enhancement and maintaining visual security throughout the site. Large shrubs shall be used sparingly and strategically located to avoid creating hiding places. Drip irrigation will be provided in the Avian Gardens to optimize plant health and establishment.

New planting will be provided throughout the trail corridor in the form of a native non-irrigated hydroseed blend. Native plant species within the hydroseed blend shall be selected based on ability to survive on seasonal precipitation. The blend shall also include a fibrous nutrient slurry to maximize moisture retention and germination success rates. Hydroseed planting areas should be installed in late fall to take advantage of winter rains to optimize seed germination and plant establishment. Permanent irrigation will not be provided to hydroseed areas.

The list below features recommended planting palette for the trail corridor revegetation:

SHRUBS& GROUNDCOVERS

BOTANICAL NAME	COMMON NAME	DESCRIPTION
Artemisia douglasiana	Douglas Wormwood	Woody Perennial
Artemisia palmeri	Palmer's Sagewort	Woody Perennial
Artemisia californica	California Sage	Drought-Deciduous
Baccharis pilularis	Coyote Brush	Evergreen Shrub
Carex spissa	San Diego Sedge	Grass
Dudleya pulverulenta	Chalk Lettuce	Succulent
Encelia californica	California Encelia	Woody Perennial
Eriogonim fasciculatum	Flat-top Buckwheat	Shrub/Perrenial
Eriophyllum confertiflorum	Golden Yarrow	Perennial
Heteromeles arbutifolia	Toyon	Evergreen Shrub

SHRUBS & GROUNDCOVERS CONTINUED...

BOTANICAL NAME	COMMON NAME	DESCRIPTION
Isocoma menziesii	Goldenbush	Evergreen Shrub
Juncus mexicanus	Mexican Rush	Evergreen Rush
Keckiella cordifolia	Heart-Leaved Penstemon	Perennial
Lonicera subspicata	San Diego Honeysuckle	Evergreen Vine
Malosma laurina	Laurel Sumac	Evergreen Shrub
Mimulus puniceus	Monkeyflower	Woody Pereniial
Mirabilis californica	Wishbone Bush	Evergreen Shrub
Muhlenbergia rigens	Deer Grass	Grass
Prunus ilicifolia	Holly-Leaf Cherry	Evergreen Tree
Rhamnus californica	California Coffeeberry	Evergreen Shrub
Ribes indecorum	White-Flowered Currant	Deciduous Shrub
Rosa californica	California Wild Rose	Deciduous Shrub
Salvia apicra	White Sage	Drought-Deciduous
Salvia mellifera	Black Sage	Drought-Deciduous
Sisyrinchium bellum	Blue-Eyed Grass	Perennial
Typha spp.	Cattail	Marsh
Viguiera lanata	Woolly-Leaf Sunflower	Drought-Deciduous
Vitis girdiana	Wild Grape	Deciduous Vine
Yucca whipplei	Chaparral Yucca	Succulent

4.4 Planting Palette



Artemisia douglasiana
Douglas Wormwood



Artemisia californica
California Sage/Coastal Sagebrush



Baccharis pilularis
Coyote Brush



Carex spissa
San Diego Sedge



Dudleya pulverulenta
Chalk Lettuce



Encelia californica
California Encelia



Eriogonum fasciculatum
Flat-top Buckwheat



Heteromeles arbutifolia
Toyon



Isocoma menziesii
Goldenbush



Juncus mexicanus
Mexican Rush



Keckiella cordifolia
Heart-Leaved Penstemon



Malosma laurina
Laurel Sumac



Mimulus puniceus
Monkeyflower



Mirabilis californica
Wishbone Bush



Muhlenbergia rigens
Deer Grass



Prunus ilicifolia
Holly-Leaf Cherry



Rhamnus californica
California Coffeeberry



Ribes indecorum
White-Flowered Currant



Rosa californica
California Wild Rose



Salvia apiana
White Sage



Salvia mellifera
Black Sage



Sisyrinchium bellum
Blue-Eyed Grass



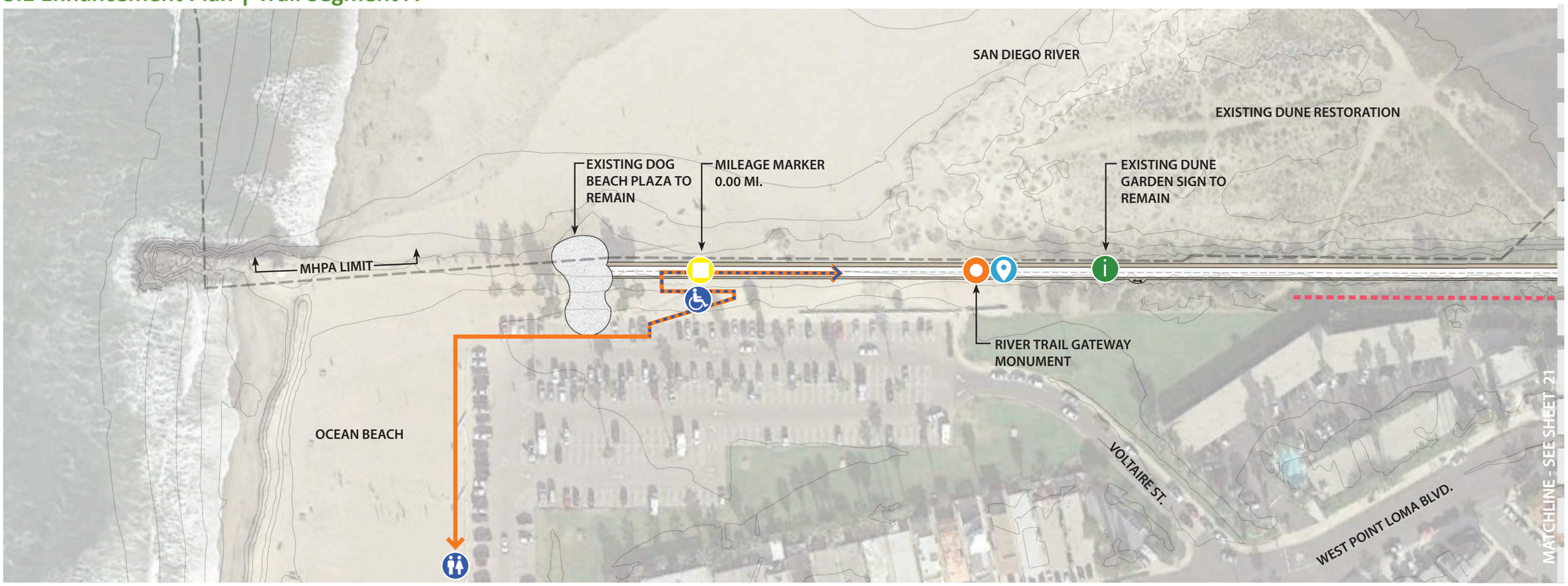
Viguiera lanata
Woolly-leaf Sunflower



Yucca whipplei
Chaparral Yucca

ESTUARY TRAIL ENHANCEMENT PLAN

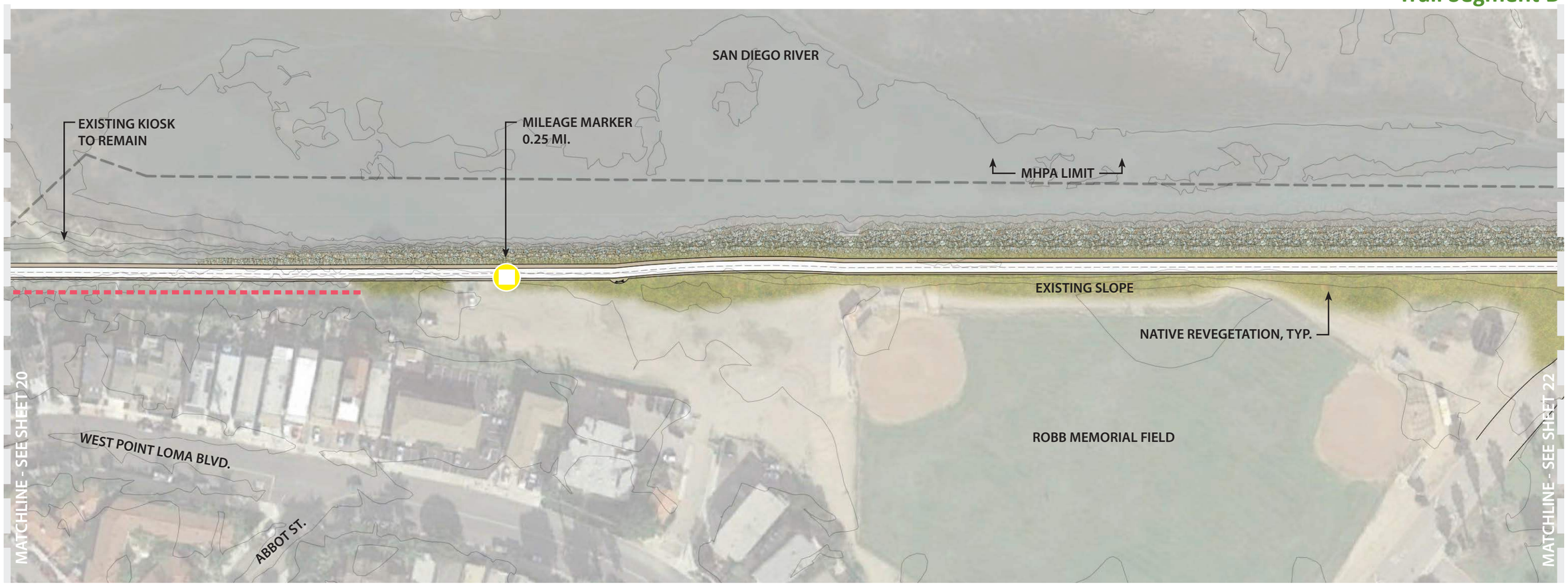
5.1 Enhancement Plan | Trail Segment A



LEGEND

- INTERPRETIVE SIGNAGE
- WAYFINDING/ DIRECTIONAL SIGNAGE
- MILEAGE MARKER & SIGNAGE
- RIVER TRAIL GATEWAY MONUMENT
- EXISTING PUBLIC RESTROOM ACCESS
- NATIVE REVEGETATION
- BENCH SEATING/REST POINT
- SHADED SEATING/REST POINT
- IMPROVED RIVER TRAIL, 16 FT. WIDE, VARIES
- TRAIL ACCESS
- ADA TRAIL ACCESS
- MURAL OPPORTUNITY
- EXISTING MURAL
- RETAINING WALL AS NEEDED
- MHPA BOUNDARY

Trail Segment B



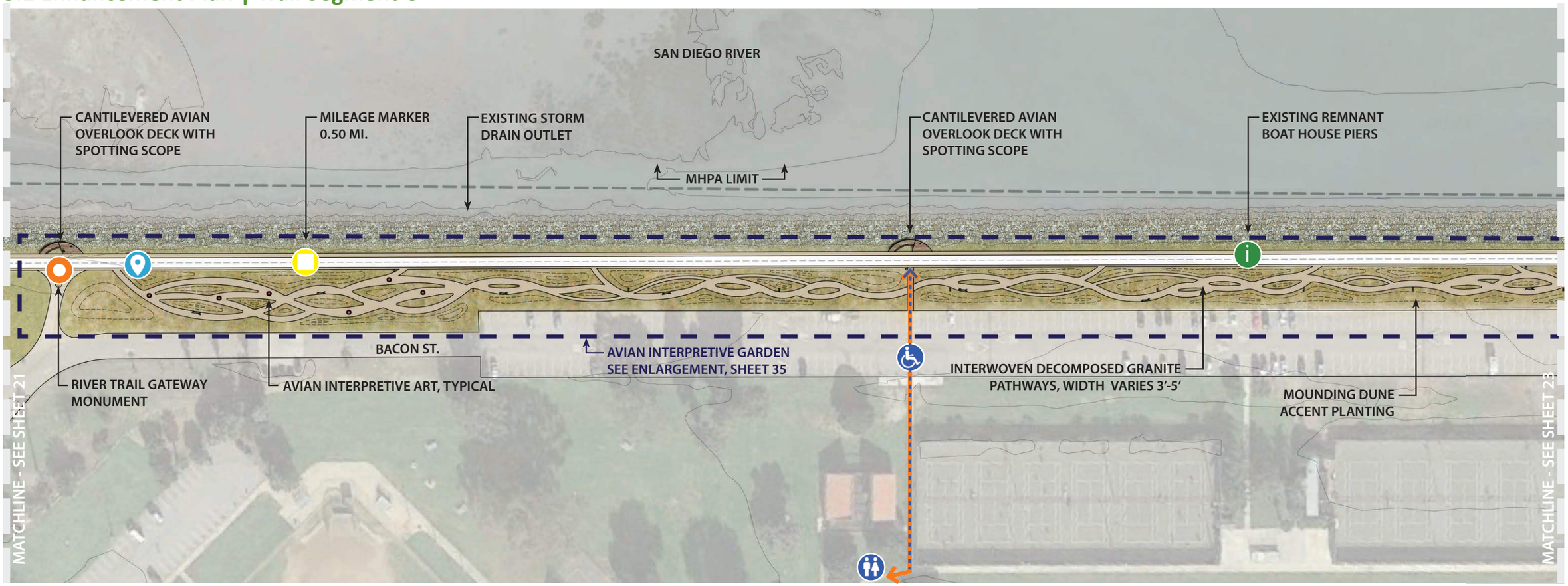
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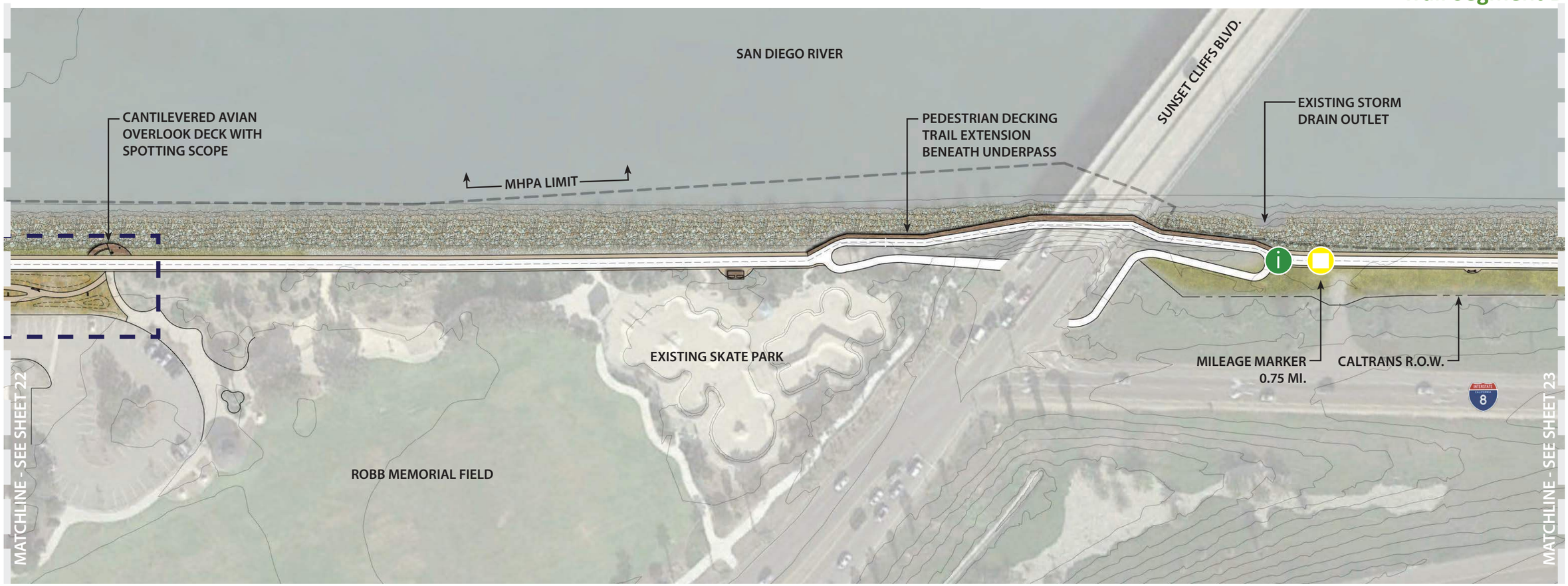
ESTUARY TRAIL ENHANCEMENT PLAN

5.1 Enhancement Plan | Trail Segment C



LEGEND

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- WAYFINDING/ DIRECTIONAL SIGNAGE
- MILEAGE MARKER & SIGNAGE
- RIVER TRAIL GATEWAY MONUMENT
- EXISTING PUBLIC RESTROOM ACCESS
- NATIVE REVEGETATION
- BENCH SEATING/REST POINT
- SHADED SEATING/REST POINT
- IMPROVED RIVER TRAIL, 16 FT. WIDE, VARIES
- TRAIL ACCESS
- ADA TRAIL ACCESS
- MURAL OPPORTUNITY
- EXISTING MURAL
- RETAINING WALL AS NEEDED
- MHPA BOUNDARY



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SCALE: 1” = 100’-0”



ESTUARY TRAIL ENHANCEMENT PLAN

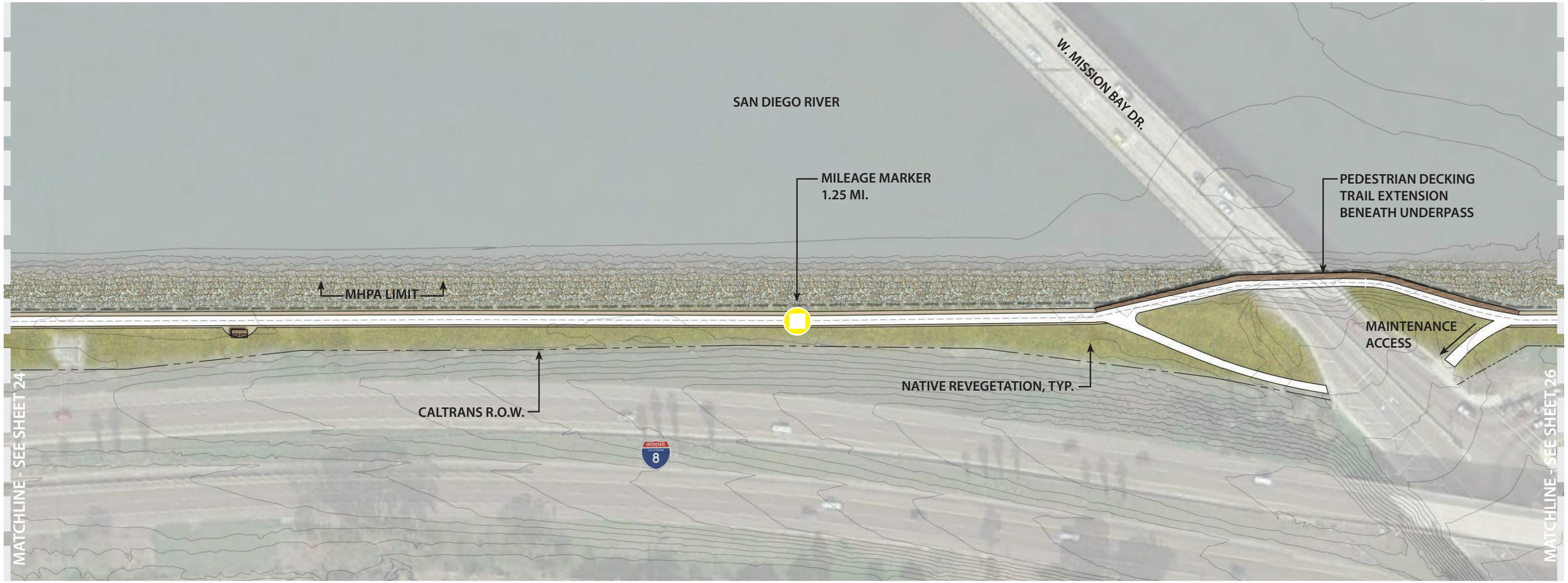
5.1 Enhancement Plan | Trail Segment E



LEGEND

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- MILEAGE MARKER & SIGNAGE
- RIVER TRAIL GATEWAY MONUMENT
- EXISTING PUBLIC RESTROOM ACCESS
- NATIVE REVEGETATION
- BENCH SEATING/REST POINT
- SHADED SEATING/REST POINT
- IMPROVED RIVER TRAIL, 16 FT. WIDE, VARIES
- TRAIL ACCESS
- ADA TRAIL ACCESS
- MURAL OPPORTUNITY
- EXISTING MURAL
- RETAINING WALL AS NEEDED
- MHPA BOUNDARY

Trail Segment F



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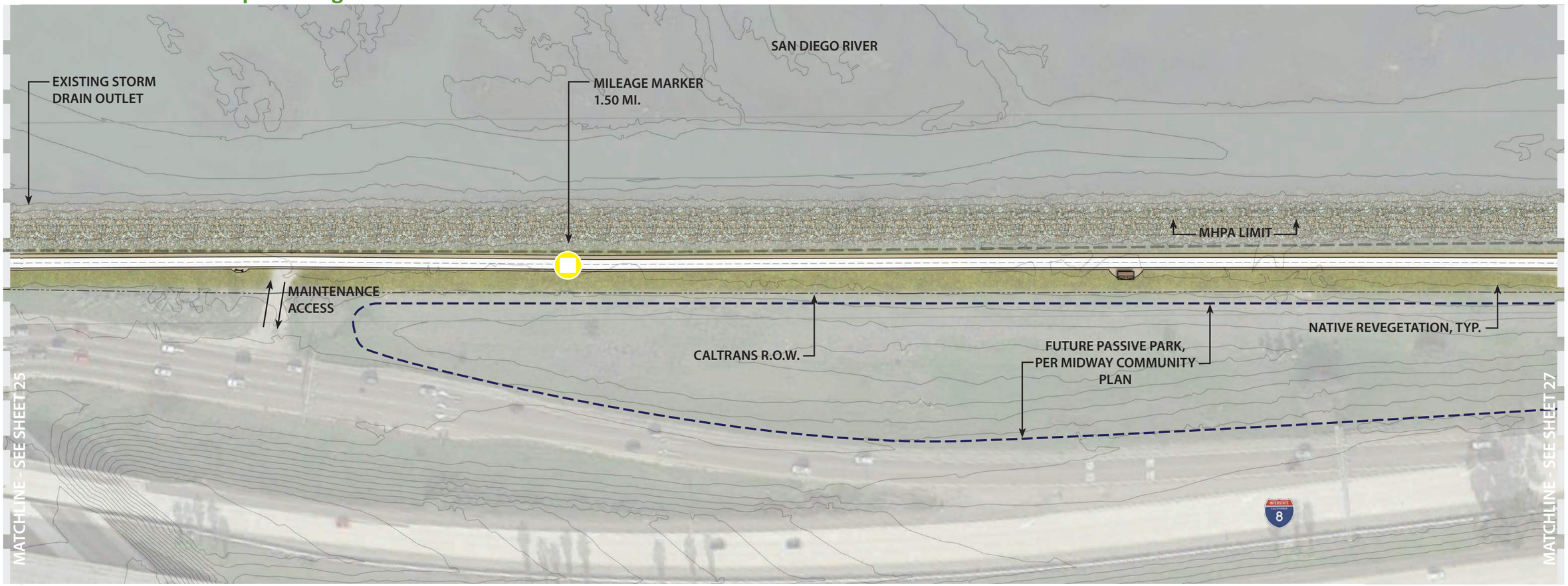
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SCALE: 1” = 100’-0”



ESTUARY TRAIL ENHANCEMENT PLAN

5.1 Enhancement Plan | Trail Segment G



LEGEND

- INTERPRETIVE SIGNAGE
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- MILEAGE MARKER & SIGNAGE
- RIVER TRAIL GATEWAY MONUMENT
- EXISTING PUBLIC RESTROOM ACCESS
- NATIVE REVEGETATION
- BENCH SEATING/REST POINT
- SHADED SEATING/REST POINT
- IMPROVED RIVER TRAIL, 16 FT. WIDE, VARIES
- TRAIL ACCESS
- ADA TRAIL ACCESS
- MURAL OPPORTUNITY
- EXISTING MURAL
- RETAINING WALL AS NEEDED
- MHPA BOUNDARY



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SCALE: 1” = 100’-0”



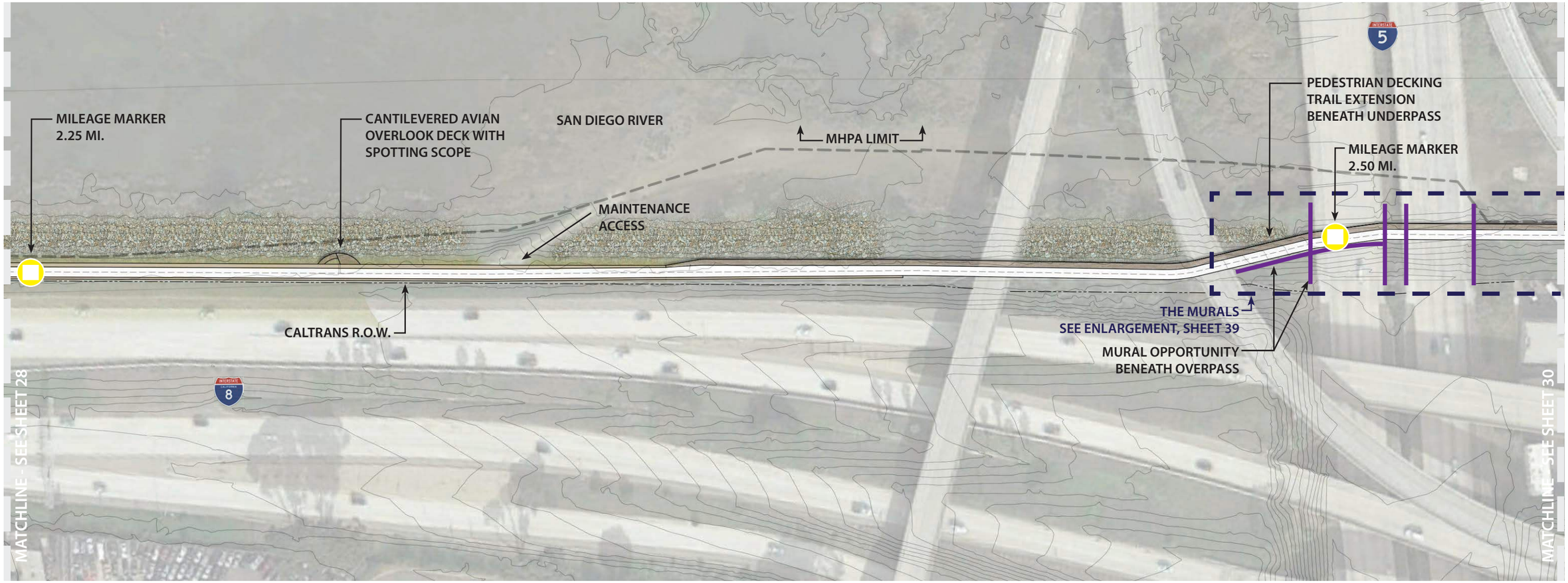
ESTUARY TRAIL ENHANCEMENT PLAN

5.1 Enhancement Plan | Trail Segment I



LEGEND

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- MILEAGE MARKER & SIGNAGE
- RIVER TRAIL GATEWAY MONUMENT
- EXISTING PUBLIC RESTROOM ACCESS
- NATIVE REVEGETATION
- BENCH SEATING/REST POINT
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- IMPROVED RIVER TRAIL, 16 FT. WIDE, VARIES
- TRAIL ACCESS
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- EXISTING MURAL
- RETAINING WALL AS NEEDED
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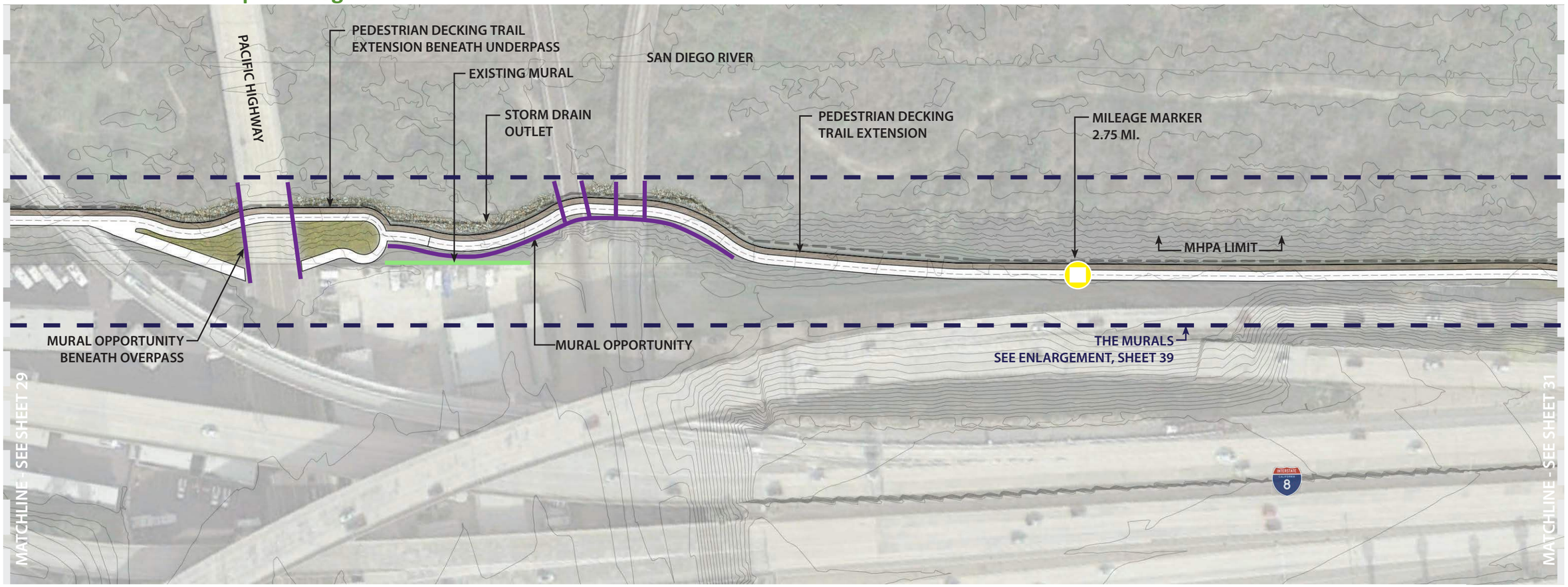
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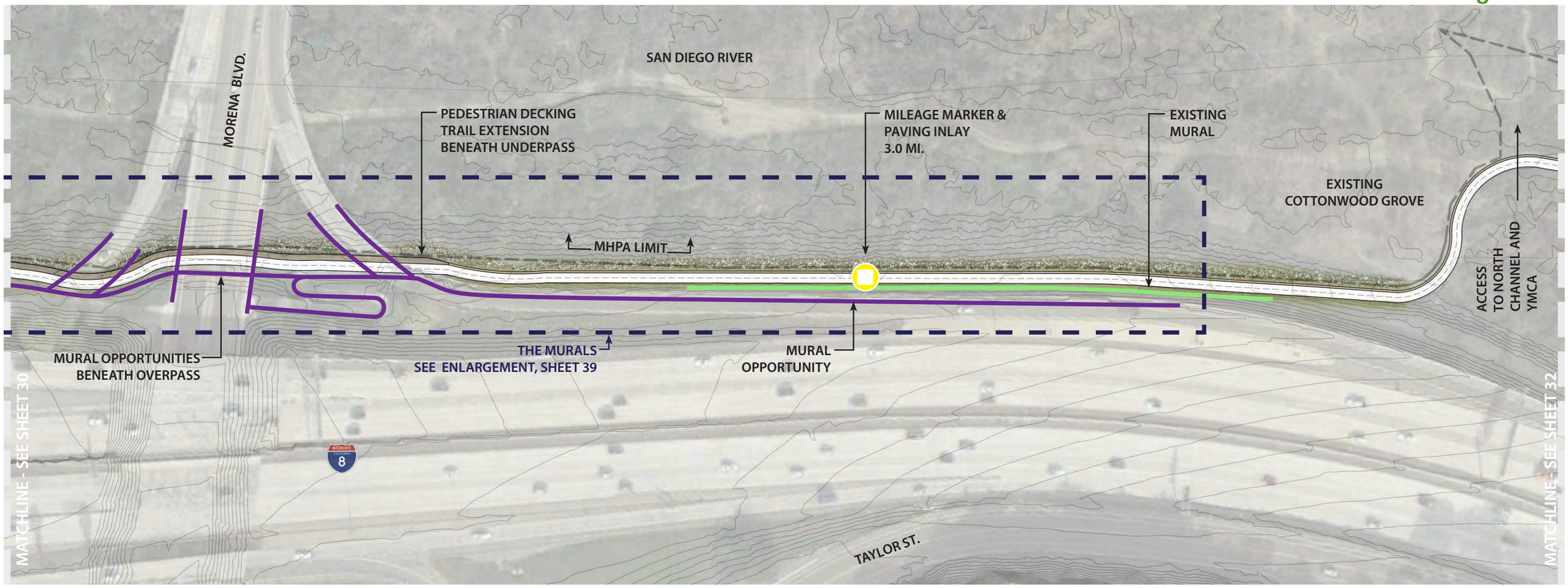
ESTUARY TRAIL ENHANCEMENT PLAN

5.1 Enhancement Plan | Trail Segment K



LEGEND

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- WAYFINDING/ DIRECTIONAL SIGNAGE
- MILEAGE MARKER & SIGNAGE
- RIVER TRAIL GATEWAY MONUMENT
- EXISTING PUBLIC RESTROOM ACCESS
- NATIVE REVEGETATION
- BENCH SEATING/REST POINT
- SHADED SEATING/REST POINT
- IMPROVED RIVER TRAIL, 16 FT. WIDE, VARIES
- TRAIL ACCESS
- ADA TRAIL ACCESS
- MURAL OPPORTUNITY
- EXISTING MURAL
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- MHPA BOUNDARY



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SCALE: 1” = 100’-0”



ESTUARY TRAIL ENHANCEMENT PLAN

5.1 Enhancement Plan | Trail Segment M



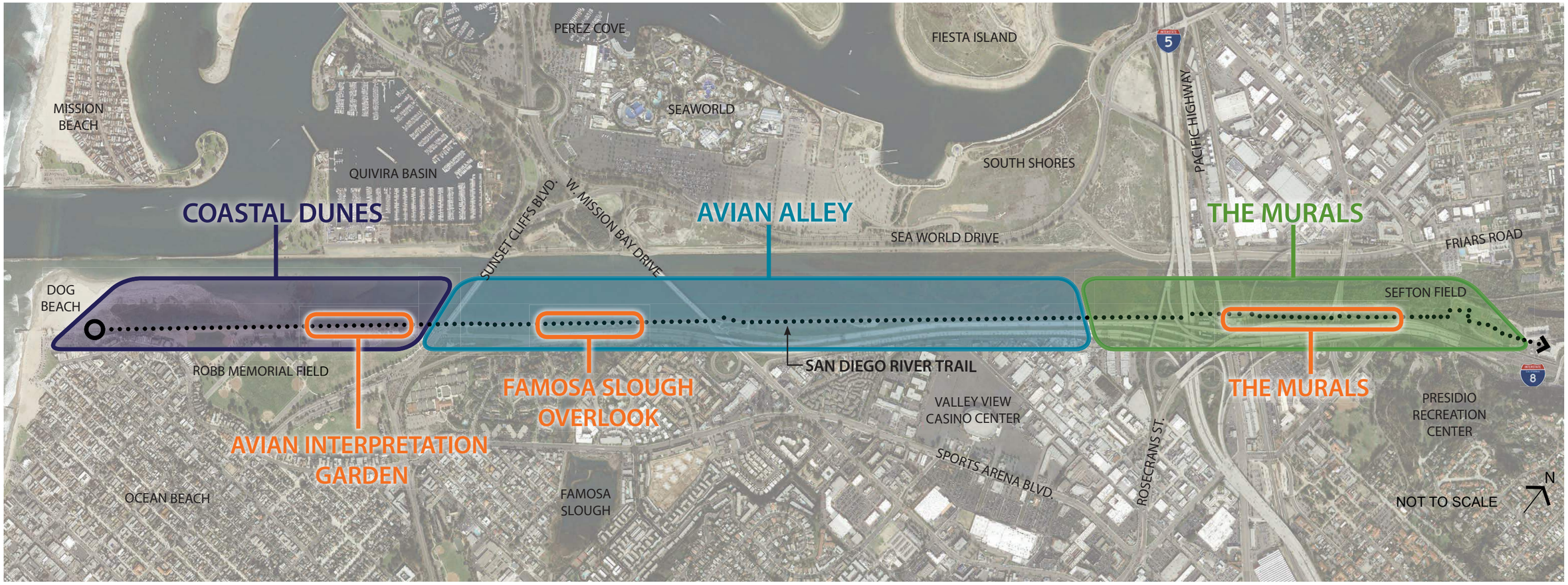
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LEGEND

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- RIVER TRAIL GATEWAY MONUMENT
- EXISTING PUBLIC RESTROOM ACCESS
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There a several opportunities to create unique experiences by creating new spaces adjacent to the River Trail. Three of these spacial experiences have been identified within this Enhancement Plan. They include the **AVIAN INTERPRETIVE GARDEN**, **FAMOSA SLOUGH OVERLOOK**, and **THE MURALS**.

ESTUARY TRAIL ENHANCEMENT PLAN

5.2 Focal Points | Avian Interpretation Garden

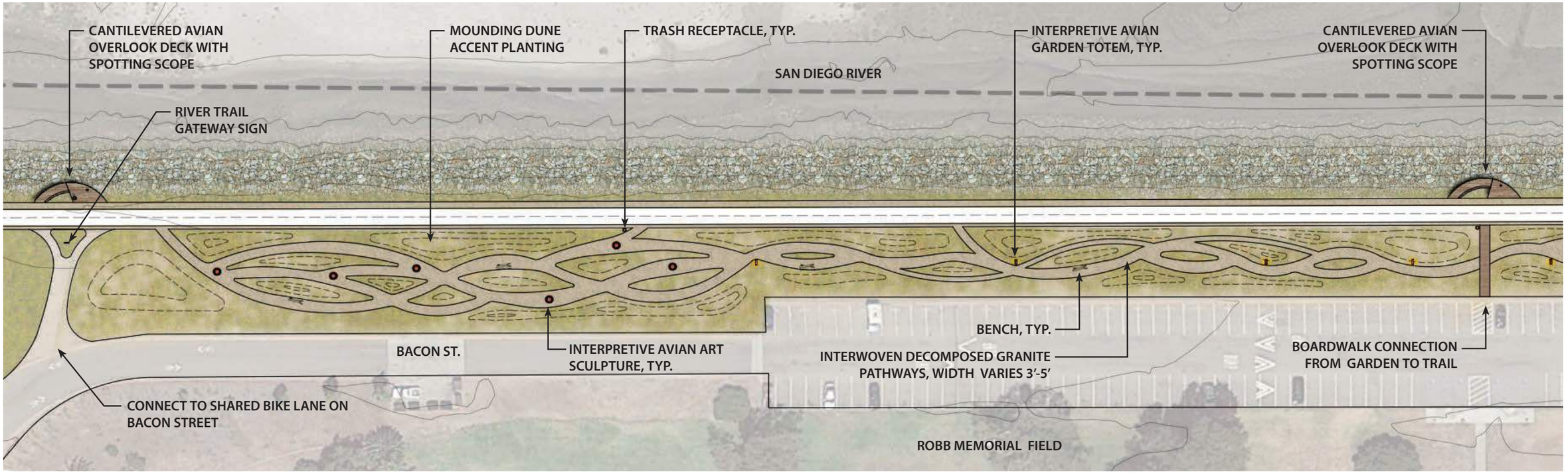
AVIAN INTERPRETATION GARDEN

The proposed site of the Avian Interpretive Garden is an approximately 40 ft. wide mulched portion of land between the existing Robb Memorial Field parking lot and the River Trail. It lies just west of the Avian Alley and contains incredible birding opportunities. The garden is designed as a series of interwoven pathways surrounded by low landscaped mounds which emulate the nearby coastal dune restoration.

The linear nature of the garden reflects the chronological order in which the birds migrate to the river every year. Users will experience a series of twelve interpretive avian totems illustrating bird species that are present each month of the year. It will encourage users to visit the trail overlooks and identify the birds currently inhabiting the River. The numerous pathways also create a sense of discovery as they lead to interactive art sculptures celebrating the local avian species. The artwork should be highly engaging and affect multiple senses to entice visitors of all ages to the River Trail.



Snowy Egret / *Egretta thula*



Avian Interpretation Garden



Least Turn / *Sternula antillarum* Dick Daniels



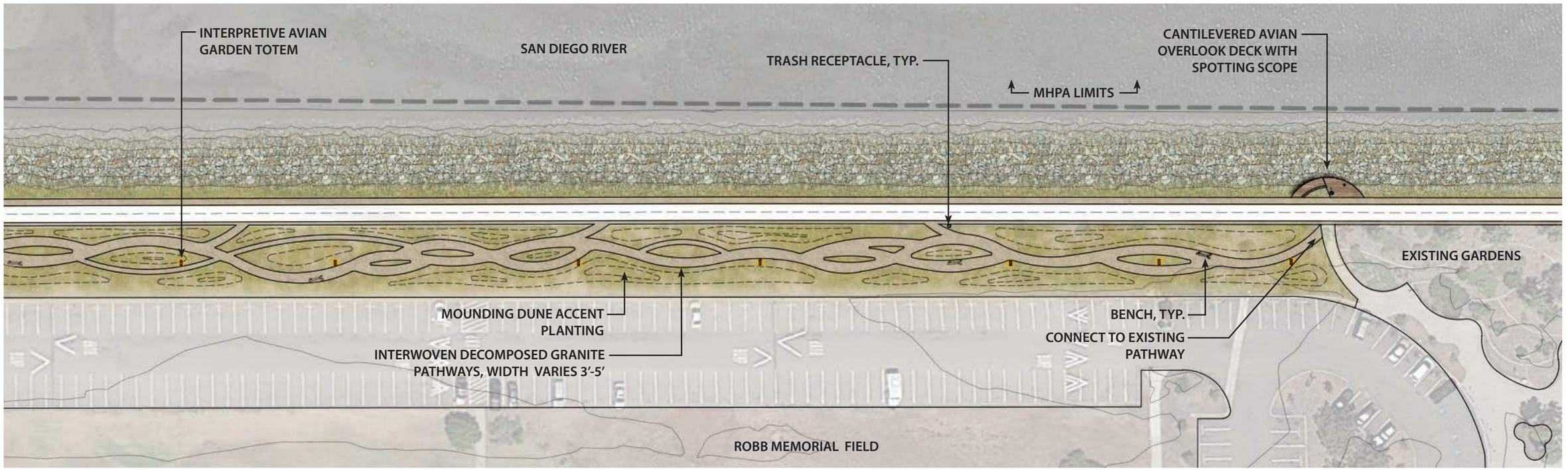
Mallard / *Anas platyrhynchos*



Snowy Plover / *Charadrius nivosus* Keenan Adams



Osprey / *Pandion hailaetus*



0 30 60 120

N

SCALE: 1" = 60'-0"



ESTUARY TRAIL ENHANCEMENT PLAN

5.2 Focal Points | Famosa Slough Overlook

FAMOSA SLOUGH PERCH

The Famosa Slough is an environmental treasure within the heart of an urban landscape. Bound by development on multiple sides, it provides 37 acres of habitat within the heart of the Ocean Beach and Midway communities. The San Diego River is an integral part of the slough's success as it provides a critical tidal flush of water to support the sensitive habitat. The Famosa Slough perch provides an opportunity for trail users to walk up an elevated platform and gaze through a telescope into the slough. The elevated platform also includes a series of interpretive panels which tell the story of the slough, its creation, and the endemic flora and fauna.

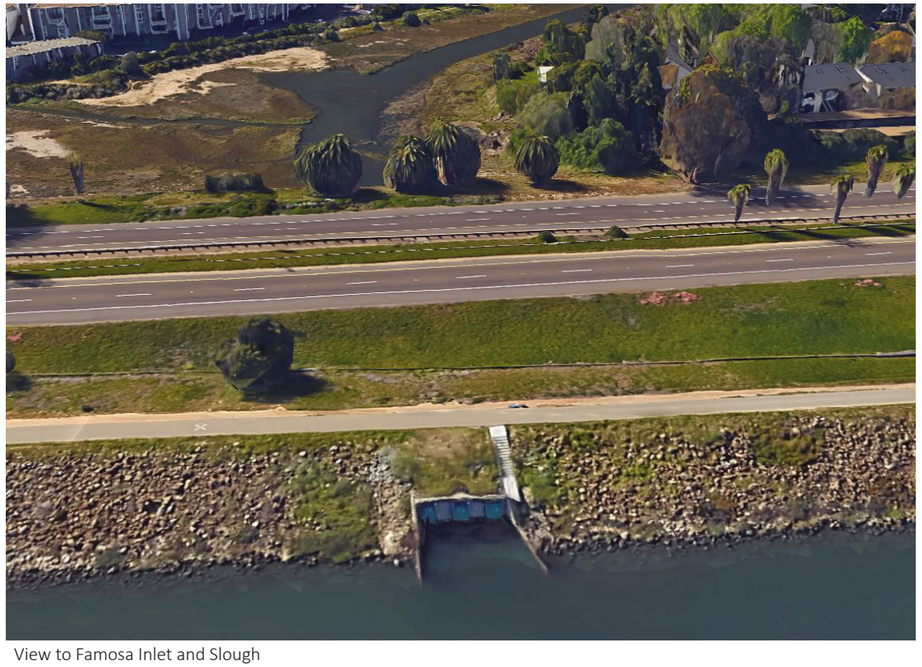
A large overlook complements the perch on the northern side of the trail. The overlook shall reside directly over the existing Famosa Slough outlet/inlet that provides the slough with its critical water source. This overlook is a premier birding opportunity at the ground level to observe the beautiful avian species that visit and live within the river. Interpretive panels in this location shall discuss the role of the outlet/inlet and the interconnected nature of the river and the slough.



Bird Watching Opportunities at the Famosa Slough



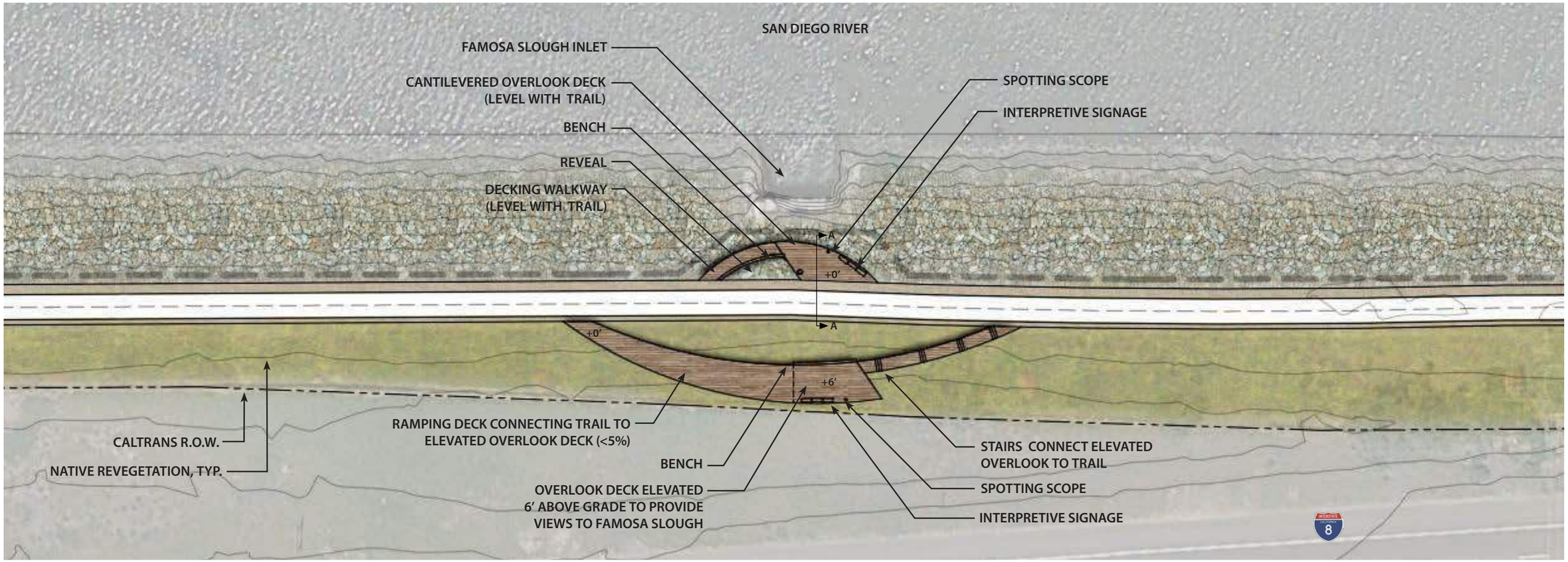
Proposed Spotting Scope



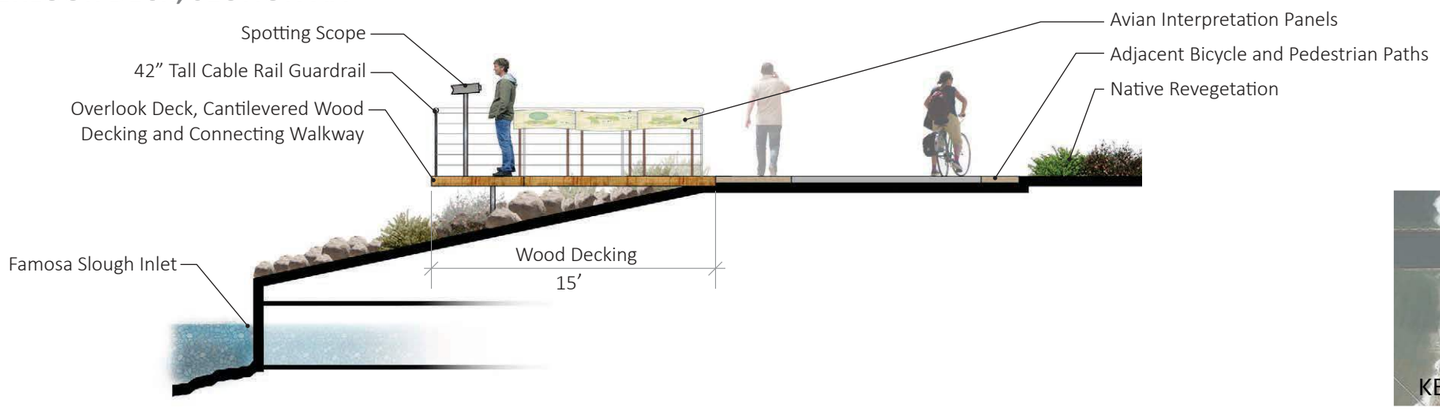
View to Famosa Inlet and Slough

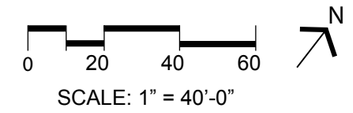


Example of Overlook at Trail Edge



OVERLOOK DECK, SECTION AA







ESTUARY TRAIL ENHANCEMENT PLAN

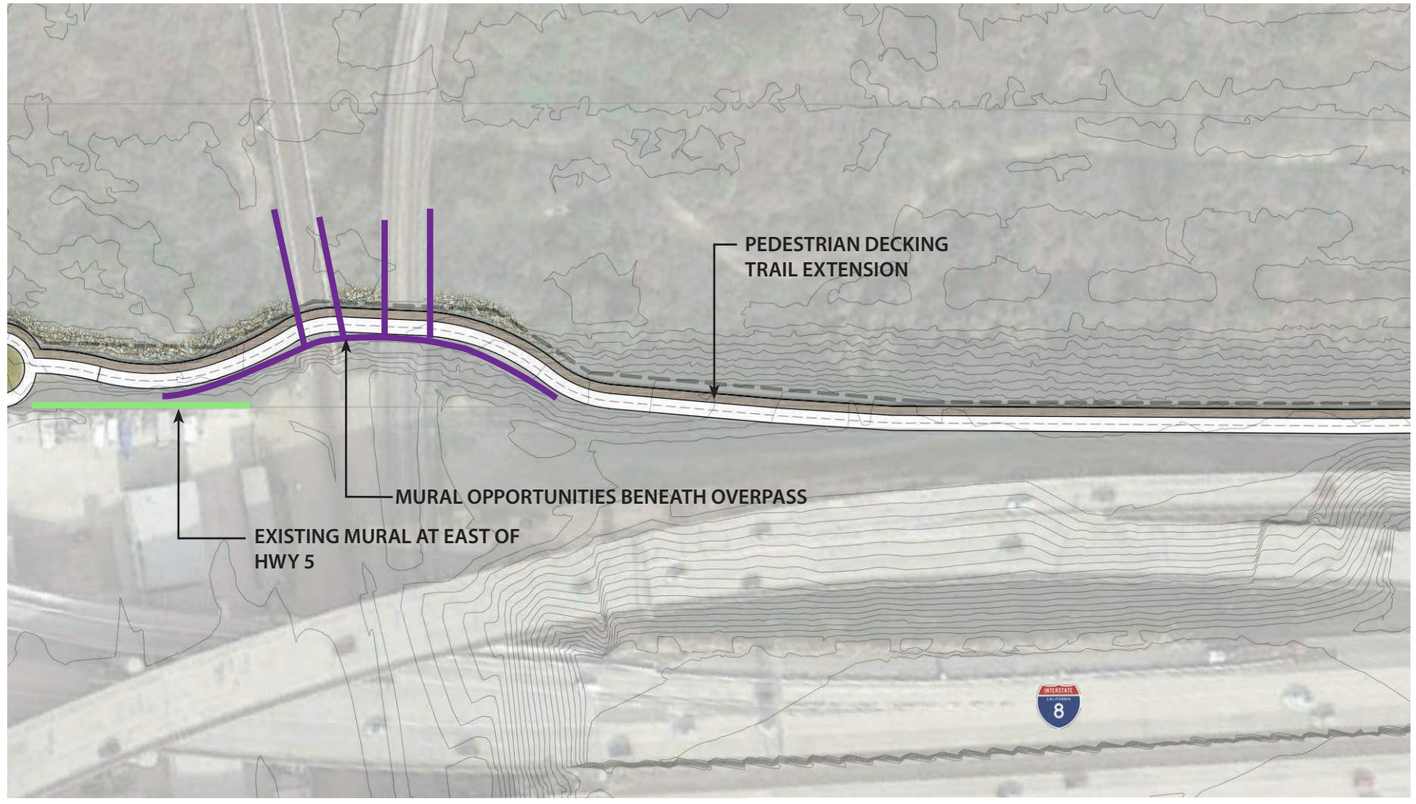
5.2 Focal Points | The Murals

THE MURALS

The Murals represent a unique opportunity to build upon the successful public art murals which have already been implemented within this reach. The trail is predominantly depressed in this area resulting in a series of vertical surfaces including retaining walls, property walls, bridge abutments, and columns that are ideal canvases for new murals. Chicano Park in southeast San Diego is an example of the positive impact of cultural and environmental art adorning transportation infrastructure while creating a strong sense of place. New murals should tell stories about the history and habitat of the river. Much like Chicano Park, the murals can be a destination for all ages to experience a tapestry of art which celebrates the river.



Existing Mural at Cottonwood Grove



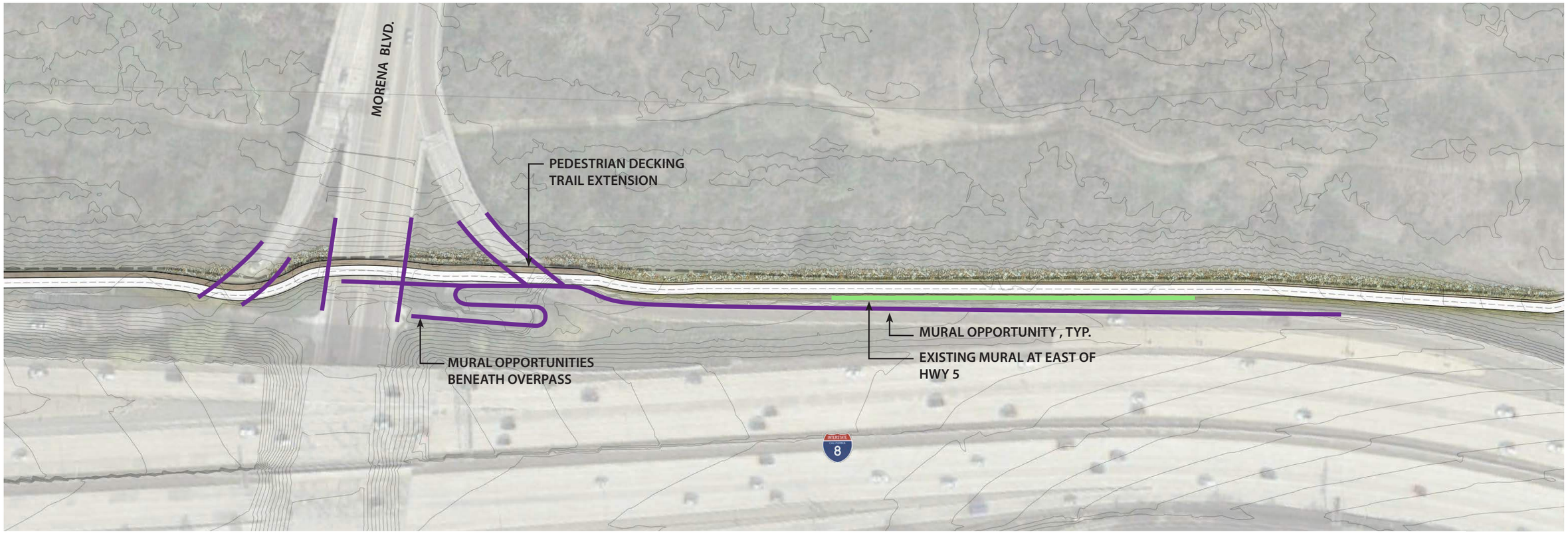


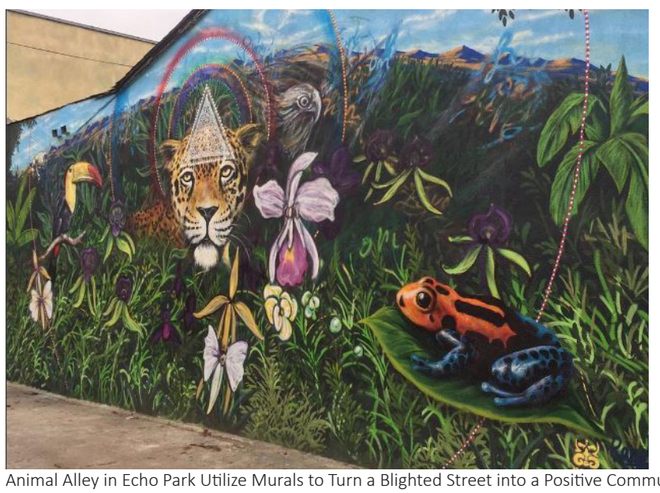
Existing Mural East of Interstate 5

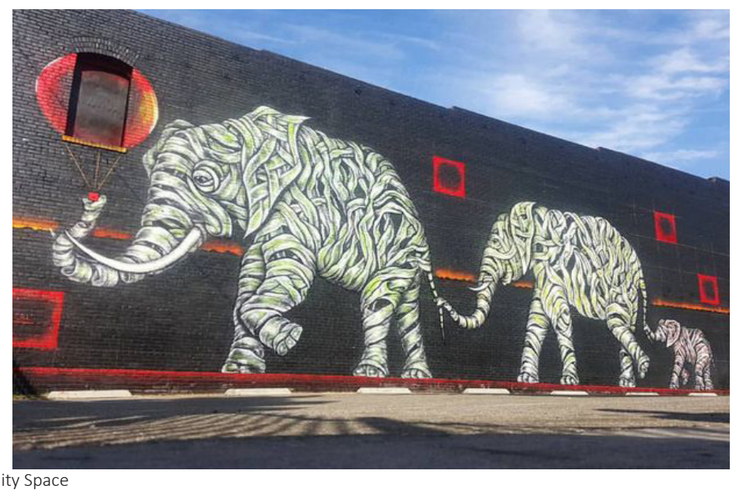


Chicano Park Has Become a Destination Because of its Impressive Collection of Public Murals

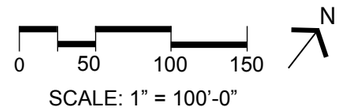








Animal Alley in Echo Park Utilize Murals to Turn a Blighted Street into a Positive Community Space

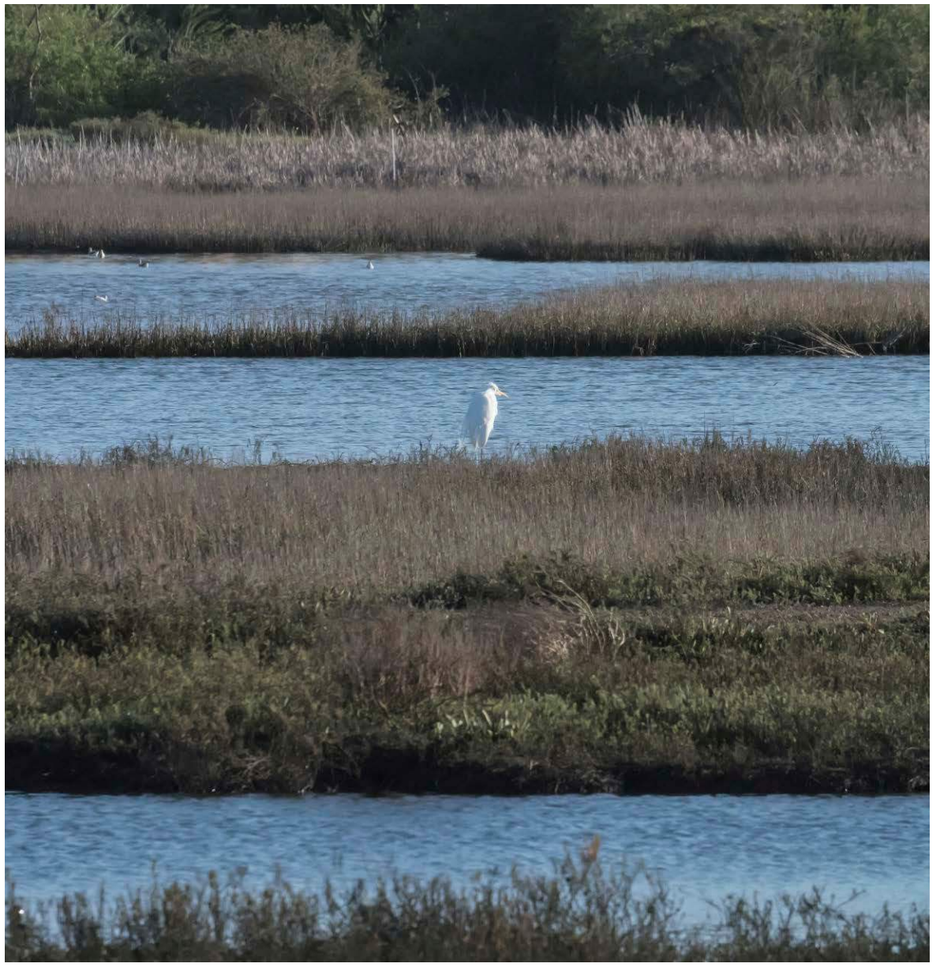




CHAPTER 6 | LOOKING FORWARD

6.1 Next Steps

The next step in realizing the Estuary Segment enhancements include obtaining Park & Recreation Board approval. It is anticipated that a Coastal Development Permit, with a supporting Biological Technical Report, will be permitted through the City of San Diego Development Services Department. Review and approval will also be required by the California Coastal Commission as a portion of the project is within the local Coastal Overlay Zone. This approval process may require coordination with California Department of Fish and Wildlife, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Army Corp of Engineers regarding any potential impacts to environmental resources and the levy. The River Park Foundation may choose to explore a categorical exclusion from a coastal development permit if it can be demonstrated that there is no potential for significant adverse effects on coastal resources. See appendix A for a summary of jurisdictional approvals and permits anticipated for the estuary segment.



RESOURCES

SOURCES

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APPENDIX A

Environmental Constraint Analysis | Summary

HELIX Enviornmental Planning Inc. conducted a Constraints Analysis Study for the San Diego River Trail Enhancement Plan - Estuary Segment, located in the City of San Diego.

The approximately 91-acre study area of the Estuary Segment begins at Dog Beach, south of the mouth of the San Diego River, and parallels the south bank of the River for approximately 3.75 miles, terminating between the MTS Morena/Linda Vista Trolley Station and the Presidio Little League Fields. The width of the study area is 200 feet wide.

The constraints analysis is based on a pre-field (remote) analysis and a site reconnaissance conducted on June 12, 2015 by HELIX Ecologist and Regulatory Specialist Joshua Zinn. The survey area occurs within the boundaries of the City of San Diego, which is a participant in the San Diego County Multiple Species Conservation Program (MSCP).

Information in this study is provided to assist in the planning of a trail and associated improvements along the south side of the San Diego River. A more detailed jurisdictional delineation may be required in the future to ascertain the type, amount, and location of jurisdictional areas when specific development projects are proposed.

The most significant constraint to project development is represented by coastal wetlands/riparian habitat.

LISTED SPECIES POTENTIALLY OCCURRING AT THE STUDY AREA

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	PRESENCE AT SURVEY AREA	FEDERAL STATUS	STATE STATUS	DOCUMENTED LOCATION
Animals					
Passerculus sandwichensis beldingi	Belding's savannah sparrow	Presumed Extant (Natural/Native occurrence)	None	Endangered	San Diego River flood control channel west of I-5.
Rallus longirostris levipes	light-footed clapper rail	Presumed Extant (Natural/Native occurrence)	Endangered	Endangered	San Diego River mouth area from near Morena Blvd overcrossing.
Sterna antillarum browni	California least tern	Presumed Extant (Natural/Native occurrence)	Endangered	Endangered	Sandbars at lower end of flood control channel of San Diego River.
Vireo bellii pusillus	least Bell's vireo	Presumed Extant (Natural/Native occurrence)	Endangered	Endangered	San Diego River, about 0.9 miles east of I-8 and I-5 Interchange, North of Mission Hill. Potential habitat in riparian habitat at the eastern end of the study area
Plants					
* *Chloropyron maritimum* ssp. *maritimum*	salt marsh bird's-beak	Present (observed) (Natural/Native occurrence)	Endangered	Endangered	In coastal salt marsh near San Diego River mouth area extending to Robb Athletic Field

[a] All species potentially occurring within the survey area are covered under the City's Multiple Species Conservation Program (MSCP) Subarea Plan (City of San Diego 1997).

* Recorded on site.

Source: Helix Environmental Consults - Constraints Analysis July 2015

POTENTIAL CONSTRAINTS SUMMARY

Potential Constraint	Regulation/Jurisdiction	Agency(ies)	Actions Required (if full avoidance is not achieved)
Coastal Strand Restoration (ESHA and ESL)	*State* • California Coastal Act (PRC Section 30000 *et seq.* [30600 and 30240]) *Local* • Environmentally Sensitive Lands (SDMC Section 143.0101) • Site Development Permit (SDMC Section 126.0502)	• CCC • City of San Diego • San Diego River Park Foundation • USFWS (coastal program grant)	• Conduct and prepare CCC field delineation • Prepare delineation report and ESHA analysis • Determine if avoidance (setbacks/buffers) can be implemented • If avoidance cannot be implemented determine CCC or City will issue CDP (likely CCC will for this area) • Co-ordinate with City and CCC on CDP issuance • Prepare Allowable use CDP • Prepare ESL analysis • City Site Development Permit (as applicable) • Co-ordinate with San Diego River Park Foundation (Estuary enhancement plan and Community based mitigation)
All listed Plants and Animals • Potential to adversely affect/take is low	*Local* • City MSCP Subarea Plan	• USFWS • CDFW • USACE • City of San Diego	• All species occurring within survey area are covered under MSCP • Biological Assessment may be necessary • City issues take permit under MSCP, as applicable • Species impacts are covered by Section 7 consultation in such cases
Wetlands and Waters (tidal marsh, tidal mudflat, open water, cordgrass, coastal saltmarsh) • Potential to impact is moderate to high if path is placed to the north of blue-dashed line displayed on figures (Attachment A)	*Federal* • Section 404/401 of the Clean Water Act *State* • California Coastal Act (PRC Section 30000 *et seq.* [30600 and 30240]) • Lake and Streambed Alteration Program *Local* • Environmentally Sensitive Lands • City Site Development Permit	• CCC • City of San Diego • USACE • CDFW • RWQCB • NMFS	• Conduct and prepare USACE/CDFW/RWQCB field delineation • Prepare Delineation Report • Determine if impacts occur in and/or out of City Coastal Overlay Zone • Prepare ESL analysis, as applicable • Prepare ESHA analysis, as applicable • If avoidance (including setbacks/buffers) cannot be attained then permits will be required (e.g., CWA Section 404/401, CFGC Section 1600, CCC CDP, and City Site Development Permit) • **Note:** it is the understanding that placement of trail will not occur in tidal waters (if so, RHA Section 10 permit will be required) • EFH assessment if encroachment of the project occurs/encroaches into river channel
Graded and rip-rapped bank and riparian extent of the San Diego River	*State* • Lake and Streambed Alteration Program • California Coastal Act (PRC Section 30000 *et seq.* [30600 and 30240]) (this is a **LOW POTENTIAL)** *Local* • Environmentally Sensitive Lands (this is a **LOW POTENTIAL** as rip-rapped and graded river bank may potentially qualify as ESLs**)** • If determined ESL then a City Site Development Permit is required	• CDFW • CCC • City of San Diego	• Prepare ESL analysis, as applicable • If avoidance cannot be attained then permits will be required (e.g., CFGC Section 1600 and potentially a ESL City Site Development Permit (City ESL permit is a low potential) • SAA likely for rip-rapped banks (but mitigation requirements are likely low [1:1] to none)
Federally Built Levee	*Federal* • RHA Section 14 (Minor 408 Permission)	• USACE Civil Works	• If trail construction occurs on federally built levee co-ordinate early with USACE Civil Works to determine if minor 408 permission will be required • Prepare Minor 408 Permission Package if project occurs on levee (co-ordinate early with USACE Civil Works as this is a potentially 6-9 month process)

CDP: Coastal Development Permit; CESA: California Endangered Species Act; CFGC: California Fish and Game Code; FESA: Federal Endangered Species Act; ESL: Environmentally Sensitive Lands; ITP: Incidental Take Permit; LCP: Local Coastal Plan; SDMC: San Diego Municipal Code.

APPENDIX A | ENVIRONMENTAL CONSTRAINTS

Environmental Constraints Map | Trail Segment A



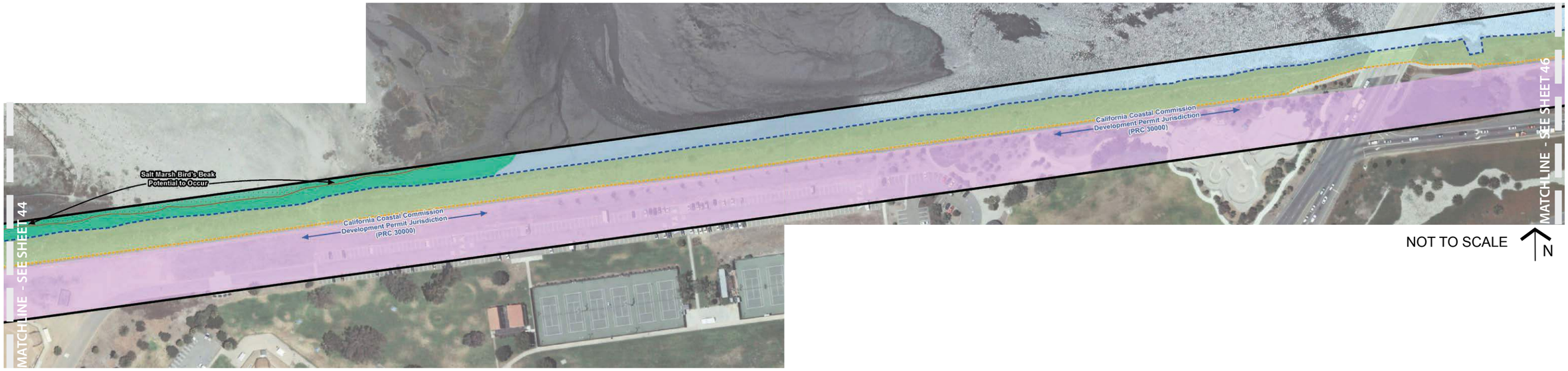
LEGEND

- Study Area
- Southern Boundary of Least Potential Constraints

Project Constraints

- Southern Limit of Jurisdictional Waters and Wetlands
- Federally Built Leveed Area (USACE NLD)
- Salt Marsh Bird's Beak (*Chloropyron maritimumssp. maritimum*)
- City of San Diego Coastal Strand Restoration
- Graded and Rip-rapped Streambank - Potential CDFW (CFGC 1600)
- Cordgrass Marsh - USACE (CWA 404/RHA10)/RWQCB (CWA 401)/CDFW (CFGC 1600) & City ESL (SDMC 143.0110)
- Southern Coastal Salt Marsh - USACE (CWA 404/RHA10)/RWQCB (CWA 401)/CDFW (CFGC 1600) & City ESL (SDMC 143.0110)
- Tidal Mudflat - USACE (CWA 404/RHA10)/RWQCB (CWA 401)/CDFW (CFGC 1600) & City ESL (SDMC 143.0110)

Source: Helix Environmental Consults - Constraints Analysis July 2015

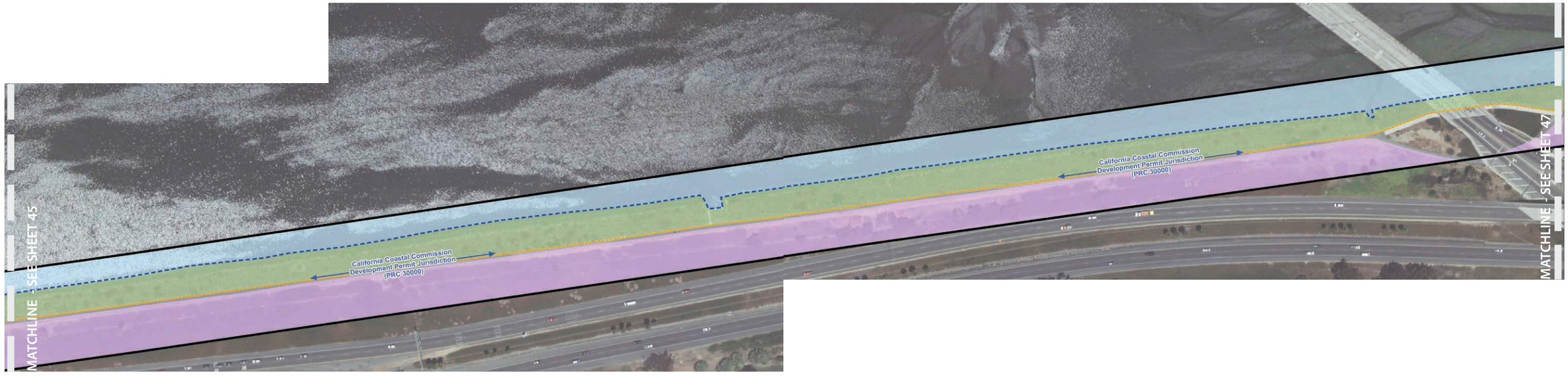


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APPENDIX A | ENVIRONMENTAL CONSTRAINTS

Environmental Constraints Map | Trail Segment C



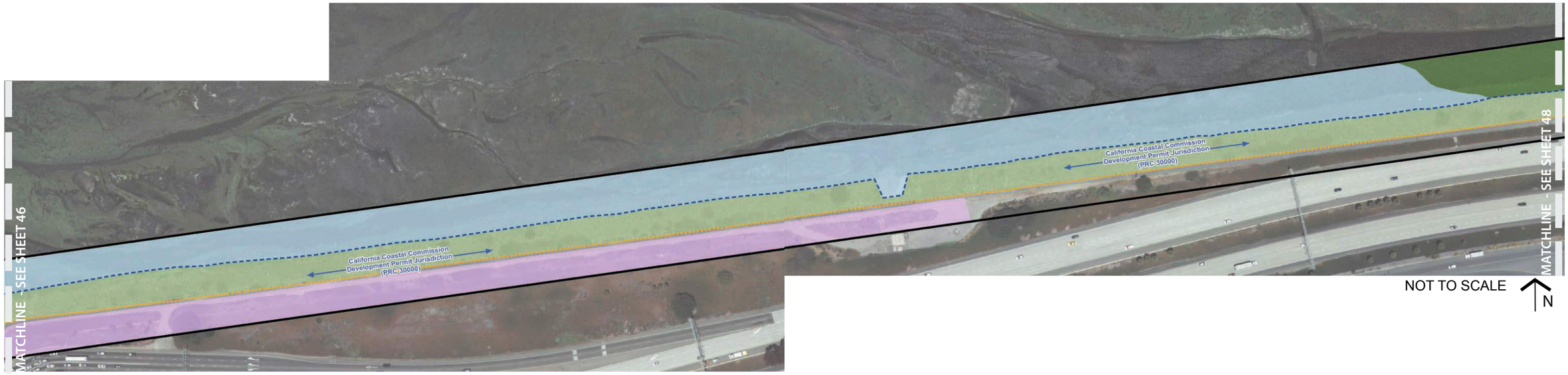
LEGEND

- Study Area
- Southern Boundary of Least Potential Constraints

Project Constraints

- Southern Limit of Jurisdictional Waters and Wetlands
- Federally Built Leveed Area (USACE NLD)
- Graded and Rip-rapped Streambank - Potential CDFW (CFGC 1600)
- Tidal Mudflat - USACE (CWA 404/RHA10)/RWQCB (CWA 401)/CDFW (CFGC 1600) & City ESL (SDMC 143.0110)
- Brackish marsh - USACE (CWA 404/RHA10)/RWQCB (CWA 401)/CDFW (CFGC 1600) & City ESL (SDMC 143.0110)

Source: Helix Environmental Consults - Constraints Analysis July 2015



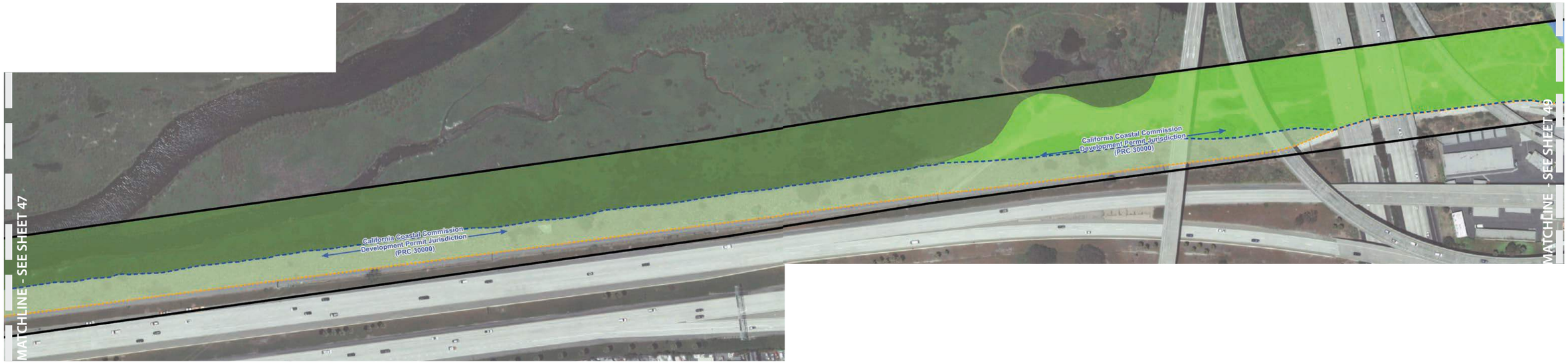
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APPENDIX A | ENVIRONMENTAL CONSTRAINTS

Environmental Constraints Map | Trail Segment E



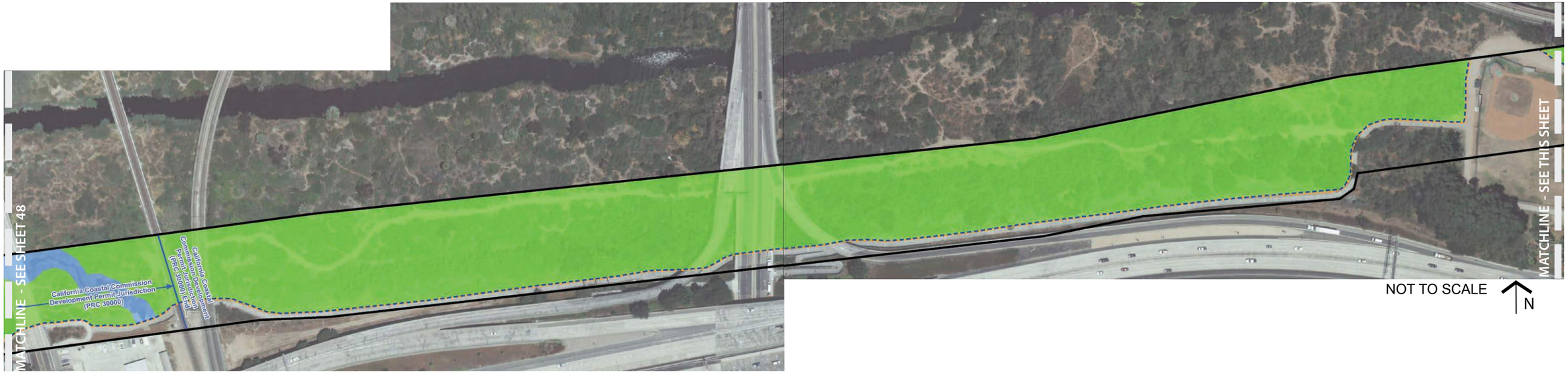
LEGEND

- Study Area
- Southern Boundary of Least Potential Constraints

Project Constraints

- Southern Limit of Jurisdictional Waters and Wetlands
- Graded and Rip-rapped Streambank - Potential CDFW (CFGC 1600)
- Brackish marsh - USACE (CWA 404/RHA10)/RWQCB (CWA 401)/CDFW (CFGC 1600) & City ESL (SDMC 143.0110)
- Riparian Extent (Disturbed Southern Willow Riparian Forest) - CDFW (CFGC 1600) & City ESL (SDMC 143.0110)
- Riverine and Southern Willow Shrub Wetland - USACE (CWA 404)/RWQCB (CWA 401)/CDFW (CFGC 1600) & City ESL (SDMC 143.0110)

Source: Helix Environmental Consults - Constraints Analysis July 2015


MATCHLINE - SEE SHEET 48
California Coastal Commission Development Permit Jurisdiction (PRC 30000)
California Coastal Commission Development Permit Jurisdiction (PRC 30000 Et Al.)
MATCHLINE - SEE THIS SHEET
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MATCHLINE - SEE THIS SHEET


E
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KEY MAP
NTS

APPENDIX B | COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Estuary Segment | Community Outreach

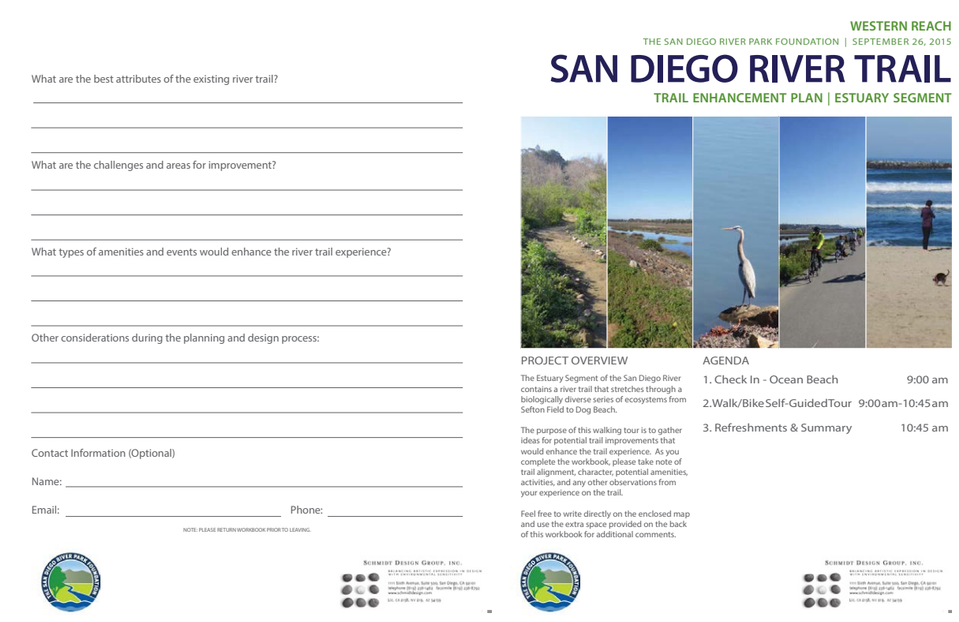
The Trail Enhancement Plan encourages communication with the local community throughout the planning process to inform and validate future designs. By working closely with the community and associated agencies, the proposed program and composition of the design shall endeavor to meet their collective needs.

Community members were invited to join walking tours with representatives from the San Diego River Park Foundation (SDRPF) and Schmidt Design Group (SDG) to gather ideas for potential trail improvements that would enhance the trail experience.

The walking tours took place on two different segments of the trail:
- Walk event 1 – Eastern Reach, September 12, 2015
- Walk event 2 – Western Reach, September 26, 2015

Each event started with a brief orientation of the overall master planning process and objectives for the day presented by Glen Schmidt and JT Barr of Schmidt Design Group, Inc.

Participants were encouraged to walk the trail at their own pace and note observations directly on the event workbook. At the end of each tour, SDRPF and SDG staff gathered the group for discussion and feedback and presented the next the next steps in the planning process.



What are the best attributes of the existing river trail?

What are the challenges and areas for improvement?

What types of amenities and events would enhance the river trail experience?

Other considerations during the planning and design process:

Contact Information (Optional)

Name:

Email: Phone:

NOTE: PLEASE RETURN WORKBOOK PRIOR TO LEAVING.

WESTERN REACH

THE SAN DIEGO RIVER PARK FOUNDATION | SEPTEMBER 26, 2015

SAN DIEGO RIVER TRAIL

TRAIL ENHANCEMENT PLAN | ESTUARY SEGMENT

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Estuary Segment of the San Diego River contains a river trail that stretches through a biologically diverse series of ecosystems from Sefton Field to Dog Beach.

The purpose of this walking tour is to gather ideas for potential trail improvements that would enhance the trail experience. As you complete the workbook, please take note of trail alignment, character, potential amenities, activities, and any other observations from your experience on the trail.

Feel free to write directly on the enclosed map and use the extra space provided on the back of this workbook for additional comments.

AGENDA

1. Check In - Ocean Beach	9:00 am
2.Walk/Bike Self-Guided Tour	9:00am-10:45am
3. Refreshments & Summary	10:45 am

Sample Workbook Provided for Participants

SUMMARY OF PARTICIPANT RESPONSES:

What are best attributes?
- The trail exists and connects to the ocean and river
- Great views, especially for birding

What are the challenges?
- Safety
- Trail width and bike/ped/dog conflicts
- Perception of gangs due to graffiti on eastern reach
- Lack of access points/parking
- Limited sidewalks at access points to city streets

Thoughts for improvements/activities?
- Signage
- Wayfinding Signs (identify street crossings, restrooms, distances to key amenities or features in the region)
- Distance Markers (creative mile markers on pavement or on signs)
- Interpretive Signs (birding, stormwater outlets, vision for entire trail, etc.)
- Regulation Signs for areas of use and speeding bikes.
- Art Murals
- Improve fencing at underpasses.
- Widen trail/separate waking, biking, and nature users. Consider soft surface trail edge for walkers/joggers.
- Improve trail surface, add striped lanes
- Trash recycle bins and drinking fountains (including for dogs)
- Seating with shade (structures and trees)
- Overlooks and rest stops along trail
- Additional habitat restoration
- Vector control under I-5 (grant funding available)
- Activate with events – school trips, clean up events, walk/run events
- Connect to Serra museum
- Planting between trail and river (bird & butterfly plants)
- Planting/erosion control strategies.
- Lighting at the bridges.
- Exercise/par course
- Restrooms













Community Members Discussing the San Diego River Trail During the Walking Tour