

A wide-angle photograph of a mountainous landscape with green vegetation under a clear sky.


# MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK

SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

Two side-by-side photographs. The left one shows a small waterfall cascading over rocks into a pool. The right one shows a wide valley with a winding road and distant hills.

## MASTER PLAN UPDATE


LAKE MURRAY • COWLES MOUNTAIN • MISSION GORGE  
FORTUNA MOUNTAIN • EAST ELLIOTT • WEST SYCAMORE

An aerial photograph of a large, irregularly shaped lake surrounded by a dense forest and some developed areas.

City of San Diego Park and Recreation Department

202 C Street, San Diego, California 92101

[www.sandiego.gov](http://www.sandiego.gov)

A photograph of a park landscape with trees in the foreground and mountains in the background.

FEBRUARY 2019

Back of Cover



# **MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK**

SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

## **MASTER PLAN UPDATE**

LAKE MURRAY • COWLES MOUNTAIN • MISSION GORGE  
FORTUNA MOUNTAIN • EAST ELLIOTT • WEST SYCAMORE

City of San Diego Park and Recreation Department

202 C Street, San Diego, California 92101

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# MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK MASTER PLAN

The following amendments have been incorporated into this Plan:

[illegible]

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*As of February 2019*

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## ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ASMD	<i>Area Specific Management Directive</i>
BMX	<i>Bicycle Motocross</i>
CAC	<i>Citizens' Advisory Committee</i>
CDFW	<i>California Department of Fish and Wildlife</i>
CEQA	<i>California Environmental Quality Act</i>
CPA	<i>Community Plan Area</i>
CPCI	<i>City Planning and Community Investment</i>
CUP	<i>Conditional Use Permit</i>
CWMA	<i>Cactus Wren Management Area</i>
DERP	<i>Defense Environmental Restoration Program</i>
EIR	<i>Environmental Impact Report</i>
ESA	<i>Endangered Species Act</i>
ESL	<i>Environmentally Sensitive Lands</i>
ESP	<i>Emergency Storage Project</i>
FRS	<i>Flow Regulatory Structure</i>
FUDS	<i>Formerly Used Defense Sites</i>
HOA	<i>Home Owners Association</i>
JPA	<i>Joint Powers Agreement</i>
MCAS	<i>Marine Corps Air Station</i>
MDP	<i>Master Development Plan</i>
MHPA	<i>Multi-Habitat Planning Area</i>
MPU	<i>Master Plan Update</i>
MSCP	<i>Multiple Species Conservation Program</i>
MSL	<i>Mean Sea Level</i>
MTRP	<i>Mission Trails Regional Park</i>
NRMP	<i>Natural Resources Management Plan</i>
PUD	<i>Public Utilities Department</i>
SANDAG	<i>San Diego Association of Government</i>
SDCWA	<i>San Diego County Water Authority</i>
SDG&E	<i>San Diego Gas &amp; Electric</i>
SDMMP	<i>San Diego Mitigation Monitoring Program</i>
SDSU	<i>San Diego State University</i>
SR	<i>State Route</i>
TAC	<i>Technical Advisory Committee</i>
USACE	<i>United States Army Corps of Engineers</i>
USFWS	<i>United States Fish and Wildlife Service</i>
USMC	<i>United States Marine Corps</i>
UXO	<i>Unexploded Ordnance</i>



# MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Mission Trails Regional Park (MTRP) is unique in many respects. At approximately 5,830 acres, MTRP as originally envisioned was one of the largest urban parks of its kind in the west. Although largely surrounded by residential development, the park contains mountains, valleys, two lakes, a major river and scenic gorge, historical landmarks, wildlife habitats, and cultural resources.

The close proximity and diversity of the park serves a broad cross-section of the population who might not be able to participate in other natural park activities because their more remote locations are simply out of reach.

### **MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK MISSION STATEMENT:**

*“Providing recreational and educational opportunities while protecting historical, cultural and natural resources for future generations.”*

*Mission Trails Regional Park has been called the third jewel in the City of San Diego Park System (Balboa Park and Mission Bay Park are the first and second.) Started in 1974, Mission Trails Regional Park is one of the largest urban parks in the United States. Originally inhabited by the Kumeyaay Indians, it is the site of the Old Mission Dam, built to store water for the Mission San Diego de Alcalá. The park encompasses approximately 8,000 acres of rugged hills, valleys, and open areas which represent a San Diego prior to the landing of Explorer Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo in San Diego Bay in 1542.*

*Mission Trails Regional Park provides San Diego residents and visitors a way to explore the cultural, historical, and natural outdoor recreational aspects of San Diego. The park is operated and maintained by the City of San Diego in close partnership with the Mission Trails Regional Park Foundation. With more than 40 miles of trails, boating on Lake Murray, camping at Kumeyaay Lake, numerous informative hikes, and a state-of-the-art Visitor & Interpretive Center, Mission Trails Regional Park has something to offer everyone.*

*2008 City of San Diego General Plan  
Recreation Element*

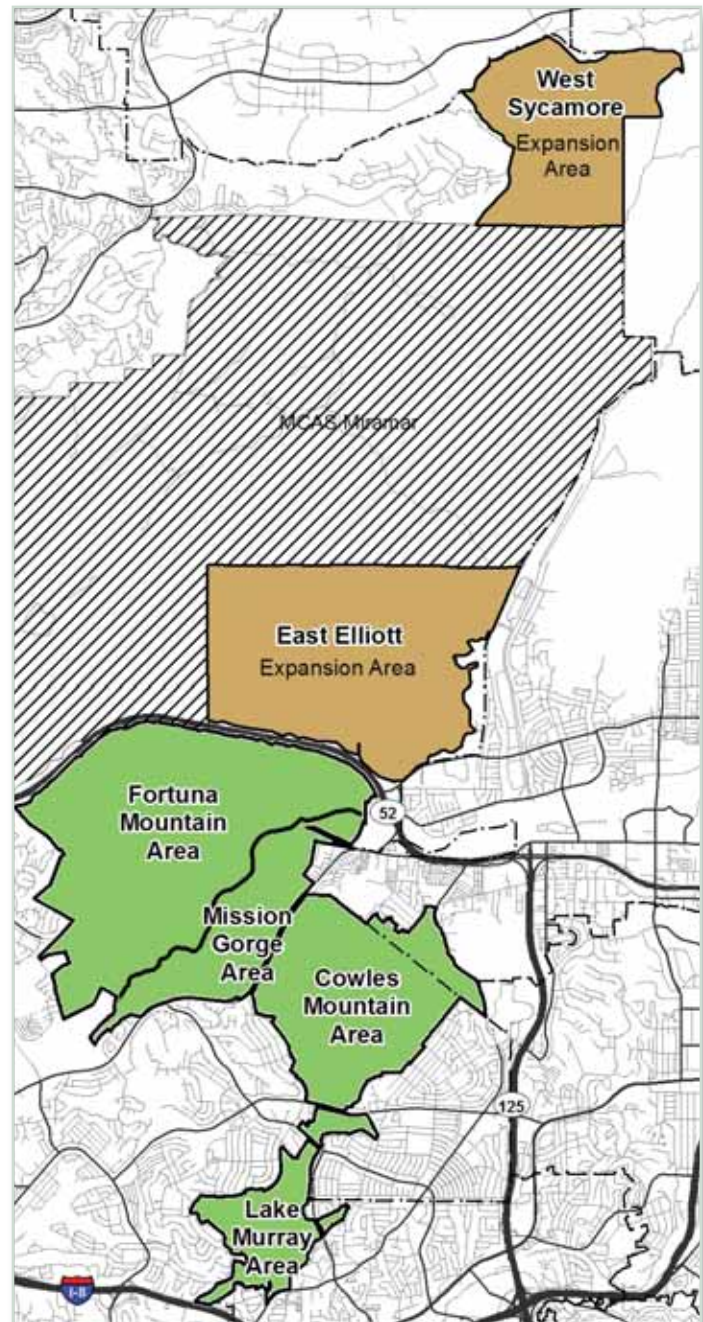


## 2019 MASTER PLAN UPDATE

The Master Plan responds to the public's increasing desire for a "close-in" park that provides varied wilderness, interpretive, and passive and active recreational opportunities. The benefits of the park are not merely quantitative. They expand the range and quality of park experiences for residents of metropolitan San Diego and the surrounding region. People are able to enjoy natural, recreational, and educational activities that would otherwise take them many miles, and to many different locations.

This Master Plan update (MPU) was initiated by the City of San Diego to reflect the current status of the park's development and the evolving requirements of environmental protection. This update also addresses the potential increase of the park to approximately 9,780 acres with the acquisition and potential acquisition of additional property within East Elliott and the inclusion of property within West Sycamore. The MPU also has been prepared to comply with the Multiple Species Conservation Program (MSCP) requirement for the development of a Natural Resources Management Plan (NRMP) that preserves and protects natural resources while encouraging public use and implementation of the MPU.

The NRMP and MPU have been developed as an integrated set of management guidelines for the park, with the NRMP focusing on the natural, cultural, and historical resources and the MPU focusing on public access and recreation. The actions associated with the NRMP are required, inter-related management actions intended to protect and enhance the natural resources within MTRP in compliance with the requirements of the MSCP program. The recommendations contained in this MPU are non-mandatory, inter-related management actions aimed at improving the public's enjoyment and appreciation of the natural and cultural resources contained within MTRP.



*Original Boundary and Expansion Areas of MTRP*





## **2. HISTORY OF THE PARK**

MTRP has been a collaborative effort between multiple jurisdictions for over 40 years. The following sections provide a brief history of the park through recently completed improvements.

### **2.1. MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK 1960-1975**

The origins of MTRP date back to 1960 when the City of San Diego prepared the report “Proposed Fortuna Mountain-Mission Gorge Metropolitan Park.” The Report identified a park of approximately 1,765 acres that included Mission Gorge, Old Mission Dam, and the entire Fortuna Mountain ridge.

The catalyst for this report was the Federal Government’s decision to release 1,220 acres of surplus real property. This land was purchased by the City as part of the Camp Elliott annexation. Of the area identified for the park, the City already owned 375 acres and the Cuyamaca Water Company controlled 140 of the remaining acres.

However, the park concept lay fallow until 1967, when San Diego County prepared the “Comprehensive Regional Park Plan.” This Plan eliminated the Mission Gorge area from the park and proposed creating two separate and smaller regional parks identified as Fortuna Mountain and Lake Murray. Subsequently – between late 1970 and early 1972 – the County prepared the “Regional Park Implementation Study.” This study contained the first definitive discussion since 1960 of what the regional park might look like in terms of land use and design. Included in the study was a recommendation that the City provide substantial additional open space on Cowles Mountain.

Between 1960 and 1975, there was substantial development around the periphery of the proposed park. As a result, new efforts were made to act upon the park concept.

Through a cooperative City-County effort, Cowles Mountain was purchased in 1974. This acquisition linked the proposed Fortuna Mountain Regional Park with Lake Murray and led the San Diego County Board of Supervisors and the San Diego City Council to develop a “Park Complex” consisting of Fortuna Mountain, Cowles Mountain, and Lake Murray. This recaptured the “one diverse park” concept contained in the 1960 proposal, and led to the joint effort by the City and County to begin the 1976 master planning process.

### **2.2. 1976 MASTER PLANNING PROCESS**

In August of 1975, the County of San Diego had a Master Plan for the park prepared, entitled “Lake Murray, Cowles and Fortuna Mountain Regional Park”. The Plan was completed in July of 1976 to assist policy makers with key decisions regarding early implementation of the regional park concept.

In preparing the master plan, consultants worked closely with City and County staff, other public agencies and planning groups, San Diego State University (SDSU), and the general public through a 45 member Technical Advisory Committee (TAC).



## 2019 MASTER PLAN UPDATE

The presentation of the draft master plan (Figure 2-1) to the City Council and County Board of Supervisors on March 10, 1977 culminated a joint effort of the consultant team, City and County staff, the TAC, and the general public.

Prior to jurisdictional approval of the draft master plan in 1977, it was necessary to evaluate the potential environmental impacts of the planning recommendations. In February 1978, the City retained an environmental consultant to prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR). The draft EIR was completed on September 6, 1978 and certified by City Council in March 1979 (EIR-78-08-15C).

### 2.3. MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK TASK FORCE

Recognition of the inter-governmental complexities of finalizing and implementing the Master Plan resulted in the May 1977 formation of the “Lake Murray/Cowles Mountain/Fortuna Mountain Regional Park Task Force.” The broad goals of the Task Force were to proceed with the adoption of the Master Plan, the acquisition of property within the proposed park, and the formulation of improvement and operation plans for the park.

The Task Force has since evolved into the MTRP Task Force of today (Table 2-1).

*Table 2-1: MTRP Task Force composition and membership*

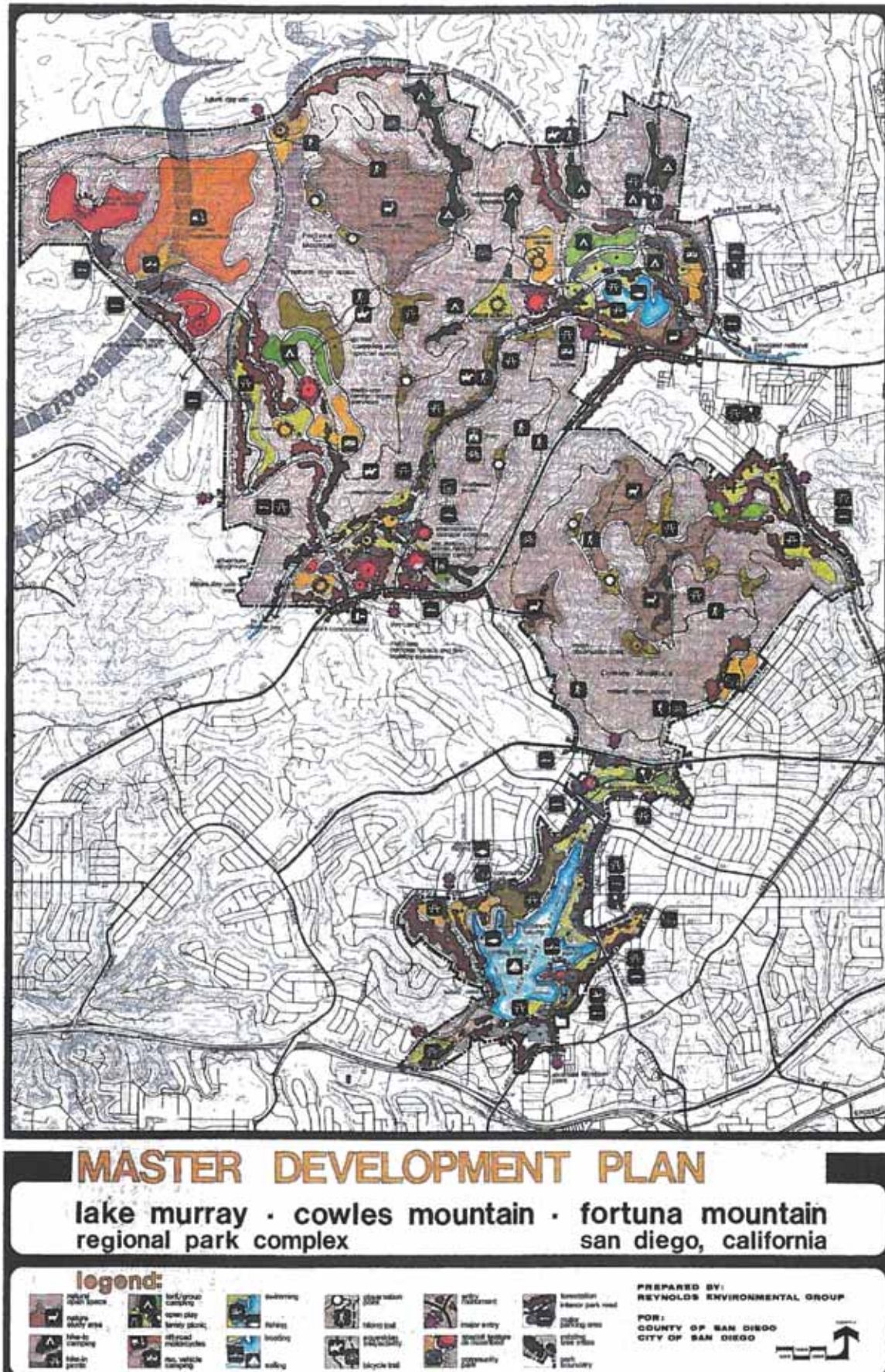
City of San Diego	<i>Councilmember</i>	<i>Appointed by the City Council every year</i>
	<i>Councilmember</i>	
County of San Diego	<i>Supervisor</i>	<i>Appointed by the Board of Supervisors every year</i>
	<i>Supervisor</i>	
City of Santee	<i>Councilmember</i>	<i>Appointed by the City Council every year</i>
	<i>Councilmember</i>	<i>Alternate</i>
City of La Mesa	<i>Councilmember</i>	<i>Appointed by the City Council every year</i>
MTRP Citizens' Advisory Committee	<i>CAC Representative</i>	<i>Appointed by the MTRP Task Force every two years</i>





# MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK

Figure 2-1: 1976 Master Plan





## 2.4. CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE

In December 1977, the Lake Murray, Cowles and Fortuna Mountain Citizens' Advisory Committee (CAC) was established by the Task Force as an advisory body – to consider and make recommendations on items referred to it by the Task Force; review and evaluate staff proposals; make proposals on its own initiative; and provide an additional forum for public input. Recommendations of the CAC are sent to the Task Force for approval. The CAC makes recommendations to the Task Force regarding the use of the ongoing income from the antenna facilities atop Cowles Mountain. These funds have been designated by the City Council and County Board of Supervisors to support capital improvements in the park (1996 Joint Powers Agreement).

The Committee consists of representatives from the nine affected major community planning areas and local jurisdictions adjoining, or directly affected by the park. The current configuration of the CAC is shown in Table 2-2. CAC members serve for two-year terms and are appointed by various entities as shown in the table.

In 1979, the “Lake Murray, Cowles and Fortuna Mountain Regional Park” was renamed by the CAC and Task Force as “Mission Trails Regional Park,” reflecting the area’s historic connection to the San Diego Mission, through historic Old Mission Dam and the flume.

## 2.5. MASTER DEVELOPMENT PLAN APPROVAL – 1985

A major function of the CAC was review and revision of the 1976 draft Master Development Plan (MDP) in conjunction with the EIR, and to make recommendations for a final MDP. This process began in March 1979, and concluded in June 1981.

In August 1984, the Task Force adopted, with certain modifications, the proposed 1976 MDP as amended by the CAC’s recommendations set forth in its June 1981 report. In October 1984, the City retained a consultant to incorporate the amendments adopted by the Task Force.

The updated draft MDP was presented to the CAC and Task Force in December 1984. On January 8, 1985 the CAC unanimously voted to submit the Plan (Figure 2-2) to the Task Force. On January 17, 1985, the Task Force unanimously approved the MDP and forwarded it to the City Council and Board of Supervisors for consideration and adoption. On April 29, 1985, the San Diego City Council adopted the MTRP MDP by Resolution No. R-263065. On June 11, 1985, the Plan was approved by the San Diego County Board of Supervisors.



*MTRP Task Force and CAC members, and community representatives, at the May 17, 1980 ceremony officially designating the Park, Mission Trails Regional Park - Left to right: Art Kohrmann, Francis Leatherman, Jo Reilly Cummings, Dorothy Leonard, Supervisor Roger Hedgecock, Sharon Murphy, Mike Pent (CAC Chair), Councilmember Larry Stirling (Task Force Chair), Dick Murphy, Richard Teague, (one unknown individual, Hank Wilson, Woody Miller.*



## MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK

*Table 2-2: MTRP Citizens' Advisory Committee Membership*

City of San Diego Park and Recreation Board
Tierrasanta Community Council
Navajo Community Planners
San Carlos Area Council
Scripps Ranch Civic Association
County of San Diego Parks Advisory Committee
City of Santee
City of La Mesa
City of El Cajon
MCAS Miramar
San Diego State University
User Group Representative
Member-at-large
Member-at-large
Special Member
Special Member
<i>Staff Representatives</i>
Deputy Director Open Space Division, Park and Recreation Department
District Manager Open Space Division, Park and Recreation Department
MTRP Senior Park Ranger
<i>Members-at-large are nominated by the Task Force Chair and confirmed by the Task Force.</i>
<i>Special members are former Task Force members who want to stay involved and are confirmed by the Task Force.</i>
<i>All other members are nominated by the agency/organization they represent and are confirmed by the Task Force.</i>
<i>The Chair and Vice-Chair are nominated by current Task Force Chair and confirmed by the Task Force for a 2-year appointment.</i>
<i>There are no term limits for any member of the CAC or Task Force</i>





*Figure 2-2: 1985 Master Plan*





## MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK

### 2.6. MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK FOUNDATION

In 1988, the MTRP Foundation was created as a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation. The purpose of the Foundation is to raise funds and provide special programs for the park that preserve, improve, develop and maintain MTRP and foster public appreciation and understanding of the park.



*Ranger-led hikes are one of the many school-age environmental programs offered by the MTRP Park Foundation.*

### 2.7. MASTER PLAN IMPLEMENTATION – 1985 TO 2015

Over the past twenty-six years many of the facilities and improvements identified in the 1985 Master Development Plan have been realized. The following paragraphs provide a summary of the major accomplishments.



#### 2.7.1. MISSION GORGE AND FORTUNA MOUNTAIN AREA LAND ACQUISITION

Both before and after the adoption of the 1985 Master Plan, which more precisely set the boundaries of the park, over 700 acres of land were approved for purchase by the San Diego City Council using open space bond funds that had been approved by the voters in 1978.



## 2019 MASTER PLAN UPDATE

### 2.7.2. HYDRILLA AT LAKE MURRAY

Lake Murray is a water reservoir owned by the City of San Diego. In May 1977, the State of California ordered the City to close Lake Murray to the public due to the infestation of the lake with a fast-growing, noxious weed called hydrilla. From 1981 to 1985, the City implemented an innovative and aggressive effort to successfully eradicate hydrilla from the lake. On Memorial Day 1985, the Lake Murray area was officially reopened to the public. The reopening permitted implementation of the Lake Murray section of the 1985 Master Plan. On November 30, 1994, the lake itself was reopened for water related activities.

### 2.7.3. OLD MISSION DAM HISTORIC SITE IMPROVEMENTS

Design improvements for the Old Mission Dam area, a designated historic site, were obtained and in 1985 AB 77 provided \$200,000 in State funds to accomplish the approved development. Funds were used to improve the parking area and signage, to create a picnic area, provide a water fountain, and plant native vegetation. This project subsequently received an award for historic preservation.



*Improvements at Old Mission Dam trailhead*

### 2.7.4. COWLES MOUNTAIN STAGING AREA

In 1984, the City of San Diego and the County of San Diego jointly developed a plan to construct a major entry to the Cowles Mountain area at the northeast intersection of Navajo Road and Golfcrest Drive. The improvements included landscaped parking and a comfort station, realignment of the trail from the staging area to the summit of Cowles Mountain, and development of a view point at the summit.



*Cowles Mountain staging area ground breaking ceremony November 4, 1984. Left to right: CAC Chair Mike Pent, Don Robinson, Supervisor Patrick Boorman, San Diego Councilmember and Task Force Chair Dick Murphy, La Mesa Mayor Fred Nagel, Fred Thomas, Kelly Murphy in front.*





## MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK

### 2.7.5. LAKE MURRAY COMMUNITY PARK

In the late 1980s, two girls softball fields were built adjacent to pre-existing Little League baseball fields, along with an open lawn area and tot lot. In 1988, a tennis court complex was opened with access from Park Ridge Boulevard. Additional courts were added in 1998 and 2008. On May 17, 2003, a comfort station and snack bar were dedicated to serve the community park.



*Lake Murray Community Park (Source Bing 2012)*

### 2.7.6. VISITOR AND INTERPRETIVE CENTER

Planning for the Visitor and Interpretive Center was the first major capital improvement project in the park. This award winning facility was dedicated and opened to the public on February 4, 1995 after a grand opening ceremony attended by approximately 1,200 people. A joint project of MTRP Foundation and the City of San Diego, the Visitor and Interpretive Center includes an exhibit area, theater, library, classrooms, office space, amphitheater and small gift shop. It continues to be managed and maintained jointly by the Foundation and the City of San Diego.



*Visitor and Interpretive Center grand opening, February 5, 1995*



### **2.7.7. OLD MISSION DAM INTERPRETIVE PATHWAY AND VIEWING TERRACE**

An interpretive pathway, completed in 1997, and a viewing terrace, completed in 1999, provide people with physical disabilities access to this area of the park. Both were joint projects of MTRP Foundation and the City of San Diego.



*Old Mission Dam Viewing Terrace*

### **2.7.8. CLAIREMONT MESA STAGING AREA (NOW KNOWN AS WEST FORTUNA STAGING AREA)**

In 1998, in cooperation with the Tierrasanta Open Space Landscape Maintenance Assessment District, the Tierrasanta entrance to the park at the eastern end of Clairemont Mesa Boulevard was improved. Picnic tables, an information kiosk, and a park entrance sign were installed.

This staging area has been renamed the West Fortuna Staging Area as part of this MPU.



*West Fortuna Staging Area*

### **2.7.9. KUMEYAAY LAKE CAMPGROUND**

Kumeyaay Lake Campground replaced an informal camping area that had existed on the edge of Kumeyaay Lake (formerly known as Hollins Lake) for many years prior to the construction of State Route 52 (SR-52). This 46-space campground, which was dedicated in 2000, provides a nighttime wilderness experience for young people and their families in an area that is close to their urban homes. Evening star gazing for the public is a popular activity at the campground.



*Campsite at Kumeyaay Lake Campground*





## MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK

### **2.7.10. DEERFIELD BMX SITE (NOW KNOWN AS DEERFIELD BIKE SKILLS AREA)**

In 2000, an abandoned quarry pit west of the San Diego River Crossing Trail staging area was identified for relocating unauthorized bicycle motocross (BMX) activity. In 2001, boundary fencing, picnic tables and an information kiosk were installed. Soil was provided by Superior Ready Mix for the creation of jumps by the BMX community. The unauthorized disturbed area adjacent to the Oak Grove Loop trail was restored in 2001. The site is being renamed the Deerfield Bike Skills Area as part of this MPU.



*Deerfield BMX Site (aka Bike Skills Area)*

### **2.7.11. EQUESTRIAN MULTI-USE STAGING AREA (NOW KNOWN AS EAST FORTUNA STAGING AREA)**

The Equestrian Multi-Use Staging Area, a major entrance to the Fortuna Mountain area of the park, was dedicated on December 4, 2004. This facility, a joint project of MTRP Foundation and the City of San Diego (SDP 40-0524), was designed to meet the needs of equestrians, as well as hikers and mountain bikers. The first phase of this project provides parking for cars and horse trailers, and includes two arenas and six horse corrals, as well as picnic tables and barbecues.

A 245 square-foot building providing a permanent comfort station and service building at the Equestrian Multi-Use Staging Area was opened in June 2012.

This staging area has been renamed the East Fortuna Staging Area as part of this MPU.



*Grand Opening of the East Fortuna Staging Area, 2004  
(Joan Emory, San Diego Councilman and former MTRP Task Force Chair  
Jim Madaffer, former Santee Councilman Brian Jones, former San Diego  
Mayor Dick Murphy, MTRP Foundation President Joe Morse, former  
San Diego Park & Recreation Director Ellen Oppenheim)*



*East Fortuna Staging Area comfort station*



### **2.7.12. OLD MISSION DAM SILT REMOVAL**

In 1988, the City obtained a onetime only permit to remove silt from behind the dam to protect this historic structure. With additional build up of silt, in 1994 the City began the process of obtaining permits that would allow for ongoing silt removal. The permits were finally acquired in 2007 and 1,300 cubic yards of silt was removed in October 2007. However, permits from two of the four agencies only allowed for a one time silt removal operation. Additional permits are required for periodic removal of the silt that continues to build up behind the dam. In conjunction with the 2007 silt removal project, a mitigation site was identified adjacent to the Carlton Oaks Golf Course.



*Pre-Dredging at Old Mission Dam (May 2007)*



*Post-Dredging at Old Mission Dam (Oct 2007)*



*Post-Dredging at Old Mission Dam showing new sediment accumulation ( 2012)*





## MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK

### **2.8. MULTIPLE SPECIES CONSERVATION PROGRAM**

The MSCP, approved in 1997, is a comprehensive habitat conservation planning program for southwestern San Diego County. It was developed cooperatively by participating jurisdictions and special districts in partnership with the wildlife agencies (United States Fish and Wildlife Service and California Department of Fish and Wildlife), property owners, and representatives of the development industry and environmental groups. The purpose of the MSCP is to preserve a network of habitat and open space, protecting biodiversity and enhancing the region's quality of life. Implementation of the MSCP is carried out by Multi-Habitat Planning Area (MHPA) Guidelines adopted by each jurisdiction.

MTRP falls within the Eastern Area of the MSCP and the associated MHPA is shown in Figure 2-3. The CAC and Task Force participated in drafting the MSCP recommendations as they relate to the park. The MSCP discusses MTRP in the following manner.

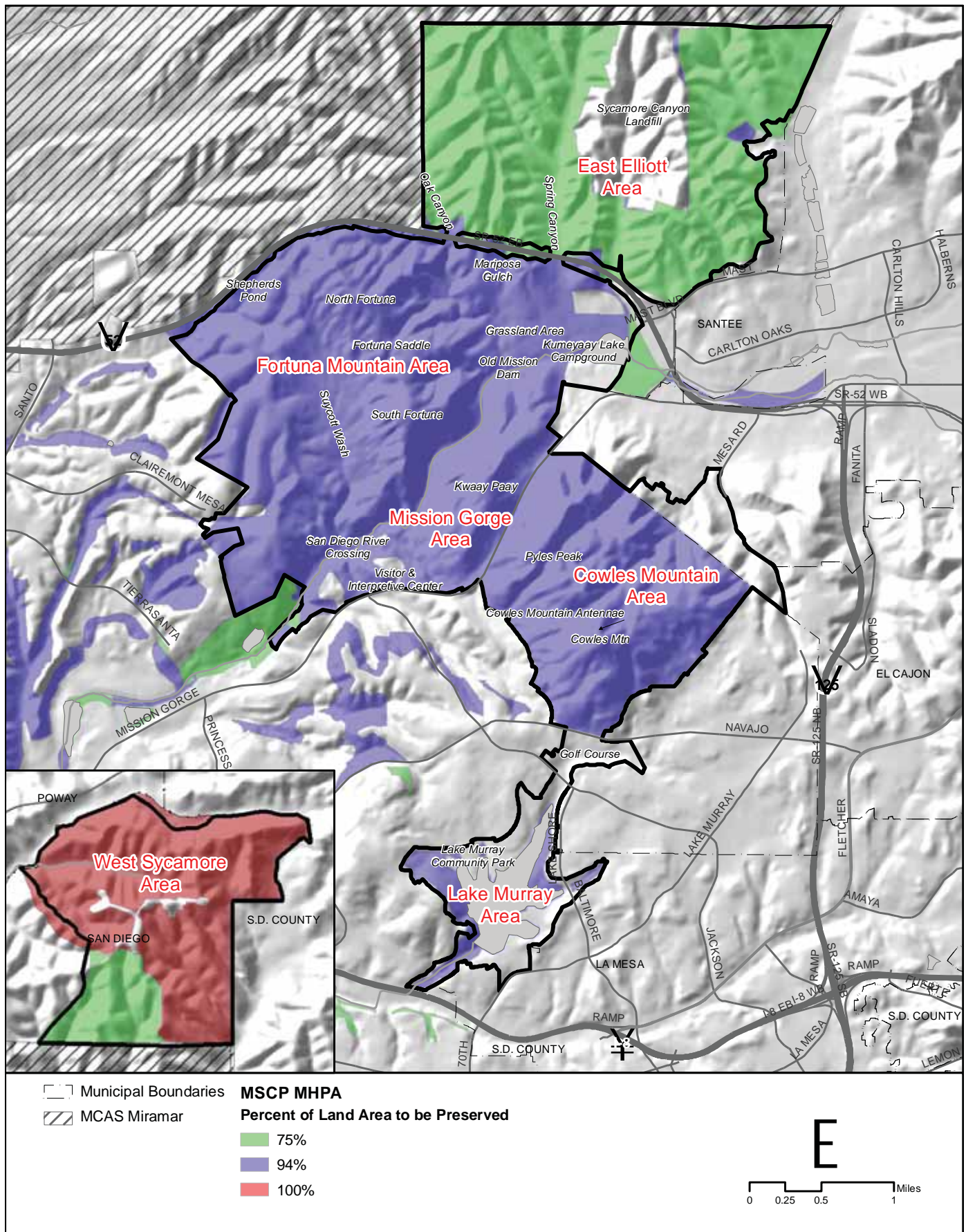
*“The Mission Trails Regional Park Master Plan identifies all existing and future uses as envisioned by the park planners when the master plan was adopted in 1985. Since that time, many uses anticipated in the plan have been built while others remained undeveloped. Areas within and surrounding the park have since taken on more significance as a core area for the region's sensitive biological resources. Some uses originally anticipated in the master plan have been evaluated for compatibility with the MSCP and, for the most part, the passive recreational uses envisioned by the park plan are considered compatible. Where future park uses were considered to be potentially incompatible with the MHPA, alternative locations have been identified to accommodate those uses in less sensitive areas, or the MHPA has been redesigned so that those uses occur outside the MHPA boundaries. The large developed group camping site which was envisioned in the center of the park would be deleted due to its possible negative effects. Where potential inconsistencies occur between the Mission Trails Regional Park Master Plan and the MSCP, resolution will be made by the existing park decision-making bodies after consultation with MSCP planners.”*

For a more detailed description and discussion of management actions related to implementation of the MSCP, refer to the MTRP NRMP.



# 2019 MASTER PLAN UPDATE

Figure 2-3: Multiple Species Conservation Program Multi-Habitat Planning Area designations within MTRP



## MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK

### **2.9. PARK EXPANSION**

Since approval of the 1985 MDP, two expansion areas have been included within the park: East Elliott and West Sycamore. The two areas are described briefly below and are included as existing subareas within the remainder of this MPU and associated NRMP.

#### **2.9.1. EAST ELLIOTT**

The vast majority of the East Elliott Community Planning Area has been designated as MHPA as part of the MSCP being implemented by the City of San Diego. All public and privately owned land is targeted for at least 75 percent preservation except for the parcels zoned for the Sycamore Landfill. The City of San Diego, along with other federal, state, local, private and non-profit land conservation partners, is actively pursuing the acquisition of land in this area and currently owns approximately 735 acres (~29 percent). So whether directly acquired or dedicated as part of the permitting process for land development, at least 75 percent of this area will be managed for habitat conservation purposes. As land is acquired or dedicated in fee or by easement, it will become part of MTRP (Figure 2-4).

East Elliott is immediately north of State Route 52 (SR-52), east and south of Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Miramar, and west of the City of Santee. Entrances to this area of the park will be from the Fortuna Mountain area via the Spring Canyon underpass and the Oak Canyon underpass. Future entrances will be from Mast Blvd through the approved Castlerock development via a dedicated public access easement, and a public access easement near the area known as the Santee Boulders.

#### **2.9.2. WEST SYCAMORE**

An Extraordinary Benefits Agreement between the City of San Diego and Sycamore Estates, L.L.C., approved by the San Diego City Council on July 19, 2001 as part of the Rancho Encantada Precise Plan, obligated the developer to convey 1,568 acres of land within the MHPA for the purposes of habitat conservation to the City of San Diego. This land, along with 252.37 adjacent acres previously acquired by the City of San Diego, formerly known as MTRP North, is identified in this document as the West Sycamore area of the park (Figure 2-5).

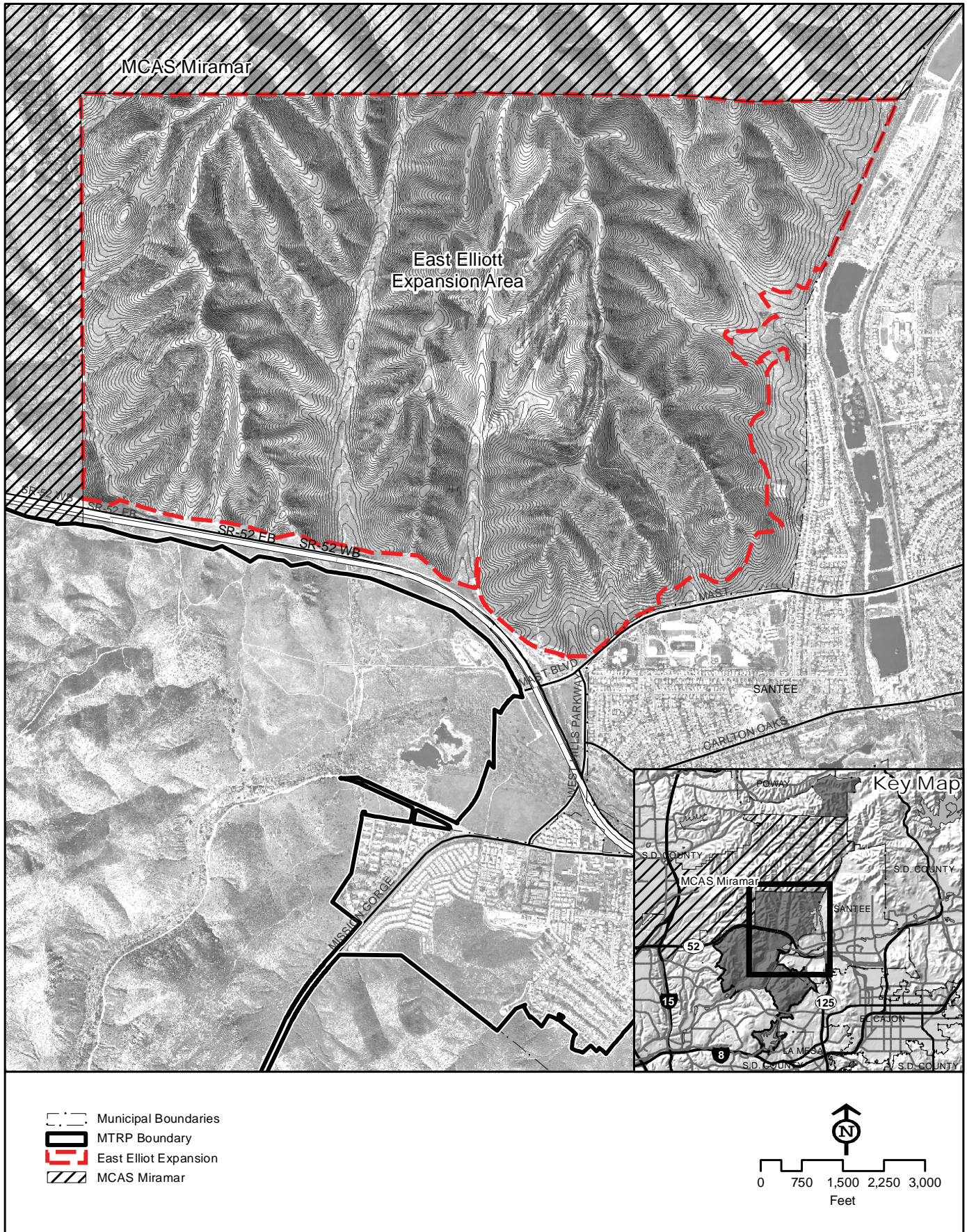
West Sycamore is immediately north of MCAS Miramar and west of Goodan Ranch Sycamore Canyon Preserve, a county park. The major entrance to this area of the park is at the eastern terminus of Stonebridge Parkway.





# 2019 MASTER PLAN UPDATE

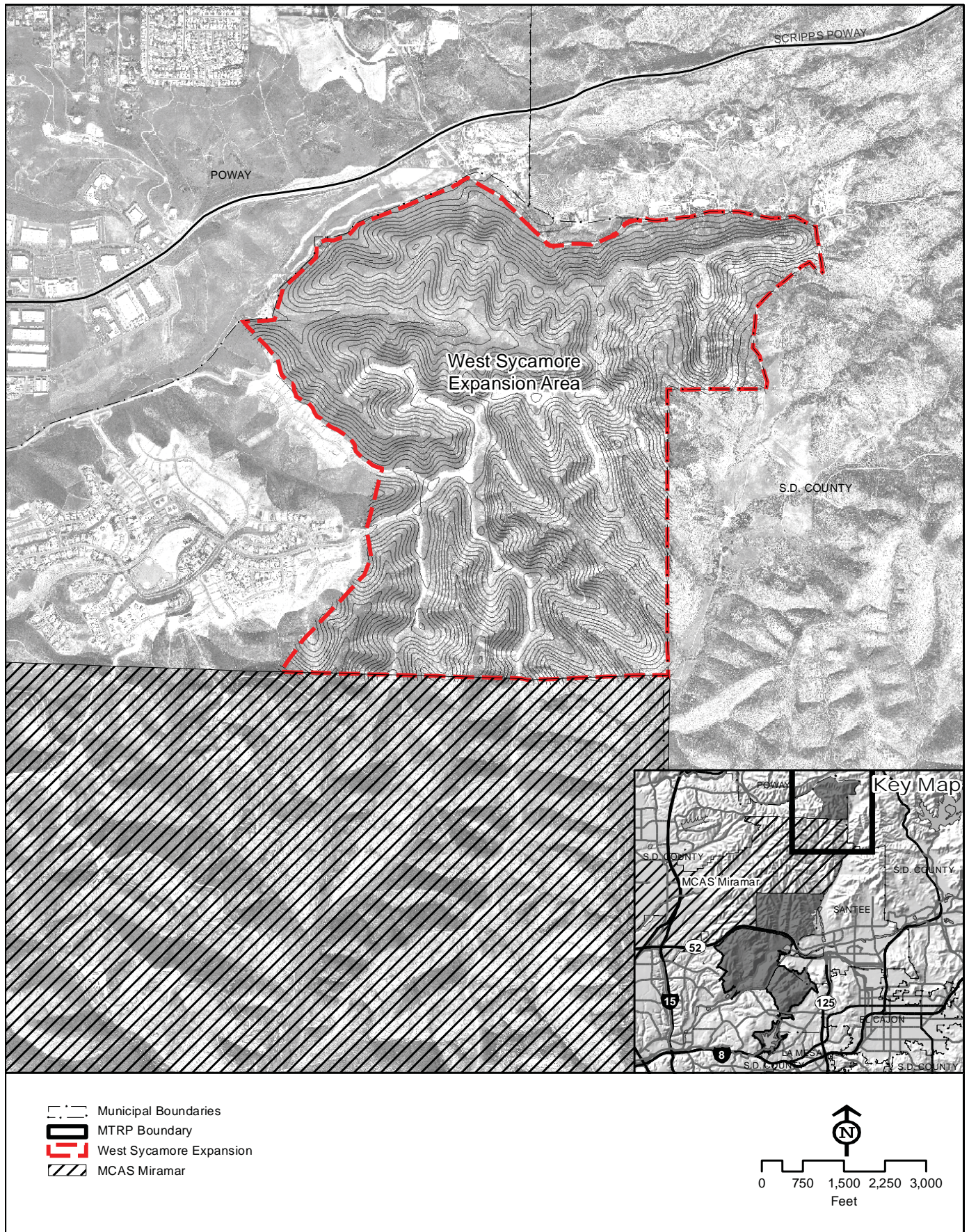
Figure 2-4: East Elliott Expansion Area





# MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK

Figure 2-5: West Sycamore Expansion Area





## 2019 MASTER PLAN UPDATE

*Back of West Sycamore Expansion Area Figure*





# MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK

## 3. PARK OVERVIEW

This section of the plan includes maps of MTRP and a description of the overall park in terms of its general physical characteristics, boundaries, entries and circulation, and land use. The park is divided into six areas. The use of areas provides a convenient reference when discussing the park as a whole. They are described below from south to north, and shown in Figure 3-1:

- Lake Murray – south of Navajo Road, including the lake, its environs, and the existing community park and golf course;
- Cowles Mountain – north of Navajo and southeast of Mission Gorge Road, including Cowles Mountain and Pyles Peak;
- Mission Gorge – the area between the San Diego River and Mission Gorge Road;
- Fortuna Mountain – the area between the San Diego River, SR-52 and the Tierrasanta Community;
- East Elliott – the area north of SR-52, and between MCAS Miramar and the City of Santee; and
- West Sycamore – the area north of MCAS Miramar, west of Goodan Ranch, and south of Sycamore Canyon Road.

### 3.1. PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

MTRP ranges in elevation from about 100ft Mean Sea Level (MSL) along the San Diego River to 1,593ft at the summit of Cowles Mountain, the highest peak in the City of San Diego (Figure 3-1).

#### 3.1.1. GEOLOGY

The geology of the park is a mix of Mesozoic and Cenozoic era formations (Figure 3-2). Fortuna Mountain, Kwaay Paay, Pyles Peak, Cowles Mountain, and the western slope of Lake Murray are all from the Mesozoic era, with the Lake Murray slope being metasedimentary and metavolcanic rocks from the older Jurassic period, and the others being granodiorite and tonalite. The older Jurassic formation comes to the surface near the San Diego River Crossing below Jackson Drive and along the ridge above Shepherds Pond. The shoulders of the primary peaks, East Elliott, and West Sycamore are dominated by a mix of Cenozoic era formations. The vast majority of these formations are from the older Tertiary period of the Paleogene epoch, an intermixing of La Jolla Group and Poway Group. The La Jolla Group is medium to coarse-grained sandstones, whereas the Poway Group is fine to coarse-grained sandstones with significant cobble conglomerates intermixed. The Grasslands area, Suycott Wash and the bottoms of other main drainages are comprised of Quaternary period landslide and alluvial deposits. Appendix A-E of the NRMP provides a more detailed discussion of the Park's geology.



*North Fortuna towards Cowles Mountain*



## 2019 MASTER PLAN UPDATE

### 3.1.2. SOILS

The Mesozoic era geology within the Lake Murray, Cowles Mountain, Mission Gorge, and Fortuna Mountain areas has weathered into four primary soil series: Acid igneous rock; Metamorphic rock; Cieneba rocky coarse sandy loams; and Friant rocky fine sandy loam (Figure 3-3). The south and west facing slopes of Cowles Mountain, the west side of Pyles Peak, south side of Kwaay Paay, and east face of South Fortuna are acid igneous rock or metamorphic rock where 50-90 percent of the surface is dominated by large boulders and rock outcrops. Cieneba soils occur on the north slope of Cowles Mountain and the western slope of Fortuna ridgeline and are characterized as shallow, moderate to rapid permeability, medium to very rapid runoff, and moderate to very high erosion hazard. Friant soils occur on the west side of Lake Murray, south of the river and west of the Visitor Center, on the north slope of Kwaay Paay, and the northern and eastern slopes of North and South Fortuna and are characterized as shallow, moderate to rapid permeability, rapid to very rapid runoff, and moderate to very high erosion hazard. Diablo clays and Tujunga sands dominate the area around Lake Murray. Diablo clays and Redding cobbly loams dominate Suycott Wash and the western edge of the park. Diablo soils are characterized as moderately deep to deep, slow permeability, medium to rapid runoff, and slight to high erosion hazard. Redding soils are characterized as shallow, slow permeability, medium to rapid runoff, and slight to high erosion hazard. Vernal pools are often found on Redding soils in areas of flat terrain. Small pockets of a dozen other soil series exist throughout the park, but do not occur in large habitat defining extents. The soils within the East Elliott and West Sycamore areas are almost uniformly Redding cobbly and gravelly loams, with only a few of the drainages showing any diversity.

### 3.1.3. SLOPES

Slopes within the park range from flat to near vertical with less than 10 percent of the land area having slopes gentler than 5 percent (Figure 3-4). These flat areas include the surface of Lake Murray and the recreational lands surrounding it, the golf course, and the Grasslands area. Approximately 40 percent of the land area has slopes between 5 and 25 percent, and another 40 percent between 25 and 50 percent. A little more than 10 percent of the land area has slopes steeper than 50 percent. These extremely steep areas include the western face of Pyles Peak, the eastern face of Kwaay Paay, the western face of Kwaay Paay and the eastern face of South Fortuna along the San Diego River, and the relic quarry slopes along the southern portion of the San Diego River. The East Elliott area is dominated by slopes steeper than 25 percent and the West Sycamore area is dominated by slopes gentler than 25 percent.



*Steep slopes along Fortuna Mountain*

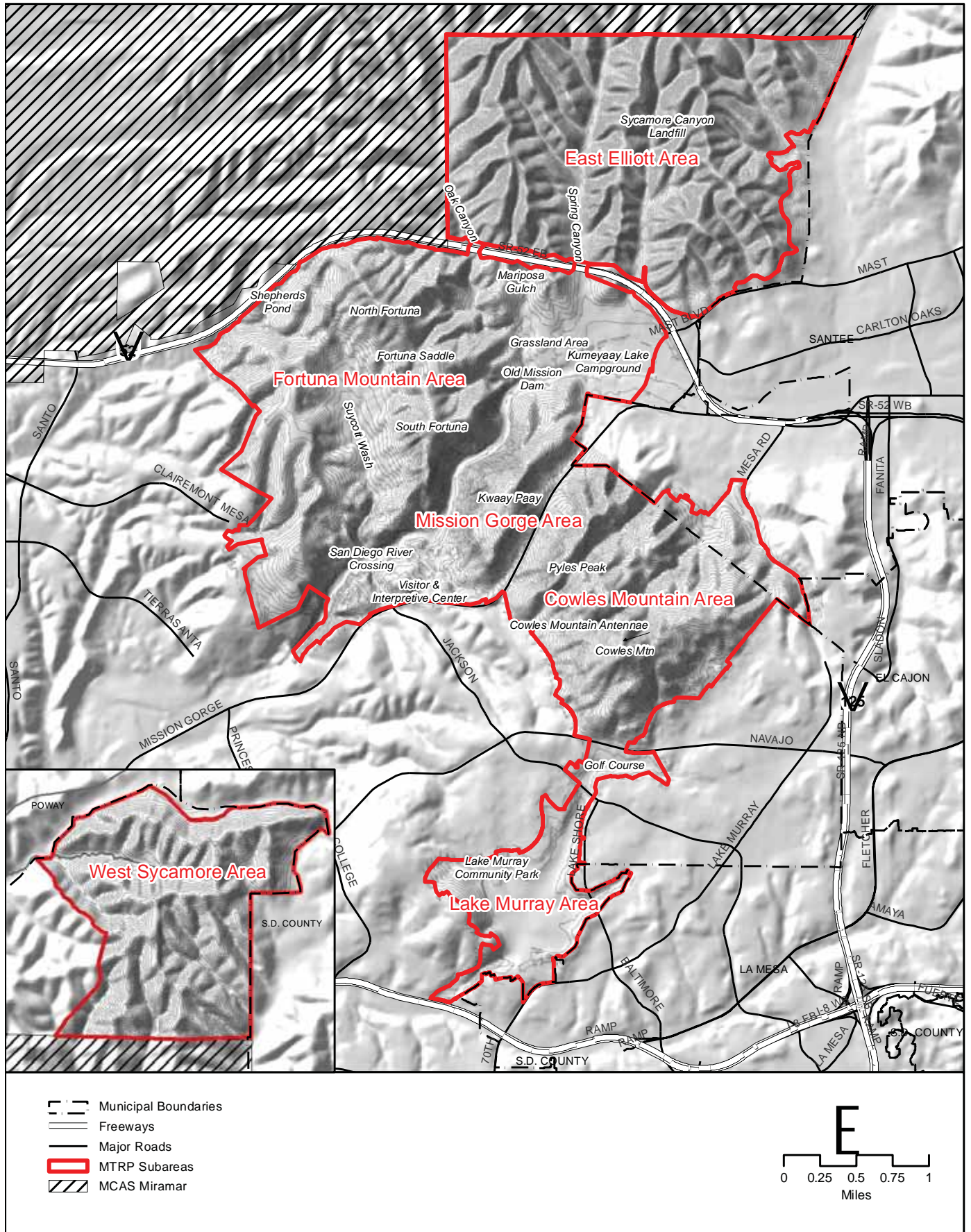
### 3.1.4. WATERSHEDS AND SURFACE HYDROLOGY

The landforms within the park drain to one of two major watersheds: San Diego River and Penasquitos Creek (Figure 3-5). The northern half of the West Sycamore area drains into Beeler Creek, which is a tributary to Penasquitos Creek. Everything else drains into the San Diego River.



# MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK

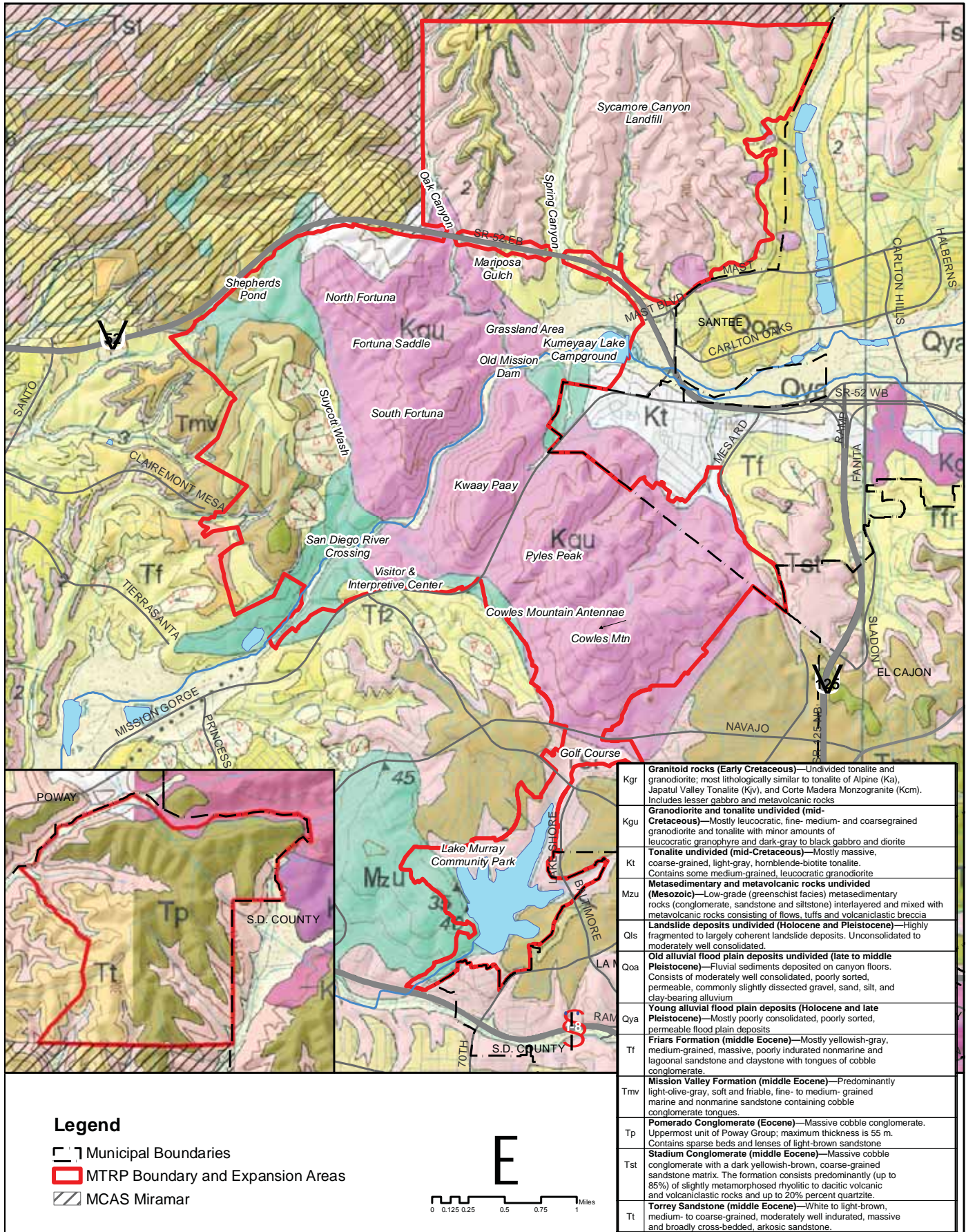
Figure 3-1: MTRP Areas - Topography





# 2019 MASTER PLAN UPDATE

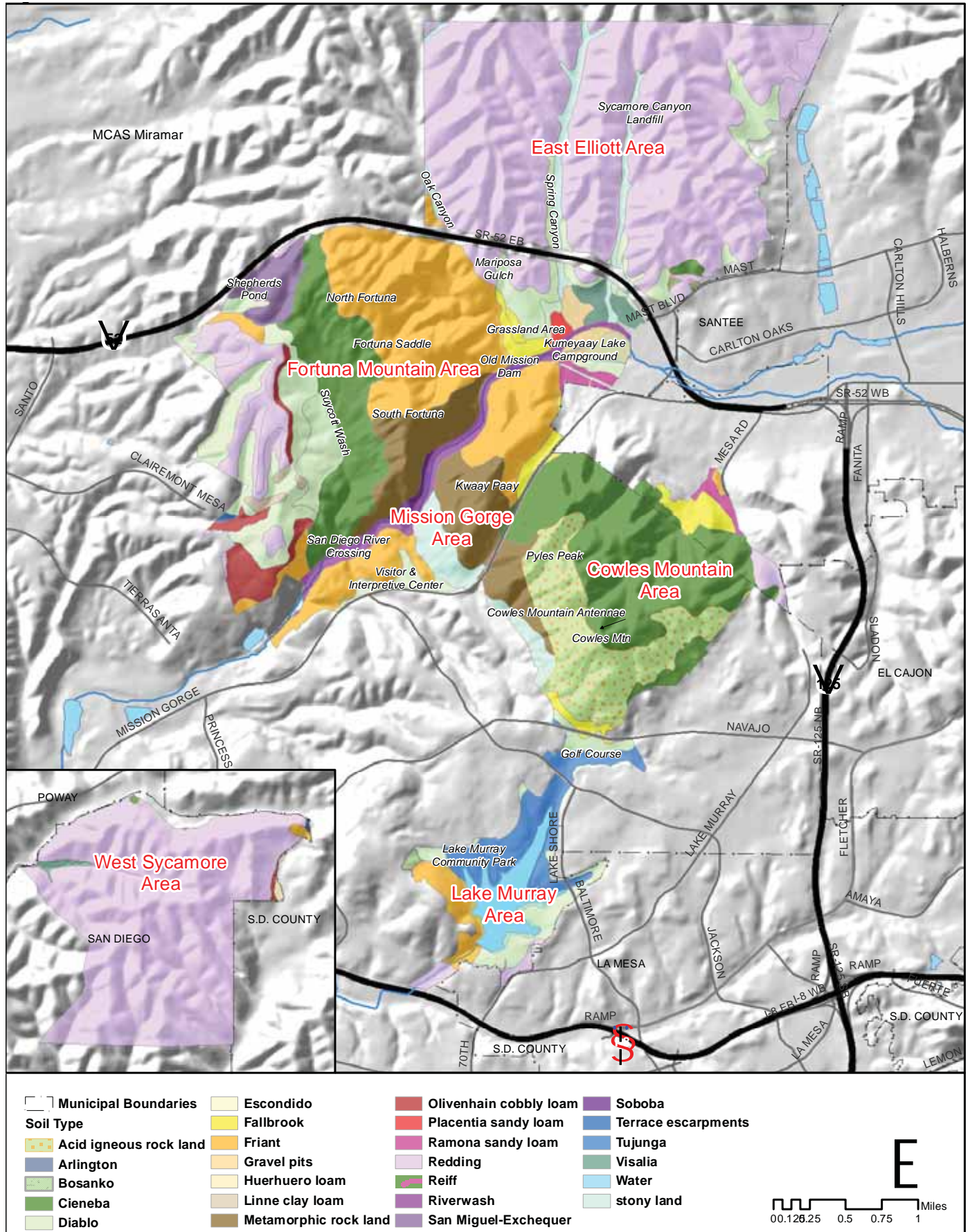
Figure 3-2: Geology





# MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK

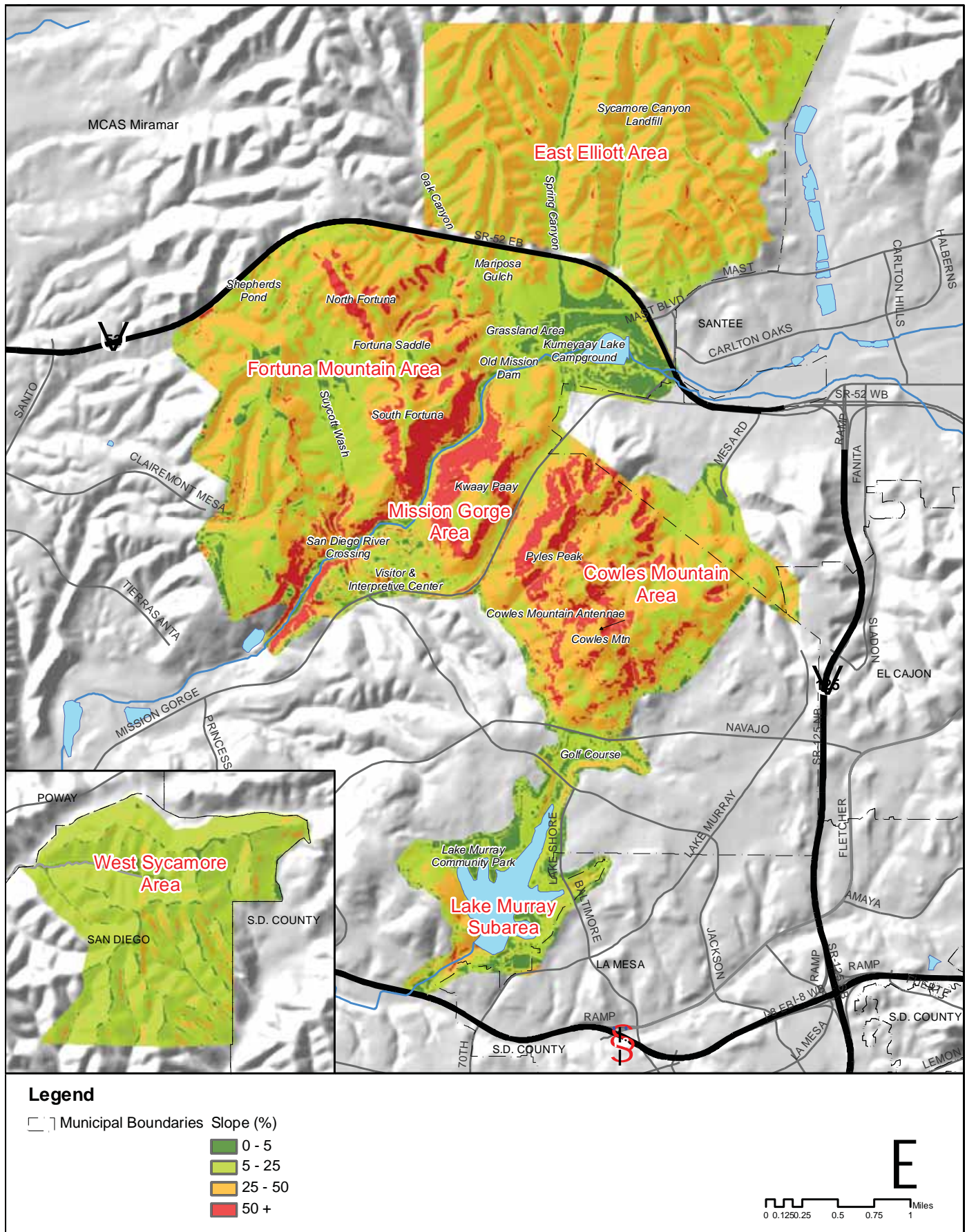
Figure 3-3: Soils





# 2019 MASTER PLAN UPDATE

Figure 3-4: Slopes





*Figure 3-5: Watersheds and Surface Hydrology*



### **3.1.5. JURISDICTIONAL PLANS, POLICIES AND REGULATIONS**

While the City and County of San Diego have taken the lead in developing the park concept, many local jurisdictions have a stake in its ongoing development and management. Equally important from a master planning viewpoint, these entities have separate authority to adopt policies – particularly general plan policies and land use zoning – that can and will affect the urban edges surrounding MTRP.

Land within the park boundaries is primarily under public ownership, mainly by the City and County of San Diego. Smaller ownerships include SDSU, San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA), and many others (Figure 3-6).

#### **3.1.5.1. LAND USE POLICIES**

There are several citywide plans that do not provide specific recommendations for MTRP, but do provide general policies, goals, and objectives:

- City of San Diego General Plan
- City of San Diego Bicycle Master Plan
- City of San Diego Pedestrian Master Plan
- City of San Diego San Diego River Park Master Plan
- City of San Diego Jurisdictional Urban Runoff Management Plan
- San Diego River Watershed Urban Runoff Management Plan

There are four City of San Diego community plan areas (CPA), two other local jurisdictions, and a federal air station within or immediately adjacent to MTRP (Figure 3-7):

- Navajo CPA (City of San Diego);
- Tierrasanta CPA (City of San Diego);
- East Elliott CPA (City of San Diego);
- Rancho Encantada CPA (City of San Diego);
- City of Santee;
- City of La Mesa; and
- MCAS Miramar

All the City of San Diego community plans and the City of Santee and La Mesa general plans propose almost exclusively low-density residential uses adjacent to the park and recommend that MTRP be retained as open space in a near-natural state.

The City of San Diego's MSCP requirements are guided by two primary documents: the Framework Management Plan and the City of San Diego MSCP Subarea Plan, which are intended to protect natural resources within MTRP through the development of Area-specific Management Directives (ASMDs) while allowing public use.

The development of recreational trails within the City of San Diego is guided by the Trail Policies and Standards contained in the City's Consultant's Guide to Park Design and Development. The planning and development of the San Diego River Park and Trail is guided by the City of San Diego River Park Master Plan.





## MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK

### 3.1.5.2. LAND USE REGULATIONS

There are two primary land use regulations affecting the park.

#### **ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE LANDS**

Environmentally Sensitive Lands (ESL) are defined as those lands included within the MHPA and other lands outside of the MHPA that contain wetlands; vegetation communities classifiable as Tier I, II, IIIA or IIIB; habitat for rare, endangered or threatened species; or narrow endemic species. ESL are regulated by the City of San Diego Land Development Code, Chapter 14, Division 1, Section 143.0101 et seq. and the associated Biology Guidelines.

#### **MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK DESIGN DISTRICT**

In August 1981, the City of San Diego adopted the Mission Trails Design District Ordinance (Ordinance No. 0-15566NS) and Design Manual. The Ordinance provides design guidelines, subdivision, zoning, and other land use controls to ensure that development is compatible with the edge of the park. All development adjacent to the park must comply with the requirements contained in this Ordinance and Design Manual. This Ordinance was updated in 2003, and most recently in 2013 for the San Diego River Park Master Plan (2013). For Park expansion areas, the West Sycamore area is 100% conserved with no development potential and as such, the MTDDO does not apply. Only privately-owned properties within the East Elliott area would be subject to the supplemental regulations of the MTDDO as specified in Table 132-12A, Mission Trails Design District Applicability.

### 3.1.5.3. MCAS MIRAMAR

The East Miramar portion of MCAS Miramar is immediately west and north of the East Elliott area and south of the West Sycamore area of MTRP. As shown in Figure 3-8, which was taken from the installations Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan, the two expansion areas of the park, East Elliott and West Sycamore, share common boundaries with the installation. MCAS Miramar does not allow any public access and has posted the following discussion about encroachment and trespass within East Miramar on their official website:

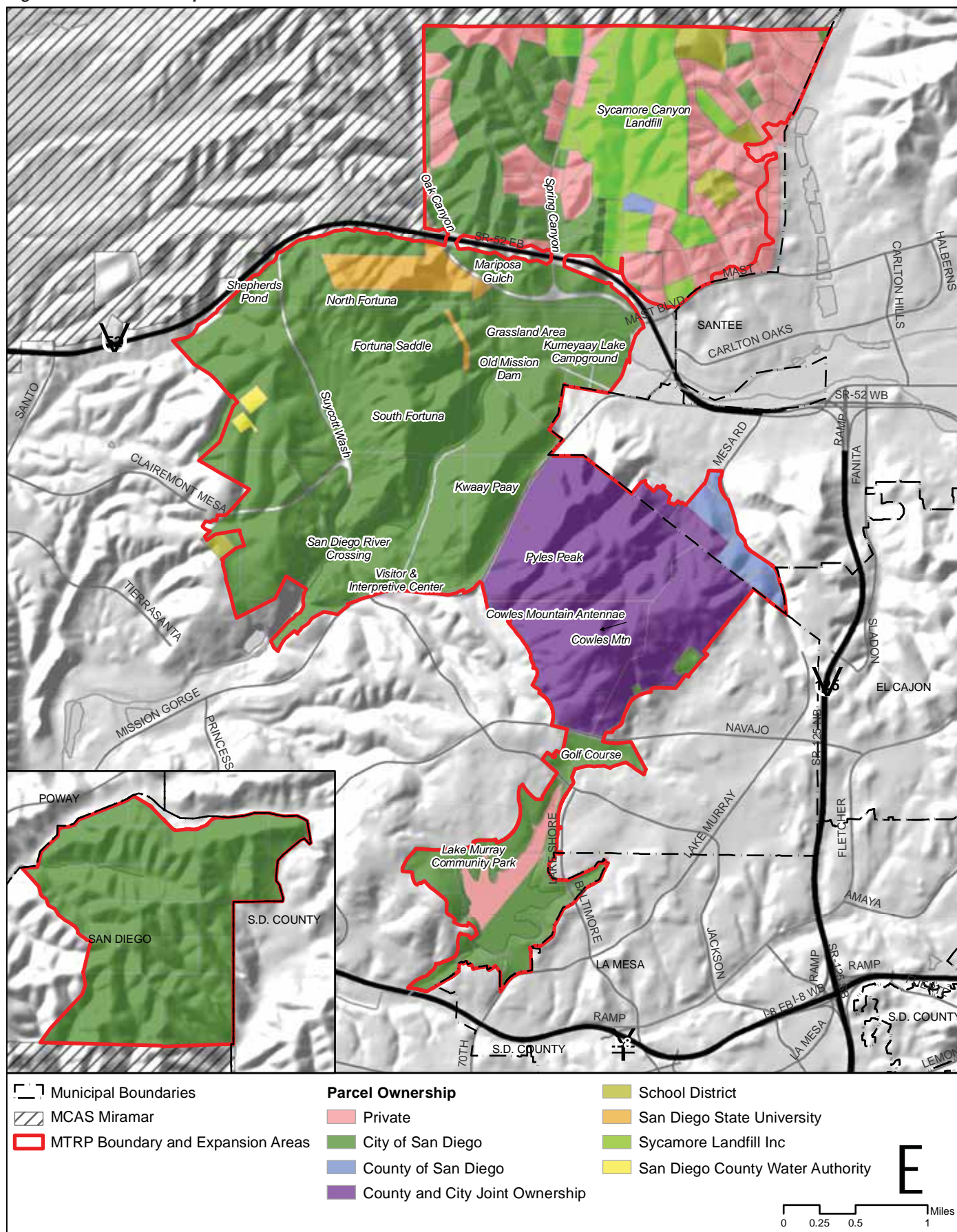
*"East Miramar, the portion of MCAS Miramar located to the east of interstate 15, is home to several small-arms and patrol ranges used by all branches of the military and civilian law enforcement, explosive ordnance disposal areas, World War II-era artillery and mortar ranges, and historical and environmentally-sensitive sites. Encroachment on East Miramar by hikers, mountain bikers, and off-road vehicles, an increasing problem, is not only against federal law but often damages the historical sites and endangered species that reside in environmentally-sensitive areas. Moreover, the hazards of the terrain, training areas and especially the WWII-era artillery and mortar ranges, on which officials still periodically find unexploded ordnance, pose a significant risk to trespassers.*



MCAS Miramar warning sign



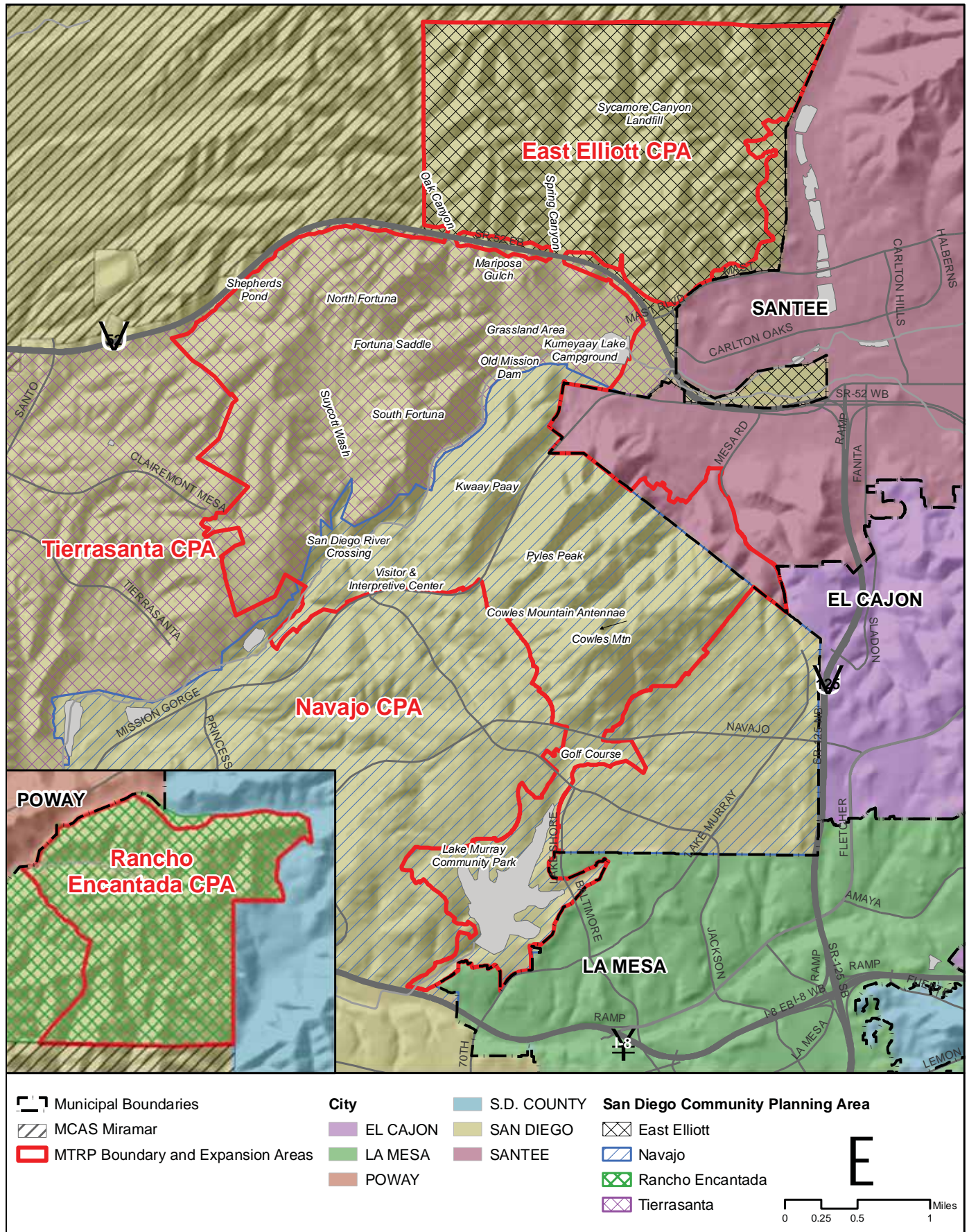
*Figure 3-6: Ownership*





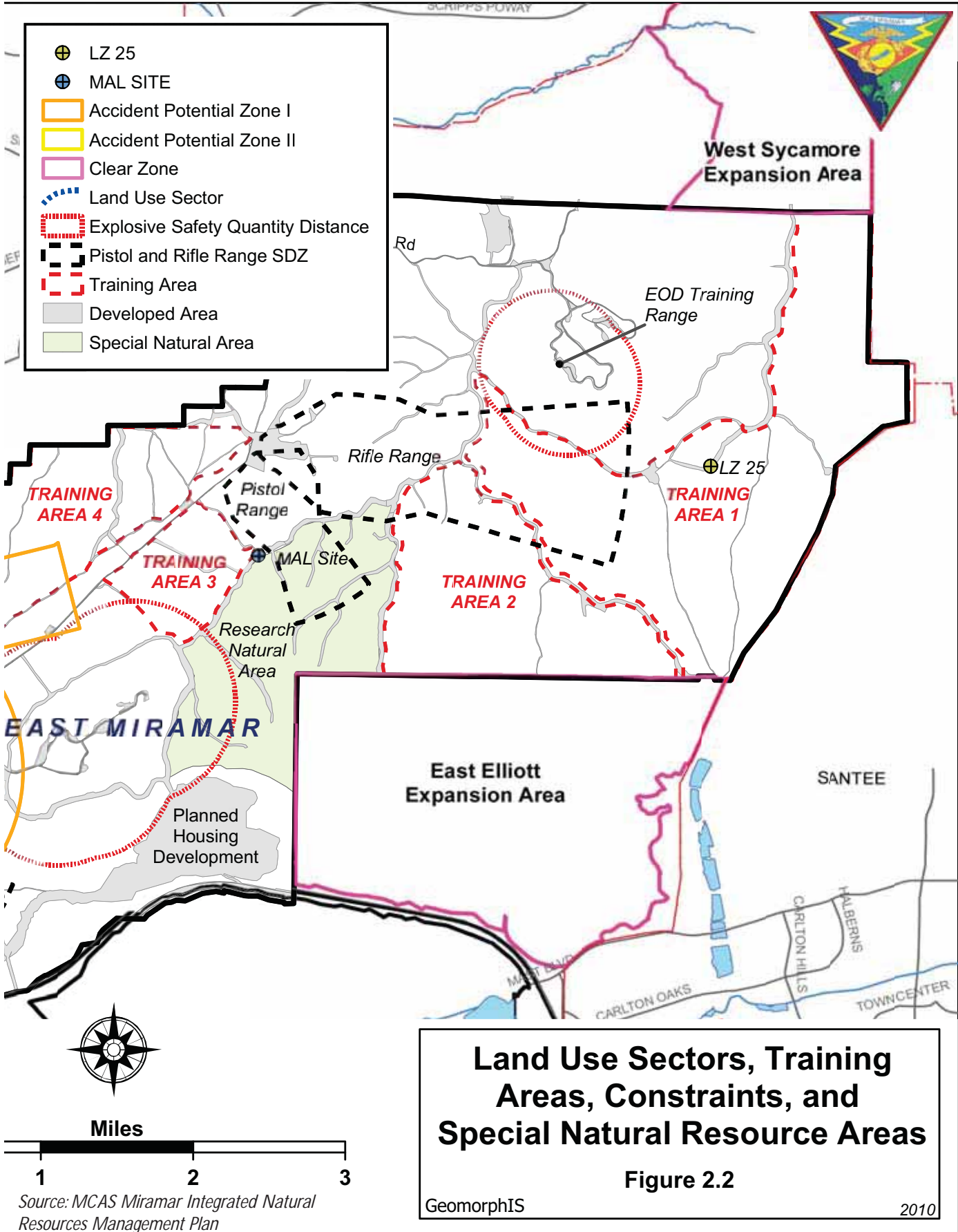
# MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK

Figure 3-7: Land Use Jurisdictions and City of San Diego Community Planning Areas



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Figure 3-8: MCAS Miramar Uses and Constraints





## MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK

*While there are fences and signage on parts of East Elliott, many of them continue to be cut, torn down, or otherwise destroyed, leaving hikers and mountain bikers at risk of wandering into a potentially dangerous area without knowing they are on East Miramar. Furthermore, the remoteness of the area and the rough and varied terrain, which pose the risk of significant injury, also greatly inhibit cell phone and radio coverage, as well as access and response times of emergency medical services.*

*To responsibly protect historical and environmentally-sensitive sites and, most importantly, minimize the risk of grievous injury to members of the public, the Provost Marshal's Office treats all cases of trespassing on federal lands seriously. Persons hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, or off-roading in the vicinity of East Miramar are advised to obey posted signage and consult maps of the area before embarking."*

### **3.1.6. BOUNDARIES AND EDGES**

MTRP did not begin as one regional park, but rather a complex of six separate areas. Consolidating these fragments into a true regional park has required substantial acquisition of public and private lands to develop reasonable use areas, linkages, and edges. Wherever possible, the concept was to relate park boundaries to roads, ridgelines, or other topographic features.

### **3.1.7. UTILITIES**

The park has a number of existing utilities that traverse various subareas. Figure 3-9 identifies all the major utilities that occur within the boundaries of the park.

#### **3.1.7.1. WATER SUPPLY**

The SDCWA operates several pipelines and associated facilities that traverse five of the six areas of the park: San Vicente Pipeline, Pipeline 3, Pipeline 4, Scripps Ranch Pipeline, and the Mission Trails Pipeline.

The recently completed (2008) San Vicente to Second Aqueduct Pipeline, a component of the Emergency Storage Project (ESP), tunnels west to east under the West Sycamore area.

Within the Fortuna Mountain and Mission Gorge areas, Pipeline 3 (69-inch) and Pipeline 4 (84-inch), collectively known as the Second Aqueduct, deliver untreated water from the Twin Oaks Valley Diversion structure to the Alvarado Water Treatment Plant.

The Scripps Ranch Pipeline connects to the Mission Trails Pipeline at SR-52 and delivers treated water to the Padre Dam Water District via a connection near Mission Gorge Road before turning south again into a tunnel along the edge of the Cowles Mountain area and on to the Alvarado Water Treatment Plant.

The Mission Trails Flow Regulatory Structure (FRS) is located along the Mission Trails Pipeline near the western ridgeline in the Fortuna Mountain area and provides regulatory



SDCWA FRS and adjacent pipeline facilities



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storage for the treated water pipeline south of the park. The SDCWA is planning to construct FRS II near the existing FRS facility.

The City of San Diego Public Utilities Department (PUD) operates and maintains several water pipelines and associated facilities in the park, including the Murray First Pipeline, El Cajon Pipeline, College Ranch Feeder Pipeline, and the San Carlos Water Reservoir. They also operate the Alvarado Water Treatment Plant in the Lake Murray area of the park which can currently process up to 200 million gallons of water per day.

### **3.1.7.2. SEWER MAINS**

The City of San Diego PUD operates and maintains major sewer facilities in the park including the Lake Murray Trunk Sewer (LMTS) #32, Mission Gorge Trunk Sewer (MGTS) #33, East Mission Gorge Interceptor, and associated sewer mains.

### **3.1.7.3. GAS MAIN**

A major high pressure San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E) gas transmission line runs from the main system backbone near Interstate 15 east through MCAS Miramar across SR-52 into the park where it continues east through the northern edge of the Fortuna Mountain area until it leaves the park near the Equestrian Staging Area and continues east to provide gas to the City of Santee and portions of the Cities of La Mesa and El Cajon.

### **3.1.7.4. ELECTRICAL TRANSMISSION AND GENERATION**

Several SDG&E high voltage electrical transmission lines traverse portions of the park. These transmission lines interconnect three substations located just outside the park. The three substations are the Elliott, Sycamore, and Carlton Hills substations.



*SDG&E powerlines going over Fortuna Saddle*

### **3.1.8. DEFENSE ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION PROGRAM**

The Fortuna Mountain and East Elliott areas of the park were used for live fire artillery training for Army regiments stationed at the nearby Camp Kearney from 1917 to 1919. Later known as Camp Elliott, they were used

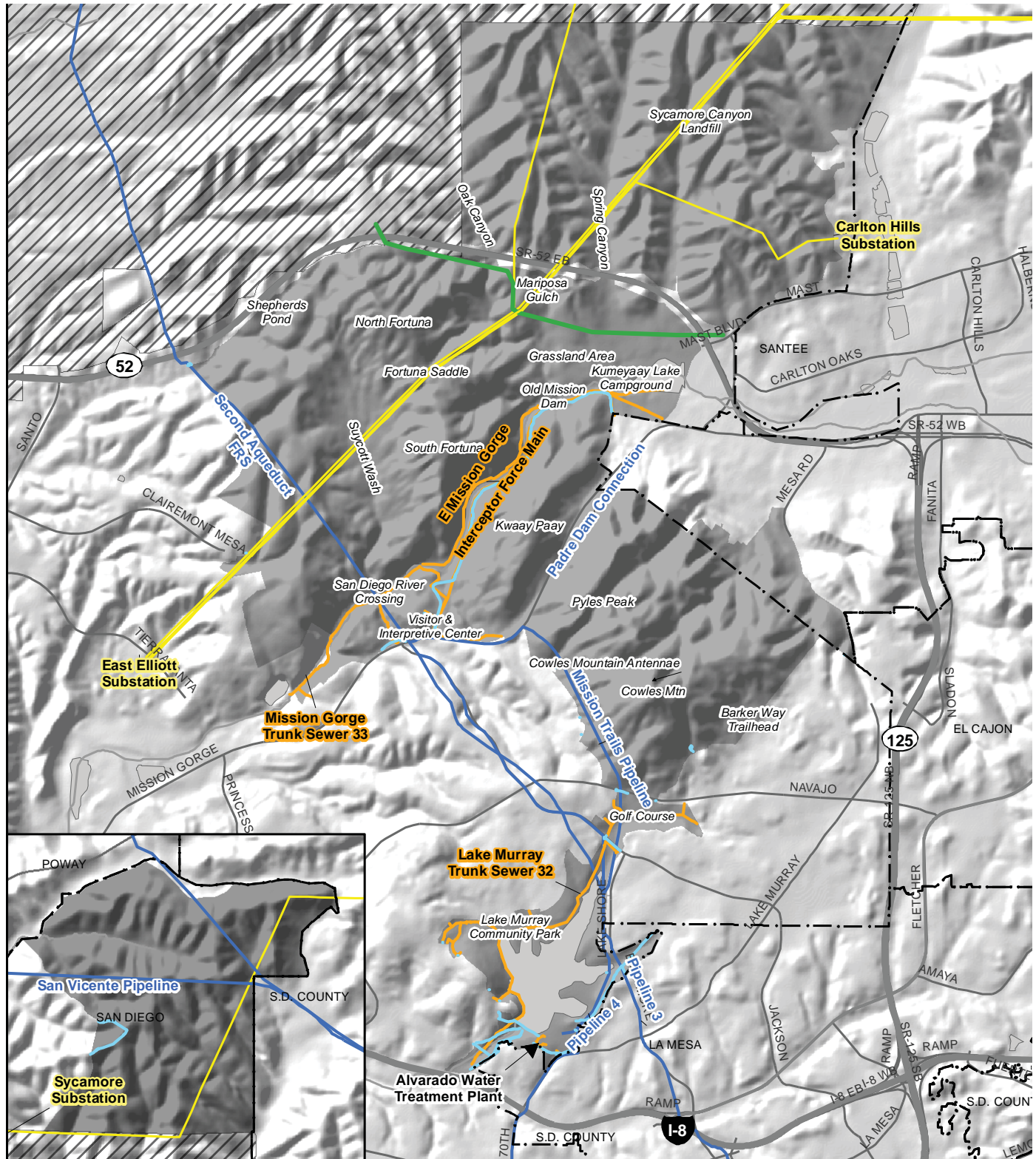


*Unexploded ordnance found in East Elliott*





*Figure 3-9: Major Utilities within MTRP*



### Legend

 Municipal Boundaries MCAS Miramar

■ MTRP Boundary and Expansion Areas

### Utility/High Voltage Lines

— Electric Lines

— High Pressure Gas Main

— Trunk Sewer/Force Main

— Water Supply Pipelines

— Water Mains





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from 1941 to 1944 by the Marine Corps for tank, anti-tank and artillery exercises. As a result of this military use, unexploded ordnance has been found throughout the areas. In 1986, Congress established the Defense Environmental Restoration Program (DERP) for Formerly Used Defense Sites (FUDS) properties. This program, managed by the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), includes the environmental cleanup of FUDS properties. The initial cleanup and removal of unexploded ordnance in the Fortuna Mountain area was completed by the Navy in 1964, with additional cleanup and removal by the United States Marine Corps (USMC) in 1965, the United States Army in 1973, and the USACE in 1995. Cleanup and removal of unexploded ordnance in the East Elliott area was completed by the USACE in September 1995 and additional sweeps will continue as required. To ensure that human health and the environment continue to be protected from risks associated with unexploded ordnance, recurring reviews are conducted no less than every five years. The Fortuna Mountain and East Elliott areas of the park will continue to be monitored by the USACE for the foreseeable future.

### 3.1.9. EXISTING LAND USE AND FACILITIES

The pattern of land use and facilities depicted in the Master Plan reflects the relationship between passive recreational uses and the ability of the site to accommodate those uses. It is a mirror of the site's unique characteristics – the opportunities and constraints found in each area of the park, tempered by small variations within each of the six areas in terms of environmental factors and recreational suitability (Figure 3-10).

Almost 50 percent of the land has slopes steeper than 25 percent grade and 87 percent of the land area is included within the MSCP MHPA, resulting in the fact that most of the park will remain in a natural or near-natural state. The largest portion of this is defined by the ridgeline that connects Cowles and Fortuna Mountains. This landform is a natural open space corridor, providing a dramatic backdrop and serves as a prominent landmark for the urban region. Low-intensity activities that currently occur in this area include hiking, nature study, photography, and “simply getting away.”

Cutting through the park's main ridgeline is the San Diego River and Mission Gorge. The south end of the Gorge contains the park's Visitor and Interpretive Center that continues to grow in popularity. In 2007, about 59,500 individuals visited the Center, which continued to increase to a high



*Views towards the Gorge from the Grasslands Loop trail*



*MTRP Visitor and Interpretive Center*



*Father Junipero Serra Trail*



## MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK

of 85,088 in 2011. The total in 2015 was 74,564. Regionally-oriented uses characterize this area and include family and group picnic areas, park concessions, and an outdoor amphitheater. West of the Visitor Center is the Deerfield Bike Skills Area, the park's only authorized bicycle skills area.

The steeply enclosed, riparian habitat of the Gorge provides opportunities for hiking and nature study from the existing paved path. As the principal link between the Visitor and Interpretive Center, the Old Mission Dam and Kumeyaay Lake Campground, and Father Junipero Serra Trail, a one way vehicular road and a Class I Bicycle Path provide some of the most accessible experiences within the park. This area also provides the only currently authorized rock climbing area in the park on the western face of Kwaay Paay.

The northern end of Mission Gorge balances day and overnight recreation with the need to protect cultural resource sites and wildlife habitats and corridors. Uses are carefully interfaced to maintain integrity to the area around Old Mission Dam while providing for interpretive and recreational access. Kumeyaay Lake is a significant waterfowl preserve, and also serves as an amenity for wildlife observation, picnicking, overnight camping, and shoreline fishing.

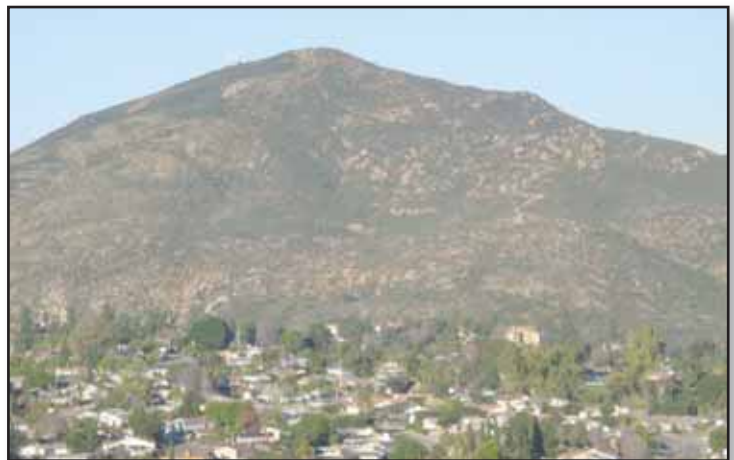
At the south end of the park, is Lake Murray which provides an active day use area centered around Alvarado Point. The lake is owned by the City of San Diego PUD. As such, water and body contact are not allowed. Current activities include boating, fishing, and picnicking. Lake Murray Community Park is also located here and includes major community-oriented ball fields, multi-use fields, concessions stand, and a playground. The paved maintenance road along the edge of the lake is also heavily used by walkers, runners, cyclists, and in-line skaters. The Mission Trails Golf Course is an 18-hole public course leased to American Golf to operate and maintain under a long-term lease.



*Kumeyaay Lake Campground (Source Bing 2012)*



*Alvarado Point*

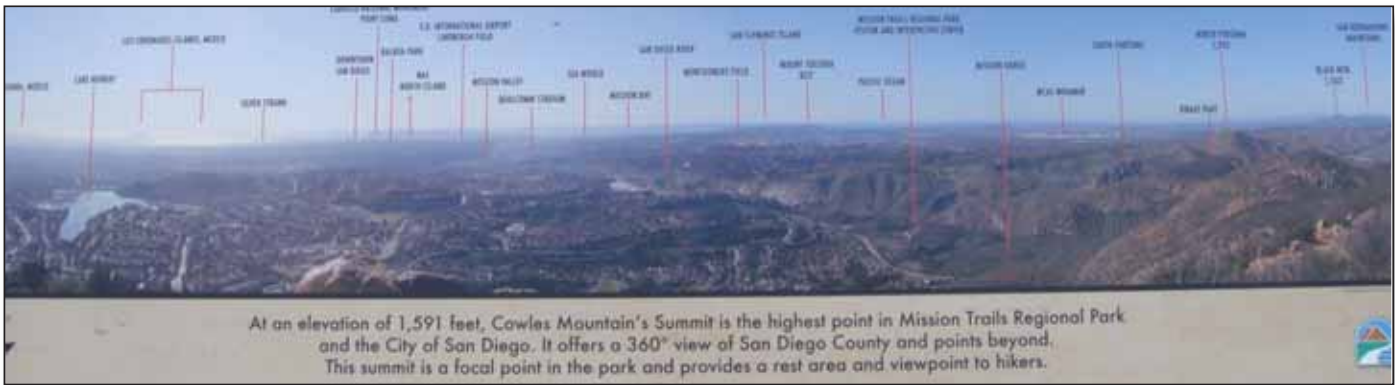


*Southwestern face of Cowles Mountain*





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*Interpretive Panel labeling what can be seen from the Panoramic Views at the top of Cowles Mountain*

Cowles Mountain provides opportunities for hiking and mountain biking to the top of the highest peak in the City of San Diego. The major staging area is located at the intersection of Navajo Road and Golfcrest Drive. The trail, which begins at this location, is for hiking only. The second major staging area at Big Rock Park in the City of Santee provides opportunities for hiking, biking, and picnicking.



*Suycott Wash and Fortuna Mountain*

The Fortuna Mountain area contains the majority of the hiking and mountain biking trails in the park. Equestrian use is limited to this area with facilities provided at the Equestrian Staging Area. The area also contains the vast majority of the park's vernal pools, a particularly unique and sensitive biological resource. The major entrances to the Fortuna Mountain area are from the East Fortuna Staging Area at SR-52 and Mast Boulevard near the City of Santee and at the West Fortuna staging area at the eastern end of Clairemont Mesa Boulevard in the Tierrasanta community.



*East Elliott (Source Bing 2012)*

The East Elliott area is currently a mix of public and private land and is undeveloped except for the area occupied by the Sycamore Canyon Landfill. This area abuts MCAS Miramar on both the west and north sides.

The West Sycamore area is primarily undeveloped, with limited areas of disturbance caused by historic industrial development on the site that has since been demolished and the development of a new staging area for the park. This area abuts MCAS Miramar on the south, the County's Goodan Ranch Sycamore Canyon Preserve on the east, residential development on the west, and Sycamore Canyon Road on the north.



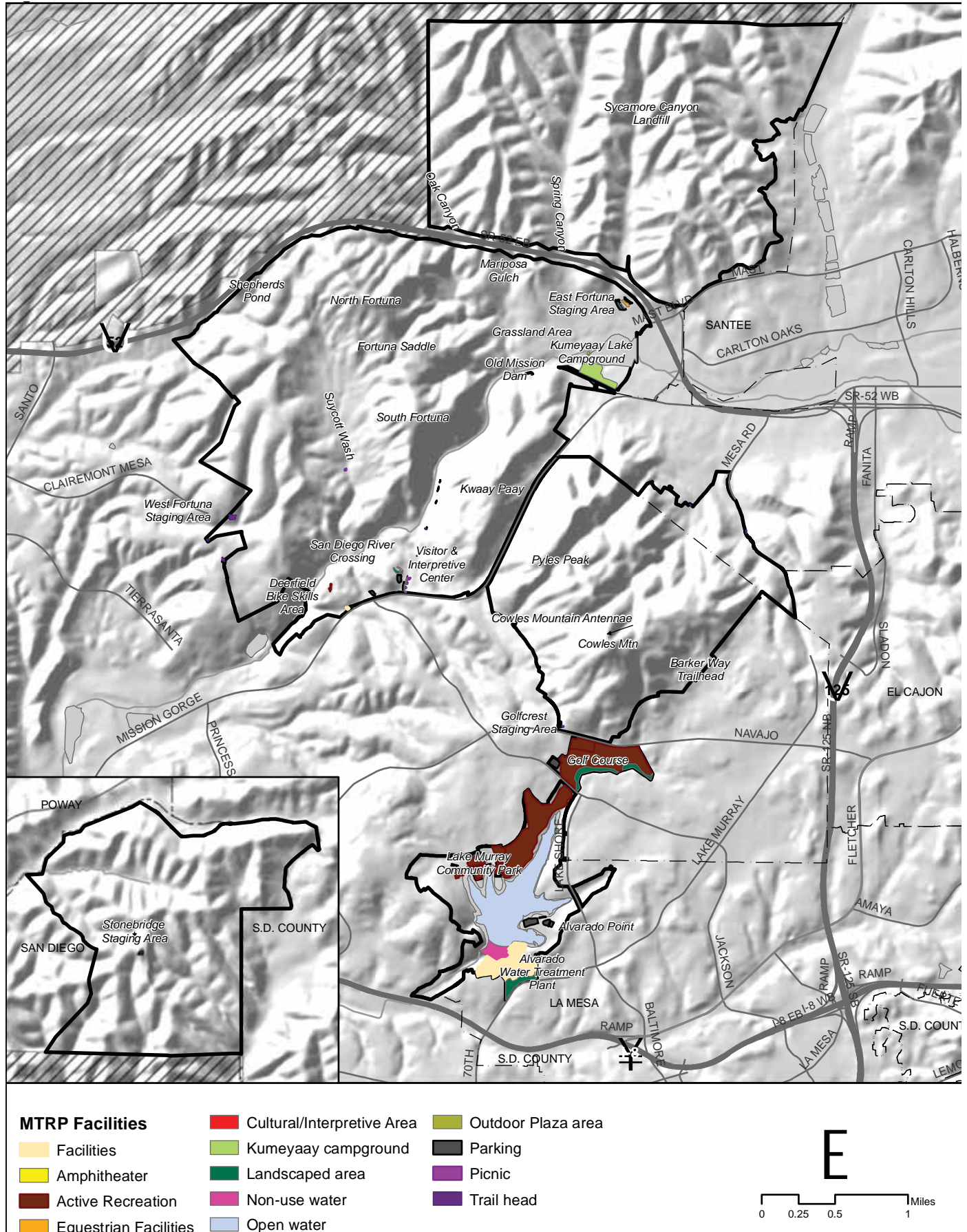
*West Sycamore (Source Bing 2012)*





# MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK

Figure 3-10: Existing Land Uses within MTRP



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### 3.1.10. PARK ENTRIES AND CIRCULATION

There are a minimal number of park entries and internal roads within the park. Wherever possible, automobile circulation is limited to existing roads on the perimeter. Visitor circulation utilizes the extensive system of hiking, biking, and equestrian trails, many of which are co-located with utility access roads per City Trail Policies and Standards.

#### 3.1.10.1. REGIONAL ENTRIES

There are several regionally significant entries (Figure 3-11), which are identified below. The need for regional entries has not significantly changed, except to add an entry to the East Elliott expansion area. The need for improved secondary and community access points into the park has increased as recreational usage of the park continues to grow in frequency and demand.

##### **LAKE MURRAY AREA**

- Kiowa Drive
- Murray Park Drive

##### **COWLES MOUNTAIN AREA**

- Golfcrest Drive
- Big Rock Park

##### **MISSION GORGE AREA**

- Mission Gorge Road / Father Junipero Serra Trail
- Father Junipero Serra Trail / Bushy Hill Drive

##### **FORTUNA MOUNTAIN AREA**

- Mast Boulevard
- Clairemont Mesa Boulevard

##### **EAST ELLIOTT AREA**

- No regional entries into the East Elliott area currently exist.

##### **WEST SYCAMORE AREA**

- Stonebridge Parkway



*Park entry to Cowles Mountain at Golfcrest Drive*



*Park entry to Fortuna Mountain at Clairemont Mesa Boulevard.*





## MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK

### 3.1.10.2. SECONDARY / COMMUNITY ENTRIES:

These entries are not marked with the same prominent signage as the regional entries, nor do they provide as many improvements. They serve the local communities they occur within, and provide secondary access points into the park which help distribute the recreational usage of the park (Figure 3-11) and are listed under park areas below.

#### **LAKE MURRAY AREA**

- Park Ridge Boulevard
- Baltimore Drive
- Sunset Park in the City of La Mesa

#### **COWLES MOUNTAIN AREA**

- Barker Way
- Lake Murray Boulevard
- Mesa Road in the City of Santee
- Rancho Fanita Drive in the City of Santee
- Big Rock Road in the City of Santee

#### **MISSION GORGE AREA**

- Jackson Drive
- Deerfield Pump Station
- Simeon Drive

#### **FORTUNA MOUNTAIN AREA**

- Colina Dorada Drive
- Calle De Vida
- Corte Playa Catalina
- Portobello Drive

#### **EAST ELLIOTT AREA**

- Oak Canyon
- Spring Canyon
- West Hills Park in the City of Santee

#### **WEST SYCAMORE AREA**

- The Goodan Ranch staging area
- The utility maintenance road from Goodan Ranch



*Barker Way Entry*



*Mesa Road / Big Rock Park Entry*





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### 3.1.11. TRAIL/ROAD STATUS AND CLOSURES

Since the adoption of the 1985 Master Plan, the City of San Diego implemented the Resource Protection Ordinance (O-91-122) in 1991 followed by the Municipal Code Chapter 14, Article 3, Division I, Environmentally Sensitive Lands Regulations (143.0101) in 1997. The 1991 Resource Protection Ordinance states:

*“Within the areas regulated by the provisions of the Resource Protection Ordinance no building, improvement or portion thereof shall be erected, constructed, converted, established, altered, enlarged, or demolished, nor shall any lot or premises be excavated or graded nor shall any vegetation be cleared or grubbed nor shall any property be subdivided or re-subdivided until a separate Resource Protection Permit is obtained in accordance with the procedures set forth in this section.”*

Based on this, any trails that were in existence prior to the implementation of the 1991 Ordinance were considered existing trails with no further approval action required. Any new trails constructed after that date required a formal environmental review and permitting process to be conducted to be considered an authorized trail. After 1991, any trails that have been created within the existing Park boundaries or the proposed expansion areas that did not go through a formal review and permitting process are considered unauthorized. Unauthorized trails that are identified to remain as part of the formal trail system will require a permit process to be conducted. Unauthorized trails that are recommended for closure will be restored through passive (active if the situation requires) restoration techniques. Any trails that were in existence prior to 1991 and are recommended for closure will not only be restored through passive (active if the situation requires) restoration techniques, they will also be considered for potential mitigation credit towards impacts associated with new trail projects within the Park.

Figure 3-11 shows existing trails and roads that have been in use since before 1991 (114 miles), trails that existed before 1991 but have been subsequently closed and restored (91 miles), and unauthorized trails that have been constructed since 1991 (9 miles).



## MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK

### 3.1.12. EXISTING CIRCULATION

The park contains approximately 72 miles of roads (Figure 3-12). Paved roads total less than nine miles and include the Lake Murray entrance road from Kiowa Drive to the parking lot; Father Junipero Serra Trail between the Visitor and Interpretive Center and Kumeyaay Lake Campground; those within Kumeyaay Lake Campground; the Equestrian Circle at the East Fortuna Staging Area; the entrance to Lake Murray Community Park and the Lake Murray tennis courts; and the maintenance road along the edge of Lake Murray. More than 63 miles of dirt roads make up the majority of the park roads, with 40 miles being related to utility access roads maintained by SDG&E and SDCWA. The remaining 23 miles of dirt roads are park access roads used by rangers and emergency vehicles and include the Cowles Mountain service road; several roads within the Fortuna Mountain area; and a portion of roads within Spring Canyon. These access roads do not allow public vehicular use. Table 3-1 summarizes these circulation types.

**Table 3-1: Existing Vehicular Circulation**

	Miles	Percent
<i>Paved Park Road</i>	4.61	3.71%
<i>Paved Maintenance Road</i>	3.92	3.16%
<i>Unpaved Park Road</i>	22.98	18.52%
<i>Unpaved Utility Road</i>	40.67	32.78%
<b>Sub-total</b>	72.18	
<i>Trails</i>	51.90	41.83%
<b>Total</b>	124.08	



*Example of Utility Access Road surfaced with gravel that recreational users avoid using, preferring the shoulder instead*



*Example of Utility Access Road that is extremely steep making recreational use difficult*



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### 3.1.13. RECREATIONAL TRAILS

About 92 miles of the approximate 124 miles of roads and trails are considered to be part of the park's official trail system (Figure 3-13). Of these, about 53 miles are designated for hiking and bicycle usage, with an additional 15.5 miles of hiking only trails. Paved multi-use paths total about five miles, and multi-use trails (aka equestrian usage) make up about 10 miles. Some existing trail segments within the park will be designated as part of the San Diego River Pathway, consistent with the City's approved San Diego River Park Master Plan. The park hosts a number of fund-raising runs each year, offering a 5k and 15k course (Figure 3-14). Interested groups are required to submit an event application to the senior park ranger and make a presentation to the CAC. In addition to these official recreational trails, there are currently about 7 miles of unauthorized user created trails within the park. Although the vast majority of utility access roads are available to the public for recreational use, about 32.5 miles are not included in the official trail system because they are dead-ends or closed to the public. Table 3-2 summarizes these trail types.



Example of narrow Hiking-only Trail within Oak Canyon



Example of single-track Hike/Bike Trail within Fortuna Mountain

Table 3-2: Recreational Trails

	Miles	Percent
Class I Multi-use Path	4.66	3.74%
Multi-use Trail	10.20	8.19%
Hike/Bike Trail	52.56	42.21%
Hiking Trail	15.50	12.45%
Unauthorized Trail	9.09	7.30%
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>91.99</b>	
Non-Trail Road	32.51	26.01%
<b>Total</b>	<b>124.50</b>	



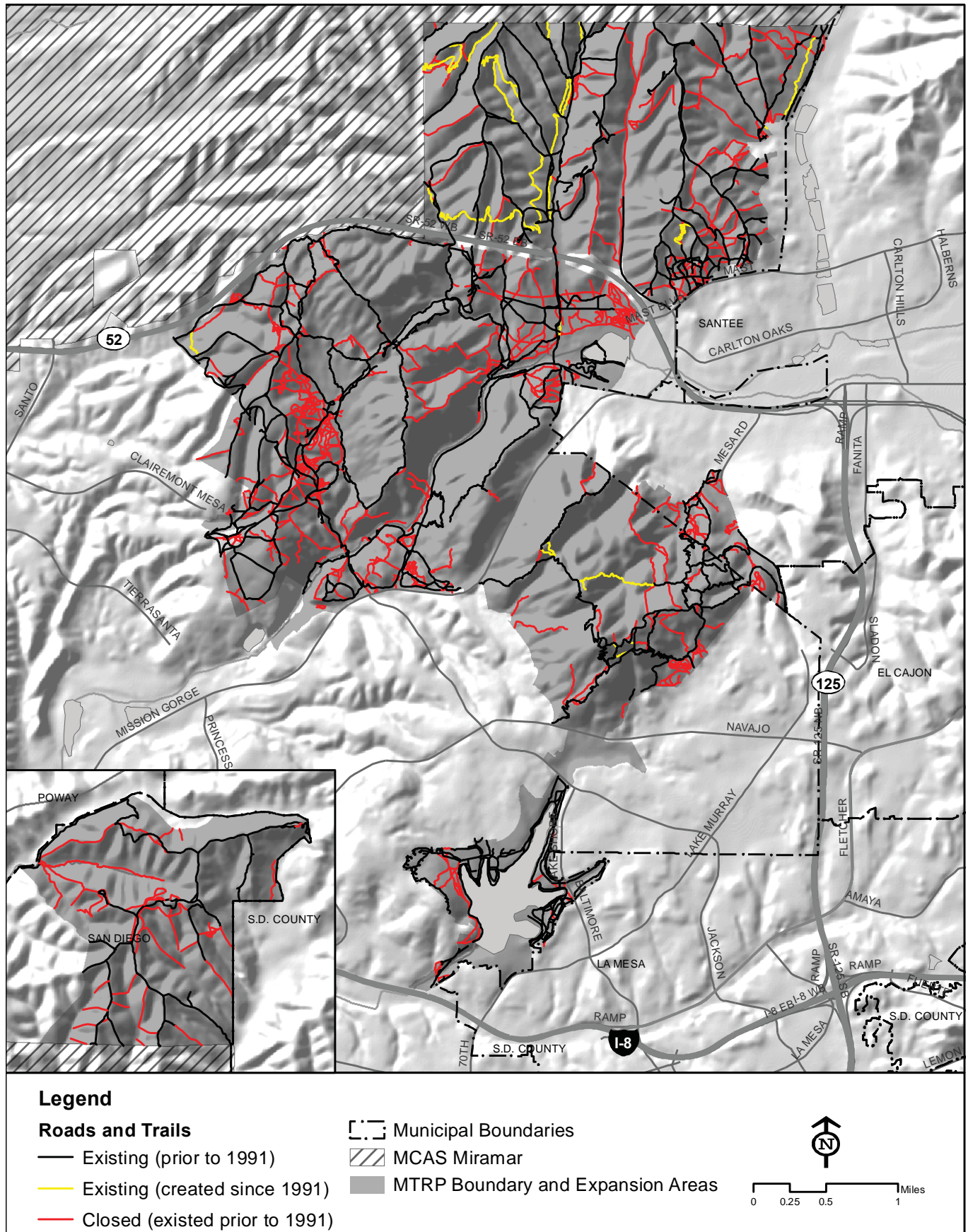
Participants in 2012 Zombie Run, one of many fund raising runs held in MTRP each year





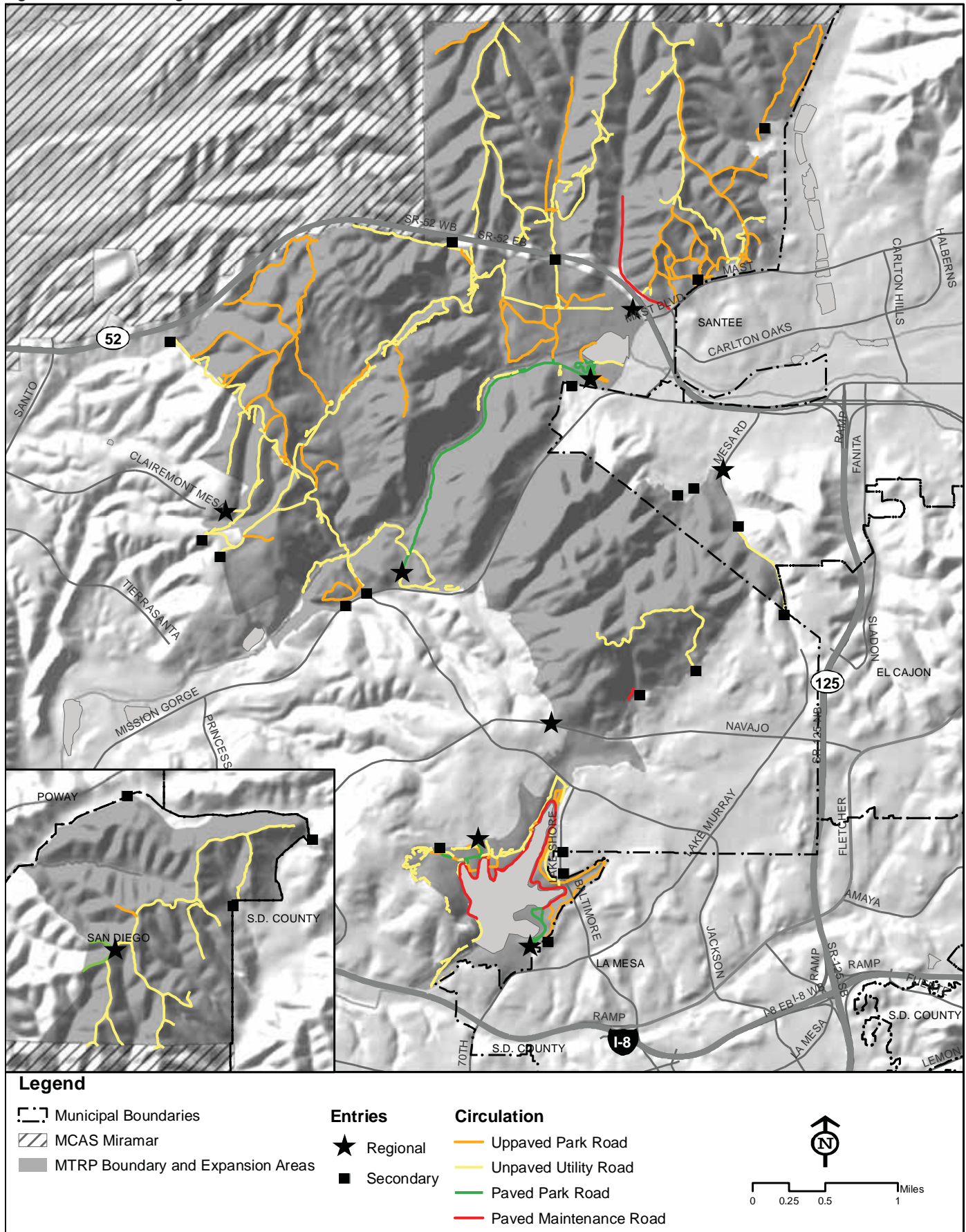
# MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK

Figure 3-11: Trail/Road Status and Closures





*Figure 3-12: Existing Vehicular Circulation and Access Points*





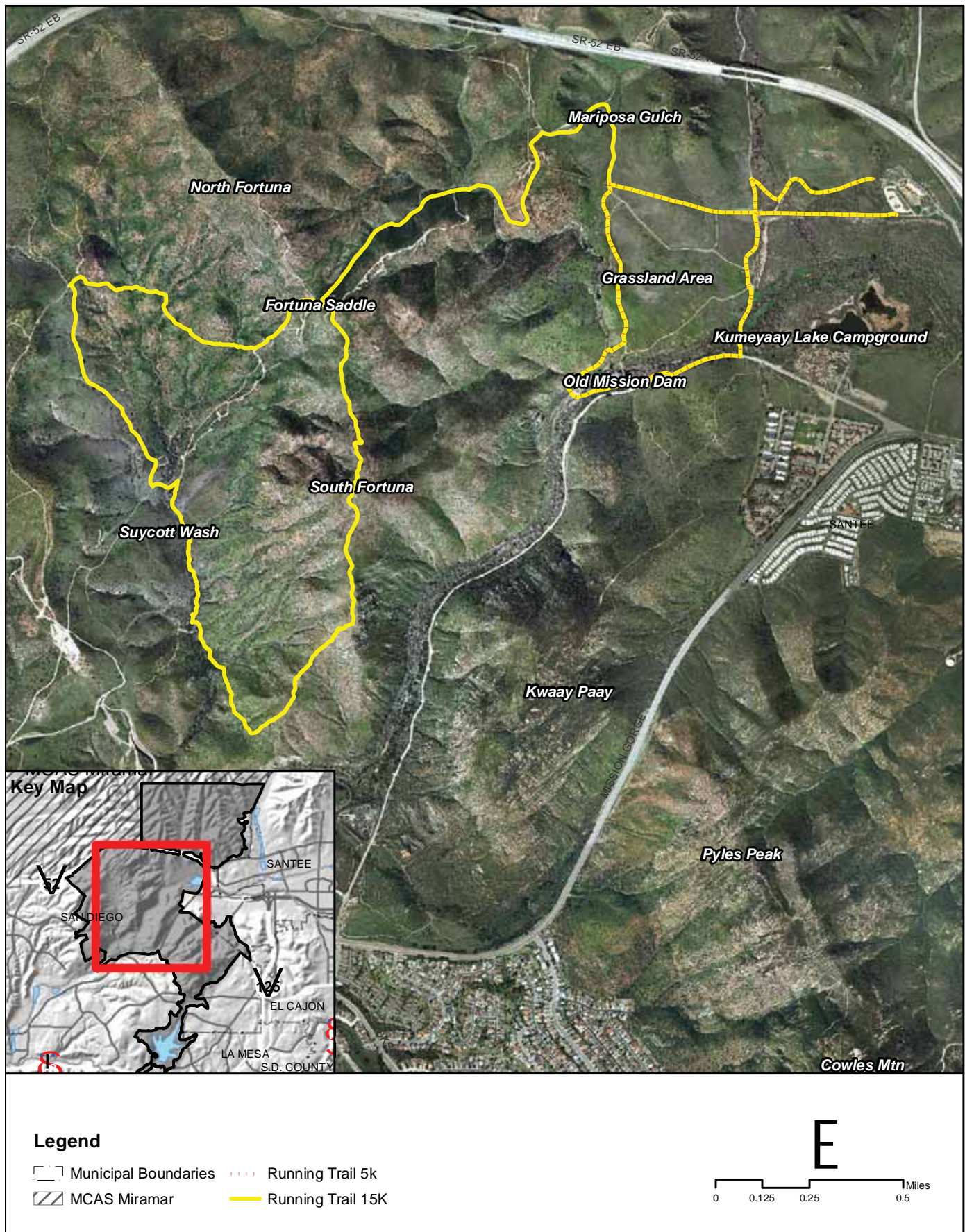
*Figure 3-13: Existing Recreational Trails*





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Figure 3-14: Approved running routes 5k and 15k



## MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK

### 3.1.14. CULTURAL/ PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES

The park contains numerous cultural resources, some of which are incorporated into interpretive/educational exhibits (Old Mission Dam, and Grinding Rocks). Others are protected in accordance with State law and local regulations, or are inaccessible. No known paleontological resources exist within the park and there is considered to be a moderate to low probability of any being found due to the nature of the underlying geology of the majority of the park. (See NRMP).



*Grinding Rocks within the Grasslands area*

### 3.1.15. VEGETATION COMMUNITIES

Approximately 37 percent of the vegetation within the park is dominated by Diegan Coastal Sage Scrub (Figure 3-15). Chaparral habitat occurs primarily on north facing slopes and accounts for 36 percent of the park's vegetation. (Table 3-3) Grassland (native and non-native) occur on about 13 percent. Developed or highly disturbed areas represent about seven percent of the park and include the Sycamore Canyon Landfill. Wetland and Riparian communities are just over five percent. For a more detailed description and discussion of management actions related to vegetation communities, refer to NRMP.

*Table 3-3: Vegetation Communities*

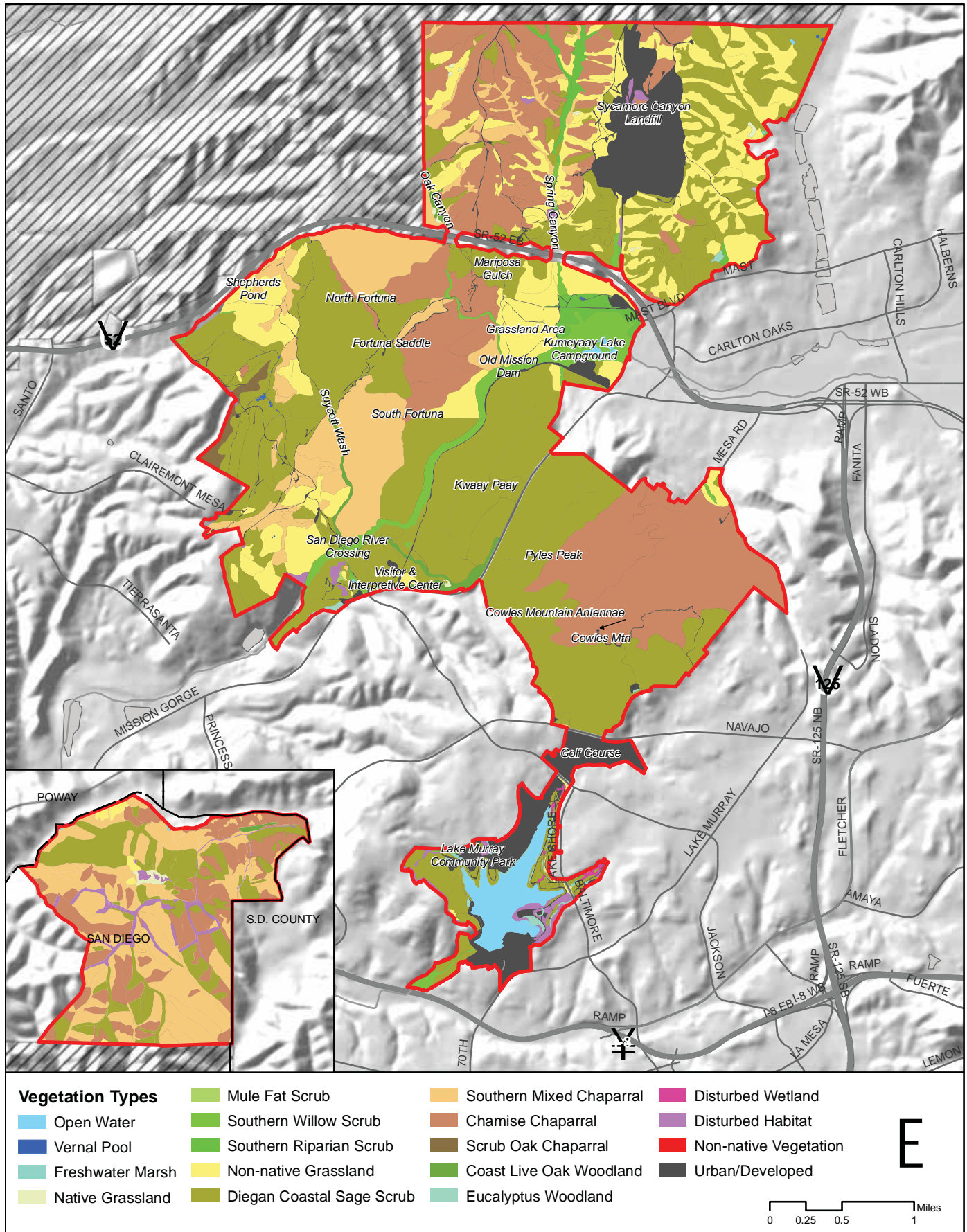
Vegetation Community	Acres	Percent	Vegetation Community	Acres	Percent
<i>Chamise Chaparral</i>	2,139.9	21.9%	<i>Non-native Vegetation</i>	0.3	0.0%
<i>Coast Live Oak Woodland</i>	58.7	0.6%	<i>Open Water</i>	149.6	1.5%
<i>Freshwater Marsh</i>	8.4	0.1%	<i>Scrub Oak Chaparral</i>	35.6	0.4%
<i>Diegan Coastal Sage Scrub</i>	3,665.1	37.5%	<i>Southern Mixed Chaparral</i>	1,314.5	13.4%
<i>Disturbed Habitat</i>	127.4	1.3%	<i>Southern Riparian Scrub</i>	98.5	1.0%
<i>Disturbed Wetland</i>	7.3	0.1%	<i>Southern Willow Scrub</i>	236.9	2.4%
<i>Eucalyptus Woodland</i>	20.3	0.2%	<i>Urban/Developed</i>	688.9	7.0%
<i>Mule Fat Scrub</i>	1.4	0.0%	<i>Vernal Pool</i>	0.8	0.0%
<i>Native Grassland</i>	18.5	0.2%	<i>Wildflower field</i>	1.2	0.0%
<i>Non-native Grassland</i>	1,204.4	12.3%			
				9,777.86	





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Figure 3-15: Vegetation Communities



## MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK

### 3.1.16. SENSITIVE SPECIES

The park is host to nearly 1,000 plant and animal species, of which 64 are considered to be sensitive. The park functions as a regional core resource area with key linkages east and west along the San Diego River and direct connectivity to core resource areas to the northeast.

The populations of four plant species within MTRP, San Diego thornmint (*Acanthomintha ilicifolia*), San Diego ambrosia (*Ambrosia pumila*), variegated dudleya (*Dudleya variegata*) and willow monardella (*Monardella viminea*), are of particular regional importance and considered highly sensitive. Plant species associated with vernal pools and their watersheds, southern sycamore/alder riparian woodland, southern cottonwood/willow riparian forest, coastal sage scrub, and oak woodlands, are also considered sensitive.



San Diego thornmint



San Diego ambrosia



Variegated dudleya



Willow monardella

Two bird species, Least Bell's vireo (*Vireo belli pusillus*) and Coastal California gnatcatcher (*Polioptila californica californica*), and their United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) designated critical habitat are considered highly sensitive. The southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*) is another riparian bird species considered sensitive, but has no designated critical habitat within the park. One bat species, the Pocketed free-tailed bat (*Nyctinomops femorosacca*) and a butterfly, the Hermes copper (*Lycaena hermes*) and their associated roosts and habitats, are considered highly sensitive.



Least Bell's vireo



California gnatcatcher



Pocketed free-tailed bat

USFWS designated critical habitat areas within the park require additional consultation and review if a project is proposed within them, that is either lead by a federal agency or utilizes federal funding.

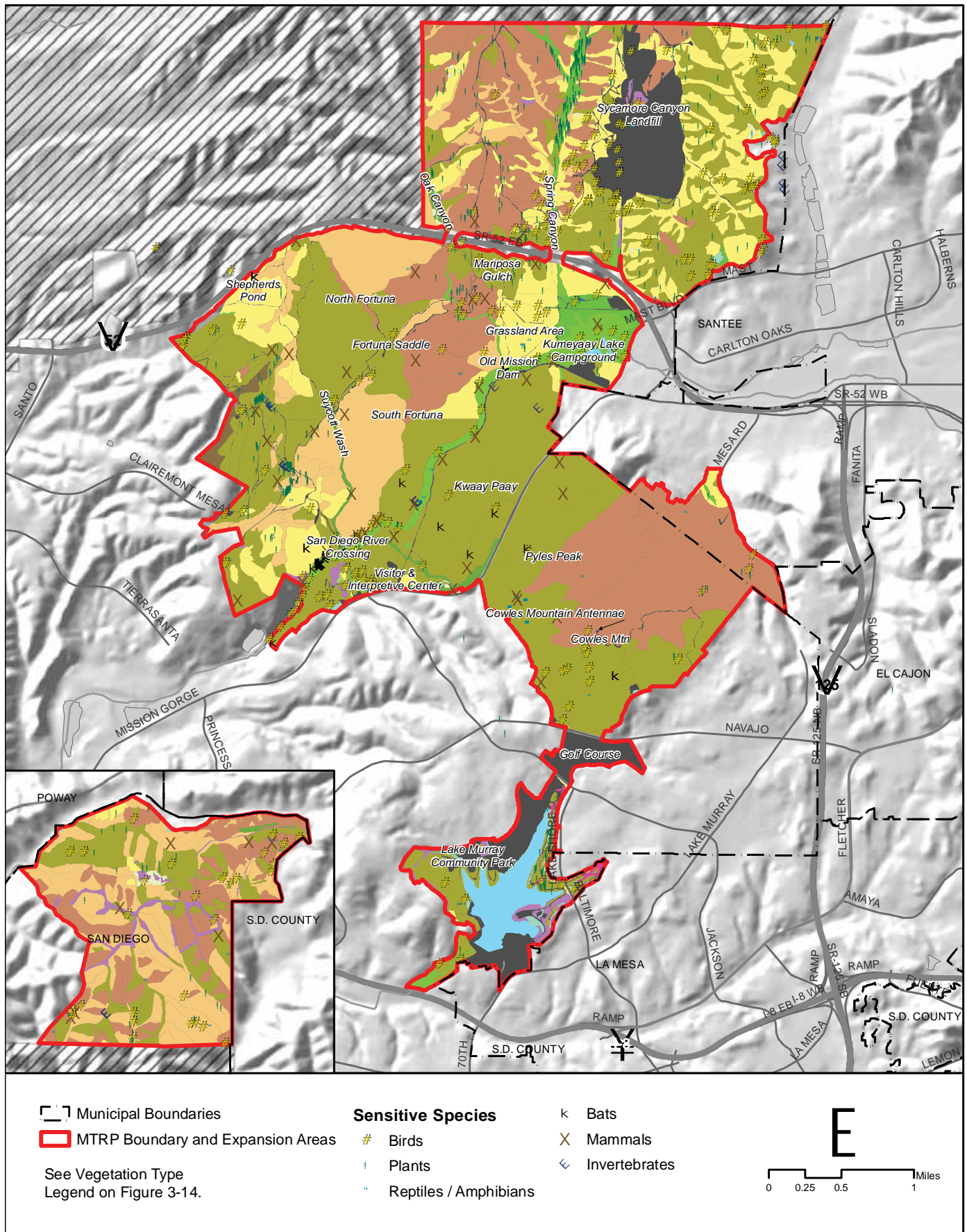
The sensitive species and habitats contained within MTRP are shown in Figure 3-16 and summarized in Table 3-4. For a more detailed description and discussion of management actions related to sensitive species, refer to the NRMP.





# 2019 MASTER PLAN UPDATE

Figure 3-16: Sensitive Species



# MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK

**Table 3-4: Sensitive Species observed within MTRP**

Common Name	Scientific Name	Federal /State	MSCP Covered ?	CNPS Rank
<i>San Diego fairy shrimp</i>	<i>Branchinecta sandiegoensis</i>	FE	No	-
<i>Hermes copper butterfly</i>	<i>Hermelycaena herme</i>	CSA	No	-
<i>Quino checkerspot butterfly</i>	<i>Euphydryas editha quino</i>	FE	No	-
<i>Western spadefoot toad</i>	<i>Spea hammondi</i>	CSC	No	-
<i>Belding's orange-throated whiptail</i>	<i>Aspidoscelis hyperthra beldingi</i>	CSC	Yes	-
<i>Coast western whiptail</i>	<i>Aspidoscelis tigris stejnegeri</i>	CSA	No	-
<i>Southern Pacific pond turtle</i>	<i>Actinemys marmorata pallida</i>	CSC	Yes	-
<i>Coronado skink</i>	<i>Eumeces skiltonianus interparietalis</i>	CSC	No	-
<i>San Diego horned lizard</i>	<i>Phrynosoma coronatum blainvillii</i>	CSC	Yes	-
<i>Coast patch-nosed snake</i>	<i>Salvadora hexalepis virgultea</i>	CSC	No	-
<i>Two-striped garter snake</i>	<i>Thamnophis hammondi</i>	CSC	No	-
<i>Northern red diamondback rattlesnake</i>	<i>Crotalus ruber</i>	CSC	No	-
<i>Cooper's hawk</i>	<i>Accipiter cooperi</i>	CSA	Yes	-
<i>Southern California rufous-crowned sparrow</i>	<i>Aimophila ruficeps canescens</i>	CSC	Yes	-
<i>Golden eagle</i>	<i>Aquila chrysaetos canadensis</i>	CSC, CFP	Yes	-
<i>Grasshopper sparrow</i>	<i>Ammodramus savannarum</i>	CSC	No	-
<i>Great blue heron</i>	<i>Ardea herodias</i>	CSA	No	-
<i>Coastal cactus wren</i>	<i>Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus couesi</i>	CSC	Yes	-
<i>Great egret</i>	<i>Casmerodius albus</i>	CSA	No	-
<i>Northern harrier</i>	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	CSC	Yes	-
<i>Yellow warbler</i>	<i>Dendroica petechia</i>	CSC	No	-
<i>White tailed kite</i>	<i>Elanus leucurus</i>	CFP	No	-
<i>Southwestern willow flycatcher</i>	<i>Empidonax traillii extimus</i>	FE/SE	Yes	-
<i>California horned lark</i>	<i>Eremophila alpestris actia</i>	CSC	No	-
<i>Peregrine falcon</i>	<i>Falco peregrinus anatum</i>	SE, CFP	Yes	-
<i>Yellow-breasted chat</i>	<i>Icteria virens</i>	CSC	No	-
<i>Black-crowned night heron</i>	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	CSA	No	-
<i>Double-crested cormorant</i>	<i>Phalacrocorax auritus albociliatus</i>	CSC	No	-
<i>California gnatcatcher</i>	<i>Poliophtila californica californica</i>	FT, CSC	Yes	-
<i>Western bluebird</i>	<i>Siala mexicana occidentalis</i>	-	Yes	-
<i>Light-footed clapper rail</i>	<i>Rallus longirostris levipes</i>	FE/SE, CFP	Yes	-
<i>Least Bell's vireo</i>	<i>Vireo bellii pusillus</i>	FE/SE	Yes	-
<i>Dulzura California pocket mouse</i>	<i>Chaetodipus californicus femoralis</i>	CSC	No	-
<i>Northwestern San Diego pocket mouse</i>	<i>Chaetodipus fallax fallax</i>	CSC	No	-
<i>Western mastiff bat</i>	<i>Eumops perotis</i>	CSC	No	-
<i>Western red bat</i>	<i>Lasirurs blossevillii</i>	CSC	No	-
<i>San Diego black tailed jackrabbit</i>	<i>Lepus californicus bennettii</i>	CSC	No	-
<i>Southern mule deer</i>	<i>Odocoileus hemionus fuliginata</i>	-	Yes	-
<i>Mountain lion</i>	<i>Puma concolor</i>	CFP	Yes	-
<i>Pocketed free-tailed bat</i>	<i>Nyctinomops femorosacca</i>	CSC	No	-
<i>Big free tailed bat</i>	<i>Nyctinomops macrotis</i>	CSC	No	-





# 2019 MASTER PLAN UPDATE

Table 3-4: Sensitive Species (cont.)

Common Name	Scientific Name	Federal /State	MSCP Covered ?	CNPS Rank
San Diego thornmint	<i>Acanthomintha ilicifolia</i>	FT/SE	Yes	1B.1
San Diego ambrosia	<i>Ambrosia pumila</i>	FE	Yes	1B.1
San Diego sagewort	<i>Artemisia palmeri</i>	-	No	4.2
San Diego sunflower	<i>Bahiopsis lacinata</i>	-	No	4.2
San Diego goldenstar	<i>Bloomeria clevelandii</i>	-	Yes	1B.1
Orcutt's brodiaea	<i>Brodiaea orcuttii</i>	-	Yes	1B.1
Peninsular spineflower	<i>Chorizanthe leptotheca</i>	-	No	4.2
Delicate clarkia	<i>Clarkia delicata</i>	-	No	1B.2
Summer holly	<i>Comarostaphylla diversifolia</i> ssp. <i>diversifolia</i>	-	No	1B.2
Western dichondra	<i>Dichondra occidentalis</i>	-	No	4.2
Variegated dudleya	<i>Dudleya variegata</i>	-	Yes	1B.2
Graceful tarplant	<i>Holocarpha virgata</i> ssp. <i>elongata</i>	-	No	4.2
Decumbent goldenbush	<i>Isocoma menziesii</i> var. <i>decombens</i>	-	No	1B.2
San Diego marsh elder	<i>Iva hayesiana</i>	-	No	2.2
San Diego barrel cactus	<i>Ferocactus viridescens</i>	-	Yes	2.1
Robinson's pepper grass	<i>Lepidium virginicum</i> var. <i>robinsonii</i>	-	No	1B.2
Willow monardella	<i>Monardella linioides</i> spp. <i>Viminea</i>	FE/SE	Yes	1B.1
California adder's-tongue fern	<i>Ophioglossum californicum</i>	-	No	4.2
Nuttall's scrub oak	<i>Quercus dumosa</i>	-	No	1B.1
Chaparral ragwort	<i>Senecio aphanactis</i>	-	No	2.2
Purple stemodia	<i>Stemodia durantifolia</i>	-	No	2.1
San Diego County needlegrass	<i>Stipa diegoensis</i>	-	No	4.2
Rush-like bristleweed	<i>Xanthisma juncea</i>	-	No	4.3



San Diego barrel cactus



Southern mule deer



San Diego sunflower



Northern red diamondback rattlesnake (Alan King)



Golden eagle (Vic Murayama)



San Diego horned lizard (HeySkinny)



## MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK

### 3.2. LAKE MURRAY

The Lake Murray area is completely surrounded by developed land uses, with the four-lane Navajo Road being the delineation between the Lake Murray and Cowles Mountain areas of the park. The north, east and south portions of the area are dominated by gentle to moderate slopes and are used extensively for active recreation within Lake Murray Community Park, Mission Trails Golf Course, and facilities associated with Lake Murray. The western slope is an open space area between the lake and the community of Del Cerro.

Lake Murray is a water reservoir whose water quality and security must be protected. Since the early 1900's, the Lake has provided community recreation for San Diego County residents and has historically been the most accessible, developed, and highly-used area of the park.

Because of the relatively narrow strip of usable land around the lake, the area as a whole is inward-oriented and buffered from the surrounding neighborhoods. Individual use areas are screened from one another and served by dispersed parking.

#### 3.2.1. OWNERSHIP AND LAND USE

At 628 acres, the Lake Murray area is the smallest area in the park. The area is completely within the jurisdiction of the City of San Diego and part of the Navajo Community Planning Area (Figure 3-17). The City of San Diego owns about 73 percent of the 628 acres of land in fee. About 109 acres within the lake are privately held lands with flooding rights granted to the City. Land uses include the reservoir and the Alvarado Water Treatment Plant, Mission Trails Golf Course, Lake Murray Community Park, and open space lands immediately surrounding the reservoir and a significant slope along the western edge. The Alvarado Water Treatment Plant and the reservoir are managed by the City of San Diego PUD, the lease for the Mission Trails Golf Course is managed by the Real Estate Assets Department, and the community park and tennis courts are managed by the Park and Recreation Department.



*Lake Murray (Source Bing 2012)*



*1918 Lake Murray dam*



*Alvarado Water Treatment Plant (Source Bing 2012)*





### 3.2.2. UTILITIES

There are numerous City of San Diego PUD water and sewer pipelines within the Lake Murray area (Figure 3-17) that serve the surrounding residential development. There are also three major regional water supply lines operated by the SDCWA that traverse through the area from north to south and interconnect with the City of San Diego Alvarado Water Treatment Plant and additional locations further south.

### 3.2.3. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

The natural lands surrounding Lake Murray are dominated by coastal sage scrub habitats with pockets of non-native trees and grasslands, willow-dominated riparian vegetation with stands of cattail, and bulrush along the lake's fringe. The California gnatcatcher primarily utilizes the coastal sage scrub to the south and west of the lake, but has also been sighted along the eastern edge of the lake and in the finger canyon to the east of Baltimore Drive. Several sensitive plant species have been identified along the eastern edge of the lake including: San Diego barrel cactus; Long-spined spineflower; San Diego goldenstar; Ashy spike moss; and San Diego County viguiera. For the most part, those areas supporting native vegetation have been included in the City's MHPA and are being managed to protect and enhance their biological values.

Figure 3-18 shows the location and general extents of the vegetative communities and sensitive species. Table 3-5 summarizes the vegetation communities and Table 3-6 lists the known sensitive species within the area based on existing survey data and may not represent a comprehensive list. The NRMP provides additional information on these resources, including recommended management actions.



*San Diego goldenstar*



*Ashy spike-moss*  
(Anna Bennett)

**Table 3-5: Lake Murray Vegetation Communities**

<b>Vegetation Community</b>	<b>Acres</b>
<i>Freshwater Marsh</i>	7.8
<i>Diegan Coastal Sage Scrub</i>	139.6
<i>Disturbed Habitat</i>	41.9
<i>Disturbed Wetland</i>	7.3
<i>Eucalyptus Woodland</i>	12.5
<i>Non-native Grassland</i>	6.0
<i>Non-native Vegetation</i>	0.3
<i>Open Water</i>	139.2
<i>Southern Willow Scrub</i>	13.8
<i>Urban/Developed</i>	258.9
<i>Wildflower Field</i>	1.2
	628.5

**Table 3-6: Lake Murray Sensitive Species**

<b>MSCP Covered Sensitive Plant Species</b>	
<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Scientific Name</b>
<i>Variegated dudleya</i>	<i>Dudleya variegata</i>
<i>San Diego barrel cactus</i>	<i>Ferocactus viridescens</i>
<i>San Diego goldenstar</i>	<i>Muilla clevelandii</i>
<b>MSCP Covered Sensitive Animal Species</b>	
<i>Western pond turtle</i>	<i>Clemmys marmorata pallida</i>
<i>Coastal cactus wren</i>	<i>Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus couesi</i>
<i>California gnatcatcher</i>	<i>Polioptila californica californica</i>
<b>Non-MSCP Covered Sensitive Species</b>	
<i>San Diego sunflower</i>	<i>Bahiopsis laciniata</i>
<i>Long-spined spineflower</i>	<i>Chorizanthe polygonoides var. longispina</i>
<i>San Diego marsh-elder</i>	<i>Iva hayesiana</i>
<i>Ashy spike-moss</i>	<i>Selaginella cinerascens</i>
<i>Western spadefoot toad</i>	<i>Spea hammondi</i>



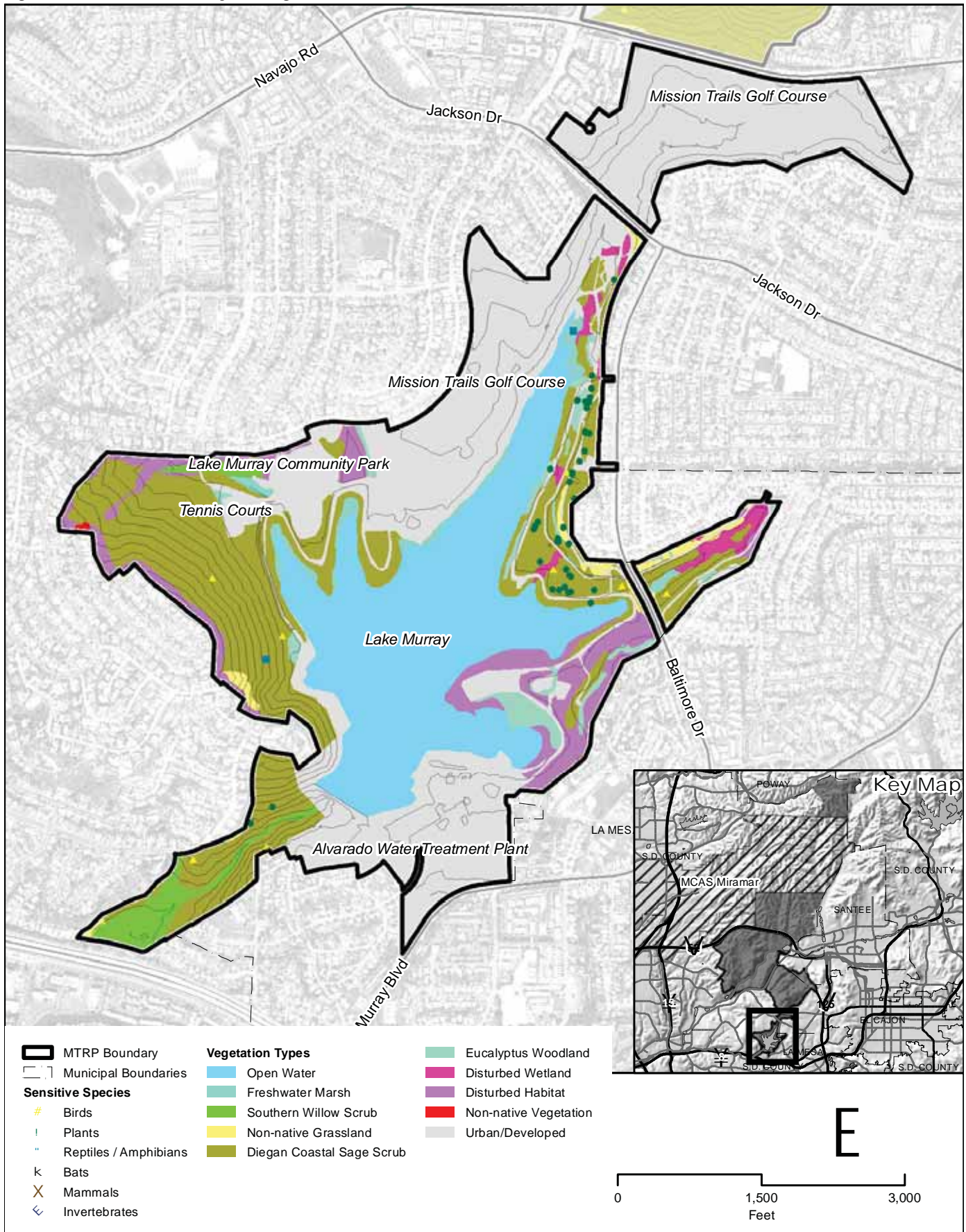
*Figure 3-17: Lake Murray Ownership and Utilities*





# 2019 MASTER PLAN UPDATE

Figure 3-18: Lake Murray Biological Resources



## MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK

### 3.2.4. CIRCULATION AND PARKING

There are four primary access points into Lake Murray: Kiowa Drive; Baltimore Drive; Belle Glade Avenue; and Park Ridge Boulevard. The gates at Kiowa Drive, Belle Glade Avenue and Park Ridge Boulevard are open daily from 5:30am to 6:30pm from November through February and 5:30am to 8pm from March through October, except for Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Years Day. The principal entry is at the southern end of the lake from Kiowa Drive via Lake Murray Boulevard from Interstate 8. The eastern entry from Baltimore Drive is for utility vehicles only, but provides a pedestrian gate for community entry. The northern entry from Murray Park Drive at Belle Glade Avenue serves the community park on the northwest side of the lake. An entrance at Murray Park Drive and Park Ridge Boulevard serves the tennis courts. Two additional entrances provide access to the golf course, one off Navajo Road and the other off Golfcrest Drive. The 14.34 miles of circulation routes within the Lake Murray area are dominated by paved and unpaved maintenance roads (11.28 miles), most of which double as public recreational access (Figure 3-19 and Table 3-7). The maintenance roads provide access to both the shoreline of Lake Murray and the urban runoff diversion system that encompasses much of the reservoir.



Alvarado Point (Source Bing 2012)

Off street parking is located at the end of Kiowa Drive, at the Lake Murray Tennis Courts, and at the Lake Murray Community Park. On street parking is available along Kiowa Drive, Baltimore Drive, and Murray Park Drive. Parking for the golf course is along Navajo Road and off Golfcrest Place.

Table 3-7: Lake Murray Vehicular Circulation

	Miles	Percent
<i>Paved Park Road</i>	1.13	7.87%
<i>Paved Maintenance Road</i>	2.89	20.12%
<i>Unpaved Park Road</i>	2.50	17.43%
<i>Unpaved Utility Road</i>	4.77	33.22%
<b>Total</b>	11.28	

### 3.2.5. FACILITIES AND USES

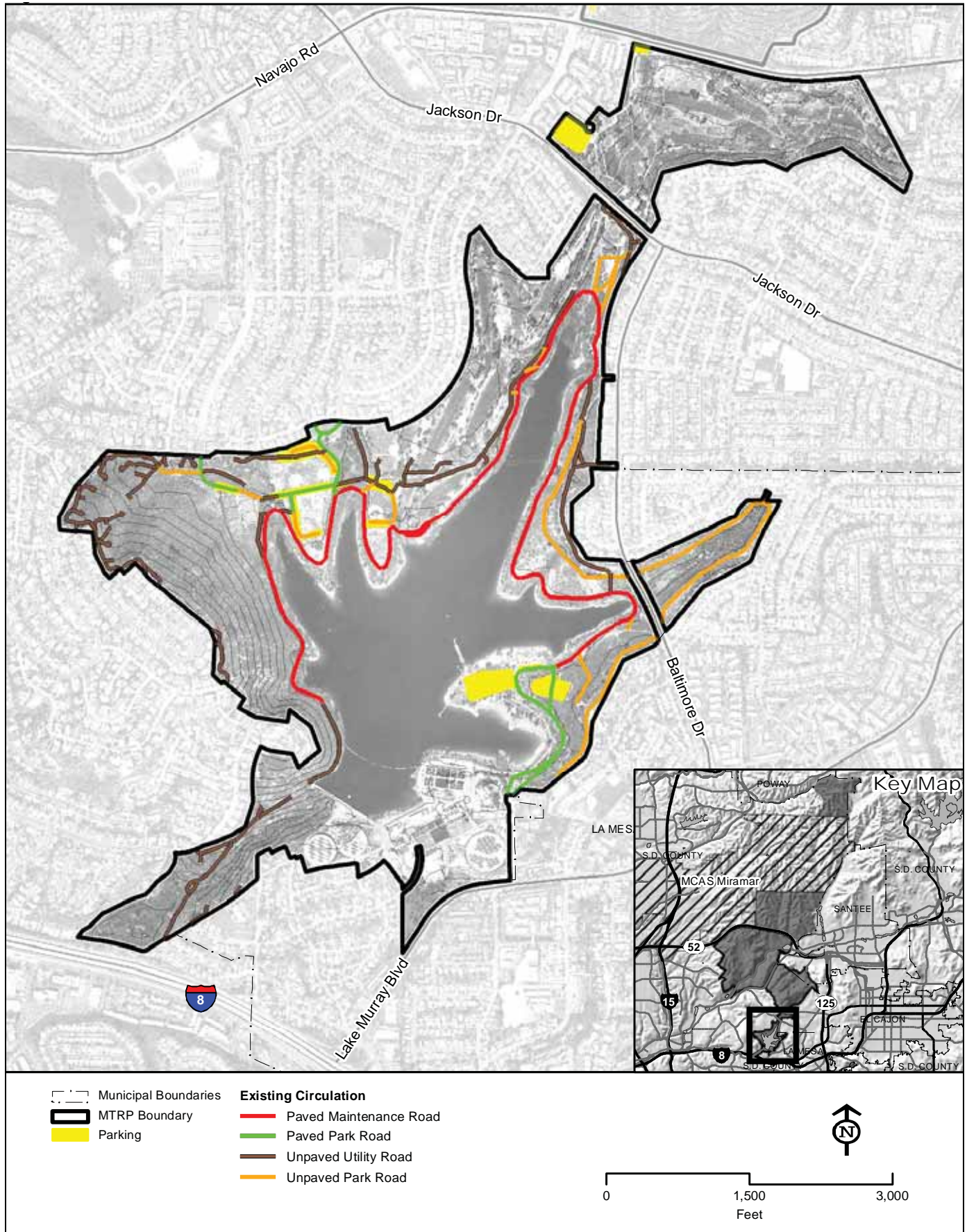
The area's main complex, located at Alvarado Point, houses concessions, a staff office and information center. It serves as a hub for the adjoining picnic areas, and is a base for the boat marina in Padre Bay to the north. Additional picnic areas are also provided at several locations around the lake (Figure 3-20).





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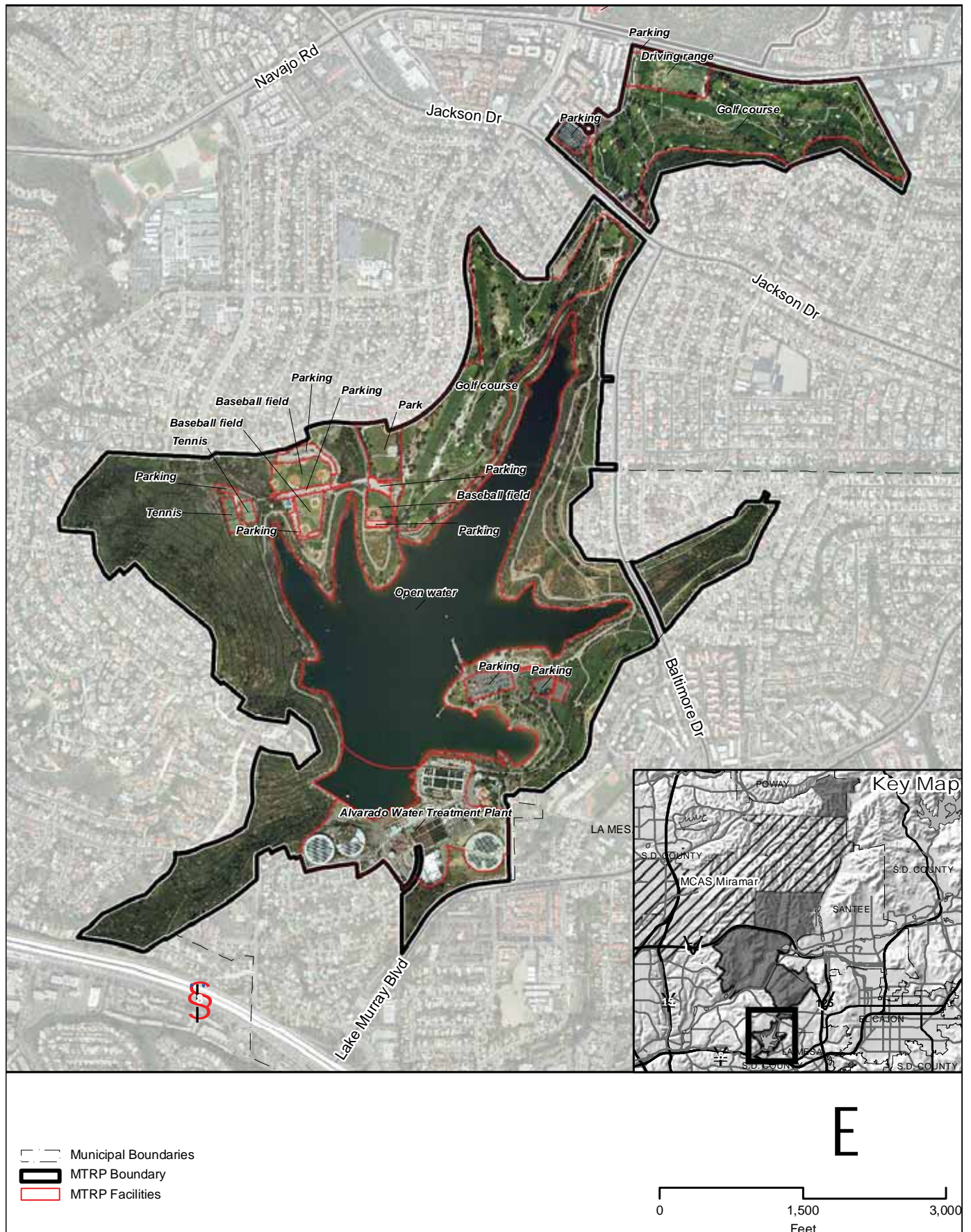
Figure 3-19: Lake Murray Vehicular Circulation and Parking





# MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK

Figure 3-20: Lake Murray Facilities and Uses





## 3.2.6. RECREATIONAL USE

Lake Murray is a drinking water reservoir for the City of San Diego and allows non-contact water based recreation and boat/shoreline fishing with a valid fishing license and park permit (Figure 3-21 and Table 3-8). The lake and its immediate environs, including the boat rental, launch and concessions at the end of Kiowa Drive, are managed by the City of San Diego PUD.

Water provides the recreational focus at Lake Murray, whether used directly or as a backdrop for land-based recreation. Row boats, paddle boats, canoes, kayaks, and other small motorized boats are appropriate for this urban location. Motorized boats are limited to five miles per hour because of noise, pollution, and safety concerns. In addition, all boaters must comply with state laws related to noise levels of any motorized craft.

The area also includes the Mission Trails Golf Course and the Lake Murray Community Park. The golf course is operated by the American Golf Corporation under a leasehold agreement with the City of San Diego Real Estate Assets Department. The Lake Murray Community Park is located along the northern shore of Lake Murray and contains a variety of active and passive recreational facilities, including three softball fields, four little league fields, a baseball field, ten tennis courts, a small playground, and multi-use grass areas. The park is utilized by a number of community sports organizations including: San Carlos Little League; Navajo Girls Fastpitch Softball; and San Diego Crusaders Soccer Club that offer local youth sport programs. The tennis courts are managed by the non-profit corporation Lake Murray Tennis Club. The planning and development of the community park is a shared responsibility between the City of San Diego Park and Recreation Department (Community Parks II) and the San Carlos Recreation Council, with review by the MTRP CAC and Task Force. Operation and maintenance of the community park is the responsibility of the Park and Recreation Department.



*Fishing on Lake Murray*



*Mission Trails Golf Course (Source Bing 2012)*

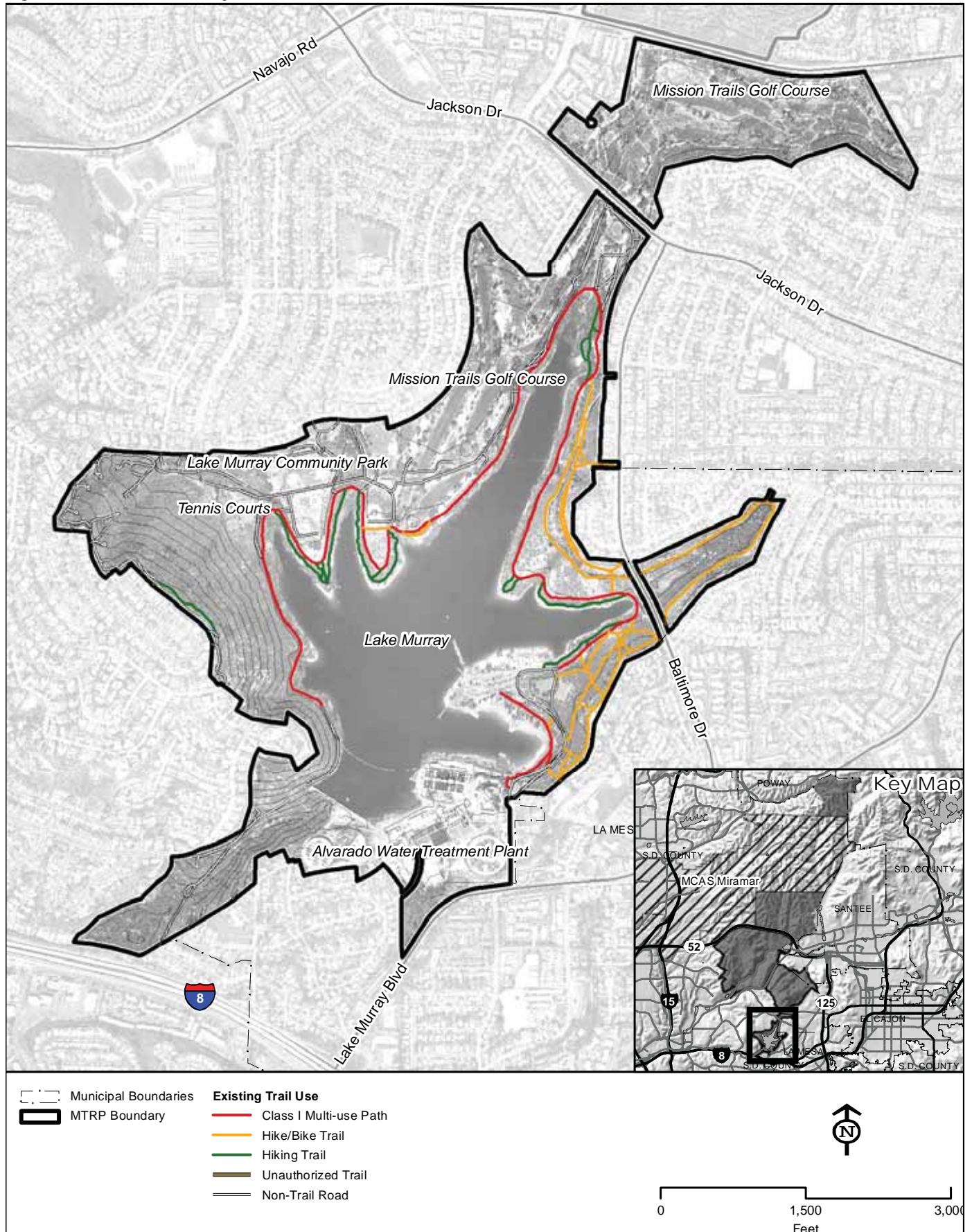


*Ballfields at Lake Murray Community Park*



# MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK

Figure 3-21: Lake Murray Recreational Trails





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Of the 14.3 miles of circulation routes, 8.14 miles are utilized for recreational access. The paved maintenance road adjacent to the lake is a Class 1 Bike Path also used by pedestrians and skaters. The dirt utility roads that parallel the concrete urban runoff diversion channel surrounding the lake are also used by pedestrians and mountain bikes. Numerous unauthorized dirt trails split off the paved road to provide shoreline access.

*Table 3-8: Lake Murray Recreational Trails*

	Miles	Percent
<i>Class I Multi-use Path</i>	<i>3.14</i>	<i>21.91%</i>
<i>Hike/Bike Trail</i>	<i>3.28</i>	<i>22.90%</i>
<i>Hiking Trail</i>	<i>1.71</i>	<i>11.91%</i>
<i>Multi-use Trail</i>	-	<i>0.00%</i>
<i>Unauthorized Trail</i>	-	<i>0.00%</i>
<b>Total</b>	<b>8.14</b>	



*One of many fitness cyclists using the paved maintenance road daily*



*Walkers on multi-use path at Lake Murray*



## MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK

### 3.3. COWLES MOUNTAIN



*Cowles Mountain and Pyles Peak*

Cowles Mountain is a dominant landmark within the San Diego Region and the highest point in the City of San Diego, rising to an elevation of 1,591 feet. Lying at the southeastern end of the Fortuna Mountain/Pyles Peak ridgeline, its visual prominence is due largely to the steep simplicity of its sparsely-vegetated slopes. Only the northern side of this landform is dissected by canyons; its image from all other angles is monolithic.

The Cowles Mountain area has residential development on the east and west, and major transportation routes on the north and south. The four-lane Navajo Road is the dividing boundary between the Lake Murray and Cowles Mountain areas, and the five to six lane Mission Gorge Road is the dividing boundary between the Cowles Mountain and Mission Gorge areas of the park. The entire area is dominated by moderate to steep slopes with trails and roads being the only developed uses.

#### 3.3.1. OWNERSHIP AND LAND USE

There are 1,540 acres within this area. 1,355 acres of which are within the City of San Diego and 189 acres are in the City of Santee. About 20 acres of land is in City ownership and 120 acres is in County ownership. They jointly own another 1,400 acres. Land within the City of San Diego are within the Navajo community plan area (Figure 3-22). Land within the City of Santee is owned by the County of San Diego.

Land uses within this area include the antennae facilities at the top of Cowles Mountain and the associated service road, the main staging area and trailhead at Golfcrest Drive and Navajo Road, and secondary trailheads at Big Rock/Mesa Road and Barker Way.

#### 3.3.2. UTILITIES

There are several public utilities within the Cowles Mountain area (Figure 3-22), including the City of San Diego San Carlos Water Reservoir and the Mission Trails Pipeline operated by the SDCWA.



*Communication antennae on top of Cowles Mountain*





## 2019 MASTER PLAN UPDATE

### 3.3.3. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Cowles Mountain is co-dominated by coastal sage scrub and chaparral habitats with a small pocket of non-native grasslands and willow-dominated riparian vegetation near Mesa Road. The California gnatcatcher utilizes the coastal sage scrub along the main Cowles Mountain trail, as well as along Mesa Road. The southern California rufous-crowned sparrow is another species found within coastal sage scrub along the southern slopes. The boulders and rock faces on Pyles Peak are used as roosting areas by several raptor species, including the Golden Eagle. The crevices in the rock faces of Pyles Peak are also used by several bat species as roosting areas. Both the San Diego horned lizard and the Belding's orange-throated whiptail utilize the areas dominated by rock outcrops. Two sensitive plant species are located on the north eastern slopes: the San Diego ambrosia, a federally listed species; and the spiny-redberry, the larval host plant for the candidate federally listed *Hermes cooper* butterfly.

The entire portion of Cowles Mountain within the City of San Diego is contained within the City's MHPA. The County of San Diego owned land within the City of Santee is designated as Critical Habitat for the California gnatcatcher by the USFWS.

Figure 3-23 shows the location and general extents of the vegetative communities and sensitive species. Table 3-9 summarizes the vegetation communities and Table 3-10 the known sensitive species within the area based on existing survey data and may not represent a comprehensive list. The NRMP provides additional information on these resources, including recommended management actions.



Orange-throated whiptail (Gary Nafis)

**Table 3-9: Cowles Mountain Vegetation Communities**

Vegetation Community	Acres
<i>Chamise Chaparral</i>	771.9
<i>Diegan Coastal Sage Scrub</i>	741.6
<i>Eucalyptus Woodland</i>	0.4
<i>Non-native Grassland</i>	19.8
<i>Southern Willow Scrub</i>	2.2
<i>Urban/Developed</i>	7.7
	1,543.6

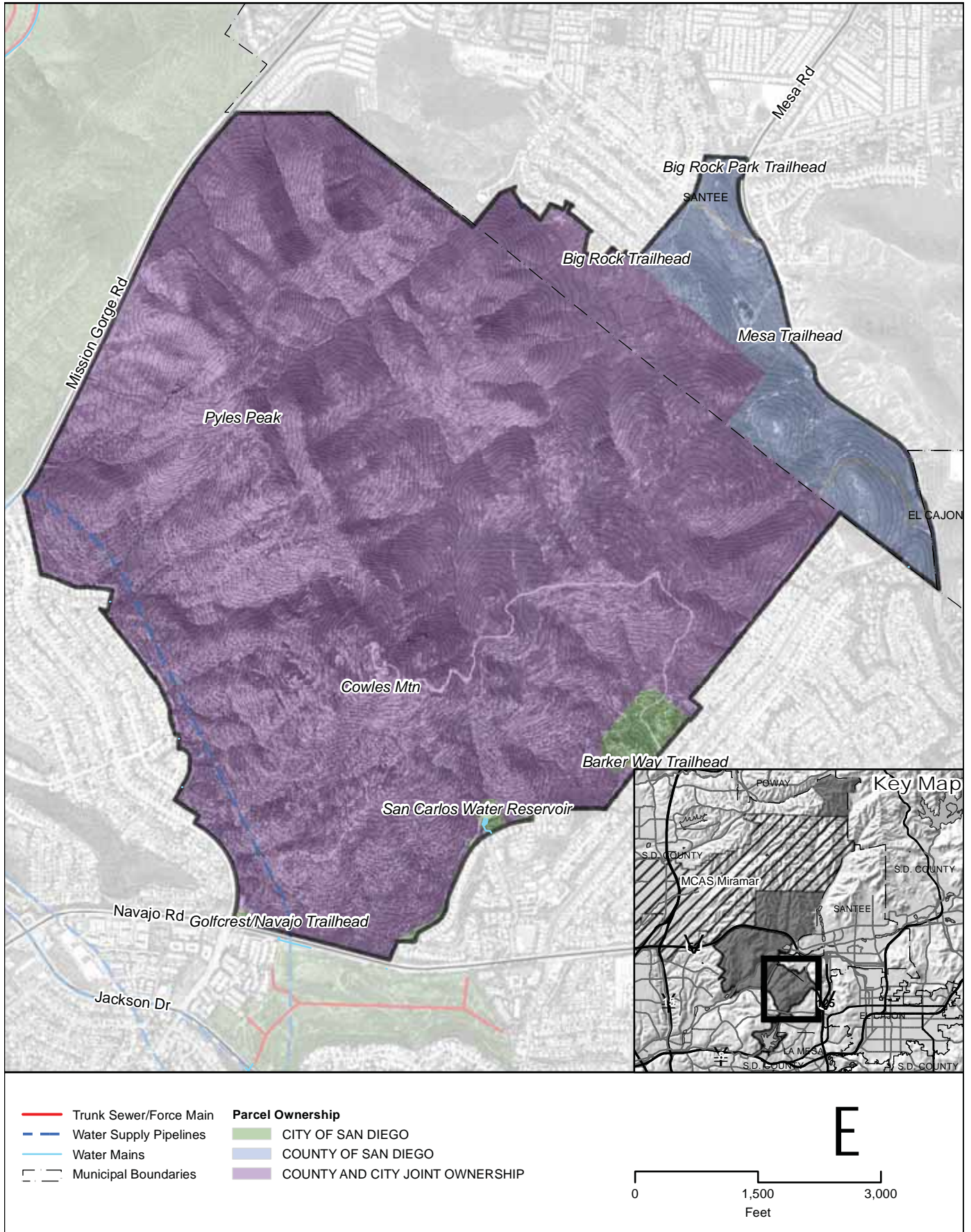
**Table 3-10: Cowles Mountain Sensitive Species**

MSCP Covered Sensitive Plant Species	
<i>San Diego ambrosia</i>	<i>Ambrosia pumila</i>
MSCP Covered Sensitive Animal Species	
<i>Belding's orange-throated whiptail</i>	<i>Aspidoscelis hyperthra beldingi</i>
<i>Coastal horned lizard</i>	<i>Phrynosoma blainvillii</i>
<i>Cooper's hawk</i>	<i>Accipiter cooperi</i>
<i>Southern California rufous-crowned sparrow</i>	<i>Aimophila ruficeps canescens</i>
<i>California gnatcatcher</i>	<i>Poliopitila californica californica</i>
<i>Southern mule deer</i>	<i>Odocoileus hemionus fuliginata</i>
Non-MSCP Covered Sensitive Species	
<i>San Diego sunflower</i>	<i>Bahiopsis laciniata</i>
<i>Ashy spike moss</i>	<i>Selaginella cinerascens</i>
<i>Woven-spore lichen</i>	<i>Texosporium sancti-jacobi</i>
<i>Peninsular spineflower</i>	<i>Chorizanthe leptotheca</i>
<i>Western whiptail</i>	<i>Aspidoscelis tigris</i>
<i>Red diamond rattlesnake</i>	<i>Crotalus ruber</i>
<i>Coronado skink</i>	<i>Plestiodon skiltonianus interparietalis</i>
<i>Coast patch-nosed snake</i>	<i>Salvadora hexalepis virgulata</i>
<i>San Diego pocket mouse</i>	<i>Chaetodipus fallax</i>
<i>Pocket free-tailed bat</i>	<i>Nyctinomops femorosacca</i>



# MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK

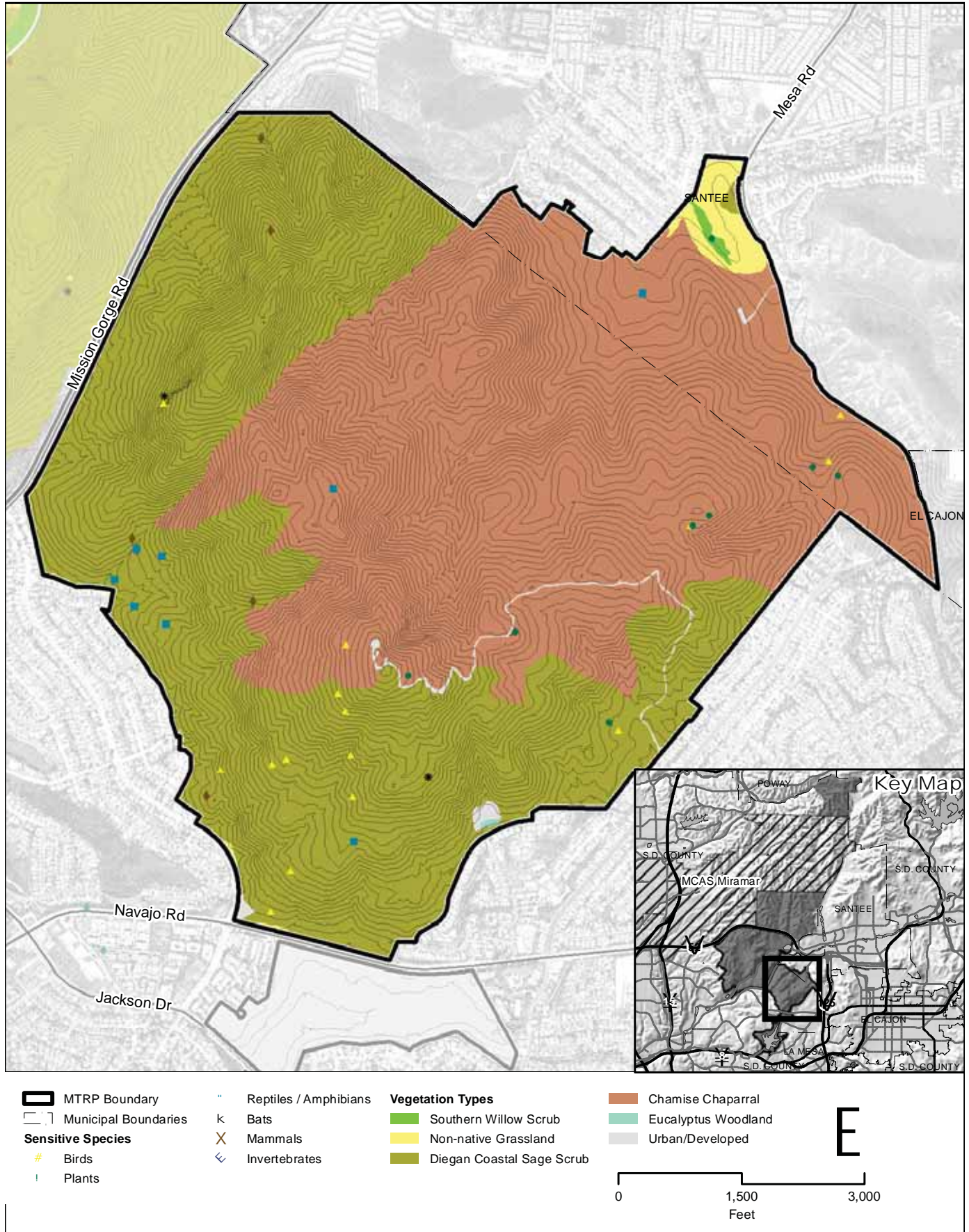
Figure 3-22: Cowles Mountain Ownership and Utilities





# 2019 MASTER PLAN UPDATE

Figure 3-23: Cowles Mountain Biological Resources



## MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK

### 3.3.4. CIRCULATION AND PARKING

There are four entries to the Cowles Mountain area. The staging areas are open daily from 8am to 5pm from November through February and 8am to 7pm from March through October. The major entry is the Cowles Mountain staging area at the intersection of Golfcrest Drive and Navajo Road in the San Carlos community of the City of San Diego. This entry provides landscaped parking for 25 vehicles, along with a comfort station, park benches, and an information kiosk. Off street vehicular parking is provided at Navajo Road and Golfcrest Drive, with additional on street parking along Golfcrest Drive. A second entry is located at Barker Way. This entry provides limited



*Golfcrest Staging Area*

on-street parking, an information kiosk, and trash cans at the trail head. There are three entries from the Santee side of the mountain, one at Big Rock Park, one at the end of Big Rock Road, and the third at the end of Mesa Road. Both of these provide limited on-street parking.

Cowles Mountain has park roads only on its perimeter – with utility and emergency access from Barker Way to the summit only. As such, only 2.26 miles of the 15.4 miles of circulation routes within the area are for vehicular use (Figure 3-24 and Table 3-11).

**Table 3-11: Cowles Mountain Vehicular Circulation**

	Miles	Percent
<i>Paved Park Road</i>	-	0.0%
<i>Paved Maintenance Road</i>	0.08	0.53%
<i>Unpaved Park Road</i>	-	0.0%
<i>Unpaved Utility Road</i>	2.18	14.15%
<b>Total</b>	2.26	



*Cowles Mountain park access / utility road*

### 3.3.5. FACILITIES AND USES

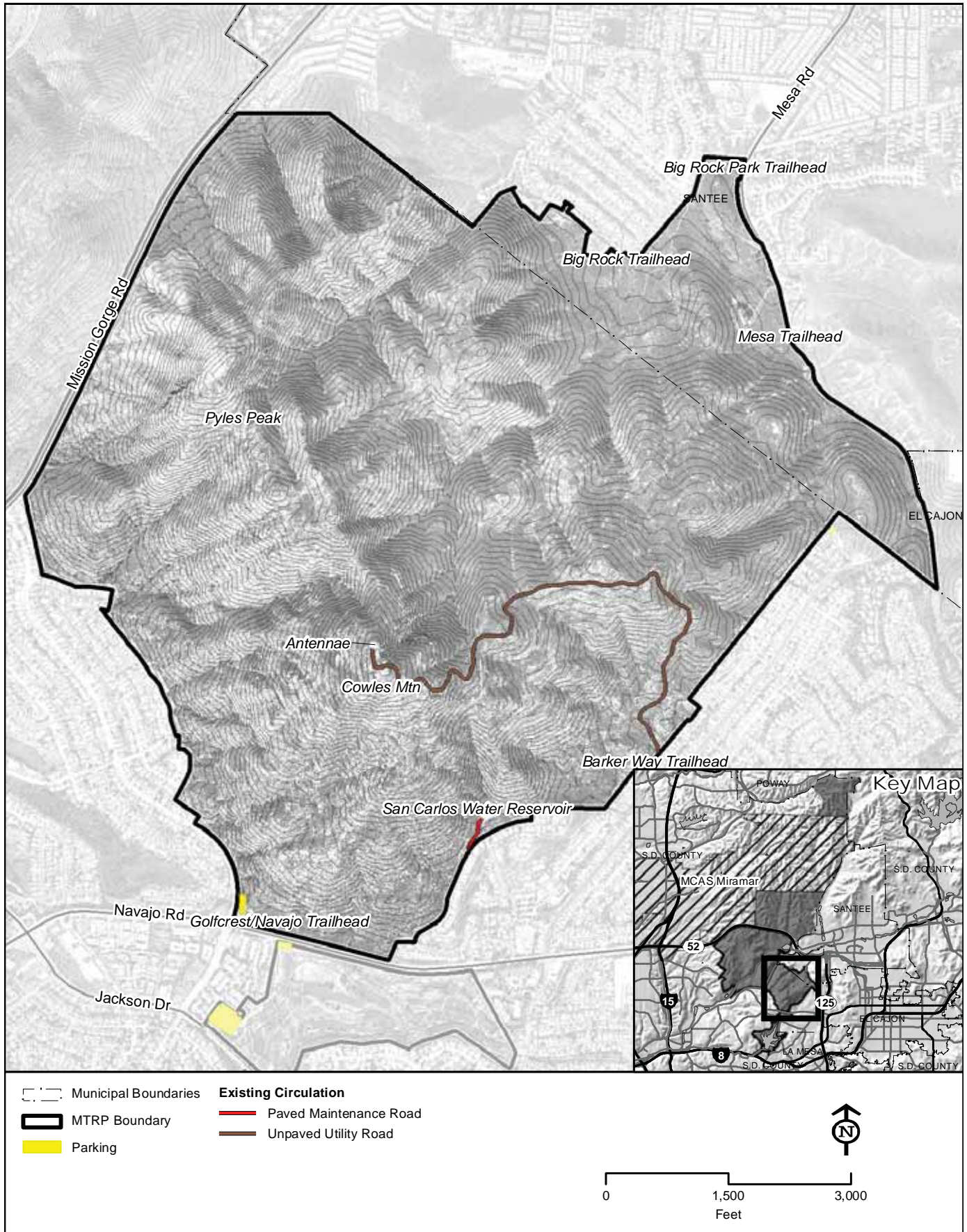
Cowles Mountain is unique in its difference from other park areas – most of its surface is characterized by rugged, relatively barren and exposed slopes, yet its canyons are secluded and relatively rich in plants and rock outcroppings. Use of the mountain is limited to passive recreational uses, such as hiking, mountain biking, photography, nature study, viewing, and “simply getting away” as shown in Figure 3-25.





# 2019 MASTER PLAN UPDATE

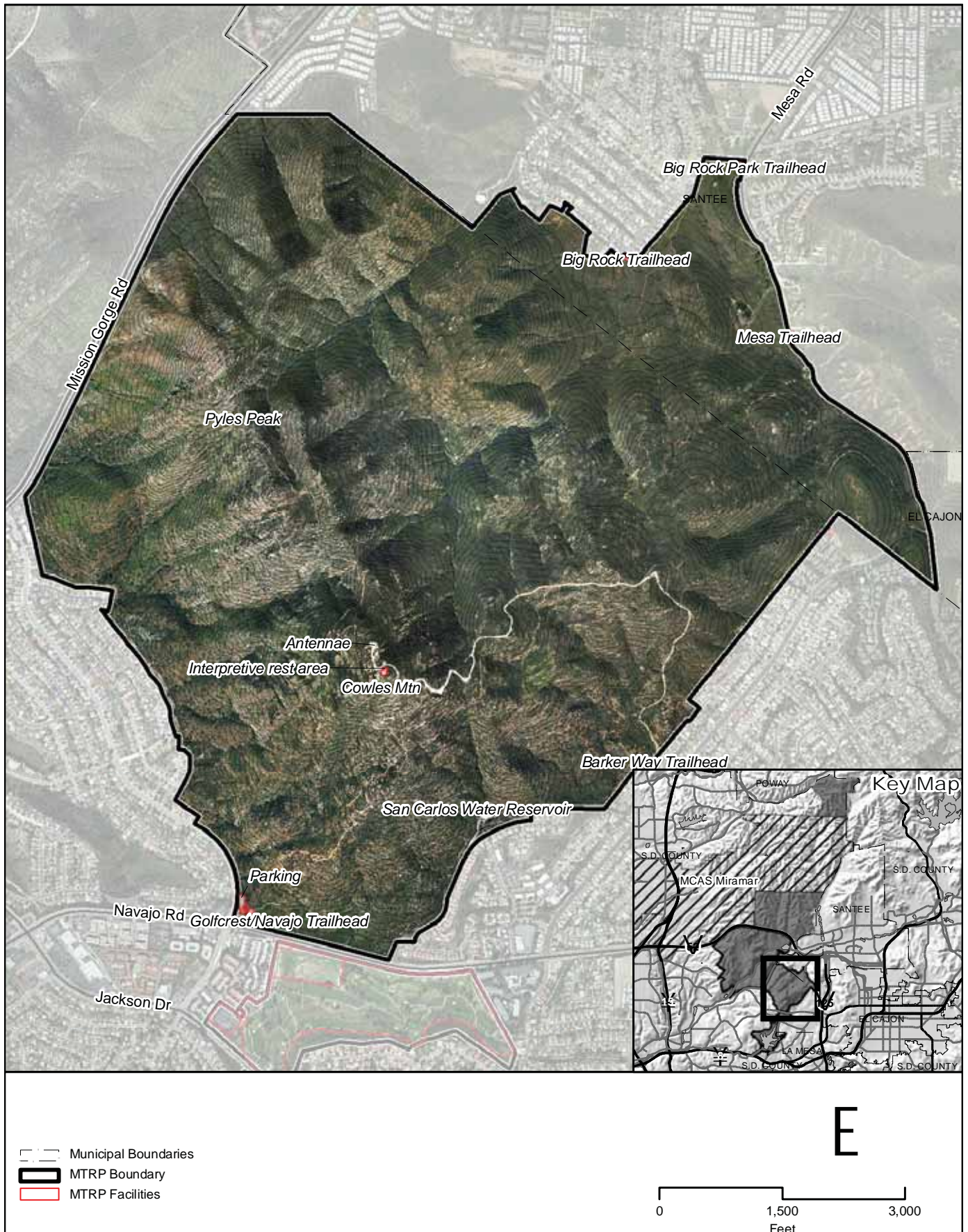
Figure 3-24: Cowles Mountain Vehicular Circulation and Parking





# MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK

Figure 3-25: Cowles Mountain Facilities and Uses



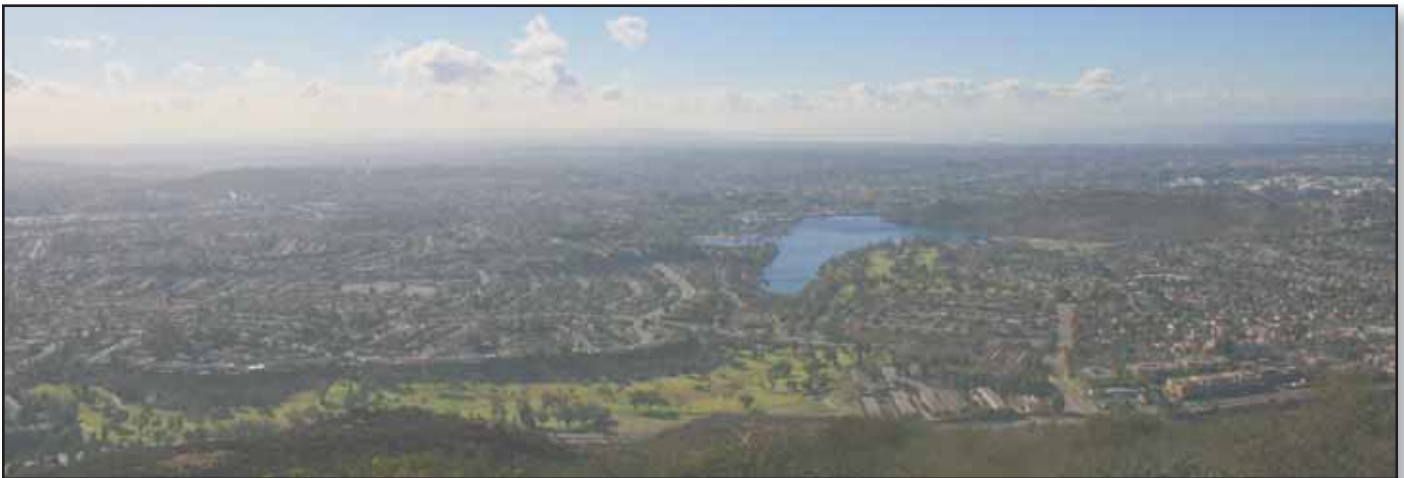


## 2019 MASTER PLAN UPDATE

### 3.3.6. RECREATIONAL USE

Of the 15.47 miles of circulation routes within the Cowles Mountain area, 15.34 miles are used for recreational access (Figure 3-26 and Table 3-12).

As the highest point in the City of San Diego, Cowles Mountain provides a 360 degree view. As a result, it is the most frequented trail destination in MTRP, and was identified in the November 2010 issue of the San Diego Magazine as one of the 10 Great Hikes in San Diego, and voted 'Best Hiking Trail' by San Diego Family Magazine readers in September 2011. However, the popularity of Cowles Mountain has resulted in a trail system that may be pushing the limits of its carrying capacity if not already exceeding it. Ranger staff and volunteers continuously work to improve the trail by locally rerouting around eroded sections, adding fencing to deter trail cutting, and restoring areas impacted by users avoiding muddy or rutted areas.



*Panoramic view from top of Cowles Mountain*

**Table 3-12: Cowles Mountain Recreational Trails**

	Miles	Percent
<i>Class I Multi-use Path</i>	-	0.0%
<i>Hike/Bike Trail</i>	7.90	51.10%
<i>Hiking Trail</i>	6.21	40.15%
<i>Multi-use Trail</i>	-	0.0%
<i>Unauthorized Trail</i>	1.23	7.93%
<b>Total</b>	<b>15.34</b>	



*Hikers on main Cowles Mountain trail*



## MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK

Hikers currently access Cowles Mountain from all five trailheads: Golfcrest Drive; Barker Way, Mesa Road, Big Rock Park, and Big Rock Road, with the highest amount of trail use being from Golfcrest Drive. Mountain bikers currently have access from the Mesa Road, Big Rock Park, and Big Rock Road trailheads, where about one-third of the way up, they can connect to the Cowles Mountain Service Road, or use the entire Cowles Mountain Service Road from Barker Way. Either way, much if not all of their riding experience is along a wide, rutted dirt road that exceeds 30 percent slope in a number of locations. From the top of Cowles Mountain, bikers can continue their ride out to Pyles Peak and back. Hikers have access to all of the trails within the Cowles Mountain area.



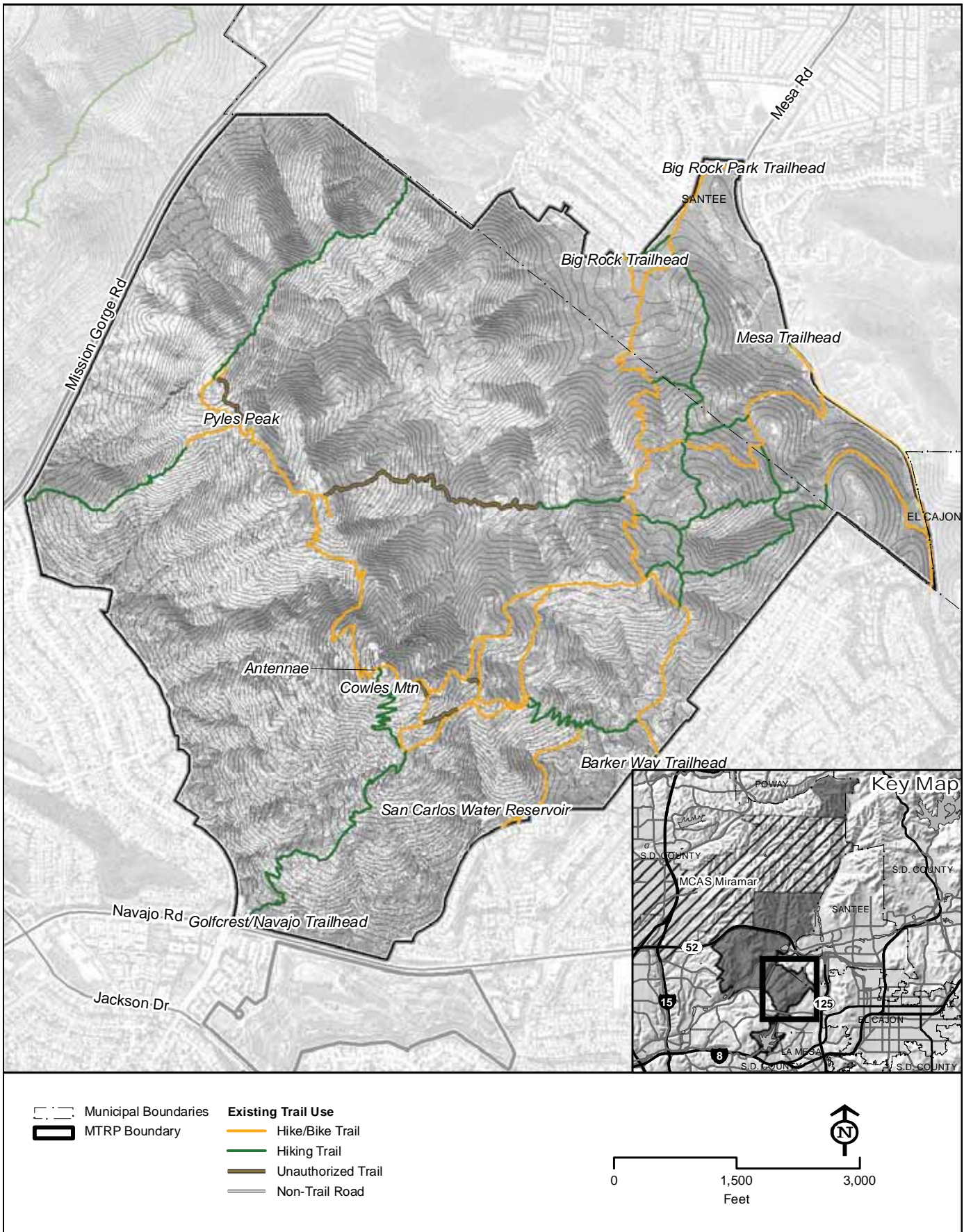
*Hikers climbing steep section of Service Road*





# 2019 MASTER PLAN UPDATE

Figure 3-26: Cowles Mountain Recreational Trails



## MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK

### 3.4. MISSION GORGE

The Mission Gorge area is bounded by residential uses in the southeast and northeast and by the five to six-lane Mission Gorge Road in the east, which is the dividing boundary between the Cowles Mountain and Mission Gorge areas. The more gentle portions of the area have been developed for park facilities or are used for other recreational purposes. The San Diego River and steep slopes of Kwaay Paay Peak dominate the visual landscape.

The Mission Gorge area encompasses over two miles of the San Diego River and includes the land between Mission Gorge Road and the river. It is one of the most valuable resource areas of the park. It maintains the visual and circulation continuity of the Fortuna-Cowles Mountain landform, and provides lush riparian habitats and rich trail experiences, including the majority of the San Diego River Trail within the park.

#### 3.4.1. OWNERSHIP AND LAND USE

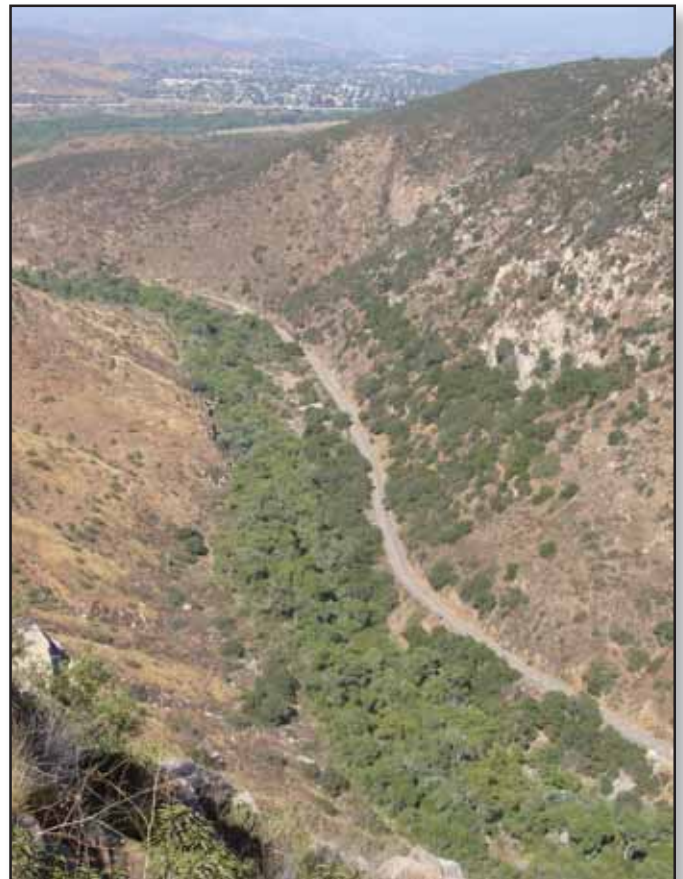
The area is within the jurisdiction of the City of San Diego and mainly within the Navajo community plan area, with a small area in the northeast being within the Tierrasanta community plan area (Figure 3-27). The City of San Diego owns all of the land within the Mission Gorge area. Land uses include the Visitor and Interpretive Center, the Old Mission Dam, and the Kumeyaay Lake Campground.

#### 3.4.2. UTILITIES

There are numerous City of San Diego PUD sewer mains within the Mission Gorge area (Figure 3-27) of the park due to the San Diego River being the major low point in the area for gravity fed lines. There are also City of San Diego water mains along Mission Gorge Road and Father Junipero Serra Trail. The SDCWA has four regional water supply lines that flow from north to south along the extension of Jackson Drive.

#### 3.4.3. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Coastal sage scrub dominates the uplands within this area, with willow dominated riparian vegetation along the San Diego River, and a few additional areas of oak woodland and non-native grasslands. Mule deer and mountain lion are infrequent visitors to this area, but have been reported both north and south of Kwaay Paay Peak. The California gnatcatcher, along with the southern California rufous-crowned sparrow, has been sighted in the coastal sage scrub south of Kwaay Paay Peak. The federally listed least



*The San Diego River flowing through Mission Gorge*





## 2019 MASTER PLAN UPDATE

Bell's vireo is found along the San Diego River with a large portion of this area designated as Critical Habitat by the USFWS. The boulders and rock faces on Kwaay Paay Peak are used as roosting areas by several raptor species, including the golden eagle. The crevices in the rock faces of Kwaay Paay Peak are also used by several bat species as roosting areas. The Belding's orange-throated whiptail can be found in areas dominated by rock outcrops. The San Diego ambrosia, a federally threatened species, is found on the lower slopes of Kwaay Paay Peak near the Old Mission Dam where an area of Critical Habitat has been designated by USFWS. It can also be found at mitigation and transplant sites. The vast majority of the Mission Gorge area is contained within the City's MHPA, with the exception of the Deerfield Bike Skills Area, Visitor and Interpretive Center, and Kumeyaay Lake Campground.

Figure 3-28 shows the location and general extent of the vegetation communities and sensitive species. Table 3-13 summarizes the vegetation communities and Table 3-14 lists the known sensitive species within the area based on existing survey data and may not represent a comprehensive list. The NRMP provides additional information on these resources, including recommended management actions.

**Table 3-13: Mission Gorge Vegetative Communities**

<b>Vegetation Community</b>	<b>Acres</b>
<i>Coast Live Oak Woodland</i>	32.6
<i>Freshwater Marsh</i>	0.6
<i>Diegan Coastal Sage Scrub</i>	668.3
<i>Disturbed Habitat</i>	7.2
<i>Eucalyptus Woodland</i>	3.4
<i>Mule Fat Scrub</i>	1.4
<i>Native Grassland</i>	1.0
<i>Non-native Grassland</i>	25.4
<i>Open Water</i>	8.8
<i>Southern Mixed Chaparral</i>	0.5
<i>Southern Riparian Scrub</i>	0.4
<i>Southern Willow Scrub</i>	76.0
<i>Urban/Developed</i>	38.2
	863.6

### 3.4.4. CIRCULATION AND PARKING

The area is accessed from four locations: San Diego River Crossing Staging Area; Visitor and Interpretive Center; Old Mission Dam; and Kumeyaay Lake Campground. The gate at the Visitor and Interpretive Center is currently open daily from 8am to 5pm. The gates at the San Diego River Crossing staging area, Father Junipero Serra Trail, and Bushy Hill Drive are currently open daily from 8am to 5pm from November through February and 8am to 7pm from March through October. Of the 14.37 miles of circulation routes within the Mission Gorge area, 7.51 miles are used for vehicular access (Figure 3-29 and Table 3-15). One lane of Father Junipero Serra Trail is used as a Class 1 Bike Path by cyclists, pedestrians, and skaters, and the other lane is used for one-way vehicular traffic going north toward Santee.

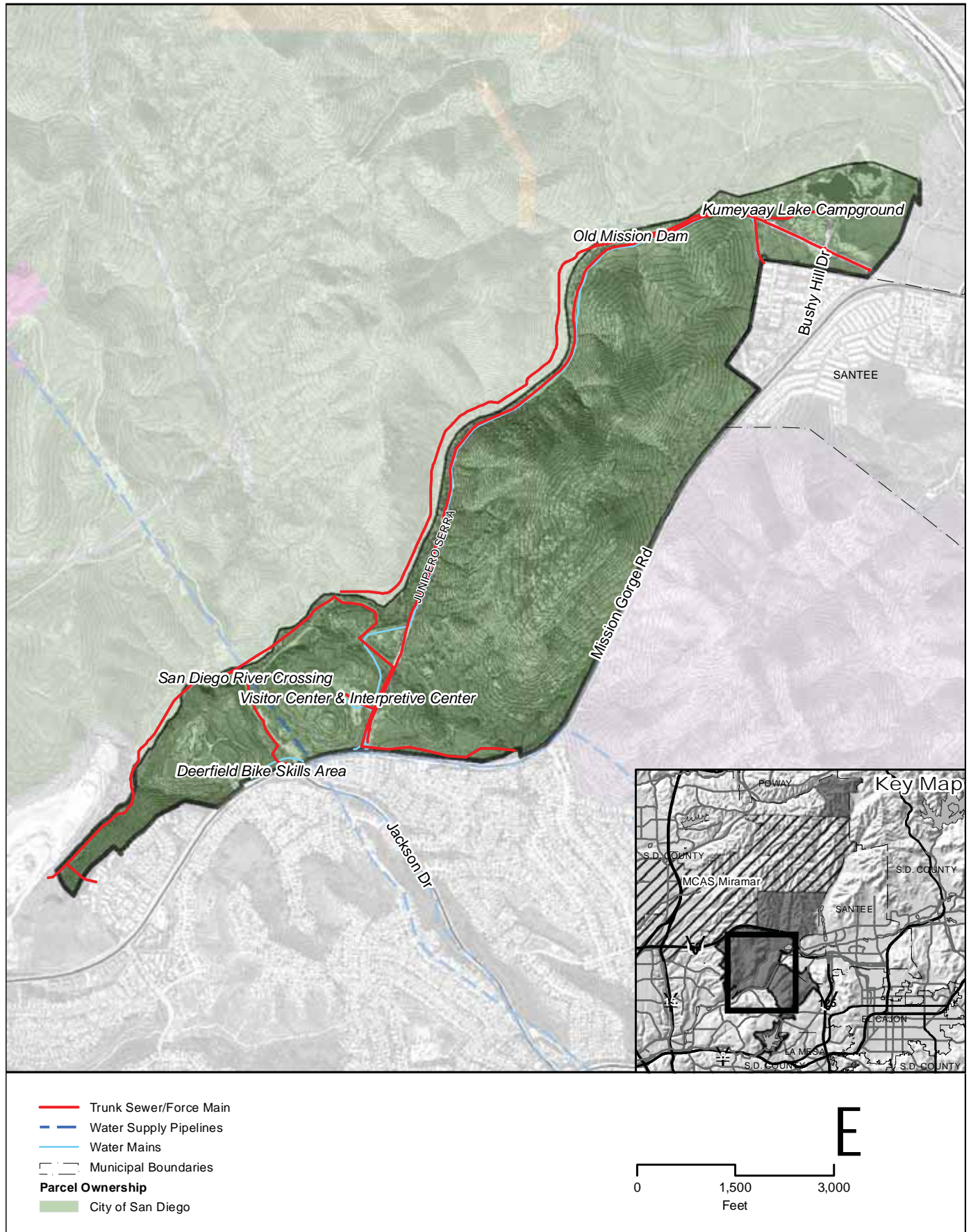
**Table 3-14: Mission Gorge Sensitive Species**

<b>MSCP Covered Sensitive Plant Species</b>	
<i>San Diego ambrosia</i>	<i>Ambrosia pumila</i>
<b>MSCP Covered Sensitive Animal Species</b>	
<i>Belding's orange-throated whiptail</i>	<i>Aspidoscelis hyperthra beldingi</i>
<i>Cooper's hawk</i>	<i>Accipiter cooperi</i>
<i>Least Bell's vireo</i>	<i>Vireo bellii pusillus</i>
<i>Southern California rufous-crowned sparrow</i>	<i>Aimophila ruficeps canescens</i>
<i>California gnatcatcher</i>	<i>Poliophtila californica californica</i>
<i>Southern mule deer</i>	<i>Odocoileus hemionus fuliginata</i>
<i>Mountain lion</i>	<i>Puma concolor</i>
<b>Non-MSCP Covered Sensitive Species</b>	
<i>Red diamond rattlesnake</i>	<i>Crotalus ruber</i>
<i>San Diego pocket mouse</i>	<i>Chaetodipus fallax</i>
<i>Pocket free-tailed bat</i>	<i>Nyctinomops femorosacca</i>
<i>Palmer's sagewort</i>	<i>Artemisia palmeri</i>
<i>Delicate clarkia</i>	<i>Clarkia delicata</i>
<i>Hermes copper butterfly</i>	<i>Hermelycaena herme</i>
<i>Pacific ring neck snake</i>	<i>Diadophis punctatus</i>
<i>Rosy boa</i>	<i>Lichanura trivirgata</i>
<i>Western mastiff bat</i>	<i>Eumops perotis</i>
<i>Western red bat</i>	<i>Lasirurs blossewillii</i>
<i>Big free tailed bat</i>	<i>Nyctinomops macrotis</i>



# MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK

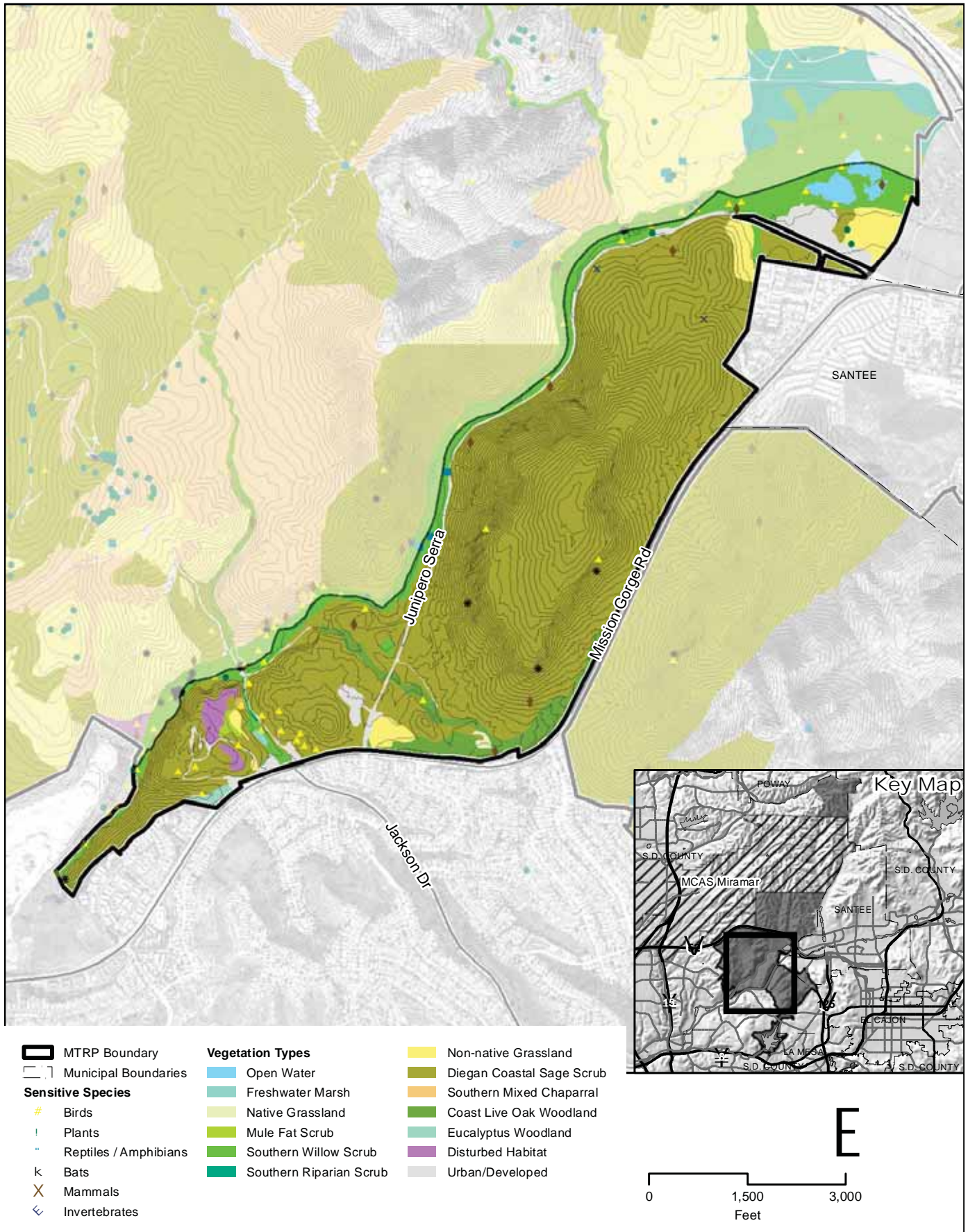
Figure 3-27: Mission Gorge Ownership and Utilities





# 2019 MASTER PLAN UPDATE

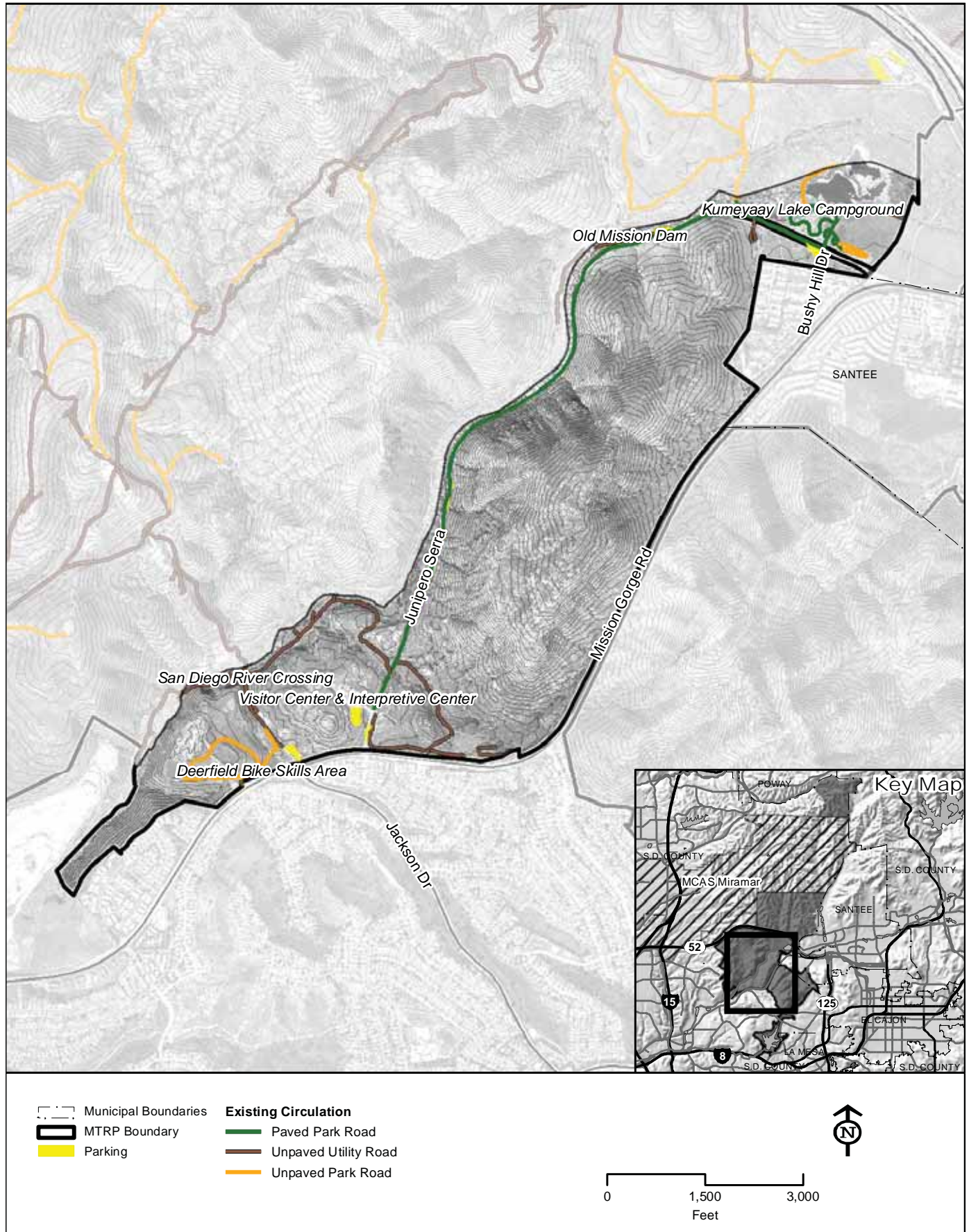
Figure 3-28: Mission Gorge Biological Resources





# MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK

Figure 3-29: Mission Gorge Vehicular Circulation and Parking





## 2019 MASTER PLAN UPDATE

Off street parking is provided at the San Diego River Crossing Staging Area, the Visitor and Interpretive Center, Old Mission Dam, Kumeyaay Lake Campground, and the parking lot at Bushy Hill Drive. On street parking is provided along Father Junipero Serra Trail outside the park gates and limited parking is allowed within the park where the dirt shoulder is wide enough.

During periods of peak park usage, the parking at the Visitor and Interpretive Center along Father Junipero Serra Road, and at the San Diego River Crossing staging area is inadequate. Visitors begin parking in the residential neighborhoods south of Mission Gorge Road and jaywalk across Mission Gorge Road, a high speed six lane thoroughfare, to get into the park. A solution to this condition needs to be addressed, which is beyond the scope of this update.

*Table 3-15: Mission Gorge Vehicular Circulation*

	Miles	Percent
<i>Paved Park Road</i>	<i>2.98</i>	<i>20.73%</i>
<i>Paved Maintenance Road</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>0.0%</i>
<i>Unpaved Park Road</i>	<i>1.06</i>	<i>7.36%</i>
<i>Unpaved Utility Road</i>	<i>3.47</i>	<i>24.16%</i>
<b>Total</b>	<b>7.51</b>	



*Jaywalker crossing Mission Gorge Road at Father Junipero Serra Trail*

### 3.4.5. FACILITIES AND USES

The heart of the Mission Gorge area offers numerous sites for informal picnicking in a cool, enclosed, riparian environment. Other informal activities include hiking, nature study, rock climbing, and mountain biking. Where natural canopies of oaks and sycamores provide shade, benches and other improvements have been added where appropriate.

The Mission Gorge area can be divided into five subareas: Visitor and Interpretive Center, Oak Grove, River Gorge, Old Mission Dam and Kumeyaay Lake Campground (Figure 3-30).

The Visitor and Interpretive Center subarea is northwest of the intersection of Father Junipero Serra Trail and Mission Gorge Road, south from the Grinding Rocks Trail and west along Mission Gorge Road to the western boundary of the park. This district contains the Visitor and Interpretive Center and park headquarters with interpretive exhibits, a gift shop, theater, classrooms, small library and an 80 seat outdoor amphitheater. It also includes the Deerfield Bike Skills Area, which provides for a bike skills activity area and picnic tables. This is the only area in the park where bike skills features and activities are permitted. In addition, the subarea encompasses the San Diego River Crossing Staging Area, which is also used for overflow parking for the Visitor and Interpretive Center due to its close proximity.

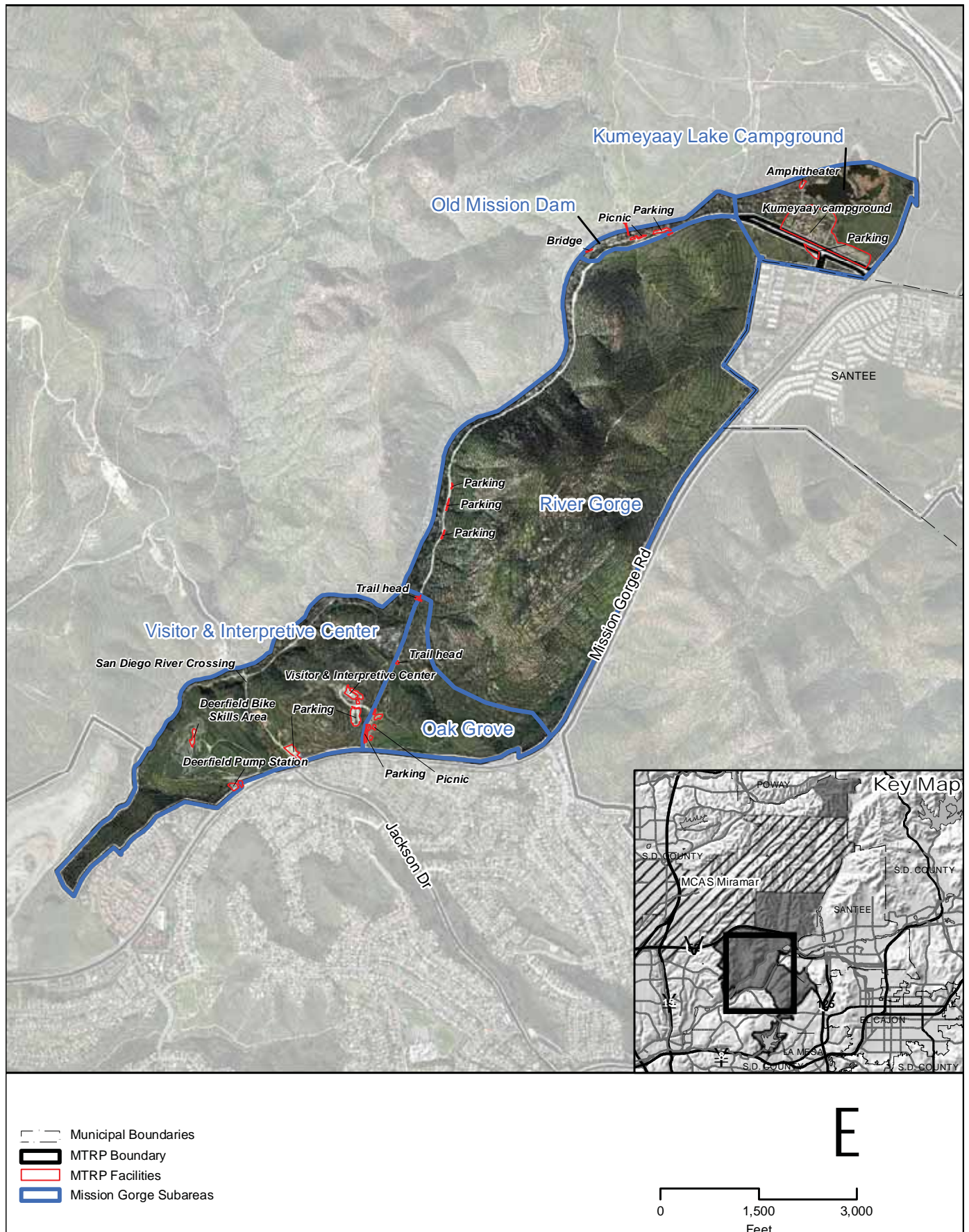


*Visitor and Interpretive Center Subarea*



# MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK

Figure 3-30: Mission Gorge Facilities and Uses





## 2019 MASTER PLAN UPDATE

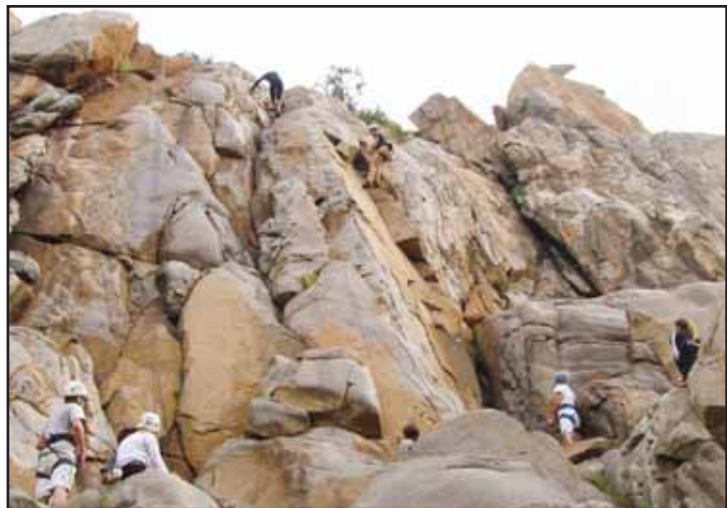
The Oak Grove subarea is northeast of the intersection of Father Junipero Serra Trail and Mission Gorge Road to the base of Kwaay Paay Peak. This area includes Dog Springs and the Oak Grove. Visitor amenities include trails, limited interpretive features and picnic areas.

The River Gorge subarea includes the heart of the gorge and Kwaay Paay Peak. This is the only area in the park where rock climbing is currently permitted. Overlooks along Father Junipero Serra Trail, provide visitors with interpretive panels and benches to enjoy the scenic views and the San Diego River.

The Old Mission Dam subarea includes the Old Mission Dam (CA-SDI-203 / SDM-W-1757) National Historic Landmark, viewing terrace, picnic area, parking lot and an all weather trail that leads across the San Diego River to the Fortuna Mountain area. Together with the related Mission Flume Site (CA-SDI-203 / SDM-W-1758), this is the most culturally valuable area in the park. Extensive care is required to protect these historic and cultural resource sites, to coordinate their governmental status as registered historic sites, and to realize their rich interpretive and educational opportunities.



*Replica of a Kumeyaay dwelling or 'e-waa' in the Oak Grove subarea*



*Rock climbers on the western face of Kwaay Paay Peak in the River Gorge subarea*



*Old Mission Dam subarea*



## MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK

The Kumeyaay Lake Campground subarea extends from the Old Mission Dam area to the park boundaries at the eastern end of Father Junipero Serra Trail, providing the northern entry to the Mission Gorge area. This area includes Kumeyaay Lake and the adjacent campground, and the parking lot at Father Junipero Serra Trail and Bushy Hill Drive. Amenities at the campground include 46 camp sites, two developed sites for camp hosts, two comfort stations with showers, entry station, ranger offices, dump station, small amphitheater, ramada, day-use parking area with picnic tables, limited interpretive features and a nature trail.



*Kumeyaay Lake Campground subarea*

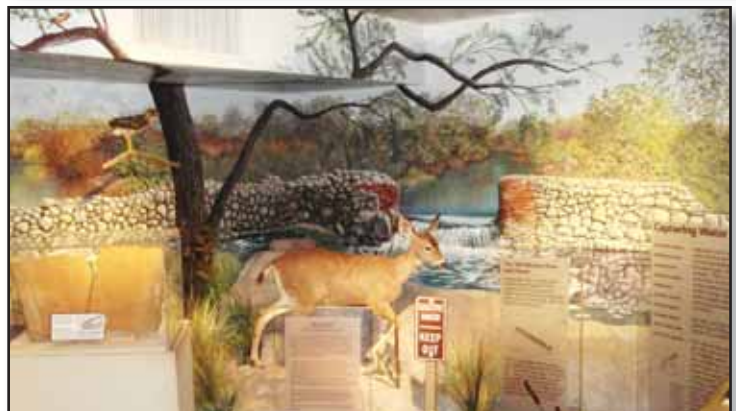
### 3.4.6. RECREATIONAL USE

The Mission Gorge area contains a variety of recreational uses for the park visitor to enjoy including: the Visitor and Interpretive Center; Old Mission Dam; Kumeyaay Lake and Campground; Rock Climbing; Deerfield Bike Skills Site; Father Junipero Serra Trail; the San Diego River Pathway and numerous other recreational trails. Of the 14.54 miles of circulation routes within the area, 9.67 miles are used for recreational access (Figure 3-31 and Table 3-16).

*Table 3-16: Mission Gorge Recreational Trails*

	Miles	Percent
<i>Class I Multi-use Path</i>	1.54	10.59%
<i>Hike/Bike Trail</i>	3.91	26.96%
<i>Hiking Trail</i>	4.22	29.06%
<i>Multi-use Trail</i>	-	0.0%
<i>Unauthorized Trail</i>	-	0.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>9.67</b>	

The Visitor and Interpretive Center is managed jointly by the City of San Diego Park and Recreation Department and the MTRP Foundation. Various interpretive and educational programs are offered year-round and the facility can be rented for meetings and special events.



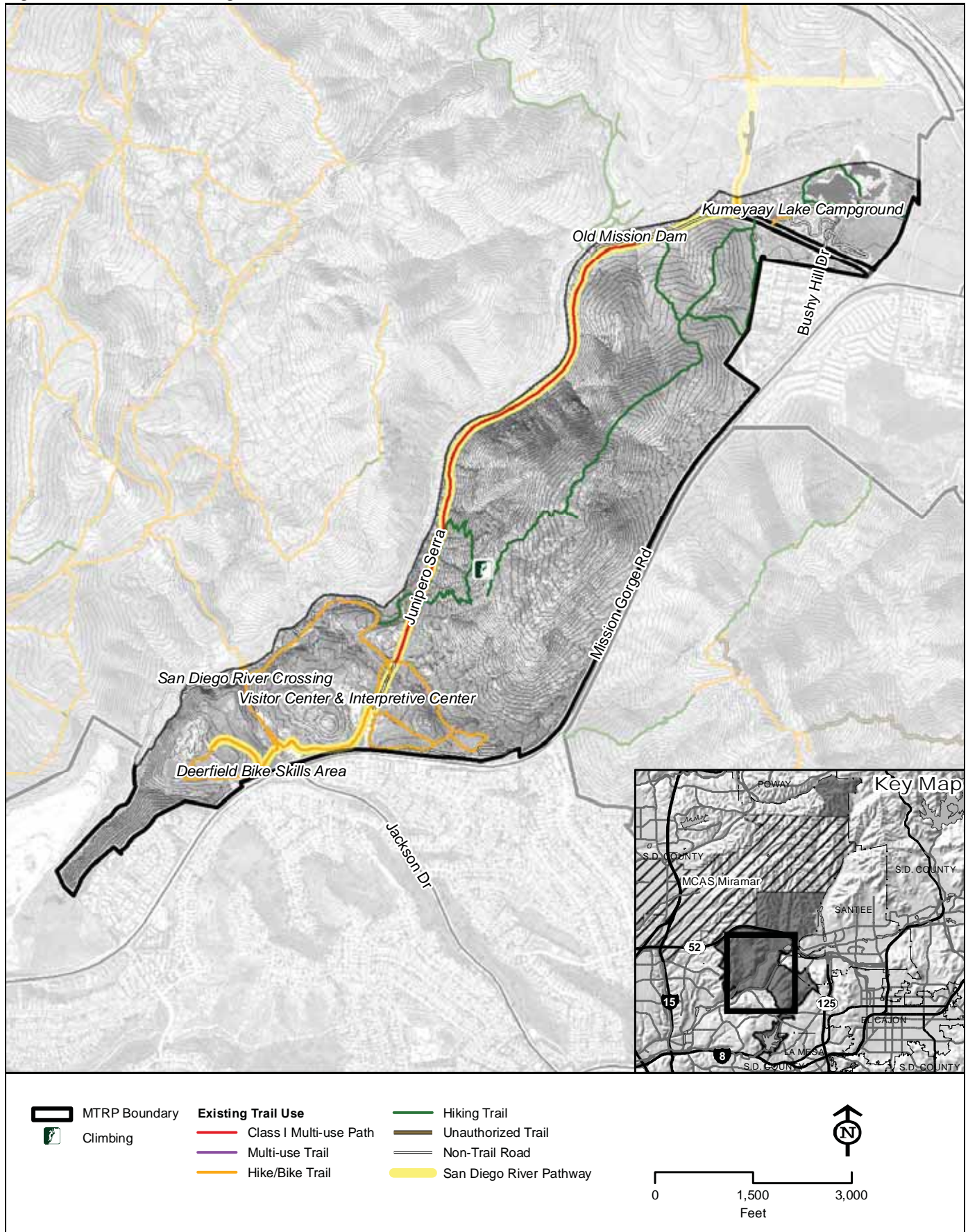
*Visitor and Interpretive Center Displays*





# 2019 MASTER PLAN UPDATE

Figure 3-31: Mission Gorge Recreational Trails



## MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK

Deerfield Bike Skills Area was created in 2001 to relocate unauthorized BMX use in the Oak Grove area. The site is an abandoned quarry pit located west of the San Diego River Crossing staging area and provides an area for the creation of jumps and other challenging features for BMX and mountain bike enthusiasts.



*Deerfield Bike Skills Area*



*Father Junipero Serra Trail is a section of the San Diego River Trail*

The San Diego River Trail is a regional trail that is envisioned to connect from the Pacific Ocean to Volcan Mountain near Julian. Within the Park it currently utilizes Father Junipero Serra Trail and the Grasslands Crossing within the Mission Gorge area before moving into the Fortuna Mountain Area.



The Climbers Loop Trail provides access to the only authorized rock climbing area in the park, and the western face of Kwaay Paay Peak, which is utilized extensively by local climbing enthusiasts of all skill levels.



*Rock climbing boulder along Climbers Loop Trail*





## 2019 MASTER PLAN UPDATE

Old Mission Dam provides not only a staging area for the park, but access to, and interpretation of this significant cultural resource. Year-round visual access of the Old Mission Dam is provided from two viewing areas, one on either side of the San Diego River. Most of the year, visitors can actually climb onto Old Mission Dam to get a close look at its construction, and interact with the water as it flows over it. The path to the Old Mission Dam on the south side of the river is disabled accessible from the parking lot to the viewing area.

The Kumeyaay Lake Campground was opened for over-night camping in 2000. The 46-space campground provides a night time wilderness experience for young people and their families in an area that is close to their urban homes. Evening star gazing for the public is a popular activity at the campground.



*Old Mission Dam with water flowing over the sill*



*Old Mission Dam with no flowing water (fall 2013)*



*Kumeyaay Lake Campground Entry*



## MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK

### 3.5. FORTUNA MOUNTAIN

The Fortuna Mountain area is bounded by residential uses on the west within the Tierrasanta community and the six-lane SR-52 on the north and the Mission Gorge area on the south and east, with the San Diego River acting as the dividing boundary. The San Diego River, Sycott Wash, and steep slopes of North and South Fortuna peaks dominate the visual landscape.

The eastern side is isolated, with relatively untouched canyons, stands of chaparral along Fortuna's eastern face, and significant areas of gently rolling land within the Grasslands area.



*North Fortuna ridgeline from Sycott Wash*

The western side of Fortuna Mountain is the most inaccessible and, to many people, unknown area of the park. A high, linear plateau divides this area into two distinct subareas. To the east lies the Fortuna Mountain ridgeline and a large north-south valley called the Sycott Valley. To the west lies the Tierrasanta community and a series of southwest trending canyons. The northern portion of the area is subject to noise from aircraft operations at MCAS Miramar and traffic on SR-52.



*Tierrasanta ridgeline from North Fortuna Peak*

The area has the most miles of authorized public access along roads and trails within the Park, including a portion of the San Diego River Trail.

#### 3.5.1. OWNERSHIP AND LAND USE

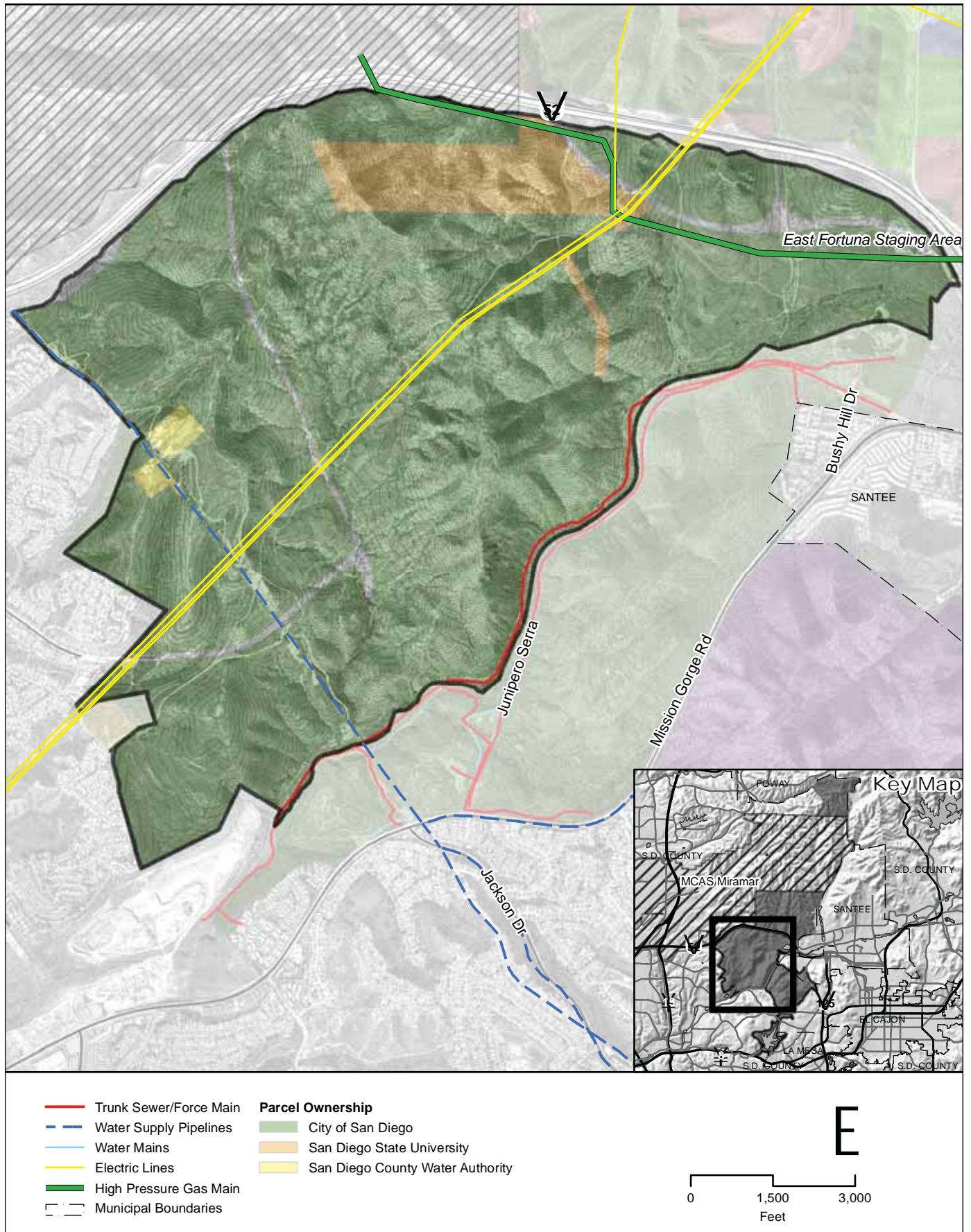
At nearly 2,800 acres, the Fortuna Mountain area is the largest in the park. It is completely within the jurisdiction of the City of San Diego and mainly within the Tierrasanta community plan area, with only a small area in the southeast within the Navajo community plan area (Figure 3-32). The City of San Diego owns 2,604 acres, SDCWA owns almost 22 acres and SDSU owns almost 174 acres. Land uses within this area include the East Fortuna Staging Area, several SDCWA facilities and pipeline easements, and multiple SDG&E utility easements.





# 2019 MASTER PLAN UPDATE

Figure 3-32: Fortuna Mountain Ownership and Utilities



## MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK

### 3.5.2. UTILITIES

There are numerous utilities traversing the Fortuna Mountain area. SDG&E operates and maintains several high voltage electrical transmission lines and a major gas pipeline. SDCWA operates and maintains four regional water supply pipelines and associated facilities. The City of San Diego PUD operates and maintains a trunk sewer along the San Diego River (Figure 3-32).



*Old quarry with pocketed free-tailed bat roosts*

### 3.5.3. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Fortuna Mountain is dominated by coastal sage scrub in the uplands and willow-dominated riparian vegetation along the San Diego River, with significant patches of chaparral and grassland, and a few areas of oak woodland and sycamore riparian. Mule Deer frequently use this area; especially within Suycott Wash and Oak Canyon, where mountain lion have infrequently been seen. The California gnatcatcher and the southern California rufous-crowned sparrow utilize the areas of coastal sage scrub. The federally listed least Bell's vireo is found along the San Diego River, resulting in a large portion of this area being designated as Critical Habitat by the USFWS. The crevices in the rock faces of South Fortuna are used by several bat species as roosting areas. The crevices in the rock faces of the old quarries along the San Diego River provide significant roosts for the sensitive pocketed free-tailed bat. Both the San Diego horned lizard and the Belding's orange-throated whiptail utilize the areas dominated by rock outcrops. San Diego Ambrosia, a federally threatened species, is found within the grasslands near the Old Mission Dam.

Because of its threatened status, this area has been designated as Critical Habitat by USFWS. Vernal pools are found along the ridgeline near Tierrasanta, with at least one isolated pool near the East Fortuna Staging Area. The ridgeline and drainages near Tierrasanta also support populations of summer holly, San Diego barrel cactus, San Diego thornmint, decumbent goldenbush, long-spined spineflower, variegated Dudleya, and San Diego County viguiera. Several areas of spiny-redberry, the larval host plant for the candidate federally listed Hermes Cooper butterfly also occur within the area. The vast majority of the Fortuna Mountain area is contained within the City's MHPA, with the exception of the West Fortuna and East Fortuna Staging Areas.



*Vernal Pool in southwestern portion of the Fortuna Mountain area*



*Shepherd's Pond*

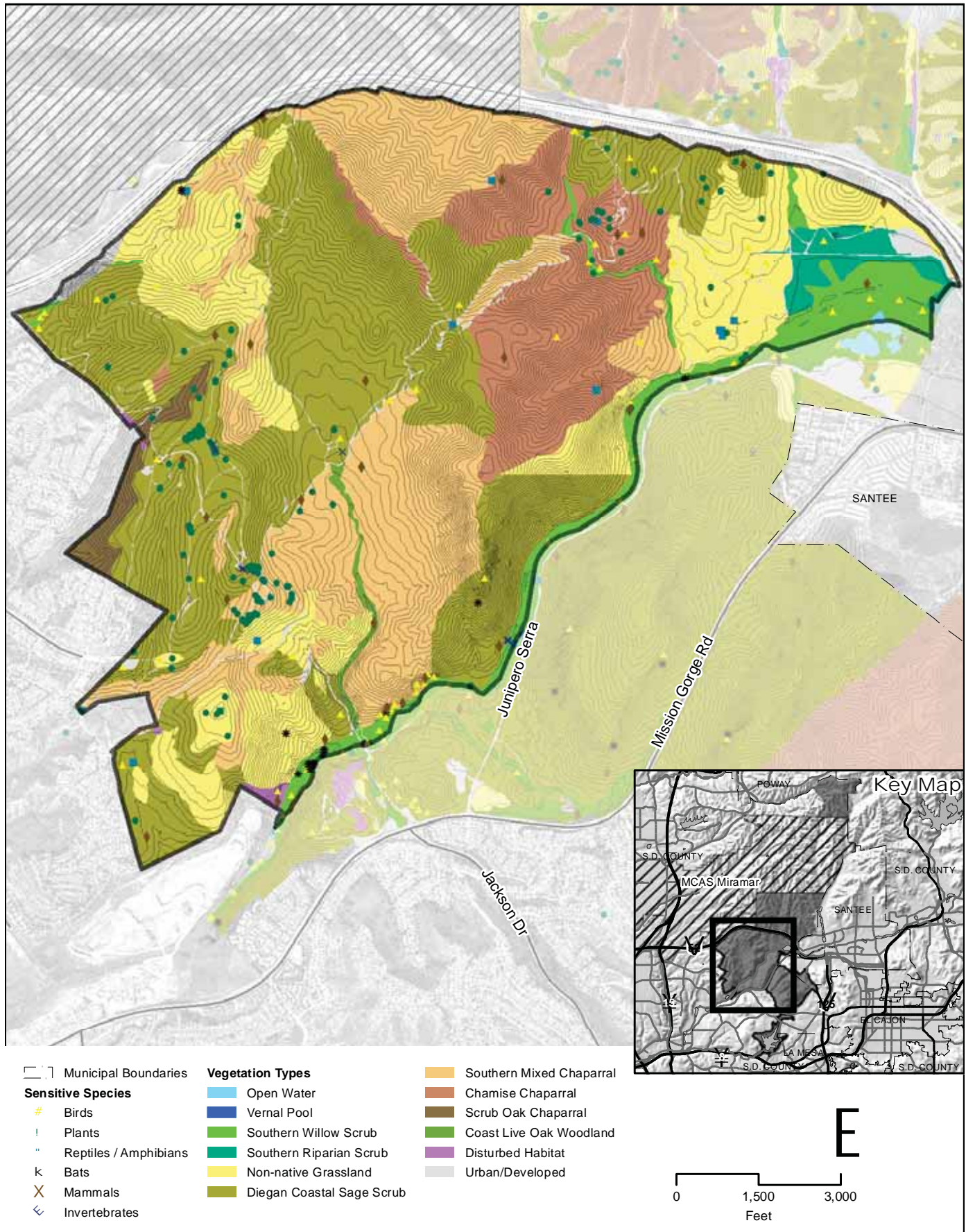
Figure 3-33 shows the location and general extents of the vegetation communities and sensitive species. Table 3-17 summarizes the vegetation communities and Table 3-18 lists the known sensitive species within the area based on existing survey data and may not represent a comprehensive list. The NRMP provides additional information on these resources, including recommended management actions.





# 2019 MASTER PLAN UPDATE

Figure 3-33: Fortuna Mountain Vegetation and Sensitive Species



# MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK

**Table 3-17: Fortuna Mountain Vegetative Communities**

<b>Vegetation Community</b>	<b>Acres</b>
<i>Chamise Chaparral</i>	324.8
<i>Coast Live Oak Woodland</i>	13.0
<i>Diegan Coastal Sage Scrub</i>	1,039.4
<i>Disturbed Habitat</i>	6.1
<i>Non-native Grassland</i>	493.4
<i>Open Water</i>	0.9
<i>Scrub Oak Chaparral</i>	35.6
<i>Southern Mixed Chaparral</i>	637.1
<i>Southern Riparian Scrub</i>	48.8
<i>Southern Willow Scrub</i>	133.7
<i>Urban/Developed</i>	60.2
<i>Vernal Pool</i>	0.4
	2,802.3

**Table 3-18: Fortuna Mountain Sensitive Species**

<b>MSCP Covered Sensitive Plant Species</b>	
<i>San Diego thornmint</i>	<i>Acanthomintha ilicifolia</i>
<i>San Diego ambrosia</i>	<i>Ambrosia pumila</i>
<i>Del Mar manzanita</i>	<i>Arctostaphylos glandulosa</i> ssp. <i>crassifolia</i>
<i>Orcutt's brodiaea</i>	<i>Brodiaea orcuttii</i>
<i>Variegated dudleya</i>	<i>Dudleya variegata</i>
<i>San Diego barrel cactus</i>	<i>Ferocactus viridescens</i>
<i>San Diego goldenstar</i>	<i>Muilla clevelandii</i>
<b>MSCP Covered Sensitive Animal Species</b>	
<i>Belding's orange-throated whiptail</i>	<i>Aspidoscelis hyperthra beldingi</i>
<i>Coastal horned lizard</i>	<i>Phrynosoma blainvillii</i>
<i>Cooper's hawk</i>	<i>Accipiter cooperi</i>
<i>Southwestern willow flycatcher</i>	<i>Empidonax traillii extimus</i>
<i>Least Bell's vireo</i>	<i>Vireo bellii pusillus</i>
<i>Southern California rufous-crowned sparrow</i>	<i>Aimophila ruficeps canescens</i>
<i>California gnatcatcher</i>	<i>Poliophtila californica californica</i>
<i>Southern mule deer</i>	<i>Odocoileus hemionus fuliginata</i>
<i>Mountain lion</i>	<i>Puma concolor</i>
<b>Non-MSCP Covered Sensitive Species</b>	
<i>Western spadefoot toad</i>	<i>Spea hammondi</i>
<i>Western whiptail</i>	<i>Aspidoscelis tigris</i>
<i>San Diego pocket mouse</i>	<i>Chaetodipus fallax</i>
<i>Pocket free-tailed bat</i>	<i>Nyctinomops femorosacca</i>
<i>Hermes copper butterfly</i>	<i>Hermelycaena herme</i>
<i>Rosy boa</i>	<i>Lichanura trivirgata</i>
<i>Western mastiff bat</i>	<i>Eumops perotis</i>
<i>Western red bat</i>	<i>Lasirurs blossewillii</i>
<i>Big free tailed bat</i>	<i>Nyctinomops macrotis</i>
<i>San Diego fairy shrimp</i>	<i>Branchinecta sandiegonensis</i>
<i>Quino checkerspot butterfly</i>	<i>Euphydryas editha quino</i>
<i>Two-striped garter snake</i>	<i>Thamnophis hammondi</i>
<i>Grasshopper sparrow</i>	<i>Ammodramus savannarum</i>
<i>Lesser nighthawk</i>	<i>Chordeiles acutipennis</i>
<i>Yellow warbler</i>	<i>Dendroica petechia</i>
<i>White tailed kite</i>	<i>Elanus leucurus</i>
<i>Black tailed jackrabbit</i>	<i>Lepus californicus</i>
<i>San Diego desert woodrat</i>	<i>Neotoma lepida intermedia</i>





## 2019 MASTER PLAN UPDATE

### 3.5.4. CIRCULATION AND PARKING

The area is accessed from one of two staging areas: the East Fortuna Staging Area or the West Fortuna Staging Area. The gates at the staging areas are open daily from 8am to 5pm from November through February and 8am to 7pm from March through October. Of the 34.12 miles circulation routes within the area, 23.78 mile are associated with vehicular access. The limited paved roads within this area are associated with the two staging areas. There are also 14 miles of unpaved utility roads that crisscross the area as they follow SDCWA pipelines or SDG&E gas mains and electrical transmission lines. There are an additional eight miles of unpaved park roads utilized by rangers and emergency vehicles. All of these access roads are also used by the public for recreational access and often provide the only connectivity between major areas (e.g. San Diego River Crossing and Fortuna Saddle). (Figure 3-34 and Table 3-19).

Off-street parking is provided at the two staging areas. Limited on-street parking is provided along Equestrian Circle outside the park gates. Additional on-street parking is available at the end of Clairemont Mesa Boulevard and along several residential streets near the various community access points within Tierrasanta.

### 3.5.5. FACILITIES AND USES

The East Fortuna Staging Area, north of Kumeyaay Lake and east of Little Sycamore Creek, opened in December 2004. It provides access to the park and is envisioned as an occasional concession facility where the public can also periodically rent horses. The staging area also acts as a gateway to Fortuna Mountain and the East Elliott area north of SR-52. The staging area is being developed in phases under the City of San Diego Site Development Permit #40-0524. The final phase of construction involves the Mission Trails Field Station, which is currently underway, and includes administrative offices, storage facilities, and an area for public use. Construction is scheduled to be complete in Summer/Fall 2019.



East Fortuna Staging Area (Source Google Earth 2016)



West Fortuna Staging Area

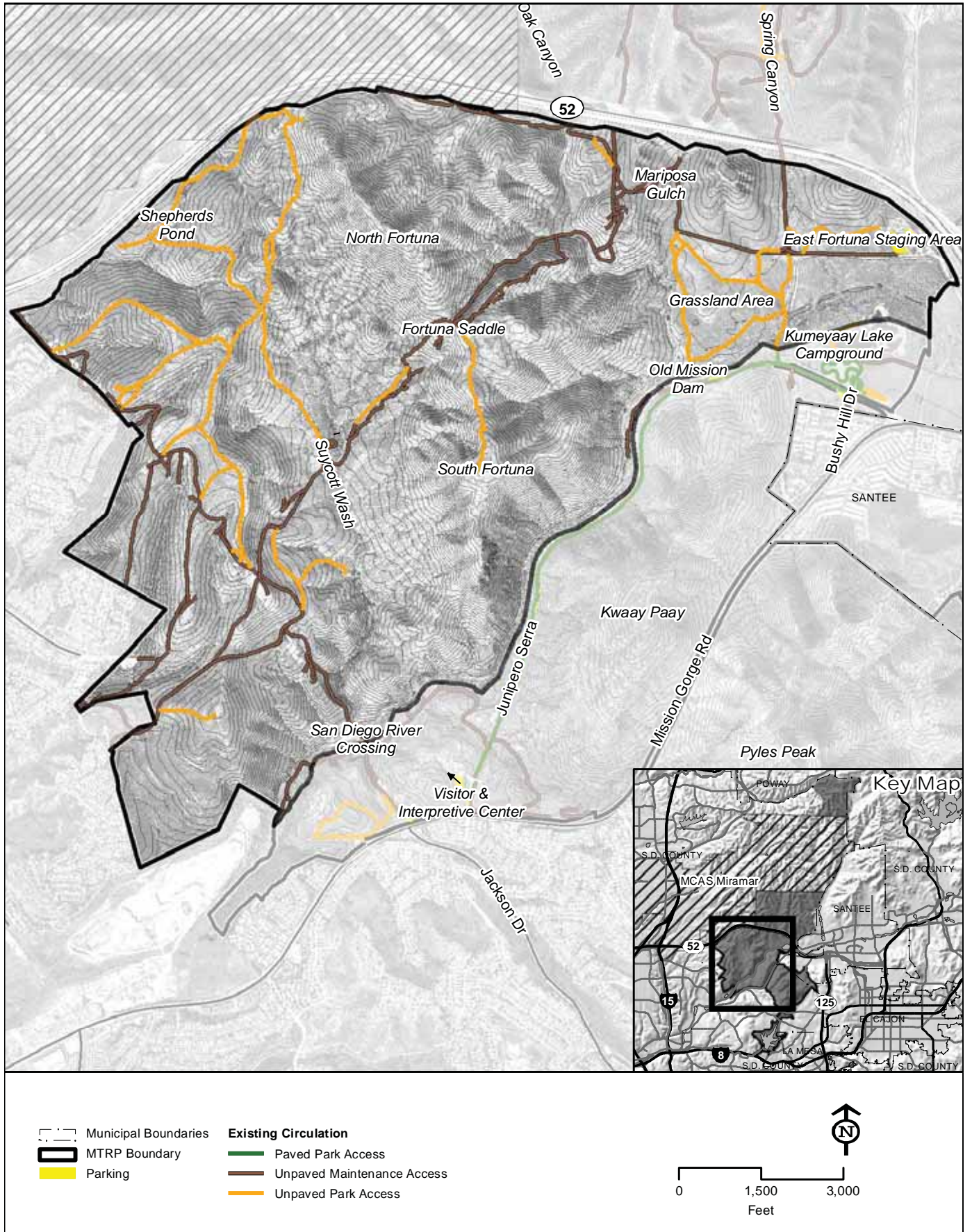
**Table 3-19: Fortuna Mountain Vehicular Circulation**

	Miles	Percent
<i>Paved Park Road</i>	-	0.0%
<i>Paved Maintenance Road</i>	-	0.0%
<i>Unpaved Park Road</i>	9.89	28.99%
<i>Unpaved Utility Road</i>	13.89	40.71%
<b>Total</b>	<b>23.78</b>	



# MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK

Figure 3-34: Fortuna Mountain Vehicular Circulation and Parking





## 2019 MASTER PLAN UPDATE

Additional community access points exist from Tierrasanta at: Portobello; Corte Playa Catalina; Calle de Vida; and Colina Dorada Drive. Connectivity with the Mission Gorge subarea occurs at the San Diego River Crossing, the Old Mission Dam, and at the Grasslands River Crossing.

Other recreational activities in the Fortuna Mountain area include hiking, mountain biking, nature study, and picnicking (Figure 3-35).

### 3.5.6. RECREATIONAL USE

The Fortuna Mountain area provides the majority of recreational trails within the park, with nearly half of them utilizing the access roads associated with SDCWA's aqueducts or SDG&E's power and gas lines (Figure 3-36 and Table 3-20). It has historically been the only area of the park open to equestrian use on designated trails.

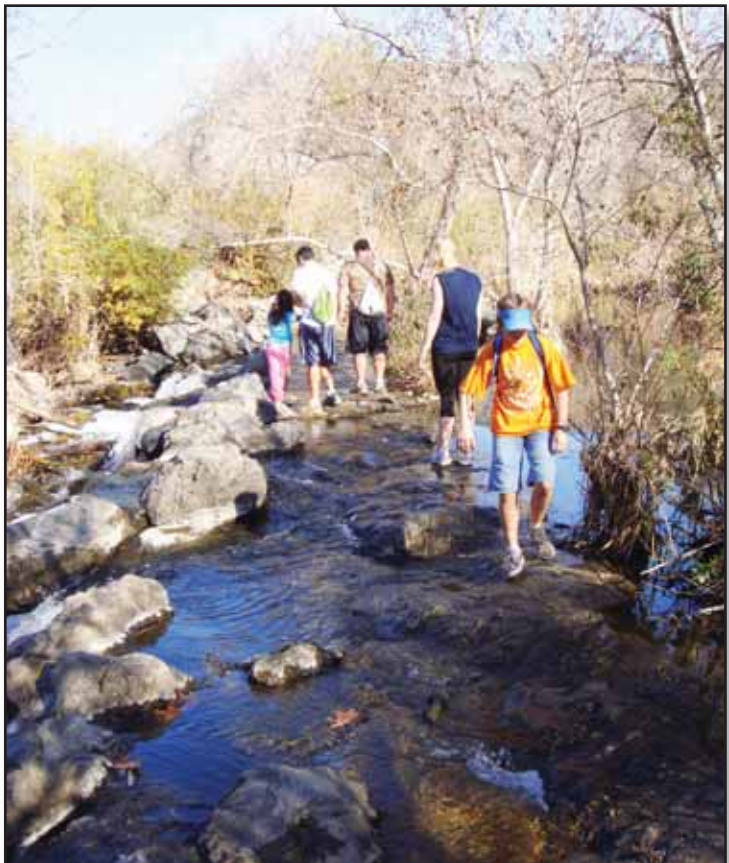
Primary recreational trails include: San Diego River Pathway; San Diego River Crossing; Rim Trail; Suycott Valley; South Fortuna; Quarry Loop; Shepherd Pond Loop; North Fortuna; Fortuna Saddle; North Perimeter; Oak Canyon; and Grasslands Loop. The Oak Canyon and South Fortuna trails are hiking only. The Grasslands Loop and Fortuna Saddle trails are open to equestrian use.

*Table 3-20: Fortuna Mountain Recreational Trails*

	Miles	Percent
<i>Class I Multi-use Path</i>	-	0.0%
<i>Hike/Bike Trail</i>	23.40	68.57%
<i>Hiking Trail</i>	2.22	6.52%
<i>Multi-use Trail</i>	4.75	13.93%
<i>Unauthorized Trail</i>	0.36	1.05%
<b>Total</b>	30.73	



*Mountain bikers enjoying a trail within the Fortuna Mountain area*



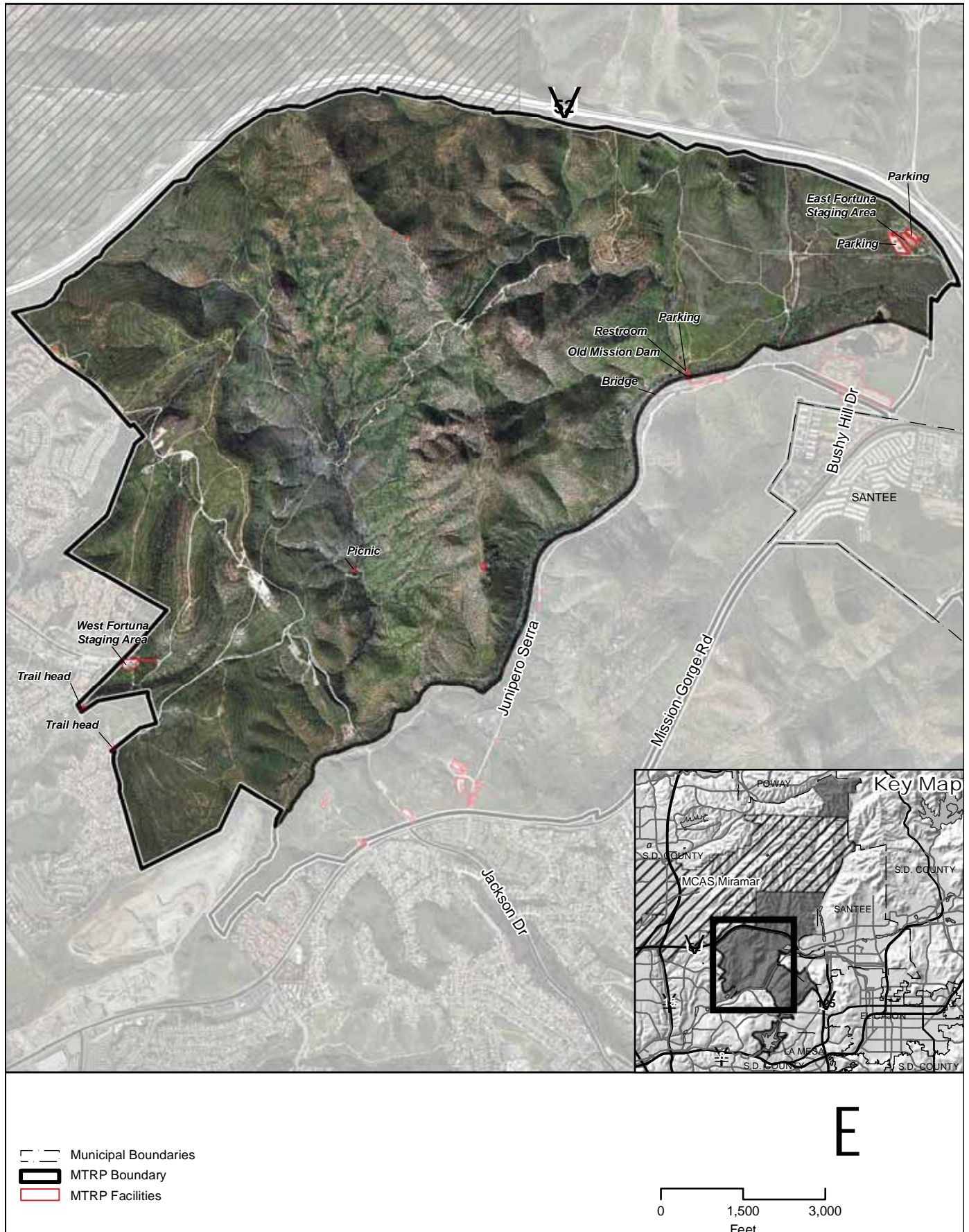
*The unauthorized and unsupported use of the concrete encased sewer-line as a recreational river crossing occurs on a regular basis*





# MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK

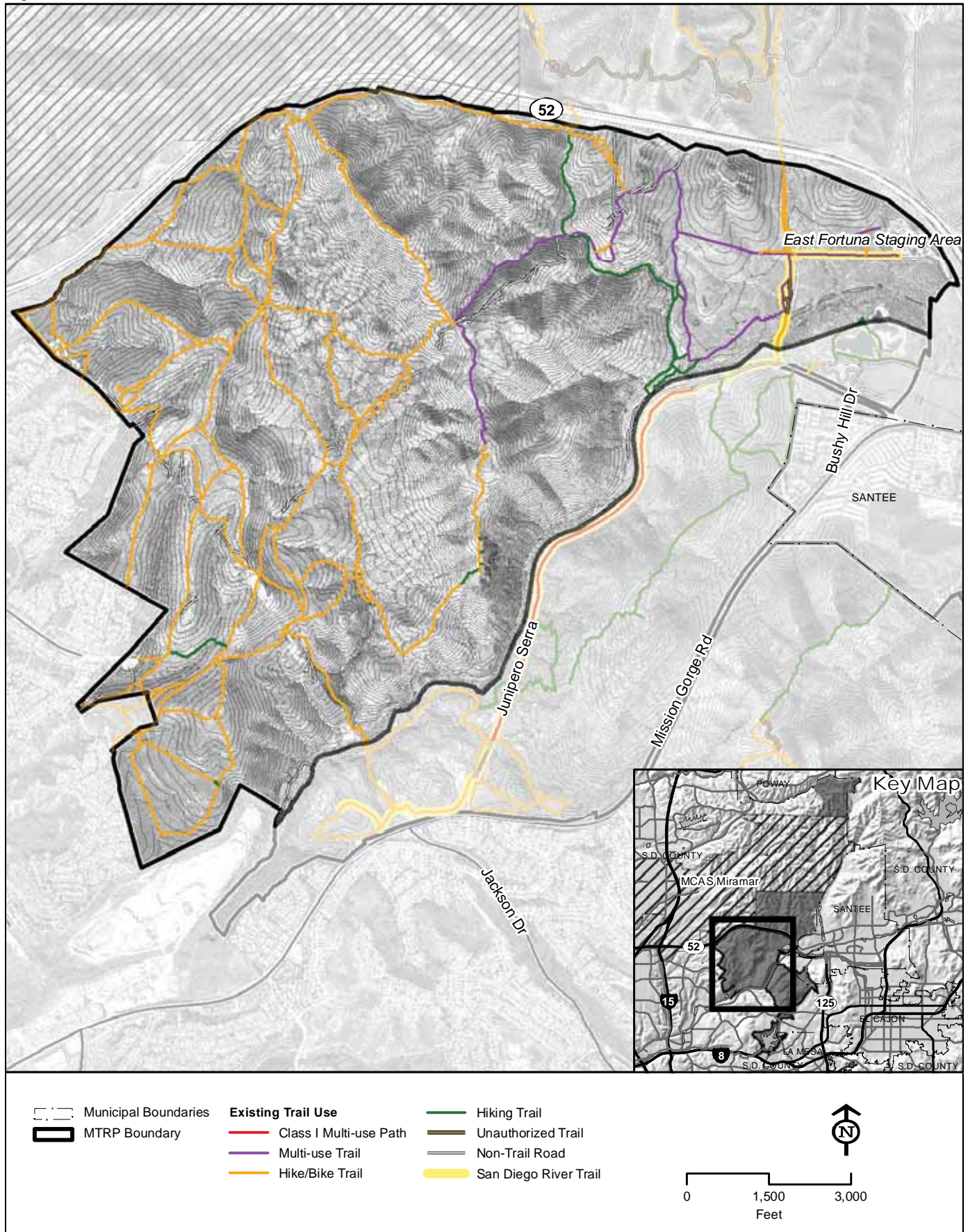
Figure 3-35: Fortuna Mountain Facilities and Uses





# 2019 MASTER PLAN UPDATE

Figure 3-36: Fortuna Mountain Recreational Trails





## MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK

### 3.6. EAST ELLIOTT

The East Elliott area is bounded by residential uses on the east within the City of Santee, the six-lane SR-52 on the south, and MCAS Miramar to the north and west. SR-52 acts as the boundary between the Fortuna Mountain and East Elliott areas of the park. The Sycamore Landfill is the most dominant visual element within the area counter balanced by the visual expanse of MCAS Miramar to the north.

Except for Sycamore Landfill, SDG&E electrical transmission lines, and unauthorized recreational trails, most of the area is in a natural state. The area is characterized by incised canyons with moderate to steep slopes.

As mentioned previously, the vast majority of the East Elliott Community Planning Area has been designated as MHPA within the City of San Diego's MSCP. All land within this area is targeted for at least 75 percent preservation except for the land zoned for the Sycamore Landfill. The City of San Diego, along with other federal, state, local, private and non-profit land conservation partners, is actively pursuing the acquisition of land in this area. Whether directly acquired or dedicated as part of the permitting process for land development, at least 75 percent of this area will be managed for habitat conservation purposes. As land is acquired or dedicated, it will become part of MTRP.

Over time, as additional lands are publicly acquired or easements obtained from private land owners, approved trails will be identified or constructed to ensure habitat and species management goals are met. Once the landfill is at capacity, its surface will be revegetated and the area will become parkland.

***... as additional lands are publicly acquired or easements obtained from private land owners, approved trails will be identified or constructed...***



*Sycamore Canyon Landfill*



*East Elliott and MCAS Miramar from North Fortuna*



*Upper Spring Canyon looking south*





### 3.6.1. OWNERSHIP, LAND USE AND ZONING

At approximately 2,600 acres, the East Elliott area is the second largest in the park. The area is completely within the jurisdiction of the City of San Diego and part of the East Elliott community plan area (Figure 3-37). The City of San Diego has acquired about 739 acres (28 percent) of the area for habitat conservation. The Sycamore Landfill owns about 721 acres (28 percent), Pardee Homes owns about 270 acres (10 percent) identified as mitigation for the adjacent approved Castlerock development, and almost 126 acres (5 percent) is owned by other public agencies. The total represents approximately 1,859 acres, or nearly 72 percent of the area, which leaves approximately 732 acres in private ownership.

Land acquisitions for the purposes of habitat conservation is anticipated to continue in the future in order to provide a more contiguous public land ownership and management pattern than currently exists. Land uses within this area include the Sycamore Landfill and multiple SDG&E utility easements. The vast majority of the area is undeveloped land with moderate to steep slopes. The majority of the area is zoned Residential-Single Unit (RS-1-8) with a smaller area being zoned Industrial-Heavy (IH-2-1) for the operation of the landfill. Inclusion of private land holdings within the boundaries of MTRP does not preclude permitted development (Figure 3-38).

*Inclusion of private land holdings within the boundaries of MTRP does not preclude permitted development.*

### 3.6.2. UTILITIES

The main utilities within the East Elliott area include several SDG&E high voltage electrical transmission lines and an electrical substation. There are also minor utilities supporting the operations of the landfill.

### 3.6.3. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

East Elliott is dominated by three vegetation communities: coastal sage scrub; chaparral; and grasslands. There are also a few areas of oak woodland, sycamore and willow riparian. Mule deer frequent this area and mountain lion have been seen with some frequency. The California gnatcatcher utilizes the coastal sage scrub. The area supports populations of San Diego barrel cactus, willowy monardella, decumbent goldenbush, ashy spike-moss, San Diego goldenstar, and variegated dudleya.

The Sycamore Canyon Landfill will eventually be revegetated with native plant species to blend into the surrounding habitat. The vast majority of the East Elliott area is contained within the City's MHPA, with the exception of the Sycamore Landfill.

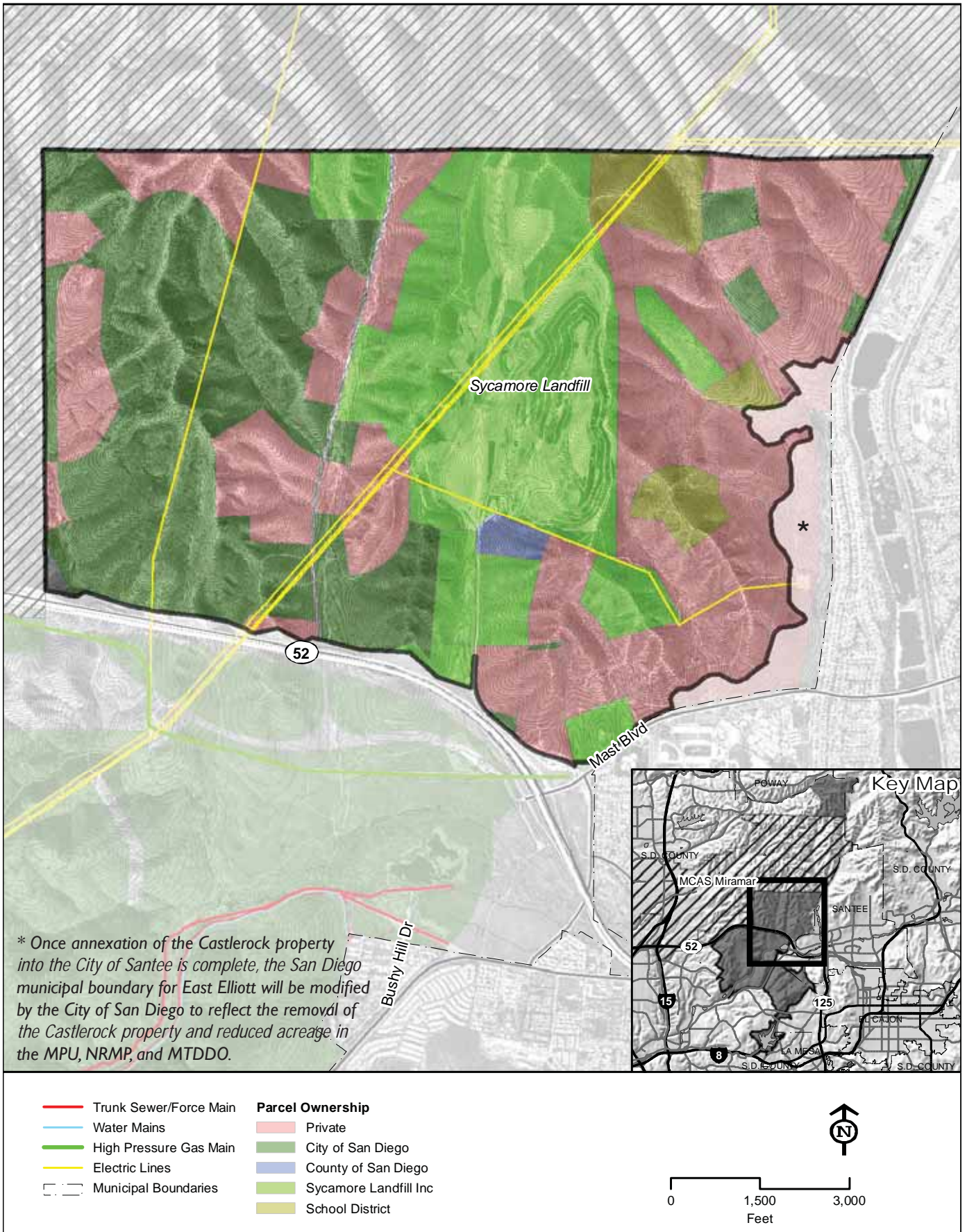


*Willowy monardella habitat in Spring Canyon (Source Bing)*



# MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK

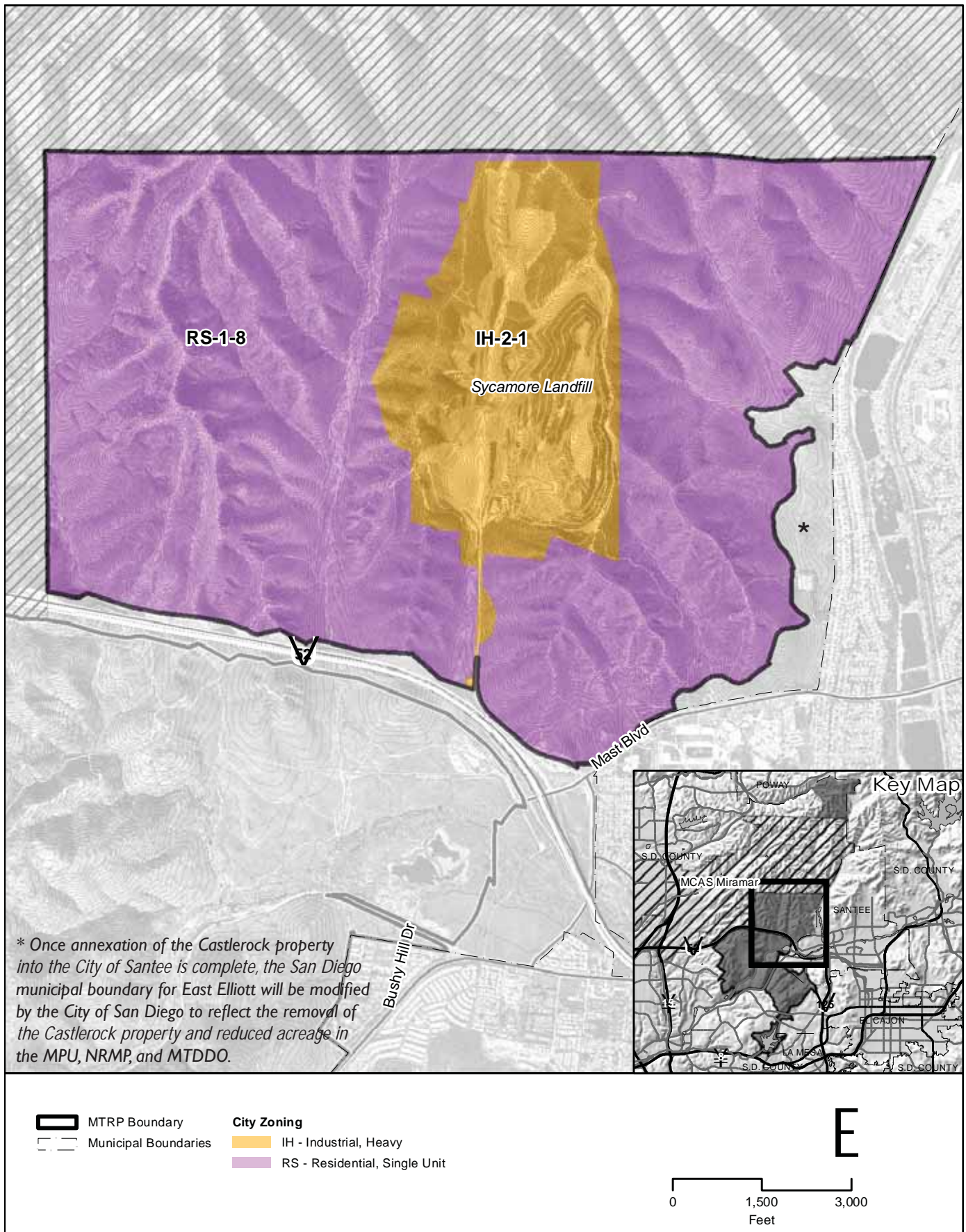
Figure 3-37: East Elliott Ownership and Utilities





# 2019 MASTER PLAN UPDATE

Figure 3-38: East Elliott Zoning



## MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK

Figure 3-39 shows the location and general extent of the vegetation communities and sensitive species. Table 3-21 summarizes the vegetation communities and Table 3-22 lists the known sensitive species within the area based on existing survey data and may not represent a comprehensive list. The NRMP provides additional information on these resources, including recommended management actions.

**Table 3-21: East Elliott Vegetation Communities**

<b>Vegetation Community</b>	<b>Acres</b>
<i>Chamise Chaparral</i>	671.2
<i>Coast Live Oak Woodland</i>	8.8
<i>Diegan Coastal Sage Scrub</i>	738.5
<i>Disturbed Habitat</i>	14.9
<i>Eucalyptus Woodland</i>	2.4
<i>Native Grassland</i>	10.7
<i>Non-native Grassland</i>	642.8
<i>Open Water</i>	0.8
<i>Southern Mixed Chaparral</i>	115.3
<i>Southern Riparian Scrub</i>	49.4
<i>Southern Willow Scrub</i>	11.2
<i>Urban/Developed</i>	324.0
<i>Vernal Pool</i>	0.4
	2,590.2



*San Diego barrel cactus*

**Table 3-22: East Elliott Sensitive Species**

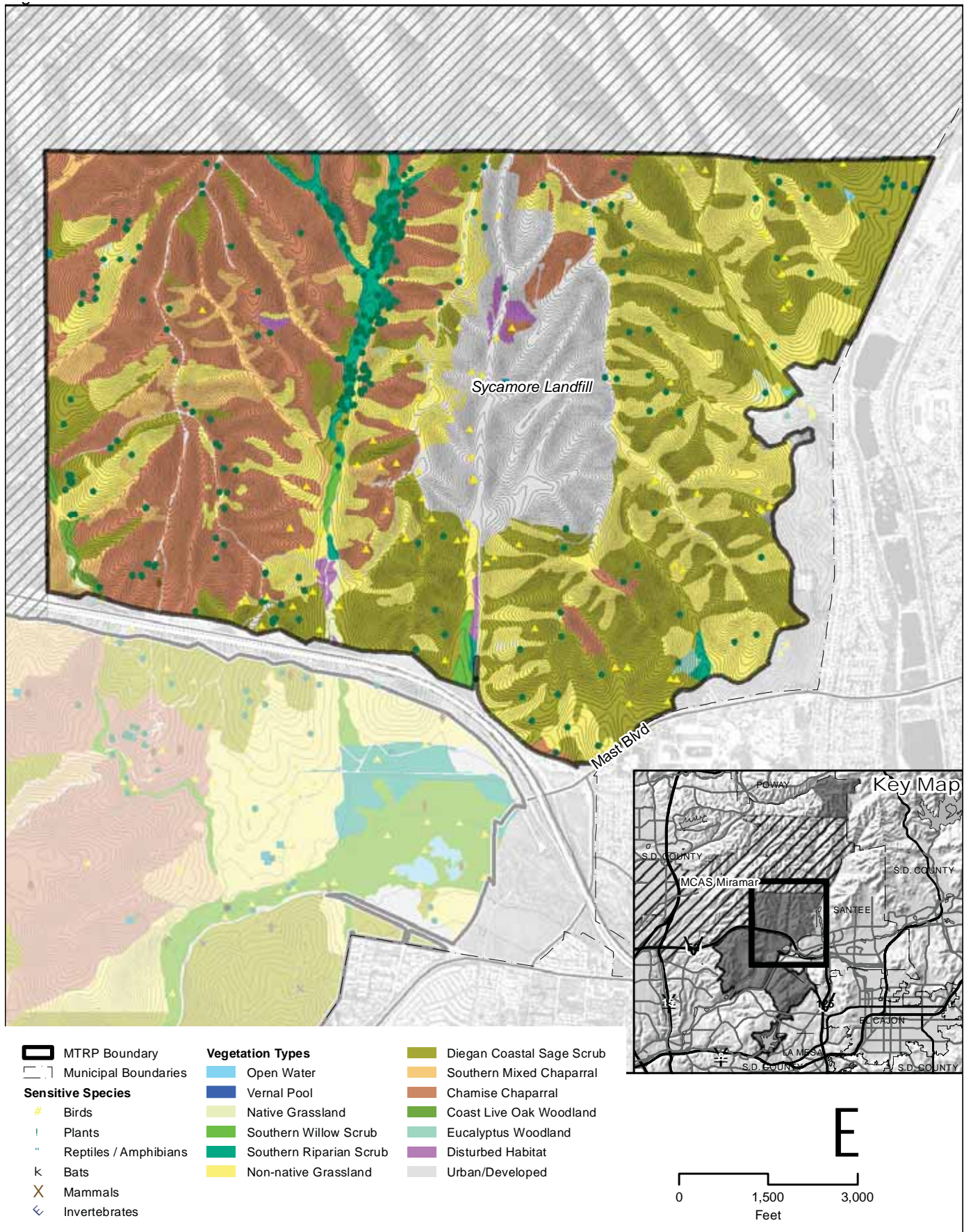
<b>MSCP Covered Sensitive Plant Species</b>	
<i>Variegated dudleya</i>	<i>Dudleya variegata</i>
<i>San Diego barrel cactus</i>	<i>Ferocactus viridescens</i>
<i>Willow monardella</i>	<i>Monardella linioides</i> spp. <i>Viminea</i>
<i>San Diego goldenstar</i>	<i>Muilla clevelandii</i>
<b>MSCP Covered Sensitive Animal Species</b>	
<i>Northern harrier</i>	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>
<i>Coastal cactus wren</i>	<i>Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus couesi</i>
<i>Southern California rufous-crowned sparrow</i>	<i>Aimophila ruficeps canescens</i>
<i>California gnatcatcher</i>	<i>Polioptila californica californica</i>
<i>Southern mule deer</i>	<i>Odocoileus hemionus fuliginata</i>
<i>Mountain lion</i>	<i>Puma concolor</i>
<b>Non-MSCP Covered Sensitive Species</b>	
<i>Western spadefoot toad</i>	<i>Spea hammondi</i>
<i>Red diamond rattlesnake</i>	<i>Crotalus ruber</i>
<i>Pacific ring neck snake</i>	<i>Diadophis punctatus</i>
<i>Grasshopper sparrow</i>	<i>Ammodramus savannarum</i>





# 2019 MASTER PLAN UPDATE

Figure 3-39: East Elliott Vegetation and Sensitive Species





## MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK

### 3.6.4. CIRCULATION AND PARKING

There are no dedicated vehicular entrances into this area. Access is provided from the Fortuna Mountain area via the two SR-52 underpasses. Of the 36.59 miles of circulation routes within the area, only 20.97 miles are associated with vehicular access. The private access road for the landfill is the only paved road within the area. There are also about 11 miles of unpaved utility access roads (Figure 3-40 and Table 3-23).

The East Fortuna Staging Area in the Fortuna Mountain area currently provides the closest public parking and staging area.

*Table 3-23: East Elliott Vehicular Circulation*

	Miles	Percent
<i>Paved Park Road</i>	<i>0.00</i>	<i>0.0%</i>
<i>Paved Maintenance Road</i>	<i>0.95</i>	<i>2.60%</i>
<i>Unpaved Park Road</i>	<i>9.12</i>	<i>24.93%</i>
<i>Unpaved Utility Road</i>	<i>10.89</i>	<i>29.77%</i>
<b>Total</b>	<b>20.97</b>	



*SR-52 undercrossing into Spring Canyon*



*SR-52 undercrossing into Oak Canyon*

### 3.6.5. FACILITIES AND USE

Beyond the limited facilities in direct support of the landfill, there are no developed facilities within the East Elliott area. Sycamore Landfill, Inc. plans on constructing a new administration building closer to the landfill, which upon closure of the landfill has been identified as a park facility and a primary entrance and staging area for East Elliott.

### 3.6.6. RECREATIONAL USE

Recreational use within the East Elliott area has been occurring for a number of years on both utility access roads and unauthorized user created trails. The trails cross both publicly and privately owned parcels, are not formally planned or designed, and have no legal access easements to date (Figure 3-41 and Table 3-24). The recommendations contained within this MPU provide the guidance necessary for the long-term development of a trail network within the East Elliott area that can be implemented as lands are brought into public ownership, or



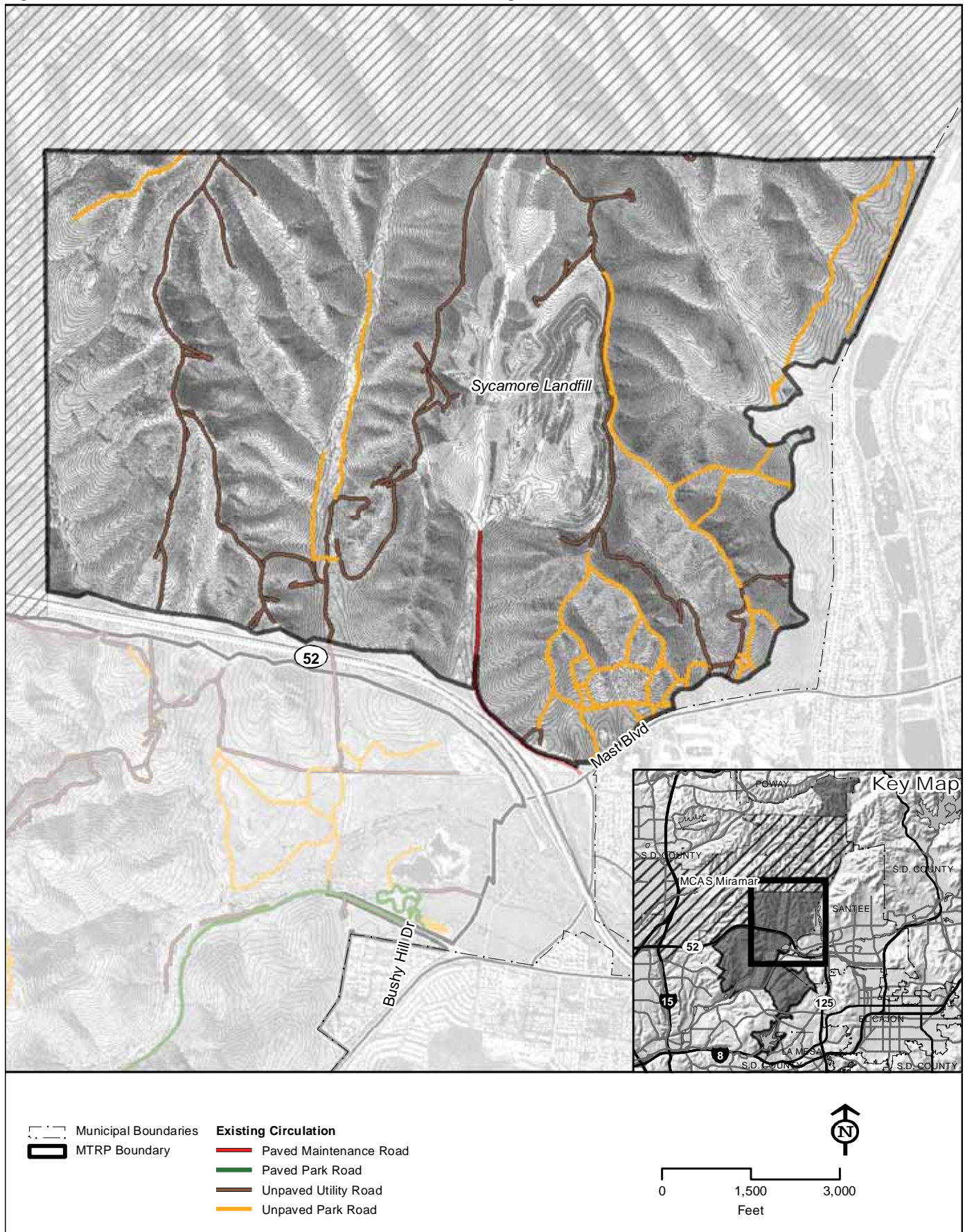
*An unauthorized user created trail in East Elliott*





# 2019 MASTER PLAN UPDATE

Figure 3-40: East Elliott Vehicular Circulation and Parking



## MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK

permitted for private development. Public trespass onto MCAS Miramar currently occurs on a regular basis as users follow utility access roads or unauthorized user created trails that cross training related safety zones, operational areas, and potential unexploded ordnance (UXO) as shown in Figure 3-8 on page 3-12.

It is anticipated that trail linkages within the area may eventually provide a connection to trails within the County's Goodan Ranch Sycamore Canyon Preserve and the West Sycamore area of MTRP. Sycamore Landfill, Inc. has made a commitment to work with the Park and Recreation Department to identify new trail opportunities as the landfill progresses and landforms are revegetated, prior to the closure of the landfill.



North edge of Sycamore Landfill

**Table 3-24: East Elliott Recreational Trails**

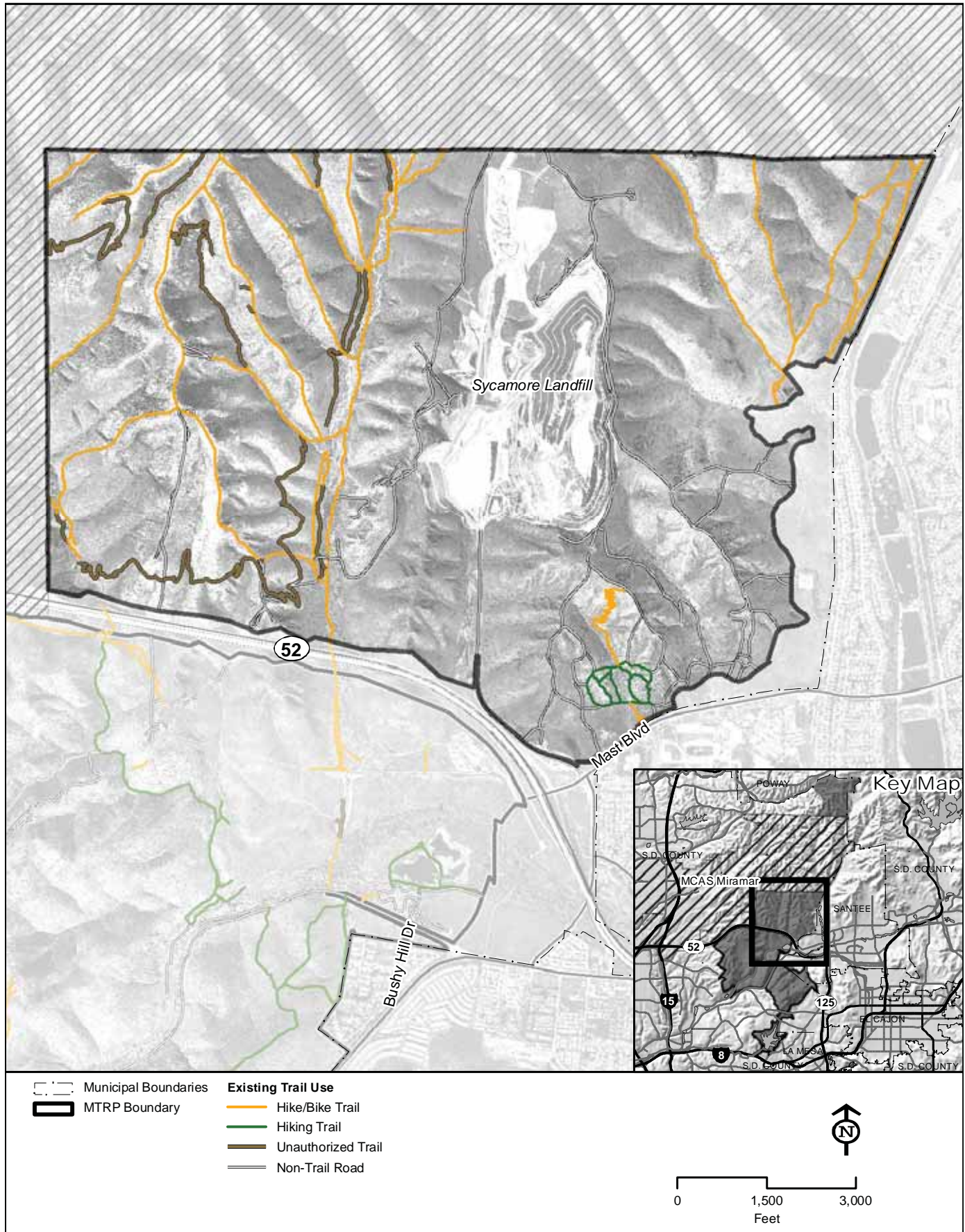
	Miles	Percent
<i>Class I Multi-use Path</i>	-	0.0%
<i>Hike/Bike Trail</i>	13.64	37.09%
<i>Hiking Trail</i>	1.14	3.10%
<i>Multi-use Trail</i>	-	0.0%
<i>Unauthorized Trail</i>	7.50	20.39%
<b>Total</b>	22.28	





# 2019 MASTER PLAN UPDATE

Figure 3-41: East Elliott Recreational Trails



## MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK

### 3.7. WEST SYCAMORE

The West Sycamore area is bounded by residential uses on the west, the two-lane Sycamore Canyon Road on the north, Goodan Ranch Sycamore Canyon Preserve to the east, and MCAS Miramar to the south. The subarea is separated from the rest of the park by about 3.5 miles spanning the breadth of MCAS Miramar.

Except for the portion occupied by SDG&E electrical transmission lines and associated access roads, most of the area is in a natural state. The area is characterized by a dominant ridgeline that separates the Peñasquitos Creek and San Diego River watersheds and incised canyons with moderate to steep slopes.



*West Sycamore (Source Bing 2012)*

As mentioned previously, the West Sycamore area was acquired through an Extraordinary Benefits Agreement between the City of San Diego and Sycamore Estates, L.L.C., approved by the San Diego City Council on July 19, 2001 as part of the Rancho Encantada Precise Plan. This obligated the developer to convey land for the purposes of habitat conservation to the City of San Diego.

#### 3.7.1. OWNERSHIP AND LAND USE

The West Sycamore area is approximately 1,360 acres in size completely within the jurisdiction of the City of San Diego and the Rancho Encantada Precise Plan area (Figure 3-42). Land uses within this area include multiple SDG&E utility easements, with a vast majority of the West Sycamore area being preserved within the City's MHPA, except for previously developed areas along the main ridgeline.



*Disturbed ridgeline south of Staging Area*

#### 3.7.2. UTILITIES

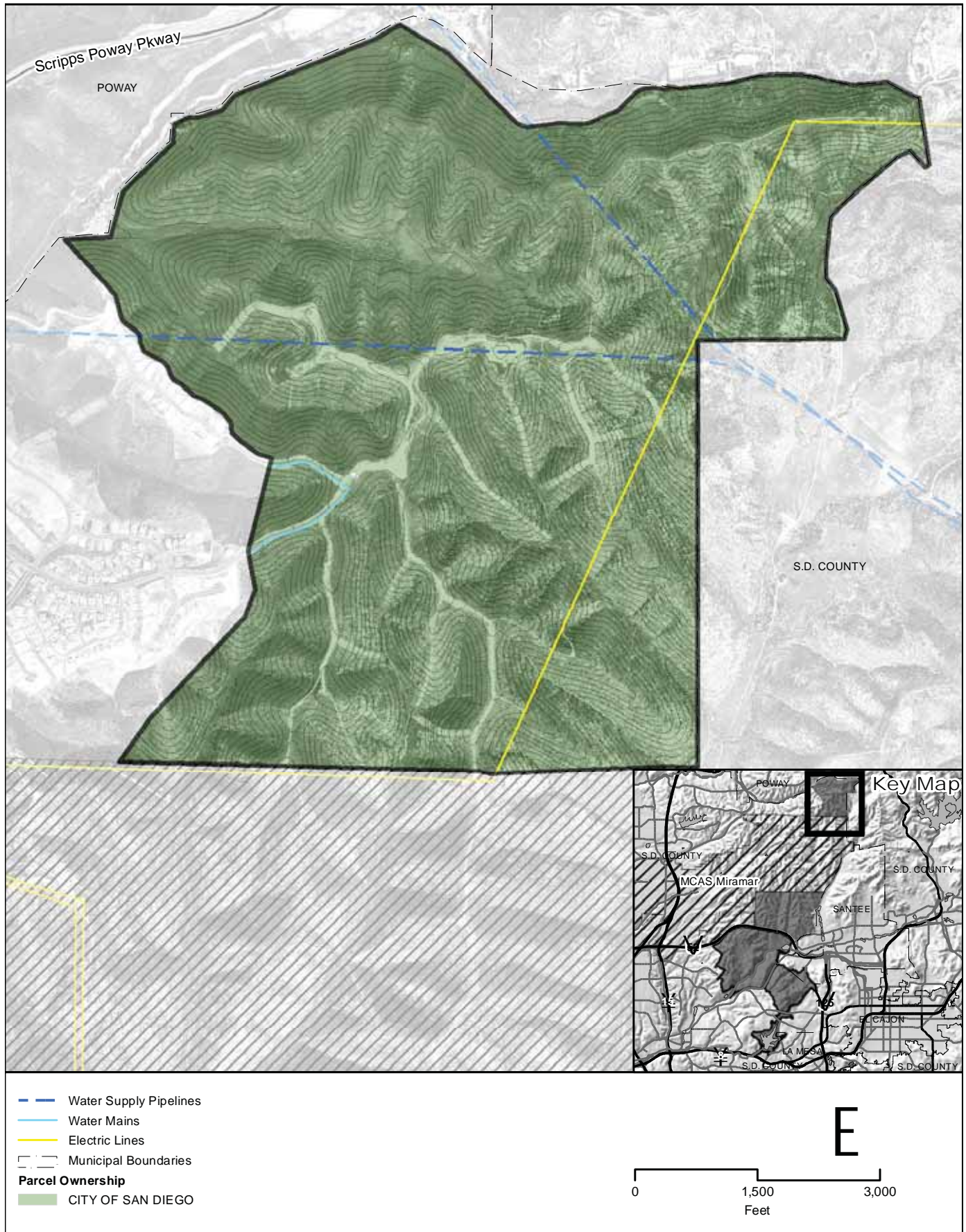
There are several utilities within the West Sycamore area. SDCWA operates and maintains two regional water supply pipelines. SDG&E operates and maintains a high voltage electrical transmission line. The City of San Diego PUD operates and maintains water and sewer main pipelines supporting the residential development along the western edge of the area (Figure 3-42).





# 2019 MASTER PLAN UPDATE

Figure 3-42: West Sycamore Ownership and Utilities



## MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK

### 3.7.3. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

West Sycamore is dominated by chaparral and coastal sage scrub with additional areas of oak woodland and grassland. Populations of San Diego barrel cactus, willow monardella, and decumbent goldenbush are found here. Mule deer frequent this area. The California gnatcatcher and the southern California rufous-crowned sparrow utilize the areas of coastal sage scrub. Both the San Diego horned lizard and the Belding's orange-throated whiptail utilize the areas dominated by rock outcrops. This is also the only area of MTRP that supports the Coastal Cactus Wren.

Figure 3-43 shows the location and general extents of the vegetation communities and sensitive species. Table 3-25 summarizes the vegetation communities and Table 3-26 lists the known sensitive species within the area based on existing survey data and may not represent a comprehensive list. The NRMP provides additional information on these resources, including recommended management actions.



*Willow monardella habitat*



*Coastal Cactus Wren habitat*

**Table 3-25: West Sycamore Vegetation Communities**

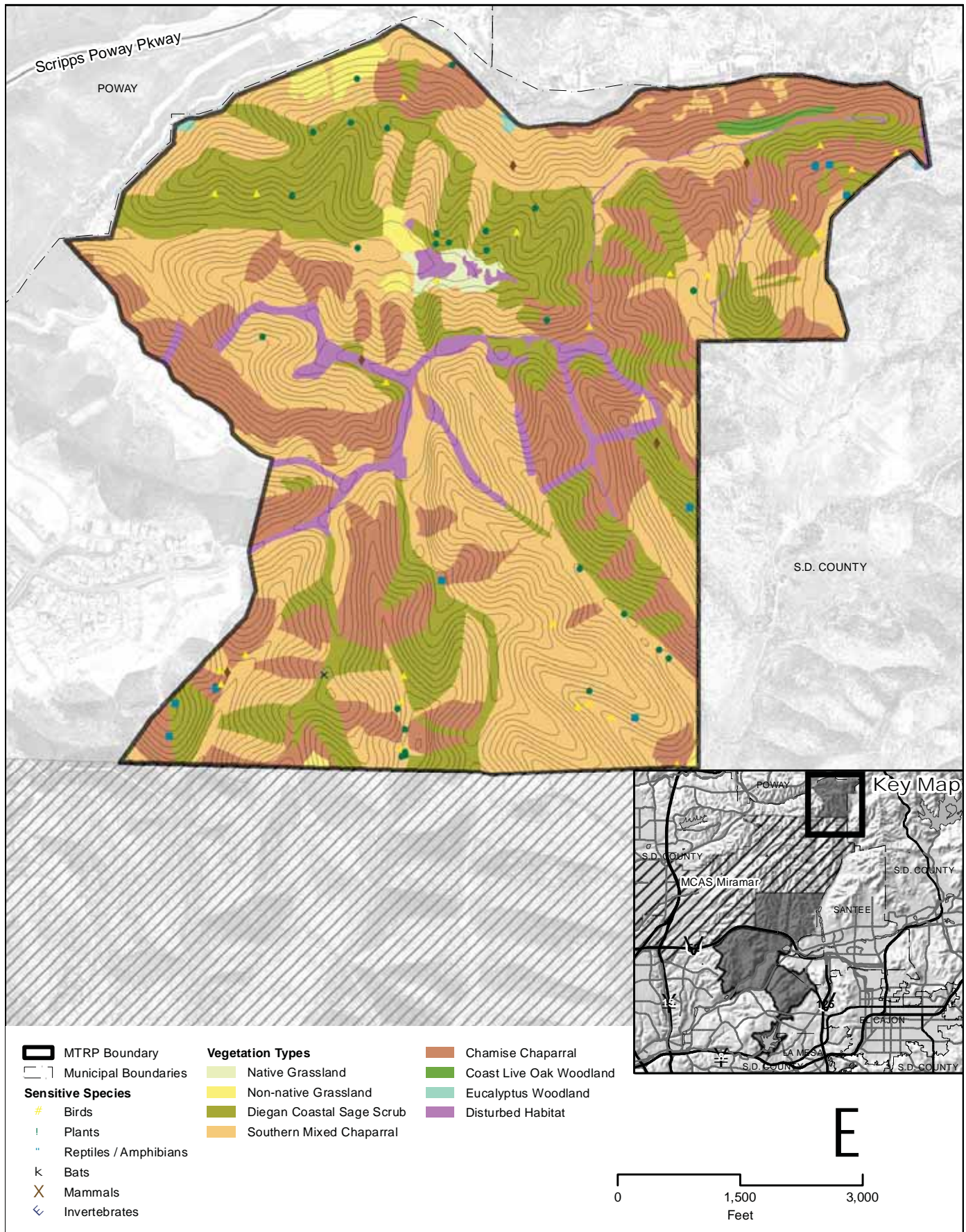
<b>Vegetation Community</b>	<b>Acres</b>
<i>Chamise Chaparral</i>	<i>372.1</i>
<i>Coast Live Oak Woodland</i>	<i>4.4</i>
<i>Diegan Coastal Sage Scrub</i>	<i>337.7</i>
<i>Disturbed Habitat</i>	<i>57.2</i>
<i>Eucalyptus Woodland</i>	<i>1.5</i>
<i>Native Grassland</i>	<i>7.0</i>
<i>Non-native Grassland</i>	<i>17.1</i>
<i>Southern Mixed Chaparral</i>	<i>561.6</i>
	<i>1,358.6</i>





# 2019 MASTER PLAN UPDATE

Figure 3-43: West Sycamore Vegetation Communities and Sensitive Species



## MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK

**Table 3-26: West Sycamore Sensitive Species**

MSCP Covered Sensitive Plant Species	
<i>San Diego barrel cactus</i>	<i>Ferocactus viridescens</i>
<i>Willow monardella</i>	<i>Monardella linioides</i> spp. <i>Vimineae</i>
MSCP Covered Sensitive Animal Species	
<i>Belding's orange-throated whiptail</i>	<i>Aspidoscelis hyperthra beldingi</i>
<i>Coastal horned lizard</i>	<i>Phrynosoma blainvillii</i>
<i>Cooper's hawk</i>	<i>Accipiter cooperi</i>
<i>Southern California rufous-crowned sparrow</i>	<i>Aimophila ruficeps canescens</i>
<i>California gnatcatcher</i>	<i>Poliophtila californica californica</i>
<i>Southern mule deer</i>	<i>Odocoileus hemionus fuliginata</i>
<i>Mountain lion</i>	<i>Puma concolor</i>
Non-MSCP Covered Sensitive Species	
<i>Western whiptail</i>	<i>Aspidoscelis tigris</i>
<i>Red diamond rattlesnake</i>	<i>Crotalus ruber</i>
<i>Coast patch-nosed snake</i>	<i>Salvadora hexalepis virgultea</i>
<i>Palmer's sagewort</i>	<i>Artemisia palmeri</i>
<i>Quino checkerspot butterfly</i>	<i>Euphydryas editha quino</i>
<i>Grasshopper sparrow</i>	<i>Ammodramus savannarum</i>
<i>Black tailed jackrabbit</i>	<i>Lepus californicus</i>
<i>Palmer's grappling hook</i>	<i>Harpagonella palmeri</i>

### 3.7.4. CIRCULATION AND PARKING

The area is accessed from Stonebridge Staging Area. The gate at the staging area is open daily from 8am to 5pm from November through February and 8am to 7pm from March through October. Of the 9.26 miles of circulation routes, 6.39 miles are utilized for vehicular access. The entrance road is the only paved road within the area. There are also nearly six miles of unpaved utility and park access roads within the area (Figure 3-44 and Table 3-27).

Off street parking is provided at the Stonebridge Staging Area. Additional parking and access is available from the staging area for Goodan Ranch Sycamore Canyon Preserve at the end of Sycamore Canyon Road.



*Entry to West Sycamore Staging Area*

**Table 3-27: West Sycamore Vehicular Circulation**

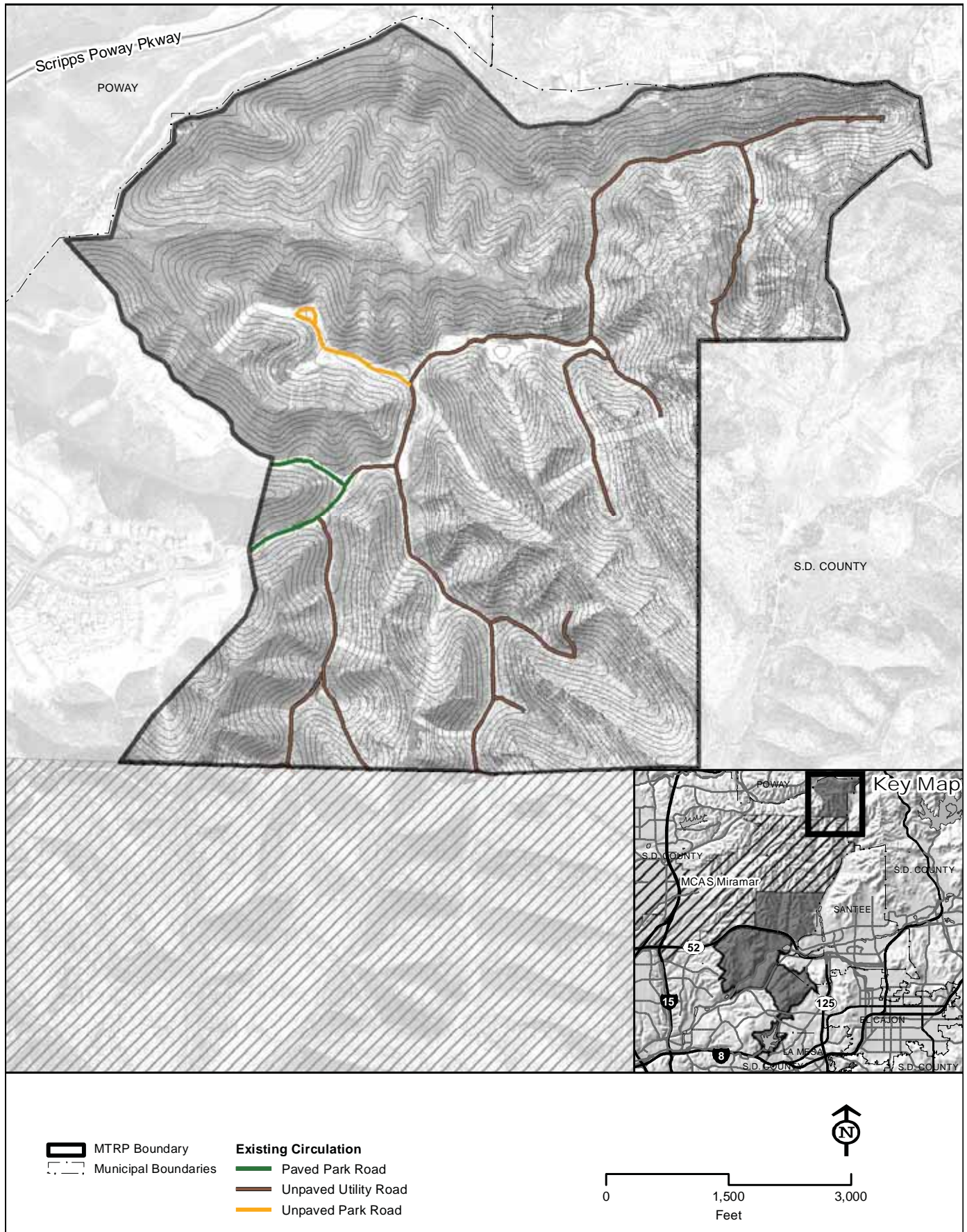
	Miles	Percent
<i>Paved Park Road</i>	0.50	5.41%
<i>Paved Maintenance Road</i>	-	0.0%
<i>Unpaved Park Road</i>	0.41	4.42%
<i>Unpaved Utility Road</i>	5.48	59.11%
<b>Total</b>	<b>6.39</b>	





# 2019 MASTER PLAN UPDATE

Figure 3-44: West Sycamore Vehicular Circulation and Parking



## MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK

### 3.7.5. FACILITIES AND USES

The parking lot and picnic area at the Stonebridge Staging Area are the only developed uses within the area. Future plans permit the addition of a Ranger's office and comfort station to be added to the staging area.

### 3.7.6. RECREATIONAL USE

There are approximately 6 miles of recreational trails, within the West Sycamore area primarily utilizing narrowed existing utility access roads (Figure 3-45 and Table 3-28). Equestrian use is allowed on designated trails with access from the future facilities at the staging area at the end of Stonebridge Parkway, or from within the adjacent Goodan Ranch Sycamore Canyon Preserve via trail connections. Public trespass onto MCAS Miramar currently occurs on a regular basis as users follow utility access roads or unauthorized user created trails that cross training related safety zones, operational areas, potential unexploded ordnance (UXO) as shown in Figure 3-8 on page 3-12.



*A section of recently constructed trail*

*Table 3-28: West Sycamore Recreational Trails*

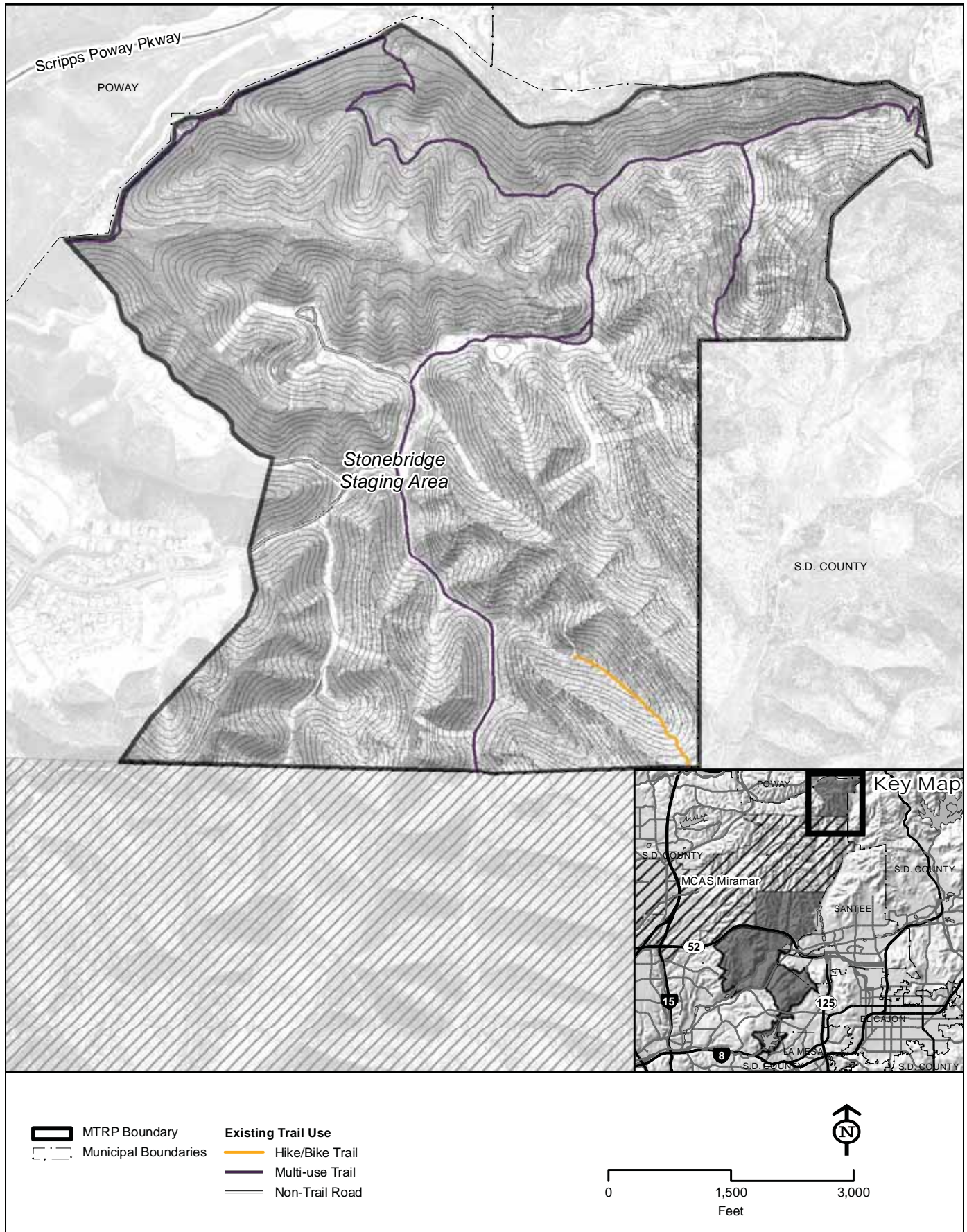
	Miles	Percent
<i>Class I Multi-use Path</i>	-	0.0%
<i>Hike/Bike Trail</i>	0.39	4.19%
<i>Hiking Trail</i>	-	0.0%
<i>Multi-use Trail</i>	5.45	58.80%
<i>Unauthorized Trail</i>	-	0.0%
<b>Total</b>	5.84	





# 2019 MASTER PLAN UPDATE

Figure 3-45: West Sycamore Recreational Trails



## 4. PLANNING AND ANALYSIS

### 4.O.1. OBJECTIVES

The 1985 MTRP Master Development Plan identified the following objectives that are still valid:

1. Define the Park's setting in terms of physical environment, aesthetics, public plans and policies, surrounding land use and ownership;
2. Identify recreational and other open space potentials within the Park setting;
3. Assess existing and potential relationships (especially edges, roads, and trail linkages) between the Park, its immediate surroundings, and the San Diego region as a whole; and
4. Maintain and update a comprehensive Master Plan in terms of park uses, facility sizes and locations, environmental and architectural design concepts, and strategies to avoid or minimize environmental impacts.

This Master Plan seeks to address these objectives by providing a basis for determining planning and implementation strategies, as well as acquisition and development programs.

### 4.O.2. CONCEPT

As planned, MTRP is a regional open space park – as important to the area's future quality of life as is the cultural Balboa Park and the aquatic Mission Bay Park. Specific concepts are described in detail within the Park's six areas: Lake Murray; Cowles Mountain; Mission Gorge; Fortuna Mountain; East Elliott; and West Sycamore.



Major concepts of the 1985 planning process that continue to be important today are:

#### 1. Multi-purpose Role

The Park serves a comprehensive mix of the educational, environmental, recreational, and cultural needs of the San Diego region. It accommodates limited active as well as passive uses on both a regional and community level.

#### 2. Trail and Open Space Linkages

The Park orients outward to the region; and is not to be viewed as an "island." Because its location, potential size, and aesthetic environment make it a logical destination for hikers, bicyclists, and equestrians, the Park relates to major trail linkages with other regional parks, open space corridors, and activity centers. Trail corridors should extend outward to existing and future residential areas wherever compatible.

#### 3. Response to Environment

The Park will continue to protect environmental and cultural resources while providing for recreational opportunities.





## 2019 MASTER PLAN UPDATE

### 4.O.3. ASSUMPTIONS

During the 1985 planning process, several important assumptions about the future were made based upon trends and information that existed at the time. The following assumptions are still relevant today.

1. The City and County of San Diego will continue to manage the Cowles Mountain area of MTRP through the Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) established in 1996.
2. The “energy crisis” is a long-term phenomenon that will continue to increase transportation costs and place an increasing premium on recreational opportunities close to the center of the metropolitan area. At the same time, the amount of state and federal funding assistance for “close-in” parks will increase and will be aggressively pursued by both the City and County.
3. The San Diego River will continue to flow year-round either naturally or by flows from the Padre Dam Water Recycling Facility in Santee, and thus will continue to support the existing riparian habitats within Mission Gorge.

### 4.O.4. MASTER PLAN UPDATE

In 2007, an ad hoc subcommittee of the CAC began a process of reviewing and updating the 1985 Master Plan to address current park conditions, identification of future recreational needs, consistency with the MSCP, and expansion of MTRP in the communities of East Elliott and Rancho Encantada (West Sycamore). In November 2010, the City of San Diego, Planning Department hired a consultant to conduct a MPU, develop a NRMP and prepare a Programmatic EIR consistent with Council Policy 600-33 Community Notification And Input For City-Wide Park Development Projects, and to address the MSCP requirement for development of a NRMP for MTRP.

The purpose of the MPU is multi-faceted:

1. Fully incorporate the resource protection and management requirements of the MSCP into an NRMP for MTRP and coordinate the recommendations and management actions between the MPU and NRMP; and
2. Incorporate within the MTRP boundaries and provide master planning for the management of resources and the development of recreational opportunities within lands acquired for preservation in the East Elliott community plan area, while continuing to provide for potential private development per the current Community Plan and MSCP guidelines; and
3. Incorporate within the MTRP boundaries the MSCP preserve lands created as part of the Rancho Encantada Precise Plan in order to provide planning for the management of resources and recreational amenities; and
4. Update the planning recommendations in the 1985 MTRP Master Plan for the public’s current and future recreational desires, planning overlays, policies and regulations.



*Workshop #1 participants discussing issues and providing input*



## MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK

On January 27, 2011, the first of three public workshops focusing primarily on the MPU was held at the MTRP Visitor and Interpretive Center. Nearly 200 comments were received from the 83 participants. An expanded and more sustainable recreational trail system was the most frequently requested item. Following the workshop, draft alternatives were developed for presentation at the second public workshop.

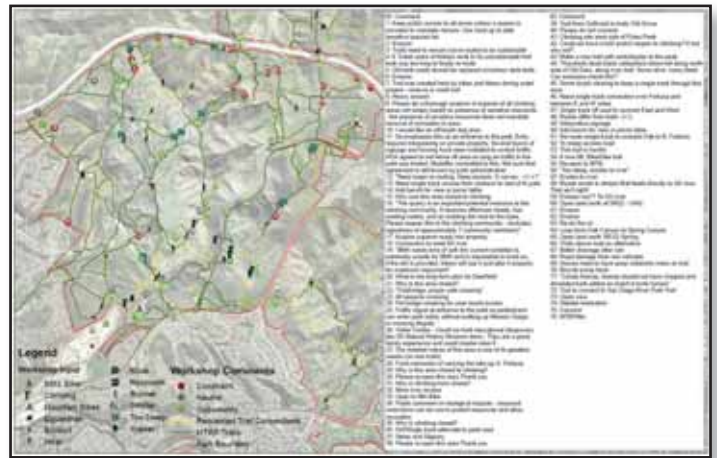
On March 31, 2011, the second public workshop was held at the MTRP Visitor and Interpretive Center. Participants were asked to vote their level of support for each draft project alternative element. Additional time to vote was provided through a web survey to allow for additional review and comment. Project alternatives were further reviewed with City Park and Recreation staff for conflicts with sensitive resources resulting in an alternative for presentation at the final public workshop.

On June 9, 2011, the final public workshop was held at the MTRP Visitor and Interpretive Center with a presentation and Q&A session, followed by an open house style review and comment period where participants were given an opportunity to ask questions, voice concerns, and provide written comments.

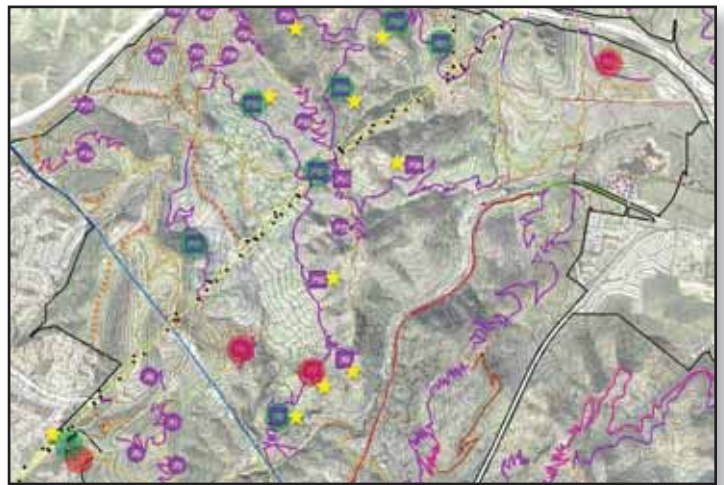
The comments received from each of the public workshops are included in Appendix A.

During the summer and fall of 2011, a series of working meetings were held with City staff from the Planning Department and the Park and Recreation Department, including MTRP park rangers. These meetings focused on the review and discussion of the trail proposals resulting from the public workshops related to day-to-day Park management, habitat protection and fragmentation, sensitive species avoidance and encroachment, and cultural resource protection.

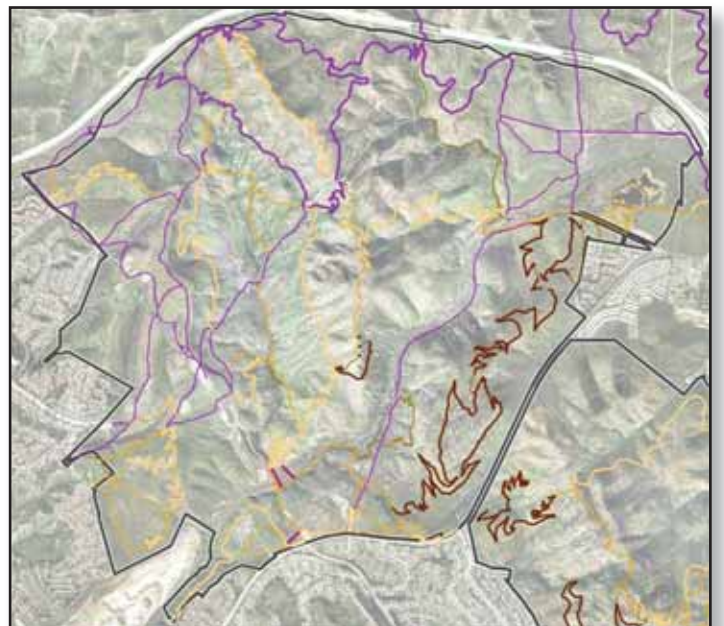
The proposals contained within this MPU are the distillation of the public workshop process, coordination with City staff, integration with NRMP goals, and preliminary environmental review.



*Example of comments from Workshop #1*



*Example of voting results from Workshop #2*



*Example of Alternatives presented at Workshop #3*



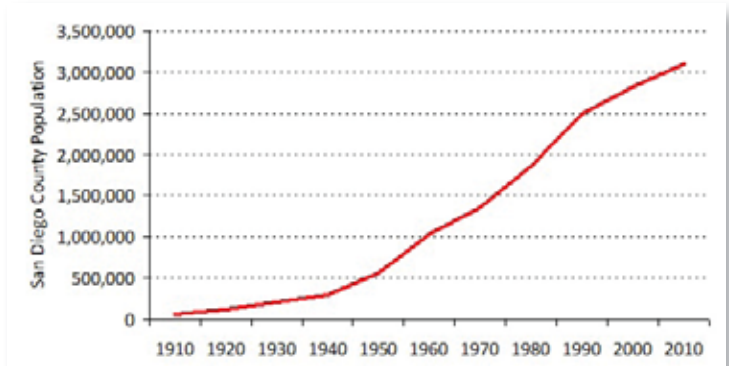


## 4.1. REGIONAL PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

A variety of factors influence the planning and design of any park, let alone a regional park of the magnitude of MTRP. The following sections describe the major planning considerations integrated into this MPU.

### 4.1.1. POPULATION GROWTH

In January 1985, when the MTRP Master Development Plan was completed, the City of San Diego had a population of approximately 978,000, making it the second largest city in California. The 2010 census estimated that the City of San Diego had a population of 1,307,402, an increase of approximately 34 percent over a span of 25 years. SANDAG's (San Diego Association of Governments) 2050 Regional Growth Forecast estimates that San Diego County will add over one million residents between 2010 and 2050, a 41 percent increase.



*San Diego County population trends*

This growth is expected to occur within the higher density central areas of the City of San Diego and in the very low density unincorporated areas well outside of the cities.

Much of San Diego's growth is due to the excellence of its urban living environment: a mild climate, a dramatic physical setting, and historical and cultural attractions that residents regard with strong affection and use extensively. Even if future policies limit population growth below projected levels, resident demand for additional parks will continue to rise. Smaller family sizes allow offsetting increases in income and leisure time. Public concern over growth, traffic congestion and energy costs will increase demands for open space and recreational opportunities close to the heart of the metropolitan area. The significant role that recreation and tourism play in the health of the local economy is assisted both directly and indirectly by City and County regional park programs. This potential added recreational pressure will need to be balanced against MSCP requirements to protect and enhance the natural resources within MTRP.

### 4.1.2. PARK LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

MTRP is unique among regional parks. At nearly 8,000 acres, it is one of the largest urban regional parks of its type in the western United States. As additional areas in East Elliott are added to the park, this acreage could increase to over 9,700 acres.

The majority of the land area of the Park is located near the center of metropolitan San Diego, eight miles northeast of downtown San Diego, midway between the Pacific Ocean and the Cleveland National Forest.

As a key resource of San Diego's regional park system, it can both effectively meet recreational needs of current and future generations and directly complement the urban environment that attracts so many people to the region.



## MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK

As its six areas suggest, the park is a “complex” of unique environments. At its southern end is Lake Murray, with an existing reservoir, park and golf course. Immediately north lies Cowles Mountain, a 1,591-foot high regional landmark. To the northeast, the San Diego River cuts through Mission Gorge at right angles to Cowles Mountain and flows on through Mission Valley to the Pacific Ocean. Further north lies Fortuna Mountain, a prominent ridgeline flanked by a large valley and plateau to its west, and a complex of north-south canyons to its east. North of SR-52 and south of MCAS Miramar lies East Elliott, a set of three prominent ridgelines with incised tributary canyons that create complex rolling landforms. On the opposite side of MCAS Miramar lies West Sycamore, a watershed divide with panoramic views to the east.



*Riparian, upland habitat, cliff faces and prominent ridgelines and peaks that define MTRP*

Maintaining an ecological and recreational balance within MTRP is crucial for implementation of the City’s MSCP. Canyons and tributary creeks support a diverse population of resident wildlife and are major pathways for migrating coyote, fox, skunk, rabbits, and other mammals. Grassy fields and hills are important habitats for rodents that, in turn, support raptors and migratory predators. The lush riparian habitat of the San Diego River supports a diverse community of vertebrate and invertebrate species. Shepherds Pond and Kumeyaay Lake, rich in willows and reeds, provide a significant stopover for ducks and migrating waterfowl.

Riparian habitats must be preserved for wildlife reliant on this rare environment for food, water, and refuge, and wildlife corridors must be preserved because interfering with migratory routes can impact the ecological balance within a radius of many miles. High priority is given to protecting the natural park environment from existing and future urban intrusions. Careful design of recreational facilities and circulation elements, especially trails, is important to the area’s aesthetic and environmental integrity. Where possible, trails will be located outside of streambeds and use bridge crossings.

### 4.1.2.1. USE POTENTIALS

The size and diversity of MTRP lends itself to many special uses that cannot be accommodated as successfully elsewhere. These include certain educational and cultural activities that reflect the unique historic, scenic, and ecologically-significant areas of the park.

In a broader sense, the location and size of the park has helped shape the form and growth pattern of urban San Diego, and added amenities of open space and trail linkages to adjacent neighborhoods. The planning and management of MTRP has served as a role model for other regional parks and adjacent communities.



*Urban development surrounds 3/4 of MTRP (2012 imagery)*





## 2019 MASTER PLAN UPDATE

### 4.1.2.2. LINKAGE POTENTIALS

One of the outstanding potentials of MTRP is as a staging area, rest stop, and overnight camping site for visitors using the regional trails system being developed by the City and County, State, and other agencies. Two west-east linkages and one south-north linkage are particularly significant (Figure 4-1).

Trails within the Park should provide broader connectivity with other trail corridors shown in the “California Recreational Trails Plan” published by California State Parks. The potential for MTRP to serve as a connection for hikers, bicyclists, and equestrians increases the value of the park to local residents and visitors.

1. The proposed San Diego River Pathway will extend from the Pacific Ocean to the Cleveland National Forest and anticipates utilizing existing and proposed routes within the Mission Gorge and Fortuna Mountain areas.
2. The Trans County Trail will extend from Torrey Pines State Reserve to Anza-Borrego Desert State Park and anticipates utilizing existing and/or proposed routes within the West Sycamore area.
3. The Stowe Trail is anticipated to extend outside of MCAS Miramar from the City of Santee north to the Goodan Ranch Sycamore Canyon Preserve and the West Sycamore area of the Park. This could provide connectivity between the San Diego River Trail and the Trans-County Trail.

### 4.1.3. ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS

When environmental factors were analyzed during the preparation of the 1976 Regional Park Plan (Reynolds Group), its subsequent EIR, and during CAC and Task Force review, some insights that were noted are still relevant today.

#### 4.1.3.1. IMAGE ANALYSIS

Mission Trails is an important visual resource, both as a mountain ridgeline backdrop to the urban setting, and also as a retreat from the urban environment because of its secluded, interior canyons and valleys. The landforms and vegetation within the Park create a variety of spatial experiences and viewpoints which lend themselves to recreational enjoyment.

Because of the near-arid climate of the region, the abundance of water is one of the Park’s prime assets. Lake Murray, the San Diego River, and Kumeyaay Lake provide not only habitat for wildlife, but also a cooling effect and a major recreational resource.



*North Fortuna to Cowles Mountain and beyond*

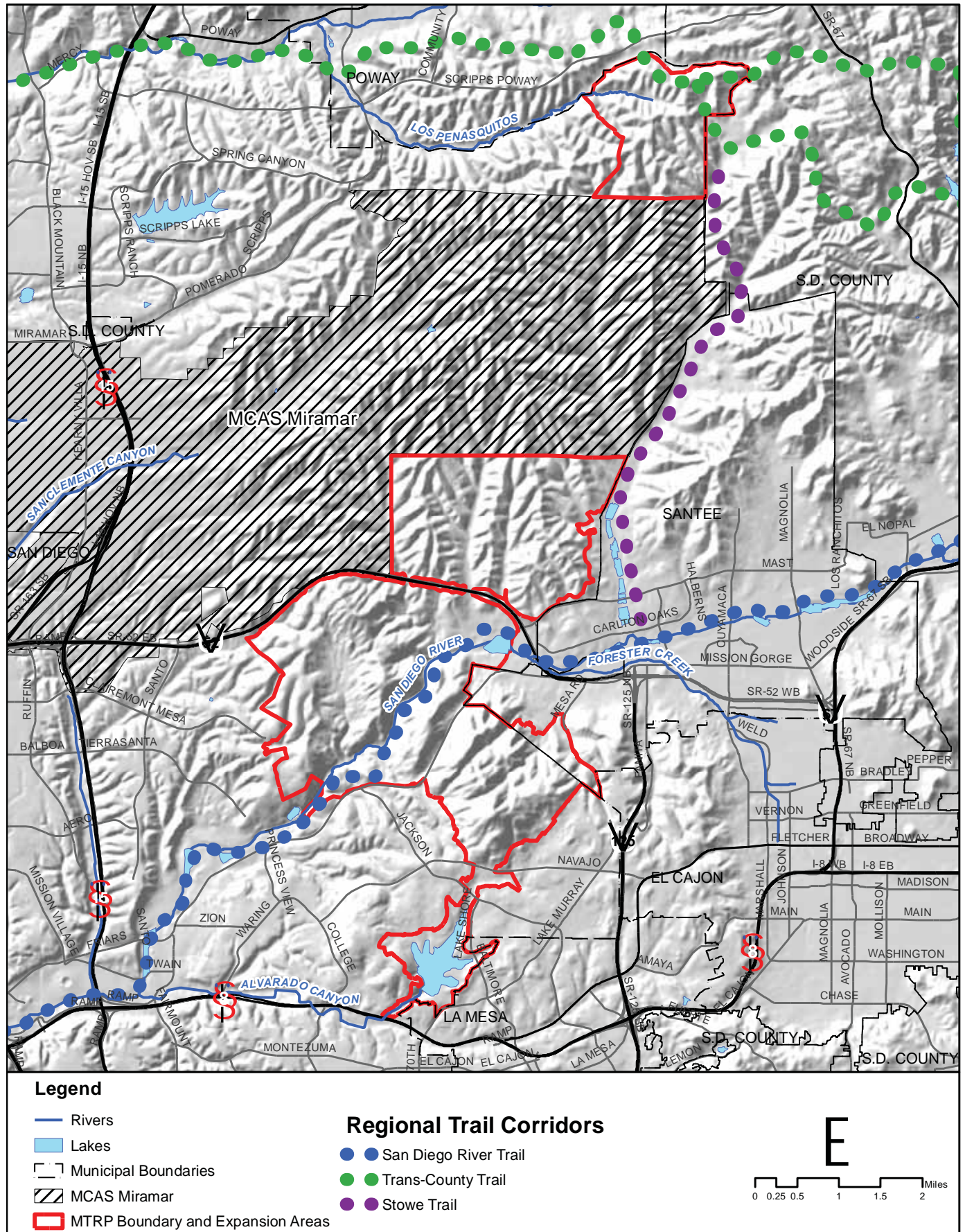


*North Fortuna over East Elliott to El Capitan and the Cuyamaca Mountains*



# MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK

Figure 4-1: Regional Linkages





## 2019 MASTER PLAN UPDATE

The image of the Park is influenced by several negative impacts:

- The hard edge created by residential development on the park boundary detracts from the visual environment;
- Mineral extraction sites south of the park;
- Sycamore Canyon landfill;
- Noise-impacted zone adjacent to MCAS Miramar;
- Transmission towers by Kumeyaay Lake and on Cowles Mountain;
- High voltage transmission lines crossing Fortuna Mountain, East Elliott and West Sycamore; and
- SDCWA pipelines and structures in the western section of the Fortuna Mountain area.

### 4.1.3.2. GEOLOGY AND SOILS

Geologic formations within the Park are typical of the San Diego region, ranging from hard rock granitics to unstable formations. The alluvial areas of the San Diego River basin and canyon floors are a marked contrast to most of its geology.

In all, the area contains 50 basic soil types, some of which have serious development limitations. These were considered during park planning efforts to avoid problems in the construction of trails, structures and recreational improvements.



*Geologic variability throughout MTRP*

### 4.1.3.3. TOPOGRAPHY AND HYDROLOGY

Steep canyons, mesas, rolling hills, and flat bottoms in the river and canyon floors typify the area landforms. The central spine of the area extends for about six miles from southeast to northwest, with the prominent features being the landforms of Fortuna Mountain, Kwaay Paay, and Cowles Mountain. Lake Murray anchors the south boundary of the Park.

The San Diego River, flowing through the precipitous Mission Gorge, cuts perpendicularly through the mountain land mass. A broad alluvial area expands from the north end of the gorge. Nearly all surface water within the Park drains into the San Diego River.

### 4.1.3.4. ARCHAEOLOGY

Numerous archaeological sites have been identified within the Park and are worthy of further study. A wide variety of Native American artifacts represent hunting and food-gathering cultures over several thousand years.



## MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK

The major historical resources of the Park relate to the Spanish settlement of San Diego. A major accomplishment of the period was the construction of Old Mission Dam to impound San Diego River water, and also the flume that transported it through Mission Gorge to Mission lands for irrigation and domestic use. Remains of the Old Mission Dam and flume are visible today, and the site is listed as a landmark on the National Register of Historic Places and the City of San Diego's Register of Historical Resources.

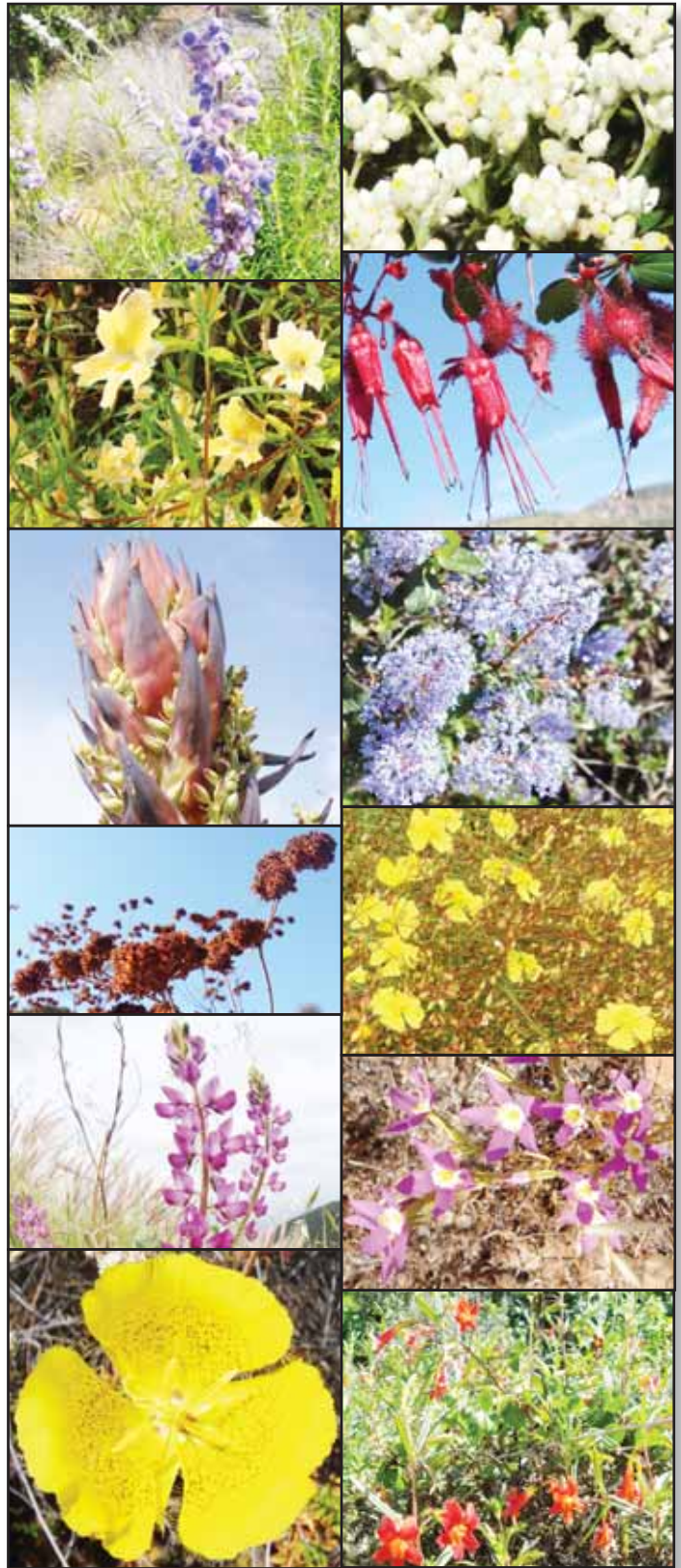
### 4.1.3.5. VEGETATION AND WILDLIFE

Five plant communities dominate the Park: chaparral; coastal sage scrub; southern oak woodland; grassland; and riparian. Except for the absence of low desert and montane vegetation, the area represents all the major habitats in San Diego County, and supports several hundred species of resident and migratory birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, and plants.

USFWS designated Critical Habitat areas within the Park require additional consultation and review if a project is proposed within the areas utilizing federal funding or has another federal nexus. Otherwise, the designation provides no further protections than those provided within the Endangered Species Act (ESA), California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), MSCP, or local development codes.

Regionally, MTRP serves as a major core biological area and provides several significant linkages for wildlife that includes an east/west corridor along the San Diego River, a west corridor across MCAS Miramar to Rose and San Clemente Canyons, as well as to Los Peñasquitos Lagoon and a northeast corridor across MCAS Miramar, to Goodan Ranch Sycamore Canyon Preserve and beyond to east county.

Certain areas of the Park deserve special consideration to preserve environmental resources: the San Diego River riparian area; Kumeyaay Lake; the protected drainages and slopes of Fortuna and Cowles Mountains; and the protected drainages within East Elliott and West Sycamore.



*Variety of flowering plants within MTRP*





## 2019 MASTER PLAN UPDATE

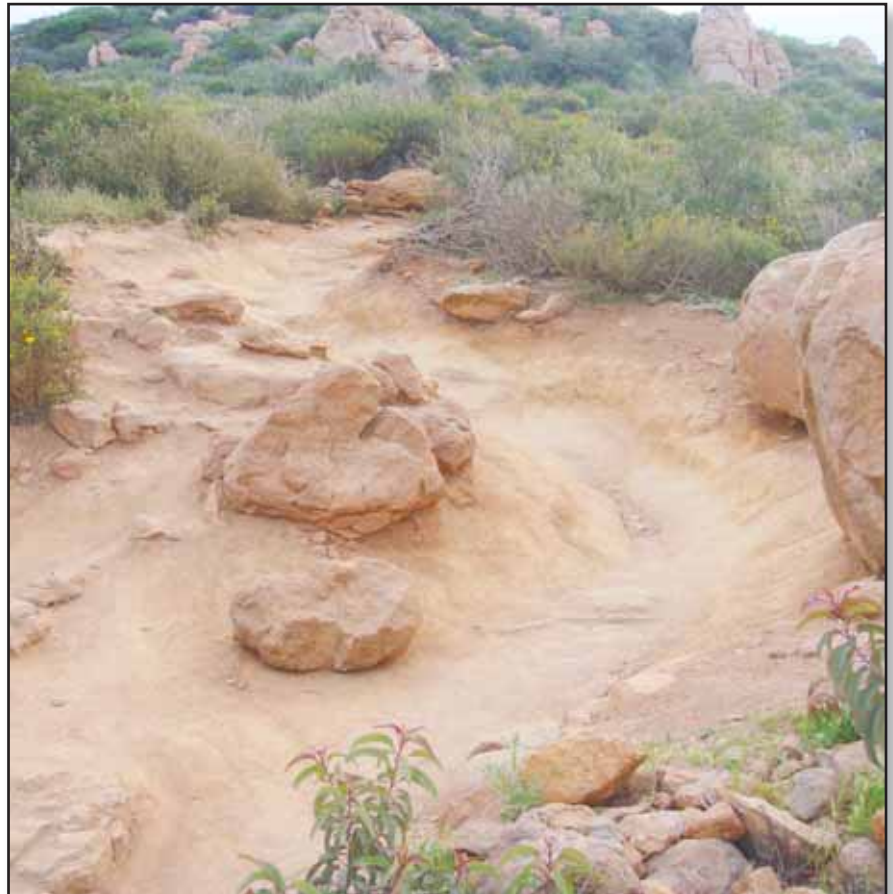
The MTRP NRMP identifies five priority species and five priority management guilds related to contribution of these biological resources to the larger MSCP program. The five priority species include: San Diego thornmint (*Acanthomintha ilicifolia*); San Diego ambrosia (*Ambrosia pumila*); Variegated dudleya (*Dudleya variegata*); Willowy monardella (*Monardella viminea*); and Coastal Cactus Wren. The five priority management guilds include: Cliffs and Rocky Outcrops; East Elliott Clay Ridgelines; Tierrasanta Clay Ridge; Riparian Woodlands; and Coastal Sage Scrub – *Artemisa/Eriogonum*. Known occurrences and management boundaries are shown in Figure 4-2.



*Existing utility access road with greater than 70% slope*

### **4.1.4. RECREATIONAL TRAILS PLANNING**

Trails envisioned in the 1985 Master Plan were originally planned to interconnect and circle various use areas distributed throughout the areas of the Park. However, inclusion of the vast majority of the MTRP land holdings as Core Biological Areas within the MSCP in 1996 resulted in a shift away from the developed use areas and facilities originally planned, to a reduced development footprint and trail system which was assessed as being compatible with the resource management goals of the MSCP. During discussions with Park Rangers and trail volunteers it was indicated that since the adoption of the MSCP some localized trail reroutes to improve sustainability and user safety have



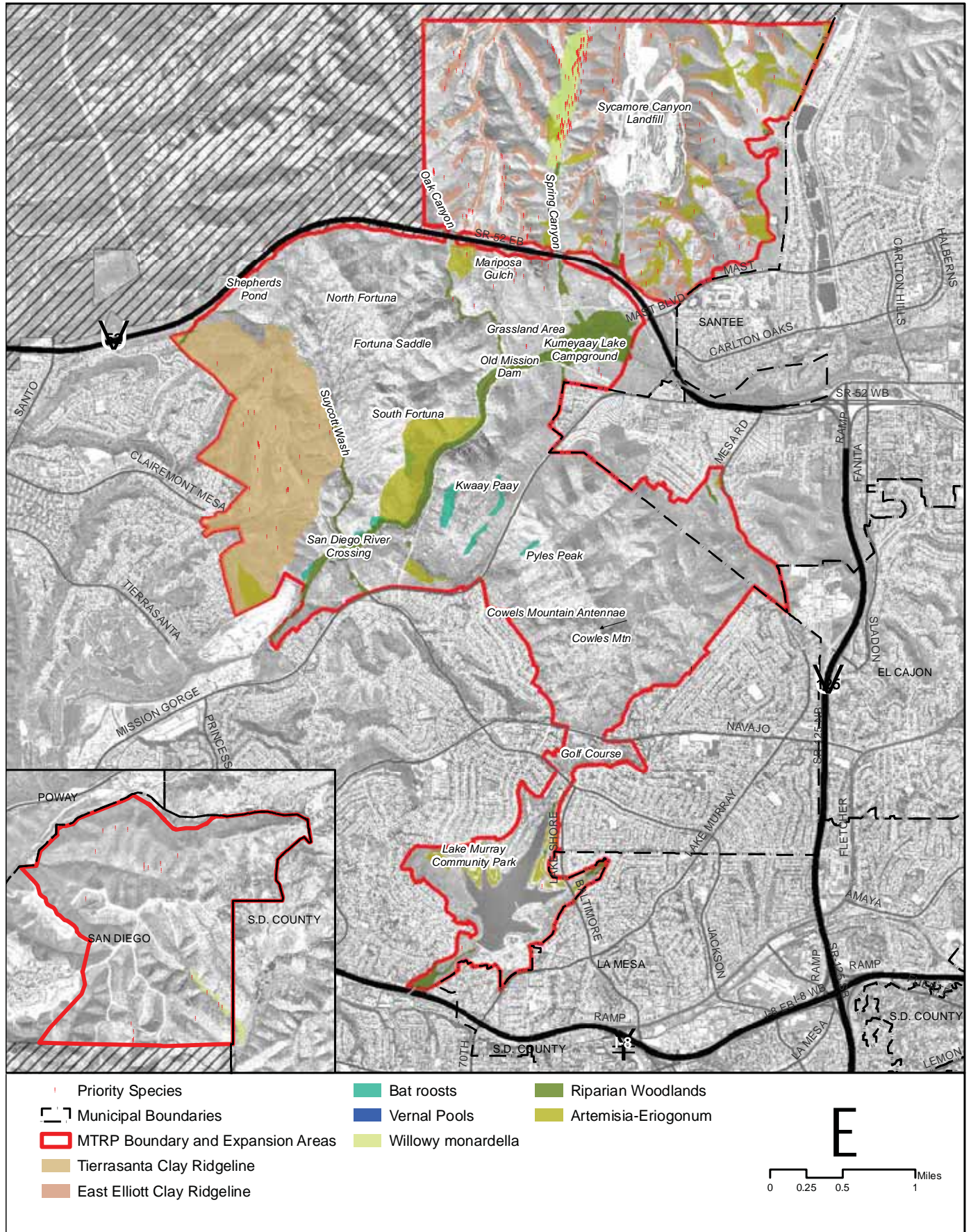
*Sample of a steep eroded section trail that has lost >18 inches of soil*





# MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK

Figure 4-2: NRMP Priority species and management guilds

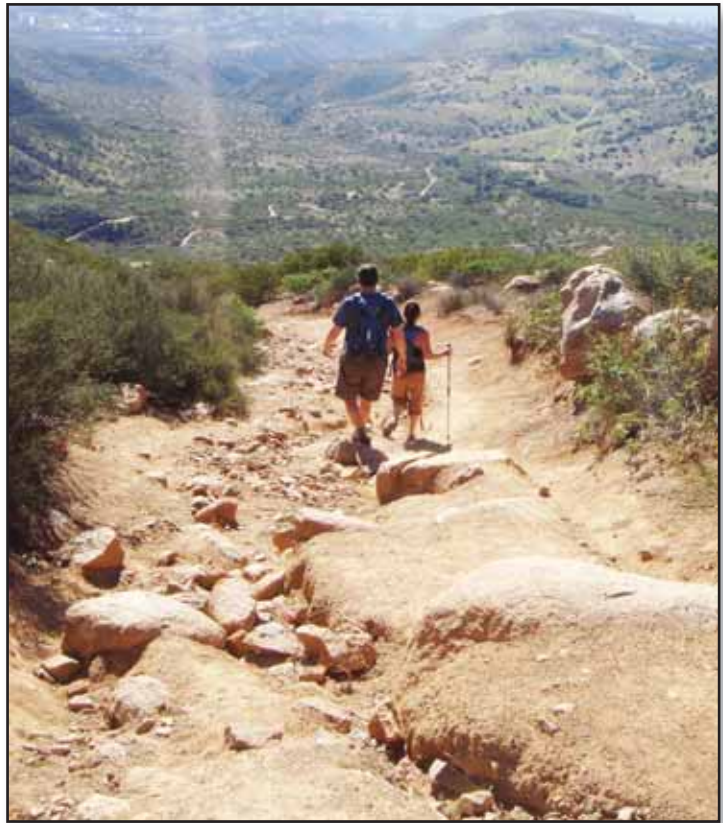




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occurred, but larger reroute efforts and new trail implementation have been hampered by the lack of a comprehensive trails plan and associated environmental analysis. The perceived need and desire for this was expressed during the public workshops held as part of this MPU. This perceived need is being balanced against research by Professor Michael McKinney at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville that shows nationally, that on average a park of 10,000 acres provides approximately 46 miles of trails (excluding utility roads and other non-trail features) and MTRP currently provides approximately 49 miles of existing non-road related trails.

A recreational trails assessment and planning process was utilized as part of this MPU. The goal of the trails assessment was to identify opportunities for incremental trail system improvements and not a full system redesign. This assessment utilized a combination of computer terrain analysis and field observations to determine the steepness of the trails and roads, areas of severe erosion and a trail's potential to capture and convey damaging storm water runoff due to fall-line<sup>1</sup> conditions. The slope analysis identified about nine percent of all the trails and roads within the Park as having slopes greater than 20 percent and nearly 25 percent with slopes greater than ten percent (Figure 4-3). The fall-line analysis, the potential to capture and convey storm water due to fall-line conditions (Figure 4-4), identified nearly 50 percent of the roads and trails as having fall-line conditions. The utility access roads that traverse much of the Park frequently exceed this limit, as their purpose is to provide vehicular access for construction and maintenance of linear infrastructure and not to provide a safe or sustainable recreational trail experience. The results of this assessment were used to identify sections of trail/road that should be further analyzed for localized improvements or rerouting to provide a more sustainable system, improve user experience and safety, and reduce long-term environmental impacts associated with erosion, sedimentation, and vegetation trampling.



*North Fortuna trail showing signs of severe erosion caused by fall-line conditions and embeddedness*

The slope analysis identified about nine percent of all the trails and roads within the Park as having slopes greater than 20 percent and nearly 25 percent with slopes greater than ten percent (Figure 4-3). The fall-line analysis, the potential to capture and convey storm water due to fall-line conditions (Figure 4-4), identified nearly 50 percent of the roads and trails as having fall-line conditions. The utility access roads that traverse much of the Park frequently exceed this limit, as their purpose is to provide vehicular access for construction and maintenance of linear infrastructure and not to provide a safe or sustainable recreational trail experience. The results of this assessment were used to identify sections of trail/road that should be further analyzed for localized improvements or rerouting to provide a more sustainable system, improve user experience and safety, and reduce long-term environmental impacts associated with erosion, sedimentation, and vegetation trampling.

*<sup>1</sup>Fall-line: The direction water flows down a slope (path of least resistance) under most circumstances. Constructing a trail on the fall-line encourages water to run down the trail and leads to erosion. If a trail's grade is steeper than one-half the grade of the sideslope, it is considered a fall-line trail. (International Mountain Bike Association)*



## MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK

To identify areas that are most constrained, results of this assessment, in combination with a constraints analysis that factored in habitat and species sensitivity, existing designated resource protection areas, cultural and historical resources, steepness of slope, and soil characteristics was utilized (Figure 4-5). Combining the trails assessment and constraints analysis resulted in the identification of proposed trail corridors that could provide improved trail connectivity, additional recreational access, improved sustainability and safety of the overall trail system, and reduced conflicts between existing trail use and resource protection. Trail corridors identified during the public input process that were found to have the ability to be in compliance with MSCP guidelines and the City's Trail Policies and Standards (see Appendix K of the Consultant's Guide to Park Design and Development) are included in this MPU and are being assessed at a programmatic level within the associated EIR. Before trail recommendations can be fully implemented, more detailed site analysis and route planning will be required to ensure final trail alignments are compatible with resource management requirements and as consistent as possible with City trail standards.

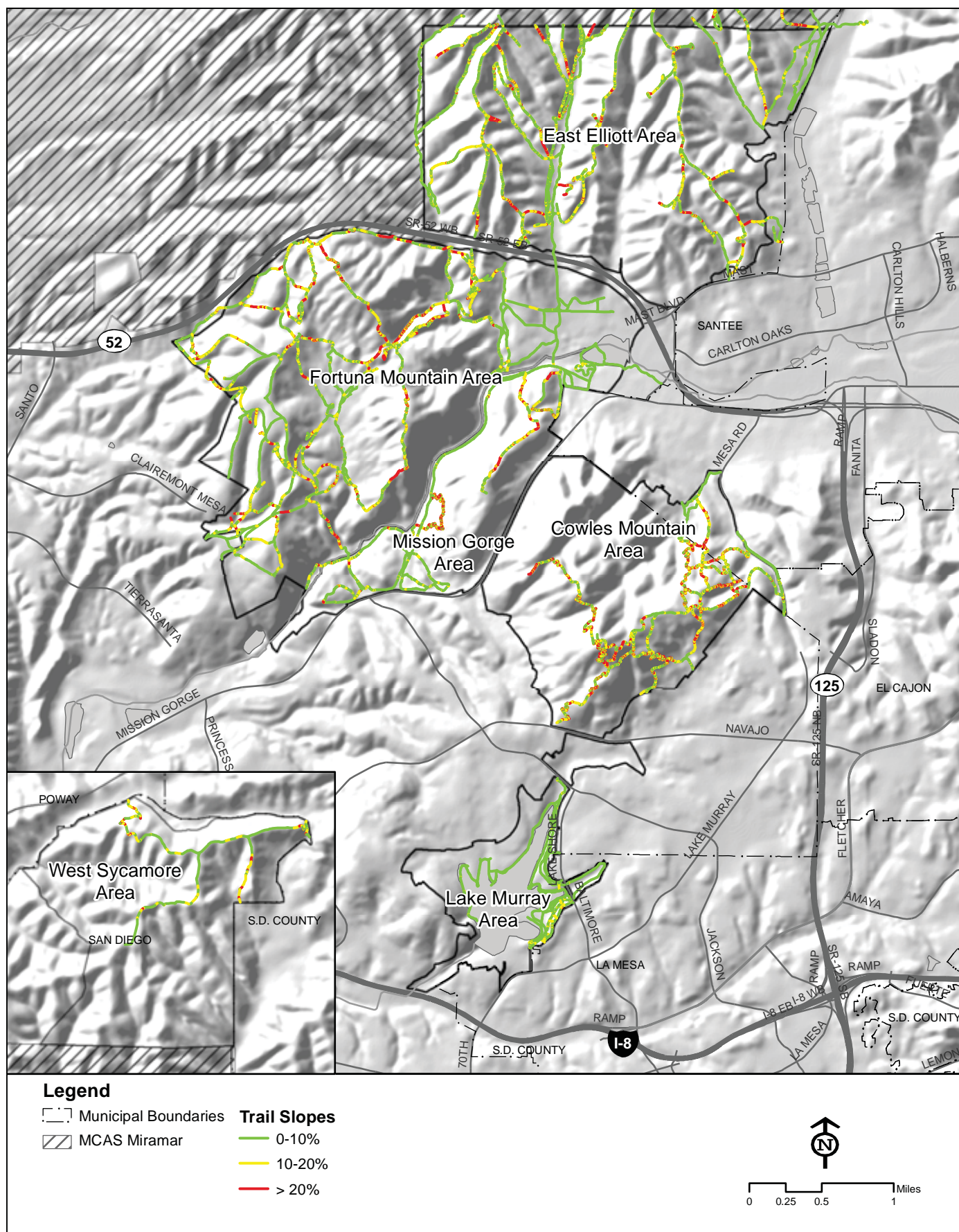
***Before trail recommendations can be fully implemented, more detailed site analysis and route planning will be required to ensure final trail alignments are compatible with resource management requirements and as consistent as possible with City trail standards.***

For some of the more highly used trails, such as the main Cowles Mountain trail, use surveys and capacity analyses are also recommended to better inform management decisions related to trail maintenance and planning.



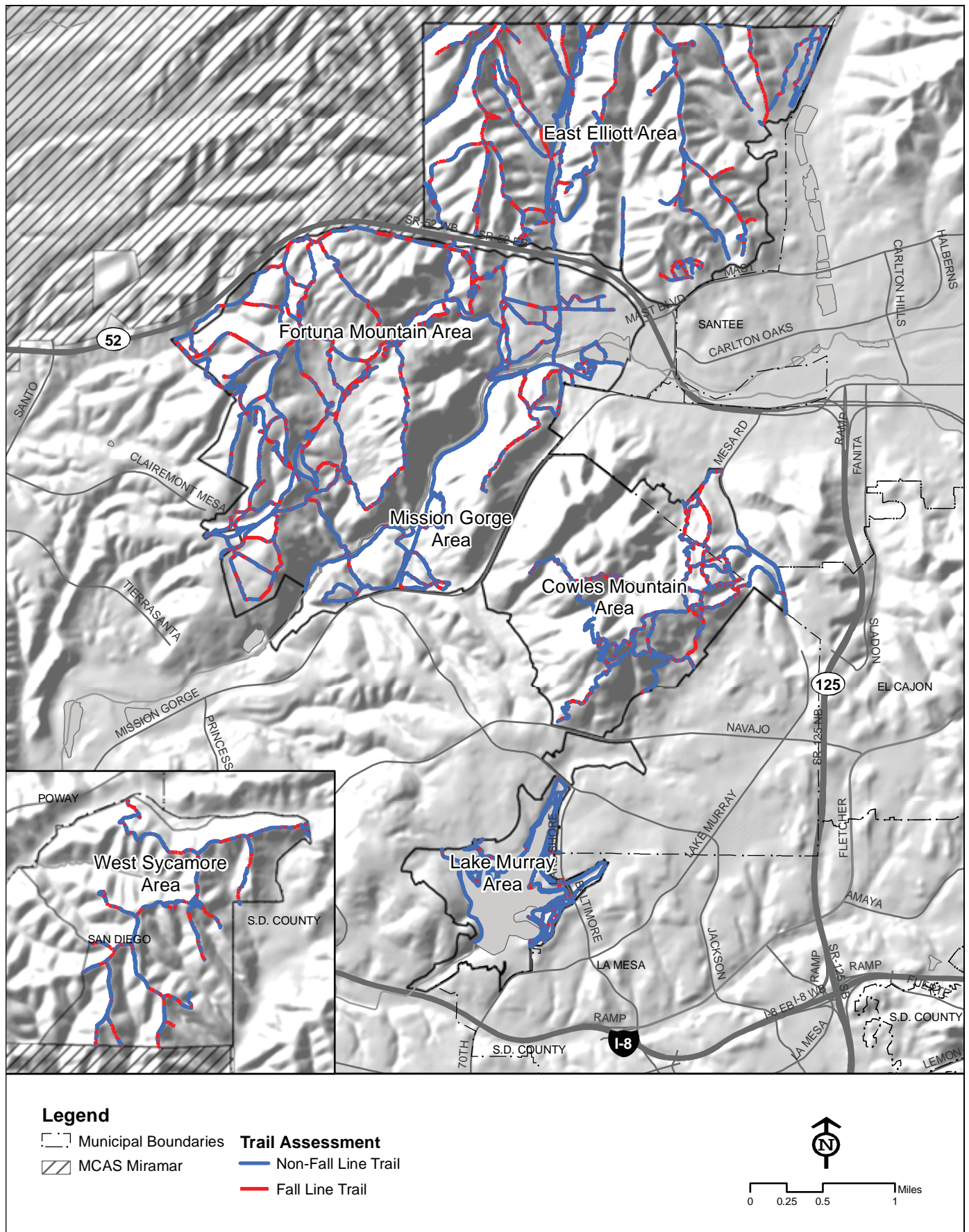


*Figure 4-3: Slope analysis of existing roads/trails*





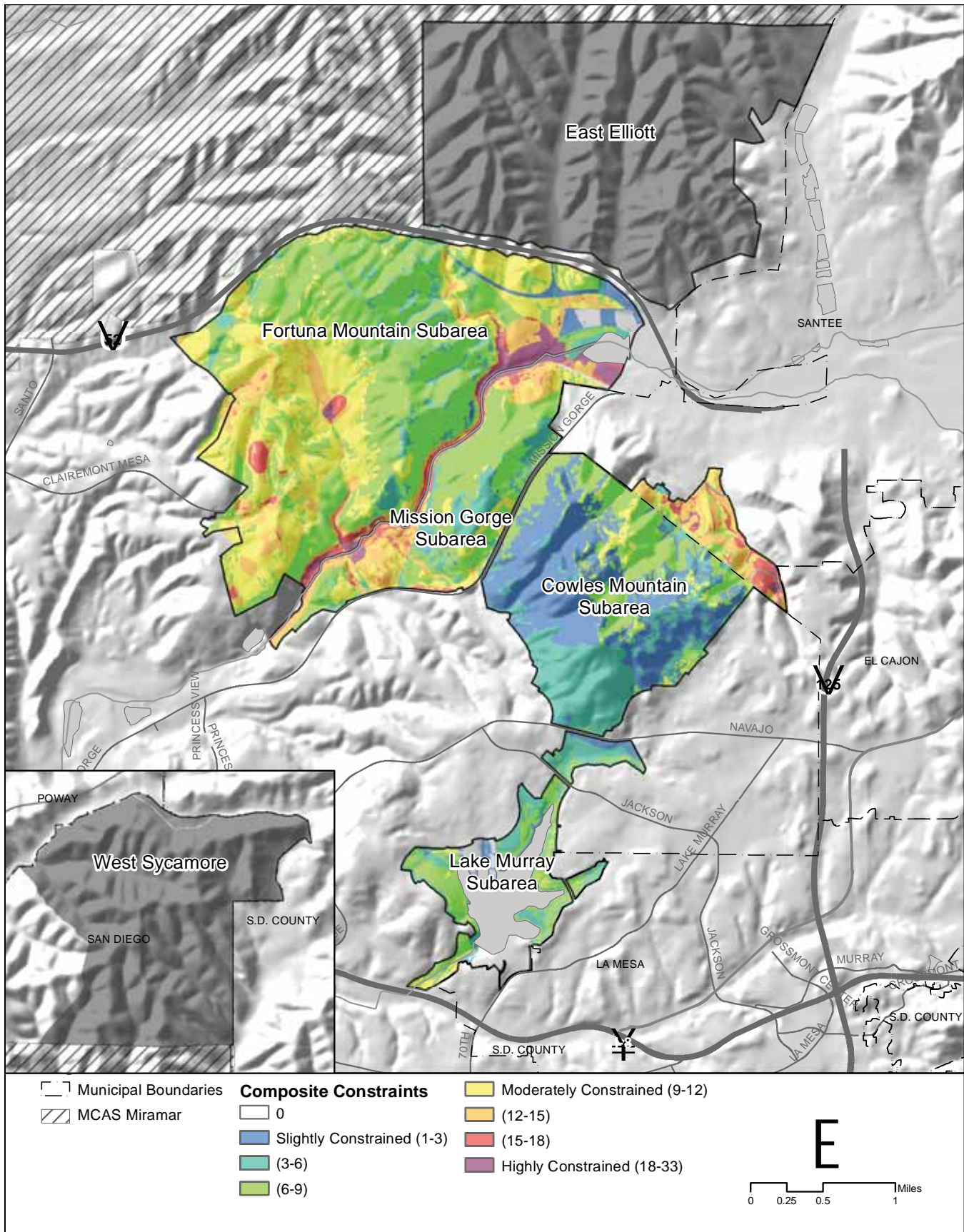
*Figure 4-4: Fall-line analysis of existing roads/trails*





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Figure 4-5: Composite Constraints Analysis



## 5. RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the planning analysis used for this MPU, a range of recommendations for MTRP have been developed and are presented herein. The recommendations range from broad overarching policy and management related topics that affect the entire park to specific physical improvements within a given area. The broad park-wide recommendations are presented first, followed by each area. Within each of the following sections, the recommendations are presented in the following order: General, Planning, Management, Funding, Facilities, Habitat/Species, and Recreation. For areas within the park covered by an approved easement, or under the purview of the County of San Diego, the City shall have oversight of all actions associated with this MPU. All recommendations that are moved forward for physical implementation shall comply with all Habitat/Species management recommendations and the contents of the NRMP to ensure consistency with MSCP requirements.

Most of the major facilities within the park have been previously planned and constructed. As such, the focus of the majority of the recommendations within this MPU are focused on improving: 1) overall land/resource management; 2) the safety and sustainability of recreational trails; 3) improved recreational access; and 4) de-conflicting recreational uses with habitat and species protection goals. All existing uses are recommended for continued maintenance in their current locations unless otherwise noted.

Recommendations associated with overall land/resource management focus on providing a structure for ongoing management actions required to maintain the park and protect its resources. Recommendations associated with safety and sustainability of recreational trails focus on providing a framework for identifying unsafe or unsustainable sections of recreational trail and providing guidance for the types of management action required. Recommendations associated with improved recreational access focus on identifying missing or constrained linkages within the park and providing new or alternative routes to improve the recreational connectivity within the park while protecting the park's natural and cultural resources. Recommendations associated with de-conflicting recreational uses with habitat and species protection goals focus on integrating the management actions identified in the NRMP with the recreational trails network throughout the park.

Additionally, recommendations pertaining to trails are in one of three categories: closures, reroutes, and new construction. Trail closures are primarily where the existing system is redundant or has been created through unauthorized construction activities. Some closures aren't recommended until a new safer and more sustainable trail is constructed. Potential trail reroutes are identified where the existing trail is very steep, showing signs of erosion, or too close to sensitive species or habitats. For each reroute, localized improvements within the existing trail are to be assessed first to see if corrective measures can be implemented. If localized measures prove inadequate or infeasible, then the trail is recommended for a more substantial reroute. This MPU and programmatic EIR have analyzed the more substantial reroute corridors for potential environmental impacts to provide as much flexibility during the implementation of each recommendation as possible. The last category is new trails that improve access to the park, provide alternative access to sections of the park, or create interconnected loops.

The general approach to habitat impacts is to minimize and avoid to the maximum extent practicable, but to also utilize on-site 'mitigation banking' through restoration efforts associated with recommended trail closures and other areas of disturbed habitats. If adequate restoration efforts have not occurred prior to new impacts, off-site mitigation will need to be incorporated into the project scope.





*The majority of the recommendations will require additional detailed environmental analysis before they can be fully implemented.*

The majority of the recommendations will require additional detailed environmental analysis before they can be fully implemented. As part of this more detailed review, some of the recommendations could be determined infeasible as new detailed information is generated.

Lastly, as more environmental surveys are conducted and management actions implemented, conflicts between resource management objectives and recreational use may arise. When these conflicts are identified, temporary, seasonal, or permanent closures of the recreational use may be required. If permanent closure is required, then an alternate location or route for the recreational use should be identified and implemented.

### **5.1. OVERALL PARK**

The following broad recommendations are related to efforts that need to be implemented park-wide to be effective.

#### **5.1.1. GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. Aspire to serve the comprehensive recreation, education, and cultural needs of the San Diego region.
2. Manage the park to be in compliance with the City of San Diego MSCP Subarea Plan.
3. Implement the habitat and species specific management recommendations contained in the MTRP NRMP.
4. Endeavor to make the park universally accessible to the extent practicable.
5. Strive to support projects that promote sustainable practices within and around MTRP.
6. Carefully manage potential concessionaires within the park and ensure they include a well-conceived marketing program.

#### **5.1.2. PLANNING RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. Update the MTRP Master Plan every fifteen to twenty years to keep it current with new planning requirements, environmental knowledge, completed projects, and recreational needs.
2. Implement and update the MTRP NRMP as required to ensure continued compliance with the City of San Diego MSCP Subarea Plan.
3. Design neighborhood or community parks on the perimeter of MTRP to be compatible in design with the park and function as additional community entries and trailheads to the park.
4. Incorporate trail linkages and public recreation into new developments adjacent to the park.
5. Continue to enforce the City of San Diego Mission Trails Design District Ordinance and Design Manual except within the West Sycamore expansion area because the land is 100% conserved and does not have development potential.



## MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK

6. Remove the extension of Clairemont Mesa Boulevard and the addition of Jackson Drive within the park boundaries as part of the next Tierrasanta Community Plan update.
7. Maintain the wilderness character and visual integrity of the park's higher elevations in a natural state, especially the ridgeline land mass between Cowles and Fortuna Mountains.
8. Continue to prohibit all off-road vehicle use within the park.
9. Cluster intensive recreational uses, such as staging and group picnic areas, to minimize park roads and infrastructure costs.
10. Support the dedication of designated open space within and around MTRP. All potential dedications shall be reviewed by City PUD, SDCWA, and SDG&E to determine if there are facilities that need to be excluded. As part of the Open Space Dedication process, underlying zoning should be updated as appropriate.
11. Continue to support water reclamation for stream replenishment. Every effort should be made to ensure that the San Diego River flows as a "live stream" throughout the year for long-term recreational and ecological values.
12. Continue to subject sand and gravel, and/or other mineral extraction sites adjacent to the park to Conditional Use Permit (CUP) procedures, and include Reclamation Plans as required by the State's Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975. Such plans should include both operations and rehabilitation programs that are compatible with park objectives.
13. Accommodate trail linkages and public recreation in rehabilitation plans for mineral extraction areas along the San Diego River and adjacent to the park. This may include flood plain controls along the San Diego River to ensure major trail connections into and out of the park.
14. Require a Right of Entry permit for commercial users and limit their number and frequency as appropriate to protect the resources of the park.
15. Enforce the MTRP tree planting guidelines approved by the CAC and Task Force (Appendix B).
16. Develop an overall tree planting plan to be used in conjunction with the tree planting guidelines to guide annual Arbor Day plantings, as well as other donations or volunteer efforts.
17. Coordinate with the Cities of San Diego and Santee and SANDAG to determine the feasibility of providing a bus stop at one or more locations near the Park.
18. Support the implementation of the City of San Diego's San Diego River Park Master Plan within the boundaries of MTRP.



*Volunteer Boy Scout Troop planting tree during 2012 Arbor Day*





## 2019 MASTER PLAN UPDATE

### 5.1.3. MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Continue the roles of the MTRP Task Force and CAC in the planning and implementation process.
2. Develop maintenance guidelines to adapt the existing network of roads within the park to minimize the disruption of the natural hydrology and maintain a walking and riding surface that is conducive to recreational use. These guidelines should identify maintained widths, surface materials, and grading practices for all utility and access roads within the park, and should be reviewed and approved by the City's Park and Recreation Department, the City PUD, SDCWA, and SDG&E.
3. Minimize the development impact of any infrastructure facility and seek an environmental and/or financial contribution from the project for the park. The MTRP CAC and Task Force have an approved "Good Neighbor Policy" (Appendix C) with SDCWA for development and maintenance of their facilities within the park. Similar policies should be encouraged with other entities as projects are proposed within the park.
4. Protect and manage identified cultural resources through proper planning for avoidance of significant impacts, maintain site identification markings as appropriate, enforce historic preservation regulations for all park users, and develop and maintain an archaeological site monitoring program.
5. Develop a plan in cooperation with interested local historical and archaeological groups, local Native American tribes, and educational institutions to promote public participation in historic preservation and enjoyment of cultural resources within MTRP .
6. Hold periodic informal meetings between park rangers and members from each of the major recreational groups (e.g. hikers, cyclist, equestrian, rock climbing) to discuss trail planning, design, implementation, and maintenance needs/concerns throughout the park. After review by City staff, the City Park Ranger would present issues/projects to the CAC and Task Force for recommendation of approval to the Director of the Parks and Recreation Department.
7. Hold periodic coordination meetings with MCAS Miramar Provost Marshal on trespass issues between the park and the installation.
8. Develop an emergency response plan for the park in collaboration with San Diego Fire-Rescue and San Diego Police Departments.



*Utility road maintenance grading has created berms along the edges preventing proper drainage*



*Utility road surfaced with 2-6 inch rock that is difficult to walk or ride on and unsafe to run on*



## MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK

9. Develop a Fire Response Plan that identifies access points, preferred routes, and prioritizes the use of existing roads as fire breaks over new grading. The Plan will identify resource protection areas, fire suppression priorities based on resource sensitivity, and post-fire BMPs to minimize erosion and sedimentation, and invasive weed control.
10. Develop paleontological monitoring and discovery treatment plans for any project that will include disturbance of native bedrock formations.
11. Develop archaeological data recovery programs for any projects that may impact cultural resource sites. Priority will be given to avoidance and minimization of impacts prior to implementing a data recovery program.
12. Develop a public awareness campaign for recreational users covering park rules, regulations, and boundaries.
13. Develop and implement a public information and education program focused on the requirements of the MSCP relative to the management and use of different areas of the park.
14. Conduct regular patrols of the park and enforce park rules, regulations and boundaries.
15. Coordinate with local tribal members and Park Ranger staff to allow access to traditional tribal use areas within the park.
16. Consider future efforts to conduct park-wide cultural resources surveys including, but not limited to identification of potential tribal cultural landscapes within the park.



*Old Mission Dam - one of many cultural resources within the park requiring ongoing monitoring and management.*

### **5.1.4. FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. Continue to use existing funding sources, such as the MTRP Antennae fund and the City's Environmental Growth Fund and Regional Park Fund, to implement high-priority projects.
2. Continue to vigorously pursue State and Federal funding for urban regional parks and trails.
3. Pursue grant funding from the San Diego River Conservancy for the design and construction of the San Diego River Trail.
4. Pursue other grant sources and non-profit partnerships whenever viable to help implement projects.
5. Implement an accounting system to track material costs and staff/volunteer labor hours used annually within the various areas of the park to maintain the existing improvements. Use this information to help prioritize the individual recommendations contained in the MPU.
6. Augment park staff and maintenance funding commiserate with the implementation of new facilities, recreational amenities, or trails.





## 5.1.5. FACILITY RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Incorporate consistent architectural design vocabulary on any new structure with other buildings in the park and use common rooflines, basic shapes, and structural connections as unifying elements, allowing differences in materials, textures, and colors to reflect the unique character of each use and location.
2. Include overhangs and shade elements on any new structures to shelter people from the sun.
3. Install and maintain simple, consistently designed park furniture – picnic tables, benches, trash receptacles, directional signs.
4. Support the designation of major roads within and adjoining the park as scenic corridors or parkways.
5. Maintain a strong identity, location and image of the park and its boundaries through effective identification graphics and other means. All signage should be consistent with the MTRP - Park Signage Program, see Appendix D.
6. Maintain and repair existing signage on an as needed basis.
7. Install, maintain, and repair directional signage on an as needed basis.
8. Construct and maintain signage with maps showing accessibility information, use areas, trails, access points and mileage near each of the major entry points into the area.
9. For new and/or significantly rerouted trails designate official trail names and publish updated trail maps on an as needed basis.
10. Develop and incorporate additional interpretive signage along the major trails near interpretable features, rest stops, or overlooks.



*New comfort station at the East Fortuna Staging area*



*Existing painted wood Park sign*



*Sample of existing interpretive sign*



## MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK

11. Assess the need for additional seating along sections of trails to provide rest stops.
12. Plant only native plants within the park.
13. Continue to prohibit fires in the park to reduce fire danger, except within developed fire rings at the Kumeyaay Lake Campground, the East Fortuna Staging Area, and Lake Murray.
14. Maintain and repair park and utility roads and crossings of streams on an as needed basis.
15. Construct vehicular on-grade dip crossings of creeks and drainages with local rock to create a stable crossing where practicable. Concrete dip crossings or bridge structures may be required due to local site conditions.
16. Conduct brush management in the brush management zone around all habitable structures within the park in accordance with City of San Diego brush management regulations.
17. Provide accessibility signage at each major park entry/trailhead in consultation with the Open Space Division.



*Native coastal sage scrub adjacent to the Visitor and Interpretive Center requiring periodic brush management activities*





## 2019 MASTER PLAN UPDATE

### 5.1.6. HABITAT/SPECIES RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Construct fencing as required, maintaining access control to the park.
2. Protect populations of identified sensitive plants including: San Diego thornmint, San Diego ambrosia, Variegated dudleya, Del Mar manzanita, Orcutt's brodiaea, Coast barrel cactus, summer holly, and decumbent goldenbush. Reroute existing and proposed trails to avoid impacts.
3. Construct wildlife compatible fencing where necessary to protect sensitive species, habitats, and cultural/historic resources.
4. Maintain and enhance where possible all regional and local wildlife corridors in and around the park areas.
5. Coordinate the repair and maintenance of fencing with Caltrans along SR-52 to direct wildlife towards one of the four existing wildlife crossings.
6. Close unauthorized user created trails where appropriate to reduce habitat fragmentation and encroachment.
7. Implement the adopted MTRP San Diego Ambrosia Management Plan.
8. Eradicate non-native invasive species from the park whenever feasible. Control species that cannot be eradicated on a regular basis to prevent significant spreading. Restore native species and habitats, including vernal pool species throughout the park utilizing local seed/nursery stock when available.
9. Coordinate with the San Diego Mitigation Monitoring Program (SDMMP) and other regional stakeholders (including universities) on ways to aid restoration and recovery efforts for habitats and species throughout the park. This would include the collection and storage of native seed from within the park for future habitat mitigation, restoration or recovery efforts within the park in accordance with the Center for Plant Conservation Guidelines.
10. Conduct ecological monitoring, adaptive management, and selectively enhance the riparian, chaparral, oak woodland and other wildlife habitats within the park in accordance with MSCP requirements.
11. Continue to conduct sensitive species monitoring within Management Guild boundaries in accordance with approved MSCP protocols.
12. Conduct annual raptor and cliff-dwelling bird surveys in early spring to ascertain which species are utilizing cliff sites and known stick nests. Localized seasonal trail closures may be required in accordance with federal MBTA law and CA Code 3503.



*Existing exclusionary fencing and signage for San Diego ambrosia*



*Red-tailed hawk leaving nest on rock cliff (Gerald Botroff)*



## MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK

13. Conduct annual focused exit count bat roost surveys during spring/summer, using visual and acoustic techniques simultaneously as deemed necessary by City biologists.
14. Conduct surveys for Giant Reed bi-annually (or six months after major flood events) to identify, map, and remove small infestations.
15. Coordinate with regional efforts (USGS Western Ecological Research Center) to refine and develop cowbird trapping optimization studies.
16. Plan and implement a cowbird trapping program along the San Diego River as deemed necessary by City biologists.
17. Re-survey all known populations of variegated dudleya to provide information for the development of additional management actions for the species.
18. Conduct Coastal Sage Scrub-Artemisia/Eriogonum adaptive management surveys within the Management Guild boundaries every three years.
19. Inventory and minimize impacts to all areas with biological crusts throughout the park and foster conservation and restoration research efforts with the local universities. Minimize impacts to areas with biological crusts during new trail construction or reroutes of existing trails.
20. Construct or repair and maintain wildlife compatible exclusionary fencing and signage around populations of San Diego thornmint, San Diego ambrosia, and Willow monardella as necessary.
21. Conduct baseline surveys for priority plant species identified in the NRMP as part of the planning and design of any new or rerouted trails.
22. Implement management recommendations contained in the City of San Diego Vernal Pool Habitat Conservation Plan and Mitigation and Monitoring Program.
23. Provide a buffer of at least 25 feet from existing populations of San Diego ambrosia from all new or rerouted trails.



*Trapped cowbirds*



*Biological crust within East Elliott*



*Top: San Diego thornmint, San Diego ambrosia  
Bottom: Variegated dudleya, Willow monardella*





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24. Provide a buffer of at least 50 feet from existing populations of Variegated dudleya from all new or rerouted trails.
25. Provide a buffer of at least 100 feet from existing populations of Willowy monardella from all new or rerouted trails.
26. Remove exotic weeds from existing populations of San Diego thornmint and San Diego ambrosia.
27. Remove exotic weeds from areas that historically contained San Diego thornmint.
28. Remove exotic weeds and dethatch vernal pools as necessary.
29. Dethatch a five-foot radius around each known individual of Willowy monardella where feasible.
30. Coordinate with SDG&E to control erosional flows emanating from utility access roads within the watersheds of existing populations of Willowy monardella.
31. Perform an initial hydrological evaluation to identify erosive hydrological inputs into the watersheds of existing populations of Willowy monardella. The evaluation should include recommendations for appropriate erosion control.
32. Conduct pre-construction entrenchment surveys for trail projects within the contributing watersheds of existing populations of Willowy monardella.
33. Monitor Willowy monardella individuals and channel stability for a period of five-years after constructing trails within contributing watersheds to detect change as a result of trail construction and inform adaptive management.
34. Adaptively manage trails constructed within the contributing watersheds of Willowy monardella to limit anthropogenic affects to the hydrology of the watershed, which could include ultimate closure of the trail.
35. Install erosion control measures at identified anthropogenic hydrologic input areas within the contributing watersheds of the willowy monardella populations.
36. Treat and remove exotic species from the Coastal Cactus Wren Management Area (CWMA).
37. Thin woody and herbaceous vegetation as required to maintain suitable Coastal Cactus Wren habitat within the CWMA.
38. Enhance and expand cacti distribution within the CWMA.



*Constructed vernal pools along Tierrasanta ridgeline that will require future maintenance and management activities*



*Coastal Cactus Wren Management Area within West Sycamore*



## MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK

39. Create and implement a San Diego fairy shrimp egg/cyst collection program and inoculation plan if necessary per the Vernal Pool HCP monitoring results.
40. Expand populations of focal species, including San Diego button celery, within historical distributions within the park.
41. Install exclusionary signage with specific reference to rock climbing restrictions and enforcement at access points to, and at all cliff bases.
42. Expand patrols to include randomly scheduled binocular sweeps where rock climbing is prohibited to target unauthorized recreational access. Violations should be tracked to inform adaptive management actions.



*San Diego button celery is typically found associated with vernal pools*



*San Diego River Crossing / Visitor Center Loop Quarry and trail*

### **5.1.7. RECREATION RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. Comply with the City's current Trail Policies and Standards per the current City of San Diego Consultants Guide to Park Design and Development for all new and rerouted trails. Utilize other state and national sustainable trail guidelines as supplements to the City's Standards.
2. Construct the majority of trails within the park as "primitive" trails as defined within the City's Trail Policies and Standards. Only those trails designated as multi-use or those with significant use levels should be "improved" to a wider width.
3. Collaborate with recognized user groups in the planning, design and implementation of new trails, trail reroutes, and trail closures throughout the park.
4. Periodically evaluate all existing trails for localized maintenance needs including, but not limited to: removing berms, installing or repairing grade dips or grade reversals, and gully repair.
5. Keep trails and crossings within the riparian corridors and drainages to a minimum.
6. Locate trails in the least sensitive areas and provide buffers as needed.
7. Place new trails and reroute existing trails outside of riparian buffer zones wherever practicable.
8. Construct and maintain trail crossings of creeks and drainages with puncheons and bridges whenever possible. On-grade dip crossings, when necessary, should be made with local rock to create a stable crossing.



*Puncheon crossing Suycott Wash*





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9. Develop and implement a comprehensive Trail Use Survey program throughout the park to help improve management decisions related to trail usage, maintenance, and potential environmental impacts as funding allows.
10. Conduct a Trail Capacity Analysis based on the results of a Trail Use Survey, to determine use thresholds for various portions of the park and then establish ways to maintain usage below the thresholds (e.g. fund-raising runs and the main Cowles Mountain hiking trail) as funding allows.
11. Create and implement a policy to control the number and size of fund-raising run's held within the park on a monthly or yearly basis to minimize environmental and public use impacts.
12. Support efforts to extend the San Diego River Pathway with identification markers through the park.
13. Support efforts to extend the Trans-County Trail through the park.
14. Support efforts to create a publicly accessible trail corridor (Stowe Trail) between Santee and Goodan Ranch Sycamore Canyon Preserve.



*MTRP is a popular venue for a variety of fund raising 5k & 15k runs*



## MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK

### 5.2. LAKE MURRAY

The goal for the Lake Murray area is to: protect the water quality of the reservoir; provide water-related recreation on and around the lake; provide focused recreational activities at the Lake Murray Community Park, Lake Murray Tennis Courts, and Mission Trails Golf Course; and provide a variety of sustainable trails that can accommodate the high number of recreational users while preserving natural and cultural resources. The riparian corridor below the dam and sensitive species associated with the Artemisa-Eriogonum coastal sage scrub association are priorities within the NRMP. Proposed improvements focus on closing redundant and unauthorized trails, improving trail sustainability and user access.



*Lake Murray from Del Cerro (Mike Long)*

The primary objectives are to improve the quality of water-related facilities; to protect the lake environment – especially the shoreline – from overuse and congestion; to maintain existing water-oriented recreational activities; and to provide for active recreational uses at the community park. No camping or other overnight activities are currently allowed or envisioned.

Figure 5-1 shows the location and general extent of the proposed projects that have a specific location. Impacts to habitats and sensitive species will be minimized and appropriate mitigation measures implemented to comply with MSCP and CEQA requirements will be provided as part of the implementation process of each recommendation.

#### 5.2.1. PLANNING RECOMMENDATIONS:

- LM-P1: Integrate best management practices for urban runoff, fertilizers and pesticides into the operations and management of the golf course when the golf course lease is renegotiated.
- LM-P2: Integrate management practices for invasive non-native plant control into the operations and management of the golf course with annual City Open Space staff inspections when the golf course lease is re-negotiated.
- LM-P3: Should the City ever determine the golf course is no longer viable, an alternative concept would be to use the City owned existing turf and trees between Jackson Drive and Navajo Road for active and passive recreation, family and group picnicking with meandering trails, and a linear open play area connecting Lake Murray with Cowles Mountain. It should be noted that the City of San Diego PUD would need to be compensated for the conversion of the property to public parkland and would retain facility easements for the various utilities within the area.





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LM-P4: Should the City ever determine the golf course is no longer viable, an alternative concept would be to use the City owned land area southwest of Jackson Drive and immediately north of the Lake for a tree-canopied area for picnicking, small group day use, and open play in a protected lake environment. It should be noted that the City of San Diego PUD would need to be compensated for the conversion of the property to public parkland and would retain facility easements for the various utilities within the area.

### 5.2.2. MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS:

LM-M1: Continue maintaining the paved maintenance road along the edge of the lake for recreational use by pedestrians, cyclists, and skaters. This may require regular pavement patching and infrequent re-surfacing activities when the conditions of the road degrade to a point that compromises user safety.

LM-M2: Conduct a study to determine the feasibility of re-stripping the maintenance road along the edge of Lake Murray to improve the movement and safety of the multiple user groups utilizing the road.

LM-M3: Continue to maintain and support grounds improvements at Alvarado Point, including the picnic areas, concessions facilities, pathways and parking lots to ensure they are safe, accessible and environmentally compatible.

LM-M4: Continue to maintain and support grounds improvements at the ten tennis courts in partnership with the Lake Murray Tennis Club or another non-profit for the fee-based usage of the courts to ensure they are safe, accessible and environmentally compatible.



*Lake Murray Tennis Club & Community Park Ball Fields (LM-M4 & M5)*

LM-M5: Continue to maintain and support grounds improvements at the community park, including the dedicated sports fields, mixed-use turf areas, concessions stand, comfort station, playground, and parking lots to ensure they are safe, accessible and environmentally compatible.



*Urban runoff diversion channel (LM-M6)*

LM-M6: Continue to maintain the urban runoff diversion channel around the lake and look for opportunities to improve the water quality within the channel before it is discharged downstream of the dam.

LM-M7: Continue to maintain the utility access roads and look for opportunities to lessen their gradients and correct fall-line conditions, both of which contribute to erosion and sedimentation down-slope. Install signage and fencing as required to prevent unauthorized trail use.



## MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK

LM-M8: Monitor the perimeter of the Lake Murray area for private property encroachments and coordinate enforcement actions to remove the encroachment.



*Undeveloped areas within Lake Murray Community Park (LM-F1 and LM-F2)*

### 5.2.3. FACILITY RECOMMENDATIONS:

LM-F1: Develop a group picnic area with several small or one large shade structure and picnic tables in the undeveloped area south of the ball fields between Del Cerro Bay and Cowles Bay with primary access from the community park per the approved General Development Plan.

LM-F2: Plant the disturbed area south of the ball field on San Carlos point with native plants and incorporate a few small shade structures, picnic tables and benches accessed from the paved maintenance road per the approved General Development Plan.

### 5.2.4. HABITAT/SPECIES RECOMMENDATIONS:

LM-H1: Protect the sensitive plants in the natural area between the paved maintenance road and the dirt access road along the urban runoff diversion channel.

LM-H2: Remove dead or diseased eucalyptus trees and eucalyptus trees with calipers less than 4-inches at 4-feet above ground and replace with native tree species per MSCP directive.

LM-H3: Conduct habitat restoration or revegetation activities within disturbed areas as needed.



*Example of small eucalyptus to be removed and replaced with native trees (LM-H2)*





### 5.2.5. RECREATION RECOMMENDATIONS:

LM-R1: Plan, design, and implement a new trail connection from the Del Cerro community to the western shoreline. The corridor shown would utilize an existing utility access road for about two-thirds the distance before new grading would be required to connect to the publicly open portion of the paved maintenance road. Coordination with City of San Diego PUD regarding proximity to the dam and compliance with MSCP guidelines will be required.



*Portion of recommended trail connection from Del Cerro community to Lake Murray access road (LM-R1)*

LM-R2: Create an improved trail connection with the adjacent City of La Mesa Sunset Park.

LM-R3: Reroute trails that are selected for continued use to ensure a safe and sustainable trail environment. Close and restore the remainder of the trails crisscrossing the southeast slope.

LM-R4: Close and restore the hike-bike trail from the upper parking lot to the paved maintenance road along the edge of the lake.

LM-R5: Close and restore the hike/bike trail located within sensitive habitat along the urban runoff diversion channel.





Figure 5-1: Lake Murray Area Recommendations





*Back of Figure*



## MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK

### 5.3. COWLES MOUNTAIN

The importance of Cowles as an open space backdrop for urban San Diego is reflected in the use concept. The area is primarily a place for passive daytime activities that do not require extensive landform changes and expensive infrastructure and facilities. The trails and service road on the mountain need rehabilitation and erosion protection. New trails, rest stops, and overlooks need to be introduced selectively. No camping or other overnight activities are planned because of the area's urban edge and high visibility.



*Cowles Mountain and Pyles Peak from Lake Murray*

The goal for the Cowles Mountain area is to provide a variety of sustainable trail facilities that can accommodate the high number of recreational users while preserving natural and cultural resources. The riparian corridor and Artemisa-Eriogonum coastal sage scrub association near Big Rock Park are priorities within the NRMP, as are the bat roosts along the western face of Pyles Peak. Proposed improvements focus on closing redundant and informal trails, improving trail sustainability and user access, and creating the opportunity for loop, journey, or destination trails.

The original vision for trails within the area was for a series of loop trails: one on the southwest slope; one on the southeast slope; and one on the northeast slope. While the interior portions of many of these have been constructed, only a reduced version of the northeast loop exists today. Creating a longer loop trail on the northeast slope would fulfill this vision and help reduce the user congestion and potential safety concerns related to the mixed heavy bidirectional (slow uphill versus fast downhill) use of the service road and Big Rock trails by both cyclists and pedestrians.

To prevent encroachment into raptor roosting areas supporting usage by Golden Eagles, access to the top of Pyles Peak from the existing trail will not be pursued. The existing trail at the base of the Pyles Peak ridgeline will be maintained.

Maintaining the integrity of Cowles Mountain would require sensitive trail location and design to avoid visual scars. It would also require the restoration and revegetation of areas already disturbed. Other considerations include providing shade for the summer user and designing these park elements so that they are unobtrusive.

The existing communications facilities (receiving/transmitting antennas), service road, and related compound near the summit of Cowles Mountain present a unique challenge. Aesthetically, they should be relocated outside the park. Realistically, local agreements make this impractical. However, no new or additional communication facilities on Cowles Mountain should be approved because they are not consistent with the park character.

Figure 5-2 shows the location and general extent of the proposed projects that have a specific location. Impacts to habitats and sensitive species will be minimized and appropriate mitigation measures to comply with MSCP and CEQA requirements will be provided as part of the implementation process of each recommendation.





## 5.3.1. PLANNING RECOMMENDATIONS:

CM-P1: Incorporate pedestrian and/or bicycle facilities and landscape the edge of Mesa Road bordering the park with native plantings if it is extended south to connect with Lake Murray Boulevard. Existing park improvements within the area should be replaced if impacted by the project.

## 5.3.2. MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS:

CM-M1: Continue to periodically maintain the Cowles Mountain service road. Look for opportunities for localized re-grading to remove inside drainage swales and remove berms at the outside edge to promote sheet flow of run-off.



*Eroding drainage swales along section of Cowles Mountain service road (CM-M1)*

## 5.3.3. FACILITY RECOMMENDATIONS:

CM-F1: Plan, design and implement an off-street gravel or decomposed granite surfaced parking area with street improvements that comply with public road standards as applicable, at the Barker Way entrance to reduce some of the parking demand on the local residential streets and provide a more formal trailhead and potential for a maintainable comfort station. Ensure that temporary construction impacts associated with parking lot improvements do not affect adjacent neighbors and park users.



*Recommended off-street parking at Barker Way trailhead (CM-F1)*

CM-F2: Collaborate with SDCWA to plan, design and implement an off-street gravel or decomposed granite surfaced parking area just north of Golfcrest Drive off Mission Gorge Road adjacent to the SDCWA pipeline access portal. This will provide northerly access (CM-R15) to the Pyles Peak trail and a potential rock climbing area (CM-R17). Access from Mission Gorge Road would be a right turn in and right turn out only. Ensure that temporary construction impacts associated with parking lot improvements do not affect adjacent neighbors and park users.



*Recommended off-street parking at SDCWA pipeline access (CM-F2)*



## MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK

CM-F3: Plan, design and implement improvements in collaboration with the City of Santee to the disturbed shoulder within the public ROW along Mesa Road near Big Rock Park to provide additional parking spaces and a linear bike skills area. Ensure that temporary construction impacts associated with parking lot improvements do not affect adjacent neighbors and park users.



CM-F4: Relocate the parking at the south end of Mesa Road as part of CM-F3 and revegetate the existing parking area while maintaining the trailhead kiosk and gate.

*Recommended parking improvements and bike skills area at Mesa Road (CM-F3)*

CM-F5: Add interpretive signage along the ridgeline trail from Cowles to Pyles Peak, orienting the public to the visual panorama and explain how a view can be interpreted from different “perspectives” – for example, as an active city full of different uses, nodes, and landmarks linked by circulation; as a landform resulting from long-term geological and hydrological processes; and as the historical accumulation of artifacts tracing man’s interaction with his environment.

CM-F6: When funds are available, and technological advances allow for minimization of equipment, the City and County antennas should be modified for a less visible profile, or be removed. Any modifications to the facilities will be coordinated through the City’s Deputy Director of Communication and Networks and the County’s Manager of Microwave/Radio Communications.



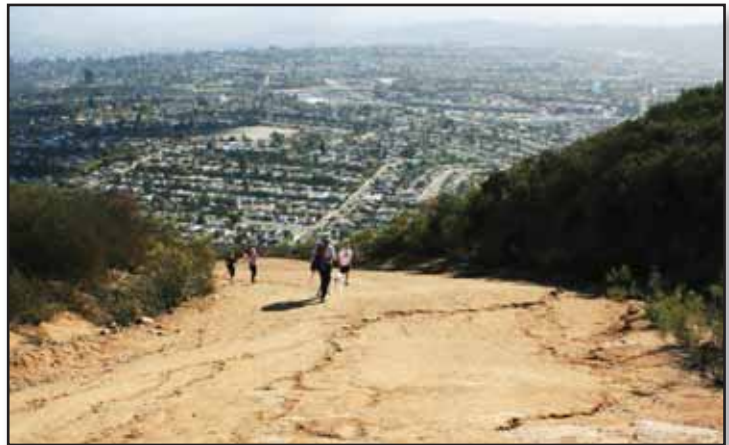
*Continued aesthetic improvements are recommended for the antennae structures at the top of Cowles Mountain (CM-F8)*





## 5.3.4. HABITAT/SPECIES RECOMMENDATIONS:

- CM-H1: Reduce the width of sections of the Cowles Mountain service road that have become excessively wide down to 14 feet per City Trail standards.
- CM-H2: Restore coastal sage scrub and riparian habitats with the area disturbed by former mineral extraction activities along Mesa Road.
- CM-H3: Allow the transplant of San Diego ambrosia from areas outside MTRP to the identified restoration site. Construct and maintain wildlife compatible exclusionary fencing and signage as required.
- CM-H4: Conduct habitat restoration or revegetation activities within disturbed areas.



*Extra wide section of Cowles Mountain service road (CM-H1)*



*Section of main Cowles Mountain trail showing recent localized rerouting and erosion control efforts (CM-R1)*

## 5.3.5. RECREATION RECOMMENDATIONS:

- CM-R1: Implement localized trail improvements to create a more accessible, maintainable and environmentally sensitive trail from the existing Cowles Mountain staging area to the summit. If localized improvements prove inadequate, then a full trail reroute should be evaluated.
- CM-R2: Assess a section of the Barker Way trail for localized improvements to address trail steepness and erosion issues. If localized improvements are inadequate or infeasible, then this section of trail should be rerouted.
- CM-R3: Develop and implement a public access boundary with fencing and signage at the top of Cowles Mountain to reduce habitat impacts. Restore native habitats outside the defined boundary.



*Public usage area at the top of Cowles Mountain requiring boundary definition and access controls (CM-R3)*



## MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK

CM-R4: Close and restore the existing hike/bike and unauthorized user created trails extending from the Cowles Mountain service road to the Barker Way Trail.

CM-R5: Close and restore the hike/bike trail extending from Wingspan Drive to the Barker Way Trail.

CM-R6: Construct a new trail alternative to avoid a particularly steep section of the Cowles Mountain service road.

CM-R7: Close and restore the existing hiking and unauthorized user created trail on the eastern slope of Pyles Peak.

CM-R8: Close and restore a series of interconnected existing hiking trails on the eastern slope of Cowles Mountain. A portion of these trails are within the California gnatcatcher Critical Habitat designated by the USFWS.

CM-R9: Assess a section of the Big Rock trail for localized improvements to address trail steepness and erosion issues. If localized improvements are inadequate or infeasible, then this section of trail should be rerouted.

CM-R10: Close and restore the existing hiking trail located immediately behind the homes along Big Rock Road.

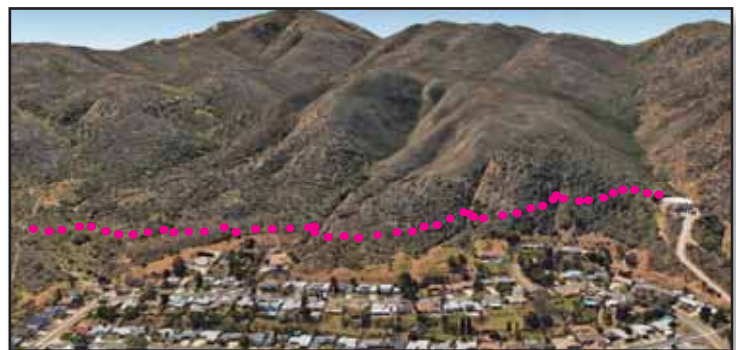
CM-R11: Construct a new trail connection from the Padre Dam water tank to Big Rock to create a portion of a large loop on the east side of Pyles Peak and north side of Cowles Mountain.



*General location of recommended new trail connection (CM-R6)*



*Embedded fall-line section of Big Rock trail to be assessed for rerouting (CM-R9)*



*North-eastern slopes of Cowles Mountain and Pyles Peak recommended for new loop trail (CM-R11)*





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CM-R12: Construct a new trail connection from the Padre Dam water tank to the staging area in CM-F2 to create a portion of a large loop on the east side of Pyles Peak and north side of Cowles Mountain.

CM-R13: Close and restore an existing hiking trail along the ridge north of Pyles Peak.

CM-R14: Assess a section of the existing Pyles Peak trail for localized improvements to address trail steepness and erosion issues. In-trail grade reversals and reestablishment of outslope should be adequate solutions.

CM-R15: Close and restore the existing hiking trail from Pyles Peak down to Golf Crest Drive.

CM-R16: If the staging area in CM-F2 is implemented, construct a new connector trail from it up to the existing Pyles Peak trail.

CM-R17: If the staging area in CM-F2 and the trail in CM-R12 are implemented, evaluate providing rock climbing access to the western face of Pyles Peak by constructing a new trail from the existing Pyles Peak trail. Impacts to bat roosts will need to be evaluated; signage and access controls will be required at the top of the climbing faces to control unauthorized access to the top of Pyles Peak; and an emergency response plan will need to be coordinated with San Diego Fire and Rescue.



*Eroding fall-line section of Pyles Peak trail needing localized improvements (CM-R12)*



*Existing hiking trail recommended to be replaced by a formal trail if a new staging area in CM-F2 is constructed (CM-R16)*

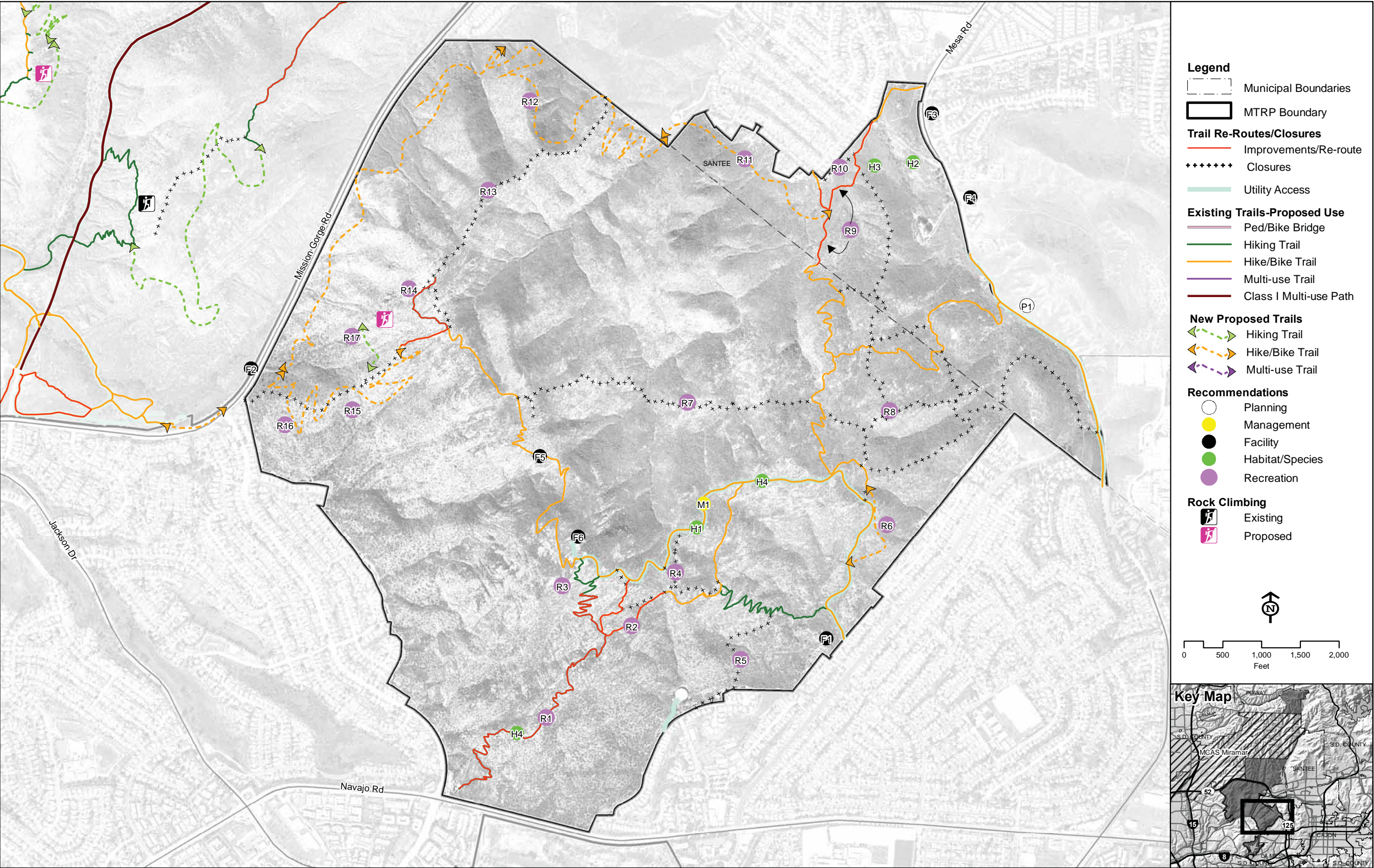


*Rock climbing access to the western face of Pyles Peak is recommended if a new staging area in CM-F2 and the connector trail in CM-12 is constructed (CM-R17)*





Figure 5-2: Cowles Mountain Area Recommendations





*Back of Figure*



## MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK

### 5.4. MISSION GORGE

The goal for the Mission Gorge area is to provide a variety of sustainable trails and other park amenities that can accommodate the high number of visitors radiating out from the Visitor and Interpretive Center while preserving natural and cultural resources. The riparian corridor along the river, the San Diego ambrosia near the Kumeyaay Lake Campground, and the bat roosts on Kwaay Paay are priorities within the NRMP. Proposed improvements focus on closing redundant and informal trails, improving trail sustainability and user access.



*Mission Gorge area*

Uses within the Mission Gorge area would continue to balance preservation, interpretation, and recreational use so they complement one another. Cultural sites and wildlife habitats are to be respected, while providing facilities that encourage people to enjoy the area. By fostering a slower-paced experience by foot or bicycle, the visitor will be encouraged to experience the site, its history and environmental values, and to see how it changes with the seasons and over the years. The Visitor and Interpretive Center and the multi-use path along Father Junipero Serra Trail are two of the most utilized portions of the park by out of town visitors. The interpretive and educational programs centered at the Visitor and Interpretive Center would continue to be a focal point for this area of the park. Implementation of the San Diego River Pathway would reinforce the regional recreational value of this area.

The river bank below and roughly parallel to Father Junipero Serra Trail would remain closed to protect nesting habitat for the least Bell's vireo, potential nesting habitat for the southwestern willow flycatcher, and cultural resources within the floodplain of the river.

The riparian corridor within the bottom of the river gorge west of the San Diego River Crossing trail would remain closed to the public to protect nesting habitat for the least Bell's vireo, potential nesting habitat for the southwestern willow flycatcher, significant roosts of the pocketed free-tailed bat, and cultural resources within the floodplain of the river.

Figure 5-3 shows the location and general extent of the proposed projects that have a specific location. Impacts to habitats and sensitive species will be minimized and appropriate mitigation measures to comply with MSCP and CEQA requirements will be provided as part of the implementation process of each recommendation.

#### 5.4.1. PLANNING RECOMMENDATIONS:

MG-P1: Maintain the river gorge between the Old Mission Dam and the southern park boundary as a secluded area without major facilities.

MG-P2: Ensure that trail linkages through the park are made as shown in the San Diego River Park Master Plan.





## 2019 MASTER PLAN UPDATE

- MG-P3: Consider acquiring the 200+ acres currently owned by the City of San Diego PUD on Kwaay Paay as dedicated parkland. The PUD would retain easements for their facilities.
- MG-P4: Coordinate with adjacent land owners to restore the perimeter berm around Kumeyaay Lake and redirect the San Diego River back to its former course to reduce sedimentation, the introduction of exotic species, and increased mosquito breeding within the lake. Ensure that redirection of flows reinvigorates the adjacent least Bell's vireo habitat and wetland mitigation site which the river once flowed through.

### 5.4.2. MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS:

- MG-M1: Maintain the San Diego River as a “live stream” that flows year round. Continue to support water reclamation for stream replenishment within the San Diego River.

### 5.4.3. FACILITY RECOMMENDATIONS:

- MG-F1: Construct one or more electric vehicle charging stations within the existing Visitor and Interpretive Center parking lot if analysis supports it.
- MG-F2: Operate Kumeyaay Lake Campground as an overnight campground.
- MG-F3: Improve the Deerfield Bike Skills Area to create a broader variety of features that are appropriate for a wider range of user types and skills.
- MG-F4: Continue to support the Visitor and Interpretive Center program and display enhancements.
- MG-F5: Conduct a Parking Study to determine the parking shortfall that exists during periods of peak park usage.
- MG-F6: Construct a parking lot on the easterly side of Father Junipero Serra Trail between Mission Gorge Road and the Visitor and Interpretive Center driveway entrance per the recommendations from the Parking Study in MG-F5. Relocate existing picnic tables and other improvements as necessary.



*Existing conditions at the Deerfield Bike Skills Area (MG-F3)*



*Conceptual parking lot configuration (MG-F6)*



## MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK

MG-F7: Preserve and maintain the Old Mission Dam through the acquisition of permits required for long-term periodic removal of siltation.

MG-F8: Construct a permanent restroom at the Old Mission Dam staging area to replace the existing portable toilets.

MG-F9: Remove accumulated silt from the Kumeyaay Lake.

MG-F10: Construct and maintain a park entry sign at the east end of Father Junipero Serra Trail and Mission Gorge Road per the signage guidelines.

MG-F11: Construct the Deerfield Canyon Nature Park, approximately 2 acres, located adjacent to the Deerfield Bike Skills Area. Park amenities could include picnic areas, trails, interpretive panels, fitness course, children's play area of natural looking play structures, parking, and native landscaping.



*Portable toilets recommended for replacement with a permanent restroom (MG-F8)*

### **5.4.4. HABITAT/SPECIES RECOMMENDATIONS:**

MG-H1: Use the closed trail (MG-R11) area to expand the population of San Diego Ambrosia.

MG-H2: Conduct habitat restoration or revegetation activities within disturbed areas as needed.



*Portion of trail recommended for closure and restoration as San Diego ambrosia habitat (MG-H1)*

### **5.4.5. RECREATION RECOMMENDATIONS:**

MG-R1: Construct the segment of the San Diego River Pathway with identification markers as envisioned in the San Diego River Park Master Plan from the southern park boundary approximately 1.06 miles. This trail segment is primarily along an existing bench cut overlooking the river gorge to the eastern edge of the Deerfield Bike Skills Area. An information kiosk should be constructed at the southern end of the trail.



*Old road cut recommended for the San Diego River Trail alignment (MG-R1)*





## 2019 MASTER PLAN UPDATE

MG-R2: Improve the connection between the San Diego River Crossing staging area and the Deerfield Bike Skills Area as part of the San Diego River Pathway improvements within the park. Due to the volume of storm water runoff within the drainage during the wet season, a significant bridge crossing or benched trail adjacent to Mission Gorge Road is recommended.

MG-R3: Improve the section of the Visitor Center Loop trail from the San Diego River Crossing staging area to the Visitor and Interpretive Center to a wider, more accessible trail to facilitate the use of the San Diego River Crossing staging area as overflow parking for the Visitor and Interpretive Center. This section of trail is also included as part of the proposed San Diego River Pathway alignment through the park.

MG-R4: Construct an all weather suspension or truss pedestrian and bicycle bridge across the San Diego River near the San Diego River Crossing trail.

MG-R5: Construct an improved low-flow crossing or seasonal removable bridge structure at the San Diego River Crossing to remove the unauthorized existing use of the concrete encased sewer main, while a bridge option (MG-R4) is developed .

MG-R6: Improve the surfacing of the Oak Grove trail to provide all weather access. Improvements may require some localized rerouting to lessen trail gradient.



*Drainage requiring improved bridge crossing or trail reroute as part of the San Diego River Trail improvements (MG-R2)*



*General location of recommended bridge over the San Diego River (MG-R4)*



*The use of the concrete encase sewer main as a pedestrian crossing is unauthorized and unsupported by the City of San Diego PUD (MG-R5)*



## MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK

**MG-R7:** Construct a new trail connection along the Mission Gorge Road embankment from the Oak Grove trail to the intersection of Golfcrest Drive and Mission Gorge Road. This will provide improved community access into the park, as well as the potential for connectivity with the Cowles Mountain area if the staging area (CM-F2) and trail (CM-R16) recommendations within that area are constructed.



*Embankment along northern edge of Mission Gorge Rd (MG-R7)*

**MG-R8:** Construct a new trail connection from the Climbers Loop trail to Kwaay Paay peak to create a loop trail over Kwaay Paay.



*The recommended connection from Climbers Loop to the top of Kwaay Paay will be challenging due to the steep rocky terrain (MG-R8)*

**MG-R9:** Assess the Kwaay Paay hiking trail for localized improvements to address trail grades and erosion issues. If localized improvements are inadequate or infeasible, then sections of the trail should be rerouted.



*One of many sections along the Kwaay Paay trail that is excessively steep and eroding that is recommended for reroute (MG-R9)*





## 2019 MASTER PLAN UPDATE

MG-R10: Close and restore the access trail from Simeon Drive to Father Junipero Serra Trail.

MG-R11: Close and restore the western Kwaay Paay access trail from the Old Mission Dam staging area to avoid direct conflicts with the protection of San Diego Ambrosia.

MG-R12: Implement San Diego River Pathway identification markers along existing sections of the proposed alignment within the park.

MG-R13: Close and restore the existing hiking trail from the Kwaay Paay peak down to the cliffs above the Climbers Loop trail.

MG-R14: Construct a new bridge crossing at Kumeyaay Lake to create a loop trail from the campground.



*Unauthorized trail from Simeon Drive recommended for closure (MG-R10)*

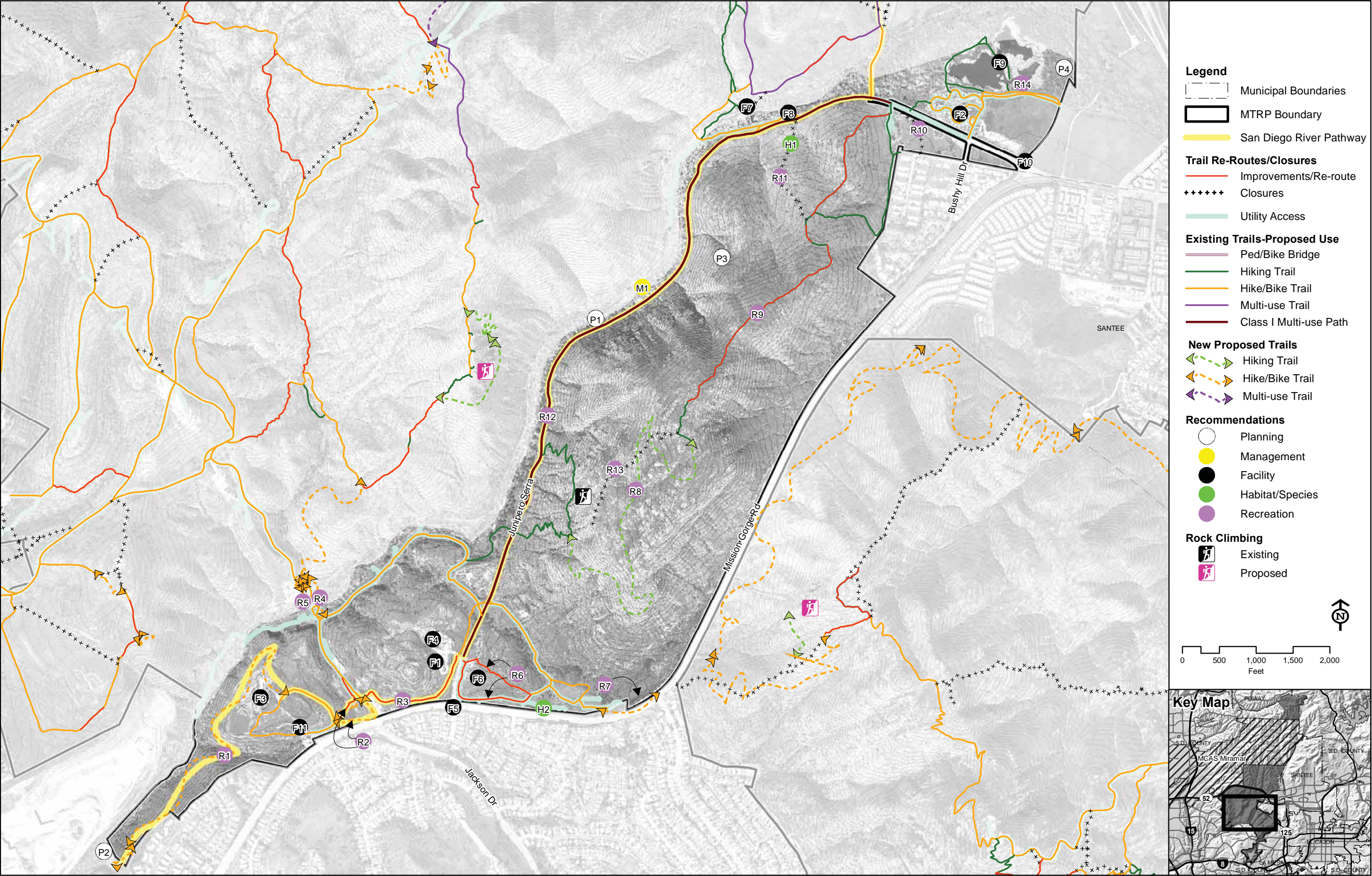


*A new bridge crossing is recommended at Kumeyaay Lake to create a loop trail from the campground (MG-R14)*





Figure 5-3: Mission Gorge Area Recommendations





*Back of Figure*



## MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK

### 5.5. FORTUNA MOUNTAIN

The Fortuna Mountain area would provide a variety of sustainable trails that create loops of varying length and difficulty to accommodate a wide range of recreational users while preserving natural and cultural resources. This area is the largest area of the park and contains the largest number of existing roads and trails. The riparian corridors associated with Suycott Wash, Oak Canyon, and the San Diego River are priorities within the NRMP, as are the San Diego ambrosia near the Kumeyaay Lake Campground, the bat roosts on South Fortuna and at the old quarries, the *Artemisia-Eriogonum* association of coastal sage scrub, and the clay lens and associated sensitive species and vernal pools along the Tierrasanta ridgeline. Proposed improvements focus on closing redundant and informal trails, improving trail sustainability and user access. Recommendations contained herein reflect both the opportunities and challenges to creating a safe and sustainable network of recreational trails. The area also contains a portion of the proposed San Diego River Pathway.



*Fortuna Mountain, Suycott Wash and Tierrasanta ridgeline*

The basic planning concept balances preservation, interpretation, and recreational trail use so they complement one another. Cultural sites and wildlife habitats are to be respected, while providing passive recreational opportunities.

Rock climbing access to the old quarry cliff faces along the San Diego River, both up (Visitor Center Loop Quarry) and down (Southwest Boundary Quarry) stream of the San Diego River Crossing Trail, would remain closed to protect nesting habitat for the least Bell's vireo. These areas are also identified as potential nesting habitat for the southwestern willow flycatcher, and are significant roosting sites for the state sensitive pocketed free-tailed bat, which is sensitive to human encroachment.

Figure 5-4 identifies specific locations for proposed future projects. Impacts to habitats, sensitive species, and cultural resources will be avoided and/or minimized and appropriate mitigation measures identified to comply with MSCP and CEQA requirements as part of the implementation process of each recommendation at the time individual projects are submitted for review.





## 2019 MASTER PLAN UPDATE

### 5.5.1. PLANNING RECOMMENDATIONS:

FM-P1: Consider acquiring the 200+ acres currently owned by the City of San Diego PUD on the eastern slopes of South Fortuna as dedicated parkland. The Department would retain easements for their facilities.

FM-P2: Pursue the acquisition of the San Diego Unified School District parcel for park use or a public access easement.

FM-P3: When the adjacent Camp Elliott Park and San Diego Unified School District parcels (outside MTRP) are developed, construct a trailhead and staging facility consistent with the Mission Trails Design District Ordinance and consider a boundary adjustment to MTRP.

FM-P4: Pursue the acquisition of a public access easement within the SDCWA easement and the Villa Dominique Viewhome Home Owners Association to ensure legal access to the existing ridgeline trail. Public usage of this access point should be discouraged until an easement is acquired.

FM-P5: Ensure that trail linkages along the length of the park are made as shown in the San Diego River Park Master Plan

FM-P6: The eastern slope of Fortuna Mountain should remain in its near-natural state, accommodating only trails coming over the ridgeline.



*Location of SDUSD and Camp Elliott Park parcels (FM-P3)*



*Existing SDCWA access through Villa Dominique Viewhome HOA (FM-P4)*

### 5.5.2. MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS:

No specific management recommendations unique to the Fortuna Mountain Area were identified during the development of this MPU.



## MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK

### 5.5.3. FACILITY RECOMMENDATIONS:

- FM-F1: Construct the last phase of improvements at the East Fortuna Staging Area per Site Development Permit #40-0524 which includes an administrative/maintenance building and a large covered group picnic area at the East Fortuna Staging Area.
- FM-F2: Consider providing fire resistant shade structures consistent with the MTRP Design Guidelines (Appendix F) at key interior locations within the Fortuna Mountain area where appropriate.
- FM-F3: Reconstruct the Old Mission Dam overlook on the northern river bank. Consider developing the overlook as a deck structure to prevent access from the downslope area.



*Recommended style of shade structure (FM-F2)*

### 5.5.4. HABITAT/SPECIES RECOMMENDATIONS:

- FM-H1: Collaborate with the appropriate parties as needed to develop improved surveillance and enforcement mechanisms to prevent recreational usage of the wildlife tunnel under SR-52, which is impacting its use by wildlife and contributing to trespass on MCAS Miramar.
- FM-H2: Install and maintain 'Sensitive Habitat Keep Out' signage along the trails nearest the Southwest Boundary Quarry and the Visitor Center Loop Quarry to protect the significant bat roosts that exist in these locations and issue warnings or citations to all violators.
- FM-H3: Map the spatial extents of biological crusts within the Tierrasanta Clay Ridge management area.



*The Old Mission Dam overlook needs to be reconstructed and the slope below revegetated to discourage off trail use (FM-F3)*



*Surveillance camera within wildlife tunnel being stolen (FM-H1)*





## 2019 MASTER PLAN UPDATE

FM-H4: Conduct habitat restoration and revegetation activities within disturbed areas as needed.

### 5.5.5. RECREATION RECOMMENDATIONS:

FM-R1: Assess a section of the southeastern portion of the Quarry Loop trail for localized improvements to address steepness and erosion issues. Reroute this section of access road if localized improvements are inadequate or infeasible.

FM-R2: Close a couple of sections of old road bed along the northern edge of the Old Quarry.

FM-R3: Assess a section of the eastern portion of the Quarry Loop trail for localized improvements to address steepness and erosion issues. Reroute this section of access road if localized improvements are inadequate or infeasible.

FM-R4: Provide a new section of hike/bike trail to redirect users away from the nearby vernal pool.

FM-R5: Provide a new overlook of the San Diego River.

FM-R6: Close and restore several small sections of existing hike/bike trails or abandoned access roads.

FM-R7: Assess a section of hike/bike trail for localized improvements to address steepness and erosion issues, and potential conflicts with San Diego thornmint habitat. Reroute this section of trail if localized improvements are inadequate or infeasible. Install wildlife compatible fencing and signage adjacent to the existing and potential San Diego thornmint habitat.



*Section of Quarry Loop trail recommended for rerouting (FM-R3)*



*Vernal pool at top of Quarry Loop trail being protected from recreational trail users (FM-R5)*

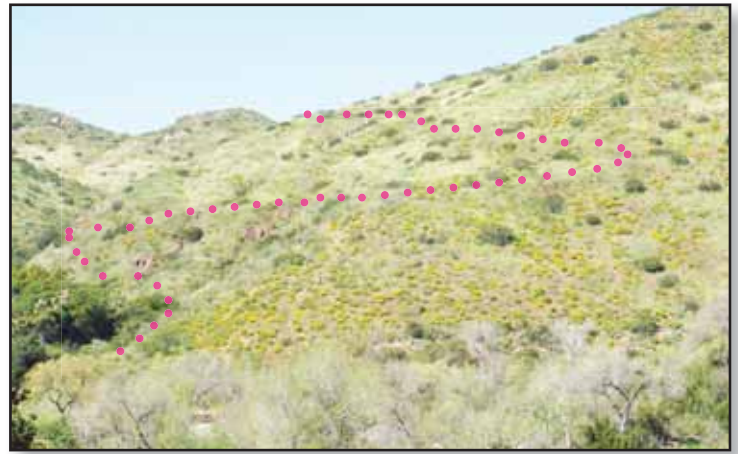


*An excessively steep and eroding section of trail recommended for rerouting (FM-R7)*



## MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK

**FM-R8:** Provide a new section of hike/bike trail as an alternate recreational trail connection to Sycott Wash and South Fortuna to avoid a 0.48 mile section of utility access road that sustains 15-30 percent gradients. The trail would begin just north of the San Diego River Crossing and proceed north along the eastern slope above the Sycott drainage and connect to the existing South Fortuna trail. Planning and design of the trail will need to address access concerns related to the Visitor Center Loop quarry immediately to the east and the drainage to the west, both of which contain sensitive resources.



*General location of recommended new trail connection from the San Diego River Crossing up into Sycott Wash (FM-R8)*

**FM-R9:** Assess a section of the southern portion of the South Fortuna hiking trail for localized improvements to address steepness and erosion issues. Reroute this section of access road if localized improvements are inadequate or infeasible.



*Section of the South Fortuna Trail recommended for localized reroutes (FM-R9)*

**FM-R10:** Provide rock climbing access to the eastern face of South Fortuna by constructing a new hiking loop trail from the existing South Fortuna trail. Planning and design of this trail will need to address proximity to bat/raptor roosts, safety concerns relative to falling rocks, and emergency response concerns that include improvements to vehicular access to the area and/or the designation of a helicopter landing area.



*South Fortuna climbing access trail is recommended to start just below the existing 'stairs' and continue east just below the cliff faces (FM-R10)*





## 2019 MASTER PLAN UPDATE

**FM-R11:** Assess a section of the Suycott Valley South Trail for localized improvements to address steepness and erosion issues. Reroute the trail if localized improvements are inadequate or infeasible.



*Section of an unnamed trail recommended for reroute (FM-R11)*

**FM-R12:** Assess a section of the Suycott Valley trail for localized improvements to reduce the number of creek crossings and erosion issues. Reroute the trail if localized improvements are inadequate or infeasible.



*The lower section of the Suycott Valley Trail is recommended for reroute to move it away from the drainage into the adjacent uplands (FM-R12)*

**FM-R13:** Close and restore a section of old redundant utility access road.

**FM-R14:** Close and restore a section of redundant park access road.

**FM-R15:** Close and restore a section of redundant park access road.

**FM-R16:** Assess a section of the Rim trail for localized improvements to reduce or eliminate encroachment on adjacent vernal pools and watersheds. Reroute the trail if localized improvements are inadequate or infeasible.



*Section of Rim Trail recommended for reroute to avoid conflicts with vernal pools (FM-R16)*

**FM-R17:** Close and restore a section of redundant park access road.



*Park Road North Suycott (FM-R17)*



## MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK

FM-R18: Assess a section of hike/bike trail for localized improvements to address erosion issues.

FM-R19: Close and restore a section of redundant park access road.

FM-R20: Close and restore sections of redundant park access road, steep and eroding access road, and existing hike/bike trails within Shepherd Canyon.

FM-R21: Assess a section of the North Perimeter trail within Shepherd Canyon for localized improvements to address steepness and erosion issues. Reroute this section of trail if localized improvements are inadequate or infeasible.

FM-R22: Close and restore a redundant, steep and eroding sections of park access road and existing hike/bike trails between the Rim Trail and the North Perimeter Trail.



*Park Road Closure (FM-R20)*



*Eroding section of Shepherd Canyon trail recommended for local reroute (FM-R21)*



*Section of old park road recommended for closure (FM-R22)*





## 2019 MASTER PLAN UPDATE

**FM-R23:** Assess a section of the Suycott Valley Bypass Trail for localized improvements to address steepness and erosion issues. Reroute this section of trail if localized improvements are inadequate or infeasible.

**FM-R24:** Assess a section of the Rim trail for localized improvements to address steepness and erosion issues. Reroute this section of trail if localized improvements are inadequate or infeasible.

**FM-R25:** Assess a section of the Rim trail for localized improvements to address steepness and erosion issues. Reroute this section of trail if localized improvements are inadequate or infeasible.

**FM-R26:** Assess a section of the North Perimeter trail for localized improvements to address steepness and erosion issues. Reroute this section of trail if localized improvements are inadequate or infeasible.



*Section of trail recommended for localized improvements or reroute (FM-R23)*



*Section of trail recommended for localized improvements or reroute (FM-R25)*



*Section of trail recommended for localized improvements or reroute (FM-R26)*



## MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK

**FM-R27:** Assess a section of the North Fortuna trail for localized improvements to address steepness and erosion issues. Reroute this section of trail if localized improvements are inadequate or infeasible.

**FM-R28:** Assess a section of the North Fortuna trail for localized improvements to address steepness and erosion issues. Reroute this section of trail if localized improvements are inadequate or infeasible.

**FM-R29:** Assess a section of the North Fortuna trail for localized improvements to address steepness and erosion issues. Reroute this section of trail if localized improvements are inadequate or infeasible.



*Section of trail recommended for localized improvements or reroute (FM-R27)*



*Section of North Fortuna trail recommended for localized improvements or reroute (FM-R29)*





## 2019 MASTER PLAN UPDATE

**FM-R30:** Construct a new section of hike/bike trail to provide an alternate recreational trail connection to the Fortuna Saddle on the south side to replace a 0.22 mile utility access road that sustains greater than 20 percent gradients, with sections at 40 percent. The trail would begin at the utility access road where an unnamed trail connects from the west and proceeds up to the northeast along the western slope of South Fortuna to the saddle.



*Western slope of Fortuna Saddle recommended for a new hike/bike trail alignment as an alternate to the extremely steep utility road (FM-R30)*

**FM-R31:** Assess a section of the South Fortuna trail for localized improvements to address steepness and erosion issues. Reroute this section of trail if localized improvements are inadequate or infeasible.



*Section of South Fortuna access road recommended for localized improvements or reroute (FM-R31)*

**FM-R32:** Construct a new section of multi-use trail to bypass two extremely steep sections of utility access road along the North Perimeter trail.



*Section of new trail recommended as bypass for extremely steep sections of the North Perimeter trail (FM-R32)*



*The North Perimeter trail is recommended for bypass (FM-R32)*



## MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK



*Section of new trail recommended as an alternate route to the Fortuna Saddle (FM-R33)*

**FM-R33:** Construct a new section of multi-use trail to bypass the existing utility access up to the Fortuna Saddle.

**FM-R34:** Close and restore a section of old utility access road that is no longer used, extremely steep, and eroding.

**FM-R35:** Close and restore a section of old utility access road that is no longer used, extremely steep, and eroding.

**FM-R36:** Close and restore a section of redundant park access road.



*Redundant roads and trails recommended for closure (FM-R36)*





## 2019 MASTER PLAN UPDATE

FM-R37: Close and restore a redundant section of park access road within the Grasslands area.

FM-R38: Close and restore the existing hike/bike trail that parallels the utility access road into Spring Canyon and a section of redundant utility access road. The access road into Spring Canyon will need to be regraded to restore sheet flow drainage across the road to prevent the muddy conditions that contributed to the formation of the unauthorized trail.

FM-R39: Close and restore a redundant section of park access road within the Grasslands area that crosses wetland habitats.



*Redundant roads recommended for closure (FM-R37)*



*Park road recommended for closure (FM-R39)*



*Redundant utility roads and trails recommended for closure (FM-R38)*



*Redundant park access roads and trails recommended for closure (FM-R39) and a section of multi-use trail recommended for improvement (FM-41)*





## MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK



*Vernal pool along park road recommended for use as interpretive/educational resource (FM-R40)*

**FM-R40:** Utilize the vernal pool along the trail from the East Fortuna Staging Area as an educational and interpretive resource about the ecology of vernal pools. Realign the existing fencing outside of the vernal pool and restore the impacted area.

**FM-R41:** Improve as a multi-use trail a section of unauthorized user created trail to connect the northern access route from the East Fortuna Staging Area to the southern utility access road.

**FM-R42:** Construct a new multi-use path from the utility access road gate east along the edge of the paved entrance road to the East Fortuna Staging Area. This path would be part of the San Diego River Pathway as envisioned in the San Diego River Park Master Plan and should be implemented once plans for the eastern extension of the Trail outside the park have been solidified. An information kiosk should be constructed at the east end of the path.

**FM-R43:** Assess two sections of the utility access road for localized improvements to improve the hydrologic connectivity of the wetland and floodplain areas it crosses while providing a safer surface for recreational users.



*Western edge of the access road is the recommended alignment for the San Diego River Pathway (FM-R41)*



*Section of utility access road to be assessed for hydrologic improvements and resurfacing to create a safer, more user friendly route (FM-R43)*





## 2019 MASTER PLAN UPDATE

FM-R44: Close and restore an unauthorized user created trail within the Grasslands area that encroaches on San Diego Ambrosia habitat.

FM-R45: Assess a section of the Grasslands Loop trail for reroute to prevent degradation to nearby sensitive resources.

FM-R46: Close and restore the trails from the dam up to the overlook and add wildlife compatible fencing and signage to direct hikers to use the approved trail access.



*Redundant trail that encroaches on sensitive habitat recommended for closure (FM-R44)*



*Section of the Grasslands Loop trail requiring localized improvements to protect nearby sensitive resources (FM-R45)*

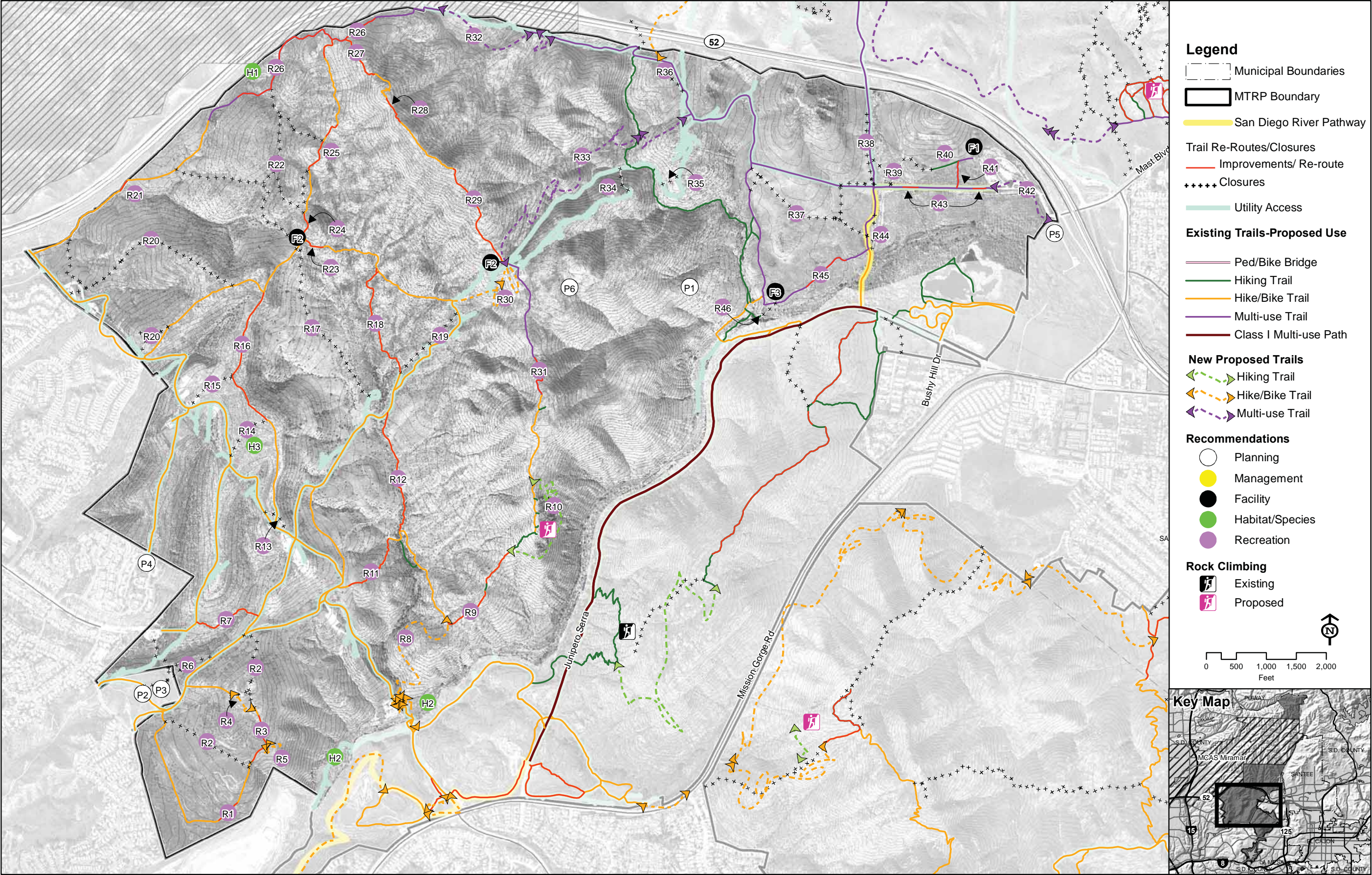


*Trails recommended for closure (FM-R46)*





Figure 5-4: Fortuna Mountain Area Recommendations





*Back of Figure*



## MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK



*East Elliott from on top of North Fortuna Peak*

### **5.6. EAST ELLIOTT**

Habitat and species preservation are the driving force behind the acquisition of lands within the East Elliott area. Public access and recreational use would be viewed as secondary uses. Recreational trails are identified as compatible uses within the MSCP as long as they do not compromise the long-term ecological values of the area. The riparian corridors and the willow monardella habitat associated with Oak Canyon and Spring Canyon are priorities within the NRMP, as are the clay lens along the ridgelines and the Artemisa-Eriogonum coastal sage scrub that occurs within the eastern half of the area. Planning and implementing ecologically appropriate recreational trail loops is the focus of park planning efforts within this area.

Multiple length trail loops are a key planning concept for this area to discourage continued recreational trespass into MCAS Miramar that is prevalent within Oak and Spring Canyons. Providing northern connectivity to the County of San Diego's proposed Stowe Trail corridor that would connect northward to Goodan Ranch Sycamore Canyon Preserve outside of the MCAS Miramar installation boundary is also a long-term priority.

East Elliott currently contains several utility access roads and many unauthorized user created trails. The utility access roads are primarily located along the ridgelines, and contain some extremely steep sections that require regular maintenance to address erosion that make these roads unsuitable as recreational trails. Many of the user created trails are well constructed narrow contour and single-track trails. However, a majority of these trails are within natural drainages that contain the more sensitive natural resources within the area. As such, some are recommended for closure, while others are recommended for localized reroutes.

The current patchwork of public and private ownership throughout the East Elliott area makes implementation of many of the recommendations difficult as existing and proposed trails cross both public and private property. Privately owned parcels would either need to be acquired or public access easements granted before the vast majority of trails can be closed, constructed or formally opened to the public for use.

***Privately owned parcels will either need to be acquired or public access easements granted before the vast majority of trails can be constructed or formally opened to the public for use.***

Figure 5-5 shows the location and general extent of the proposed projects within East Elliott. Impacts to habitats and sensitive species will be avoided and/or minimized and appropriate mitigation measures to comply with MSCP and CEQA requirements will be provided as part of the implementation process of each recommendation.





## 2019 MASTER PLAN UPDATE

### 5.6.1. PLANNING RECOMMENDATIONS:

- EE-P1: Allow the development of private property holdings within East Elliott consistent with the community plan, MSCP requirements, and the Mission Trails Design District Ordinance.
- EE-P2: Continue to acquire land from willing sellers, or through development agreements for park expansion, and MSCP habitat conservation purposes.
- EE-P3: Continue to support the coordination of recreational access along the northern edge of the Landfill prior to closure.
- EE-P4: Assess the need for a regional scale staging area for East Elliott as land ownership and public use within the area increases.

### 5.6.2. MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS:

- EE-M1: Develop and implement a public information/education program regarding the MSCP-related habitat conservation requirements associated with acquired lands within East Elliott to deter illicit trail building.

### 5.6.3. FACILITY RECOMMENDATIONS:

- EE-F1: Construct an entrance area with informational kiosk near the Santee Boulders in coordination with the approved Castlerock development.
- EE-F2: Consider providing fire resistant shade structures consistent with the MTRP Design Guidelines (Appendix F) at key locations within the East Elliott area where appropriate.
- EE-F3: Coordinate the implementation of a trailhead at the neighborhood park within the northern portion of the approved Castlerock development.
- EE-F4: Collaborate with Sycamore Landfill to repurpose their administrative facilities and associated parking being proposed just south of the landfill once the landfill closes as the primary entry point and staging area for East Elliott.



*Recommended recreational access to the Santee Boulders (EE-F1)*



*Recommended style of shade structure (EE-F2)*

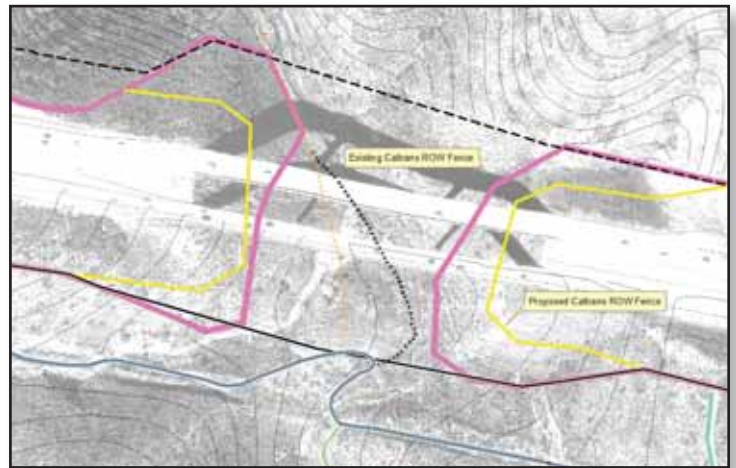


## MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK

- EE-F5: Coordinate with Caltrans to reconfigure the SR-52 ROW fence lines at Oak Canyon to improve wildlife movement.

### 5.6.4. HABITAT/SPECIES RECOMMENDATIONS:

- EE-H1: Map the spatial extents of biological crusts within the East Elliott Clay Ridgeline management area.
- EE-H2: Conduct a comprehensive baseline survey of sensitive plant species within and adjacent (50 foot buffer) to East Elliott Clay Ridgeline management area.
- EE-H3: Conduct habitat restoration or revegetation activities within disturbed areas as needed.



*Recommended Caltrans ROW fence line adjustments (EE-F5)*



*Biological crust within East Elliott*

### 5.6.5. RECREATION RECOMMENDATIONS:

- EE-R1: Construct a section of hike/bike trail outside of the Oak Canyon riparian habitat.
- EE-R2: Close and restore a section of the Oak Canyon trail that occurs within riparian habitat.



*Section of new alignment recommended for construction (EE-R1) and existing trail recommended for closure (EE-R2)*





## 2019 MASTER PLAN UPDATE



*Construct a new trail along the east facing slope to create a long loop trail (EE-R3)*

- EE-R3: Construct a section of new trail along the east facing slope to create a long loop trail.
- EE-R4: Close and restore a severely eroded section of historic road cut.
- EE-R5: Construct a section of new trail to avoid a steep section of utility access road.



*Section of old road cut recommended for closure and replacement (EE-R4)*



*Construct a new trail to avoid a steep section of utility access road (EE-R5)*



## MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK

EE-R6: Close and restore the existing hike/ bike trail that starts outside the park within MCAS Miramar, enters the park, and then leaves the park back into MCAS Miramar again.

EE-R7: Close and restore an unauthorized user created trail that starts outside the park within MCAS Miramar and then enters the park.

EE-R8: Close and restore the existing hike/ bike trail that starts outside the park within MCAS Miramar, enters the park, and then leaves the park back into MCAS Miramar.

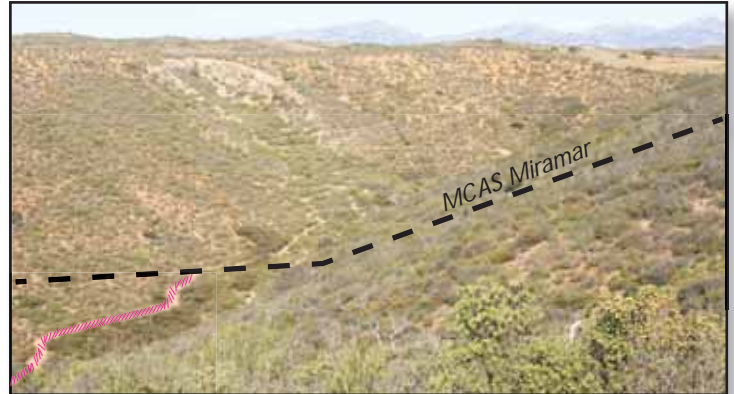
EE-R9: Construct a section of hike/bike trail between two ridgeline roads to avoid trespass into MCAS Miramar.



*Close the hike/bike trail called 'Mr. Toads' that trespasses into MCAS Miramar (EE-R6)*



*Close the lower portion of the user created 'Grassy Knoll' trail that trespasses into MCAS Miramar (EE-R7)*



*Close the hike/bike trail called 'Iron Tread' that trespasses into MCAS Miramar (EE-R8)*



*Construct a new section of hike-bike trail to avoid a steep section of utility access road (EE-R9)*





## 2019 MASTER PLAN UPDATE

EE-R10: Close and restore sections of existing and unauthorized user created trail that runs along the bottom of a western tributary of Spring Canyon once the new trail recommended in EE-R12 has been constructed.



*Section of trail within a tributary to Spring Canyon recommended for closure (EE-R10)*

EE-R11: Close and restore the existing hike/bike trail that connects the canyon bottom to the ridgeline once the new trail recommended in EE-R12 has been constructed.

EE-R12: Construct a section of hike/bike trail along the western slope of the tributary to Spring Canyon to replace the existing trails described in EE-R10 and EE-R11.

EE-R13: Close and restore an unauthorized user created trail between two utility access roads along the ridgelines north of SR-52 and along the western slopes of Spring Canyon between a utility access road and the tributary canyon.



*Construct a new trail on the south facing slope of the tributary canyon (EE-R12)*



*Close an unauthorized user created trail known as 'Deer Dancer' (EE-R13)*





## MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK



*Multiple sections of trail recommended for closure due to trespass into MCAS Miramar (EE-R14,15, 16, 17, 18,*

- EE-R14: Close and restore existing hike/bike trails following intermediate ridgelines along the western slope of Spring Canyon. Many leave the park and trespasses onto MCAS Miramar.
- EE-R15: Close and restore existing and unauthorized user created trails that continue north out of the park along Spring Canyon and trespass onto MCAS Miramar.
- EE-R16: Close and restore an unauthorized user created trail in the northern portion of Spring Canyon.
- EE-R17: Close and restore an old road bed and an unauthorized user created trail in the northern portion of Spring Canyon.
- EE-R18: Close and restore an old road bed and an unauthorized user created trail in the central portion of Spring Canyon.





## 2019 MASTER PLAN UPDATE



*Multiple sections of park access road and trail recommended for closure (EE-R20,21, 22)*

EE-R19: Close and restore an existing hike/bike trail within the western tributary to Spring Canyon.

EE-R20: Close and restore an unnecessary park access road within the southern portion of Spring Canyon.

EE-R21: Close and restore an unauthorized user created trail within the southern portion of Spring Canyon.

EE-R22: Close and restore an unnecessary park access road within the southern portion of Spring Canyon.



*Section of trail recommended for closure (EE-R22)*





## MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK

EE-R23: Collaborate with the Sycamore Landfill owners to construct a new section of multi-use trail to connect from the bottom of Spring Canyon up the eastern slope of the canyon and to the northeast around the landfill to an existing utility access road.

EE-R24: Construct a new section of multi-use trail to connect from the neighborhood park within the approved Castlerock development up to the utility access road at the edge of the landfill.

EE-R25: Close and restore an existing hike/bike trail along a drainage that leaves the park and trespasses onto MCAS Miramar.

EE-R26: Close and restore an existing hike/bike trail along a ridgeline that leaves the park and trespasses onto MCAS Miramar.

EE-R27: Close and restore an existing hike/bike trail along a ridgeline that leaves the park and trespasses onto MCAS Miramar.

EE-R28: Assess a section of unauthorized user created trail for localized improvements to address steepness, erosion, and sensitive resource issues, in particular the adjacent vernal pools. If localized improvements are inadequate or infeasible, then this section of trail should be rerouted.

EE-R29: Close and restore an unauthorized user created trail that provides redundant access north of the approved Castlerock development.



*General location of recommended trail connection (EE-R23)*



*General location of recommended trail connection (EE-R24) and recommended closures (EE-R25, 26)*



*Reroute this section of trail to avoid conflicts with vernal pools (EE-R28)*





## 2019 MASTER PLAN UPDATE

EE-R30: Assess a section of old ranch road for localized improvements to address fall-line and erosion issues. If localized improvements are inadequate or infeasible, then this section of road should be rerouted.



*Section of old ranch road recommended for rerouting (EE-R30)*

EE-R31: Close and restore an section of old ranch road near the neighborhood park within the approved Castlerock development.

EE-R32: Close and restore several sections of old ranch road on the slopes above the approved Castlerock development.

EE-R33: Close and restore several sections of old ranch road on the slopes above the approved Castlerock development.

EE-R34: Close and restore several sections of old ranch road on the slopes above the approved Castlerock development.



*Sections of old ranch road recommended for closure (EE-R31,32)*



*Sections of old ranch road recommended for closure (EE-R33,34)*





## MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK

**EE-R35:** Close and restore several sections of old ranch road on the slopes above the approved Castlerock development.

**EE-R36:** Assess a section of old ranch road for localized improvements to address fall-line and erosion issues. If localized improvements are inadequate or infeasible, then this section of road should be rerouted.

**EE-R37:** Once publicly acquired, designate the Santee Boulders as an official rock climbing area within the Park.

**EE-R38:** Once publicly acquired, assess the existing user created trails in and around the Santee Boulders for sustainability and redundancy.



*A section of old ranch road to be assessed for localized improvements to address steepness and erosion concerns (EE-R36) and several sections of old ranch road recommended for closure (EE-R35)*



*Existing user created trails at the Santee Boulders to be assessed for sustainability and redundancy (EE-R38)*



*Existing user created trails at the Santee Boulders to be assessed for sustainability and redundancy (EE-R38)*





## 2019 MASTER PLAN UPDATE

EE-R39: Close and restore several sections of existing and unauthorized user created trail on the slopes above the Santee Boulders area.

EE-R40: Collaborate with the Sycamore Landfill and other landowners to construct a new section of multi-use trail from a utility access road near Spring Canyon southeast around the Landfill to the Santee Boulders. During implementation of this new trail segment, coordinate with wildlife agencies to identify opportunities to minimize edge effects.



*Sections of old ranch road and unauthorized user created trails recommended for closure (EE-R39)*

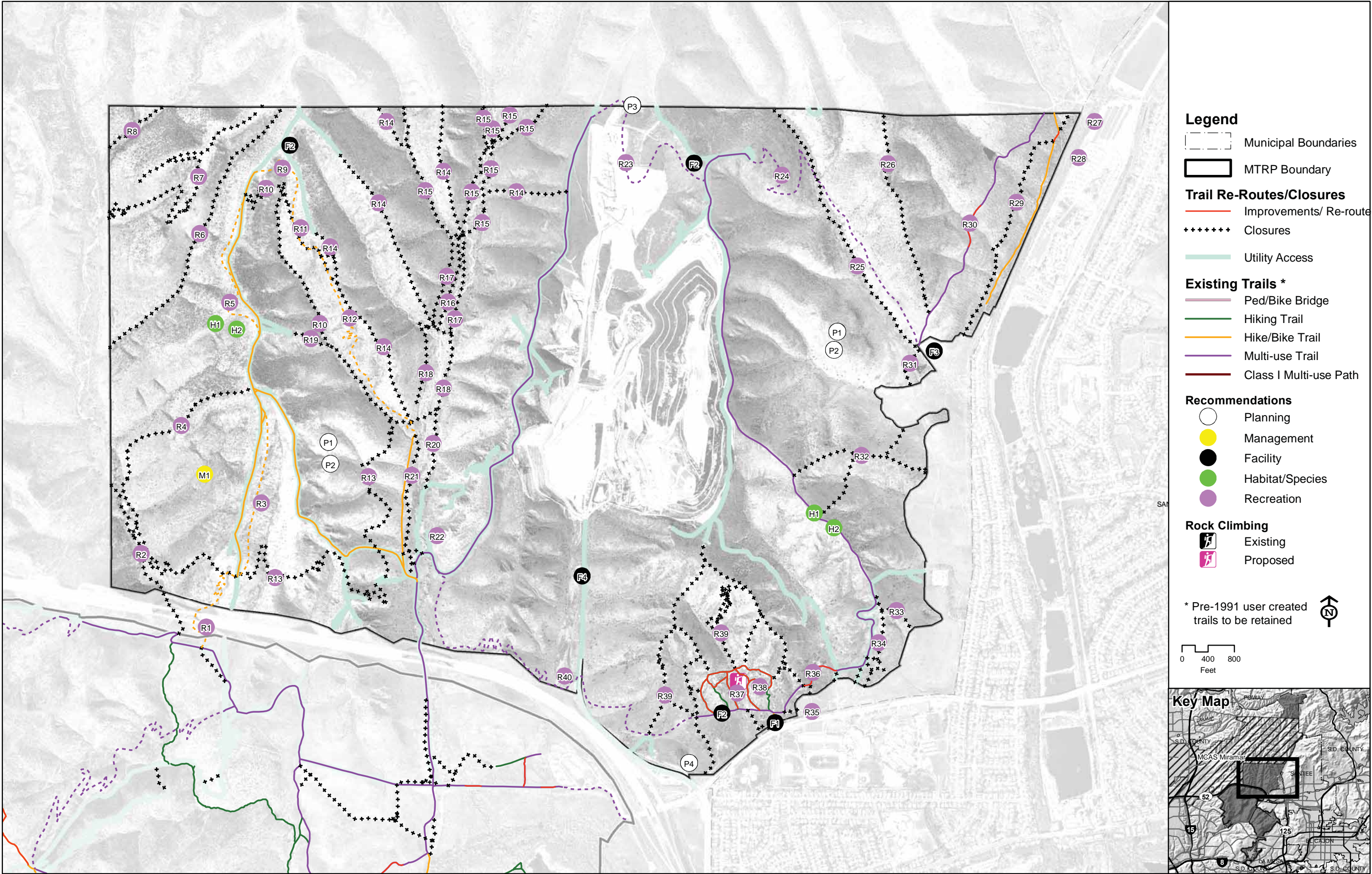


*General location of recommended multi-use trail connection between Spring Canyon and the Santee Boulders (EE-R40)*





Figure 5-5: East Elliott Area Recommendations





*Back of Figure*



## MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK

### 5.7. WEST SYCAMORE

Habitat and species preservation were the driving force behind the acquisition of the West Sycamore area. Public access and recreational use would be viewed as secondary uses. Recreational trails are identified as compatible uses within the MSCP, as long as they do not compromise the long-term ecological values of the area. Planning and implementing ecologically appropriate recreational trail loops is the focus of park planning efforts within this area, and connecting to adjacent County trail systems.

Multiple length trail loops are a key planning concept for this area to discourage continued recreational trespass onto MCAS Miramar that is currently highly prevalent within West Sycamore Canyon. Multiple connections with Goodan Ranch Sycamore Canyon Preserve and Beeler Canyon would significantly contribute to this concept. Lastly, providing east-west connectivity for the County of San Diego's Trans-County Trail is a priority.

West Sycamore currently contains several utility access roads, a few old ranch roads and fire breaks, and several miles of newly constructed trails. The utility access roads are primarily located along the ridgelines and are being jointly used as recreational trails.

Figure 5-6 shows the specific location and general extent of the proposed projects within West Sycamore. Impacts to habitats and sensitive species will be avoided and/or minimized and appropriate mitigation measures to comply with MSCP and CEQA requirements will be provided as part of the implementation process of each recommendation.



*West Sycamore (Source Bing 2012)*





## 2019 MASTER PLAN UPDATE

### 5.7.1. PLANNING RECOMMENDATIONS:

WS-P1: The eastern slopes of West Sycamore should remain in their near-natural state, due to the sensitive visual character of the area.



*Eastern slopes above Goodan Ranch (WS-P1)*

WS-P2: Continue to coordinate with the County of San Diego on the implementation of the Trans-County Trail and designate one or more sections of trail through the West Sycamore area as required to provide east-west connectivity.

### 5.7.2. MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS:

No specific management recommendations unique to the West Sycamore Area were identified during the development of this MPU.

### 5.7.3. FACILITY RECOMMENDATIONS:

WS-F1: Provide a restroom, ranger station, hitching posts, shade structure, and picnic tables at the West Sycamore staging area.

WS-F2: Acquire an access easement near the intersection of Beeler Canyon Road and Sycamore Canyon Road and construct a trailhead with informational kiosk.

WS-F3: Consider providing fire resistant shade structures consistent with the MTRP Design Guidelines (Appendix F) at a central location within the West Sycamore area where appropriate.



*Location of future staging area improvements (WS-F1)*



## MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK

### 5.7.4. HABITAT/SPECIES RECOMMENDATIONS:

- WS-H1: Plan and implement a removal and control program for Artichoke Thistle.
- WS-H2: Manage the density of woody and herbaceous vegetation within Coastal Cactus Wren management areas.
- WS-H3: Remove exotic weeds from the Coastal Cactus Wren management areas.
- WS-H4: Transplant prickly pear and cholla cactus pads into the Coastal Cactus Wren management area to increase the density and quality of cactus wren habitat.
- WS-H5: Conduct habitat restoration or revegetation activities within disturbed areas as needed.



*Artichoke thistle (WS-H1)*



*Coastal Cactus Wren Management Area (WS-H2/3)*





## 2019 MASTER PLAN UPDATE

### 5.7.5. RECREATION RECOMMENDATIONS:

WS-R1: Construct a new section of multi-use trail from the proposed staging area to the west down into Beeler Canyon.

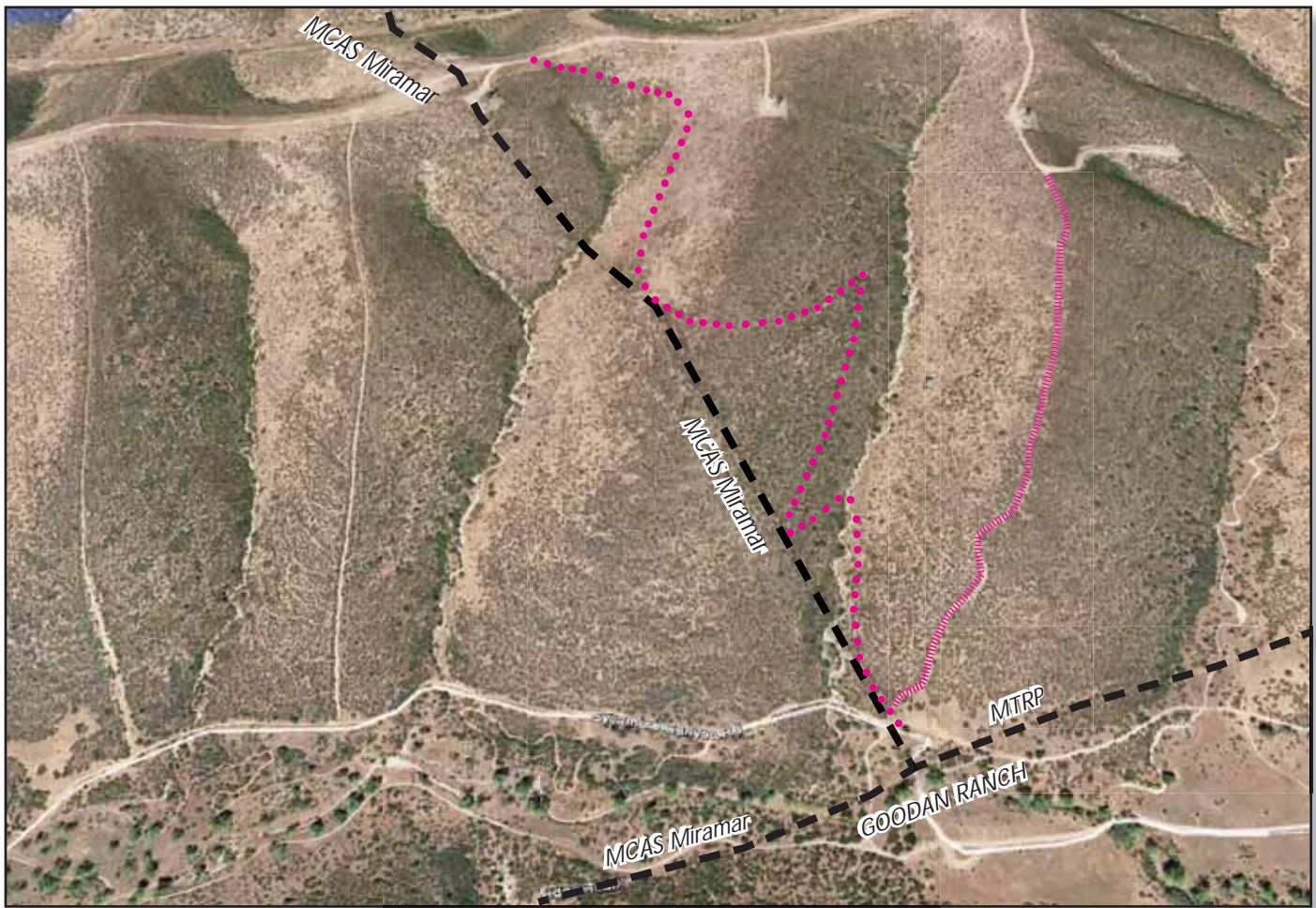
WS-R2: Close and restore a section of existing park access road that is no longer necessary.

WS-R3: Close and restore a section of existing hike/bike trail.

WS-R4: Collaborate with the County of San Diego to construct a new section of multi-use trail from West Sycamore down into the Goodan Ranch Sycamore Canyon Preserve.



*A new trail is recommended along the northern facing slope from the staging area down to Beeler Canyon (WS-R1)*

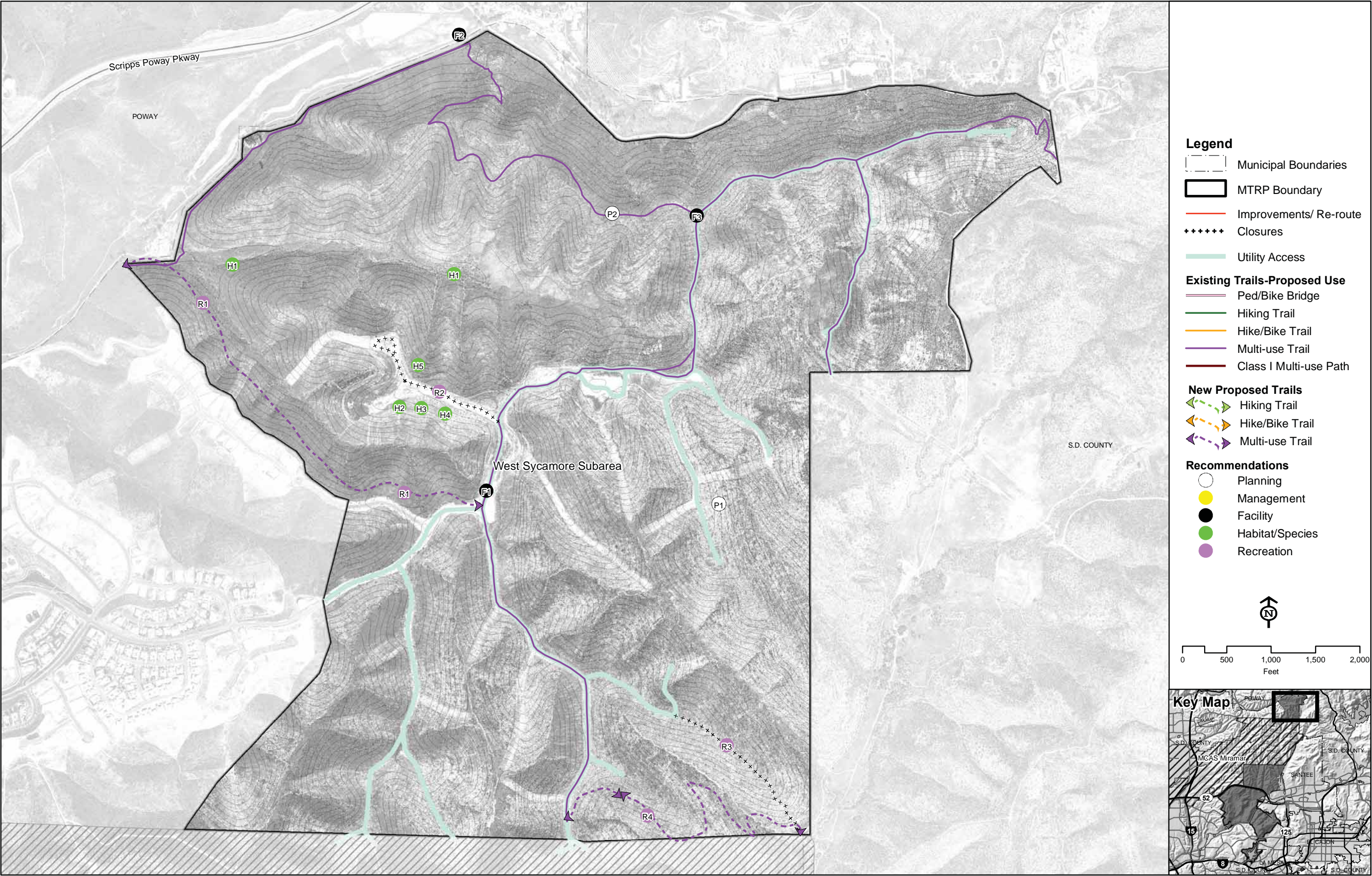


*A new trail is recommended from the utility access road on the main ridgeline near the border with MCAS Miramar down into and connecting with the Goodan Ranch Sycamore Canyon Preserve trails (WS-R4) and the recommended closure of an unauthorized user created trail (WS-R3)*





Figure 5-6: West Sycamore Area Recommendations





*Back of Figure*



## 6. IMPLEMENTATION

Implementation of the actions and recommendations contained in the MPU and associated NRMP would continue to require coordination between City of San Diego Park and Recreation Department Open Space Division, MTRP CAC and TF, MTRP Foundation, other non-profit organizations, and interested stakeholders.

The order of implementation priorities for the park should generally be: 1) maintenance and repair of existing facilities and trails; 2) enhancement of existing facilities and trails; and 3) construction of new facilities, trails and/or access to new areas within the park. However, potential funding sources may alter the order of priorities.

MTRP CAC would continue to identify and prioritize projects for development that are consistent with the master plan. Adhoc subcommittees comprised of CAC members, MTRP Rangers, City staff, and other interested stakeholders would collaborate as appropriate to guide the recommendations of the MPU and NRMP from concept through implementation.

Recommendations for project implementation would continue to be made by the CAC and routed to the Task Force for final recommendation to the Director of the Parks and Recreation Department.

Management actions within the NRMP are tied to requirements set forth in the MSCP. As such, their implementation and maintenance, as well as those recommendations within the MPU that support the NRMP, shall take precedence, both from a funding and scheduling perspective, over other recommendations contained in the MPU. While some of the recommendations within the MPU are intended for near-term (1-2 year) implementation, most are looked at as mid- (3-5 year) or long-term (>5 years) projects in recognition of economic conditions and staffing levels.

City staffing levels at MTRP will fluctuate over time with the City of San Diego budget and broader economy. Reductions in staffing make ongoing maintenance of existing improvements, while still providing support for other day-to-day management activities, public programs, and public safety, more difficult. When overall park management responsibilities exceed staffing resources, initial priority shall be given to day-to-day management activities such as patrols and enforcement, then to efforts that maintain compliancy with MSCP requirements, and finally to projects that would reduce existing maintenance efforts over those that would create new improvements and increase maintenance responsibilities.

Structured partnerships with recreation-focused non-profit organizations would play a crucial role in the long-term implementation and maintenance of improvements within MTRP. Developing and maintaining an open dialog and collaborative atmosphere between park rangers, City staff and these groups is essential.

Volunteers play a significant role as trail maintenance crews, Visitor Center staff, and interpretive program docents. These partnerships would need to continue to play a vital role for MTRP into the future.



*2011 MTRP Volunteer of the Year, Richard Griebel and MTRP Foundation President, Joe Morse*





### **6.1. FUNDING SOURCES**

Funding to implement the actions and recommendations contained in this MPU and associated NRMP would come from public and private sources. Numerous grants may be available from federal, state, local and private entities to provide assistance with implementation. Listed below are the current federal and state grant opportunities with a brief description of what type of projects they would fund. These are all subject to change over the life of the master plan.



#### **6.1.1. LOCAL FUNDING AGENCIES**

##### **6.1.1.1. CITY OF SAN DIEGO**

The City of San Diego provides annual funding to park and recreation facilities through the City from both general fund and non-general fund sources. Of the non-general fund sources, three are of particular importance to MTRP: MTRP Antenna Fund; Regional Park Improvement Fund; and Environmental Growth Fund.

The MTRP Antenna Fund is comprised of revenues generated from leases associated with the antennas on top of Cowles Mountain which are used exclusively for improvements within MTRP.

The Regional Park Improvement Fund is defined within the City of San Diego Charter, Article V, section 55.2 which requires that all lease revenues collected at Mission Bay Park in excess of \$23.0 million, or that one-quarter of, in excess of \$2.5 million (whichever is greater), be allocated to the Fund to solely benefit San Diego regional parks. The current list of eligible regional parks include: MTRP, Balboa Park, Chollas Lake Park, Otay Valley Regional Park, Presidio Park, San Diego River Park, open space parks, coastal beaches, and contiguous coastal parks.

The Environmental Growth Fund was established by voters in 1972 and is defined in the City of San Diego Charter, Article VII, section 103.1a which sets aside twenty-five percent (25%) of revenues collected from franchises for the transmission and distribution of gas, electricity and steam to be used for two-thirds of the debt service on bonds of any nature which are subsequently authorized to acquire open space for parks or recreational purposes and the remaining for the preservation and enhancement of the environment of the City of San Diego. If no such bonds are subsequently issued, the entire fund must be used exclusively for the preservation and enhancement of the environment of the City of San Diego. Municipal Code § 63.30 entitled “Utilization of the Environmental Growth Fund” outlines further requirements for the use of the fund, including priorities and a mechanism to temporarily suspend compliance with requirements in the event of insufficient revenues. Since Fiscal Year (FY) 2005, when outstanding bonds were partially paid down, the two-thirds portion of the fund had less expenditures than revenues and is carrying an increasing balance. Since that time, excess funds within the two-thirds portion have been used to reimburse the General Fund for open space maintenance; matching grant funds for open space acquisition; regional park maintenance; and other purposes consistent with section 103.1a.



## MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK

### **6.1.1.2. SAN DIEGO ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS (SANDAG)**

SANDAG is made up of 18 cities and county governments and serves as the forum for regional decision-making. SANDAG builds consensus, develops strategic plans, obtains and allocates resources, plans, engineers, and builds public transportation, and provides information on a board range of topics pertinent to the region's quality of life. SANDAG administers TransNet funding for planning and construction of transportation projects. A percentage of the funding is set aside for bicycle transportation projects and will fund habitat-related environmental mitigation activities required to implement projects identified in the Regional Transportation Plan. In addition, SANDAG has created an Integrated Regional Infrastructure Strategy (IRIS) that identifies four regional infrastructure areas that are significantly underfunded and lack dedicated funding streams: habitat conservation, shoreline preservation, water quality enhancement and public transit operations and maintenance. SANDAG has embarked on a regional dialogue to examine quality of life funding priorities and potential funding mechanisms through the SANDAG Quality of Life Ad Hoc Steering Committee, which oversees policy development of the Funding Strategy. Additionally, SANDAG administers an Active Transportation Grant Program which competitively funds capital and planning projects that benefit local system improvements for bicycle, pedestrian, neighborhood safety, and traffic calming.

### **6.1.1.3. DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENTS**

Private development can also fund land acquisition and improvements through Development Agreements. These types of agreements are contracts between the City and a developer or property owner that ensures development rights in accordance with specified and predictable regulations in exchange for extraordinary public benefits. This may be a viable approach within the East Elliott area of MTRP where significant private property still exists.

### **6.1.1.4. MITIGATION / SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS**

Mitigation requirements and Supplemental Environmental Projects (SEPs) shall be used for land acquisitions, habitat creation, or environmental enhancements throughout MTRP.

City of San Diego Departments can conduct mitigation projects within MTRP for environmental impacts occurring inside or outside of MTRP.

Other public agencies, such as SDG&E and SDCWA, can conduct mitigation projects within MTRP for environmental impacts that occur within MTRP only. They shall not be allowed to use City-owned lands currently within MTRP as mitigation for environmental impacts elsewhere within the county.

Regulatory agencies, such as the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board, can direct funds collected as fines and penalties towards SEPs throughout the region. Recommendations contained in the MPU shall be utilized for these purposes.





## 2019 MASTER PLAN UPDATE

### **6.1.2. STATE FUNDING AGENCIES**

(An ongoing listing of state government grants is available at [www.getgrants.ca.gov](http://www.getgrants.ca.gov)):

#### **6.1.2.1. STATE COASTAL CONSERVANCY**

Provides grants for projects that provide public access to coastal areas, protect and enhance coastal resources and agricultural lands, restore urban waterfronts, and acquire land to protect coastal watersheds and other natural resources. Eligible Applicants: Public Agencies and Non-profit organizations.

#### **6.1.2.2. STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD**

Provides grants for projects that prevent or reduce storm water contamination of rivers, lakes and streams. Preference is given to projects that: 1) support sustained long-term water quality improvement, or, 2) are consistent with an applicable Integrated Regional Water Management Plan. Eligible Applicants: Public Agencies.

#### **6.1.2.3. STATE DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES**

Provides grants for projects that help meet the State's water needs, including water supply projects, water quality projects, groundwater projects, removal of invasive non-native species, trash and debris clearing accompanied with re-vegetation, removal of culverts to stabilize river channels, management of storm water runoff to reduce flood damage, and habitat projects that are beneficial to the State's long term water needs. Eligible Applicants: Local Public Agencies and other organizations included in an Integrated Regional Water Management Plan.

#### **6.1.2.4. STATE DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION**

Provides grants to protect fish, wildlife, and native plant resources, to acquire or develop wildlife corridors and trails, and to provide for natural interpretation programs and other programs which bring urban residents into park and wildlife areas. The Recreational Trails Program Grant may be used for maintenance and restoration of existing trails, purchase and lease of trail construction and maintenance equipment, construction of new trails and acquisition of easements or property for trails. Eligible Applicants: Public Agencies.

#### **6.1.2.5. STATE NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY**

Provides grants for multi-objective river parkway projects such as, providing compatible recreational opportunities, protect, improve or restore river habitats, provide open space for flood management, convert existing developed riverfront land into a river parkway or provide interpretive enhancement and conservation activities. Eligible Applicants: Public Agencies, State Agencies, and Non-profit organizations.



## MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK

### **6.1.2.6. SAN DIEGO RIVER CONSERVANCY**

Provides funding for the planning and construction of pathways and trails, removal of exotic species and habitat revegetation, improve water quality, acquisition of land for new parks or open space and interpretation programs. Eligible Applicants: Public Agencies and Non-profit organizations.

### **6.1.2.7. STATE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD**

Provides grants for the restoration and protection of wildlife areas, projects that provide public access to facilities for wildlife viewing and other wildlife oriented purposes, and protection of habitat through conservation easements or acquisition. Eligible Applicants: Public Agencies and Non-profit organizations.

### **6.1.2.8. CALTRANS**

Provides grants for projects that mitigate the risks and damages to the environment associated with the construction of new, or modification of existing transportation facilities. Projects that improve air quality through urban forestry, acquisition and restoration projects that protect or enhance watershed, wetlands, or wildlife areas and acquisition or development projects for roadside recreation. Eligible Applicants: Public Agencies, State Agencies, Federal Agencies and Non-profit organizations.

### **6.1.3. FEDERAL FUNDING AGENCIES:**

(An ongoing listing of federal government grants is available at [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov)):

#### **6.1.3.1. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**

There are many National Park Service federal grants, government grants and loans. Of these the Land & Water Conservation Fund and River, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program could potentially assist in the implementation of the MTRP Master Plan. Eligible Applicants: Public Agencies and Non-profit organizations.

#### **6.1.3.2. US FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE**

Provides grants for projects that: 1) promote conservation of wetlands and associated habitats for migratory birds and other wildlife, 2) for projects that restore natural resources and establish or expand wildlife habitat and, 3) to help conserve birds. Eligible Applicants: Public Agencies and Non-profit organizations.

### **6.1.4. PRIVATE FUNDING (PRIVATE FOUNDATIONS, PHILANTHROPIC ORGANIZATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS)**

A number of private foundations, philanthropic organizations, and individuals have made contributions to fund improvements or maintain a special area by donating funds to a privately run foundation or to a public entity.





## 2019 MASTER PLAN UPDATE

### **6.1.4.1. MTRP FOUNDATION**

The MTRP Foundation's mission is to work in partnership with the City of San Diego, to preserve and protect the natural environment of Mission Trails Regional Park and to provide and promote educational and recreational opportunities.

Mission Trails Regional Park Foundation was formed in 1988 as a 501(c)(3) non-profit public benefit corporation. It was created to provide fund-raising and special programs for the park. It is governed by a Board of Directors, in accordance with the State approved Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws. Officers of the Board are President, Vice President and Secretary/Treasurer. The public purposes of the Foundation are to preserve, improve, develop and maintain the park and to foster public appreciation and understanding of Mission Trails Regional Park.

In 1991, the City and Foundation entered into an agreement regarding their relationship and establishing a process to govern the use of public funds (which may be provided to the Foundation by the City) and to review and approve the Foundation's annual work program. This work program has included: soliciting funds (private donations, grants), publicizing the park (newsletter, brochures), maintaining a gift shop, sponsoring programs (environmental education, art shows, concerts as well as annual tree planting, photo contest, volunteer recognition), purchasing supplies and equipment, funding construction projects, hiring staff assistance, and coordinating activities with City staff.

All profits from the gift shop and other fund raising activities are used to benefit the park.

### **6.1.4.2. SAN DIEGO FOUNDATION**

The San Diego Foundation, a 501(c)(3) public benefit nonprofit organization, is proud to stand as San Diego's premiere resource for information about charitable giving and community needs. They encourage, support and facilitate meaningful dialogue on issues affecting each of our communities, and work with philanthropists to develop creative solutions to meet critical community needs.

Since their inception in 1975, the San Diego Foundation has helped public-spirited citizens find ways to address community problems. The funds they manage number in the thousands. Through them, their donors support numerous organizations and serve a variety of extraordinary causes. Their donors and funds all share a common purpose: to make San Diego a better place to live, work and play

The mission of the San Diego Foundation is to improve the quality of life in all of our communities by providing leadership for effective philanthropy that builds enduring assets and by promoting community solutions through research, convenings and actions that advance the common good.

Preserve the Past • Protect What's Good • Create a Better Future



## MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK

### **6.1.5. PARTNERSHIPS**

Partnerships, whether between public agencies or with non-profit organizations, are crucial to the successful implementation and ongoing management of the natural and recreational resources within the park. Several non-profit organizations have an active interest in the park and are likely project partners.

#### **6.1.5.1. SAN DIEGO RIVER PARK FOUNDATION**

The San Diego River Park Foundation (SDRPF), a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization is dedicated to fostering stewardship and appreciation of the region's namesake waterway. In order to protect and enhance the San Diego River as a place for recreation, habitat, and nature discovery. It is dedicated to engaging people to be stewards of the River and working towards the vision of a 52 mile, river-long system of parks, open spaces, and community places.

Founded in 2001, the SDRPF is a community-based grassroots non-profit organization. It relies upon donations and support from the community for general operations as well as grants, both public and private. The SDRPF partners with government agencies such as the San Diego River Conservancy, business and civic leaders, and a wide range of public organizations. By promoting stewardship of the River, promoting a better understanding of the River's natural systems, and creating appropriate access to this incredible historic resource, the SDRPF is endeavoring to enhance the quality of life in San Diego.

#### **6.1.5.2. SAN DIEGO MOUNTAIN BIKING ASSOCIATION**

San Diego Mountain Biking Association (SDMBA) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, volunteer organization representing the interests of off-road cyclists and other non-motorized trail users in San Diego County. SDMBA's goal is to unite mountain bike riders, retailers and manufacturers to speak with a coordinated and responsible voice in dealing with other trail users, land managers and policy makers.

SDMBA is dedicated to the safe and appropriate use of mountain bikes in shared-use recreational areas. Mountain bikers are responsible members of the outdoor recreation community and share with hikers, equestrians, birders and other trail users a deep appreciation and sense of responsibility for the preservation of San Diego County's public lands. They are eager to work with others in preserving, protecting and sharing these fragile natural resources. Cooperation, consideration and communication are the most effective means of ensuring a safe and rewarding outdoor experience for all trail users.

#### **6.1.5.3. ALLIED CLIMBERS OF SAN DIEGO**

The Allied Climbers of San Diego (ACSD) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit public organization which acts as a collective voice for balanced access rights of outdoor enthusiasts in and surrounding the San Diego region and is an environmentally responsible membership-based climbers' advocacy organization dedicated to promoting and maintaining access to climbing and outdoor recreation.





### **6.1.5.4. SAN DIEGO COUNTY EQUESTRIAN FOUNDATION**

The San Diego County Equestrian Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations whose mission is to protect equestrian community's rights and preserve equestrian, as well as, other related recreational uses within San Diego County. They provide support to equestrians and share ideas with community planning groups in their efforts to protect equestrian and other related recreation uses in their individual community planning areas. A goal of the organization is to provide a forum for the equestrian community to act as one voice on behalf of all of San Diego County's equestrians including, but not limited to residents, seasonal residents, and visitors, in an open and productive dialogue with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, California Department of Fish & Wildlife, San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board, and the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers and any other related agencies.



## MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK

### **6.2. TRAILS PLAN IMPLEMENTATION**

The trail recommendations contained within this MPU will be conducted in a phased approach based on multiple objectives including; resource protection value, staffing capacity, complexity of implementation, and available funding. One or more phases may be implemented in a given year.

The City of San Diego will be responsible for all improvements within the Cowles Mountain area as identified in the Master Plan and per the Joint Powers Agreement with the County of San Diego Regarding the Operation and Maintenance of Tijuana River Valley Park and Mission Trails Regional Park. Any recreational amenity and its management, or subsequent projects proposed within the County owned Cowles Mountain area will require analysis and review by the County on a project by project basis.

The MPU has identified over 35 miles of official and unauthorized trails to close over time. The distribution of trail closures across each area of the Park is: Lake Murray - 0.34 miles, Cowles Mountain - 6.29 miles, Mission Gorge - 1.06 miles, Fortuna Mountain - 6.58 miles, East Elliott - 20.49 miles , West Sycamore - 0.80 miles.

The first few phases of implementation will be focused on a series of prioritized trail closures and restoration throughout the park prior to the implementation of new trail construction. Each area of MTRP has been assessed to identify one or more phases of trail closures to be conducted in conjunction with the ability to implement new trails. The first phase or two of trail closures in each area are prioritized as part of the MPU; however the subsequent phases can be adapted to fit park needs over time and may be re-sequenced as necessary.





## 2019 MASTER PLAN UPDATE

### **6.2.1. LAKE MURRAY**

A single phase of 0.34 miles of trail closures is recommended for the Lake Murray area prior to implementing the recommended new trail connection within the Lake Murray area.

### **6.2.2. COWLES MOUNTAIN**

Four phases of trail closures are recommended for Cowles Mountain. The first phase contains 0.51 miles of trails and is being implemented prior to official adoption of this MPU. The second phase contains 2.68 miles of trails and should be implemented prior to any new trail segments within the Cowles Mountain area. Phase three of the trail closures includes another 2.98 miles and should be implemented as part of the proposed loop trail. The last phase of trail closures is a short 0.12 mile segment that may be challenging to close due to established community use patterns. This phase can be implemented earlier or later in the overall sequence based on staff capacity and funding.

### **6.2.3. MISSION GORGE**

A single phase of 0.89 miles of trail closures is recommended for the Mission Gorge area prior to implementing the recommended new trail connections within the Mission Gorge area.

### **6.2.4. FORTUNA MOUNTAIN**

Eight phases of trail closures are recommended for Fortuna Mountain for a total of 6.58 miles. The first phase contains 0.84 miles of trails and is being implemented prior to official adoption of this MPU. Phase two of the trail closures includes another 0.81 miles and should be implemented prior to any new trail segments within the Fortuna Mountain area. The third phase of trail closure includes 1.11 miles and should be implemented as part of the proposed trail improvement near the Quarry. The fourth phase of trail closure includes 1.08 miles and should be implemented prior to the new trail segments at Fortuna Saddle or along North Perimeter. The fifth phase of trail closure includes 1.35 miles and should be implemented prior to the new trail segments at Fortuna Saddle or along North Perimeter. The sixth phase of trail closure includes 0.54 miles and should be implemented as part of the proposed trail improvements at Fortuna Saddle or along North Perimeter. The seventh phase of trail closures includes 0.56 miles and should be implemented as part of the connector trail from the San Diego River to South Fortuna. The last phase of trail closures includes 0.30 miles near the East Fortuna Multi-use Staging Area.



## MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK

### **6.2.5. EAST ELLIOTT**

The current patchwork of public and private ownership throughout the East Elliott area makes the implementation of trail closures difficult, as many existing trails cross both public and private property. Before a new trail can be opened on privately owned land, the City would either acquire the property or request a public access easement to be granted. Once private land is acquired or easements granted, and new trails established, closed trails could be restored.

Six phases of trail closures are recommended for East Elliott for a total of 20.49 miles. The first phase contains 3.01 miles of trails and is being implemented prior to official adoption of this MPU. Phase two of the trail closures includes another 7.02 miles and should be implemented prior to any new trail segments within the East Elliott area. The third phase of trail closure includes 2.89 miles and should be implemented as part of the proposed trail improvements along Oak Canyon. The fourth phase of trail closure includes 3.03 miles and should be implemented as part of the trail improvements within upper Spring Canyon. The fifth phase of trail closure includes 0.86 miles and should be implemented as part of the trail improvements along the north edge of the landfill. The last phase of trail closure includes 3.68 miles and should be implemented as part of the proposed trail improvements connecting Spring Canyon to the Santee Boulders.

### **6.2.6. WEST SYCAMORE**

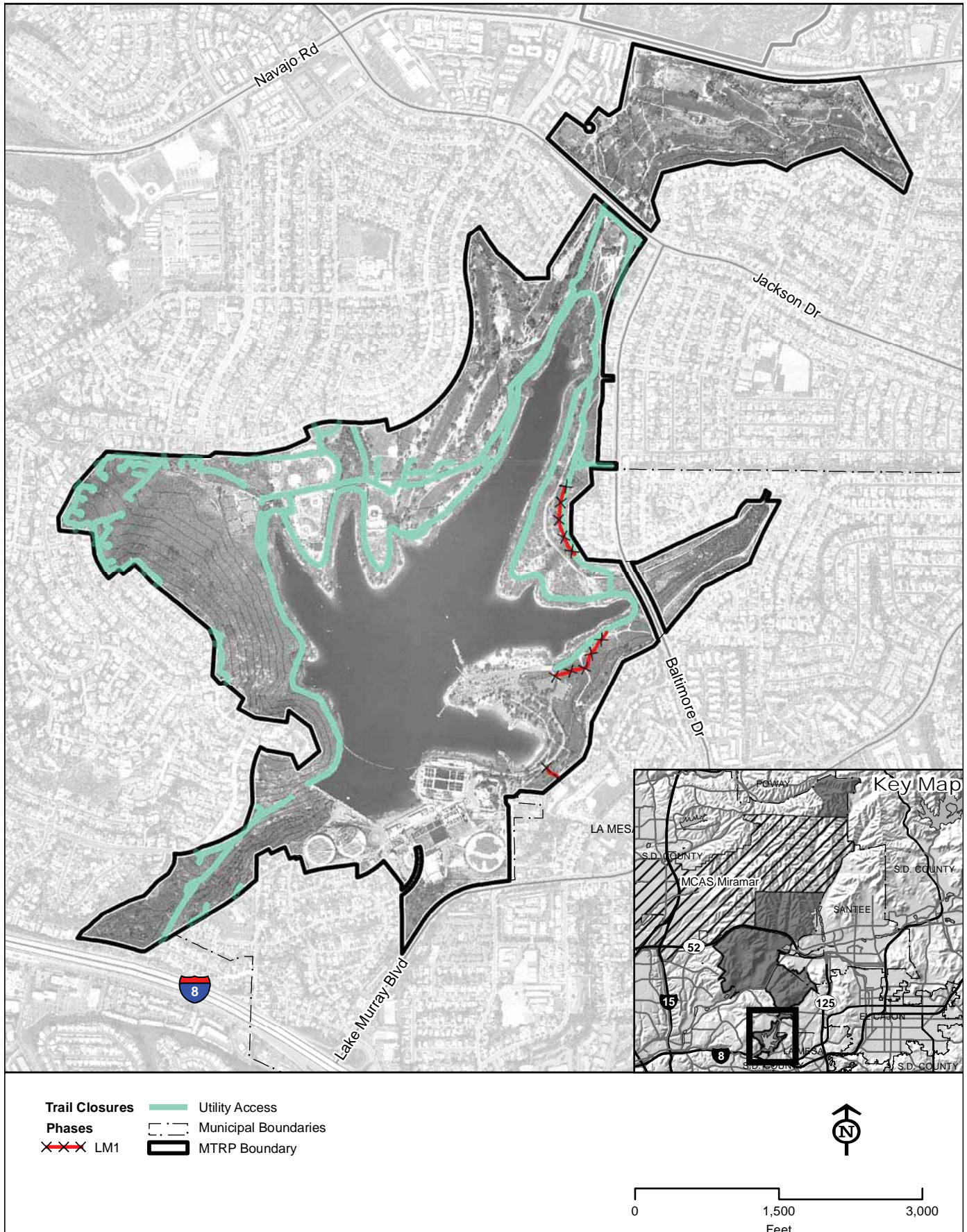
Two phases of trail closures are recommended for West Sycamore for a total of 0.80 miles. The first phase contains 0.41 miles of trails and is being implemented prior to official adoption of this MPU. A second phase of 0.39 miles of trail closures is recommended for implementation as part of the new trail connections within the West Sycamore area.





# 2019 MASTER PLAN UPDATE

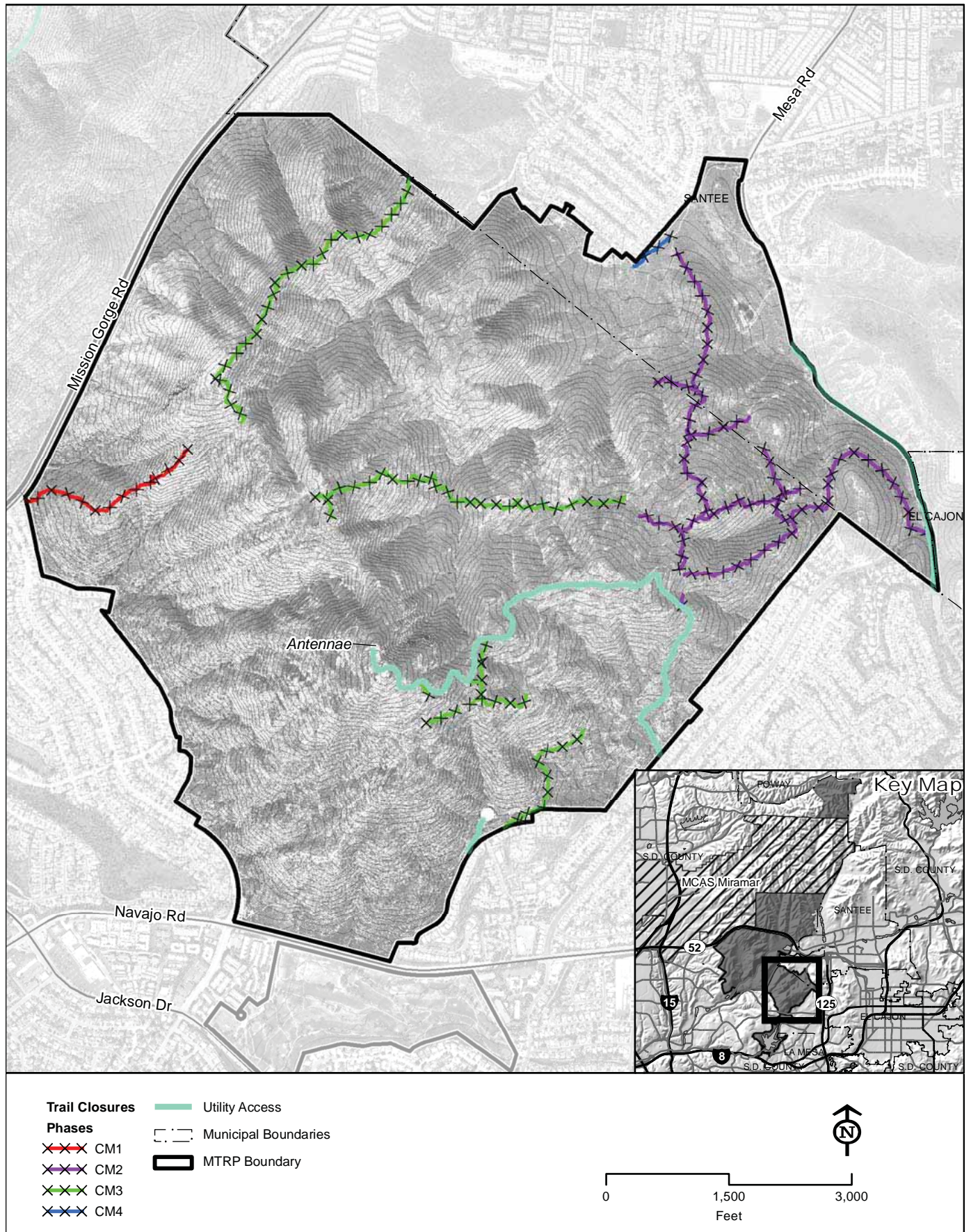
Figure 6-1: Trail Closure Phasing within Lake Murray





# MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK

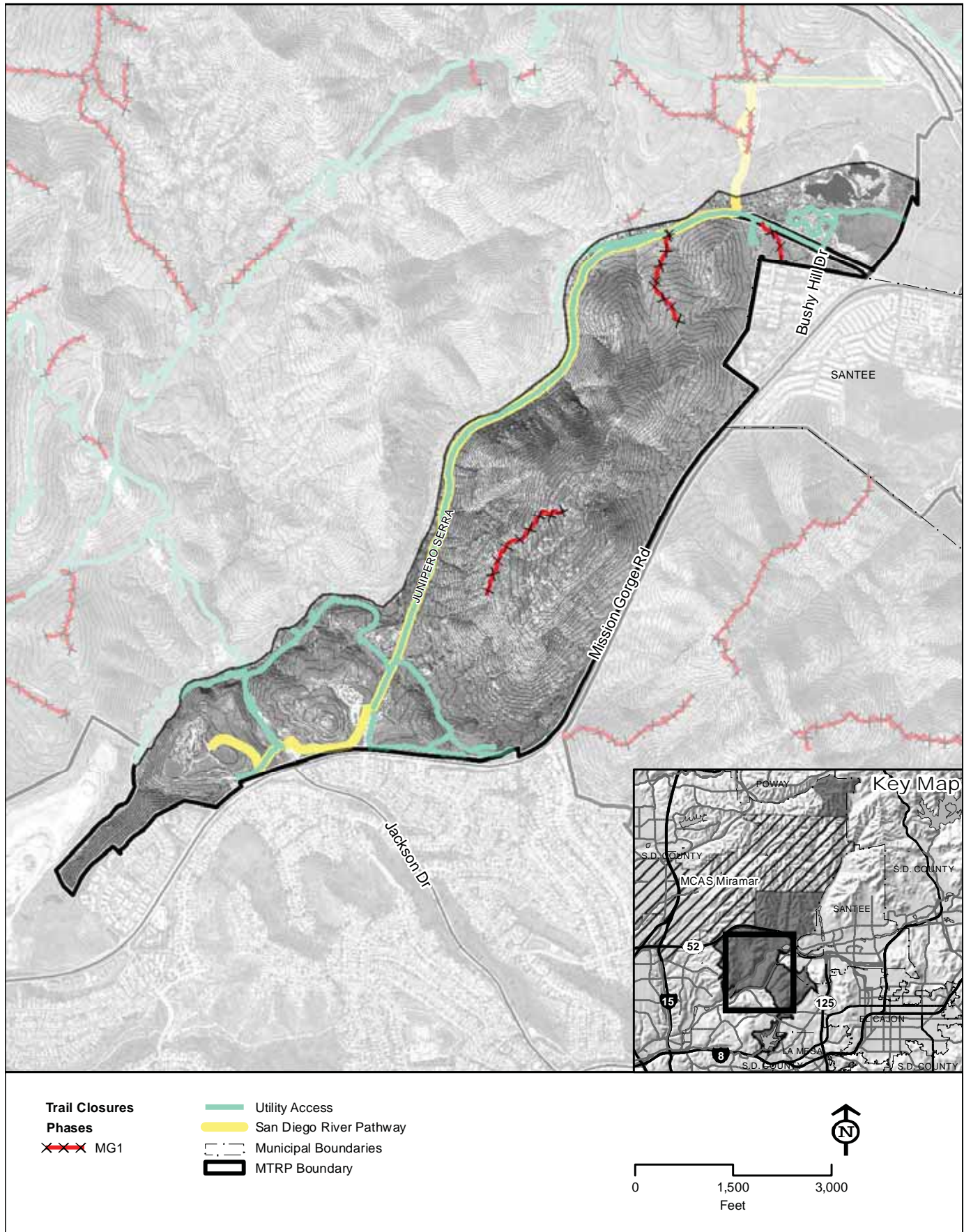
Figure 6-2: Trail Closure Phasing within Cowles Mountain





# 2019 MASTER PLAN UPDATE

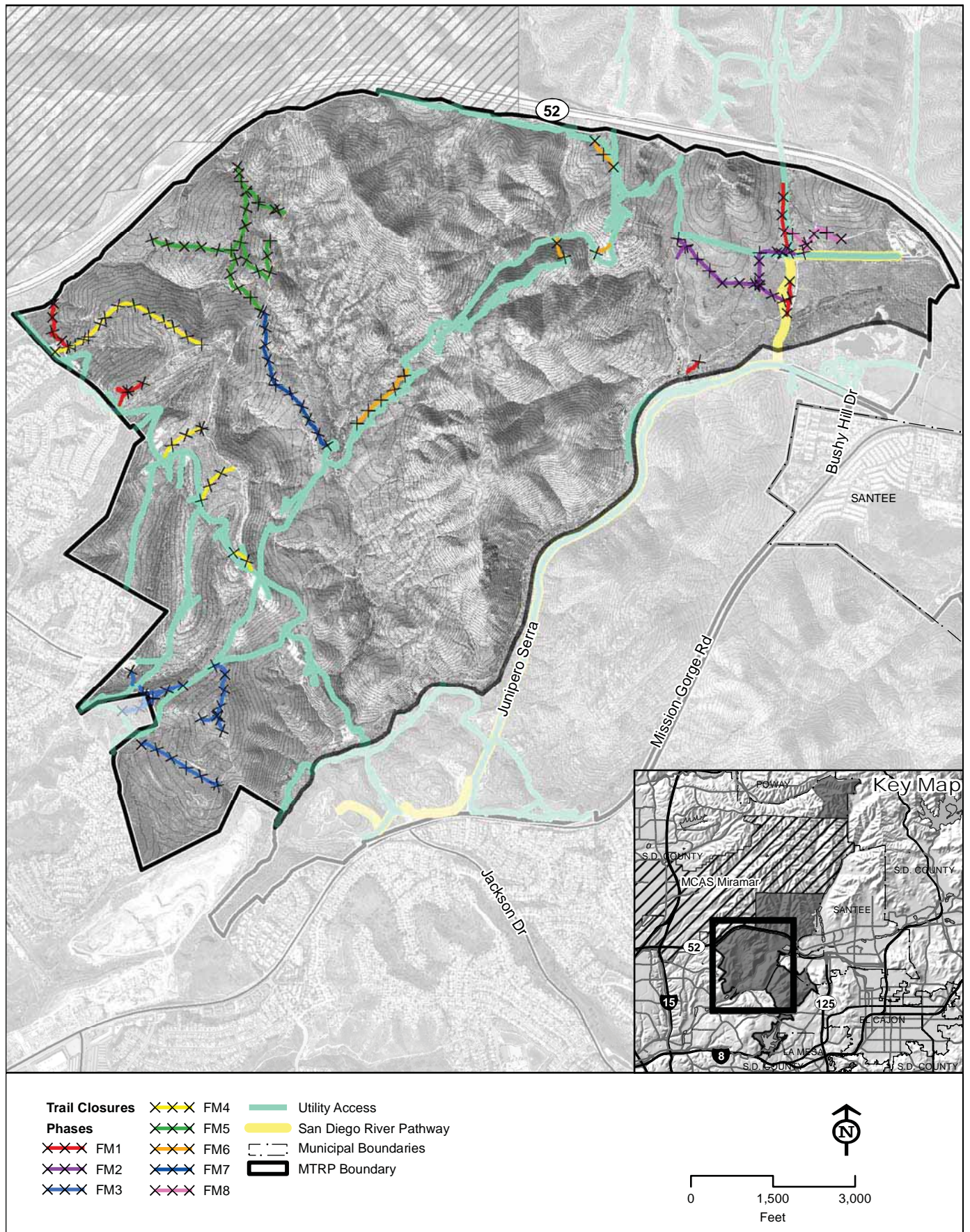
Figure 6-3: Trail Closure Phasing within Mission Gorge





# MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK

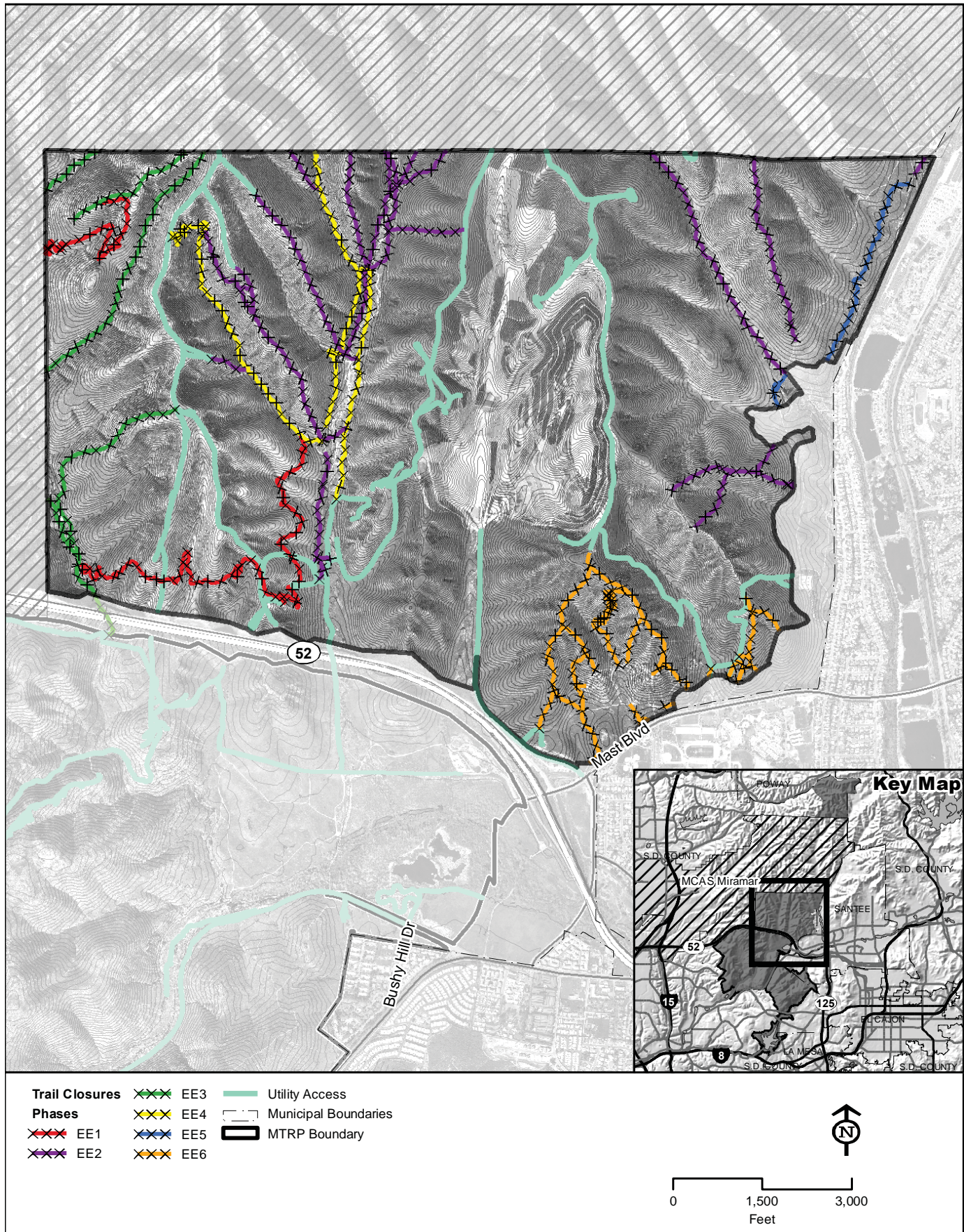
Figure 6-4: Trail Closure Phasing within Fourtuna Mountain





# 2019 MASTER PLAN UPDATE

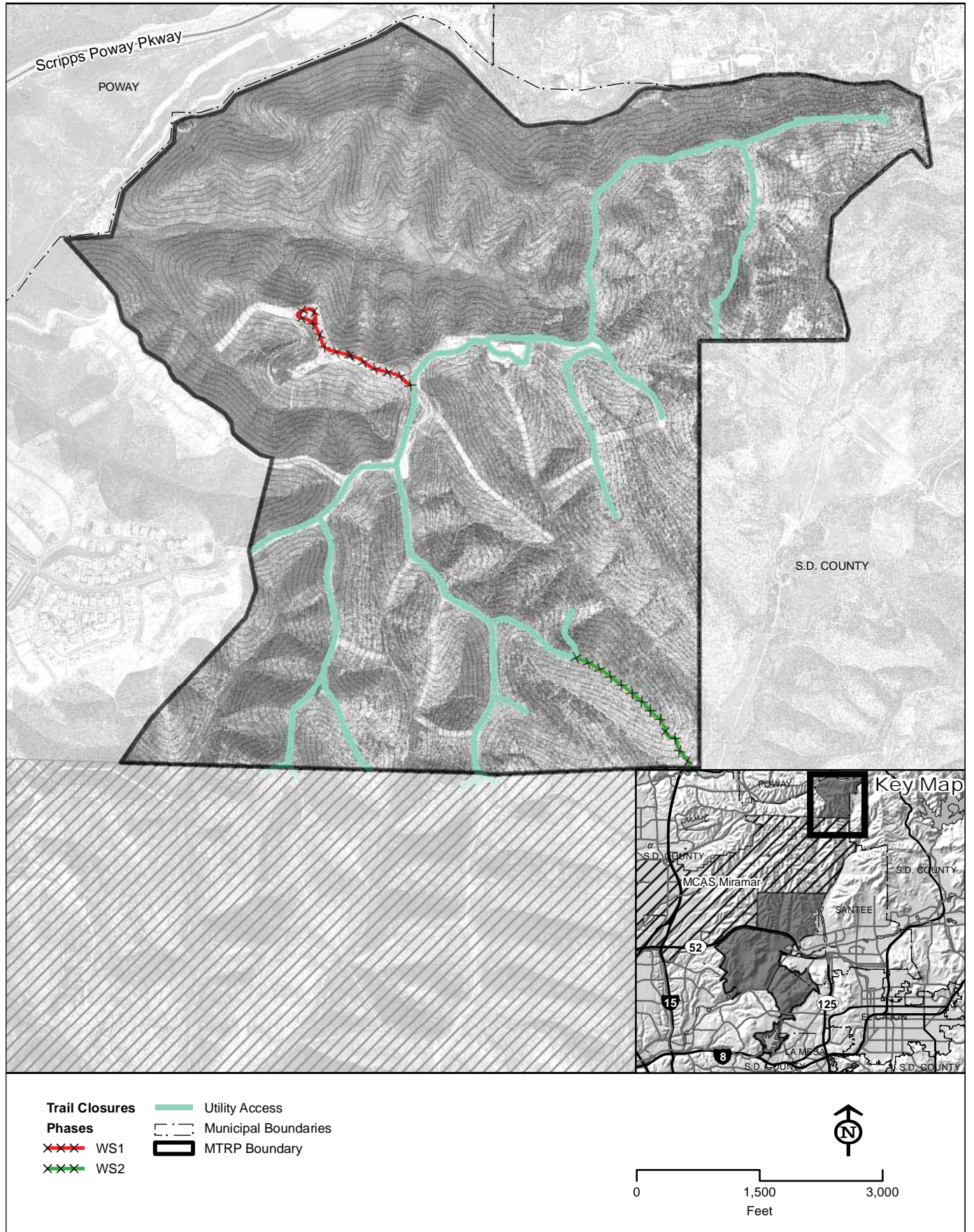
Figure 6-5: Trail Closure Phasing within East Elliott





# MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK

Figure 6-6 Trail Closure Phasing within West Sycamore





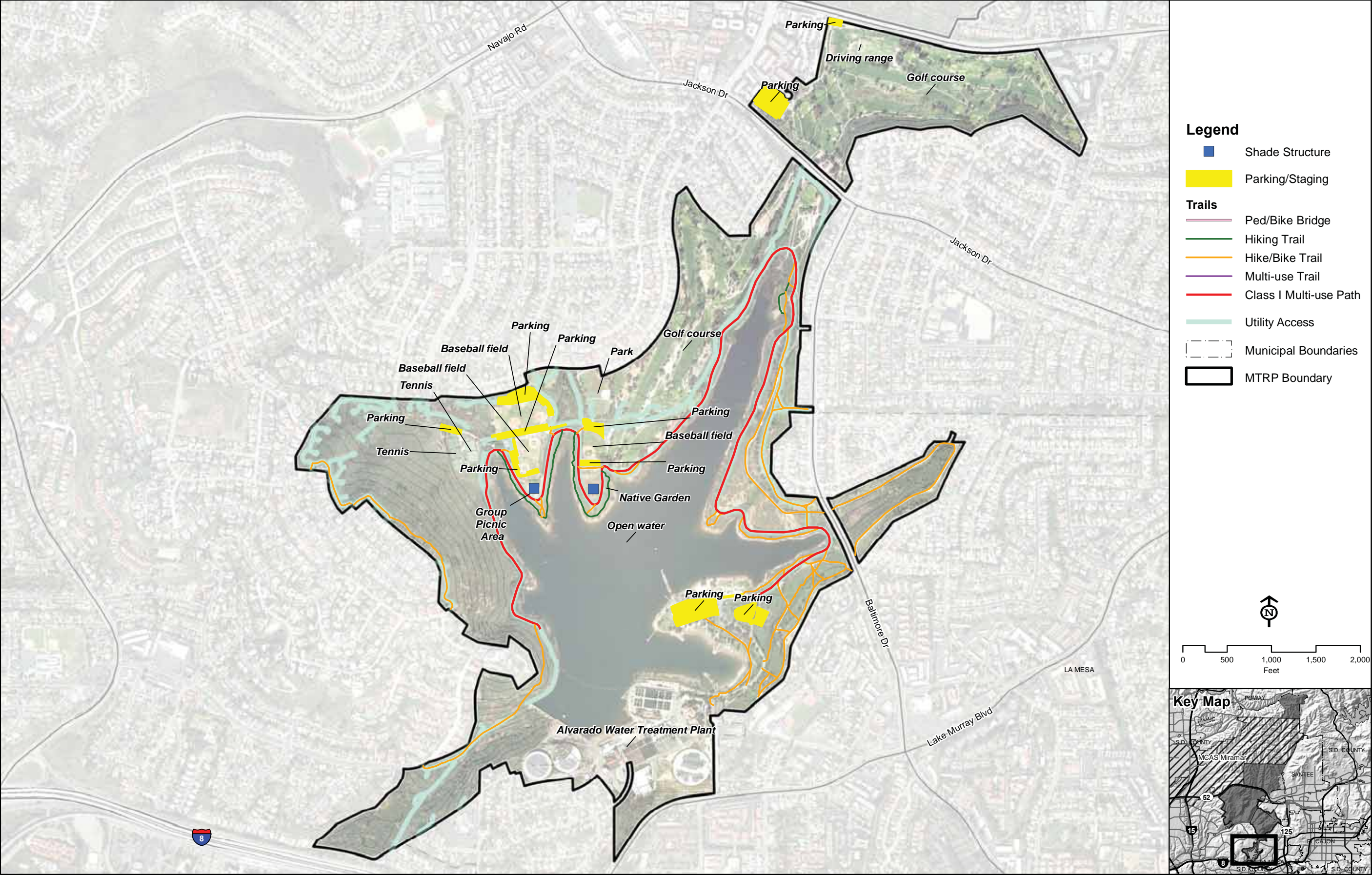
### **6.3. FUTURE CONDITIONS**

Figure 6-7 through 6-12 depict each area of MTRP as it would look after all of the recommendations within the MPU have been implemented.





Figure 6-7: Future Conditions within Lake Murray

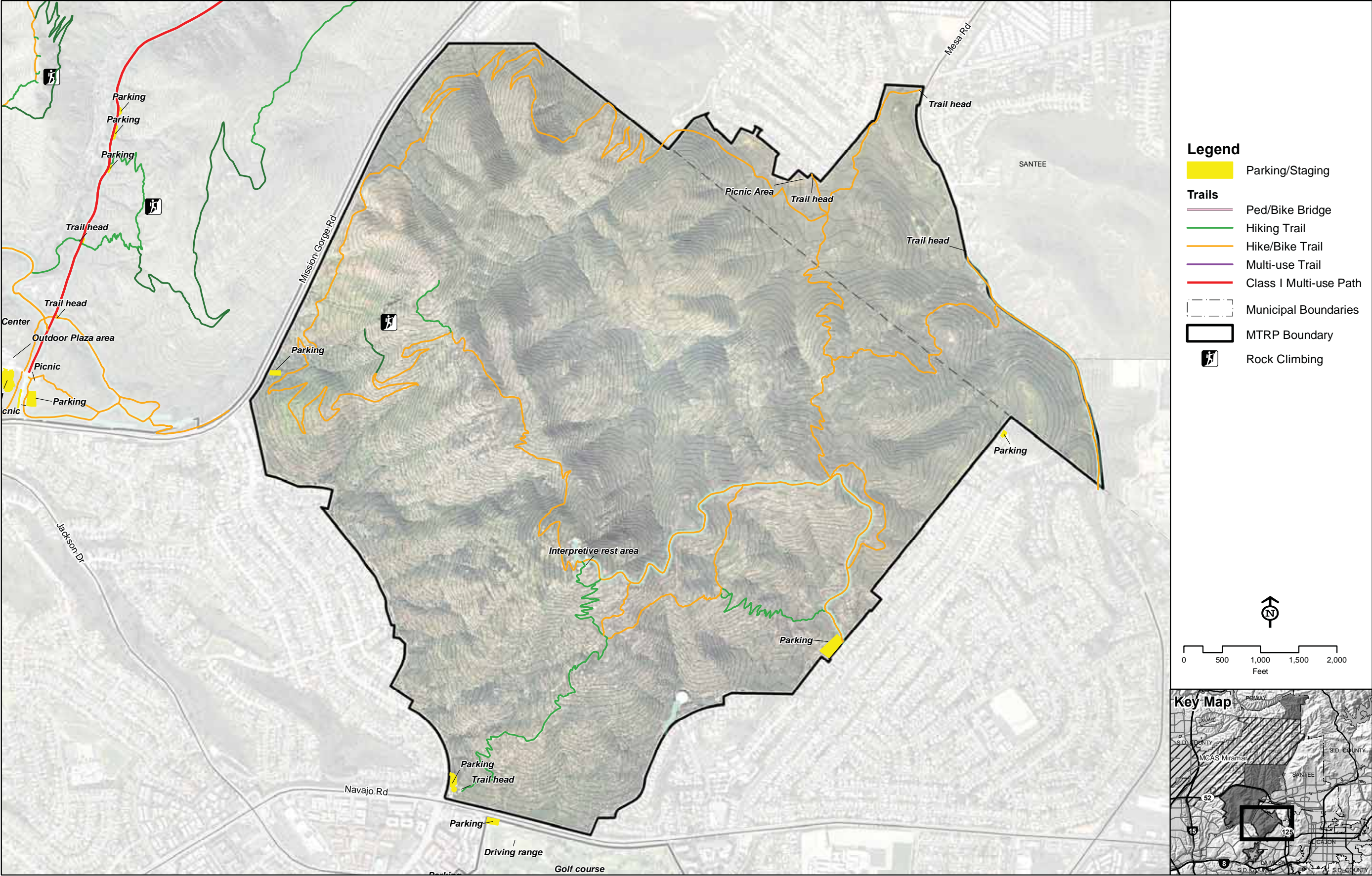




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Figure 6-8: Future Conditions within Cowles Mountain

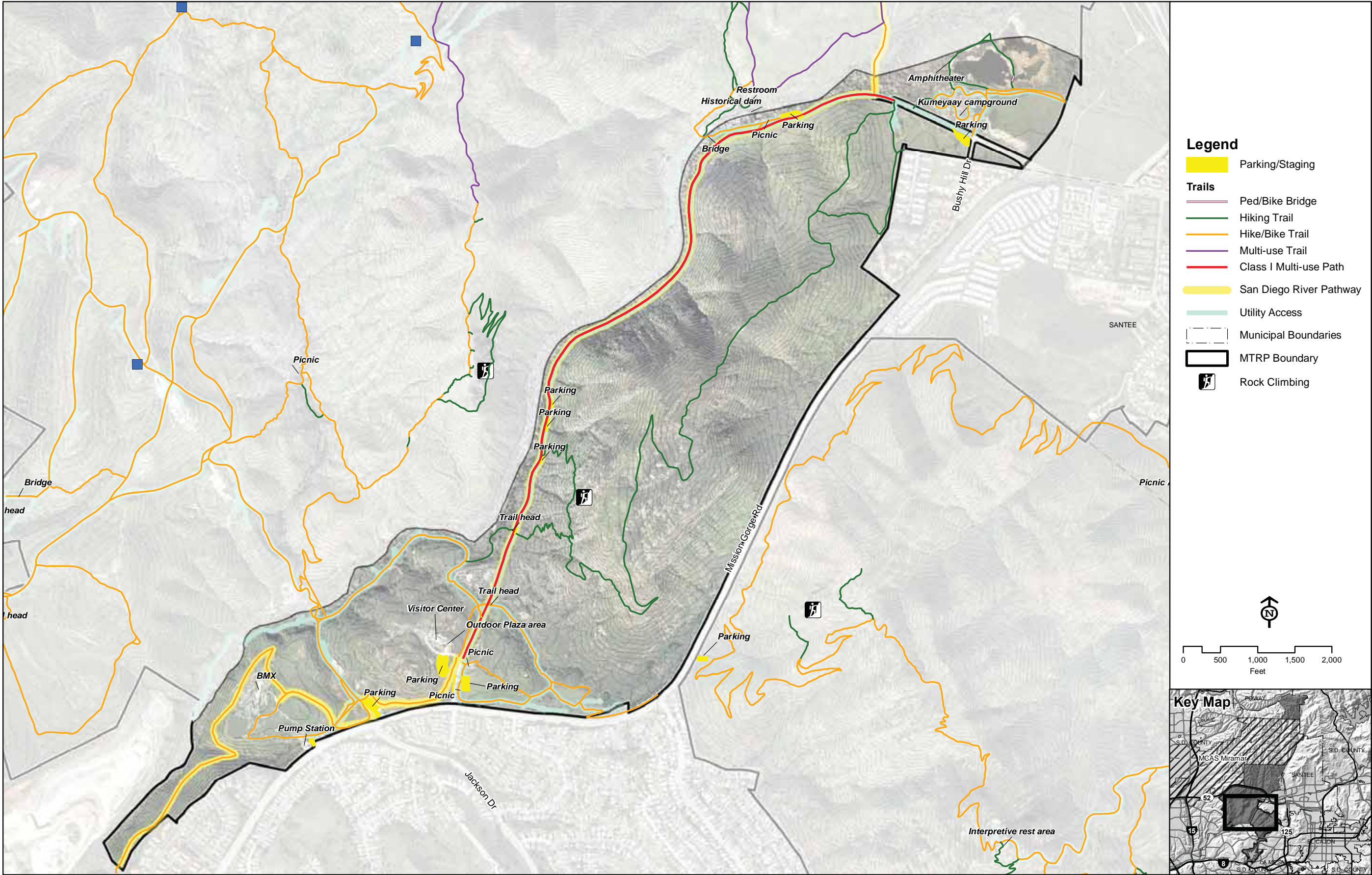




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Figure 6-9: Future Conditions within Mission Gorge



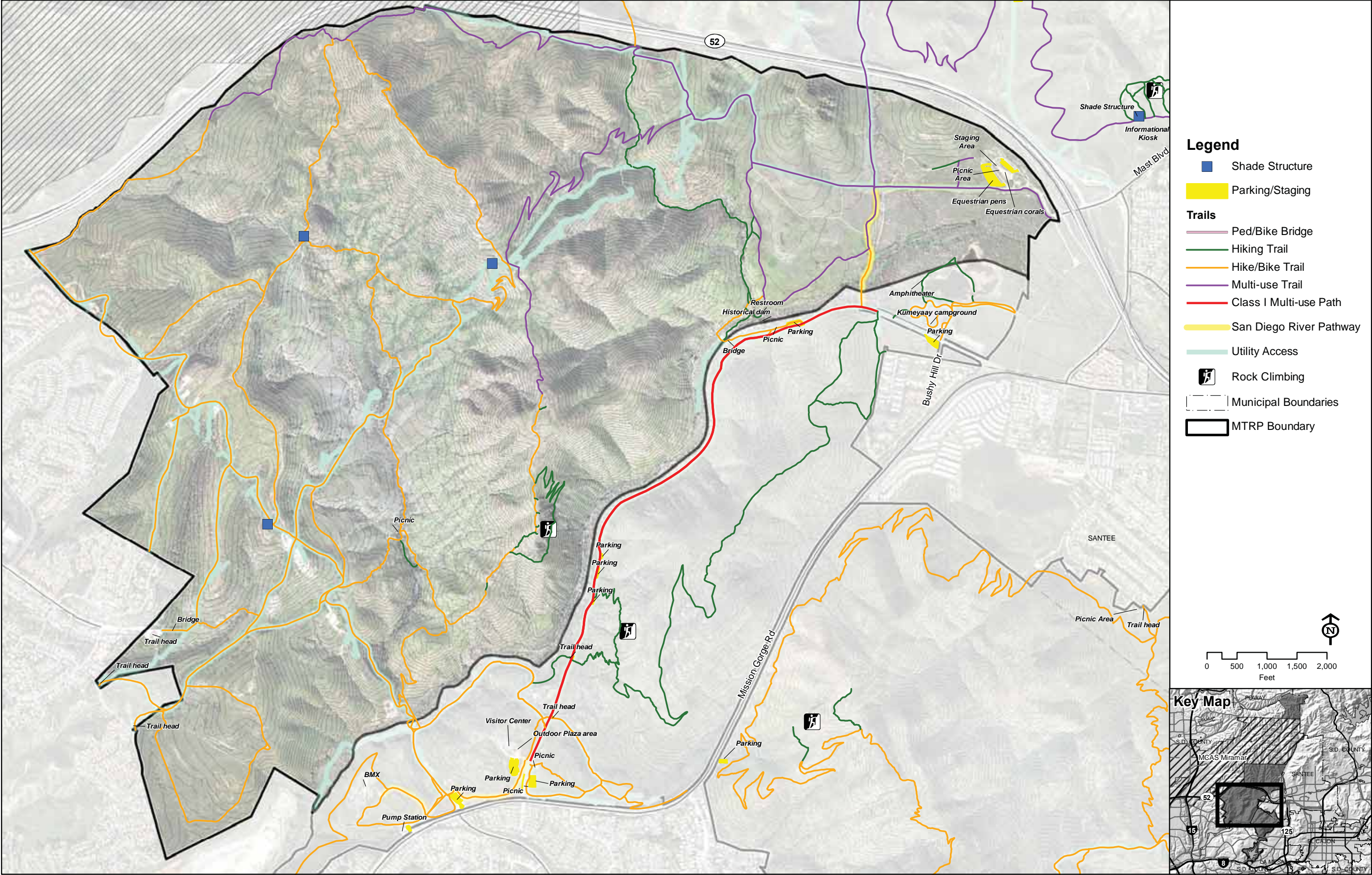


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Figure 6-10: Future Conditions within Fortuna Mountain

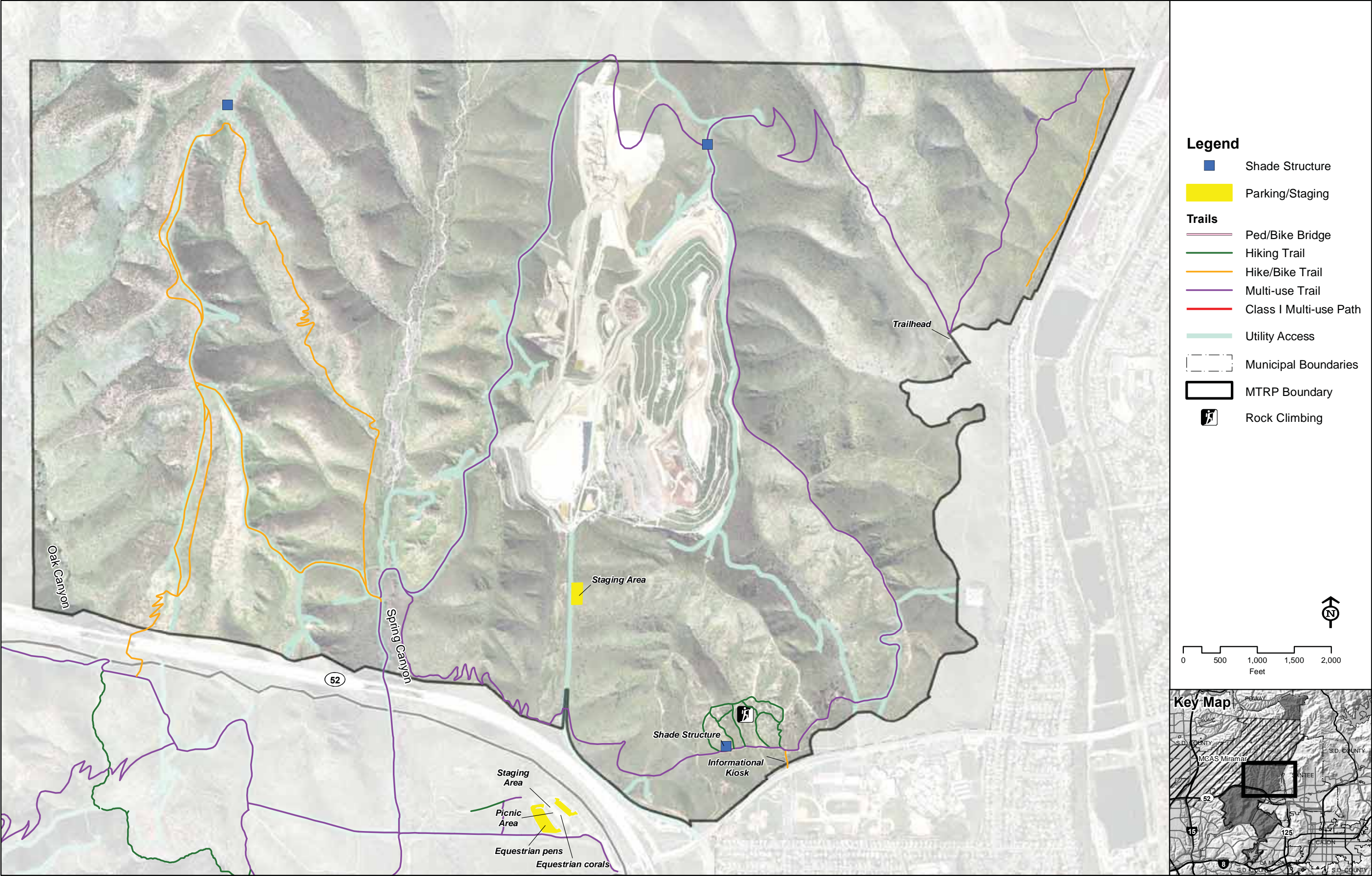




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Figure 6-11: Future Conditions within East Elliott

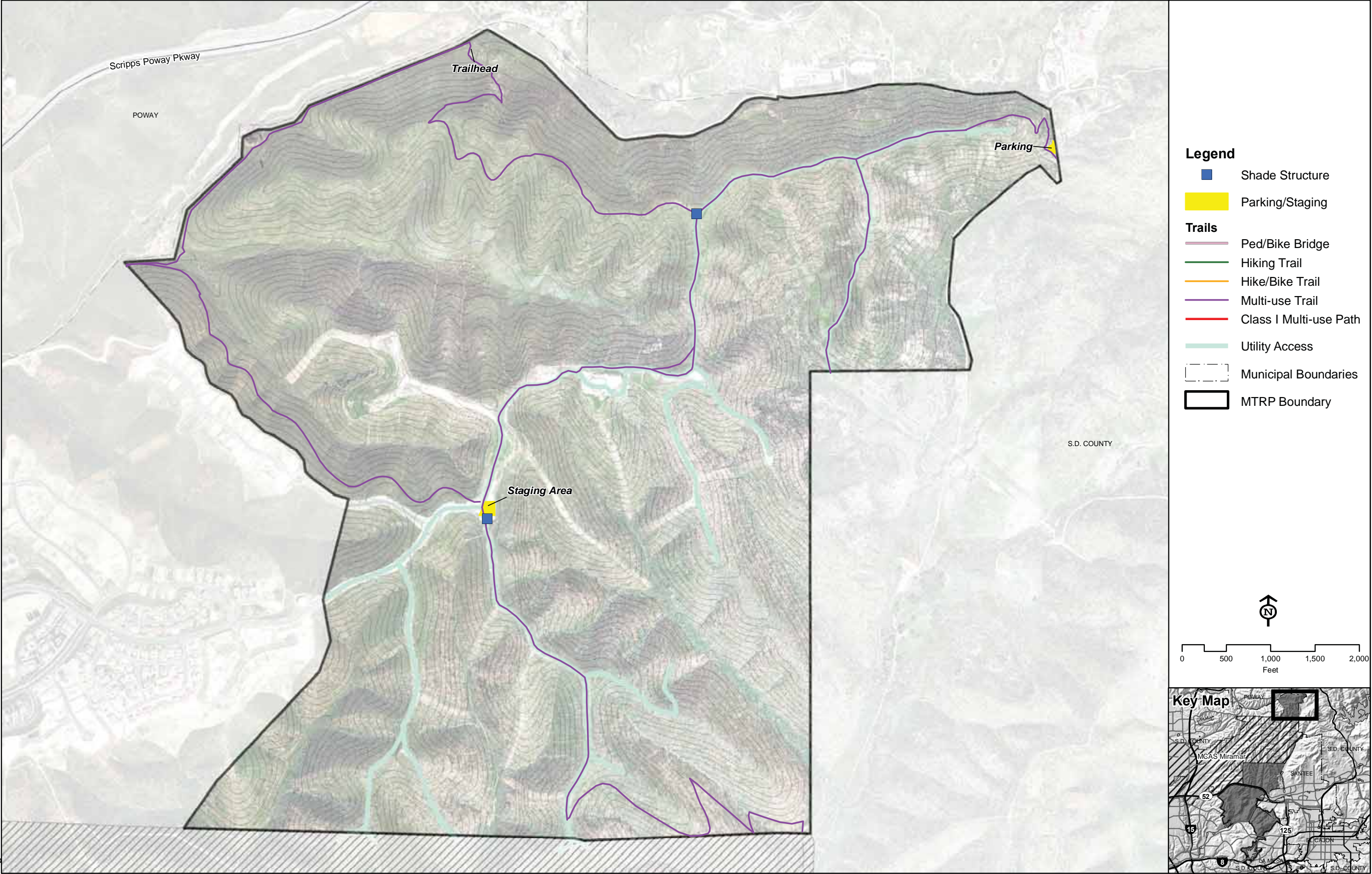




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Figure 6-12: Future Conditions within West Sycamore





*Back of Figure*



## **A. PUBLIC PROCESS SUMMARY**

This appendix includes the notifications, presentation materials, and results from the major elements of the public process utilized during the development of the MTRP MPU.

The MTRP Public Process included:

- Workshop #1 (January 2011-included)
- Workshop #2 (March 2011-included)
- Workshop #3 (June 2011-included)
- Pre-Public Draft MPU (March 2013-City Departments, Public Agencies, Regulatory Agencies)
- Public Draft MPU (October 2013)
- Notice of Preparation for EIR (April 2014-included )
- Regulatory Agency Coordination
- Revised Public Draft MPU (November 2016)







**THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO**

# **MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK MASTER PLAN UPDATE PUBLIC WORKSHOP**

The City of San Diego Planning and Community Investment Department, Park Planning Section, would like to invite you to participate in the first Public Workshop for the Mission Trails Regional Park Master Plan. The meeting will focus on identifying objectives, issues, concerns and priorities for Mission Trails Regional Park. This information will be used as the base line for updating the 1985 Master Plan.

**Date: January 27, 2011**

**Time: 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.**

**Location: Mission Trails Regional Park  
Visitor and Interpretive Center  
One Father Junipero Serra Trail  
San Diego, CA 92119**

A presentation will be held at 6:30 in the Theater. Mapping and other information will be available for review in the adjacent Meeting Room anytime between 6:00 and 9:00 to facilitate questions and input.

For additional information, please contact the Jeff Harkness (619)533-6595 or email at: [jharkness@sandiego.gov](mailto:jharkness@sandiego.gov)





## Mission Trails Regional Park Master Plan Update and Natural Resources Management Plan

# Public Workshop #1

## Objectives, Issues, Concerns & Priorities



City of San Diego  
City Planning & Community Investment Department  
Contract No. H094797



## Why are we here?

It is recognized that developments included in this Plan will be implemented over an extended period of time, probably approaching **twenty years**. During this period, many changes can be expected in prevailing circumstances and conditions which may dictate more **revisions to the facilities proposed for the Park**. These will depend on **public attitudes, sensitivities, perceived needs and desires**, and the willingness and/or ability of public agencies to meet these needs. The park development is therefore viewed as an **evolutionary process which can and will alter over time**.

MTRP Master Plan Update & Natural Resources Management Plan





## Is this the only Public Workshop?

No – There will be two additional Public Workshops, and the Public Review Period.

Workshop #2 will focus on Alternatives and act as the Public Scoping meeting for the NRMP and EIR.

Workshop #3 will focus on a Draft Master Plan and NRMP



MTRP Master Plan Update & Natural Resources Management Plan



## Goals for Tonight:

- 1) Review 1985 Master Plan
  - a) What has been implemented
  - b) What are the major changes
    - i. MSCP Multiple Habitat Preserve Areas
    - ii. Clairemont Mesa Blvd / Jackson Dr
  - c) What has not or cannot be implemented
- 2) Review East Elliott Expansion Area
- 3) Review West Sycamore Expansion Area

**Receive Your Comments about Uses you like, dislike, or want more/less of & Resources you want to see protected**

MTRP Master Plan Update & Natural Resources Management Plan



# MTRP Mission Statement

“Providing recreational and educational opportunities while protecting historical, cultural and natural resources for future generations.”

Mission Trails Regional Park Vision



*Mission Trails Regional Park has been called  
the third jewel in the City of San Diego Park System  
(Balboa Park and Mission Bay Park are the first and second.)  
2008 City of San Diego General Plan – Recreation Element*

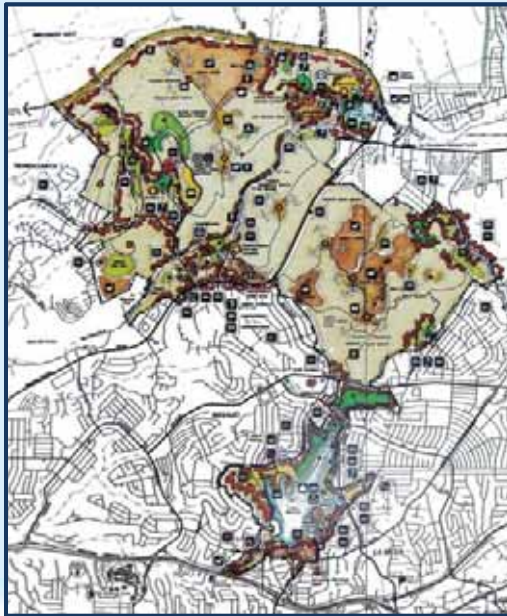
Four Concepts

<b>Multi-purpose Role</b>  Serve comprehensive mix of recreational, educational, and cultural needs of Region  Accommodate active and passive uses	<b>One Park</b>  Distinct geographical areas are integrated to form one regional park with environmental and visual integrity	<b>Trail &amp; Open Space Linkages</b>  Park should orient outward with regional and community trail and open space linkages	<b>Response to Environment</b>  Park uses and facilities should be responsive to environmental opportunities and constraints
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Mission Trails Regional Park Vision







MTRP 1985 Master Plan



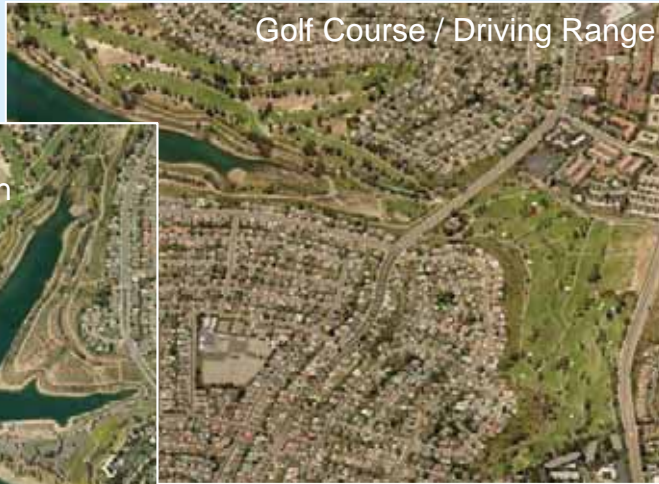
MTRP 1985 Master Plan: Lake Murray



## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Golf Course / Driving Range

Lake Murray  
Recreational Path



Lake Murray



## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Fly Casting / Fishing Pier



Parking / Picnic / Boat Fishing



Alvarado Water Treatment Plant



Lake Murray





## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Tennis Club



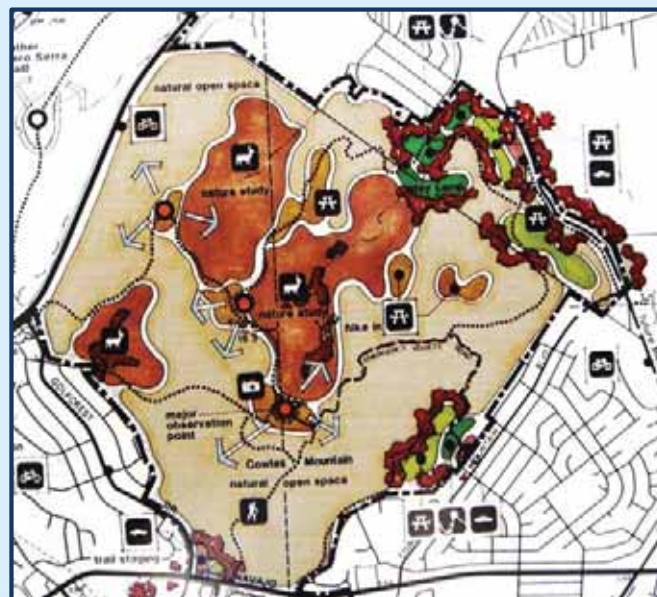
Playground / Multi-use Field



Softball/Baseball Fields



Lake Murray Community Park



MTRP 1985 Master Plan: Cowles Mtn



# ACCOMPLISHMENTS

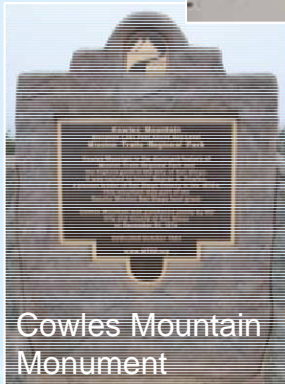
Interpretive Signage



Parking / Restroom / Trailhead



Cowles Mountain Monument



Cowles Mountain



MTRP 1985 Master Plan: Mission Gorge





## ACCOMPLISHMENTS



Parking / Visitor Center  
/ Group Picnic

Mission Gorge



## ACCOMPLISHMENTS



Rock Climbing Area

Mission Gorge

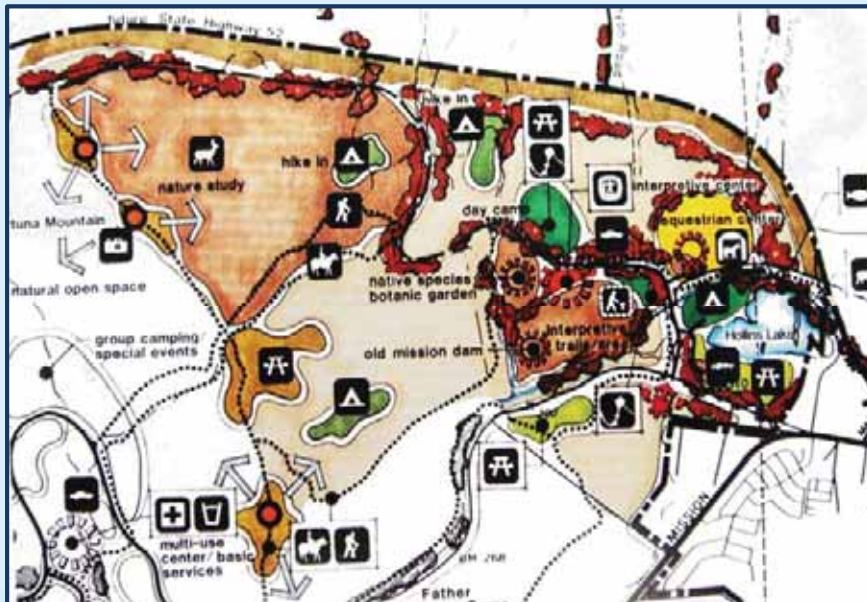


## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

BMX Area



Mission Gorge



MTRP 1985 Master Plan: East Fortuna





## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Parking / Picnic Area



Pedestrian Bridge



Old Mission Dam



Interpretive Signage along Trail

East Fortuna



## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Outdoor Amphitheater /  
Group Area



Shore Fishing



Kumeyaay Lake Campground

East Fortuna



## ACCOMPLISHMENTS



East Fortuna



MTRP 1985 Master Plan: West Fortuna







## CHANGED CONDITIONS



The extension of Clairemont Mesa Blvd and Jackson Drive and the associated park development shown within the 1985 Master Plan are no longer implementable due to resource management requirements within the MSCP.

Multiple Species Conservation Program



## CHANGED CONDITIONS

### Natural Resources Management Plan (NRMP)

As part of the MSCP process, a NRMP is required to be developed for MTRP. The NRMP is being developed concurrently with this Master Plan update. As such, all Master Plan project ideas will be coordinated with the development of the NRMP to ensure consistency between the two plans. Not all requested Master Plan projects will be found to be consistent with the resource protection goals of the MSCP via the NRMP and will be dropped from further consideration.

Multiple Species Conservation Program





## UNIMPLEMENTABLE ELEMENTS

### Lake Murray:

- Separated Alvarado Bay Swimming Lagoon

### West Fortuna:

- Archery Range

## UNCOMPLETED ELEMENTS

### Lake Murray:

- Park Ridge to Del Cerro Bike Trail
- Park Ridge Picnic / Grass Area

### Mission Gorge:

- Hiking Trail parallel Father Junipero Serra Trail
- Kwaay Paay Loop Trail
- Group Picnic Area
- Deerfield Day Use /Picnic Area

### Cowles Mountain:

- Mesa Road Entrance / Parking
- Pyles Peak Vista Point
- Big Rock/Mesa Road Group Picnic / Restroom

### West Fortuna:

- Day Use / Picnic Area
- Parking / Restrooms

★ Regulatory Challenges

1985 Master Plan



## EXPANSION AREAS



Overview



## EXPANSION AREAS



The vast majority of the East Elliott Community Plan Area was targeted for preservation as part of the MSCP process. Privately owned parcels can still be developed pursuant their compliance with regulatory requirements, which will not change via inclusion of this area within the MTRP Master Plan.

East Elliott




## EXPANSION AREAS




West Sycamore












## WORKSHOP INSTRUCTIONS

- ✓ Sign-in
- ✓ Review Maps at Stations 1-4
- ✓ Provide Comments at Station 5
  - Use Post-its to write comments
  - Place icons on aerial photo
    - Areas of Trail Erosion / Too Steep
    - Biological/Cultural Resources to Protect
    - Locations for Tables, Benches, Educational Panels
    - Trail Re-routes, New Connections, Closures
  - Add any other notes to the aerial photo





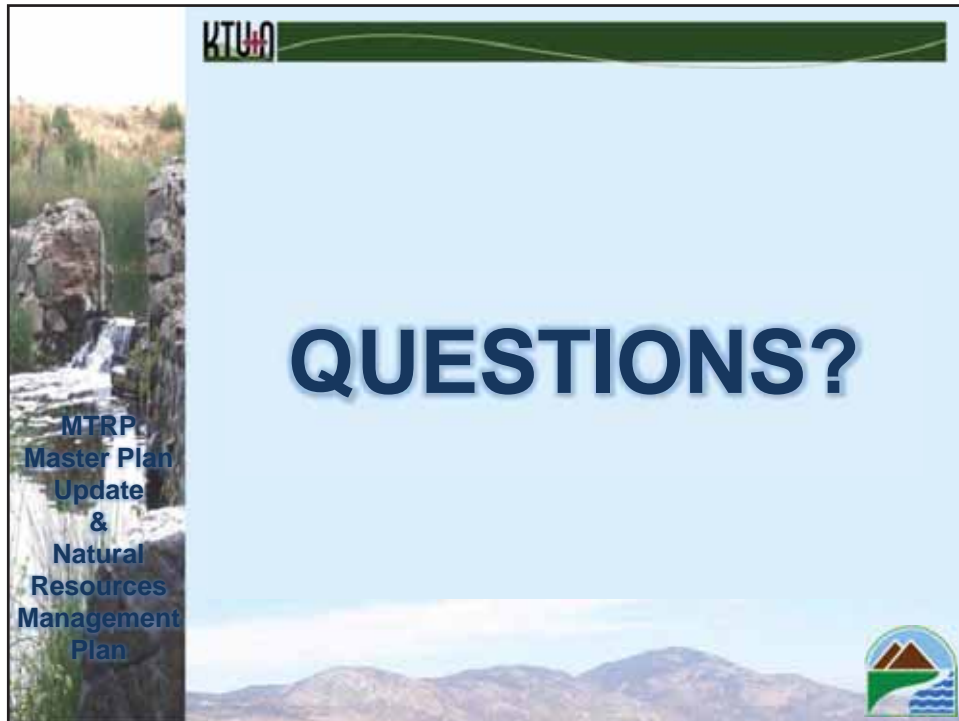




## WORKSHOP INSTRUCTIONS

- ✓ Complete Trail Use Survey
  - Circle User Type
  - Circle Frequency of Use
  - Circle Trailheads Used
  - Trace Trails Used
  - Identify Trails to Close
  - Identify Potential Trail Connections





# Workshop Instructions

Thank You for participating in this Public Workshop for the MTRP Master Plan Update (MPU), Natural Resources Management Plan (NRMP), and Environmental Document (EIR).

## **Presentation**

There will be a short presentation at 6:30pm in the Theater about the Master Plan process; its history and accomplishments; changed conditions since 1985; unimplemented projects; and an overview of the two expansion areas.

## **Workshop**

Within the Workshop Area there are 5 Stations (as shown on the Map on the reverse of these Instructions). The reverse side also contains the MTRP Mission Statement and the Four Overarching Concepts that the Park has been organized around since 1985.

Stations 1-4 provide existing condition maps of different geographic areas of MTRP.

Station 5 in the center of the workshop area, contains a large aerial photo of each of the geographic areas of the park with existing trails and uses displayed. At this station you are asked to:

**First** - place your comments and suggestions on the large aerials via post-it notes, iconic push pins (provided), or by directly drawing/writing on the aerial. Everyone's comments/suggestions are welcome, so please do not remove or cross out someone else's.

**Second** - let us know about portions of trails that are eroding, too steep, or any other issues we should be aware of.

**Third** - let us know about locations where additional picnic tables, benches or other amenities could be added.

**Fourth** - are there additional resources (visual, cultural, biological) that you would like to see interpreted?

**Fifth** - are there trail re-routes, extensions, or even new connections / loops that you would like to see considered, or are there trails you think should be closed?

**Finally** - are there cultural or biological resources you think need better protections that should be specifically addressed within the NRMP?

## **Trail Use Survey**

We are asking everyone to participate within a simple trail user survey. The second page of your handout has an aerial photo and the existing trails displayed for Lake Murray / Cowles Mountain on one side and Mission Gorge / Fortuna Mountain on the other.

There are 3 parts to the survey:

**First** - Tell us about yourself by circling the user type icon that matches how you use the Park trails (more than one icon can be circled). Also let us know the frequency you use the Park trails.

**Second** - Tell us where you enter the Park and what trails you use, want closed, or created by following the instructions on the map. Also circle the trailheads you use to access the Park.

**Third** - Tell us what you like or dislike about the trails you use, or ones that you avoid, within the Comments box provided.

Once you've completed your survey, please place it in the box at the sign-in table.

Once again, Thank You for Participating



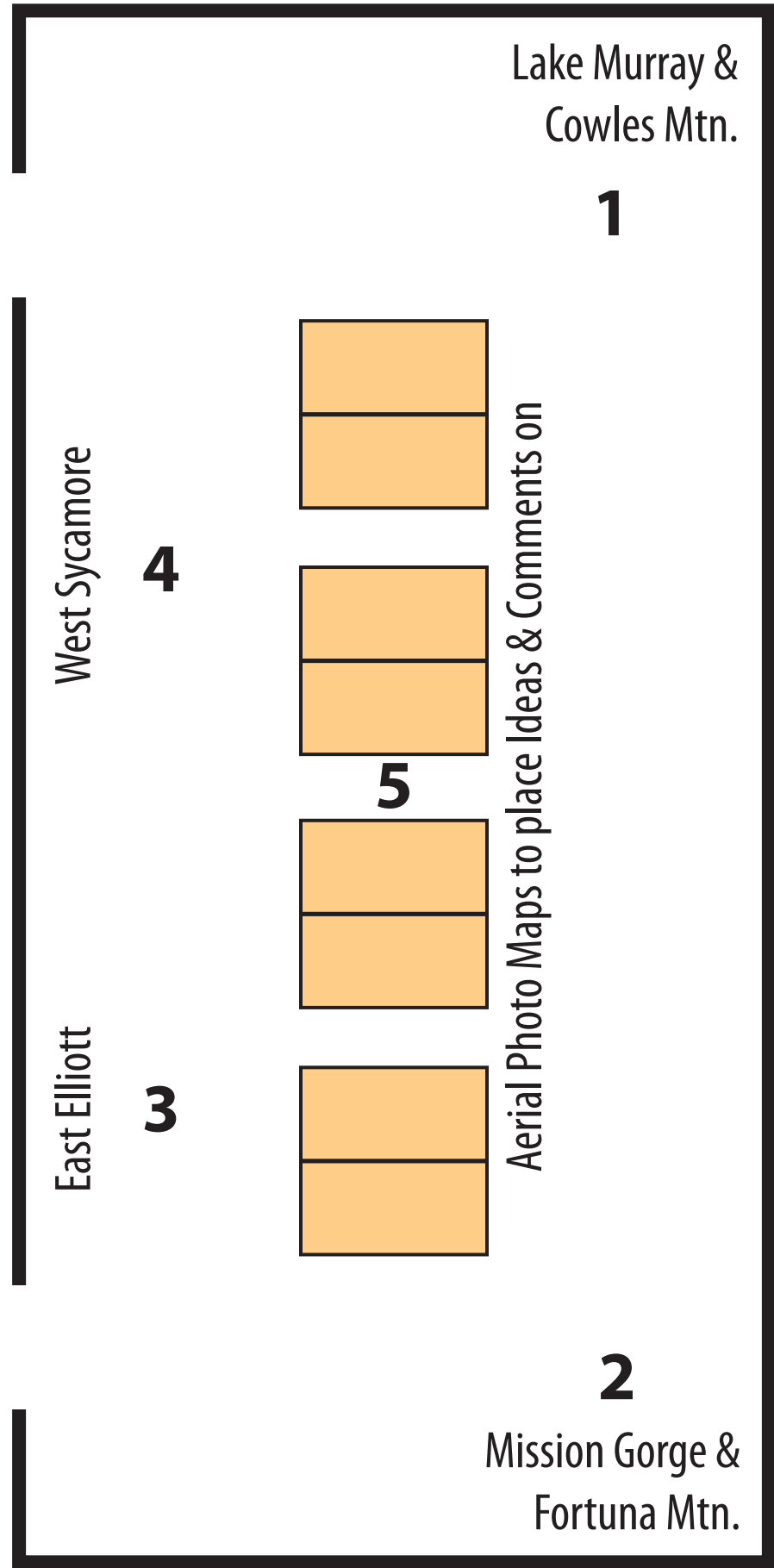
Mission Trails Regional Park has been called  
the third jewel in the City of San Diego Park System  
(Balboa Park and Mission Bay Park are the first and second.)

2008 City of San Diego General Plan - Recreation Element

# MTRP Mission Statement

1985 & 2008 Master Plan

*“Providing recreational and educational opportunities while protecting historical, cultural and natural resources for future generations.”*



Room Layout

**MTRP is founded on four main concepts:**  
1985 & 2008 Master Plan

## 1. Multi-purpose Role

Serve comprehensive mix of recreational, educational, and cultural needs of the Region to Accommodate active and passive uses

## 2. One Park

Distinct geographical areas are integrated to form one regional park with environmental and visual integrity

## 3. Trail & Open Space Linkages

The Park should orient outward with regional and community trail and open space linkages

## 4. Response to Environment

Park uses and facilities should be responsive to environmental opportunities and constraints







Comments:

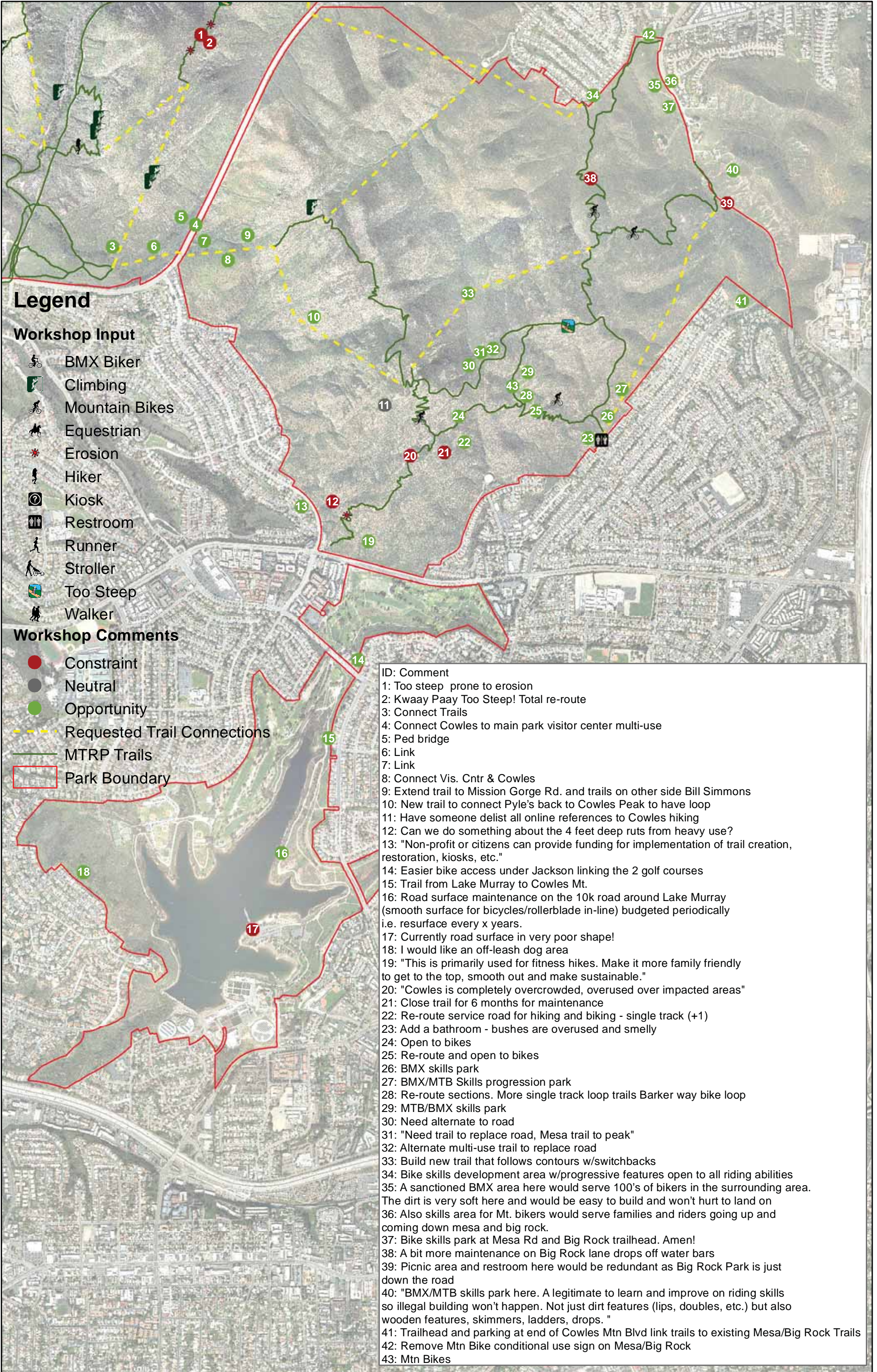

Name (Optional):

Lake Murray / Cowles Mountain

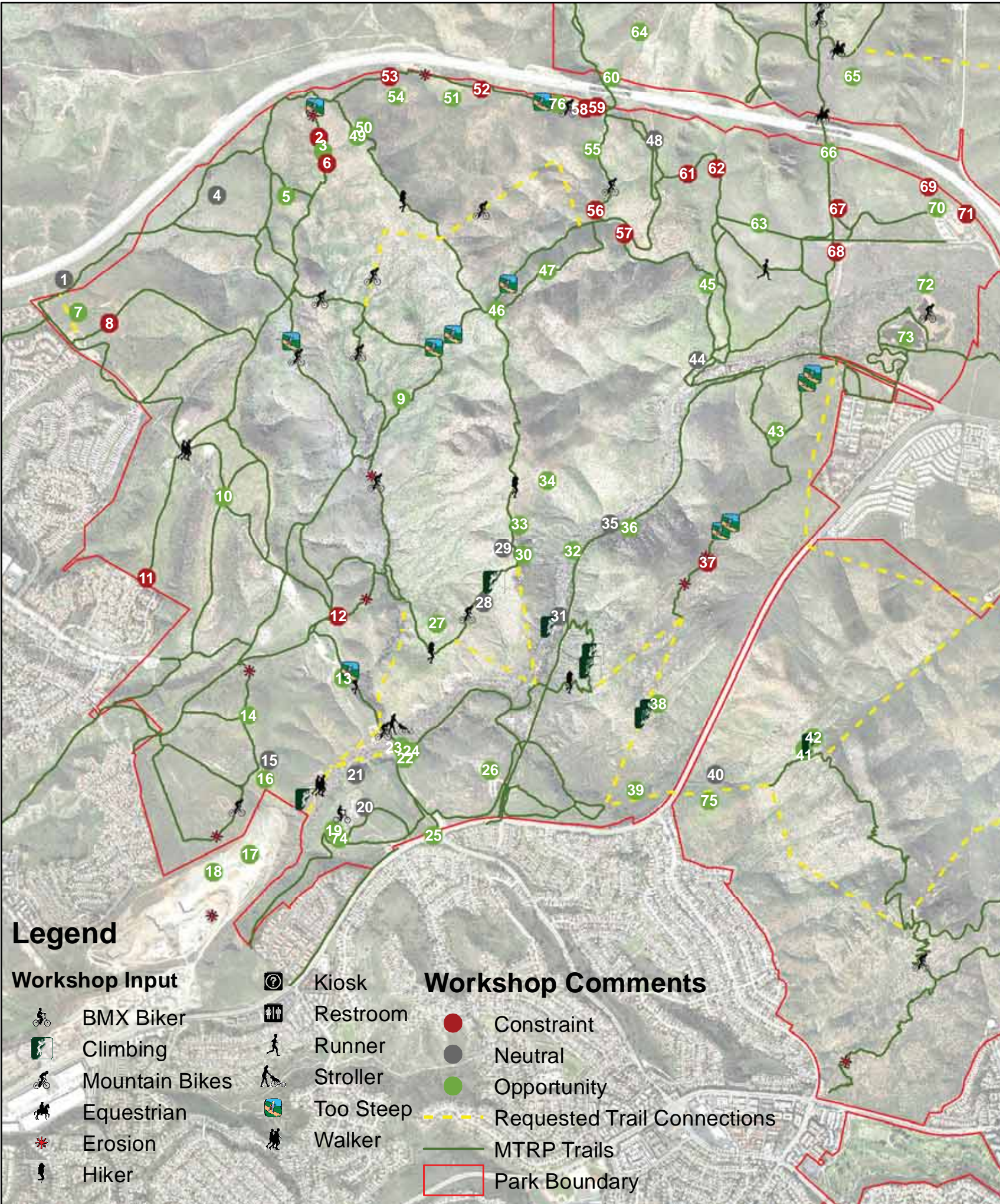












ID: Comment

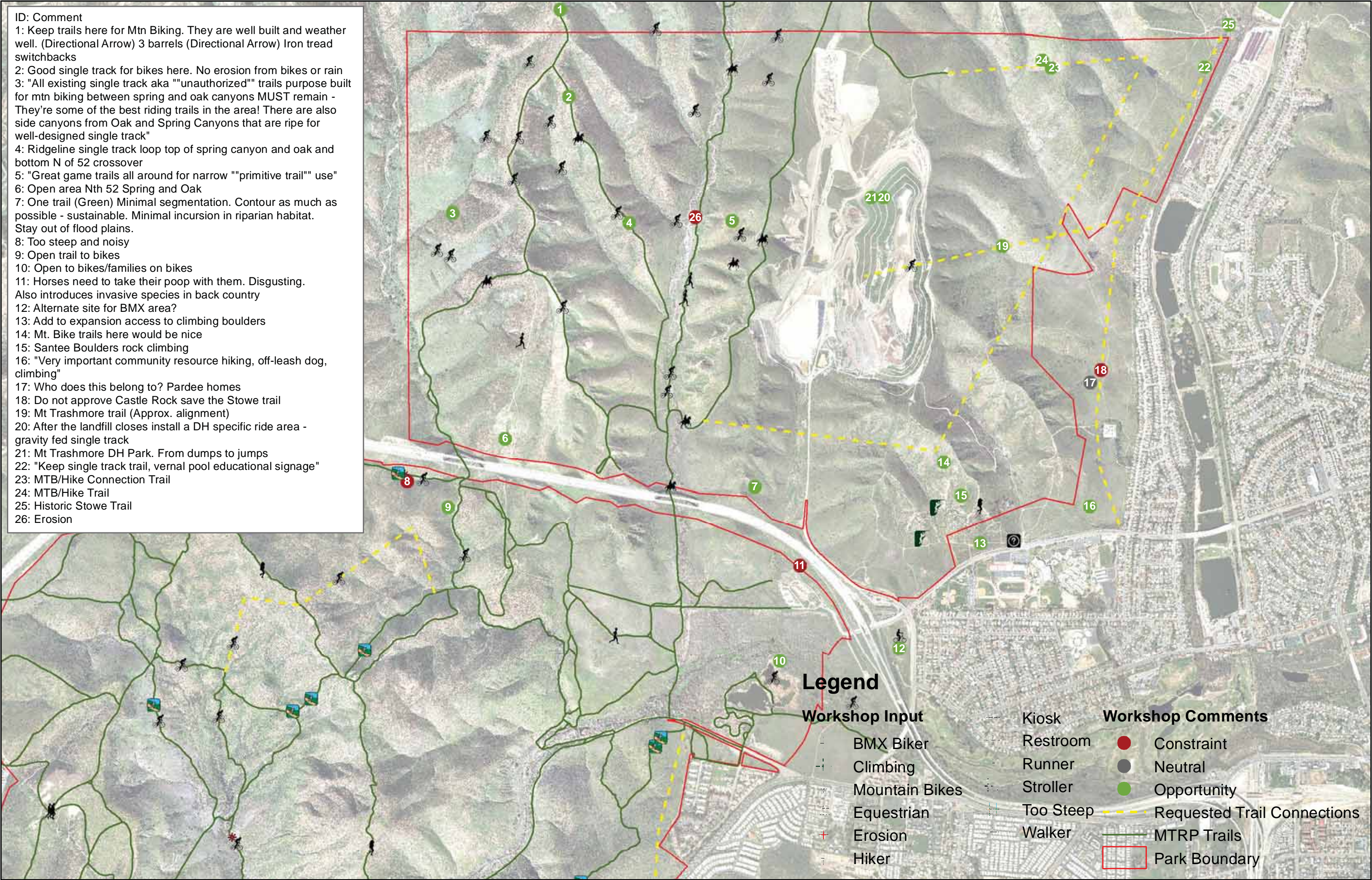
- 1: Keep public access to all areas unless a reason is provided to mandate closure. Use most up to date sensitive species list.  
2: Erosion  
3: Trails need to remain but re-routed to be sustainable  
4: E Ticket years of tireless work to fix unsustainable trail took way too long to finally re-route  
5: Old tank roads should be replaced w/contour style trails  
6: Erosion  
7: Trail was created here by bikes and hikers during water project - remove or mark trail  
8: Heavy erosion  
9: Please do a thorough analysis of impacts of all climbing areas not simply based on presence of sensitive resources - the presence of sensitive resources does not mandate removal of recreation in area.  
10: I would like an off-leash dog area  
11: De-emphasize this as an entrance to the park. Entry requires trespassing on private property. Several layers of signage and fencing have been installed to control traffic. HOA agreed to not fence off area so long as traffic in the park was limited. Madaffer committed to this. Not sure that agreement is still known by park administration  
12: "Need major re-routing. Deep erosion, S carves - +1,+1"  
13: Need single track access from Jackson to rest of W park  
14: Add bench for view or picnic table  
15: Why was this area closed to climbing  
16: "The quarry is an important potential resource to the climbing community. It receives afternoon shade, has existing routes, and an existing dirt road to the base. Please reopen this to the climbing community - (includes signatures of approximately 7 community members)"  
17: Acquire superior ready mix property  
18: Connection to west SD river  
19: "BMX needs tons of soft dirt, current condition is extremely unsafe for BMX and is impossible to build on, if the dirt is provided, bikers will use it and alter it properly for maximum enjoyment"  
20: What is the long term plan for Deerfield  
21: Why is this area closed?  
22: "Footbridge, proper safe crossing"  
23: All seasons crossing  
24: Put bridge crossing for year round access  
25: Traffic signal at entrance to the park so pedestrians can enter park safely without walking up Mission Gorge or crossing illegally  
26: Visitor Center - Could we hold educational sleepovers like SD Natural History Museum does - They are a great family experience and could maybe raise \$  
27: The isolated nature of this area is one of its greatest assets (no new trails)  
28: Fond memories of carrying the bike up S. Fortuna  
29: Why is this area closed to climbing?  
30: Please re-open this area Thank you  
31: Why is climbing here closed?  
32: More river access  
33: Open to Mtn Bike  
34: Public comment on biological impacts - seasonal restrictions can be use to protect resources and allow recreation  
35: Why is climbing closed?  
36: Dirt/Single track alternate to park road  
37: Steep and Slippery  
38: Please re-open this area Thank you

ID: Comment

- 39: Trail from Golfcrest to trails Old Grove  
40: Please do not connect  
41: Climbing site west side of Pyles Peak  
42: Could we have a trail and/or reopen to climbing? If not, why not?  
43: Make a new trail with switchbacks to the peak  
44: "Hundreds dead black caterpillars observed along north side of Old Dam, along river bed. Some alive, many dead. Can someone check this?"  
45: Some brush clearing to keep a single track through this area  
46: Need single track connection over Fortuna and between E and W sides  
47: Single track off road to connect East and West  
48: Roads differ from trails (+1)  
49: Interpretive signage  
50: Add bench for view or picnic table  
51: Re-route single track to connect Oak to N. Fortuna  
52: To steep access road  
53: This trail is horrific  
54: A nice Mt. Bike/Hike trail  
55: Re-open to MTB.  
56: "Too steep, erodes to river"  
57: Erodes to river  
58: Roads erode to stream that feeds directly to SD river. That ain't right!  
59: Erosion ma?? To SD river  
60: Open land north at SR52 - OAIC  
61: Erosion  
62: Erosion  
63: Re-do fire rd  
64: Loop from Oak Canyon to Spring Canyon  
65: Open land north SR-52 Spring  
66: Trails above road as alternative  
67: Better drainage after rain  
68: Road damage from rain vehicles  
69: Horses need to have poop collectors mess on trail  
70: Bicycle pump track  
71: "Corals Arenas, Arenas should not have chipped and shredded bark added as mulch it hurts horses"  
72: Trail to connect to San Diego River Park Trail  
73: Open view  
74: Habitat restoration  
75: Connect  
76: MTB/Hike



- ID: Comment
- 1: Keep trails here for Mtn Biking. They are well built and weather well. (Directional Arrow) 3 barrels (Directional Arrow) Iron tread switchbacks
- 2: Good single track for bikes here. No erosion from bikes or rain
- 3: "All existing single track aka ""unauthorized"" trails purpose built for mtn biking between spring and oak canyons MUST remain - They're some of the best riding trails in the area! There are also side canyons from Oak and Spring Canyons that are ripe for well-designed single track"
- 4: Ridgeline single track loop top of spring canyon and oak and bottom N of 52 crossover
- 5: "Great game trails all around for narrow ""primitive trail"" use"
- 6: Open area Nth 52 Spring and Oak
- 7: One trail (Green) Minimal segmentation. Contour as much as possible - sustainable. Minimal incursion in riparian habitat. Stay out of flood plains.
- 8: Too steep and noisy
- 9: Open trail to bikes
- 10: Open to bikes/families on bikes
- 11: Horses need to take their poop with them. Disgusting. Also introduces invasive species in back country
- 12: Alternate site for BMX area?
- 13: Add to expansion access to climbing boulders
- 14: Mt. Bike trails here would be nice
- 15: Santee Boulders rock climbing
- 16: "Very important community resource hiking, off-leash dog, climbing"
- 17: Who does this belong to? Pardee homes
- 18: Do not approve Castle Rock save the Stowe trail
- 19: Mt Trashmore trail (Approx. alignment)
- 20: After the landfill closes install a DH specific ride area - gravity fed single track
- 21: Mt Trashmore DH Park. From dumps to jumps
- 22: "Keep single track trail, vernal pool educational signage"
- 23: MTB/Hike Connection Trail
- 24: MTB/Hike Trail
- 25: Historic Stowe Trail
- 26: Erosion





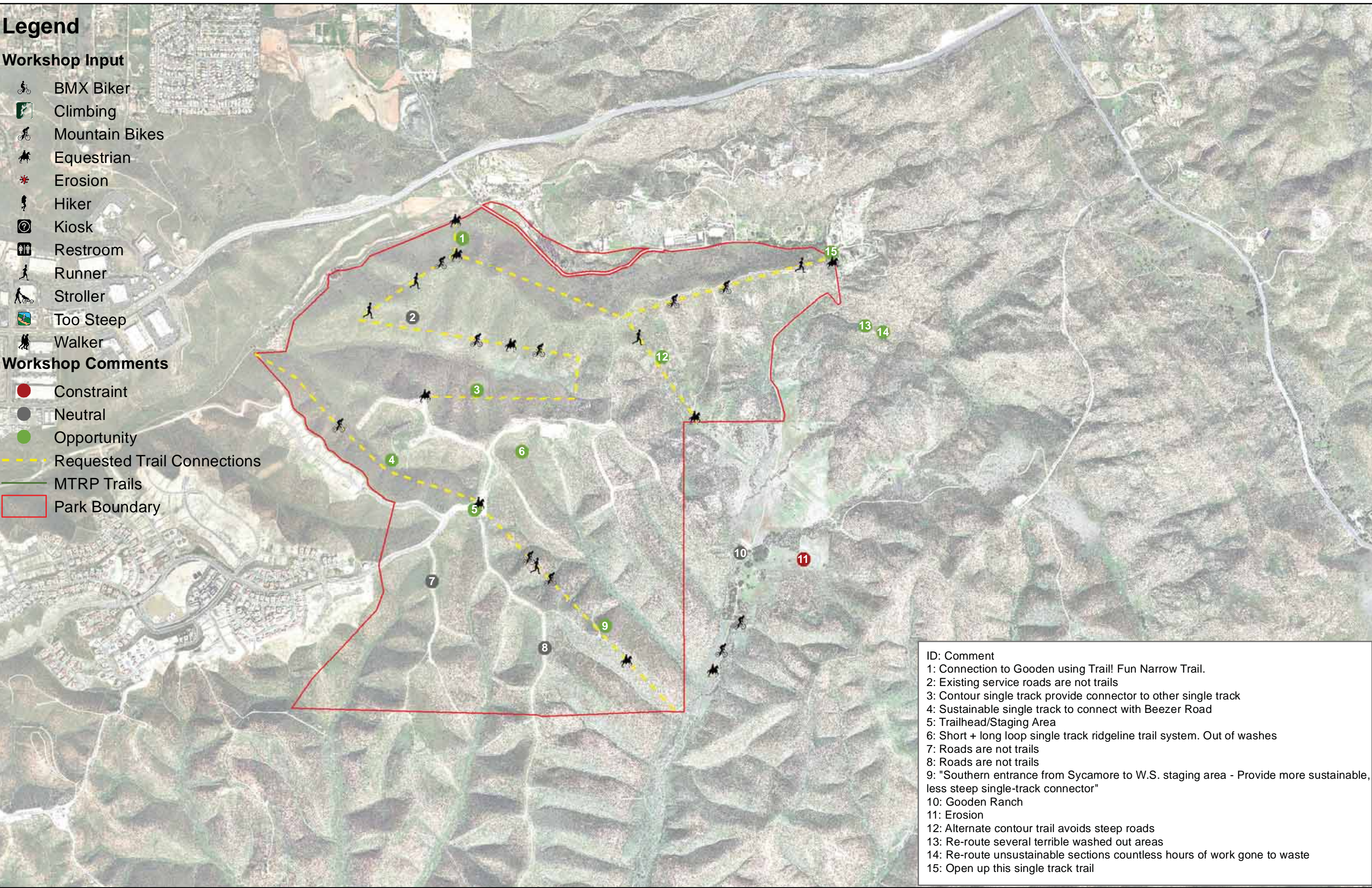
Legend

Workshop Input

- BMX Biker
- Climbing
- Mountain Bikes
- Equestrian
- Erosion
- Hiker
- Kiosk
- Restroom
- Runner
- Stroller
- Too Steep
- Walker

Workshop Comments

- Constraint
- Neutral
- Opportunity
- Requested Trail Connections
- MTRP Trails
- Park Boundary



- ID: Comment
- 1: Connection to Gooden using Trail! Fun Narrow Trail.
  - 2: Existing service roads are not trails
  - 3: Contour single track provide connector to other single track
  - 4: Sustainable single track to connect with Beezer Road
  - 5: Trailhead/Staging Area
  - 6: Short + long loop single track ridgeline trail system. Out of washes
  - 7: Roads are not trails
  - 8: Roads are not trails
  - 9: "Southern entrance from Sycamore to W.S. staging area - Provide more sustainable, less steep single-track connector"
  - 10: Gooden Ranch
  - 11: Erosion
  - 12: Alternate contour trail avoids steep roads
  - 13: Re-route several terrible washed out areas
  - 14: Re-route unsustainable sections countless hours of work gone to waste
  - 15: Open up this single track trail





**Legend**

**MTRP Trails**

**Bikes**

- 0
- 1-5
- 6-10
- 11-20
- >20





**Legend**

**MTRP Trails**

**Pedestrian**

0

1-5

6-10

11-20

>20





**THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO**

# **MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK MASTER PLAN UPDATE PUBLIC WORKSHOP**

**The City of San Diego City Planning and Community Investment Department, Park Planning Section, would like to invite you to participate in the second Public Workshop for the Mission Trails Regional Park Master Plan. The meeting will focus on opportunities and constraints and draft development alternatives being considered for Mission Trails Regional Park, including future plans for two expansion areas: East Elliott and West Sycamore. The results of this workshop will be used to develop a preferred development alternative to incorporate in the Master Plan update.**

**Date: March 31, 2011**

**Time: 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.**

**Location: Mission Trails Regional Park  
Visitor and Interpretive Center  
One Father Junipero Serra Trail  
San Diego, CA 92119**

**A presentation will be held at 6:30 in the Theater. Mapping and other information will be available for review in the adjacent Meeting Room anytime between 6:00 and 9:00 to facilitate questions and input.**

**For additional information, please contact the Jeff Harkness (619)533-6595 or email at: [jharkness@sandiego.gov](mailto:jharkness@sandiego.gov)**





## Mission Trails Regional Park Master Plan Update and Natural Resources Management Plan

# Public Workshop #2

## Draft Alternatives



City of San Diego  
City Planning & Community Investment Department  
Contract No. H094797



## Why are we here?

It is recognized that developments included in this Plan will be implemented over an extended period of time, probably approaching **twenty years**. During this period, many changes can be expected in prevailing circumstances and conditions which may dictate more **revisions to the facilities proposed for the Park**. These will depend on **public attitudes, sensitivities, perceived needs and desires**, and the willingness and/or ability of public agencies to meet these needs. The park development is therefore viewed as an **evolutionary process which can and will alter over time**.

MTRP Master Plan Update & Natural Resources Management Plan



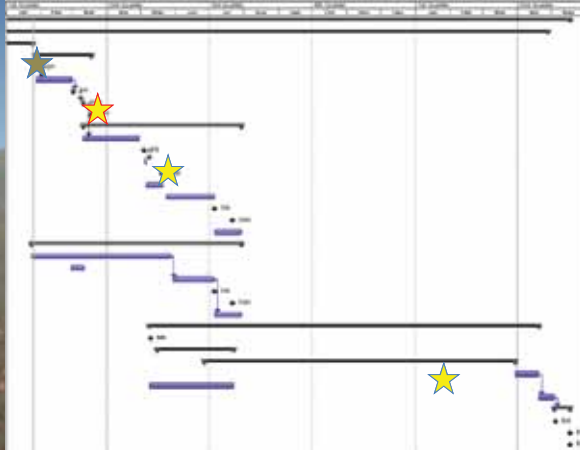


## Is this the last Public Workshop?

No – There will be one more Public Workshop and the Public Review Period.

**Workshop #2** will focus on Alternatives and act as the Public Scoping meeting for the NRMP and EIR.

**Workshop #3** will focus on a Draft Master Plan and NRMP elements



MTRP Master Plan Update & Natural Resources Management Plan



## Goals for Tonight:

- 1) Review Input from Public Workshop #1
- 2) Review Potential Constraints
  - a) Biological (Plants & Animals)
  - b) Physical (Erosion Hazard)
  - c) Cultural / Paleontological
- 3) Review Trails Assessment
- 4) Review Proposed Alternatives
  - a) Lake Murray/Cowles Mtn
  - b) Mission Gorge/Fortuna Mtn
  - c) East Elliott Expansion Area
  - d) West Sycamore Expansion Area

MTRP Master Plan Update & Natural Resources Management Plan



# MTRP Mission Statement

“Providing recreational and educational opportunities while protecting historical, cultural and natural resources for future generations.”

Mission Trails Regional Park Vision



*Mission Trails Regional Park has been called  
the third jewel in the City of San Diego Park System  
(Balboa Park and Mission Bay Park are the first and second.)  
2008 City of San Diego General Plan – Recreation Element*

Four Concepts

<b>Multi-purpose Role</b>  Serve comprehensive mix of recreational, educational, and cultural needs of Region  Accommodate active and passive uses	<b>One Park</b>  Distinct geographical areas are integrated to form one regional park with environmental and visual integrity	<b>Trail &amp; Open Space Linkages</b>  Park should orient outward with regional and community trail and open space linkages	<b>Response to Environment</b>  Park uses and facilities should be responsive to environmental opportunities and constraints
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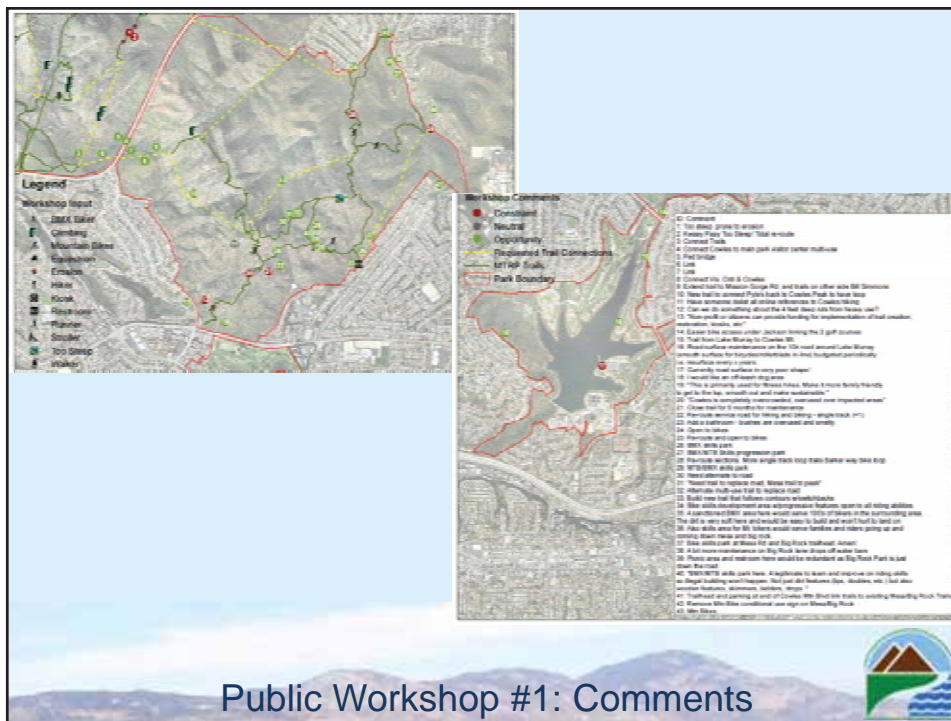
Mission Trails Regional Park Vision





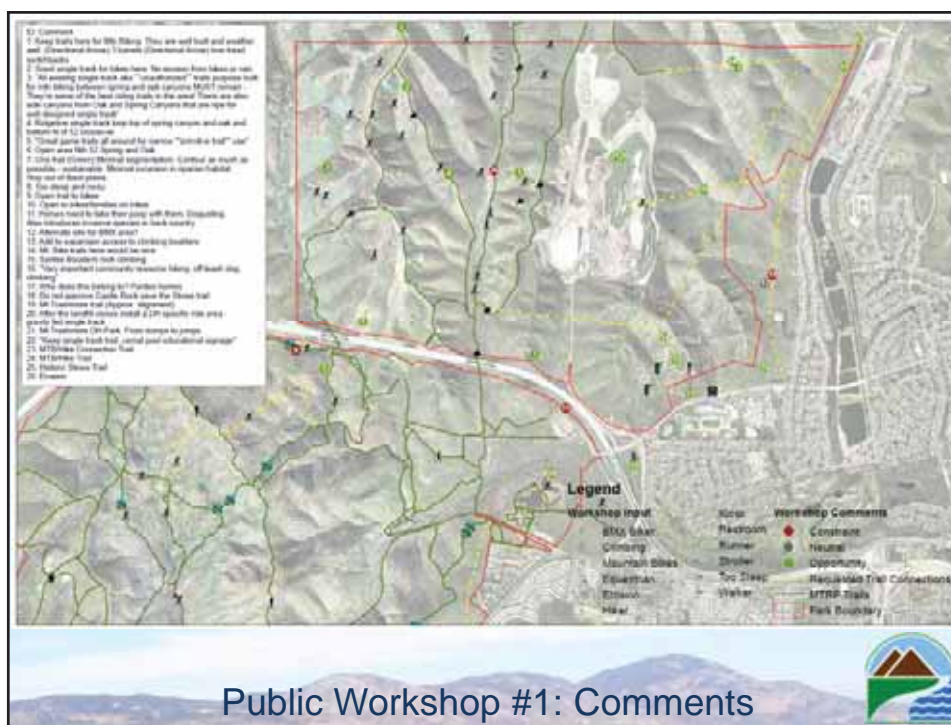
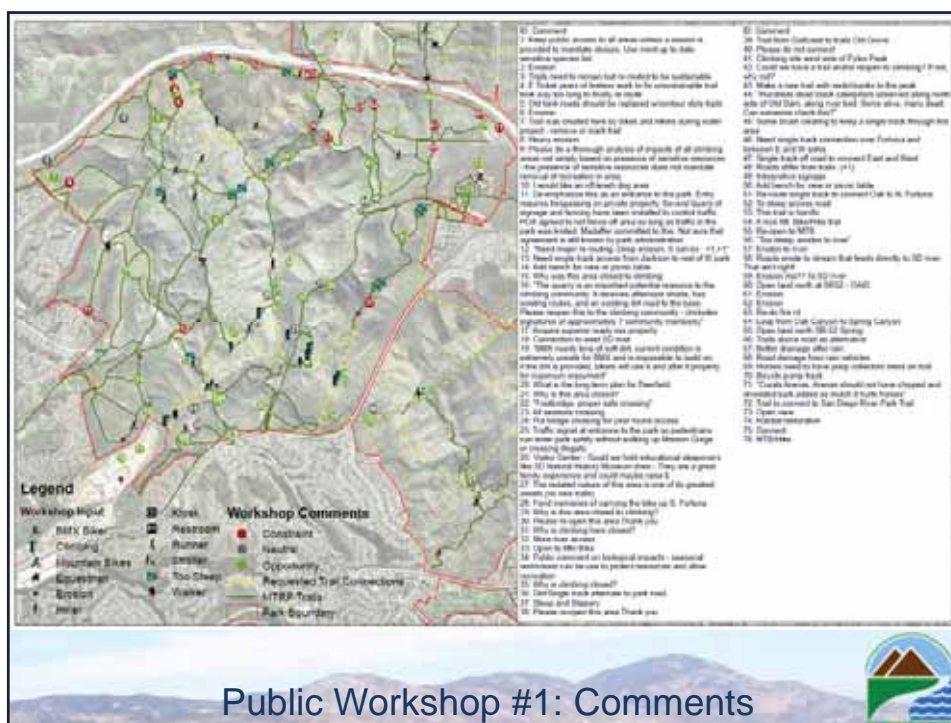
# Comments from Public Workshop #1

Mission Trails Regional Park MPU

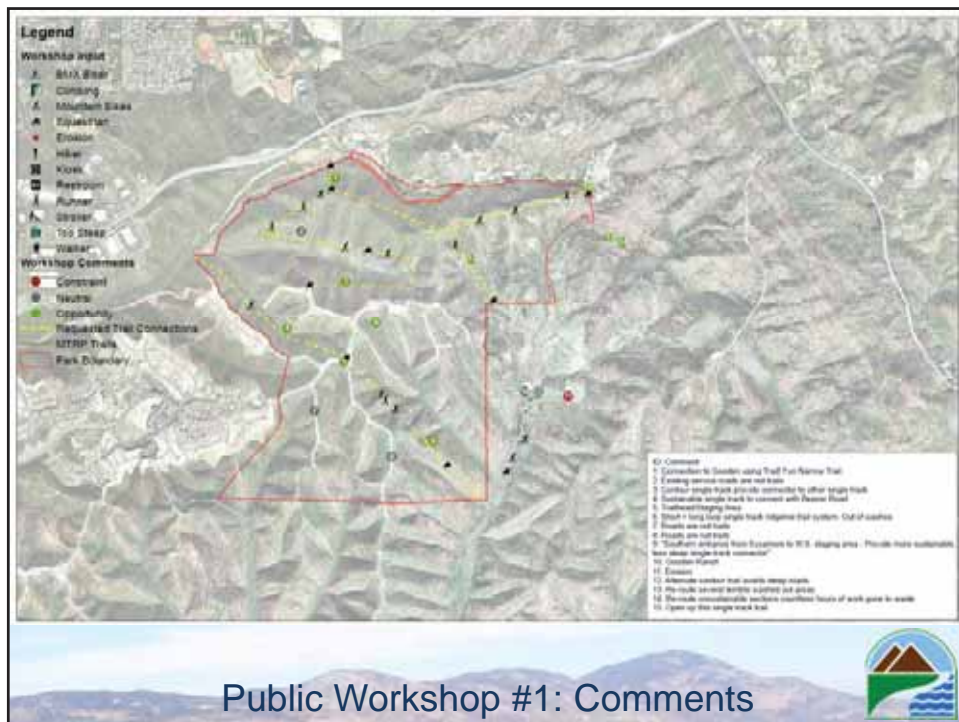


Public Workshop #1: Comments





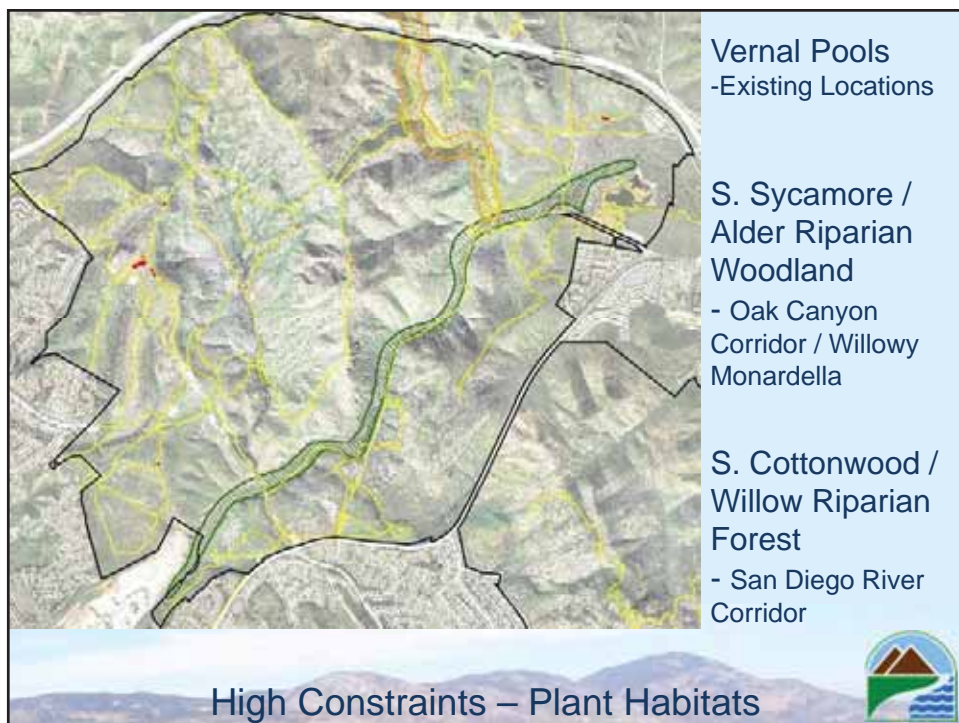
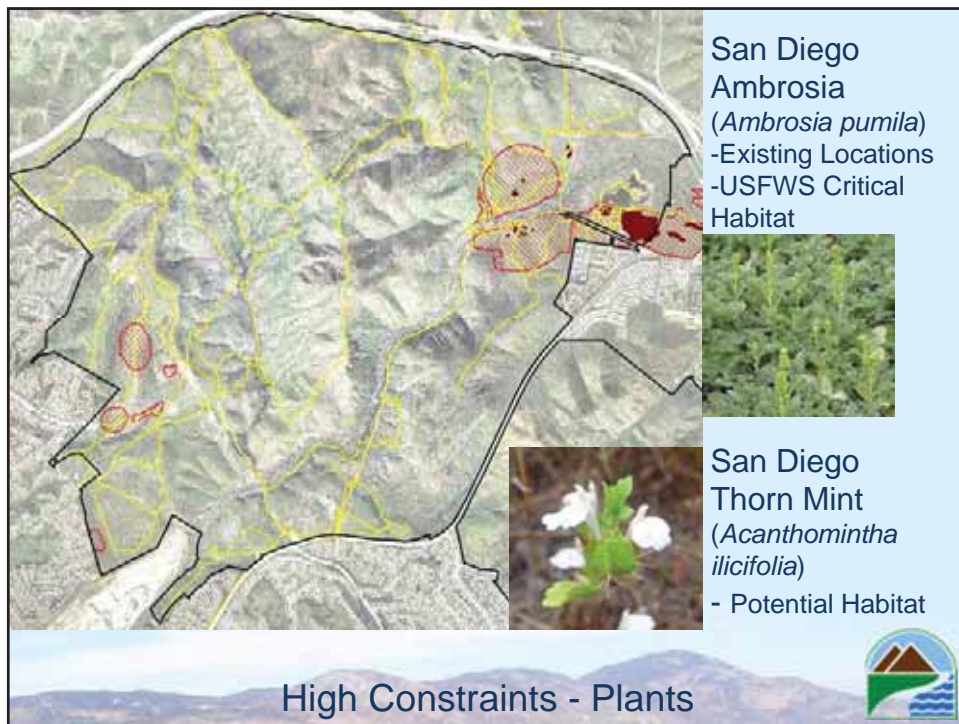






## Public Workshop #1: Comments

# Potential Constraints


Mission Trails Regional Park MPU






Least Bell's Vireo  
(*Vireo bellii pusillus*)  
-Existing Nesting  
Areas


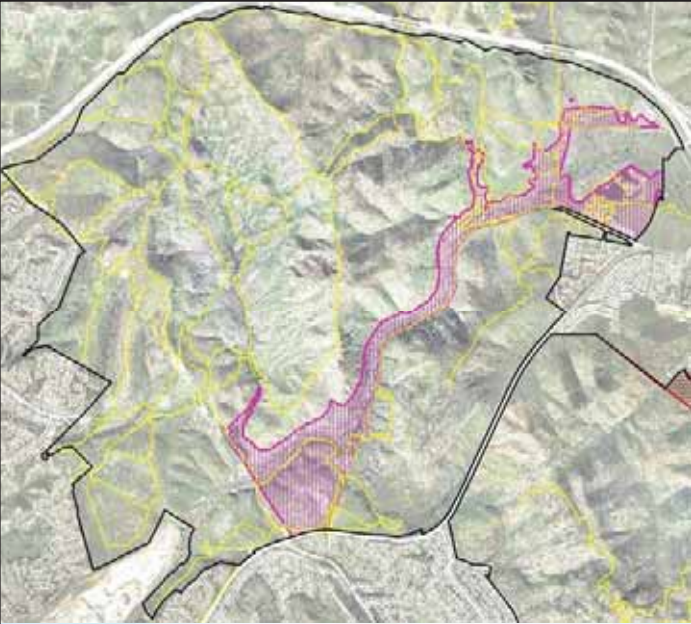


Pocketed Free-  
tailed Bat  
(*Nyctinomops  
femorosacca*)  
- Significant Roosts




Hermes Copper  
(*Lycaena hermes*)  
- Larval Host Plants

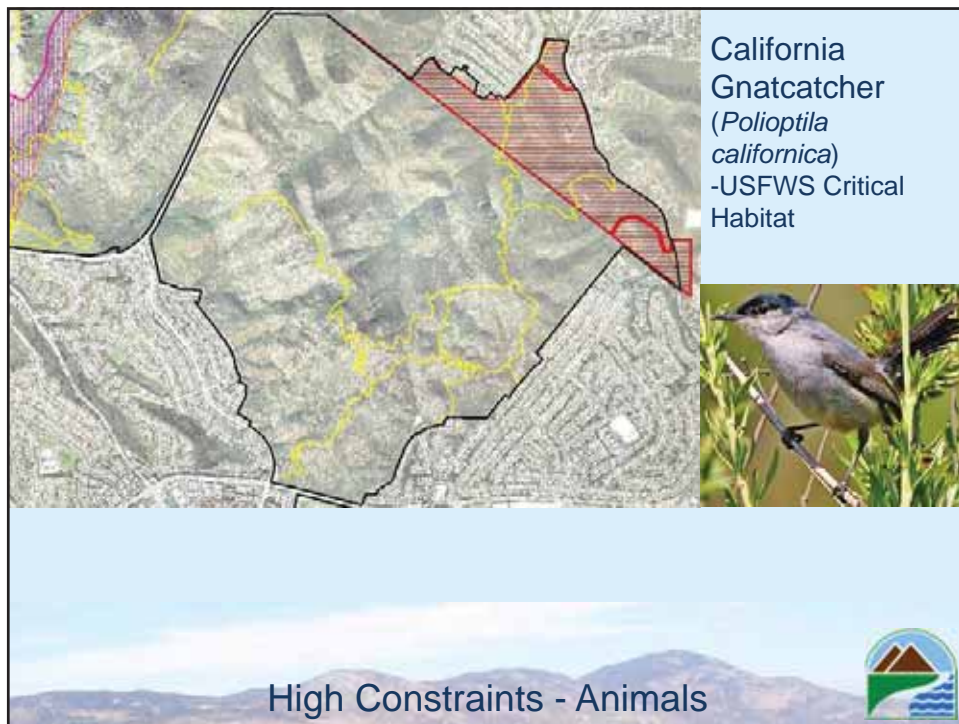
High Constraints - Animals

Least Bell's Vireo  
(*Vireo bellii pusillus*)  
-USFWS Critical  
Habitat


High Constraints - Animals





California Gnatcatcher  
(*Poliophtila californica*)  
-USFWS Critical Habitat

High Constraints - Animals

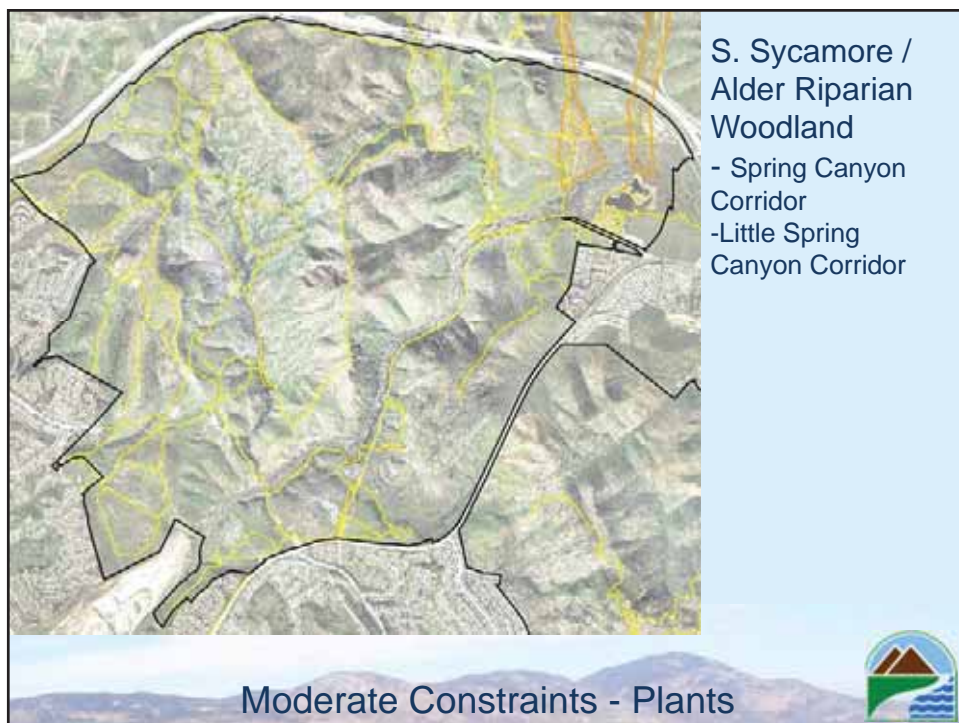
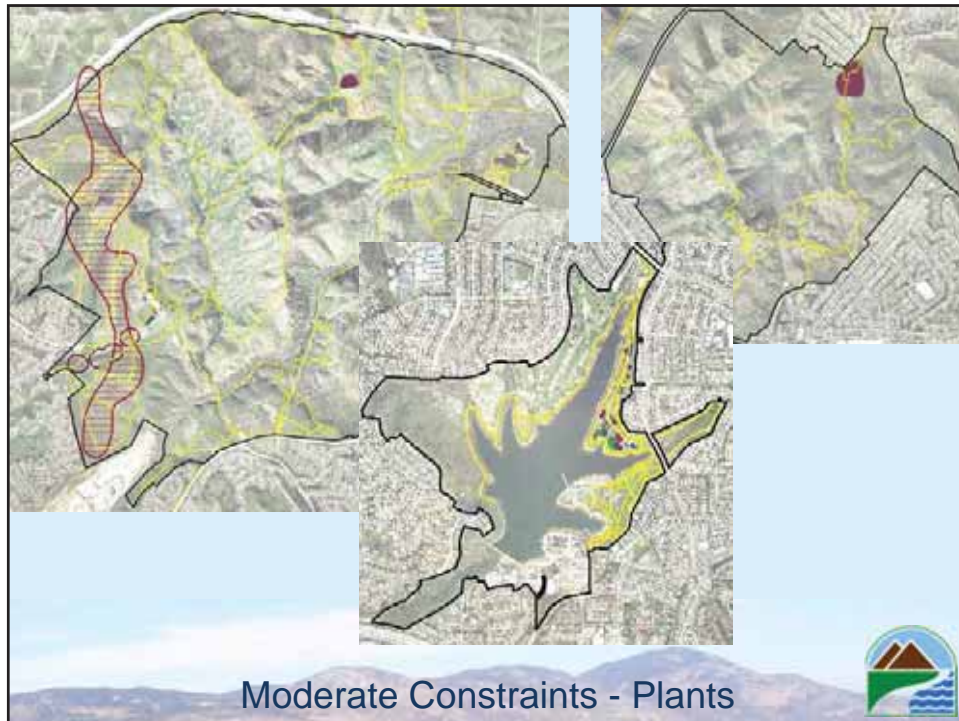


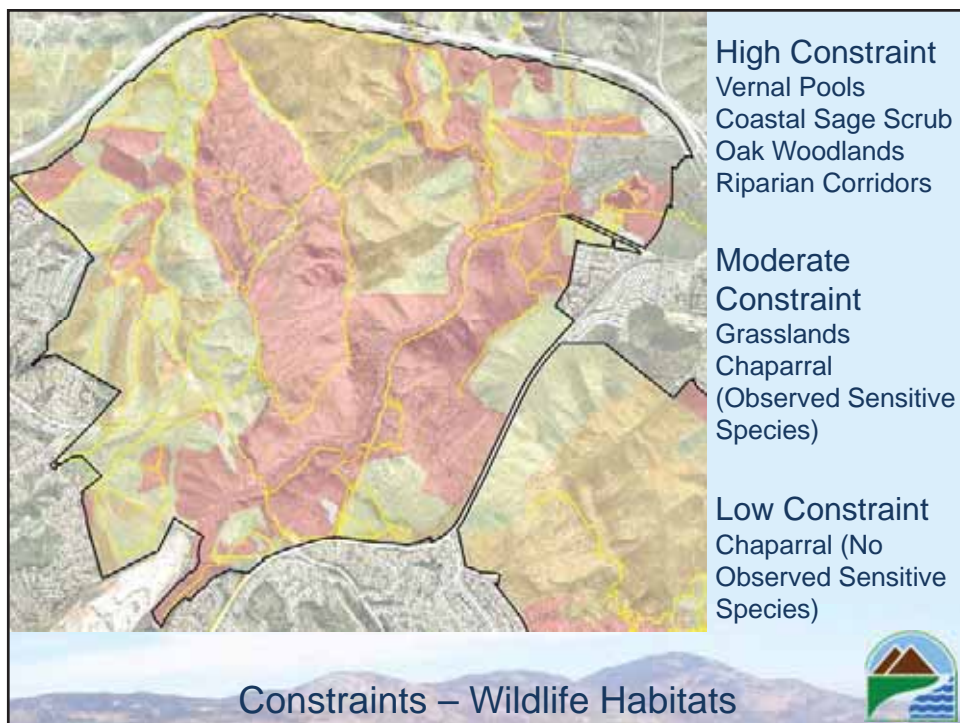
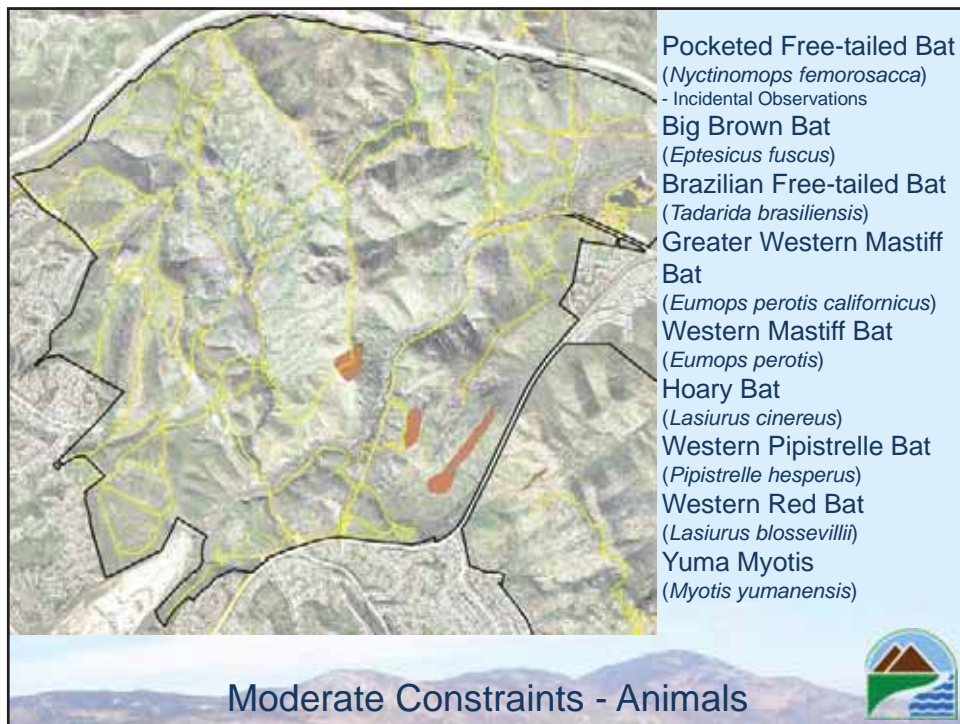

- San Diego County Viguiera (*Bahiopsis lacinata*)
- Long-spined Spineflower (*Chorizanthe polygonoides* var. *longspina*)
- Summer Holly (*Comarostaphylis diversifolia* ssp. *diversifolia*)
  - Variegated Dudleya (*Dudleya variegata*)
- San Diego Barrel Cactus (*Ferocactus viridescens*)
- Decumbent Goldenbush (*Isocoma menziesii* var. *decumbens*)
  - San Diego Marsh-elder (*Iva hayesiana*)
  - San Diego Goldenstar (*Muilla clevelandii*)
    - Spiny Redberry (*Rhamnus crocea*)
  - Ashy Spike-moss (*Selaginella cinerascens*)

Moderate Constraints - Plants

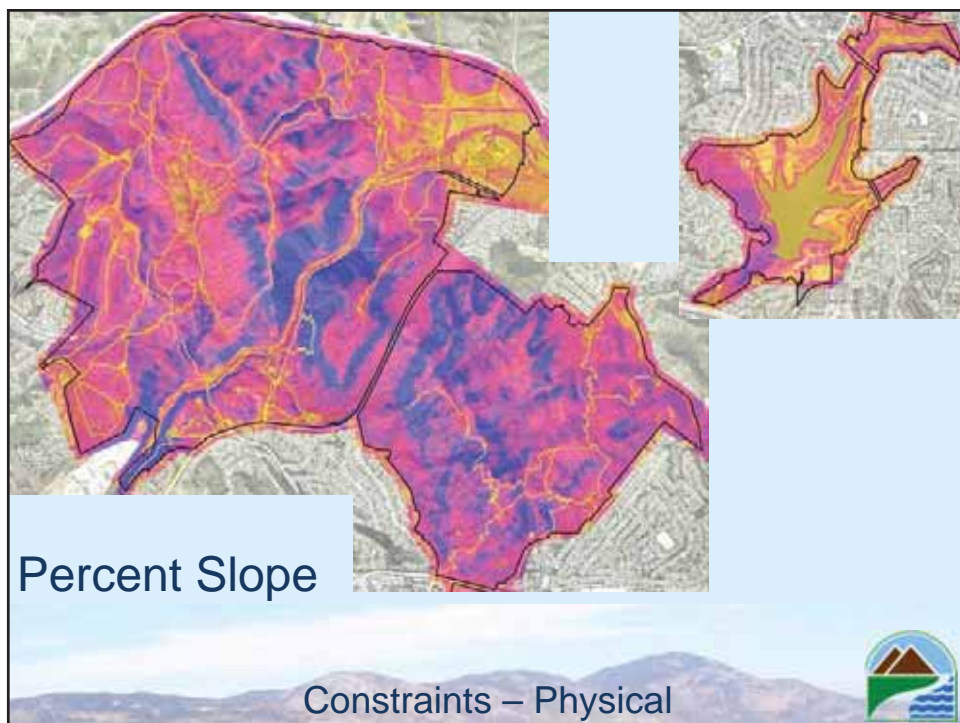
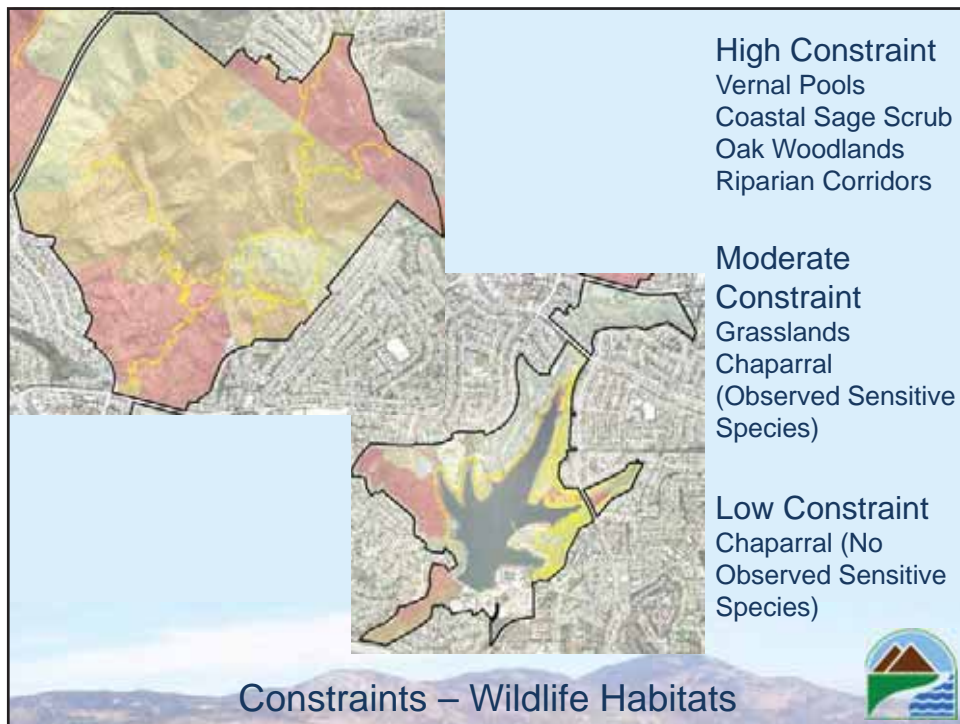


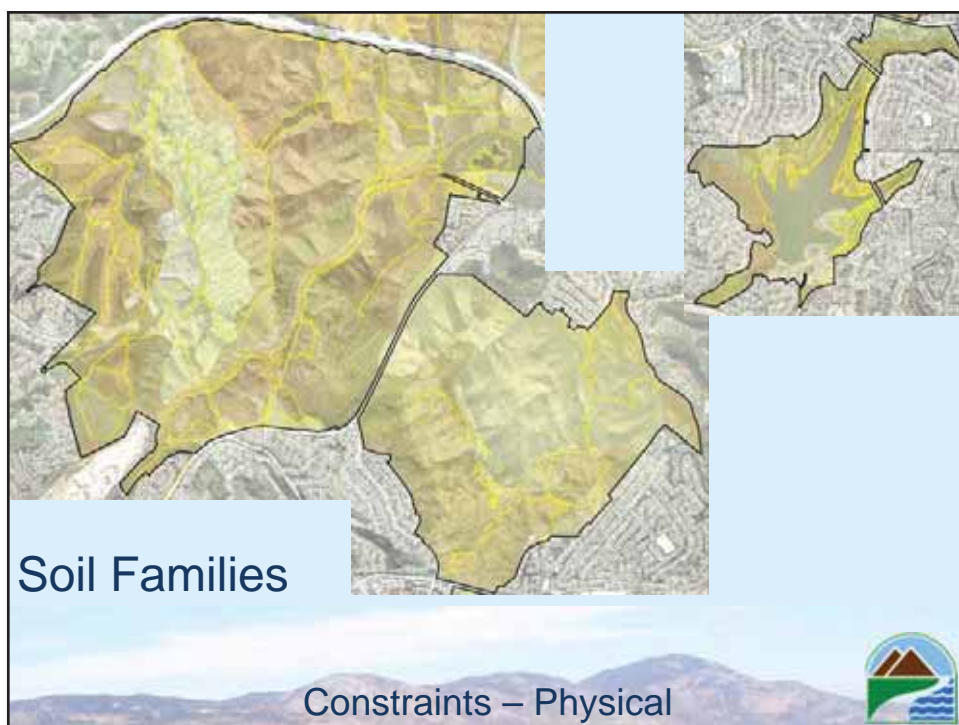
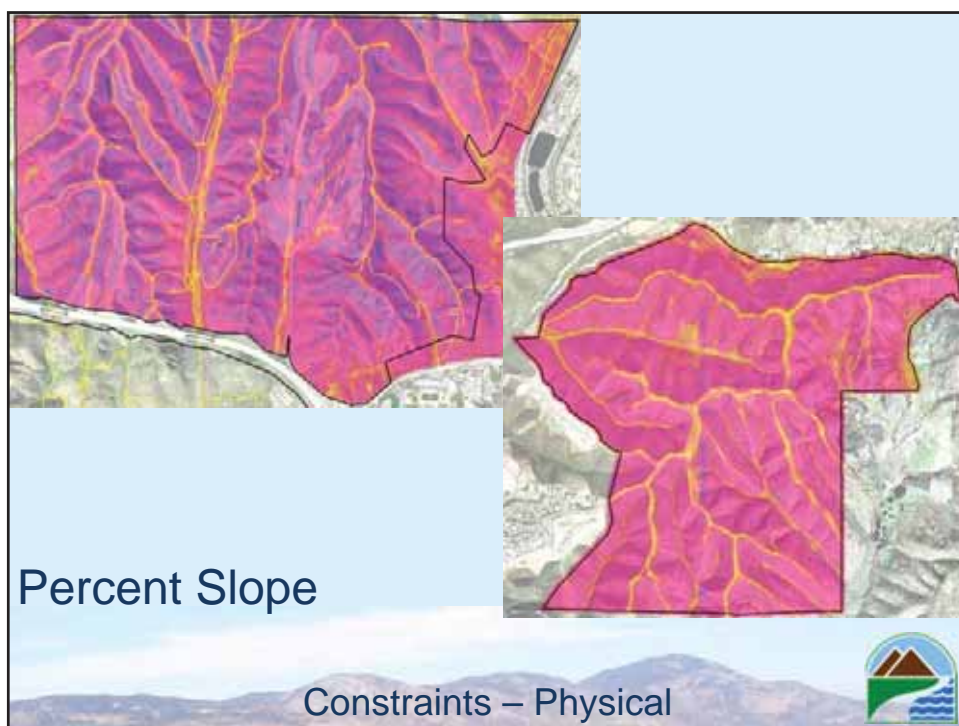




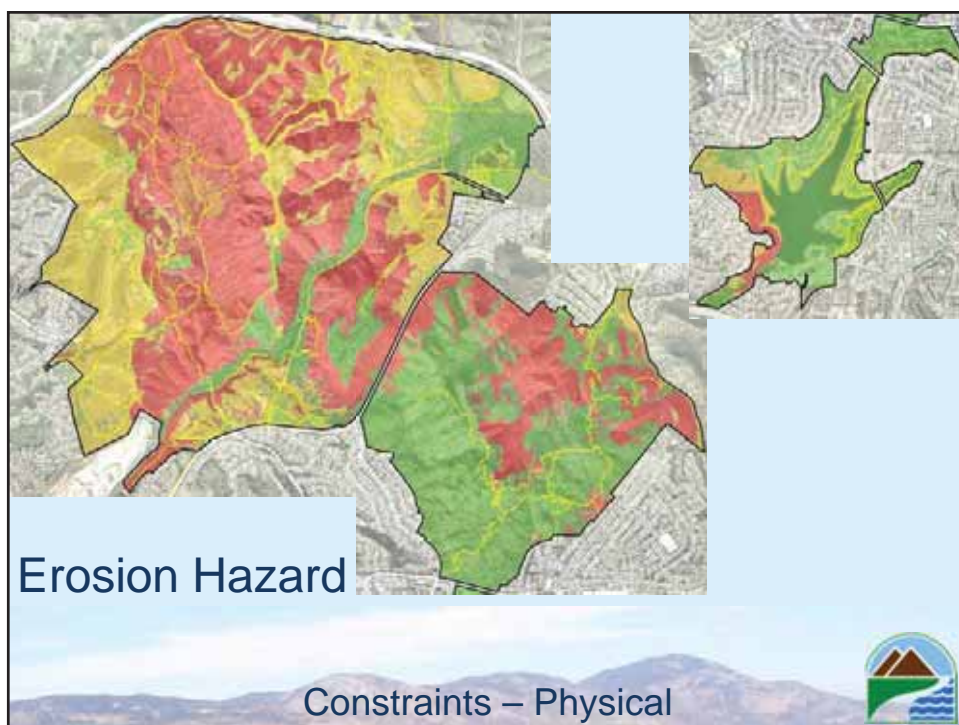
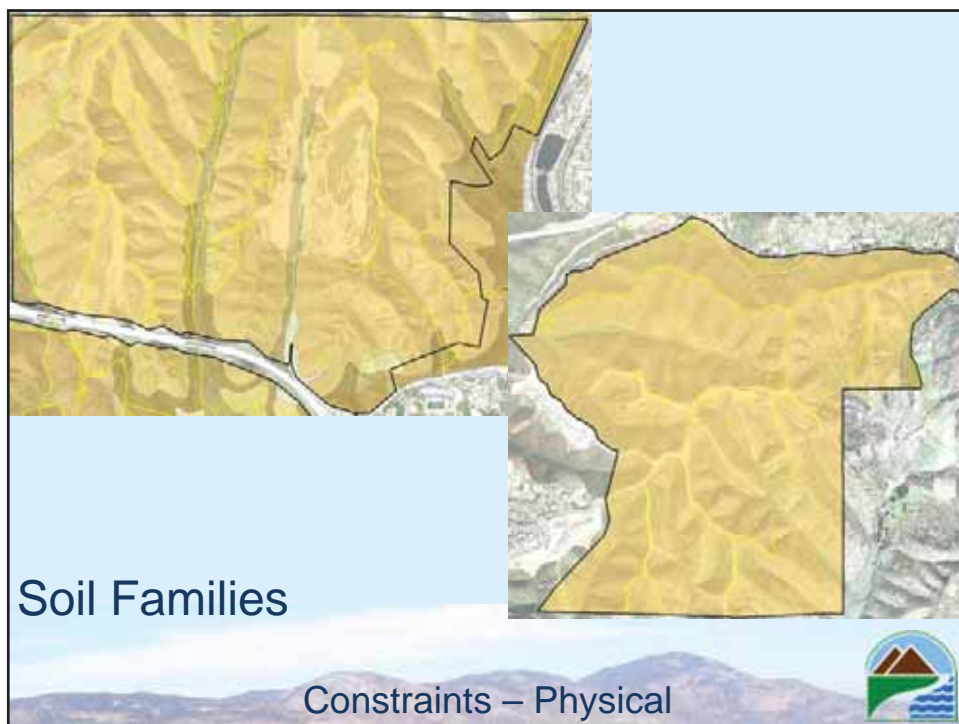


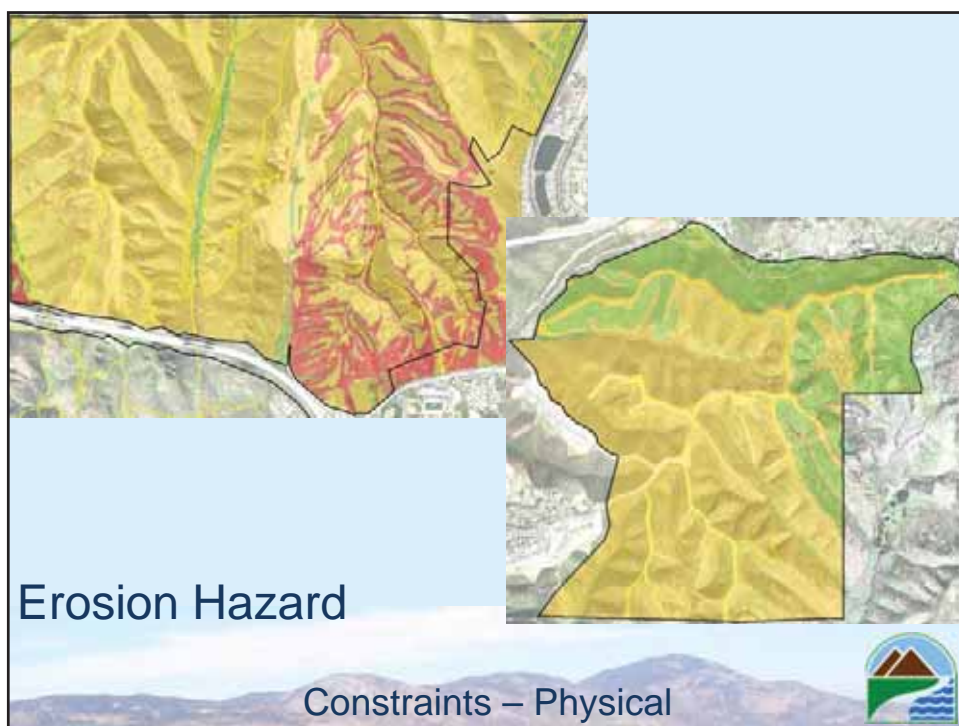












## **Cultural / Paleontological**

### **Cultural Resources**

- High Constraint
  - Existing Sites
- Moderate – Low Constraint
  - Probability of Resources
    - Vegetation
    - Geology
    - Spatial Proximity

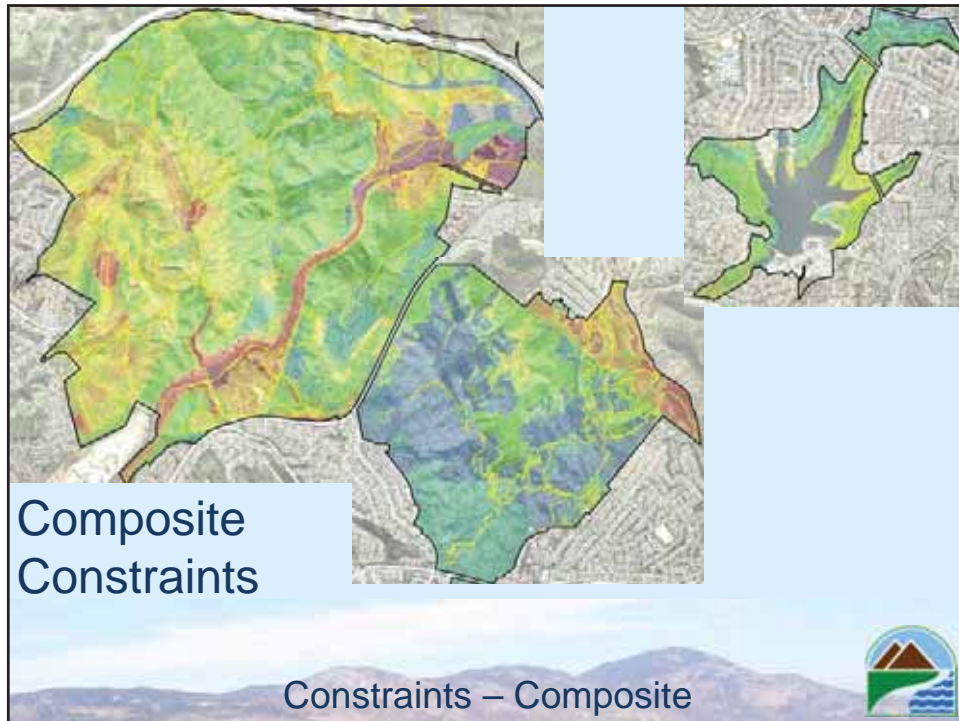
### **Paleontological Resources**

- High – No Constraint
  - Probability of Resources
    - Geology
    - Soils

Constraints – Cultural/Paleo



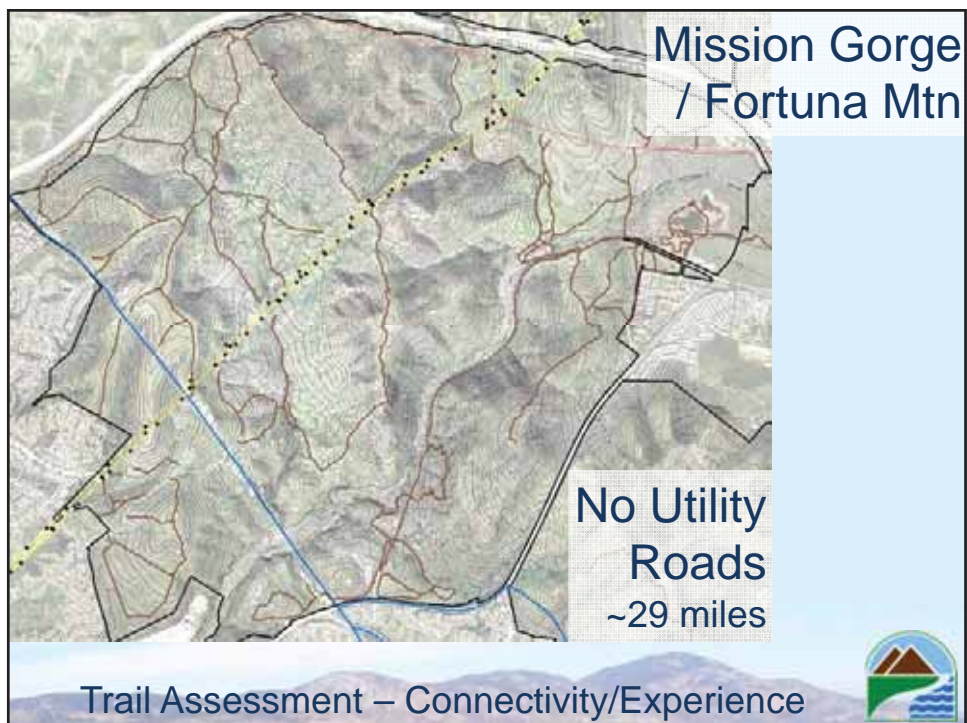
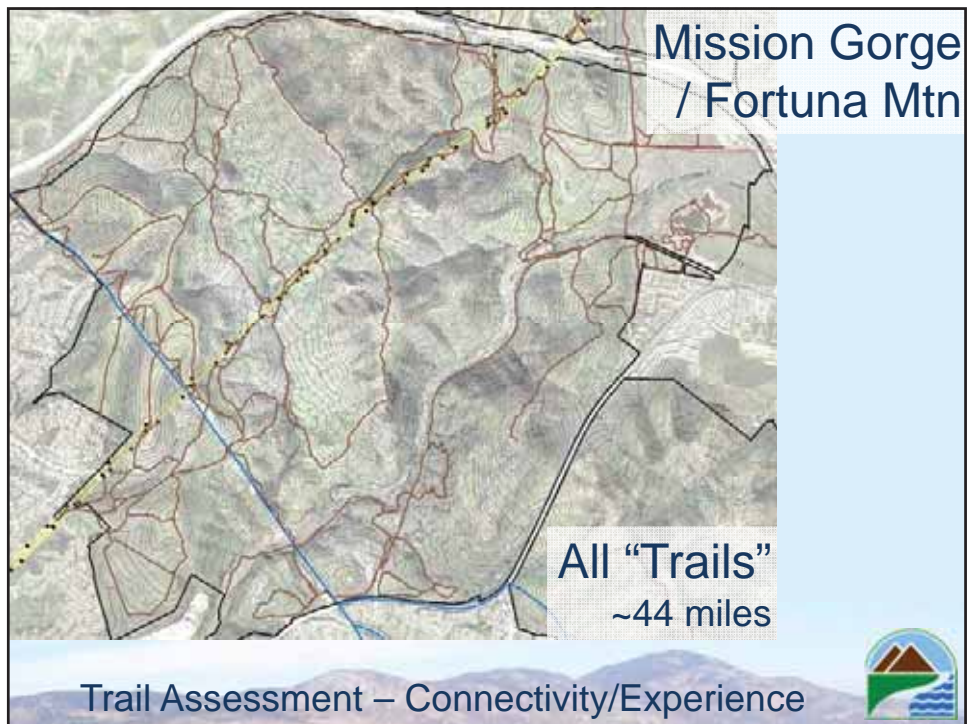




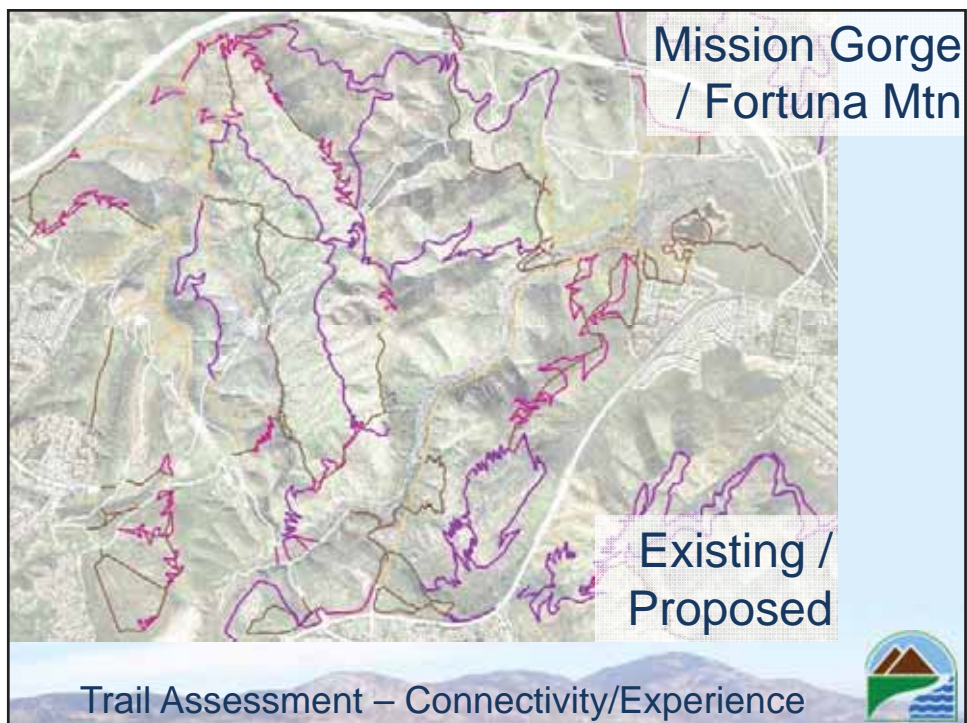
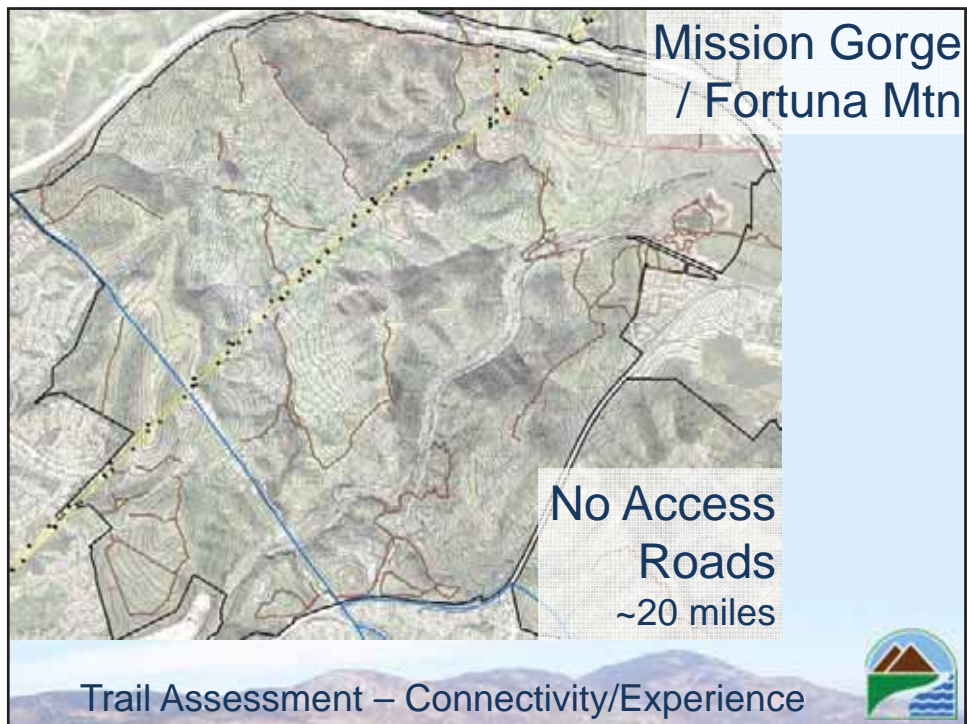
# Trail Assessment

Mission Trails Regional Park MPU





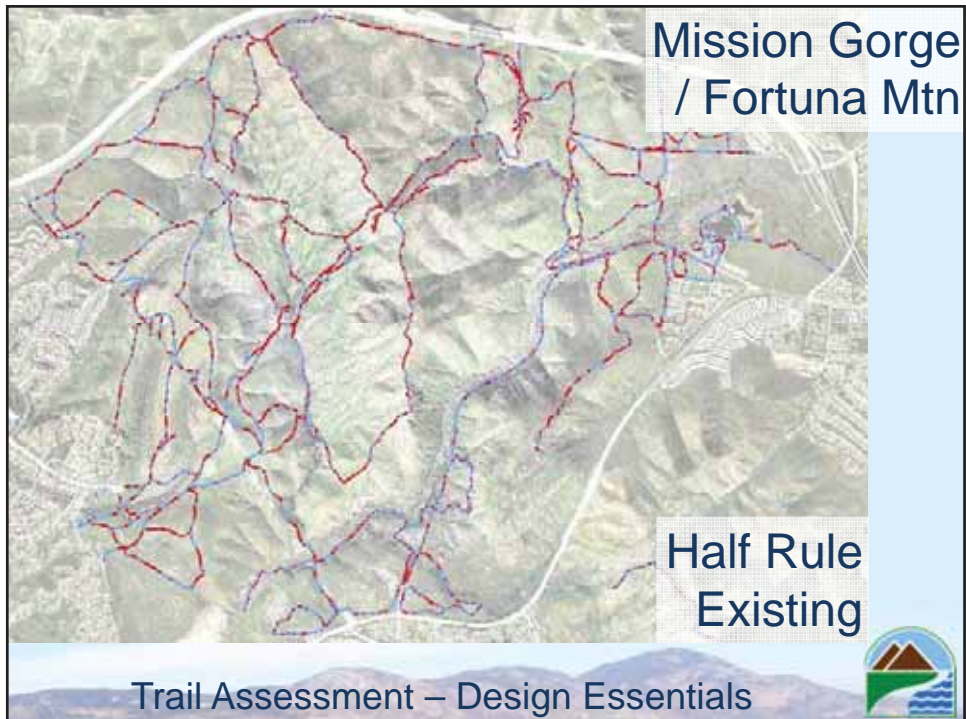




## Trail Design 5 Essential Elements

1. Half Rule
2. Ten% Average Guideline
3. Maximum Sustainable Grade
4. Grade Reversals
5. Outslope

Trail Assessment – Design Essentials



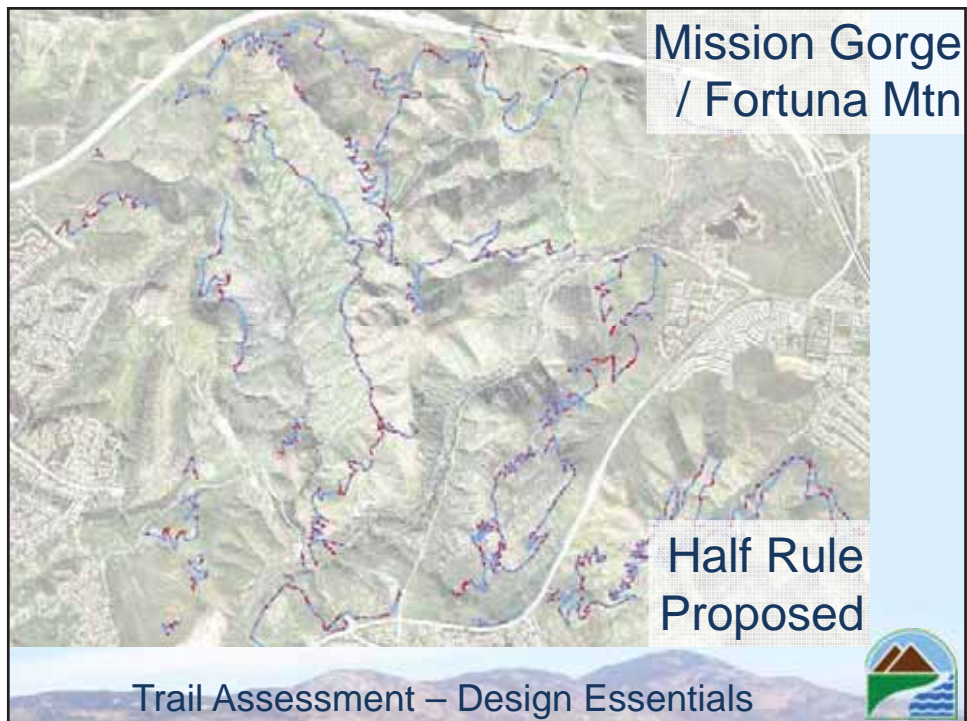
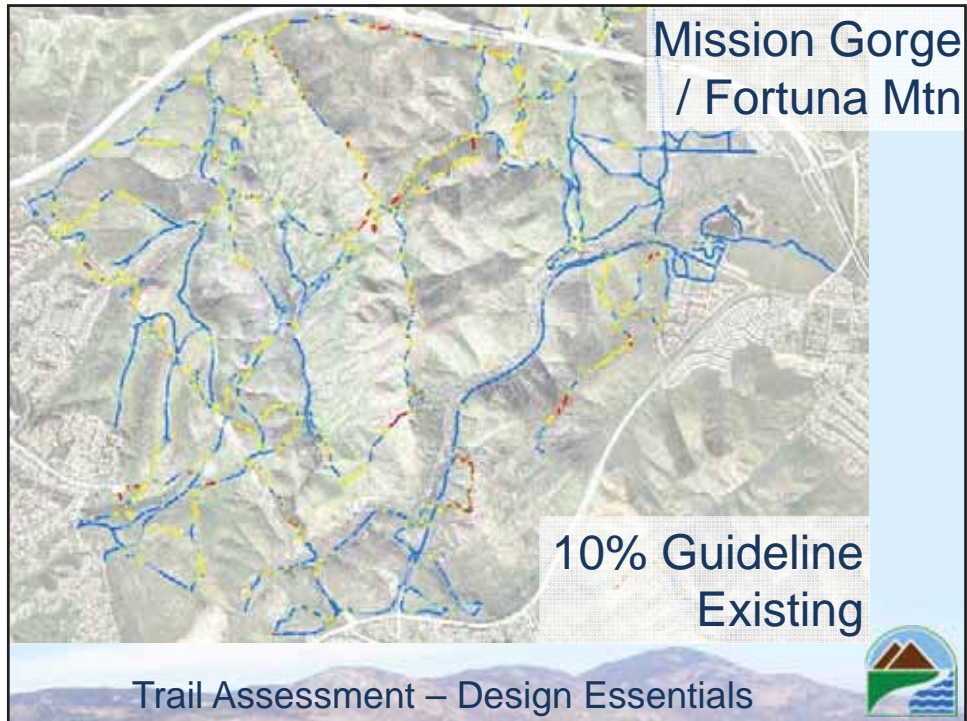
Mission Gorge  
/ Fortuna Mtn

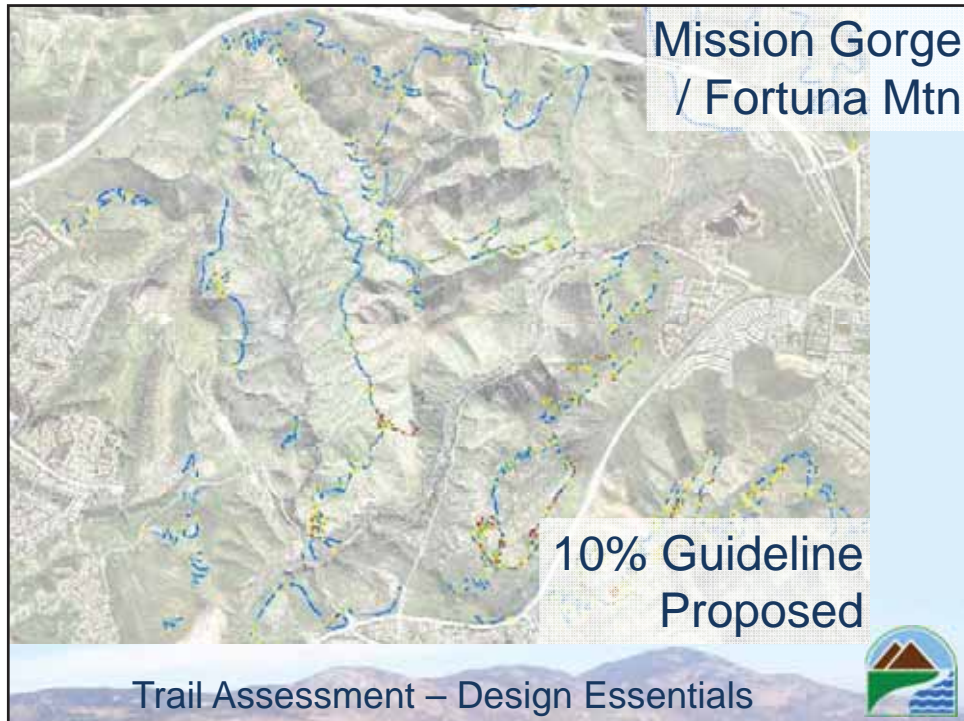
Half Rule  
Existing

Trail Assessment – Design Essentials







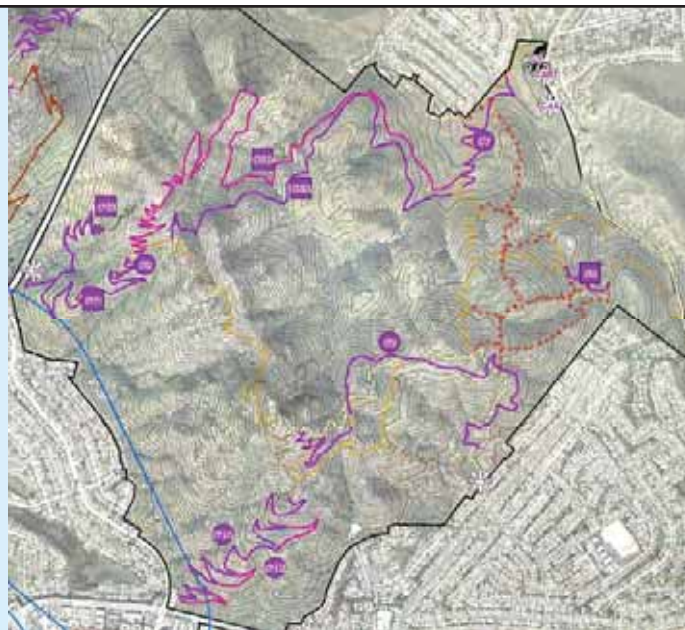






## ALTERNATIVES

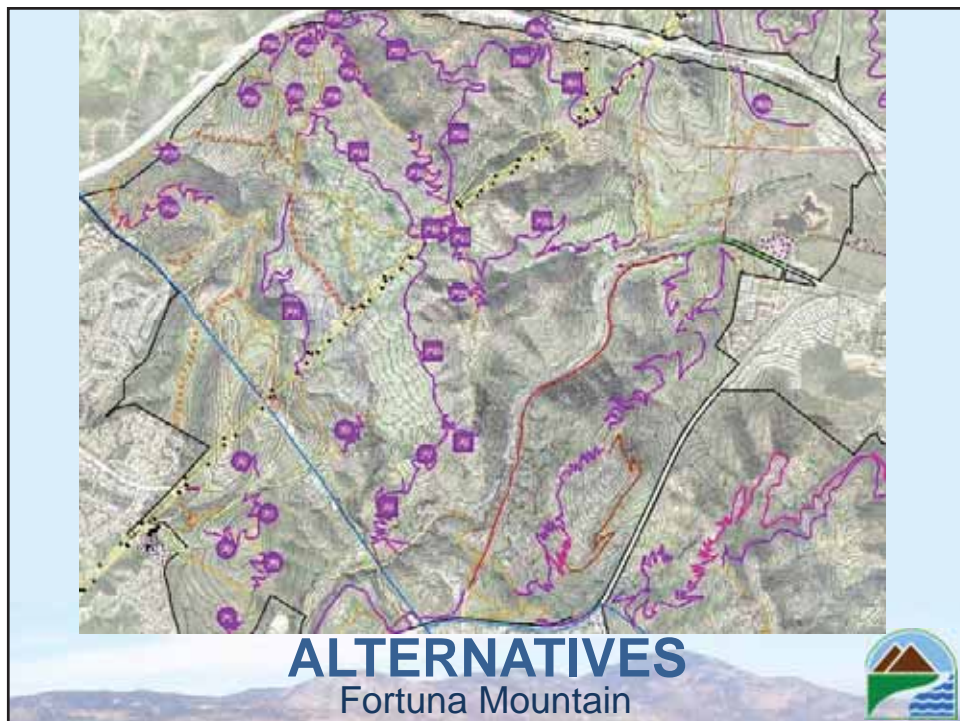
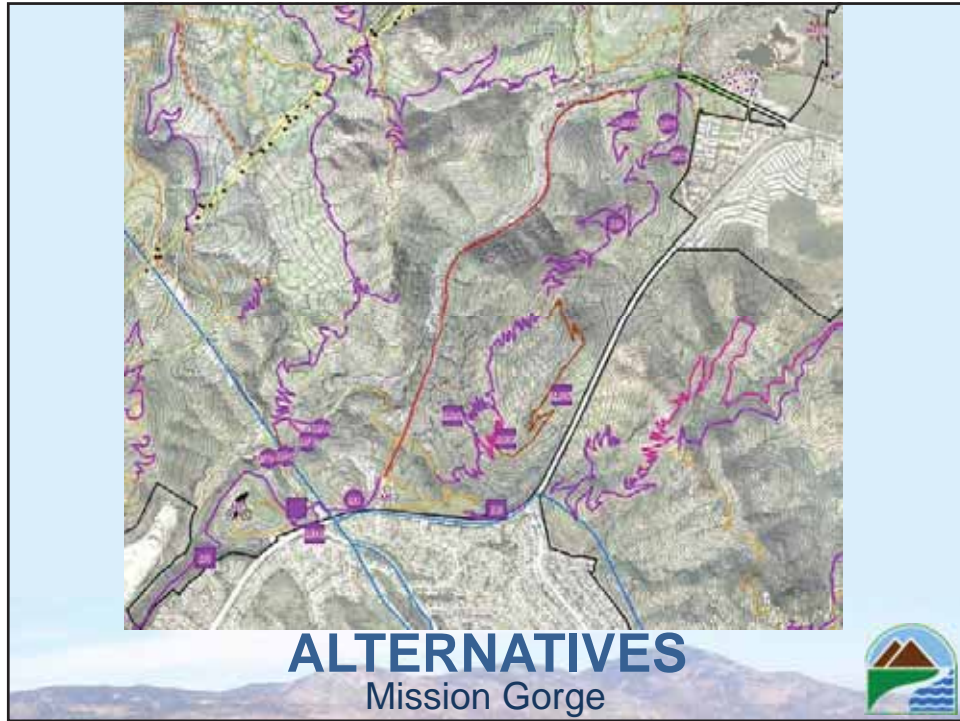
Lake Murray



## ALTERNATIVES

Cowles Mountain







## Implementation within East Elliott

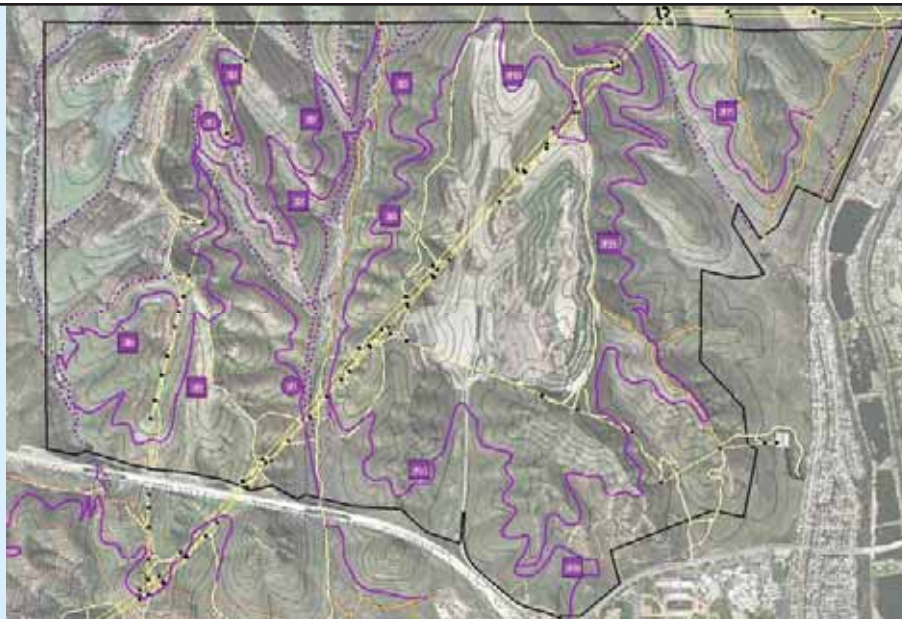


The vast majority of the East Elliott Community Plan Area was identified for preservation as part of the MSCP process. Privately owned parcels can still be developed pursuant to their compliance with regulatory requirements, which will not change via inclusion of this area within the MTRP Master Plan.

Until private property is acquired, land owner liability related to recreational activities is protected under:


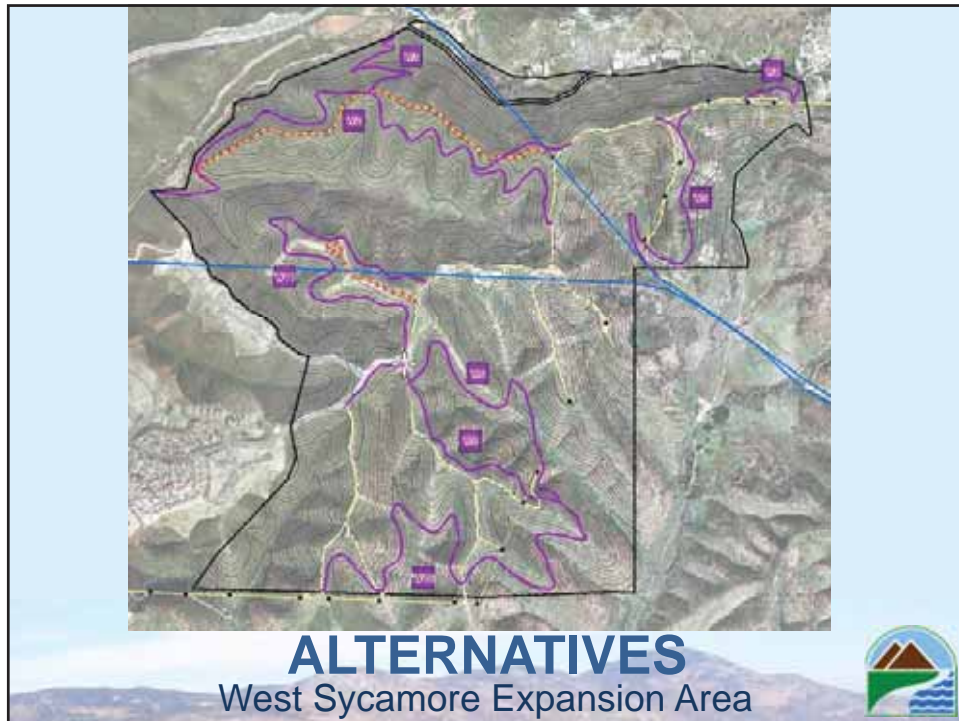
- CA Civil Code 846 & 1714
- CA Government Code 831.4 & 835-835.4
- Public Resources Code 5075.4

East Elliott – Implementation Issues



**ALTERNATIVES**  
East Elliott Expansion Area






**MTRP  
Master Plan  
Update  
&  
Natural  
Resources  
Management  
Plan**

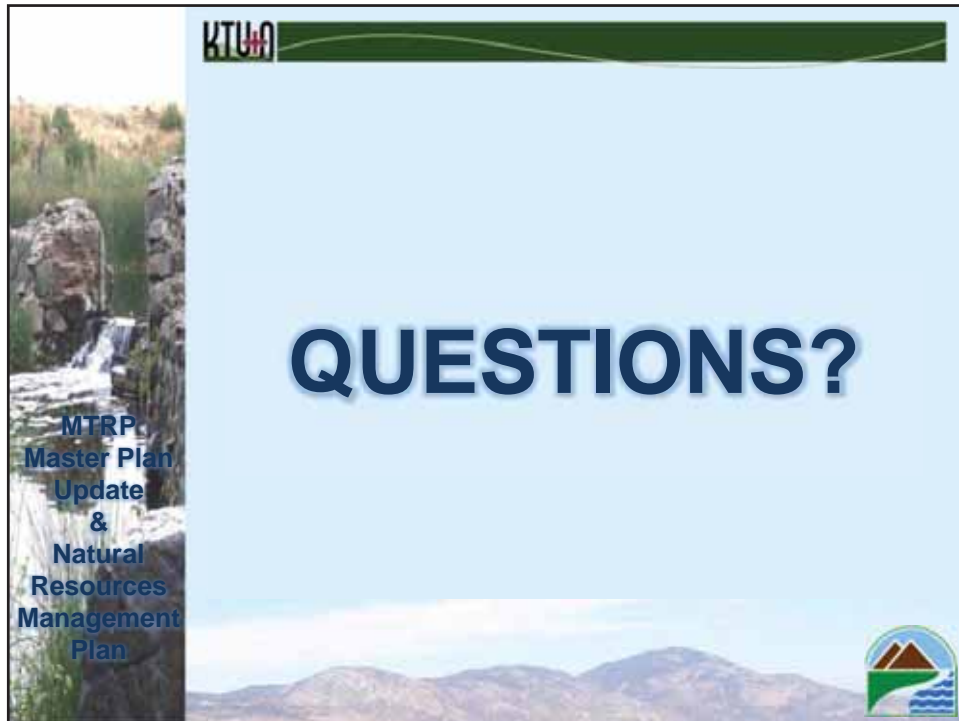
**KTU**

### WORKSHOP INSTRUCTIONS

- ✓ Sign-in
- ✓ Review Constraints Maps
- ✓ Review Proposed Alternatives
  - Use Post-its to write comments
  - Add any other notes to the Alternatives Maps
- ✓ Complete your Voting Ballot
  - Rate each element from Love It to Hate It
  - Rank your Top 10 Priorities for Implementation









# Mission Trails Regional Park

## Master Plan Update

**Instructions:** Please review the Draft Alternative Maps and review the various potential project options listed below. Then rate each project option by filling in the appropriate Love-to-Hate Category. We are also asking you to choose 10 project options that you would like to see as priorities for implementation. Select a maximum of ten total projects and number your priorities from the highest (1) to lowest (10). You may want to pick your top ten first then come back and list your priority numbers. You may provide additional comments at the end of this table.

Thank You

Map Label	Description	Love It	Like It	Can Live With It	Don't Like It	Hate It	Top 10 Priorities
<b>Lake Murray</b>							
L1	Provide a Trail Connection from Dwane Ave. to Lake Murray Service Road						
L2	Resurface the Lake Murray Service Road (to allow for in-line skating or biking for example)						
L3	Reroute Trail from Apartment Complex to Murray Service Road						
L4	Reroute Trail from Apartment Complex to Lake Murray Service Road						
L5	Reroute Trail from Apartment Complex to Lake Murray Service Road						
L6	Treat Urban Runoff before Discharging Downstream of Dam (through bio-swale or wetland for example)						
L7	Regrade Dirt Parking Lots to Lower Erosion and Sediment Discharge to Lake Murray						
<b>Cowles Mountain</b>							
C1A	Reroute Primary Cowles Mountain Trail (Option A)						
C1B	Reroute Primary Cowles Mountain Trail (Option B)						
C2	Provide Trail Alternative to Cowles Mountain Service Road						
C3	Improve Barker Way Trailhead with Off-street Parking and Porta-johns						
C4A	Improve Mesa Road Trailhead with Off-street Parking, Porta-johns (Option A)						
C4B	Improve Mesa Road Trailhead with On-street Parking, Porta-johns (Option B)						
C5	Add Mesa Road Bike Skills Park						



<b>C6A</b>	Add a Mesa Road to Pyles Peak Trail (Option A)						
<b>C6B</b>	Add a Mesa Road to Pyles Peak Trail (Option B)						
<b>C7</b>	Reroute Lower Mesa Road/Big Rock Trail						
<b>C8</b>	Provide a Trail Connection between Mesa Road Trail and Lake Murray Blvd. Trail						
<b>C9</b>	Reroute Pyles Peak Trail						
<b>C10</b>	Provide a New Pyles Peak Staging Area						
<b>C11</b>	Add a Golf Crest to Pyles Peak Trail						
<b>C12</b>	Add a Pyles Peak Climbing Access Trail						
<b>Mission Gorge</b>							
<b>M1</b>	Extend the San Diego River Trail from Park Boundary to Deerfield BMX Trail						
<b>M2</b>	Improve the existing Deerfield BMX / Bike Skills Park						
<b>M3A</b>	Extend the San Diego River Trail from Deerfield to Jackson Staging Area (Option A)						
<b>M3B</b>	Extend the San Diego River Trail from Deerfield to Jackson Staging Area (Option B)						
<b>M4</b>	Improve the San Diego River Trail from Jackson Staging Area to the Visitor Center Trail						
<b>M5</b>	Add a New Oak Grove Parking Area						
<b>M6</b>	Add a new Oak Grove to Golfcrest Trail						
<b>M7A</b>	Construct a San Diego River Pedestrian/Bicycle Bridge Crossing (Option A)						
<b>M7B</b>	Construct a San Diego River Pedestrian/Bicycle Bridge Crossing (Option B)						
<b>M7C</b>	Construct a San Diego River Pedestrian/Bicycle Bridge Crossing (Option C)						
<b>M7D</b>	Construct a San Diego River Pedestrian/Bicycle Bridge Crossing (Option D)						
<b>M8A</b>	Provide a Oak Grove to Kwaay Paay Peak Trail (Option A)						
<b>M8B</b>	Provide a Oak Grove to Kwaay Paay Peak Trail (Option B)						
<b>M8C</b>	Provide a Oak Grove to Kwaay Paay Peak Trail (Option C)						
<b>M9</b>	Reroute the Upper Kwaay Paay Trail						
<b>M10</b>	Reroute the Lower Kwaay Paay Trail (West side)						
<b>M11</b>	Reroute the Lower Kwaay Paay Trail (East side)						
<b>M12</b>	Reroute the Lower Kwaay Paay Trail (Mission Trails Drive Connector)						
<b>M13</b>	Repair the Kumeyaay Lake Berm						

Fortuna Mountain							
A1	Acquire Additional Lands for a Bike Skills Park						
A2	Acquire Additional Lands for New Staging Areas near Major Trails						
F1	Reroute the Lower Quarry Loop Trail						
F2	Reroute the Mid Quarry Loop Trail						
F3	Reroute the Northern Quarry Loop Trail						
F4	Reroute the Western Quarry Loop Trail						
F5	Reroute the Clairemont Mesa Blvd Canyon Trail						
F6	Construct a New San Diego River Crossing to South Fortuna Trail						
F7	Reroute the South Fortuna to Stairs Trail						
F8	Reroute the S-Curves Trail						
F9	Add a South Fortuna Climbing Access Trail						
F10	Provide a New South Fortuna Westside Trail						
F11	Provide a New Western Suycott Valley Trail						
F12	Reroute the South Fortuna Peak Northern Approach						
F13	Add a New Old Dam to Fortuna Ridge Trail						
F14	Add a New Fortuna Ridge to Fortuna Saddle Trail						
F15	Add a New Fortuna Saddle to E-ticket Trail						
F16	Reroute the Portobello to Rim Trail						
F17	Reroute the Lower Shepard's Pond Trail						
F18	Add a New North Fortuna Westside Trail						
F19	Reroute the North Fortuna Peak Southern Approach						
F20	Add a New Fortuna Saddle to North Perimeter Trail						
F21	Reroute the Upper Shepard's Pond Trail						
F22	Reroute the Northwest Rim Trail						
F23	Reroute the Northeast Rim Trail						
F24	Reroute the North Fortuna Peak Northern Approach Re-Route						
F25	Reroute Western North Perimeter Trail						
F26	Reroute Northern Rim Trail						
F27	Reroute Northern North Perimter Trail						
F28	Reroute Western North Perimeter Trail						



<b>F29</b>	Reroute Eastern North Perimeter Trail						
<b>F30</b>	Reroute Oak Canyon Entry Trail						
<b>F31</b>	Add a New Grasslands to Oak Canyon Trail						
<b>F32</b>	Reroute the Equestrian Staging Area to Spring Canyon Trail						
<b>East Elliott Expansion Area</b>							
<b>E1</b>	Reroute the Southwestern Spring Canyon Trail						
<b>E2</b>	Add a New Oak Canyon to Ridgeline Trail						
<b>E3</b>	Add a New Oak Canyon to Spring Canyon Trail						
<b>E4</b>	Reroute the Western Spring Canyon to Utility Road						
<b>E5</b>	Add a Western Spring Canyon Utility Road Connector Trail						
<b>E6</b>	Add a New Northwestern Spring Canyon Lower Trail						
<b>E7</b>	Add a New Northwestern Spring Canyon Upper Trail						
<b>E8</b>	Add a New Northeastern Spring Canyon Lower Trail						
<b>E9</b>	Add a New Northeastern Spring Canyon Upper Trail						
<b>E10</b>	Add a New North Landfill Trail						
<b>E11</b>	Add a New Landfill to Stowe Trail						
<b>E12</b>	Provide a Santee Overlook Trail						
<b>E13</b>	Add a New Santee Boulders Trail						
<b>E14</b>	Add a New Spring Canyon to Santee Boulders Trail						
<b>West Sycamore Expansion Area</b>							
<b>W1</b>	Provide a New West Sycamore Staging Area						
<b>W2</b>	Add a Extensiong to the Beeler Canyon to Ridge Trail (Trans-County Trail)						
<b>W3</b>	Add a New Beeler/Sycamore Canyon to Ridge Trail						
<b>W4</b>	Add a New Sycamore Canyon to Ridge Trail						
<b>W5</b>	Add a New Ridge to Goodan Ranch Trail						
<b>W6</b>	Add a New North Segment of Southern Loop Trail						
<b>W9</b>	Add a New Central Segment of Southern Loop Trail						
<b>W10</b>	Add a New Southern Segment of Southern Loop Trail						
<b>W11</b>	Add a New Western Loop Trail						

Comments

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Please mail completed Voting Forms to:

City of San Diego

City Planning and Community Investment Department

Park Planning Division

202 C Street, MS 5A

San Diego, CA 92101

Attention: Jeff Harkness

Or transfer your information to the on-line survey form provided at [http://www.mtrp.org/master\\_plan.asp](http://www.mtrp.org/master_plan.asp)



MTRP PW2 Alternative Project Element Voting Summary

		Raw Votes					% of Votes					101 Top Ten										
Map Label	Description	Love It	Like It	Can Live With It	Don't Like It	Hate It	Composite Score	% Positive	% Nuetral	% Negative	% Responding	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Composite Top 10
Lake Murray		2	1	0	-1	-2																
L1	Provide a Trail Connection from Dwane Ave. to Lake Murray Service Road	10	15	25	5	2	26	25%	25%	7%	56%											0
L2	Resurface the Lake Murray Service Road (to allow for in-line skating or biking for example)	3	12	23	13	7	-9	15%	23%	20%	57%											0
L3	Reroute Trail from Apartment Complex to Murray Service Road	2	14	29	8	4	2	16%	29%	12%	56%											0
L4	Reroute Trail from Apartment Complex to Lake Murray Service Road	3	13	28	8	4	3	16%	28%	12%	55%											0
L5*	Reroute Trail from Apartment Complex to Lake Murray Service Road	0	2	4	1	0	1	2%	4%	1%	7%											0
L6	Treat Urban Runoff before Discharging Downstream of Dam (through bio-swale or wetland for example)	9	17	24	6	2	25	26%	24%	8%	57%											0
L7	Regrade Dirt Parking Lots to Lower Erosion and Sediment Dischage to Lake Murray	3	16	33	3	2	15	19%	33%	5%	56%											0
Cowles Mountain																						
C1A	Reroute Primary Cowles Mountain Trail (Option A)	10	16	28	5	0	31	26%	28%	5%	58%			1								8
C1B	Reroute Primary Cowles Mountain Trail (Option B)	10	17	29	4	1	31	27%	29%	5%	60%			1				1	1	1		17
C2	Provide Trail Alternative to Cowles Mountain Service Road	46	15	10	2	0	105	60%	10%	2%	72%	6	1	1			2	3			1	100
C3	Improve Barker Way Trailhead with Off-street Parking and Porta-johns	7	15	27	5	5	14	22%	27%	10%	58%									1		2
C4A	Improve Mesa Road Trailhead with Off-street Parking, Porta-johns (Option A)	9	16	19	7	7	13	25%	19%	14%	57%											0
C4B	Improve Mesa Road Trailhead with On-street Parking, Porta-johns (Option B)	5	16	25	4	3	16	21%	25%	7%	52%											0
C5	Add Mesa Road Bike Skills Park	52	8	8	2	1	108	59%	8%	3%	70%	1	1	1		1		2		1	1	44
C6A	Add a Mesa Road to Pyles Peak Trail (Option A)	37	23	10	0	0	97	59%	10%	0%	69%	2	3	3	1	3	1	1	3	1		116
C6B	Add a Mesa Road to Pyles Peak Trail (Option B)	28	17	16	3	0	70	45%	16%	3%	63%	2	3	3	1	1			1		1	88
C7	Reroute Lower Mesa Road/Big Rock Trail	28	9	18	7	3	52	37%	18%	10%	64%						1		3		1	15
C8	Provide a Trail Connection between Mesa Road Trail and Lake Murray Blvd. Trail	14	18	20	1	2	41	32%	20%	3%	54%											0
C9	Reroute Pyles Peak Trail	26	9	25	3	3	52	35%	25%	6%	65%								1		1	4
C10	Provide a New Pyles Peak Staging Area	8	15	29	5	2	22	23%	29%	7%	58%					1	1				1	12
C11	Add a Golf Crest to Pyles Peak Trail	38	15	11	5	2	82	52%	11%	7%	70%				3		1	1	1	6	2	47
C12	Add a Pyles Peak Climbing Access Trail	24	9	25	3	0	54	33%	25%	3%	60%				3	1		1				31
Mission Gorge																						
M1	Extend the San Diego River Trail from Park Boundary to Deerfield BMX Trail	17	22	18	2	0	54	39%	18%	2%	58%		1							1		11
M2	Improve the existing Deerfield BMX / Bike Skills Park	52	12	9	3	1	111	63%	9%	4%	76%	7	3	1			1	2			2	120
M3A	Extend the San Diego River Trail from Deerfield to Jackson Staging Area (Option A)	13	13	24	3	0	36	26%	24%	3%	52%						1					5
M3B	Extend the San Diego River Trail from Deerfield to Jackson Staging Area (Option B)	10	14	24	6	0	28	24%	24%	6%	53%					1						6
M4	Improve the San Diego River Trail from Jackson Staging Area to the Visitor Center Trail	9	12	26	5	0	25	21%	26%	5%	51%											0
M5	Add a New Oak Grove Parking Area	5	11	30	5	5	6	16%	30%	10%	55%							1				4
M6	Add a new Oak Grove to Golfcrest Trail	26	10	21	3	1	57	36%	21%	4%	60%							2	1	1		13
M7A	Construct a San Diego River Pedestrian/Bicycle Bridge Crossing (Option A)	36	22	10	5	1	87	57%	10%	6%	73%	4	4		5	1	2				2	129
M7B	Construct a San Diego River Pedestrian/Bicycle Bridge Crossing (Option B)	13	21	20	8	1	37	34%	20%	9%	62%	3	3		2	3	2				1	100
M7C	Construct a San Diego River Pedestrian/Bicycle Bridge Crossing (Option C)	17	25	18	6	0	53	42%	18%	6%	65%	3	4		2	1	4				1	107
M7D	Construct a San Diego River Pedestrian/Bicycle Bridge Crossing (Option D)	12	22	21	9	1	35	34%	21%	10%	64%	2	4		2	1	2				1	87

MTRP PW2 Alternative Project Element Voting Summary

		Raw Votes					% of Votes					101 Top Ten										Composite Top 10
Map Label	Description	Love It	Like It	Can Live With It	Don't Like It	Hate It	Composite Score	% Positive	% Neutral	% Negative	% Responding	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
Mission Gorge (cont)																						
M8A	Provide a Oak Grove to Kwaay Paay Peak Trail (Option A)	13	22	21	2	0	46	35%	21%	2%	57%								1			3
M8B	Provide a Oak Grove to Kwaay Paay Peak Trail (Option B)	10	19	26	3	2	32	29%	26%	5%	59%		1						1	1		14
M8C	Provide a Oak Grove to Kwaay Paay Peak Trail (Option C)	19	18	25	1	0	55	37%	25%	1%	62%		2	2	1		1	1			1	51
M9	Reroute the Upper Kwaay Paay Trail	9	13	26	2	2	25	22%	26%	4%	51%											0
M10	Reroute the Lower Kwaay Paay Trail (West side)	8	11	28	3	0	24	19%	28%	3%	50%											0
M11	Reroute the Lower Kwaay Paay Trail (East side)	6	9	30	4	0	17	15%	30%	4%	49%											0
M12	Reroute the Lower Kwaay Paay Trail (Mission Trails Drive Connector)	6	12	27	5	0	19	18%	27%	5%	50%											0
M13	Repair the Kumeyaay Lake Berm	4	13	32	2	1	17	17%	32%	3%	51%											0
Fortuna Mountain																						
A1	Acquire Additional Lands for a Bike Skills Park	52	10	3	4	2	106	61%	3%	6%	70%	1	2	3	2					2	2	72
A2	Acquire Additional Lands for New Staging Areas near Major Trails	4	23	17	6	5	15	27%	17%	11%	54%			2	1							23
F1	Reroute the Lower Quarry Loop Trail	12	13	25	5	0	32	25%	25%	5%	54%									1	2	4
F2	Reroute the Mid Quarry Loop Trail	11	15	24	5	0	32	26%	24%	5%	54%									1	1	3
F3	Reroute the Northern Quarry Loop Trail	11	15	22	6	2	27	26%	22%	8%	55%											0
F4	Reroute the Western Quarry Loop Trail	11	13	25	6	0	29	24%	25%	6%	54%											0
F5	Reroute the Clairemont Mesa Blvd Canyon Trail	8	17	21	8	0	25	25%	21%	8%	53%											0
F6	Construct a New San Diego River Crossing to South Fortuna Trail	44	20	7	3	0	105	63%	7%	3%	73%			4	1	1	1	3		2	5	71
F7	Reroute the South Fortuna to Stairs Trail	38	9	15	7	3	72	47%	15%	10%	71%		1	1	3	1			3		1	54
F8	Reroute the S-Curves Trail	34	8	15	6	4	62	42%	15%	10%	66%					6			1			39
F9	Add a South Fortuna Climbing Access Trail	22	13	27	0	1	55	35%	27%	1%	62%	5	1	1								67
F10	Provide a New South Fortuna Westside Trail	37	11	15	3	0	82	48%	15%	3%	65%		1	2	1	2	1	2	2	1		65
F11	Provide a New Western Suycott Valley Trail	44	9	13	4	0	93	52%	13%	4%	69%				1	2	2	1	3	1		44
F12	Reroute the South Fortuna Peak Northern Approach	10	15	28	2	0	33	25%	28%	2%	54%											0
F13	Add a New Old Dam to Fortuna Ridge Trail	28	11	19	2	0	65	39%	19%	2%	59%	1	1	1	1		4		4	1		68
F14	Add a New Fortuna Ridge to Fortuna Saddle Trail	23	15	16	1	0	60	38%	16%	1%	54%		1				1	1				18
F15	Add a New Fortuna Saddle to E-ticket Trail	37	15	13	1	0	88	51%	13%	1%	65%	1	1	1			1	1	1		1	40
F16	Reroute the Portobello to Rim Trail	29	10	23	4	0	64	39%	23%	4%	65%					2	2					22
F17	Reroute the Lower Shepard's Pond Trail	12	13	24	4	0	33	25%	24%	4%	52%											0
F18	Add a New North Fortuna Westside Trail	48	10	10	1	0	105	57%	10%	1%	68%		4	3		1		3	1	1	1	84
F19	Reroute the North Fortuna Peak Southern Approach	18	12	22	3	2	41	30%	22%	5%	56%			1		1						14
F20	Add a New Fortuna Saddle to North Perimeter Trail	42	17	10	1	0	100	58%	10%	1%	69%			3	1		4	1	2		3	64
F21	Reroute the Upper Shepard's Pond Trail	29	11	24	3	0	66	40%	24%	3%	66%								2			6
F22	Reroute the Northwest Rim Trail	11	14	24	5	0	31	25%	24%	5%	53%											0
F23	Reroute the Northeast Rim Trail	11	10	29	5	0	27	21%	29%	5%	54%											0
F24	Reroute the North Fortuna Peak Northern Approach Re-Route	11	11	25	4	2	25	22%	25%	6%	52%											0



MTRP PW2 Alternative Project Element Voting Summary

		Raw Votes					% of Votes					101 Top Ten										Composite Top 10
Map Label	Description	Love It	Like It	Can Live With It	Don't Like It	Hate It	Composite Score	% Positive	% Neutral	% Negative	% Responding	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
Fortuna Mountain (Continued)																						
F25	Reroute Western North Perimeter Trail	32	8	19	4	0	68	40%	19%	4%	62%						1					5
F26	Reroute Northern Rim Trail	32	10	18	4	0	70	42%	18%	4%	63%											0
F27	Reroute Northern North Perimter Trail	34	11	18	2	0	77	45%	18%	2%	64%				1		1	1			1	17
F28	Reroute Western North Perimeter Trail	36	10	19	2	0	80	46%	19%	2%	66%	2			3	3		2	1			70
F29	Reroute Eastern North Perimeter Trail	38	10	17	1	0	85	48%	17%	1%	65%		2	2	2	2	3	1				79
F30	Reroute Oak Canyon Entry Trail	14	15	21	5	0	38	29%	21%	5%	54%											0
F31	Add a New Grasslands to Oak Canyon Trail	44	16	8	1	0	103	59%	8%	1%	68%	2		1			1	1	1			40
F32	Reroute the Equestrian Staging Area to Spring Canyon Trail	11	10	19	9	6	11	21%	19%	15%	54%									1		2
East Elliott Expansion Area																						
E1	Reroute the Southwestern Spring Canyon Trail	34	14	21	1	0	81	48%	21%	1%	69%	2		2		1	1				3	50
E2	Add a New Oak Canyon to Ridgeline Trail	47	18	8	1	0	111	64%	8%	1%	73%	1	2		2			1	1	6		61
E3	Add a New Oak Canyon to Spring Canyon Trail	33	18	12	1	0	83	50%	12%	1%	63%		1				1					14
E4	Reroute the Western Spring Canyon to Utility Road	16	14	22	3	1	41	30%	22%	4%	55%							1				4
E5	Add a Western Spring Canyon Utility Road Connector Trail	20	18	17	4	0	54	38%	17%	4%	58%											0
E6	Add a New Northwestern Spring Canyon Lower Trail	27	22	15	1	0	75	49%	15%	1%	64%					1			3			15
E7	Add a New Northwestern Spring Canyon Upper Trail	47	17	9	0	0	111	63%	9%	0%	72%			2	1	2	3		2			56
E8	Add a New Northeastern Spring Canyon Lower Trail	24	20	16	1	0	67	44%	16%	1%	60%											0
E9	Add a New Northeastern Spring Canyon Upper Trail	46	15	11	1	0	106	60%	11%	1%	72%			4	2					5		56
E10	Add a New North Landfill Trail	32	17	12	3	0	78	49%	12%	3%	63%								1	1		5
E11	Add a New Landfill to Stowe Trail	31	17	12	2	0	77	48%	12%	2%	61%				3							21
E12	Provide a Santee Overlook Trail	34	16	12	1	0	83	50%	12%	1%	62%			3	1			1			4	39
E13	Add a New Santee Boulders Trail	37	23	10	1	0	96	59%	10%	1%	70%	1	2			1						34
E14	Add a New Spring Canyon to Santee Boulders Trail	36	21	10	1	0	92	56%	10%	1%	67%								1		1	4
West Sycamore Expansion Area																						
W1	Provide a New West Sycamore Staging Area	13	21	21	5	0	42	34%	21%	5%	59%	1				1						16
W2	Add a Extensiong to the Beeler Canyon to Ridge Trail (Trans-County Trail)	41	19	11	0	0	101	59%	11%	0%	70%	1	4			1	2	2	1		1	74
W3	Add a New Beeler/Sycamore Canyon to Ridge Trail	25	18	17	1	0	67	43%	17%	1%	60%					1						6
W4	Add a New Sycamore Canyon to Ridge Trail	26	21	14	0	0	73	47%	14%	0%	60%											0
W5	Add a New Ridge to Goodan Ranch Trail	45	19	7	1	0	108	63%	7%	1%	71%	4	1				4	2		1	1	80
W6	Add a New North Segment of Southern Loop Trail	50	17	7	0	0	117	66%	7%	0%	73%			1				6		1		34
W9	Add a New Central Segment of Southern Loop Trail	30	17	15	2	0	75	47%	15%	2%	63%					2				3	1	19
W10	Add a New Southern Segment of Southern Loop Trail	30	19	15	0	0	79	49%	15%	0%	63%				3							21
W11	Add a New Western Loop Trail	40	15	14	0	0	95	54%	14%	0%	68%					2			2	1		20

\* L5 got left off on-line survey by mistake

26 surveys from Workshop  
75 on-line surveys

101 Total Surveys

# MTRP PW2 Voting Summary

	Composite Score	>50% Positive	Composite Top 10	>10% Negative	2/3 Input
1	W6	W6	M7A	L2	M2
2	M2	E2	M2	F32	M7A
3	E2	M2	C6A	C4A	F6
4	E7	E7	M7C	L3	E2
5	C5	W5	C2	L4	W6
6	W5	F6	M7B	A2	C2
7	A1	A1	C6B	F7	E9
8	E9	E9	M7D	F8	E7
9	C2	C2	F18	C7	F7
10	F6	C5	W5	M7D	W5
11	F18	F31	F29	C3	C11
12	F31	W2	W2	M5	A1
13	W2	C6A	A1		C5
14	F20	E13	F6		E13
15	C6A	F20	F28		W2
16	E13	F18	F13		F11
17	W11	M7A	F9		F20
18	F11	E14	F10		E1
19	E14	W11	F20		C6A
20	F15	F11	E2		F18
21	M7A	C11	E7		F31
22	F29	F15	E9		W11
23	E3	E3	F7		E14
24	E12	E12	M8C		F8
25	C11	W10	E1		F21
26					F28





**THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO**

# **MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK MASTER PLAN UPDATE PUBLIC WORKSHOP**

**The City of San Diego, City Planning and Community Investment Department, Park Planning Section, would like to invite you to participate in the third Public Workshop for the Mission Trails Regional Park Master Plan Update. The meeting will focus on presenting a preferred development alternative being considered for Mission Trails Regional Park, including the future expansion areas of East Elliott and West Sycamore. Comments received at the workshop will be considered during the development of the written Master Plan Update and Natural Resource Management Plan that will be subsequently presented to the Citizens Advisory Committee, Task Force and City Council for approval.**

**Date: June 9, 2011**

**Time: 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.**

**Location: Mission Trails Regional Park Visitor  
and Interpretive Center  
One Father Junipero Serra Trail  
San Diego, CA 92119**

**A presentation will be held at 6:30 in the Theater. Mapping and other information will be available for review in the adjacent Meeting Room anytime between 6:00 and 9:00 to facilitate questions and input.**

**For additional information, please contact the Jeff Harkness (619)533-6595 or email at: [jharkness@sandiego.gov](mailto:jharkness@sandiego.gov)**





## Mission Trails Regional Park Master Plan Update and Natural Resources Management Plan

# Public Workshop #3

## Preferred Alternative



City of San Diego  
City Planning & Community Investment Department  
Contract No. H094797



## Why are we here?

It is recognized that developments included in this Plan will be implemented over an extended period of time, probably approaching **twenty years**. During this period, many changes can be expected in prevailing circumstances and conditions which may dictate more **revisions to the facilities proposed for the Park**. These will depend on **public attitudes, sensitivities, perceived needs and desires**, and the willingness and/or ability of public agencies to meet these needs. The park development is therefore viewed as an **evolutionary process which can and will alter over time**.

MTRP Master Plan Update & Natural Resources Management Plan





## Is this the last Public Workshop?

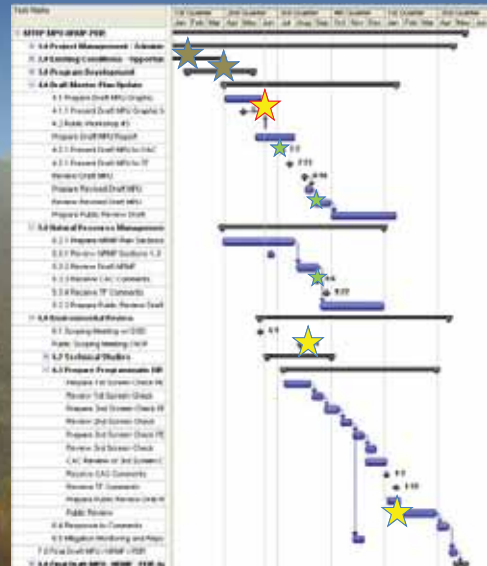
**Yes** – This is the last Public Workshop before the Public Review Period.

**Workshop #3** is presenting a Preferred Alternative.

An EIR Scoping will likely be held in August 2011

Presentations at CAC meetings

A Public Review Period will be held on the MP, NRMP and EIR simultaneously - 2012



MTRP Master Plan Update & Natural Resources Management Plan

## Goals for Tonight:

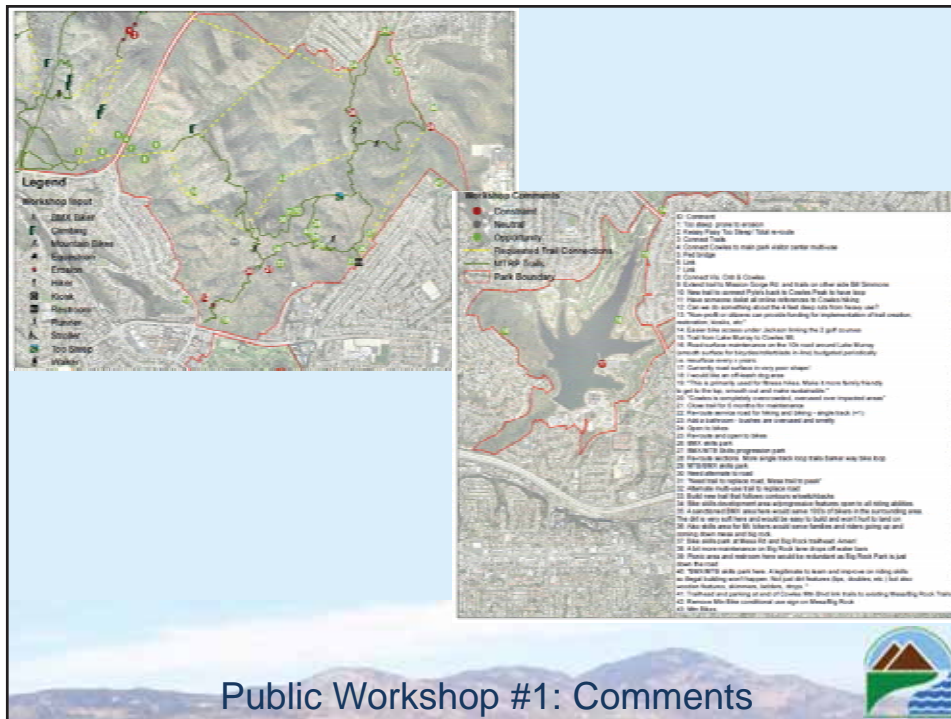
- 1) Review Input from Public Workshop #1 & #2
- 2) Review Composite Constraints
  - a) Biological (Plants & Animals)
  - b) Physical (Erosion Hazard)
  - c) Cultural / Paleontological
- 3) Review Preferred Alternative
  - a) Lake Murray/Cowles Mtn
  - b) Mission Gorge/Fortuna Mtn
  - c) East Elliott Expansion Area
  - d) West Sycamore Expansion Area
- 4) Review Remaining Milestones

MTRP Master Plan Update & Natural Resources Management Plan



# Comments from Public Workshop #1

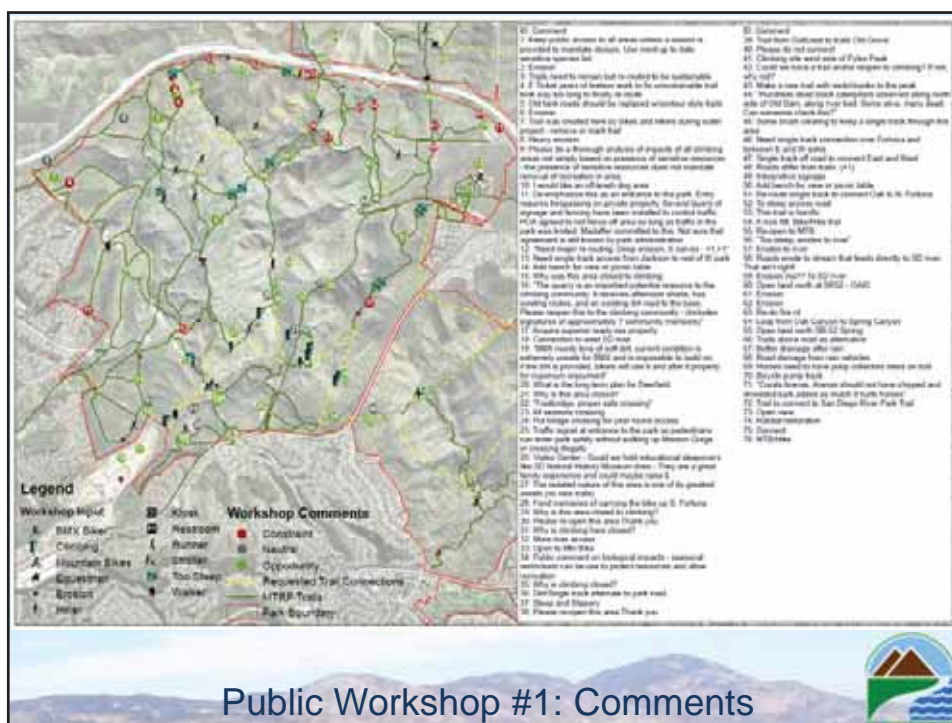
Mission Trails Regional Park MPU



Public Workshop #1: Comments







# Comments from Public Workshop #2

## Scoring Methodology

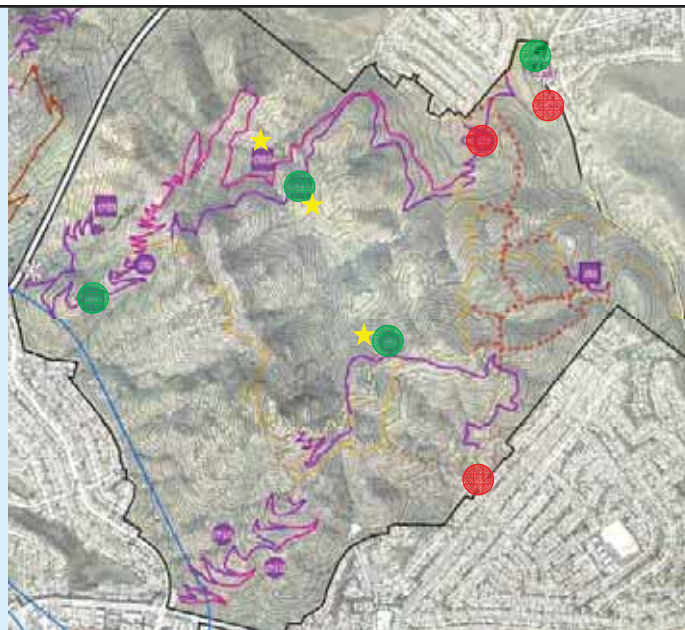
Lovelt	Likelt	CanLiveWithIt	Don'tLikelt	Hatelt
2	1	0	-1	-2

- Elements receiving the highest Composite Score
- ★ Composite Top 10s
- Elements receiving >10% negative votes

Mission Trails Regional Park MPU



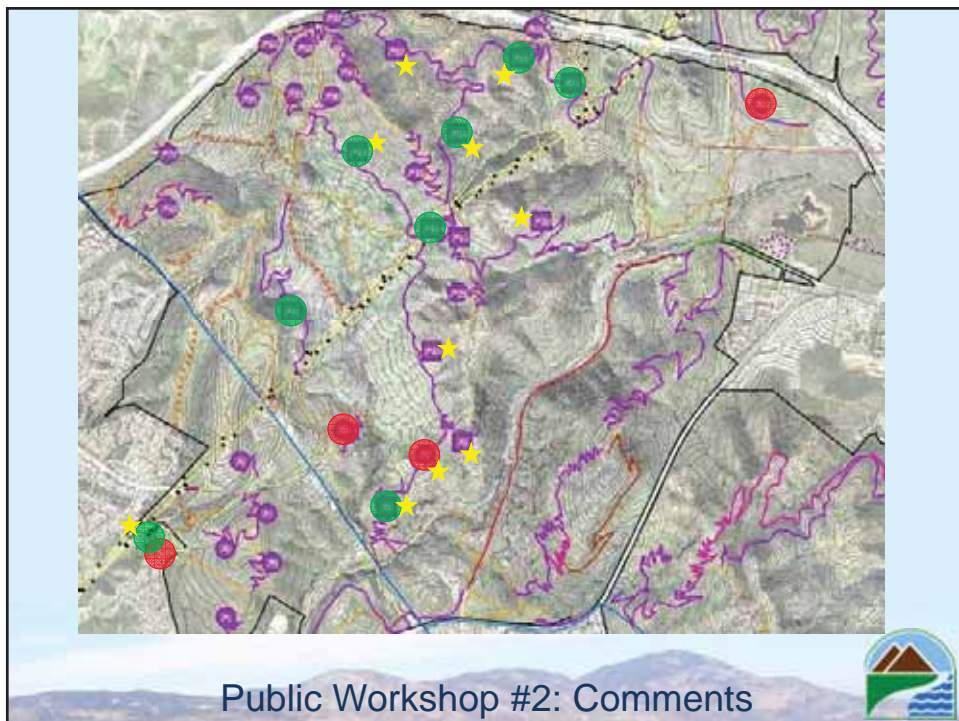
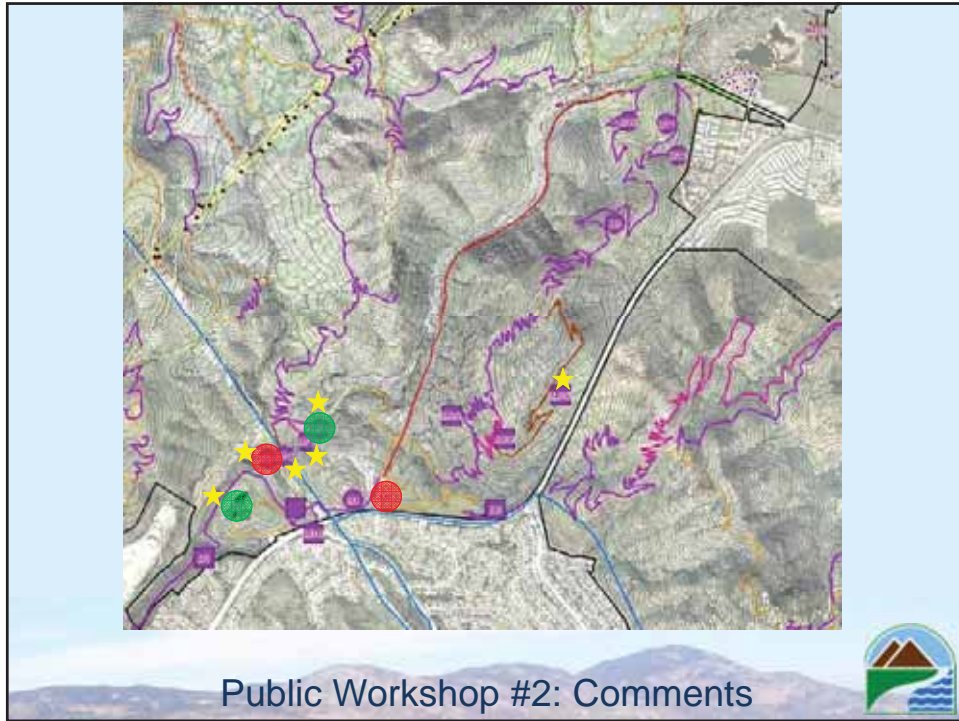
Public Workshop #2: Comments

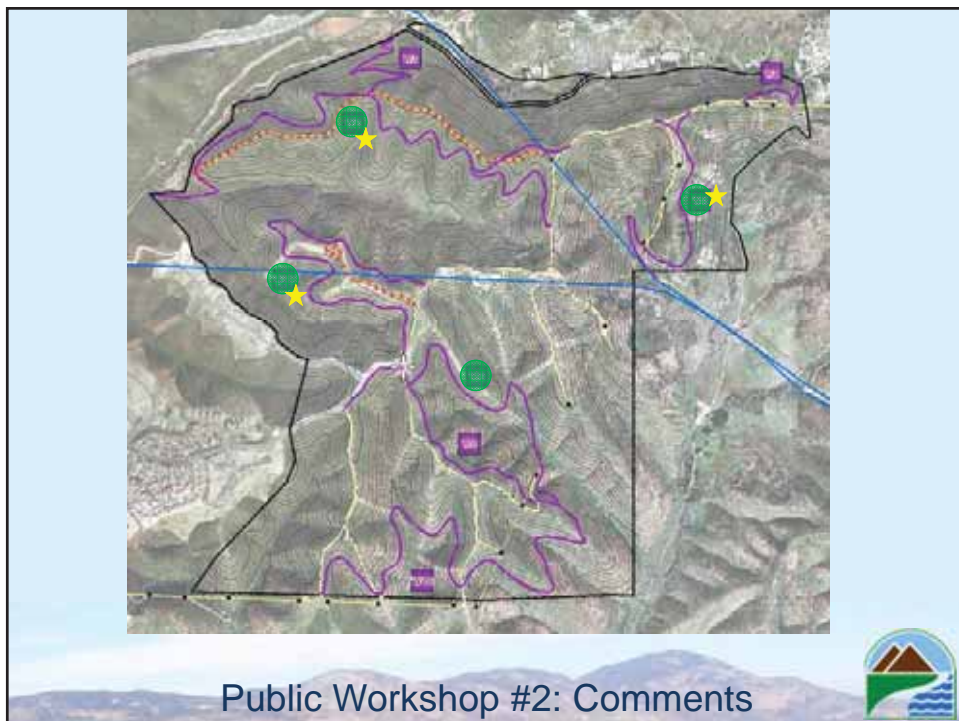
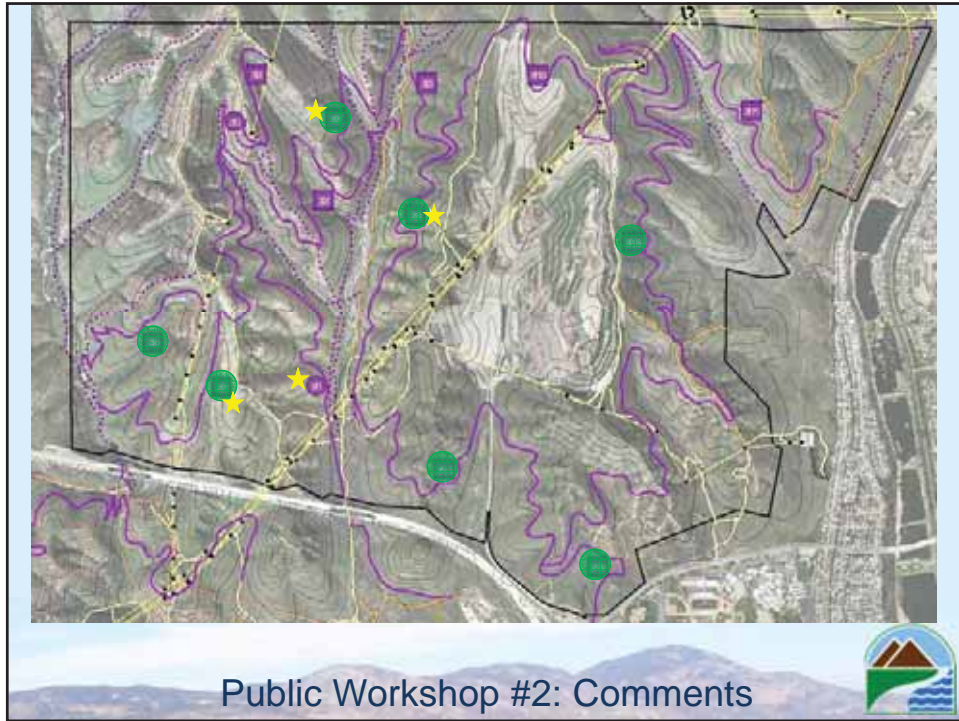


Public Workshop #2: Comments











# Potential Constraints

**All constraints mapping is for planning purposes only. Additional environmental analysis will occur within the NRMP and EIR.**

**Subsequent physical site surveys and project modifications will likely be required at the time of project implementation.**

Mission Trails Regional Park MPU



- San Diego Ambrosia (*Ambrosia pumila*)
- San Diego Thorn Mint (*Acanthomintha ilicifolia*)
- Least Bell's Vireo (*Vireo belli pusillus*)
- California Gnatcatcher (*Polioptila californica*)
- Hermes Copper (*Lycaena hermes*)
- Pocketed Free-tailed Bat (*Nyctinomops femorosacca*)
- Vernal Pools
- Southern Sycamore / Alder Riparian Woodland
- Southern Cottonwood / Willow Riparian Forest

High Constraints



- San Diego County Viguiera (*Bahiopsis lacinata*)
- Long-spined Spineflower (*Chorizanthe polygonoides* var. *longspina*)
- Summer Holly (*Comarostaphylis diversifolia* ssp. *diversifolia*)
- Variegated Dudleya (*Dudleya variegata*)
- San Diego Barrel Cactus (*Ferocactus viridescens*)
- Decumbent Goldenbush (*Isocoma menziesii* var. *decumbens*)
- San Diego Marsh-elder (*Iva hayesiana*)
- San Diego Goldenstar (*Muilla clevelandii*)
- Spiny Redberry (*Rhamnus crocea*)
- Ashy Spike-moss (*Selaginella cinerascens*)

Moderate Constraints - Plants

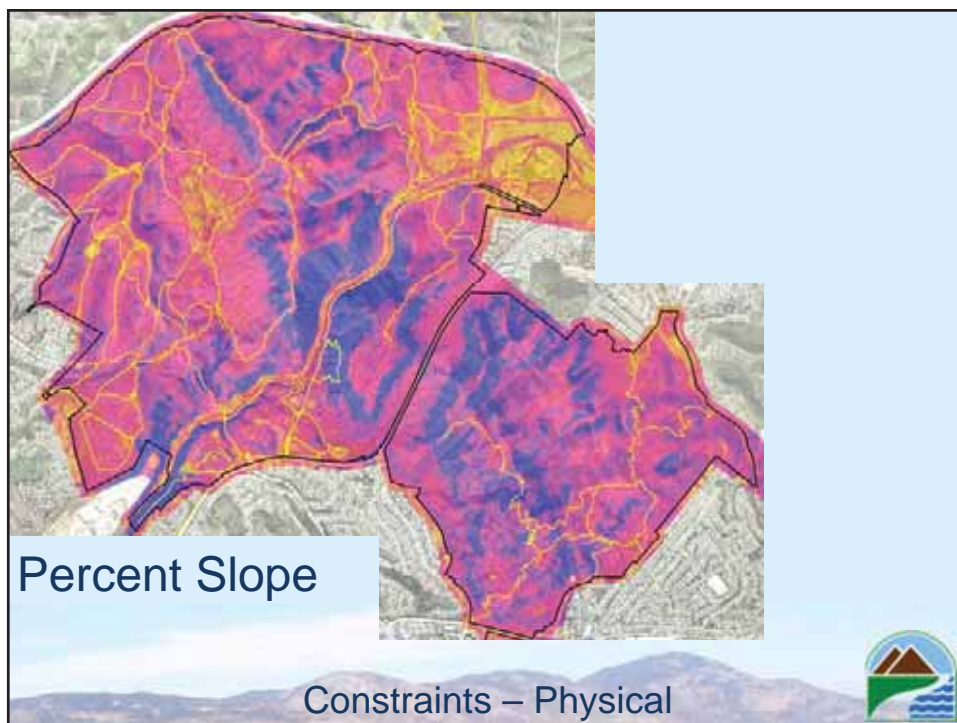
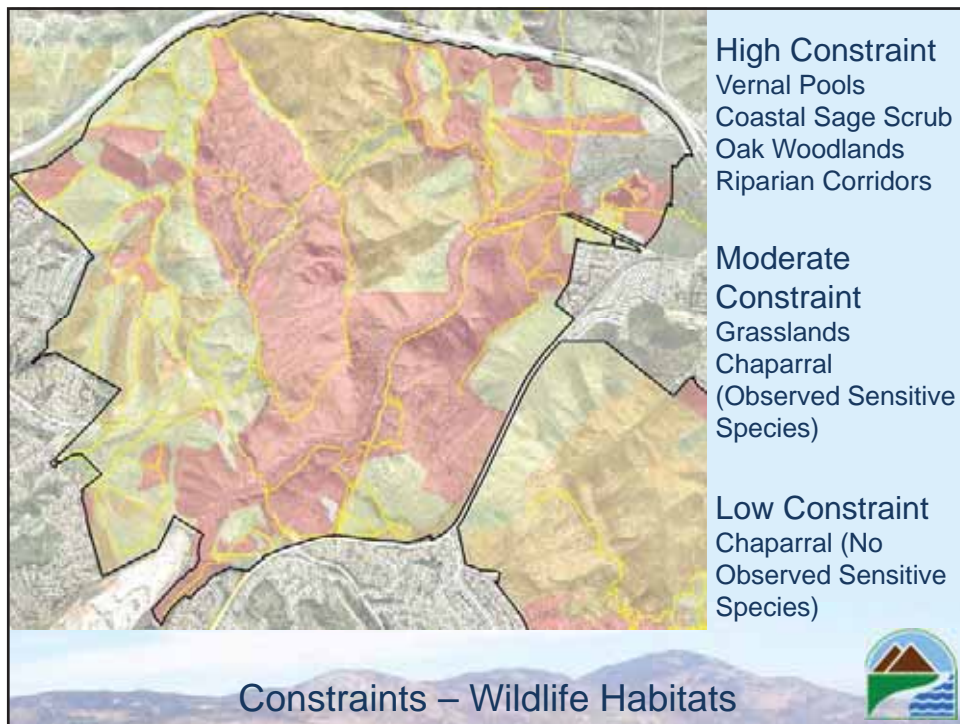


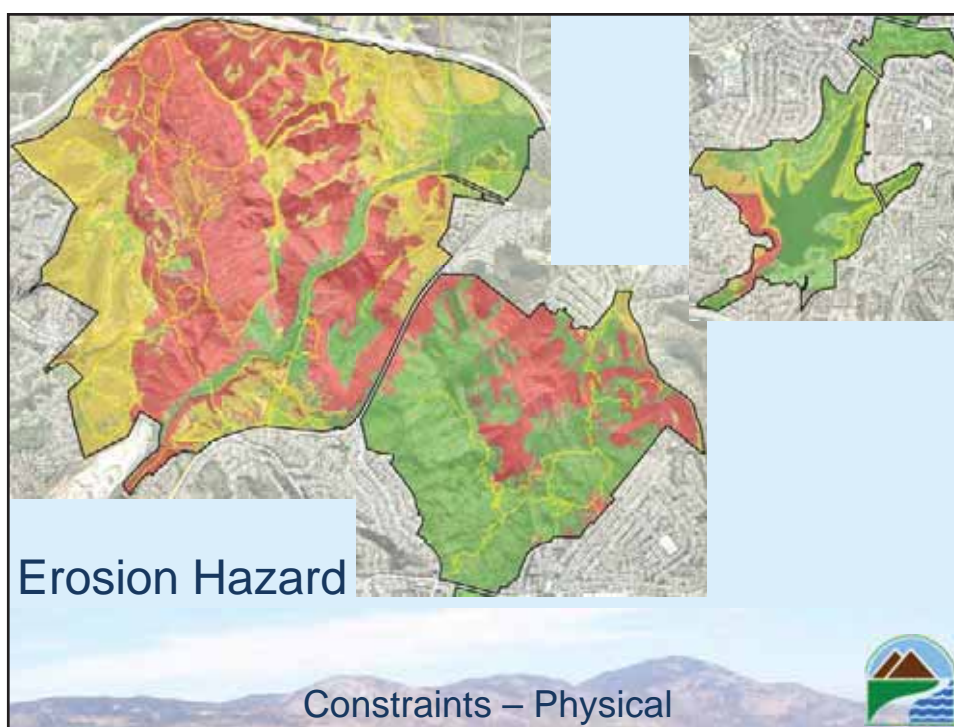
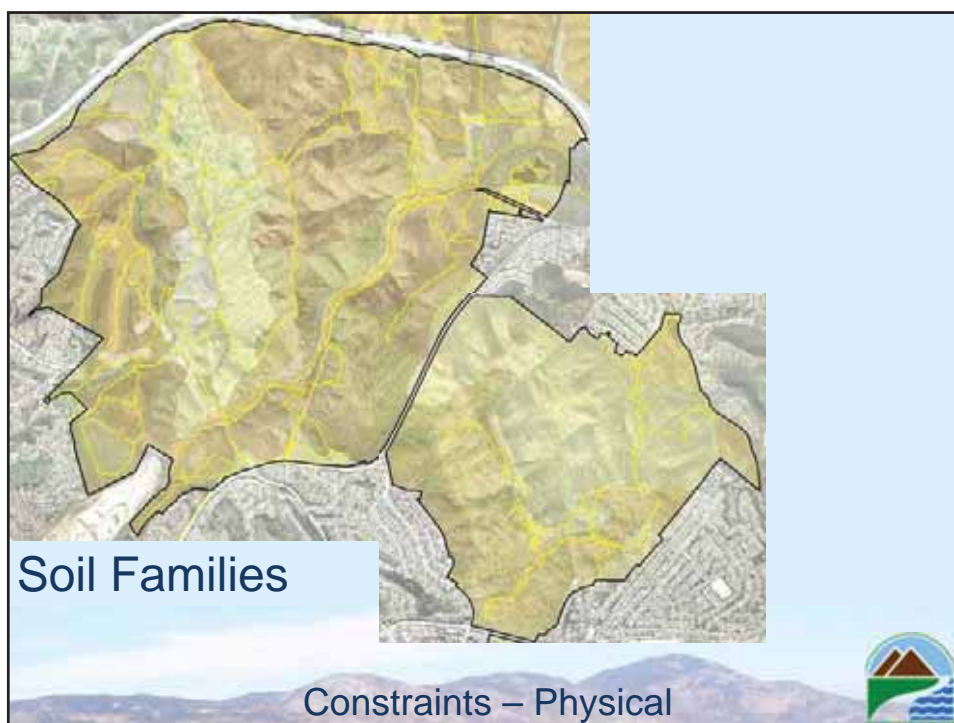

- Big Brown Bat (*Eptesicus fuscus*)
- Brazilian Free-tailed Bat (*Tadarida brasiliensis*)
- Greater Western Mastiff Bat (*Eumops perotis californicus*)
- Western Mastiff Bat (*Eumops perotis*)
- Hoary Bat (*Lasiurus cinereus*)
- Western Pipistrelle Bat (*Pipistrelle hesperus*)
- Western Red Bat (*Lasiurus blossevillei*)
- Yuma Myotis (*Myotis yumanensis*)

Moderate Constraints - Animals

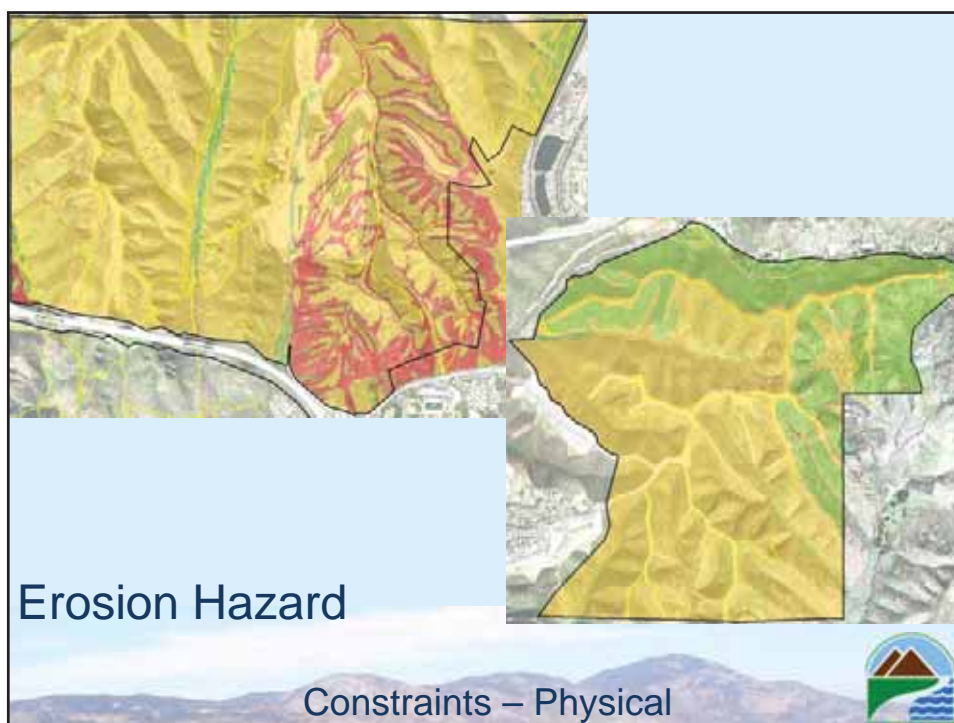


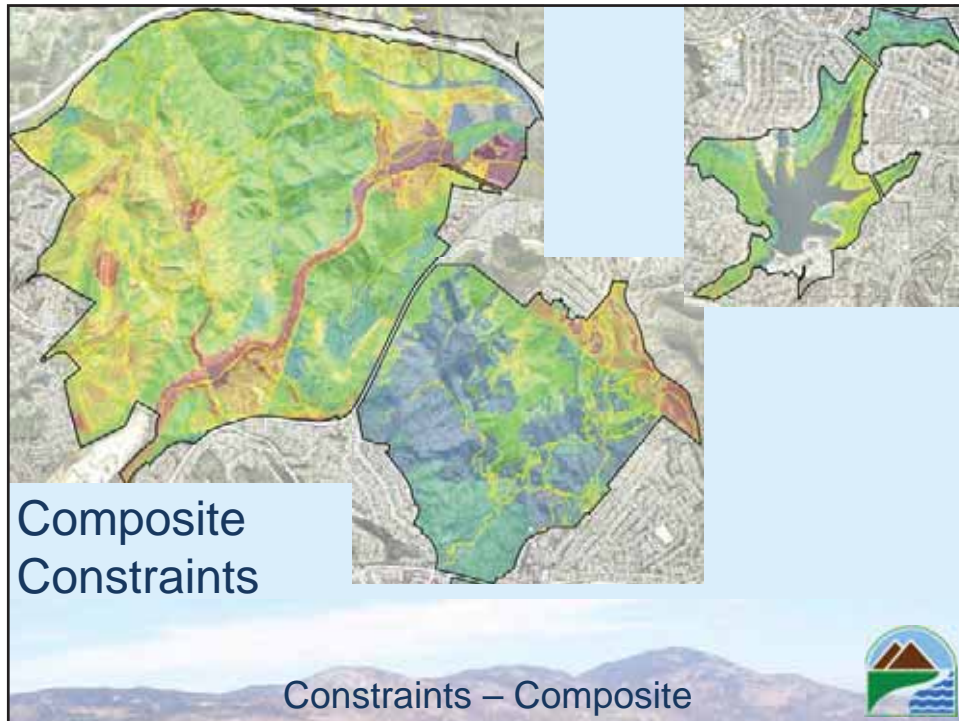












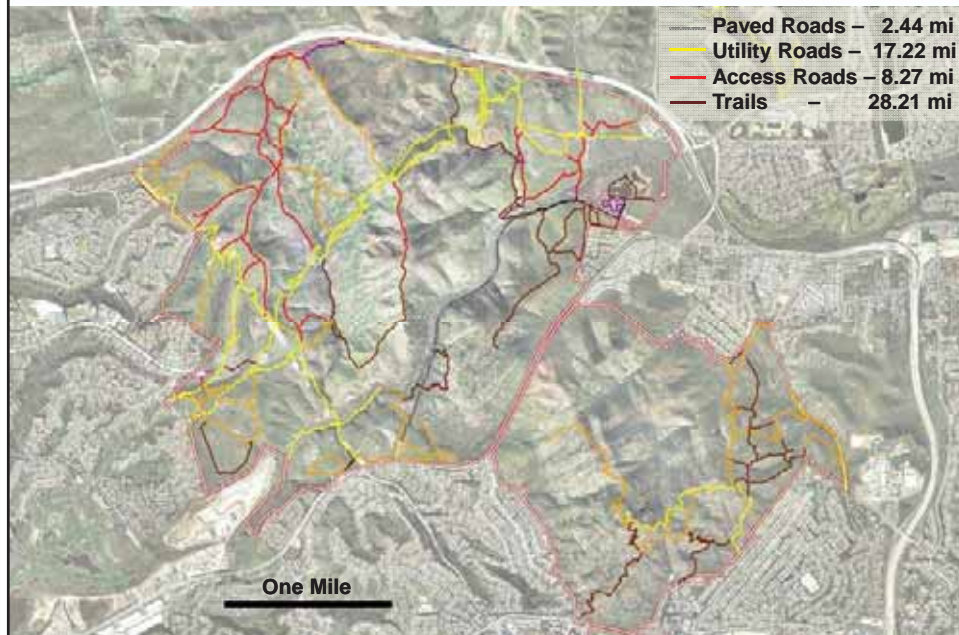
# Trail Assessment

Mission Trails Regional Park MPU





## Existing MTRP "Trails"



## Trail Design 5 Essential Elements

1. Half Rule
2. Ten% Average Guideline
3. Maximum Sustainable Grade
4. Grade Reversals
5. Outslope

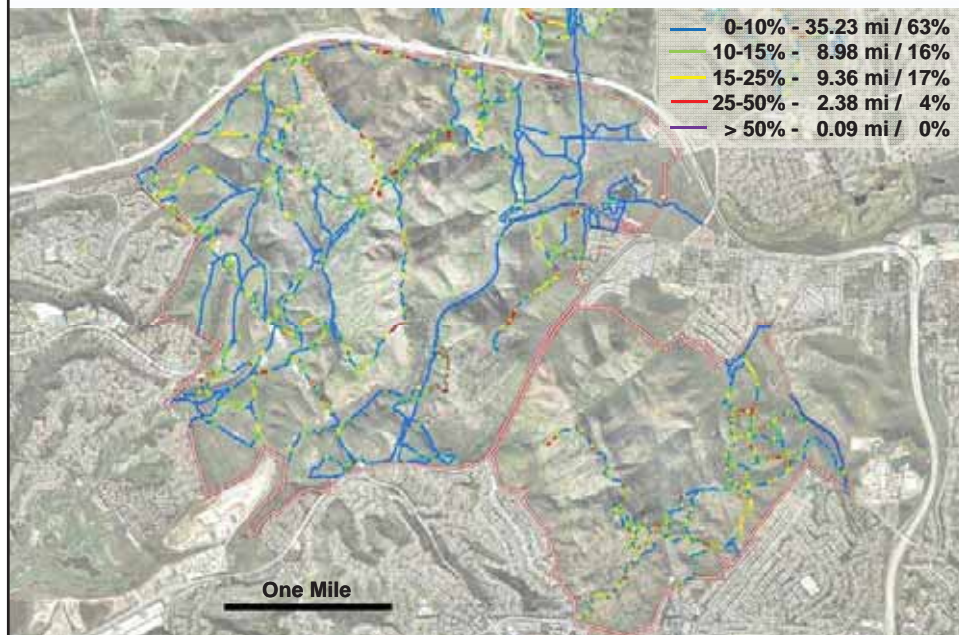
Trail Assessment – Design Essentials



## Trails assessment: Fall line



## Trails assessment: Percent slope





## Trails planning: Connections/reroutes



## Proposed Alternatives

### Programmatic & Conceptual

1. Use Areas – Planning Envelope
2. Trails – Conceptual Corridors
  - May be reduced/rerouted
  - May be expanded
  - **May be dropped**

Mission Trails Regional Park MPU





### Recommendations:

- 1) One new trail linkage to Del Cerro
- 2) Sediment Management at Ball Field Parking Lots
- 3) Water Quality Improvements at Storm Drain Outfalls

## ALTERNATIVES

Lake Murray



### Recommendations:

- 1) Close a few redundant trails
- 2) Reroute and close a few trails

## ALTERNATIVES

Lake Murray





### Proposed Hike/Bike Trail to Del Cerro Community



## ALTERNATIVES

Lake Murray



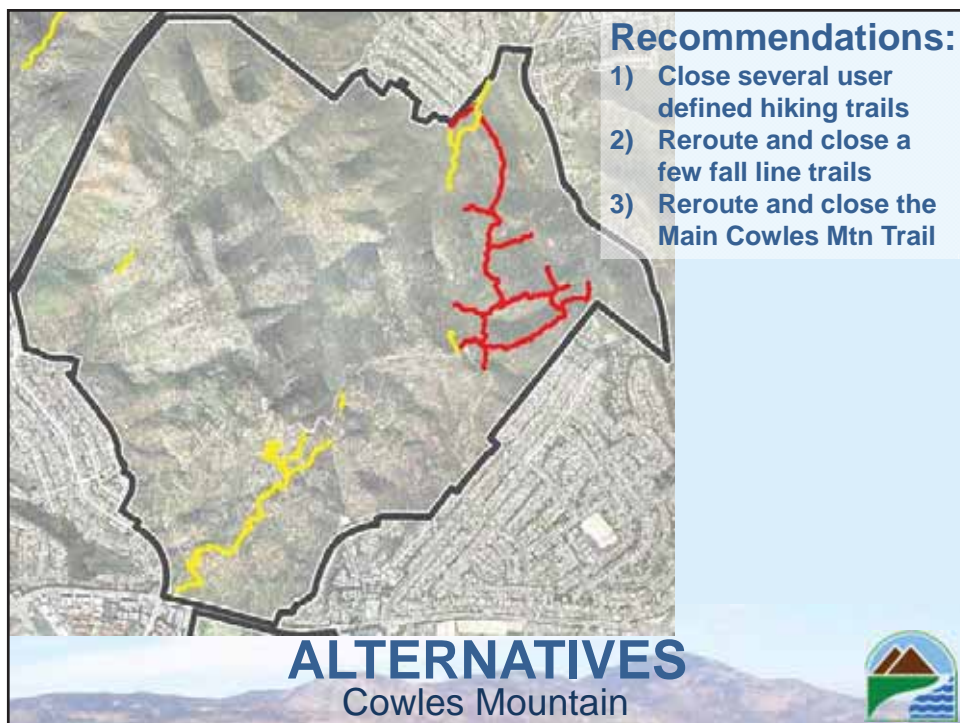
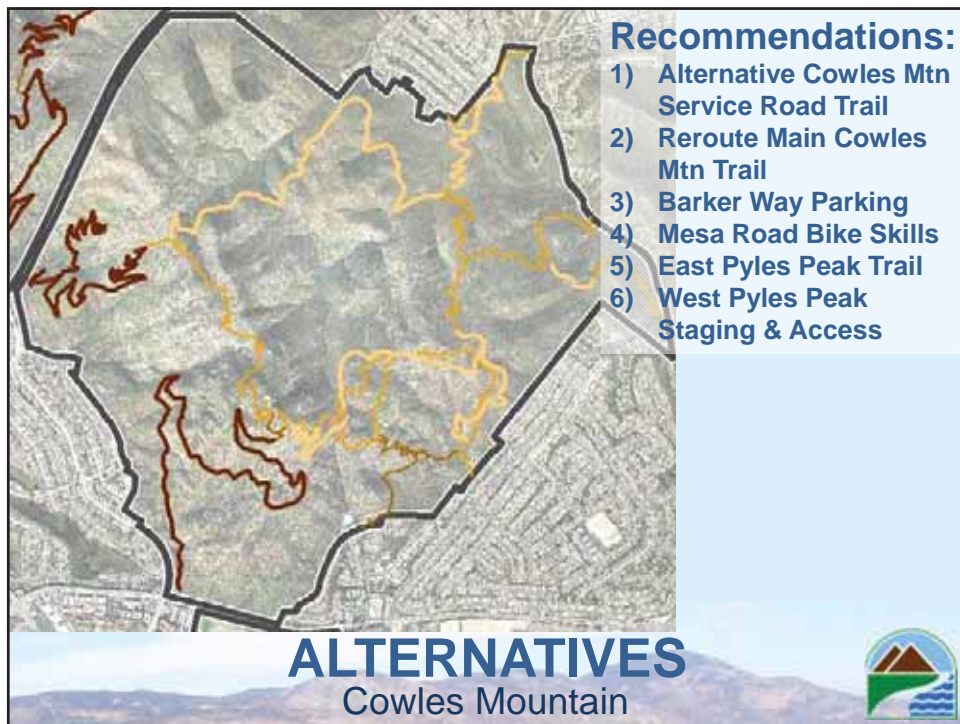
### Proposed Trail Reroutes



## ALTERNATIVES

Lake Murray







**Proposed Alternative Hike/Bike Trail to Cowles Mountain Service Road**



**ALTERNATIVES**  
Cowles Mountain



**Proposed New Main Cowles Mountain Hiking Trail**



**ALTERNATIVES**  
Cowles Mountain



### Proposed Barker Way Parking Lot and Trailhead Improvements



**ALTERNATIVES**  
Cowles Mountain



### Proposed Mesa Road Bicycle Pump Track and Trailhead Improvements



**ALTERNATIVES**  
Cowles Mountain





**Proposed New Pyles Peak Hike/Bike Trail**



**ALTERNATIVES**  
Cowles Mountain



**Proposed Pyles Peak Staging Area, Pyles Peak Hiking Trail and Climbing Access**



**ALTERNATIVES**  
Cowles Mountain



## Proposed Fall Line Trail Reroutes



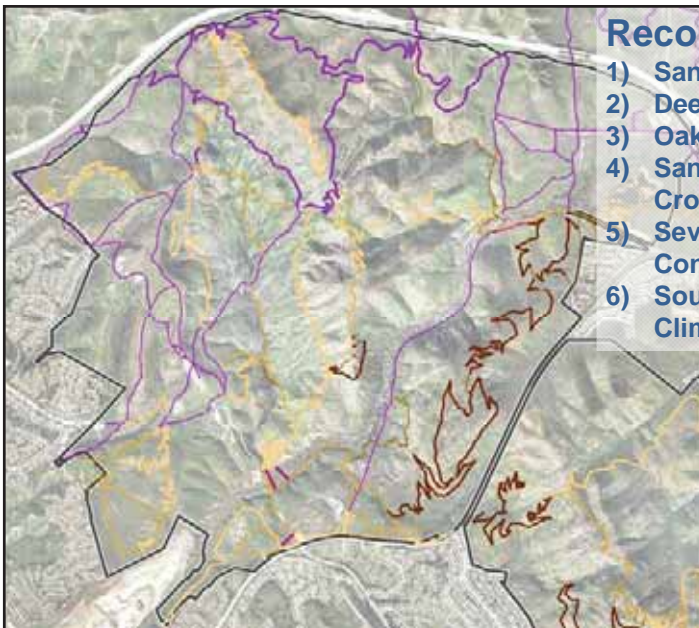
## ALTERNATIVES

Cowles Mountain



## Recommendations:

- 1) San Diego River Trail
- 2) Deerfield Bike Skills
- 3) Oak Grove Parking
- 4) San Diego River Crossing
- 5) Several New Trail Connections/Loops
- 6) South Fortuna Climbing Access



## ALTERNATIVES

Mission Gorge/Fortuna Mountain







**Proposed San  
Diego River Trail  
crossing of  
Jackson drainage**



**ALTERNATIVES**  
Mission Gorge



**Proposed San Diego River Trail  
Jackson parking lot to Visitor Center**



**ALTERNATIVES**  
Mission Gorge

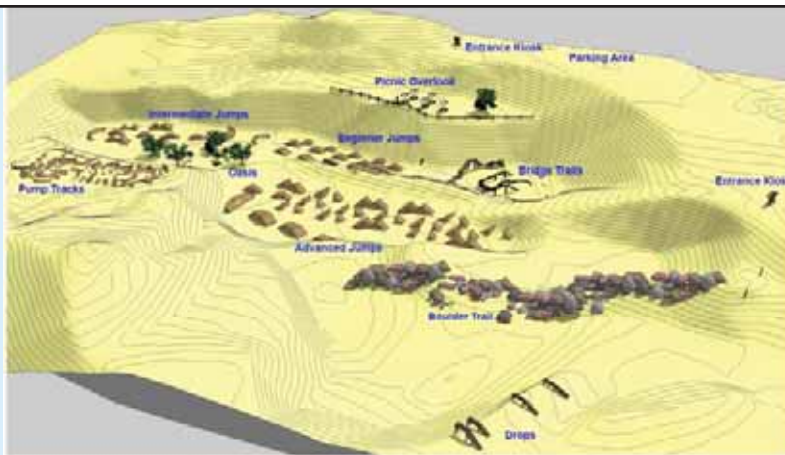




**Proposed  
Improvements/  
Expansion of  
Deerfield BMX  
area**



**ALTERNATIVES**  
Mission Gorge



Deerfield Bicycle Skills Progression Park Concept Plan

MISSION TRAILS  
REGIONAL PARK

**ALTERNATIVES**  
Mission Gorge



### Proposed Oak Grove Parking Lot



**ALTERNATIVES**  
Mission Gorge



### Proposed San Diego River Crossing



**ALTERNATIVES**  
Mission Gorge





### Pedestrian / Bicycle Bridge Alternatives



**ALTERNATIVES**  
Mission Gorge



### Interim Crossing Improvements



**ALTERNATIVES**  
Mission Gorge



**New Hike/Bike Trail Oak Grove Loop to Golfcrest**



**ALTERNATIVES**  
Mission Gorge



**New Hiking Trail Oak Grove Loop to Kwaay Paay**



**ALTERNATIVES**  
Mission Gorge





### Kwaay Paay Trail Reroutes



**ALTERNATIVES**  
Mission Gorge



### Quarry Loop Trail Reroutes



**ALTERNATIVES**  
Fortuna Mountain



**New Hike/Bike Trail San Diego River to South Fortuna**



**ALTERNATIVES**  
Fortuna Mountain



**Suycott / South Fortuna Trail Reroutes**



**ALTERNATIVES**  
Fortuna Mountain





### New South Fortuna Climbing Access



**ALTERNATIVES**  
Fortuna Mountain



### New Hike/Bike Trail East & West Suycott Wash



**ALTERNATIVES**  
Fortuna Mountain



### West Fortuna Saddle / Ridgeline Reroutes



**ALTERNATIVES**  
Fortuna Mountain



### New Hike/Bike Trail Old Mission Dam to Fortuna Saddle

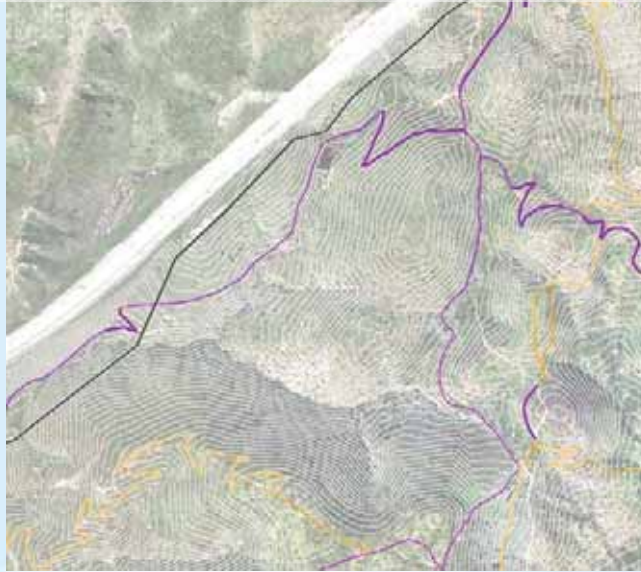


**ALTERNATIVES**  
Fortuna Mountain





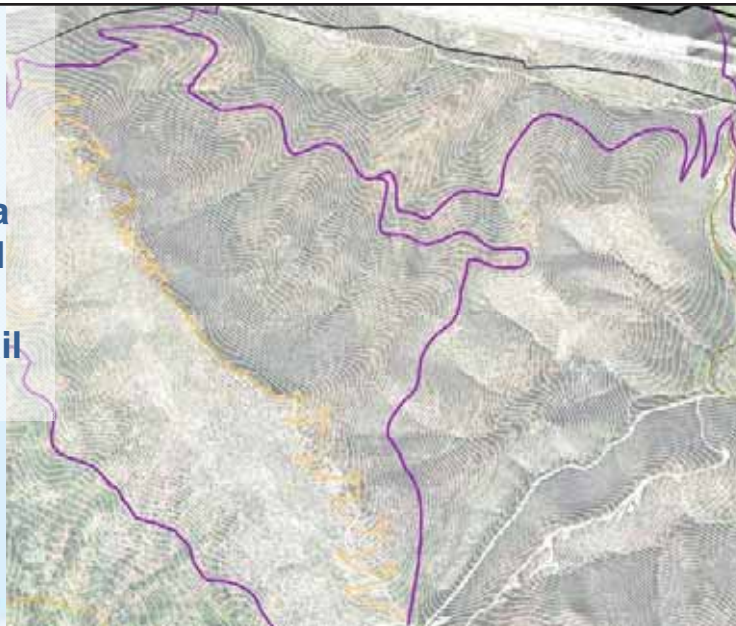
**Shepherd Pond / Rim Trail Reroutes**



**ALTERNATIVES**  
Fortuna Mountain



**New Multi-use North Perimeter Trail, Multi-use Fortuna Saddle Trail and North Fortuna Trail Reroutes**



**ALTERNATIVES**  
Fortuna Mountain



## New Multi-use Trail Mariposa Gulch to Oak Canyon



### ALTERNATIVES Fortuna Mountain



## Implementation within East Elliott



The vast majority of the East Elliott Community Plan Area was identified for preservation as part of the MSCP process. Privately owned parcels can still be developed pursuant to their compliance with regulatory requirements, which will not change via inclusion of this area within the MTRP Master Plan.

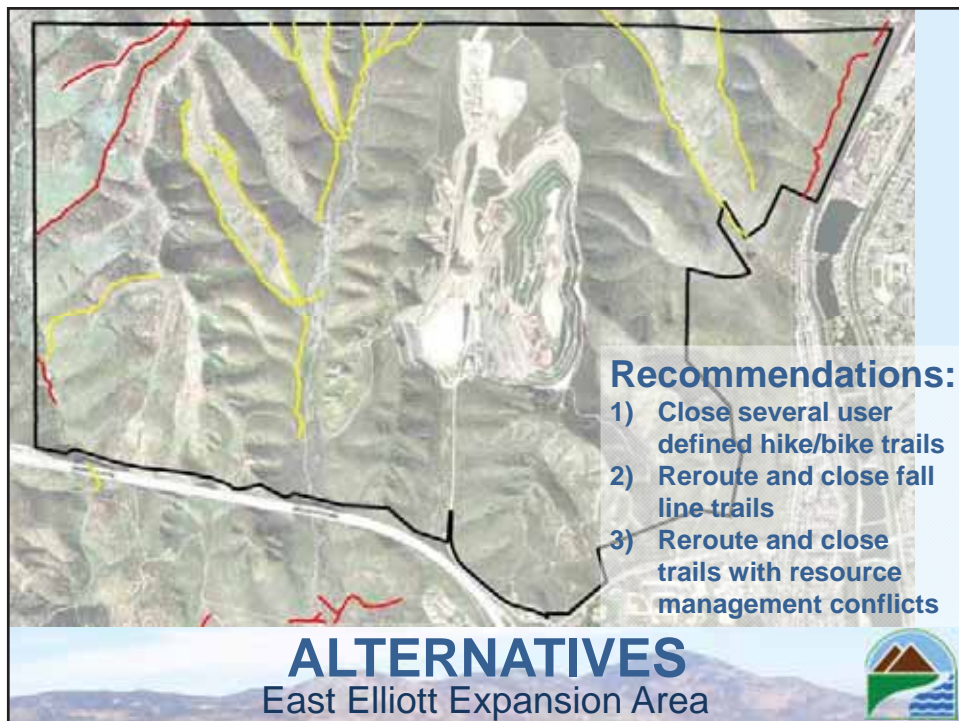
Until private property is acquired, land owner liability related to recreational activities is protected under:

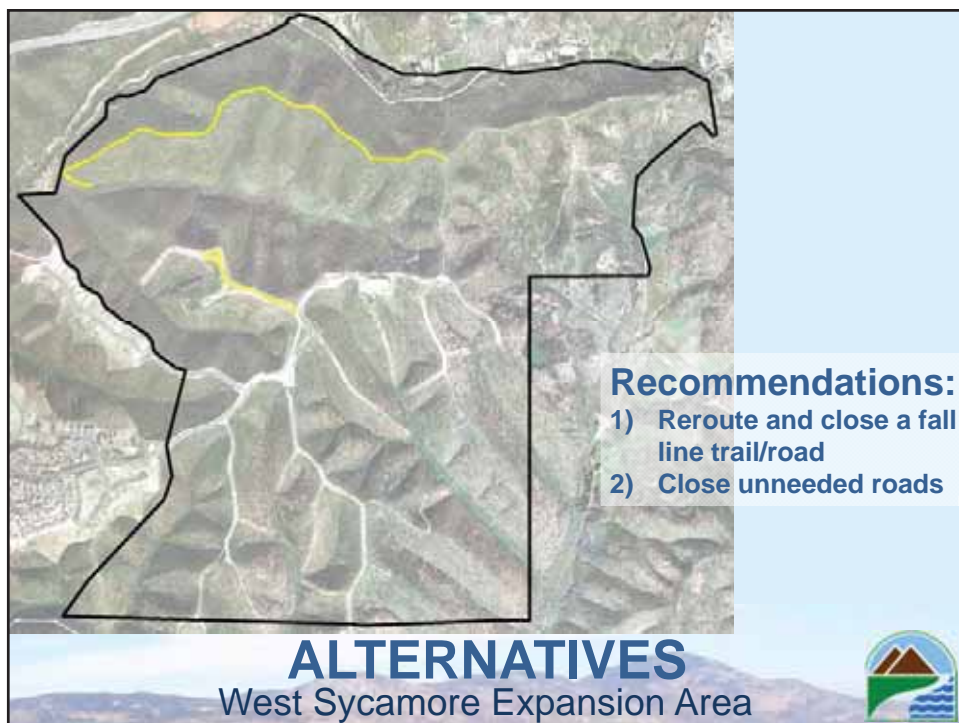
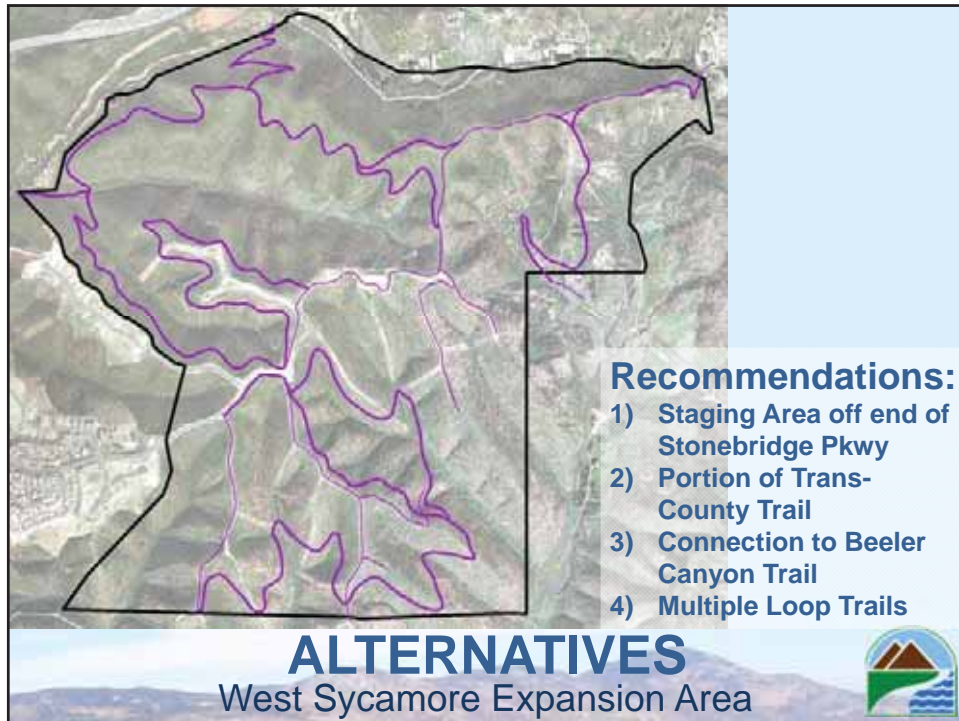
- CA Civil Code 846 & 1714
- CA Government Code 831.4 & 835-835.4
- Public Resources Code 5075.4

### East Elliott – Implementation Issues











## Staging Area Improvements per Rancho Encantada Precise Plan



### PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS:

1. Tie in stub location for future water meter connection (includes street repair)
2. Pipe gates at park entry and SAGE trail access point
3. Access road and parking area to be 4" CTS over pulverized asphalt base
4. Concrete pad for port-a-john and future shade structure
5. Concrete pad for trash dumpster with 4" "rub-off" protection curb, and buffer
6. Long-term perimeter fencing and hitching posts
7. Irrigation sleeves will be installed for future connection to parking area lands

### ADDITIONAL PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS:

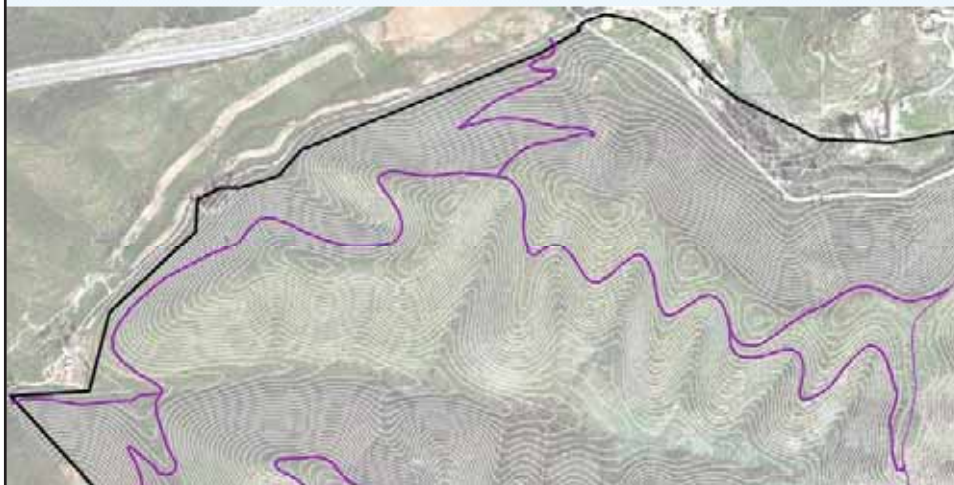
1. Electrical conduit and water line extension

## ALTERNATIVES

West Sycamore Expansion Area



## New Section of Trans-County Trail and Connection to Beeler Canyon Trail

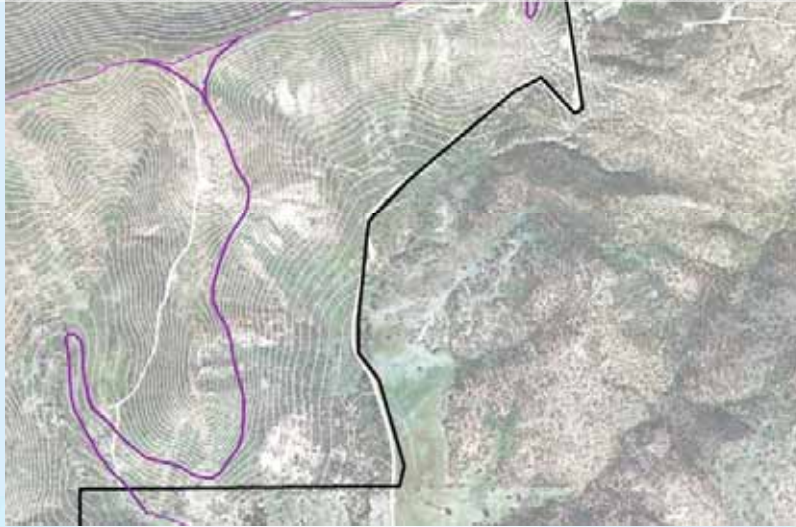


## ALTERNATIVES

West Sycamore Expansion Area



**Utility Road Alternative Multi-use Trail to Sycamore Canyon/Goodan Ranch**



**ALTERNATIVES**  
West Sycamore Expansion Area



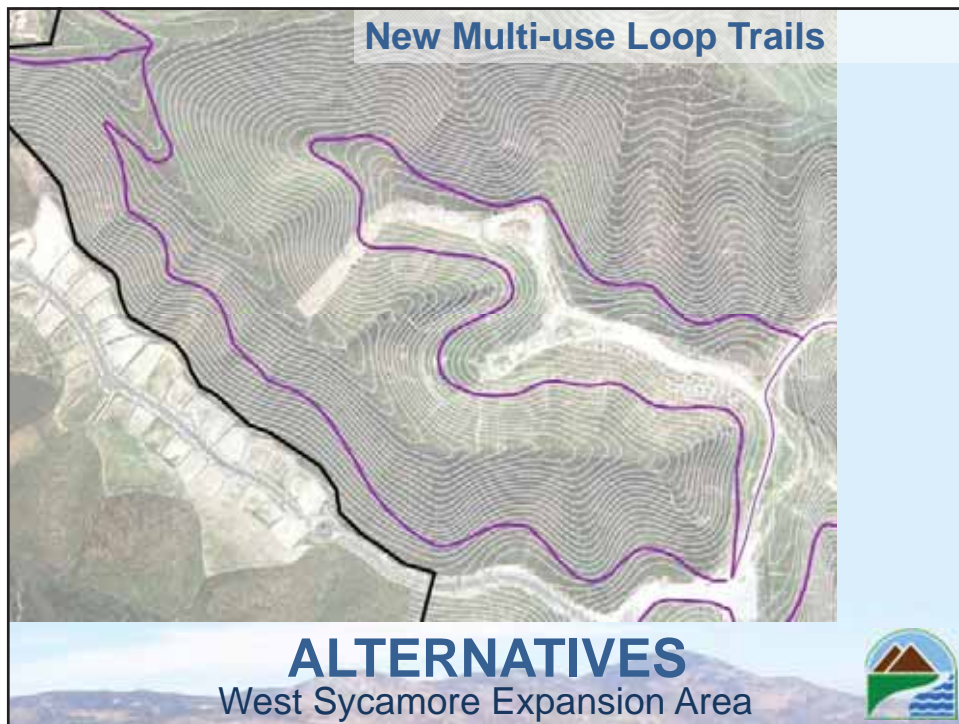
**New Multi-use Loop Trails**



**ALTERNATIVES**  
West Sycamore Expansion Area










**MTRP  
Master Plan  
Update  
&  
Natural  
Resources  
Management  
Plan**

**KTU**

**REMAINING MILESTONES & PUBLIC PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITIES**





- ✓ Develop Project Description
- ✓ EIR Scoping Meeting (Aug)
- ✓ Prepare Draft MPU, NRMP, EIR
- ✓ CAC Presentations (July, Sept, Nov, Jan)
- ✓ Prepare Public Review Documents
- ✓ Public Review Period (Spring 2012)
- ✓ Prepare Final Documents
- ✓ Process Documents through Approval Process (City/County)



## WORKSHOP INSTRUCTIONS


- ✓ Sign-in
- ✓ Review Proposed Alternatives
- ✓ Ask Questions

MTRP  
Master Plan  
Update  
&  
Natural  
Resources  
Management  
Plan



## QUESTIONS?

MTRP  
Master Plan  
Update  
&  
Natural  
Resources  
Management  
Plan







THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

**DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

Date of Notice: April 2, 2014

**NOTICE OF PREPARATION (NOP) OF A  
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT AND  
SCOPING MEETING NOTICE**

WBS No.: S-01014.02.06

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The CITY OF SAN DIEGO (City) as the Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) has determined that preparation of a Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) will be required for the **MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK (MTRP) MASTER PLAN UPDATE (MPU) AND NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PLAN (NRMP)**, as further described below.

This notice was published in the SAN DIEGO DAILY TRANSCRIPT and placed on the City of San Diego web-site at the location noted below and distributed on **April 2, 2014**.

**City website:** <http://www.sandiego.gov/city-clerk/officialdocs/notices/index.shtml>

**NOTICE OF PREPARATION (NOP) COMMENT PERIOD:** Written comments from responsible and trustee agencies, the public, and interested parties on the scope and content of the draft EIR must be received by the Development Services Department no later than **30 days** after receipt of this notice (**April 2, 2014**). Please send your written comments to the following address: **Myra Herrmann, Senior Environmental Planner, City of San Diego Development Services Center, 1222 First Avenue, MS 501, San Diego, CA 92101** or **submit via e-mail your comments to [DSDEAS@sandiego.gov](mailto:DSDEAS@sandiego.gov) referencing the Project Name and Project Number in the subject line.** A draft Program EIR incorporating public input will then be prepared and distributed for public review and comment in accordance with CEQA.

**RESPONSIBLE AND TRUSTEE AGENCY:** Pursuant to CEQA Section 15082(b), the City requests your input on the scope and content of the environmental information pertaining to your agency's statutory responsibilities in connection with this project. Your agency may need to use this EIR prepared by our agency when considering any permit or other approval for the project.

Documents related to the Mission Trails Regional Park (MTRP) Master Plan Update (MPU) and Natural Resources Management Plan (NRMP) are available for public review at the City of San Diego Development Services Center, 1222 First Avenue, San Diego, CA 92101, and can be found on the following City website:

<http://www.sandiego.gov/planning/programs/parkplanning/index.shtml>

**SCOPING MEETING:** In accordance with CEQA Section 21083.9, a public scoping meeting will be held by the City of San Diego's Development Services Department on Thursday, April 17, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. running no later than 8:30pm in order to gather comments relating to the proposed Mission Trails Regional Park Master Plan Update and Natural Resource Management Plan scope. The meeting will be held at the Mission Trails Regional Park Visitor and Interpretive Center, located at One Father Junipero Serra Trail, San Diego, CA 92119.



**General Project Information:**

- Project No. **349988**, SCH No. **PENDING**
- Community Plan Areas: **TIERRASANTA, NAVAJO, EAST ELLIOT, RANCHO ENCANTADA**
- Council Districts: **5 & 7**
- Applicant:  
**CITY OF SAN DIEGO - PLANNING, NEIGHBORHOODS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

**Subject: MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK MASTER PLAN UPDATE AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

**MANAGEMENT PLAN.** CITY COUNCIL APPROVAL (Process 5) of the Mission Trails Regional Park (MTRP) Master Plan Update (Master Plan) and associated Natural Resource Management Plan (NRMP)(Figure 1). The project site is within the neighborhoods of Rancho Encantada, Scripps Ranch, Tierrasanta, San Carlos, Lake Murray and Del Cerro and within the Rancho Encantada, East Elliott, Tierrasanta, and Navajo Community Plan Areas of the City of San Diego and will require Community Plan technical amendments for Navajo, Tierrasanta, East Elliot and the Rancho Encantada Precise Plan (Figures 2-7). The project can be separated into the five (5) following areas: the current 5,242 acre Mission Trails Regional Park area, a 1,377 acre portion south of Scripps Poway Parkway and to the west of Sycamore Canyon Open Space Preserve, a 2,697 acre area north of State Route 52 and west of Santee Lakes, a 142 acre area north of State Route 52 and the north of the northwestern corner of the existing Mission Trails Regional Park, and lastly, south of the current park a 378 acre series of open spaces surrounding Lake Murray. In 2010, the City of San Diego initiated a project to update the 1985 Mission Trails Regional Park (MTRP) Master Plan, develop a Natural Resources Management Plan (NRMP).

The purpose for the Master Plan Update (MPU) is multi-faceted and includes the following:

- 1) Fully incorporate the resource protection and management requirements of the Multiple Species Conservation Program (MSCP) into an NRMP for MTRP and coordinate the recommendations and management actions between the MPU and NRMP;
- 2) Incorporate within the MTRP boundaries and provide master planning for the management of resources and the development of recreational opportunities within lands acquired for preservation in the East Elliott community plan area, while continuing to provide for potential private development per the current Community Plan and MSCP guidelines;
- 3) Incorporate within the MTRP boundaries the MSCP preserve lands created as part of the Rancho Encantada Precise Plan in order to provide consistent centralized natural resource and recreation management;
- 4) Update the planning recommendations in the 1985 Master Plan for MTRP based on the public's recreational desires, planning overlays, policies and regulations.

**TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS TO COMMUNITY PLANS**

The MTRP MPU is anticipated to require amendments to the Navajo, Tierrasanta and East Elliot Community Plans and the Rancho Encantada Precise Plan to ensure that policy recommendations with regards to the management of MTRP are consistent with updated policies in the Master Plan. Pursuant to General Plan, Land Use Element Policy LU-D.6, a Technical Amendment may be processed to update or correct maps and community plan language needed as part of the MTRP MPU.

**ALTERNATIVES:** Preparation of the DEIR will include an analysis of a reasonable range of alternatives which avoid or mitigate the plan update's significant environmental impacts. These alternatives will be identified and discussed in detail, and address all significant impacts. The alternative's analysis will be conducted in sufficient graphic and narrative detail to clearly assess the relative level of impacts and feasibility. Preceding the detailed alternatives analysis will be a section entitled "Alternatives Considered but Rejected." This section will include a discussion of preliminary alternatives that were considered but not analyzed in detail and the reason for rejection should be explained. The following two alternatives will be considered in the Program EIR:



**A. THE NO PROJECT ALTERNATIVE**

This alternative will analyze a continuation of the existing conditions within MTRP at the time the NOP is published, and what would be reasonably expected to occur in the foreseeable future if the Project were not approved (current Master Plan but no NRMP) with the existing community plans. This alternative will compare the projected impacts of the change that would result from Project approval against impacts that would occur under the existing Master Plan. Should the No Project Alternative prove to be the environmentally preferred alternative, then CEQA requires that another environmentally preferred alternative be identified for the Project.

**B. REDUCED PROJECT ALTERNATIVE**

This alternative would analyze implementing a MPU/NRMP with similar but reduced uses than the draft MPU/NRMP. This alternative may or may not include community plan technical amendments, depending upon where the plan area modifications occur. As with the proposed Project, this alternative would be fully consistent with the Environmentally Sensitive Lands Regulations (ESL) including encroachment allowances permitted for steep slopes, wetlands, and sensitive biology, and consistent with the Historical Resources Regulations for archaeological sites, without the need for deviations or variances in order for park projects to be implemented in the future. This alternative will consider the impacts of a reduced project which includes a land use plan and policies that reduce significant impacts for the same issue areas as analyzed for the Project at a programmatic level and should not be developed to reduce or avoid impacts of a specific project or project level concerns.

**Recommended Finding:** The recommended finding that the project may have significant effect on the environment is based on an Initial Study which identified potential significant environmental impacts in the following areas: *Land Use (including MSCP/MHPA, ESL and Historical Resources Regulations), Biological Resources, Transportation/Circulation and Parking, Visual Affects/Neighborhood Character, Noise, Historical Resources, Hydrology/Water Quality, Geology/Soils, Paleontological Resources, Public Services, Human Health/Public Safety, Air Quality/Odor, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, and Public Utilities.*

**Availability in Alternative Format:** To request this Notice, the Scoping Letter, and/or supporting documents in alternative format, call the Development Services Department at 619-446-5460 or (800) 735-2929 (TEXT TELEPHONE). **Additional Information:** The Scoping Letter and supporting documents may be reviewed, or purchased for the cost of reproduction, at the Fifth floor of the Development Services Center. Contact Senior Planner, Myra Herrmann at (619) 446-5372 or via email at [mherrmann@sandiego.gov](mailto:mherrmann@sandiego.gov) for any information regarding the environmental review of this project. For information regarding public meetings/hearings on this project, contact Project Manager Jeff Harkness at (619) 533-6595 or via email at [jharkness@sandiego.gov](mailto:jharkness@sandiego.gov).

Cathy Winterrowd  
Deputy Director  
Planning, Neighborhoods & Economic Development

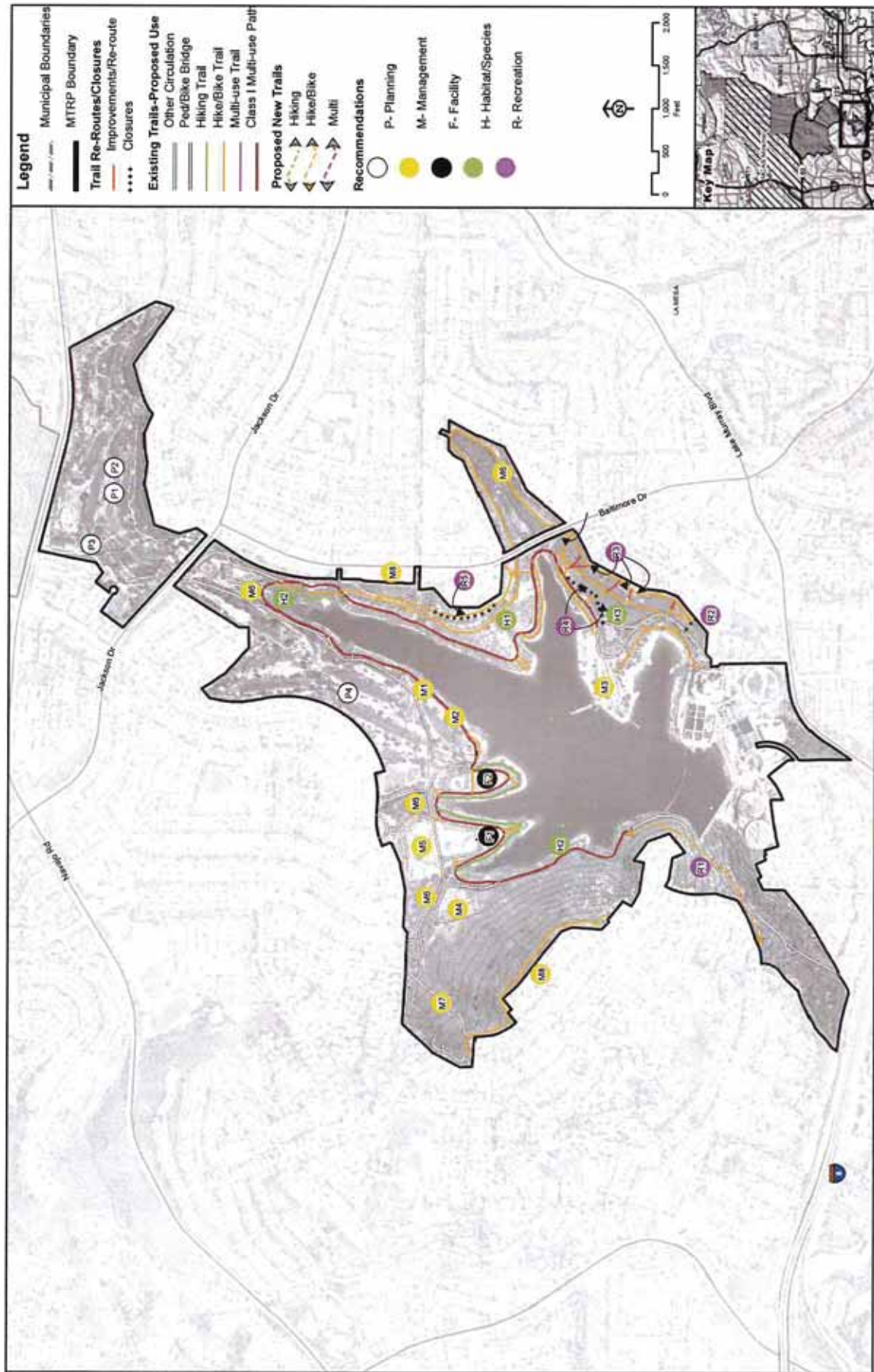
Attachments: **FIGURE 1:** Proposed Boundaries of Mission Trails Regional Park  
**FIGURES 2-7:** Plan Areas within Mission Trails Regional Park  
**Scoping Letter**

Distribution: **SEE ATTACHED**

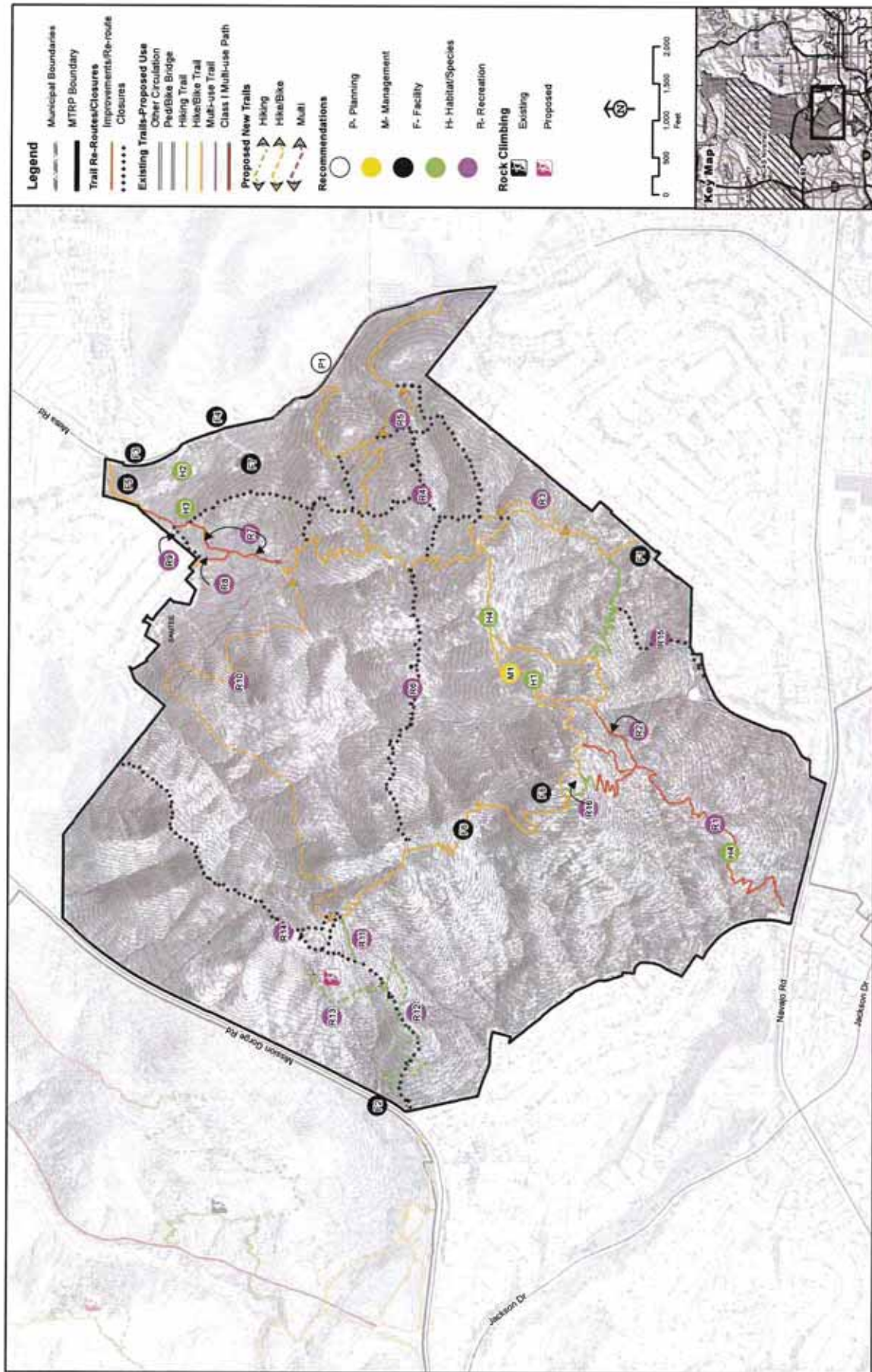






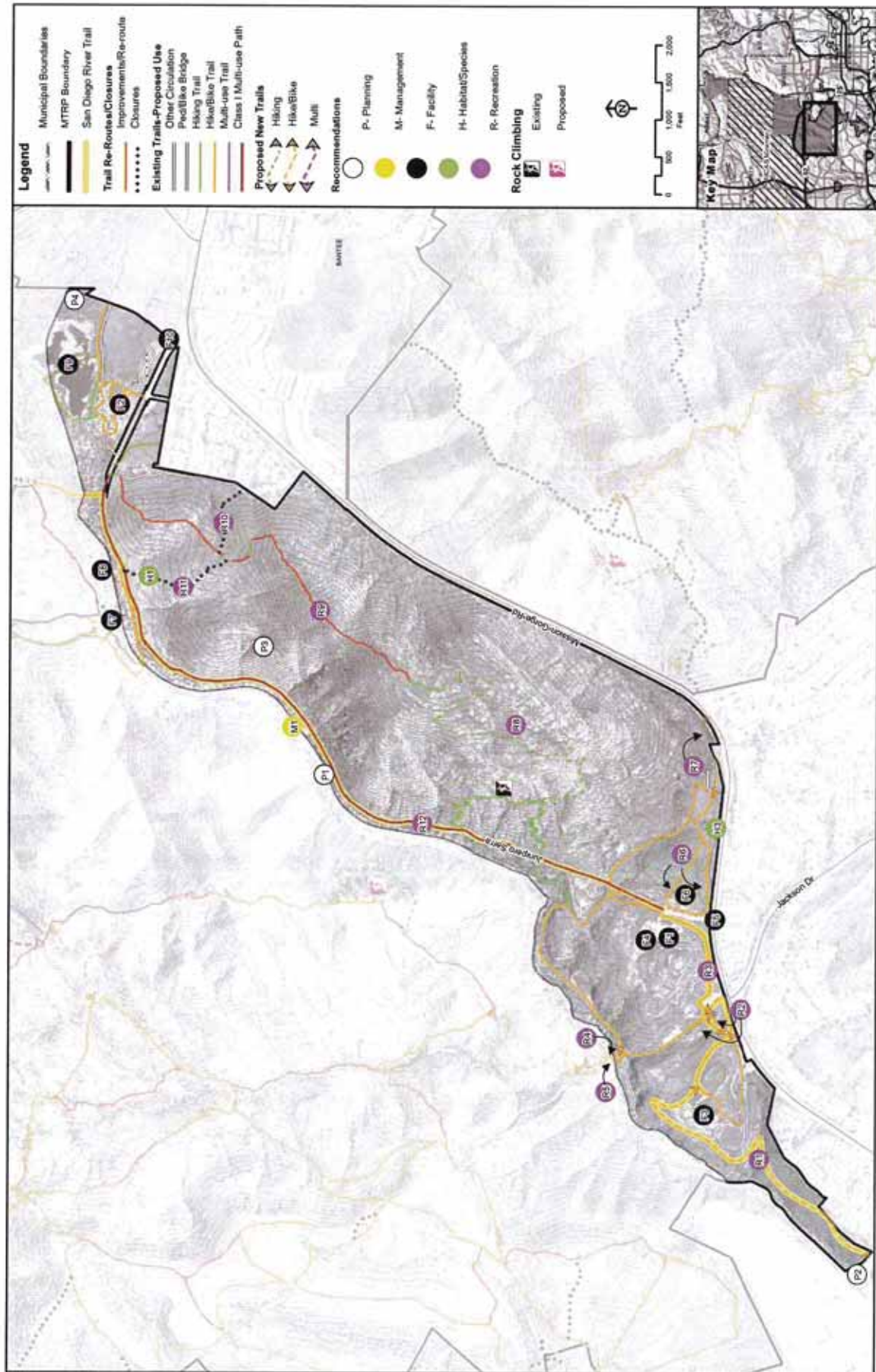


PROGRAMMATIC EIR FOR THE MTRP MPU & NRMP



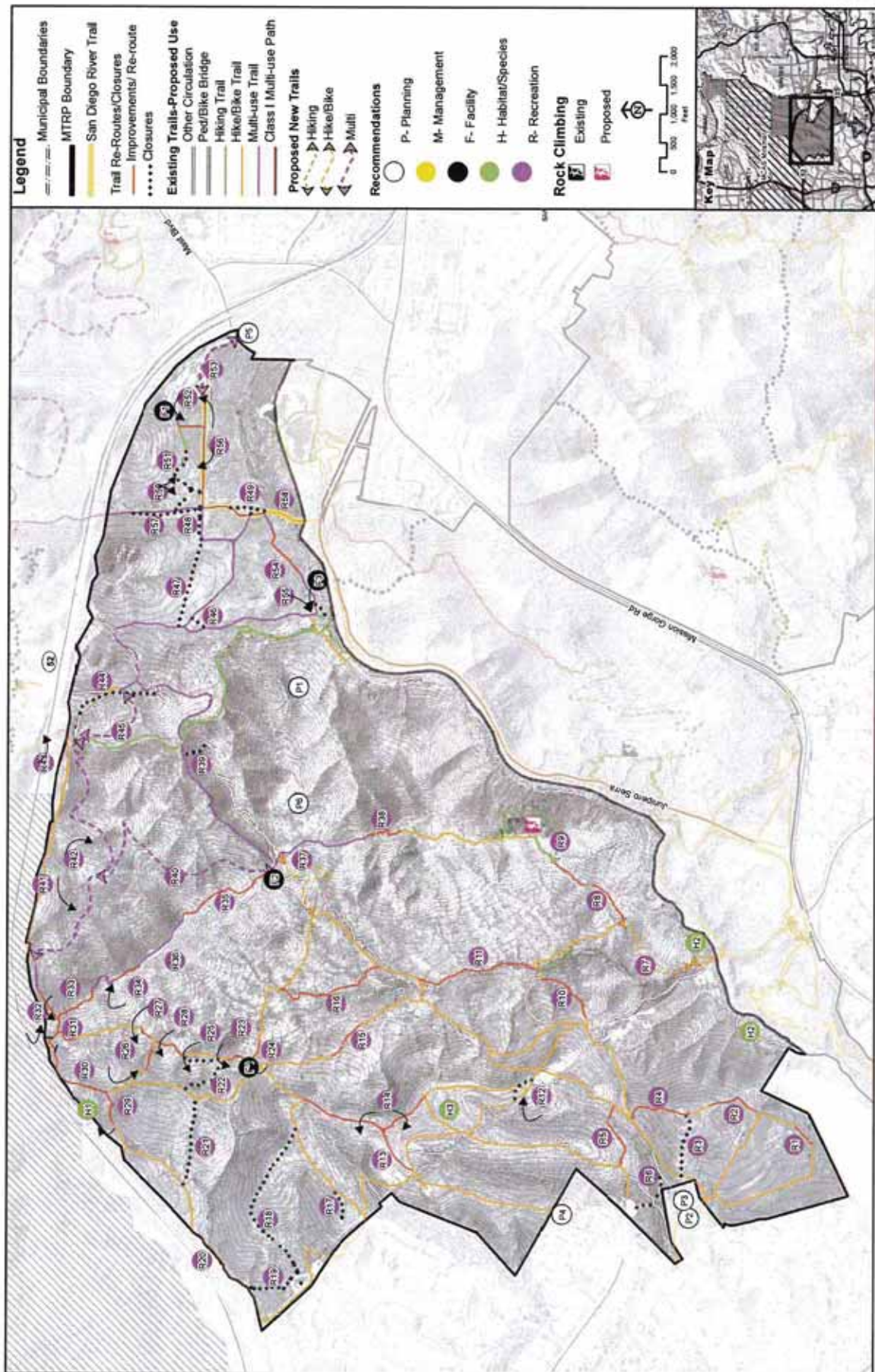
PROGRAMMATIC EIR FOR THE MTRP MPU & NRMP





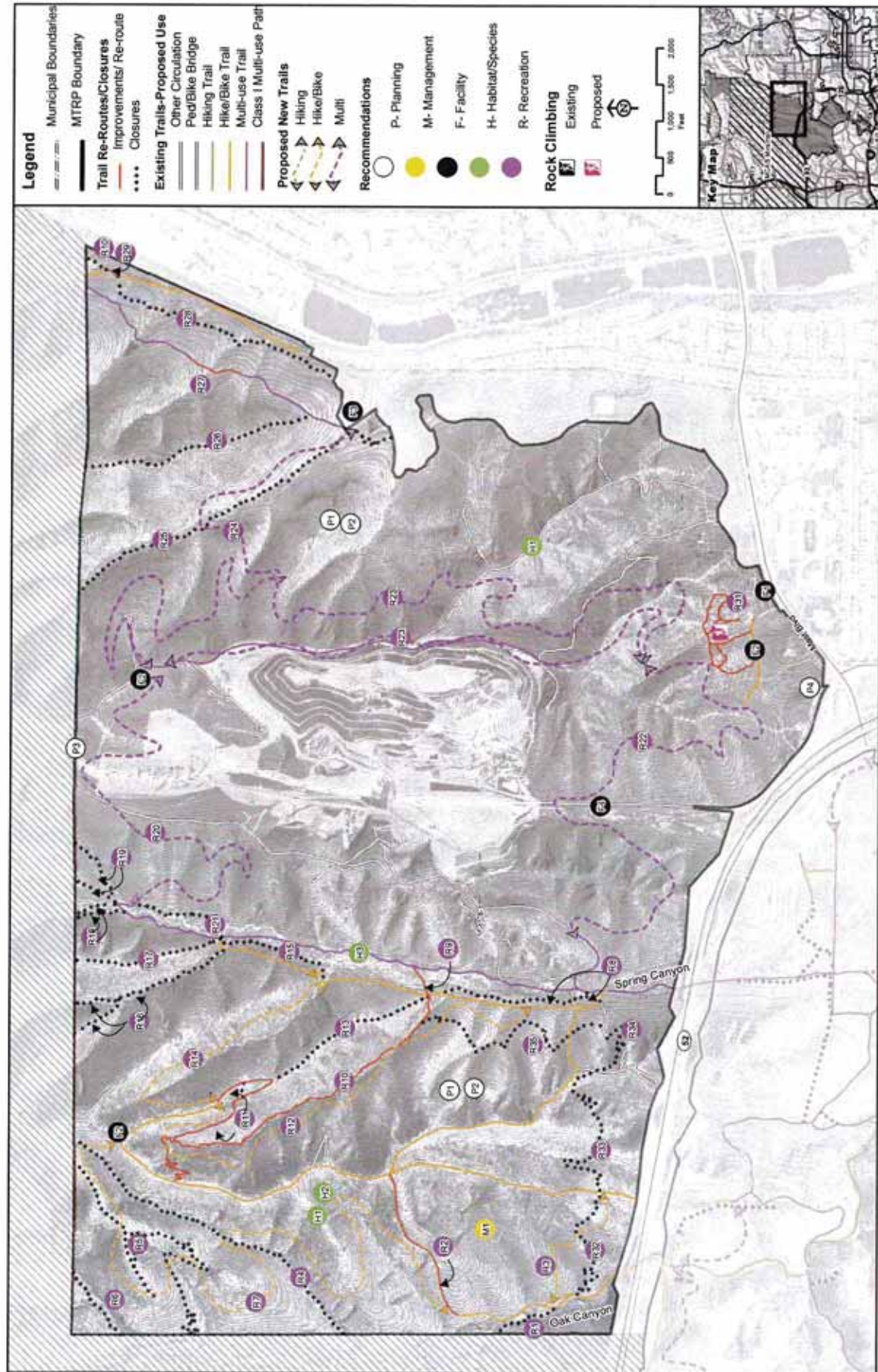
PROGRAMMATIC EIR FOR THE MTRP MPU & NRMP





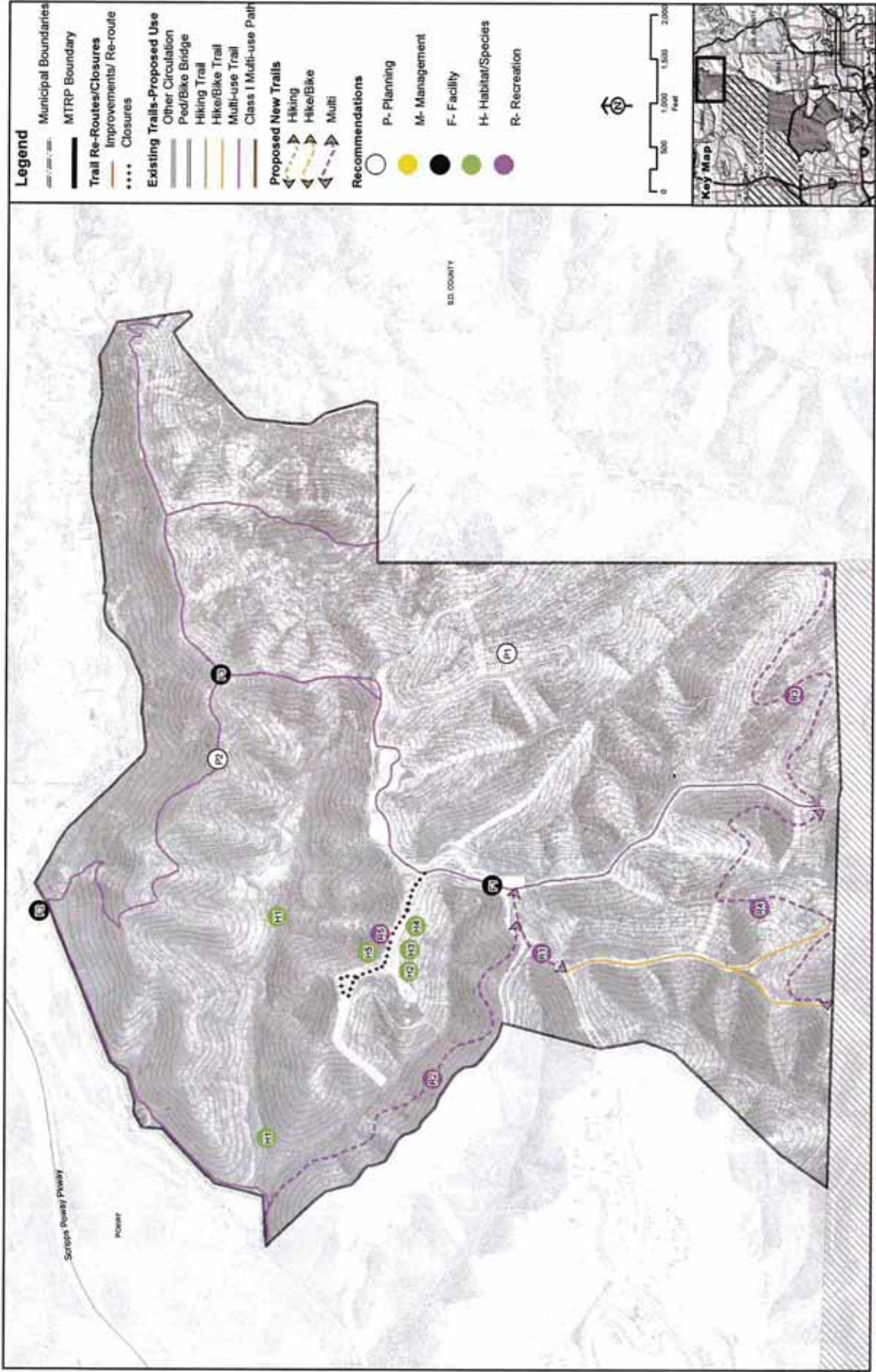
PROGRAMMATIC EIR FOR THE MTRP MPU & NRMP





PROGRAMMATIC EIR FOR THE MTRP MPU & NRMP





PROGRAMMATIC EIR FOR THE MTRP MPU & NRMP



NOTICE OF PREPARATION PUBLIC REVIEW DISTRIBUTION:

**U.S. Government**

Naval Facilities Southwest - Environmental Planning Division Naval Facilities (12)  
Army Corps of Engineers (26)  
Environmental Protection Agency (19)  
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Department of Agriculture – Natural Resources Conservation Services (25)  
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California Air Resources Board (49)  
California Transportation Commission (51)  
Native American Heritage Commission (56)  
California Energy Commission – Eileen Allen (59)  
Department of Conservation – Division of Mines & Geology (61)

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Planning and Land Use (68)  
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Department of Environmental Health – Land and Water Division (76)

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Scott Chadwick - Chief Operating Officer  
Stacie LoMedico – Assistant Chief Operating Officer  
Council President Todd Gloria, District 3  
Council President Pro Tem, Sherri Lightner, District 1  
Council Office, District 2  
Councilmember Myrtle Cole, District 4  
Councilmember Mark Kersey, District 5  
Councilmember Lorie Zapf, District 6  
Councilmember Scott Sherman, District 7  
Council President David Alvarez, District 8  
Councilmember Marti Emerald, District 9  
Office of the City Attorney – Shannon Thomas (MS 59)

San Diego Association of Governments (108)  
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 San Diego City Schools (132)  
 San Diego Community College District (133)  
 San Diego Chamber of Commerce (157)  
 CONVIS (159)  
 San Diego River Park Foundation (163)  
 Sierra Club, San Diego Chapter (165)  
 San Diego Canyonlands (165A)  
 San Diego Natural History Museum (166)  
 San Diego Audubon Society (167)  
 Mr. Jim Peugh (167A)  
 San Diego River Conservancy (168)  
 Environmental Heath Coalition (169)  
 California Native Plant Society (170)  
 San Diego Coast and Baykeeper (173)  
 Ellen Bauder (175)  
 Center for Biological Diversity (176)  
 Citizen's Coordinate for Century III (179)  
 EC Allison Research Center (181)  
 Endangered Habitats League (182 & 182A)  
 League of Women Voters (192)  
 Carmen Lucas (206)  
 South Coastal Information Center (210)  
 San Diego History Center (211)  
 San Diego Archaeological Center (212)  
 Save Our Heritage Organisation (214)  
 Ron Christman (215)  
 Clint Linton (215B)  
 Frank Brown – Intertribal Cultural Resource Council (216)  
 Campo Band of Mission Indians (217)  
 San Diego County Archaeological Society (218)  
 Kumeyaay Cultural Heritage Preservation (223)  
 Kumeyaay Cultural Repatriation Committee (225)  
 Native American Distribution – Public Notice Only (225A-S)  
     Barona Group of Capitan Grande Band of Mission Indians (225A)  
     Campo Band of Mission Indians (225B)  
     Ewiiapaayp Tribal Office (225C)  
     Inaja Band of Mission Indians (225D)  
     Jamul Indian Village (225E)  
     La Posta Band of Mission Indians (225F)  
     Manzanita Band of Mission Indians (225G)  
     Sycuan Band of the Kumeyaay Nation (225H)  
     Viejas Band of Mission Indians (225I)  
     Mesa Grande Band of Mission Indians (225J)  
     San Pasqual Band of Mission Indians (225K)  
     Ipai Nation of Santa Ysabel (225L)  
     La Jolla Band of Mission Indians (225M)  
     Pala Band of Mission Indians (225N)  
     Pauma Band of Mission Indians (225O)



Johnnie Lyman  
Carolyn Barkow  
Jeff Guadinus  
Joe Morse  
Aaron Garland  
Jose Galaz  
Josh Higgins  
Joe Satriano  
Jack Zarour  
Mohammad Karim  
Kay Stewart  
Keli Balo  
Kim Wiley  
Jane Yen  
Kailash Mozumder  
Amber Wright  
David Aldon  
Libby Brydolf  
Linda & Lyle Cocking  
Tom Sommer  
Matt Merritt  
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Churchill Family Trust  
Alice Kenniston Revocable Trust  
Andrew Asaro Trust  
Poway Unified School District  
Midwest Television Inc.





THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

April 2, 2014

**SUBJECT:** Scope of Work for Draft Program Environmental Impact Report for the Mission Trails Regional Park Master Plan Update and Natural Resources Management Plan ("Project"). Project No. 349988/SCH No. *Pending*

Based on the review of the project application and pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) of 1970, Sections 15060(d) and 15081, as amended, it has been determined by the Environmental Analysis Section (EAS) of the City of San Diego Development Services Department that the Project may have a significant effect on the environment and preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is required. City Council approval (Process 5) is required for the Mission Trails Regional Park (MTRP) Master Plan Update (MPU) and Natural Resources Management Plan (NRMP) Project, which includes Technical Amendments to the Tierrasanta, Navajo, and East Elliot Community Plans, and the Rancho Encantada Precise Plan.

The purpose of this Scoping Letter is to identify specific issues to be addressed in the EIR and shall be prepared in accordance with the City of San Diego *Environmental Impact Report Guidelines (updated December 2005)* and *California Environmental Quality Act - Significance Determination Thresholds prepared by the Development Services Department (January 2011)*. A Notice of Preparation (NOP) is being distributed concurrently to Trustee and Responsible Agencies and others who may have an interest in the project in accordance with CEQA Section 21083.9(a)(2) for projects of statewide, regional, or area-wide environmental impacts. **A Scoping Meeting has been scheduled for Thursday, April 17, 2014.** Changes or additions to the scope of work may be required as a result of input received in response to the Scoping Meeting and NOP. Furthermore, should the project scope be modified during the scoping or EIR review process and/or by the applicant, these changes shall be disclosed in the EIR under the section "History of Project Changes."

Each section and issue area of the EIR shall provide a descriptive analysis of the project followed by a comprehensive evaluation. The EIR shall also include sufficient graphics and tables to provide a complete and meaningful description of all major project features.

## **PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

CITY COUNCIL APPROVAL (Process 5) of the Mission Trails Regional Park (MTRP) Master Plan Update (Master Plan), Natural Resource Management Plan (NRMP) and associated community plan technical amendments. In 2010, the City of San Diego initiated a project to update the 1985 MTRP Master Plan, develop a NRMP, and process a Programmatic Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) to cover the activities identified in both.

## **PROJECT LOCATION**

Currently, MTRP is about 5,800 acres of land between Interstate 8 to the south and State Route 52 (SR-52) to the north. The existing park is split into four planning areas: Lake Murray, Cowles Mountain, Mission Gorge, and Fortuna Mountain as shown in Figure 1. Surrounding MTRP is the City of San Diego Community Planning Areas of Tierrasanta to the west, Navajo to the south, and East Elliott to the north. MCAS Miramar also occurs north of SR 52. The Cities of Santee, El Cajon and La Mesa are along various portions of the eastern boundary.

The East Elliott area will add approximately 2,500 acres to MTRP. This includes almost the entire East Elliott community plan area, excluding private land currently being processed for residential development along its eastern edge (see Figure 1). Active land management and monitoring activities will only occur on publicly owned lands or privately held lands with a conservation easement.

The West Sycamore area will add approximately 1,300 acres to MTRP. This area is the eastern half of the Rancho Encantada Precise plan area which abuts MCAS Miramar to the south, the City of Poway to the north, and the County of San Diego to the east (see Figure 1).

## **GENERAL BACKGROUND AND PROJECT HISTORY**

The origin of MTRP dates back to 1960 when the concept of a 1,765 acre "Fortuna Mountain-Mission Gorge Metropolitan Park" was proposed by the City of San Diego. Over the next 16 years various park development plans were conceptualized. When the County of San Diego acquired Cowles Mountain, a City-County joint regional park planning process managed by a multi-agency Task Force was initiated. In 1976, a proposed Master Development Plan was prepared for the "Lake Murray/Cowles Mountain/Fortuna Mountain Regional Park" and a Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) was formed in 1977. In 1979, the EIR was certified, (the 1976 Master Development Plan approved?) and the park was renamed Mission Trails Regional Park. Between 1979 and 1981, the Task Force and CAC assessed and modified the 1976 Master Development Plan based in part on information contained within the EIR. In 1984, the CAC and Task Force amendments were incorporated into a revised Master Development Plan which was subsequently approved by the CAC, Task Force, City Council and Board of Supervisors in 1985.

In 1997 the Multiple Species Conservation Program (MSCP) was approved. This placed a vast majority of MTRP within the Multiple Habitat Planning Area (MHPA) which has management Guidelines adopted by the City of San Diego. With the additional emphasis on resource management and protection placed on MTRP lands, some of the uses originally planned within the park were moved to alternative, less environmentally sensitive sites or dropped from



consideration completely. The MSCP also identified two other pertinent areas as MHPA's: the vast majority of the East Elliott Community Plan Area and a large block of open space contained within the Rancho Encantada Precise Plan, both of which are being incorporated into MTRP upon their acquisition for conservation or mitigation purposes.

Since 1985, most of the major development elements identified in the Master Development Plan (Master Plan) have been implemented, such as the Lake Murray Reservoir Rehabilitation, Old Mission Dam staging area, Cowles Mountain staging area, Lake Murray Community Park, Visitor and Interpretive Center, Old Mission Dam Interpretive Pathway and Viewing Terrace, Clairemont Mesa Staging Area, Kumeyaay Lake Campground, and Equestrian Staging Area at the end of Mast Blvd.

#### **MASTER PLAN UPDATE PROCESS**

In 2007, an ad hoc subcommittee of the CAC began a process of reviewing and updating the 1985 Master Plan to address alternative project locations, additional projects, and the two expansion areas. To implement Council Policy 600-33 *Community Notification and Input for City-Wide Park Development Projects*, and to address the MSCP requirement for development of a NRMP for MTRP, in November 2010, the City of San Diego, City Planning and Community Investment (CPCI) Department began the process to update the MTRP Master Plan, develop a Natural Resources Management Plan and prepare a Programmatic EIR.

On January 27, 2011, the first of three public workshops focusing primarily on the MPU was held at the MTRP Visitor Center. A focal point of the public's input was four large aerial photograph exhibits of the park where participants could use pre-defined icons, post-it notes, and provide their input regarding issues and opportunities directly on the maps. Nearly 200 comments were received from the 83 participants. An expanded and more sustainable recreational trail system was the most frequently requested item. Following the workshop, draft alternatives were developed over the next two months for presentation at the second public workshop.

On March 31, 2011 the second public workshop was held at the MTRP Visitor Center where the 58 participants were asked to vote their level of support for each project element, as well as identify their top 10 priorities for implementation. A number of participants requested more time to assess the various project elements before casting their votes. This request was addressed by setting up a web survey to allow individuals an opportunity to vote and provide additional written comments. The web survey ran for two weeks, in which time 75 individuals participated. In total, 101 voting ballots were cast for use in identifying the public's issues and priorities. Following the workshop and web survey, the voting ballots were processed. Over the next month and a half, trail system alternatives were reviewed with City staff for conflicts with sensitive resources and a preferred alternative was developed for presentation at the final public workshop.

On June 9, 2011, the final public workshop was held at the MTRP Visitor Center where the 53 participants were given an opportunity to ask questions, voice concerns, and provide written comments.

With the final phase of the MPU process, working drafts (spring/summer 2012) and pre-public drafts (spring 2013) of both plans were released to various City departments, San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA), San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E), Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Miramar, US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), and subsequent sites visits to various portions of MTRP with USFWS & CDFW were conducted in late summer 2013. Comments received during this two (2) year process have been incorporated where appropriate into the draft MPU and NRMP released for public review as part of the CEQA NOP public review process.

#### **MASTER PLAN CONTENT**

The purpose for the MPU is multi-faceted:

- 1) Fully incorporate the resource protection and management requirements of the Multiple Species Conservation Program (MSCP) into an NRMP for MTRP and coordinate the recommendations and management actions between the MPU and NRMP;
- 2) Incorporate within the MTRP boundaries and provide master planning for the management of resources and the development of recreational opportunities within lands acquired for preservation in the East Elliott community plan area, while continuing to provide for potential private development per the current Community Plan and MSCP guidelines;
- 3) Incorporate within the MTRP boundaries the MSCP preserve lands created as part of the Rancho Encantada Specific Plan in order to provide consistent centralized natural resource and recreation management;
- 4) Update the planning recommendations in the 1985 Master Plan for MTRP based on the public's recreational desires, planning overlays, policies and regulations.

The MTRP MPU/NRMP is a policy document that establishes the planning framework for the future design, implementation, and management of the Park. The Goals and Policies in the MPU provide specific guidance on critical park implementation issues, so that all aspects of development and operation will be consistent with the agreed upon park concept.

The objectives of the MTRP MPU/NRMP are to:

1. Define the Park's setting in terms of physical environment, aesthetics, public plans and policies, surrounding land use and ownership;
  2. Identify recreational and other open space potentials within the Park setting;
  3. Assess existing and potential relationships (especially edges, roads, and trail linkages) between the Park, its immediate surroundings, and the San Diego region as a whole;
- and



4. Maintain and update a comprehensive Master Plan in terms of park uses, facility sizes and locations, environmental and architectural design concepts, and strategies to avoid or minimize environmental impacts.

Major concepts of the 1985 planning process that continue to be important today are:

1. Multi-purpose role – the Park serves a comprehensive mix of the educational, environmental, recreational and cultural needs of the San Diego Region. It accommodates active as well as passive uses on both a regional and community level.
2. Trail and Open Space Linkages – the Park orients outward to the region; and is not viewed as an ‘island.’ Because its location, potential size, and aesthetic environment make it a logical destination for hikers, bicyclists, and equestrians, the Park relates to major trail linkages with other regional parks, open space corridors, and activity centers. Trail corridors should extend outward into existing and future residential areas wherever compatible.
3. Response to Environment - the Park will continue to protect environmental and cultural resources while providing for recreational opportunities.

MTRP shall be designed, implemented and managed to continue to achieve these objectives in a balanced and sustainable manner. As future activities and projects for MTRP are proposed, they will be evaluated for compliance with this Master Plan to ensure that the vision of MTRP is maintained.

While the MTRP MPU guides activities on both private and public land, it does not usurp existing private property rights or disallow existing uses that are permitted under the City’s current zoning and land use ordinances, General Plan, the East Elliott Community Plan, and MSCP guidelines. Any land use changes such as plan amendments or rezones, development, or other activities that require discretionary City approval will be subject to the policies contained in the MPU.

#### **MASTER PLAN PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT**

The future development of the MTRP is provided for each of the six planning areas of the Park, and includes hike, bike and equestrian trail alignments, staging areas, rest areas, and other amenities. It also includes proposed interpretive programs and potential mitigation opportunities for the Park.

#### **Lake Murray (see Figure 2)**

Lake Murray has historically been the most accessible, developed and highly used area of the Park. The existing developed and water-oriented recreational uses (golf course, ballfields, community park, boat ramp and concessions) will continue to be the primary focus of this area. MPU recommendations include sediment and erosion controls related to the unpaved access roads and parking lots; the implementation of water quality improvement best management practices at major storm drain outfalls to improve water quality within this area prior to

discharge into Alvarado Creek and the San Diego River; the closure or re-routing of unauthorized trails; and addition of a new trail connection to the Del Cerro community.

Lake Murray currently supports about 8 miles of authorized and un-authorized recreational trails. Proposed actions include closing approximately 0.4 miles of trails, re-routing another 0.2 miles of trails, and constructing about 0.5 miles of new trails for an overall increase of about 0.4 miles of trails.

### **Cowles Mountain (see Figure 3)**

Cowles Mountain is a dominant landmark within the San Diego Region rising to a height of 1,591 feet and is the highest point within the City of San Diego. An existing utility/emergency access road to the communications antennae at the top of the Cowles Mountain will remain the only vehicular access within this area. Trails currently originate from the Cowles Mountain staging area, as well as Barker Way, Mesa Road, and Big Rock Road. Additional staging area improvements are proposed at the existing Barker Way and Mesa Road trailheads, and a new small staging area and trailhead is proposed west of Pyles Peak off of Mission Gorge Road. A small bike skills area is proposed for inclusion as part of the Mesa Road staging area improvements. All other proposed improvements are related to recreational trails.

Barker Way is a currently heavily used access point utilizing only on-street parking, trash/recycling receptacles and signage. The proposed staging area would impact up to one acre of land and create an off-street staging area with parking, portable toilets, trash/recycling receptacles, and other related amenities.

Mesa Road currently has two staging areas, one at the end of the road and the other near Big Rock Park. The one at the end of the road is recommended for closure and consolidation with the one near Big Rock Park. Proposed improvements are for the area near Big Rock Park and would utilize the currently disturbed shoulder of the road from Big Rock Park to just past Mesa Heights Road. The site is approximately three quarters of an acre and could support parking, a small bicycle pump-track, beginner to intermediate bike skills features, and other related amenities. Restrooms are provided at the adjacent Big Rock Park.

There is currently no formal access to Pyles Peak from the west, only an unauthorized hiking trail that originates from the residential development along Golf Crest. Approximately 700 feet north of Golf Crest along Mission Gorge Road is a small access road to a San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA) facility that is proposed for improvements (one third of an acre) to support parking, portable toilets, trash/recycling receptacles, and other related amenities while maintaining access to SDCWA facilities. Vehicular access would be right-in/right-out only from/to Mission Gorge Road.

Cowles Mountain currently supports about 14 miles of authorized and un-authorized recreational trails. Proposed actions include closing approximately 7 miles of trails, re-routing another 2 ½ miles of trails, and constructing about 9 miles of new trails for an overall increase of about 1.7 miles of trails.



### **Mission Gorge (see Figure 4)**

Mission Gorge is the heart of MTRP. It encompasses most of the cultural resources, significant sensitive biological resources, the geologic formations of the gorge, the San Diego River and associated habitats, the Visitor and Interpretive Center, and the Kumeyaay Campground. Annual visits to the Visitor Center continue to increase. To help meet the needs of increased patronage, an additional parking lot near the Visitor Center and improved trail connectivity between the Jackson Drive staging area would alleviate some of the pressure during times of peak use. The inclusion of additional bicycle skills features at the Deerfield BMX site (being renamed the Deerfield Bike Skills area) are recommended, as well as a bridge connection over the San Diego River at the bottom of Jackson Drive. All other proposed improvements are related to recreational trails.

The additional parking lot to support the increased patronage of the Visitor and Interpretive Center and the Park is proposed within the western Oak Grove Loop area. A two and one half acre area is being proposed for assessment to develop about one and one half acres. The expanded footprint is intended to provide some flexibility to avoid potential cultural resources within the area. The developed area is intended to support parking, picnic tables, benches, informational kiosks and other amenities. Relocation of existing picnic tables and signage would be required.

The design and construction of additional bicycle skills features at the Deerfield BMX site is proposed to provide facilities for a full range of skill levels. All proposed improvements will remain within the area that is outside the MSCP/MHPA.

A bridge over the San Diego River at the bottom of Jackson Drive is proposed to improve connectivity between the Mission Gorge and Fortuna Mountain areas of the Park. During a significant portion of the year, water levels within the River prevent most park users from crossing at this area. A decision regarding the style (truss, suspension) and scale (pedestrian, light vehicle) of bridge has not been made.

A segment of the San Diego River Trail, a regional trail running from the Pacific Ocean to the headwaters of the San Diego River, is proposed within MTRP. The proposed alignment is from the southern MTRP boundary to the northeastern boundary, using a combination of new, upgraded, and existing trails. This proposed alignment is consistent with the draft San Diego River Park Master Plan.

Mission Gorge currently supports about 9 miles of authorized and unauthorized recreational trails. Proposed actions include closing about 1.7 miles of trails, re-routing approximately 1.2 miles of trails and constructing nearly 6 miles of new trails for an overall increase of about 4 miles of trails.

### **Fortuna Mountain (see Figure 5)**

Fortuna Mountain is the northern extension of the ridge bisected by the San Diego River and is relatively undeveloped with the exception of two major utility corridors. SDCWA has several

pipelines and access roads traversing the western edge of MTRP in the north/south direction. SDG&E has both gas pipelines electrical distribution lines and access roads traversing MTRP. The gas pipeline traverses the Park in the east/west direction just south of SR-52. There are several electrical distribution corridors that traverse MTRP in a southwesterly/northeasterly direction. Two staging areas and a couple of community trail connections from Tierrasanta serve the Fortuna Mountain area. The Clairemont Mesa Boulevard staging area serves the western edge of Fortuna Mountain, whereas the Equestrian staging area serves the eastern edge of Fortuna Mountain. The Fortuna ridgeline saddle separates the area into East and West Fortuna. Due to the steepness of the utility access road and trails crossing over the ridgeline and saddle, most Park users stay on one side of Fortuna or the other. Proposals within the Fortuna Mountain area are focused on trail system improvements. Minor amenity upgrades are recommended at the staging areas.

Fortuna Mountain currently supports about 29.5 miles of authorized and unauthorized recreational trails, and utility access roads. Proposed actions include closing about 10 miles of trails and roads, re-routing approximately 5 miles of trails and constructing about 5 miles of new trails for an overall increase of about 2.8 miles of trails.

#### **East Elliott (see Figure 6)**

East Elliott is one of two areas being added to MTRP. It is approximately 2,500 acres in size and is located due north of the eastern portion of Fortuna Mountain on the north side of SR-52. It is linked to Fortuna Mountain via two freeway overpasses that provides under crossings for wildlife and recreational users. MCAS Miramar borders East Elliott along the entire western and northern perimeters. The Sycamore Canyon Landfill occupies the central portion of the site and is included within the boundaries of the Park to facilitate long-term reclamation of the closed portions of the landfill to open space and recreational uses. The ownership and management of the Landfill has agreed to collaborate with the City to create a recreational linkage along the northern perimeter to connect MTRP with the historic Stowe Trail corridor that runs north/south along the eastern edge of the East Elliott area. A significant portion of this area is currently in private ownership. Inclusion of this area within the MTRP Master Plan does not change the development potential of these properties under MSCP guidelines. If one or more parcels do develop in the future, the City will coordinate with the developers to insure that open space and proposed amenities identified within the MPU are incorporated into MTRP through City fee-ownership, or easements on privately held property. Two SDG&E electrical distribution corridors traverse East Elliott. One north/south corridor is within the western portion of the area, the other splits off along the southern boundary and routes to the northeast along the edge of the landfill. This area also contains the Santee Boulders, identified as a long time rock climbing area used to teach beginner climbers.

East Elliott currently contains a series of utility access roads and several miles of user defined trails. Proposed actions include closing about 13.5 miles of trails, re-routing another 0.25 miles of trails, and constructing an additional 13 miles or so of new trails, including providing



connectivity to the Stowe Trail and the Santee Boulders, where and when ownership/easements allows for an overall increase of about 1 mile of trails.

### **West Sycamore (see Figure 7)**

West Sycamore is the second area being added to MTRP. It is approximately 1,300 acres in size and is located about 3 miles north of East Elliott. It is bordered by the Stonebridge development on the west, Beeler Canyon and Sycamore Canyon Road to the north, the County's Goodan Ranch Sycamore Canyon Preserve to the east and MCAS Miramar on the south. An SDG&E electrical distribution corridor traverses the site from the south west to the north east. The developers of Stonebridge are required to transfer this property to the City of San Diego when certain conditions of their development agreement have been met.

West Sycamore currently contains about 17 miles of recreational trails. Proposed actions include closing about 0.4 miles of unnecessary roads and constructing approximately 3.3 miles of new trails, including a potential segment of the Trans-County Trail. A staging area and potential Ranger's office are the only facilities proposed within West Sycamore and they are to occur within a previously disturbed area outside the MHPA.

### **NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PLAN PROCESS**

The NRMP is being developed concurrently with the Master Plan to avoid unnecessary conflicts early on in the alternatives development process. The resulting preferred alternative from the Master Plan process is used as an input for analysis in the NRMP prior to either document being finalized. This approach is facilitating coordination and collaboration on recommended actions between the two plans, as well as providing an opportunity to avoid as many resource protection/recreational use conflicts as possible.

The NRMP is being directed by City staff to ensure compliance with MSCP requirements and consistency with City policy, guidelines and current methodologies regarding resource protection and management.

The draft NRMP is being released as an appendices to the MPU for public review.

### **TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS TO THE COMMUNITY PLANS**

Technical Amendments to the Navajo, Tierrasanta and East Elliot Community Plans and the Rancho Encantada Precise Plan are proposed to update or correct maps and community plan language needed as part of the draft MPU/NRMP, to ensure that policy recommendations with regards to the management of MTRP are consistent with updated policies in the MPU/NRMP.

### **PROJECTS WITHIN THE SCOPE OF THE PEIR**

Another purpose of this or any other PEIR is to streamline environmental review of projects found to fall within the scope of the PEIR. The PEIR for this Project would address the Master Plan recommendations and technical amendments to the Community Plans at a general programmatic level. The PEIR will not evaluate project level impacts associated with future implementation of any of the Master Plan recommendations or any public or private

development projects proposed within MTRP. The PEIR will also not address impacts of specific projects on individual County Assessor's Parcels. Any subsequent activities proposed within MTRP will be reviewed for consistency with the PEIR and draft MPU/NRMP and any project level impacts of these subsequent activities would be subject to separate environmental review in accordance with CEQA.

### **PEIR FORMAT AND CONTENT**

The PEIR serves to inform governmental agencies and the public of a project's environmental impacts. Emphasis on the PEIR must be on identifying feasible solutions to environmental problems. The objective is not simply to describe and document an impact, but to actively create and suggest mitigation measures or project alternatives that would substantially reduce the significant adverse environmental impacts. The adequacy of the PEIR will depend greatly on the thoroughness of this effort. The PEIR must be written in an objective, clear and concise manner. Wherever possible, use graphics to replace extensive word descriptions and to assist in clarification. Support conclusions with quantitative as well as qualitative information. Conclusions must be supported with quantitative, as well as qualitative information to the extent practicable.

Prior to distribution of the Draft EIR (DEIR), Environmental staff will coordinate with the project consultant to prepare Conclusions, which will be attached to the front of the DEIR. The Conclusions cannot be prepared until a DEIR has been submitted and accepted for release by the City. The DEIR shall include a Title Page which includes the Project Number, State Clearinghouse Number (SCH No.) and the date of publication and an Executive Summary, reflecting the DEIR outline for each issue area identified below in Section V, but need not contain every element of the DEIR. Additional information regarding specific content and formatting of the DEIR can be found in the City's *Environmental Impact Report Guidelines* (updated December 2005).

## **I. INTRODUCTION**

Introduce the proposed project with a brief discussion on the intended use and purpose of the EIR. Describe and/or incorporate by reference any previously certified environmental documents that address the project site. Identify all discretionary City actions associated with the project. If other local, state, or federal agencies have responsibility for approvals or project review, briefly describe this involvement. This section should also describe the basis for how this PEIR will be used for subsequent environmental review of projects implemented in accordance with the MPU and NRMP, once adopted, and/or additional required approvals (if applicable).

## **II. ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING**

The Draft PEIR should (i) describe the precise location of the Project and present it on a detailed topographic map and regional map; (ii) provide a local and regional description of the environmental setting of the project, as well as adjacent land uses, area topography,



drainage characteristics and vegetation; and (iii) include any applicable land use plans/overly zones that affect the Project site, such as the City of San Diego Multiple Planning Area and FEMA 100 year floodway zone.

### **III. PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The Draft PEIR should include a detailed discussion of the goals and objectives of the proposed project. Project objectives will be critical in determining the appropriate alternatives for the project, which would avoid or substantially reduce potentially significant impacts. This section of the document should include a discussion of all discretionary actions required for Project approval and implementation, including but not limited to a description of all permits and approvals required by local, state, federal, and other regulatory agencies.

For the purpose of this analysis the area covered by the Proposed Project includes the current boundaries of the Mission Trails Regional Park, the East Elliot Community Planning Area, and approximately 1,820 acres of the Multiple Habitat Planning Area east of Rancho Encantada, known as the West Sycamore area. The Community Plan amendments resulting from implementation of the draft Mission Trails Regional Park MPU and project features would be also addressed in the PEIR.

Pursuant to the CEQA Guidelines (Section 15168), a Program EIR allows the lead agency to consider broad policy alternatives and program-wide mitigation measures at an early time when the agency has greater flexibility to deal with basic problems or cumulative impacts, and allow reduction in paperwork. In addition, it may be used with the intent of streamlining and limiting the later environmental review required for projects that implement the draft MPU.

### **IV. HISTORY OF PROJECT CHANGES**

This section of the PEIR shall outline the history of the project and any physical changes that have been made to the project in response to environmental concerns raised during the City's review of the project.

### **V. ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS**

The potential for significant environmental impacts must be thoroughly analyzed and mitigation measures identified that would avoid or substantially lessen any such significant impacts. The EIR must represent the independent analysis of the City of San Diego as Lead Agency; therefore, all impact analysis must be based on the City's current *California Environmental Quality Act - Significance Determination Thresholds prepared by the Development Services Department (January 2011)*.

Adoption of the MPU, NRMP and community plan technical amendments is not in and of itself a significant impact. The proposed "Project" would provide a comprehensive approach to the management of natural and cultural resources within MTRP through

adoption of the MPU and NRMP and would facilitate timely and environmentally responsible implementation protocols. Future projects implemented in accordance with the MPU and NRMP however, have the potential to impact resources, and therefore the EIR Project Description should include a discussion of how future projects would implement the MPU/NRMP during subsequent impact analysis and environmental review pursuant to CEQA. This should take the form of a Mitigation Framework which will lay the foundation for how future projects are reviewed to assure compliance with the MPU and NRMP and fully documented in the subsequent environmental review process.

Below are key environmental issue areas that have been identified for this Project, within which the issue statements must be addressed individually. Discussion of each issue statement should include an explanation of the existing Project site conditions, impact analysis, significance determination, and appropriate mitigation. The impact analysis should address potential direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts that could be created through implementation of the proposed Project and its alternatives. Lastly, the identification of a reasonable range of mitigation measures (included in the Mitigation Framework) and/or alternatives, whether proposed or not, for each identified significant impact should also be included in the issue area discussions.

#### **LAND USE**

**Issue 1: Would the proposed Master Plan Update and Natural Resource Management Plan result in a conflict with the goals, objectives, and recommendations of the City of San Diego General Plan (General Plan), the City of San Diego Municipal Code, or the Tierrasanta, Navajo, East Elliot Community Plan areas and the Rancho Encantada Precise Plan area?**

**Issue2: Would the proposed Master Plan Update and Natural Resource Management Plan result in a conflict with adopted environmental plans, including the City of San Diego's Multiple Species Conservation Program (MSCP) Subarea Plan and the Multi Habitat Planning Area (MHPA) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect for the area?**

**Issue 3: Would the proposed Master Plan Update and Natural Resource Management Plan affect the long-term conservation of biological resources as described in the MSCP? Would the proposed Master Plan Update and Natural Resource Management Plan meet the objectives of the MSCP's Land Use Adjacency Guidelines or conflict with the provisions of the City's MSCP, Subarea Plan or other approved local, regional, or state conservation plans?**

The PEIR should evaluate how the draft MPU/NRMP accomplishes or fails to implement the goals, objectives, and recommendations of the General Plan, San Diego Municipal Code, San Diego's City's Land Development Code or relevant community plans. If any inconsistencies are identified, the Land Use Section of this PEIR should also identify if



these inconsistencies warrant an environmental impact. The PEIR should also address the land use compatibility with final MSCP Plan (August 1998), and the City's MSCP Subarea Plan (March 1997). A description of measures proposed to reduce any identified MHPA adverse edge effects should be included within this section as well.

#### **VISUAL EFFECTS AND NEIGHBORHOOD CHARACTER**

**Issue 1: Would the proposed Master Plan Update and Natural Resource Management Plan result in a substantial change to natural topography or other ground surface relief features?**

**Issue 2: Would implementation of the proposed Master Plan Update and Natural Resource Management Plan result in the blockage of public views from designated open space areas, roads, or to any significant visual landmarks or scenic vistas?**

**Issue 3: Would the proposed Master Plan Update and Natural Resource Management Plan affect the existing visual character of the City or community plan areas, particularly with respect to views from major roadways, public viewing areas, vistas, or open spaces?**

**Issue 4: Would the proposed Master Plan Update and Natural Resource Management Plan be compatible with surrounding development in terms of bulk, scale, materials, or style?**

To the extent feasible, the PEIR should include an evaluation of potential for impacts on the natural landforms within the MTRP and Project boundaries resulting from implementation of project components. The City's Significance Determination Thresholds include the following in determining such impacts: exceed the allowed height or bulk regulations and existing patterns of development in the surrounding area by a significant margin; and/or located in a highly visible area and would strongly contrast with the surrounding development or natural topography through excessive bulk, signage, or architectural projection. If any project components include such elements, this section of the PEIR should, therefore, include a conceptual description and analysis of the allowed building mass, bulk, height, and architectural style that could result from the draft MPU/NRMP. The EIR shall also analyze the use of solar panels on facilities within MTRP such as, but not limited to exterior lighting of parking lots, bollards or interpretive panels that could emit or reflect a significant amount of light or glare and any potential effect on light sensitive species and/or aviation (e.g., MCAS Miramar, Gillespie Field, Lindbergh Field). Renderings, cross sections and visual simulations of the proposal should be incorporated into the EIR section.

#### **AIR QUALITY/ODOR**

**Issue 1: Would implementation of the proposed Master Plan Update and Natural Resource Management Plan result in an increased number of automobile trips which would/could potentially affect San Diego's ability to meet regional, state and federal clean air standards?**

**Issue 2: Would implementation of the proposed Master Plan Update and Natural Resource Management Plan result in air emissions that would substantially deteriorate ambient air quality, including the exposure of sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?**

The PEIR should describe the draft MPU/NRMP area's climatological setting within the San Diego Air Basin and the basin's current attainment levels for State and Federal Ambient Air Quality Standards (AAQS). It should discuss both the potential stationary and non-stationary air emission sources related to the land use modifications associated with the draft MPU/NRMP and particularly vehicle emission sources. Should the draft MPU/NRMP result in a significant decrease in the levels-of-services of any roadway or intersection, the PEIR should address the potential degradation of air quality which may result, including the possibility of "hotspots" within the area. While only a guideline and not a rule or regulation, the PEIR should also discuss consistency with the California Air Resources Board Air Quality and Land Use Handbook.

The PEIR will include a qualitative description of potential impacts to air quality and compliance with AAQS associated with subsequent activities that implement the draft MPU/NRMP. However, a quantified analysis of future project impacts to air quality would not be addressed in the PEIR and future project level impacts would be subject to subsequent environmental review under CEQA.

Although air quality impacts are not anticipated for this project, the PEIR should discuss the draft MPU/NRMP's impact on the ability of the San Diego Air Basin to meet regional air quality strategies (RAQS). It should discuss any short, long-term, and cumulative impacts the project may have on regional air quality, including construction and transportation-related sources of air pollutants, and the potential impacts from the increase in vehicle trips to the RAQS, the overall air quality impacts from such trips, and any proposed mitigation measures. The section should also address any affects of the MPU/NRMP related to climate change and greenhouse gas emissions.

**BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES**

**Issue 1: Would implementation of the proposed Master Plan Update and Natural Resource Management Plan result in a reduction in the number of any unique, rare, endangered, sensitive, or fully protected species of plants or animals?**

**Issue 2: Would the proposed Master Plan Update and Natural Resource Management Plan result in interference with the nesting/foraging/movement of any resident or migratory fish or wildlife species?**

**Issue 3: Would the proposed Master Plan Update and Natural Resource Management Plan result in an impact to a sensitive habitat, including, but**



**not limited to streamside vegetation, oak woodland, vernal pools, wetland, coastal sage scrub, or chaparral?**

**Issue 4: Would the proposed Master Plan Update and Natural Resource Management Plan result in the introduction of invasive species of plants into the area?**

**Issue 5: Would the proposed Master Plan Update and Natural Resource Management Plan result in an impact on City, State, or Federally regulated wetlands (including but not limited to, salt marsh, vernal pool, lagoon, riparian habitat, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption or other means?**

A series of diverse habitats would potentially be directly or indirectly affected by the draft MPU/NRMP, and to the extent feasible, should be fully discussed in this section of the PEIR. A biological resources constraints analysis, based on existing inventory of biological resources information already assembled for the draft MPU/NRMP, should be prepared to address existing conditions, potential constraints, and opportunities related to biological resources within the project study area. The analysis should also include limited site reconnaissance as necessary to accurately represent the existing conditions discussion of the PEIR. The analysis must also identify, based on the draft MPU/NRMP documentation, any MSCP covered and narrow endemic flora and fauna, which are known to be, or to have a potential to exist, in the draft MPU/NRMP area.

The impacts to identifiable wetland habitat should be addressed within this section of the PEIR. Wetland habitat types should be shown graphically and include recommendations to sustain their functionality based on the development standards proposed for Mission Trails Regional Park area. If impacts to any wetlands or wetlands buffers are identified, a discussion of the infeasibility of avoiding such impacts with the draft MPU/NRMP should be included.

Encroachment into the City's MHPA would occur with the draft MPU/NRMP. Both the biological constraints analysis and the Biological Resources section of the PEIR should disclose potential MHPA boundary adjustments or corrections that may be required with implementation of subsequent activities that implement the draft MPU/NRMP. However, detailed descriptions of the MHPA boundary adjustments and the functional equivalence analysis required for future projects would not be addressed in the PEIR. Any MHPA boundary adjustments associated with development of projects that implement the draft MPU/NRMP would be subject to subsequent environmental review.

### **HISTORICAL RESOURCES**

**Issue 1: Would the proposed Master Plan Update and Natural Resource Management Plan result in the alteration or destruction of a prehistoric or**

**historic archaeological site, or any adverse physical or aesthetic effects to a prehistoric or historic building, structure, object, or site?**

**Issue 2: Would the proposed Master Plan Update and Natural Resource Management Plan result in any impact to existing religious or sacred uses within the potential impact area?**

**Issue 3: Would the proposed Master Plan Update and Natural Resource Management Plan result in the disturbance of any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?**

The draft MPU/NRMP area contains numerous archaeological sites. A cultural resources constraints analysis, based on existing inventory of historical and cultural resources information already assembled for the draft MPU/NRMP, should be prepared for the proposed project to address existing conditions, potential constraints and opportunities related to cultural and historic resources within the project area. The analysis should include the records search of local databases as well as site reconnaissance as necessary to verify locations of cultural resources sites identified in the records research. If appropriate, the PEIR should identify requirements for when archaeological mitigation would be required. Although the draft MPU/NRMP will not result in direct impacts, the PEIR should discuss cumulative impacts relative to the loss of paleontological resources.

A Sacred Lands File Search should also be conducted by the Native American Heritage Commission for this project, as well as Native American consultation in accordance with Senate Bill 18.

#### **HUMAN HEALTH/PUBLIC SAFETY/HAZARDOUS MATERIALS**

**Issue 1: Would the proposed Master Plan Update and Natural Resource Management Plan expose people or property to health hazards, including fire?**

**Issue 2: Would the proposed Master Plan Update and Natural Resource Management Plan create future risk of an explosion or the release of hazardous substance (including, but not limited to gas, oil, pesticides, chemicals, or radiation)? Would the proposed Master Plan expose people or the environment to a significant hazard through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?**

**Issue 3: Would the proposed Master Plan's uses be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 6596.25 and, as a result, create a significant hazard to the public or environment?**



Fire hazards exist where highly flammable vegetation and/or litter is located adjacent to development. The PEIR should discuss the draft MPU/NRMP in terms of human/public safety as it relates to fire hazards within and adjacent to the plan boundaries.

Given that military uses have occurred within portions of the draft MPU/NRMP area, the PEIR should address the potential for unexploded ordnance (UXO) as defined by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACOE). As part of the environmental review process, steps are needed to disclose and address the safe removal, disposal, and/or remediation of unexploded ordnance materials. There are Federal and State requirements that are mandated to be incorporated into a project that may have these issues. The PEIR should include a general, qualitative evaluation of the potential presences of unexploded ordnance materials and the expected nature of these materials that may occur within the planning area.

The PEIR will include a qualitative description of potential hazards and hazardous materials issues that intersect or interface with the draft MPU/NRMP area. However, a quantified analysis based on Phase I site assessment would not be addressed in the PEIR. The PEIR should however provide recommendations for when future project would be required to conduct Phase I site assessments as part of subsequent environmental review under CEQA.

#### **HYDROLOGY/WATER QUALITY**

- Issue 1: Would the proposed Master Plan Update and Natural Resource Management Plan result in an increase in impervious surfaces and associated increased runoff? Would the proposed Master Plan Update and Natural Resource Management Plan result in a substantial alteration to on-and off-site drainage patterns due to changes runoff flow rates or volumes?**
- Issue 2: What modifications to the natural drainage system would be required for implementation of the proposed Master Plan Update and Natural Resource Management Plan? Would there be an effect on the drainage basins within the San Diego River watershed with implementation of the proposed Master Plan Update and Natural Resource Management Plan?**
- Issue 3: Would the proposal result in alterations to the course or flow of flood waters?**
- Issue 4: Would the proposed Master Plan create discharges into surface or ground water, or in any alteration of surface or ground water quality, including, but not limited to temperature, dissolved oxygen or turbidity? Would there be increases in pollutant discharges including downstream sedimentation?**
- Issue 5; Would the proposed Master Plan Update and Natural Resource Management Plan, when considered in combination with past, current, and future projects in the affected watersheds, result in cumulative significant impacts on the hydrology and water quality?**

## **HYDROLOGY**

Hydrology deals with the properties, distribution, and circulation of surface water, ground water, and atmospheric water. The quantity of water which flows in a creek or river is calculated based on historic climatic conditions combined with the watershed characteristics. The slope and shape of the watershed, soil properties, recharge area, and relief features are all watershed characteristics that influence the quantity of surface flows.

A technical study should be prepared for the PEIR to address the existing conditions, potential constraints and opportunities related to hydrology resources within the project study area. The study will be based on an existing inventory of hydrology resource information already assembled for the draft MPU/NRMP and other related documents.

## **WATER QUALITY**

Water quality is affected by sedimentation caused by erosion, by runoff carrying contaminants, and by direct discharge of pollutants (point-source pollution). As land is developed, the impervious surfaces send an increased volume of runoff containing oils, heavy metals, pesticides, fertilizers, and other contaminants (non-point source pollution) into adjacent watersheds. Degradation of water quality could impact human health as well as wildlife systems. Sedimentation can cause impediments to stream flow. In addition, oxygen availability is affected by sedimentation, which can significantly influence aquatic and riparian habitats. Therefore, the PEIR should discuss how the draft MPU/NRMP could affect water quality within the project area and downstream.

A technical study should be prepared for the PEIR to address the existing conditions, potential constraints and opportunities related to water quality within the project study area. The study will be based on water quality information already assembled for the draft MPU/NRMP and other related documents.

## **GEOLOGY/SOILS**

**Issue 1: Would the proposed Master Plan Update and Natural Resource Management Plan expose people or property to geologic hazards such as earthquakes, mudslides, liquefaction, ground failure, or similar hazards?**

**Issue 2: Would the proposed Master Plan Update and Natural Resource Management Plan increase the potential for erosion of soils on-or off-site?**

The geologic and subsurface conditions in the proposed project area will be described in this section, along with existing topography, geology (surface and subsurface), tectonics and soil types. Possible impacts to the MPU/NRMP area from geologic hazards and unfavorable soil conditions also will be addressed. The constraint discussion should include issues such as the potential for liquefaction, slope instability, and rockfall hazards. Any need for blasting should also be identified, if such measures are anticipated. Any secondary issues due to soils/geology (e.g., excavation of unsuitable soils) should also be addressed.



The PEIR will include a qualitative description of potential geologic hazard issues that could be encountered within the MPU/NRMP area. However, a quantified analysis based on project level geotechnical analysis would not be addressed in the PEIR. The PEIR should however provide recommendations for when a future project would be required to conduct geotechnical assessments as part of subsequent environmental review under CEQA. This could be shown in table form in the PEIR and must reference the City's Seismic Safety study (1995).

#### **PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES**

##### **Issue 1: Would the proposed Master Plan Update and Natural Resource Management Plan result in the loss of significant paleontological resources?**

The PEIR should include a discussion of the potential for loss of sensitive paleontological resources in conjunction with the implementation of the draft MPU/NRMP. Although the MPU/NRMP will not result in direct impacts, the PEIR should discuss cumulative impacts relative to the loss of paleontological resources.

#### **TRANSPORTATION/CIRCULATION/PARKING**

##### **Issue 1: Would the proposed Master Plan Update and Natural Resource Management Plan result in an increase in projected traffic that is substantial in relation to the capacity of the existing and planned circulation system?**

##### **Issue 2: Would the proposed Master Plan Update and Natural Resource Management Plan create alterations to present circulation movements in the area including effects on existing public access points?**

##### **Issue 3: Would the proposed Master Plan Update and Natural Resource Management Plan impact the availability of parking?**

##### **Issue 4: Would the proposed Master Plan Update and Natural Resource Management Plan conflict with the adopted policies, plans or programs supporting alternative transportation modes (e.g. bus turnouts, trolley extensions, bicycle lanes, bicycle racks, etc.)?**

The draft MPU/NRMP should include a traffic study to estimate the expected trips that could be generated based on the MPU boundaries and potential impacts on intersections, roadways, and freeways throughout the entire project area. The traffic study would be based on transportation and circulation information already assembled for the draft MPU/NRMP and other related documents and would form the basis of the impact analysis for this section of the draft PEIR. The study should identify traffic volumes and levels of service on existing adjacent roadways and at public access points and parking areas based on the City of San Diego standards and determine whether additional improvements are required. The traffic study and PEIR should include descriptions and applicable graphics of the existing transportation/circulation and parking conditions within the MPU/NRMP area.

## **PUBLIC SERVICES**

**Issue 1: Would the proposed Master Plan Update and Natural Resource Management Plan result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services?**

The PEIR analysis of public facilities should determine if the draft Master Plan would result in impacts to fire, police, school, solid waste, or park services within the project area. The PEIR should describe the public services currently available and how they intersect or interface with the Regional Park.

## **PUBLIC UTILITIES**

**Issue 1: Would the proposed project result in the need for new systems or require substantial alterations to existing utilities including water infrastructure, wastewater infrastructure, storm water drainage, water conservation, energy or solid waste disposal, the construction of which would create a physical effect on the environment? These systems include communications systems, water, reclaimed water, sewer, storm water drainage and solid waste disposal.**

The PEIR analysis of public facilities should determine if the draft Master Plan would result in impacts to Public Utilities including water, sewer, water conservation, and solar energy within the project area. This section shall discuss the existing public utilities that serve the Master Plan area and how they intersect or interface within the Regional Park. The EIR shall identify any conflicts with existing infrastructure, evaluate the need for upgrading infrastructure and/or demonstrate that facilities would have sufficient capacity to serve the needs of the project.

It may be necessary to prepare a sewer/water utility study that further describes the existing conditions within the Master Plan area. This information will assist staff in determining if proposed trail locations are in conflict with existing or future utility services. In addition, hydrology and water quality studies shall be prepared in accordance with City standards and include information regarding drainage patterns in the Master Plan areas and identify appropriate treatment Best Management Practices (BMPs) for future project projects implemented in accordance with the MPU and NRMP. These reports shall be included in the appendix to the EIR and incorporated into the EIR discussion.



## **I. SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS WHICH CANNOT BE AVOIDED IF THE PROPOSED PROJECT IS IMPLEMENTED**

This section shall describe the significant unavoidable impacts of the project, including those significant impacts that can be mitigated but not reduced to below a level of significance.

## **VII. SIGNIFICANT IRREVERSIBLE ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGES**

In accordance with CEQA Section 15126.2(c), the PEIR must include a discussion of any significant irreversible environmental changes which would be caused by the proposed action should it be implemented. The PEIR should also address the use of nonrenewable resources associated with MPU/NRMP implementation. See CEQA Section 15127 for limitations on the requirements for this discussion.

## **VIII. GROWTH INDUCEMENT**

Although implementation of the MPU/NRMP would not be considered growth inducing since the area is already predominantly undeveloped and additional development associated with the Community Plans and Precise Plan would do not identify the Plan area for development, the PEIR should address the potential for growth inducement. This section need not conclude that growth-inducing impacts, if any, are significant unless the project would induce substantial growth or concentration of population.

## **IX. CUMULATIVE IMPACTS**

When the draft MPU/NRMP is considered with other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable projects in the City of San Diego and the communities of Tierrasanta, Navajo, East Elliot and Rancho Encantada, implementation could result in significant environmental changes which are individually limited but cumulatively considerable. Therefore, in accordance with Section 15130 of the CEQA Guidelines, potential cumulative impacts should be discussed in a separate section of the PEIR.

**Issue 1: What are the cumulative impacts of the proposed Master Plan Update and Natural Resource Management Plan in conjunction with other approved or proposed projects within the subregional area?**

The PEIR should summarize the overall short-term and long-term impacts the draft MPU/NRMP could have in relation to other planned and proposed projects in the area defined above. Specifically, this section shall take into consideration projects such as, but not limited to the San Diego River Park Master Plan, Sycamore Landfill, and the Castlerock development, etc.

## **X. EFFECTS FOUND NOT TO BE SIGNIFICANT**

A separate section of the PEIR should include a brief discussion of issues areas that were not considered to be potentially significant. If these or other potentially significant issue

area arise during detailed environmental investigation of the project, however, consultation with this division is recommended to determine if these other issue areas need to be addressed in the PEIR. Additionally, as supplementary information is submitted, the PEIR may need to be expanded to include additional issue areas. Based on preliminary analysis, issue areas that were not considered to be potentially significant include: Agriculture, Mineral Resources, Noise and Utilities, but should be discussed briefly in the PEIR.

## **XI. ALTERNATIVES**

The PEIR should analyze reasonable alternatives which avoid or mitigate the draft MPU/NRMP's significant environmental impacts. These alternatives should be identified and discussed in detail, and should address all significant impacts. The alternative's analysis should be conducted in sufficient graphic and narrative detail to clearly assess the relative level of impacts and feasibility. Preceding the detailed alternatives analysis should be a section entitled "Alternatives Considered but Rejected." This section should include a discussion of preliminary alternatives that were considered but not analyzed in detail. The reason for rejection should also be explained. Please note that these alternatives should address issues at a programmatic level and should not be developed to reduce or avoid impacts of a specific project or project-level concerns. At a minimum, the following two alternatives shall be considered:

### **A. The No Project Alternative**

The No Project Alternative should discuss the existing conditions of the project site at the time the Notice of Preparation is published, as well as what would be reasonably expected to occur in the foreseeable future if the MPU/NRMP were not approved. For example, this alternative would assume conditions under the existing Master Plan for MTRP and as described in the existing community plans. This alternative should compare the environmental effects of the Master Plan boundaries remaining in its existing state (or in what would reasonably be expected to occur) against environmental effects that would occur if the Project were approved. Should the No Project Alternative prove to be the environmentally preferred alternative, then according to CEQA, another environmentally preferred alternative must be identified for the Project.

### **B. The Reduced Project Alternative**

The Reduced Project Alternative should analyze implementing a MPU/NRMP with similar but reduced uses than what is described in the proposed Project. This alternative may or may or may not include community plan technical amendments, depending upon where the plan area modifications occur. As with the proposed Project, this alternative would be fully consistent with the Environmentally Sensitive Lands Regulations (ESL) including encroachment allowances permitted for steep slopes, wetlands, and sensitive biology, and consistent with the Historical Resources



Regulations for archaeological sites, without the need for deviations or variances in order for park projects to be implemented in the future. This alternative will consider the impacts of a reduced project which includes a land use plan and policies that reduce significant impacts for the same issue areas as analyzed for the Project at a programmatic level and should not be developed to reduce or avoid impacts of a specific project or project level concerns.

If through the environmental analysis process, other alternative become apparent which would mitigate potentially significant impacts; these must be discussed with environmental staff prior to including them in the EIR. It is important to emphasize that the alternatives section of the EIR should constitute a major part of the document. The timely processing of the environmental review will likely be dependent on the thoroughness of effort exhibited in the alternatives analysis.

## **XII. MITIGATION FRAMEWORK - MITIGATION, MONITORING, AND REPORTING PROGRAM (MMRP)**

A Mitigation Framework should be clearly identified, discussed, and their effectiveness assessed in each issue section of the PEIR. The Mitigation Framework will be the basis for which for future projects implemented in accordance with the MPU and NRMP are evaluated or designed to assure compliance with goals, objective and policies contained within the planning documents. At a minimum, the Mitigation Framework should identify: 1) the City department or other entity responsible for implementing the program or monitoring its affects; 2) the monitoring and reporting schedule, and 3) the completion requirements. The Mitigation Framework shall also be contained (verbatim) as a separate chapter in the PEIR. Formatting of this section will be developed in consultation with the environmental analyst.

## **XIII. OTHER**

The EIR shall include sections for references, individuals and agencies consulted, as well as a certification page. Appendices shall be included in the Table of Contents, but are bound under separate cover and/or will be included on a CD attached to the back page of the DEIR. In addition, other specific direction regarding formatting, content and processing of the DEIR will be provided by environmental staff prior to submittal of the first screencheck DEIR for internal staff review.



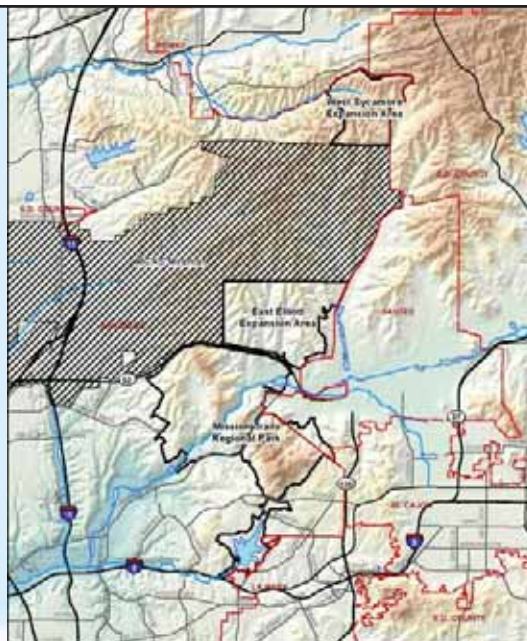
# Mission Trails Regional Park Master Plan Update and Natural Resource Management Plan

## Revised Draft MPU & NRMP



City of San Diego  
Planning Department  
Contract No. H094797

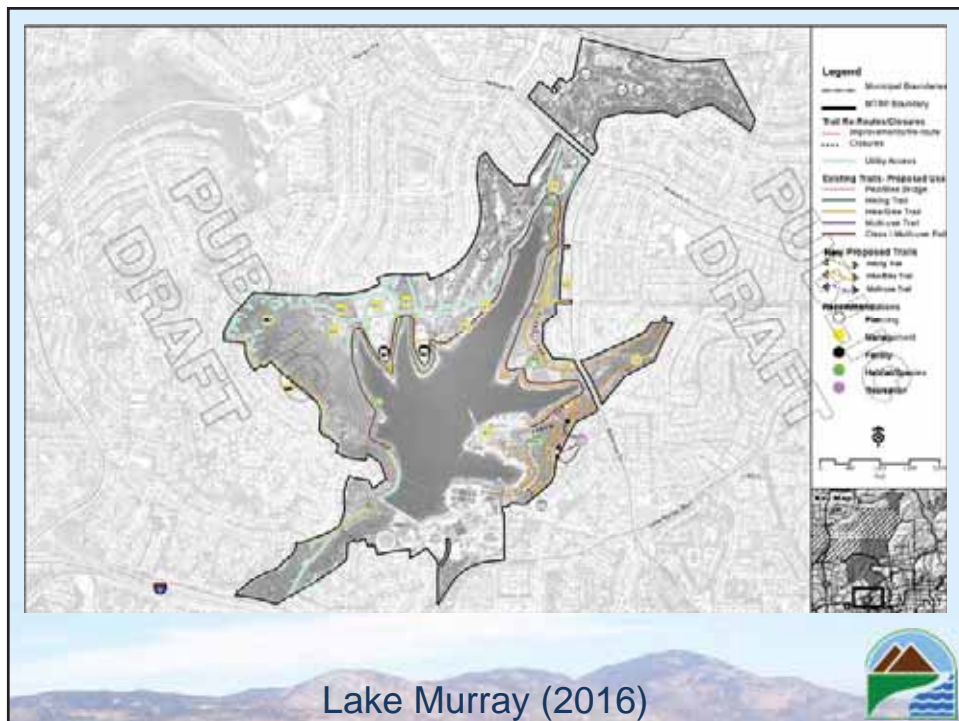
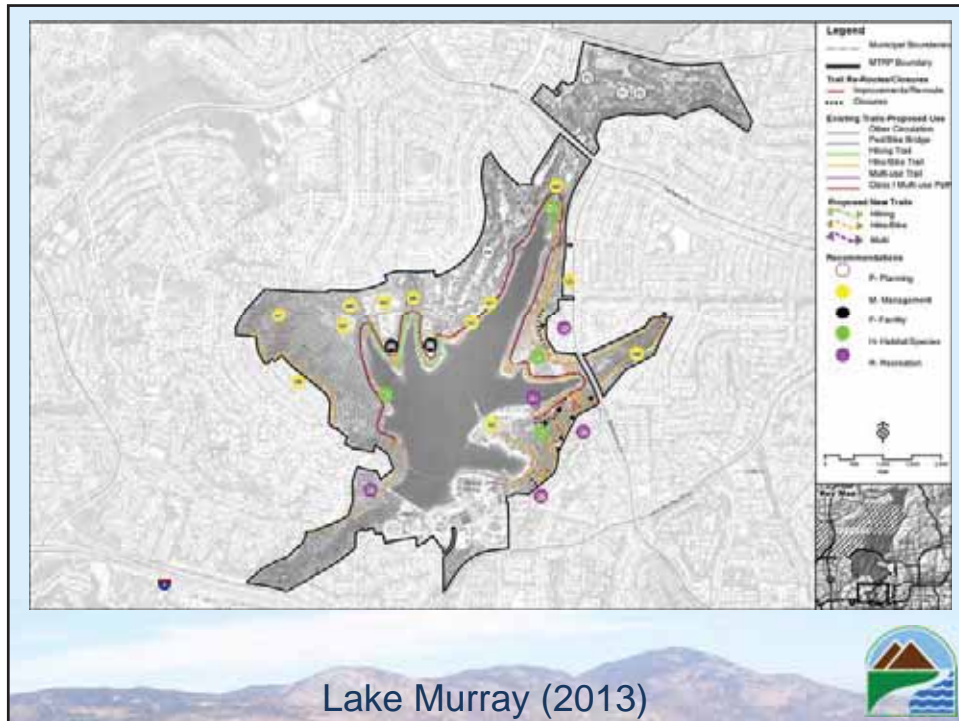
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Park Areas

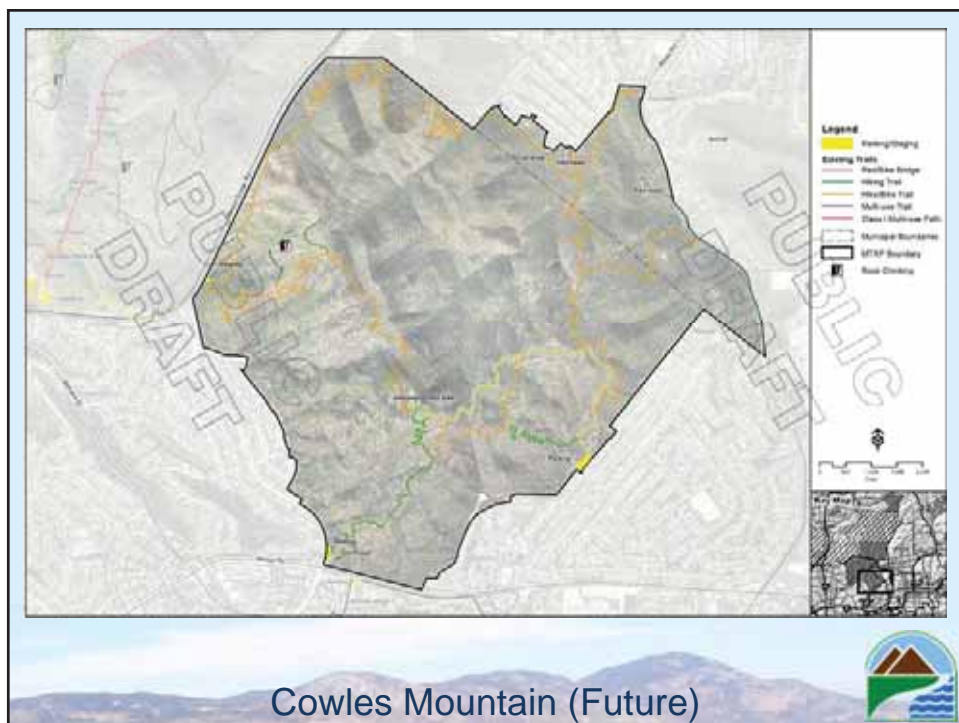
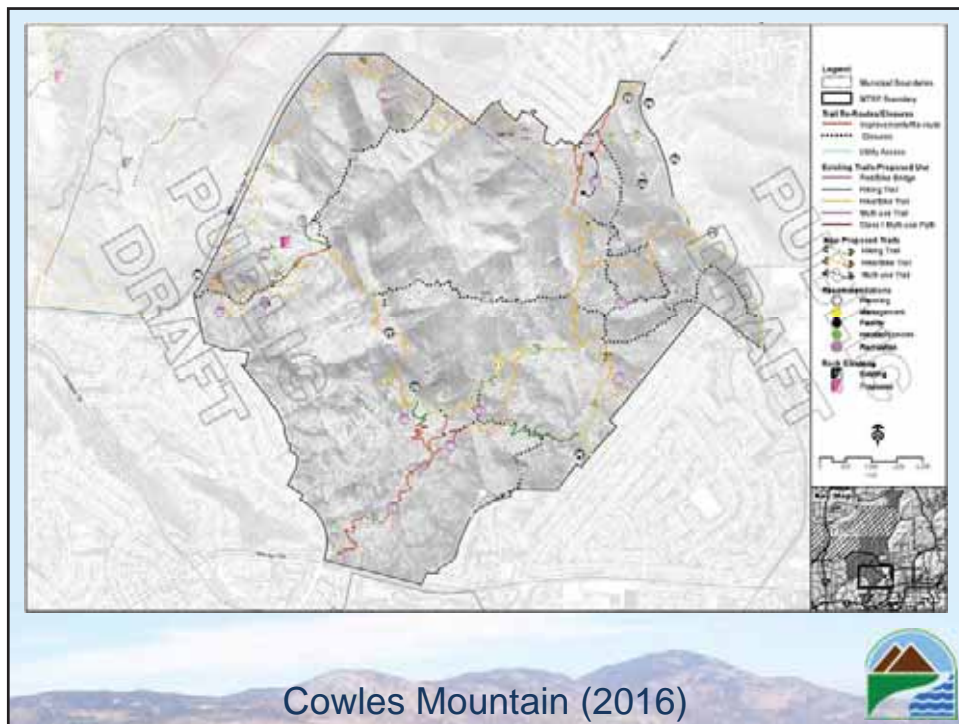






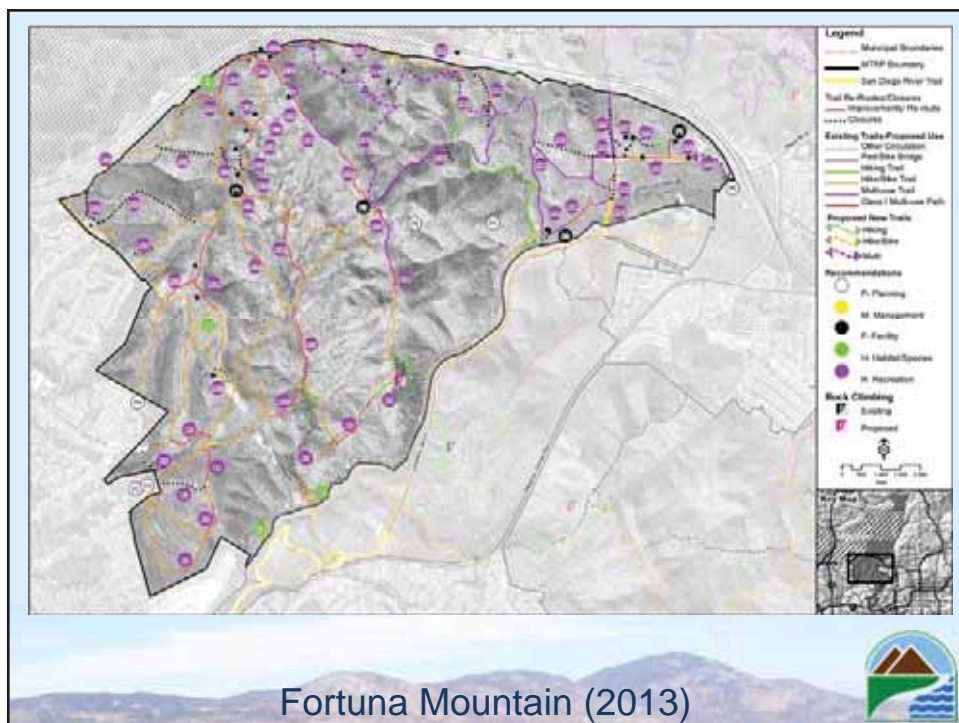
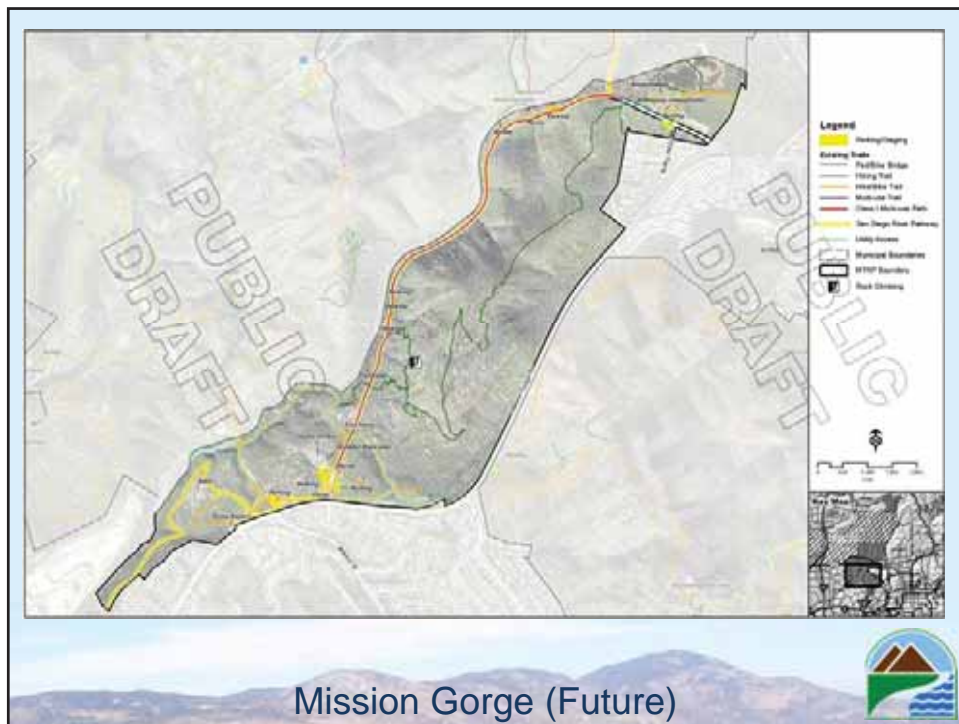


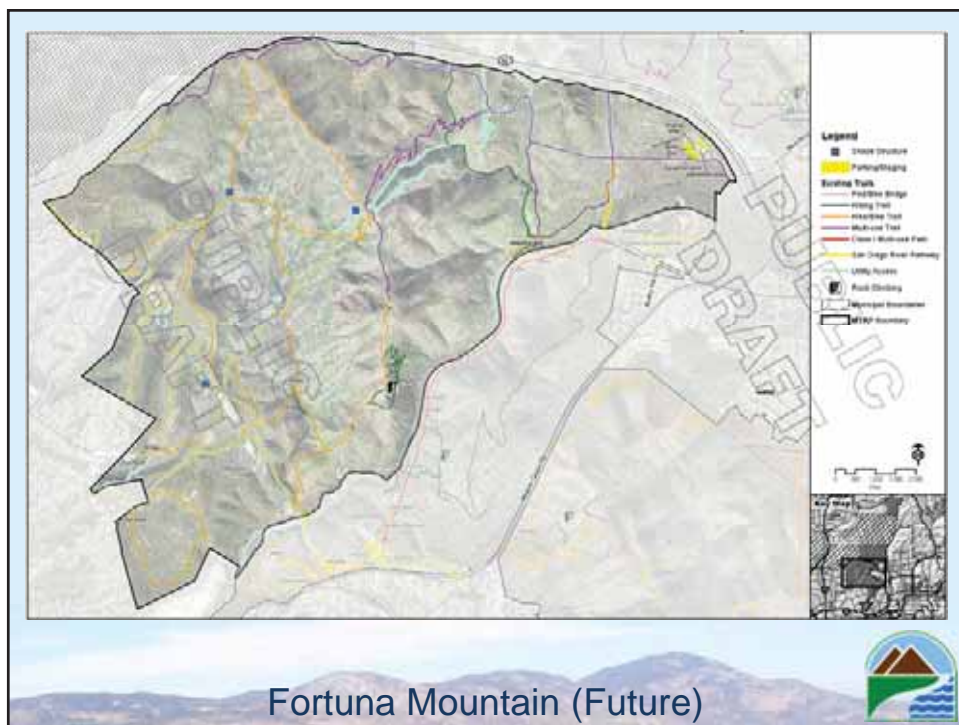
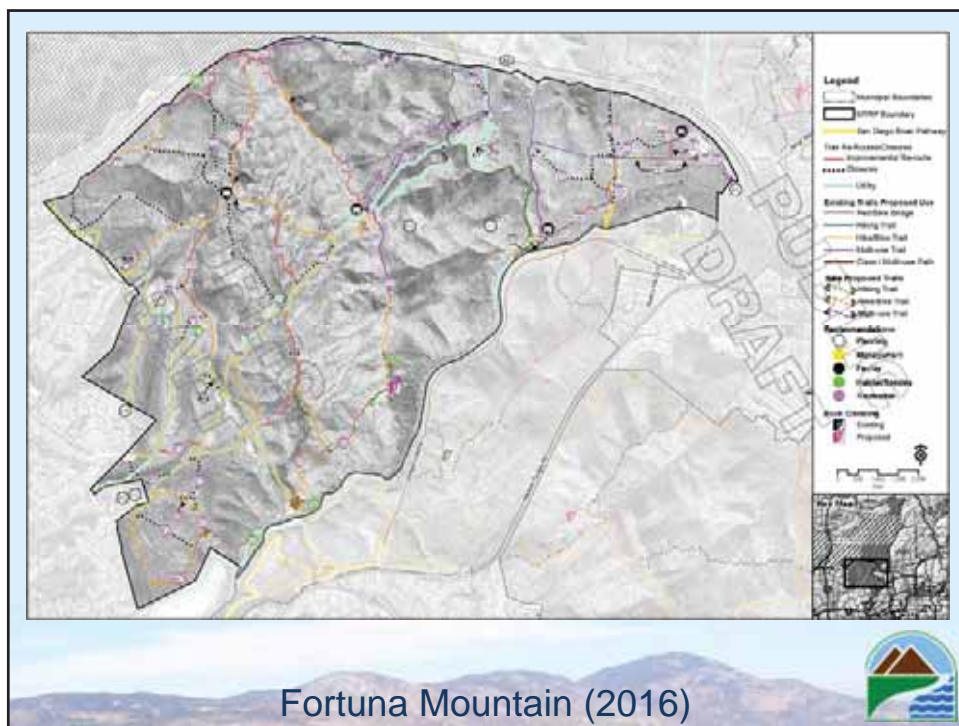




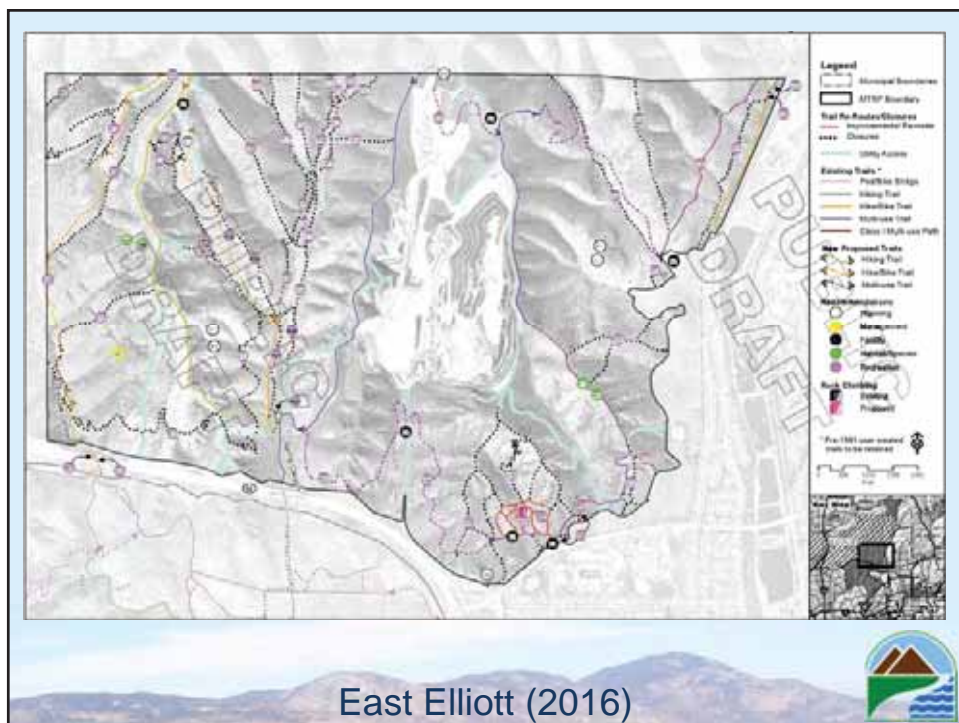
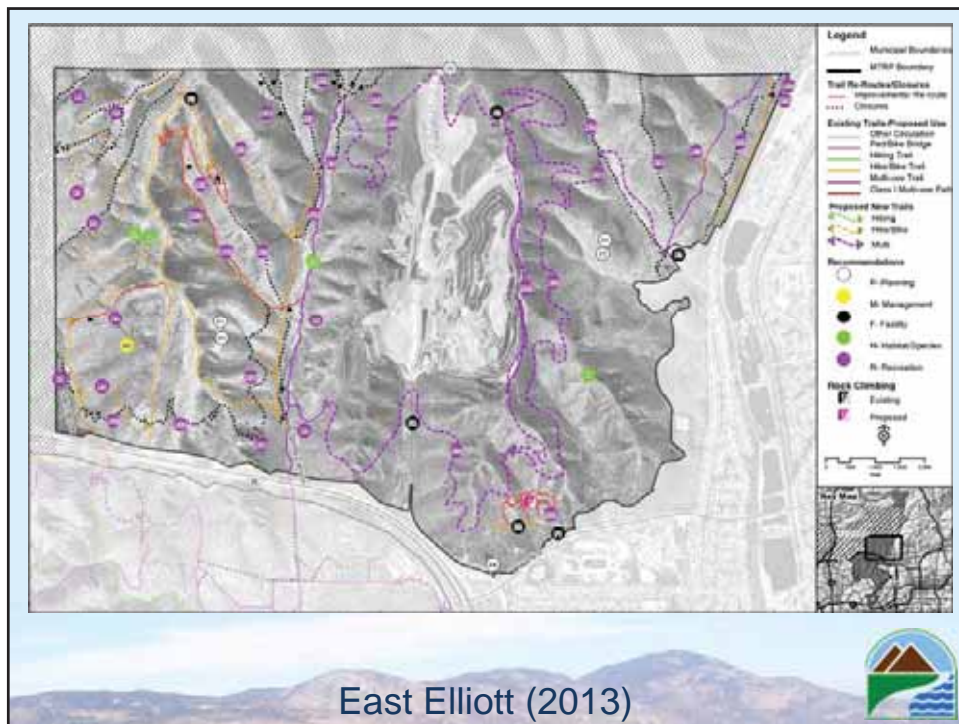


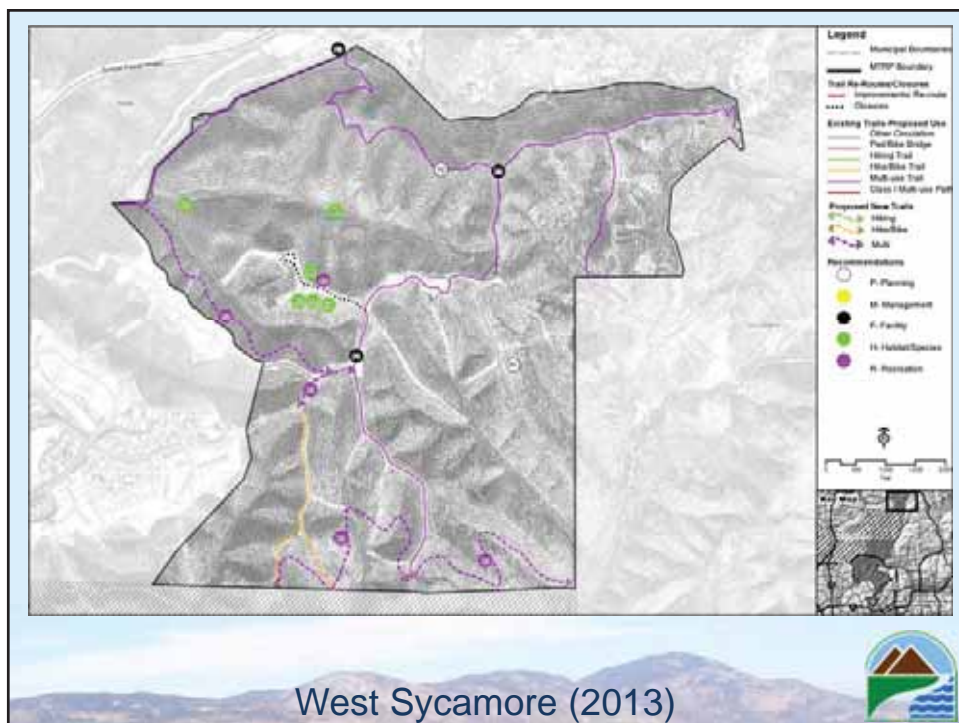
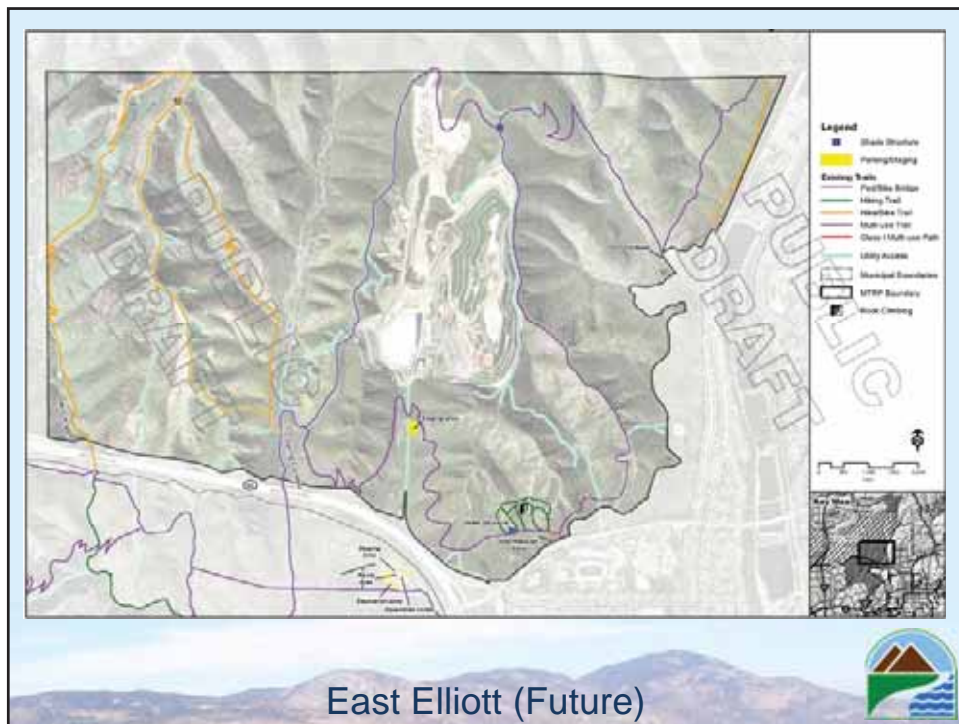






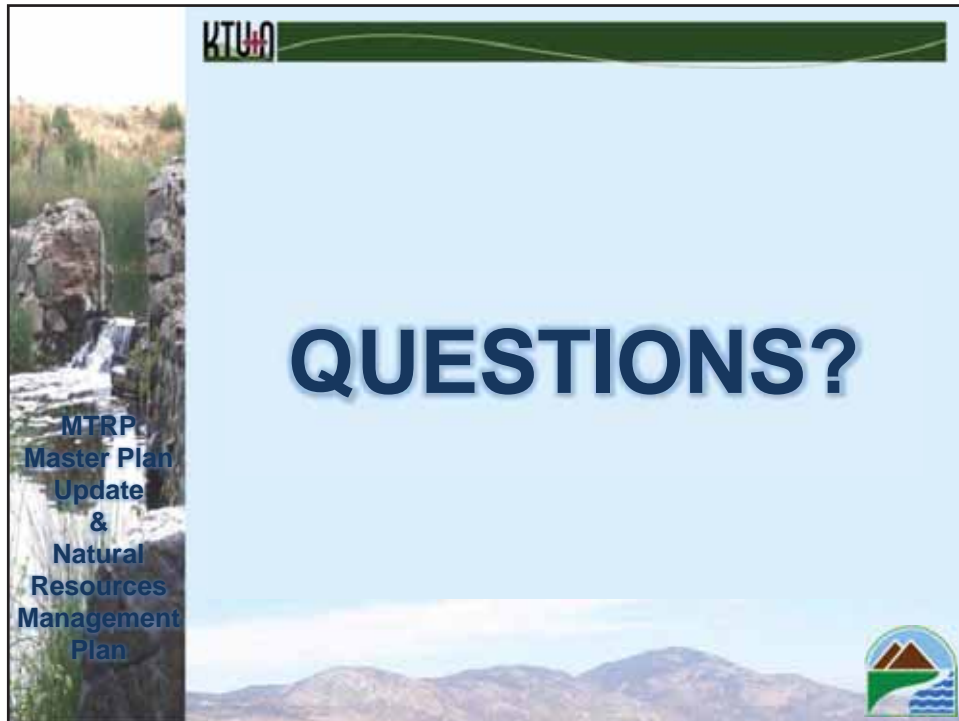














# **APPENDIX B**

## TREE PLANTING GUIDELINES

## MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK TREE PLANTING PROGRAM

*Approved by the MTRP Task Force September 18, 2002*

The purpose of the Mission Trails Regional Park Tree Planting Program is to beautify park entrance points, provide shade in seating and picnic areas, and provide opportunities to introduce visitors to native plant species found in the park.

The following park entrance points shall be considered “planting areas.” These are areas that have already been planted and need to be maintained, or are areas to be considered for future MTRP Arbor Day’s and other habitat improvement efforts.

- Visitor Center – *landscaped and irrigated*
- Oak Grove/Oak Grove Trail – *oak trees planted, no irrigation system*
- Cowles Mountain Staging Area – *landscaped and irrigated*
- Kumeyaay Lake Campground and Day Use Area – *landscaped and irrigated*
- Lots east and west of Bushy Hill Drive and south of Father Junipero Serra Trail – *oaks, sycamores and cottonwoods have been planted in the past. Irrigation system east of Bushy Hill Drive needs to be replaced.*
- Equestrian Staging Area – *landscaped and irrigated*
- Deerfield Quarry BMX Area – *no irrigation system. May be able to obtain water from adjacent City of San Diego Water Department pump station.*
- Lake Murray – *picnic areas are landscaped and irrigated*

Trees, shrubs and ground covers planted in the identified “planting areas,” with the exception of Lake Murray, shall be selected from non-invasive native plants identified as being found in the park as listed in the *Mission Trails Regional Park Native Plant List* prepared by Peter Cuthbert, the *Checklist of the Vascular Plants of Mission Trails Regional Park*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, by Michael G. Simpson, San Diego State University, *A Flora of San Diego County California*, by R Mitch Beauchamp, or similar publications.

Consideration be given to developing an arboretum at Lake Murray, identifying plants that are grown in San Diego County. This would need to be done with the support of and in cooperation with the City of San Diego Water Department and Friends of Lake Murray.

The Eucalyptus Grove west of the Deerfield Pump Station and Deerfield Quarry BMX parking lot should be removed and replaced with native trees and shrubs. Consideration should be given to using this project as a mitigation opportunity when needed for other park projects.



# **APPENDIX C**

## GOOD NEIGHBOR POLICY

# Good Neighbor Policy Agreement

## San Diego County Water Authority And Mission Trails Regional Park

### Purpose:

Achieve mutual agreement between the Mission Trails Regional Park Citizen's Advisory Committee, Task Force and the Water Authority on a comprehensive approach to provide increased regional water supply reliability with a set of Water Authority projects affecting Mission Trails Regional Park while supporting the Park's goals of providing educational and recreational opportunities for the region and assuring that any negative impact to the MTRP will be offset by an equally positive impact.

### Water Authority Projects:

1. Lake Murray Interconnect (completed).
2. The new Flow Regulatory Structure (FRS)/Tunnel and ancillary facilities within the Park.
3. The repair of Pipeline 3 within the Park.
4. The Jackson Drive Interconnect located within Jackson Drive immediately north of the Park Ridge Boulevard.

### Agreement:

1. San Diego County Water Authority will work with the City of San Diego staff to implement the agreement in conjunction with the MTRP CAC and Task Force. The CAC and Task Force concur with the measures outlined below and agree to support the Water Authority Projects listed above.
2. The Water Authority's existing Flow Regulatory Structure (FRS I) building will be cleaned up and the area within the fence will be weeded. The Water Authority's Flow Regulatory Structures (FRS I and FRS II) will be properly maintained and the area within the security fencing will be weeded regularly.
3. The Water Authority will do a comprehensive review of the previous revegetation efforts at FRS I (in consultation with the CAC, the Mission Trails Task Force, and the City's Park & Recreation Department) with specific emphasis on assessing the best way to minimize the visual impacts of construction and the facilities themselves. Enhanced measures will be implemented at FRS I and for the projects listed above. Enhanced measures contemplated could include actions such as using container plants, irrigation until native plants are established, and maintenance to minimize invasive non-native species.
4. Park restoration necessitated by the repair of Pipeline 3 will be according to the revegetation methods determined by a comprehensive study of restoration efforts at FRS I. The Water Authority will make every effort to minimize impacts to the Park during the repair of Pipeline 3.



5. The Water Authority is agreeable to attempting to achieve a cooperative effort with the City that leverages both agencies' funds to resolve mitigation requirements for the dredging behind the Old Mission Dam and those that may be required of the Water Authority due to the failure of Pipeline 3. The Water Authority will request information from the resource agencies regarding mitigation options for the City's and Water Authority issues along the San Diego River. The Water Authority will also consult with the San Diego River Park Foundation and San Diego River Conservancy regarding possible wetland mitigation locations.
6. Any mitigation for the San Diego River Crossing Stabilization Project will occur within the boundaries of the MTRP if a suitable site is identified within MTRP and is approved by the City of San Diego and resource agencies.
7. The Water Authority will install, as part of its FRS II/Tunnel project two concrete picnic tables with a shade structure near the FRS I that is consistent with the current Park design guidelines. The Mission Trails Regional Park will be responsible for the maintenance of the shade structure and picnic tables.
8. The Water Authority will remove 9 of 10 vents along Pipelines 3 and 4 as part of the FRS II/Tunnel project. The Water Authority will complete its hydraulic design to determine if the remaining 35-foot high vent along Pipeline 4 may be removed and replaced with a significantly lower concrete drainage structure.
9. The Water Authority's design and construction of an above-ground building for the new FRS will allow passive ventilation and provide site security to protect the water supply. The building will be designed with free-form curved walls, be recessed into an earthen berm and be of a neutral color to complement the surrounding natural open space.
10. The Water Authority is currently proposing to acquire easements from the City of San Diego for construction and operation of the tunnel and other ancillary facilities associated with the FRS II/Tunnel project. The Water Authority will pay the City the fair market value for these easements as determined by a mutually acceptable independent MAI appraiser. The Water Authority will make every effort to see the funds from this acquisition will be applied to the MTRP Antenna Fund. The FRSII will be located on property the Water Authority is purchasing from the San Diego Unified School District.
11. The Clairemont Mesa Boulevard staging area will be restored following the completion of construction of the project to a condition equal to or better than existed prior to construction.
12. The Citizen's Advisory Committee and the Task Force concur with the policies adopted by the Water Authority Board of Directors on August 24, 2006 regarding the construction and maintenance of Water Authority facilities within the Mission Trails Regional Park. See the attached Water Authority Board memo dated August 16, 2006.

**San Diego County Water Authority**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Maureen Stapleton, General Manager

Date:\_\_\_\_\_

**Mission Trails Regional Park Task Force**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jim Madaffer, Chair

Date:\_\_\_\_\_

**Mission Trails Regional Park Citizen's  
Advisory Committee**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dorothy Leonard, Chair

Date:\_\_\_\_\_

Attachment: San Diego County Water Authority Board Memo, Water Planning  
Committee, dated August 16, 2006



# **APPENDIX D**

## PARK SIGNAGE PROGRAM

## 4. SIGNAGE PROGRAM

Signs include the use of all informational graphics and text displays located along roadway and trail corridors. Signs may be located in or on the ground, or suspended or attached to a structure. MTRP signs are broken down into four categories: street/highway, entry monuments, regulatory, and informational. This section provides a brief description and purpose of each sign type, as well as the recommended location and frequency for their placement.

The MTRP Signage Program is intended to:

- Provide public exposure along public roadways at major entry points
- Post regulatory requirements
- Provide cautionary information to park users
- Orient park users, indicate mileage, and identify appropriate trail etiquette
- Provide adequate way-finding to reassure users that they are on the right trail and will not get lost
- Help with safety issues such as road crossings
- Alert users to unusual trail conditions (e.g., storm damage, hazards, trail closings)
- Provide interpretive information about geographic, environmental, biological, and historic features where appropriate
- Provide information for emergency responders (trail identification system)
- Avoid sign duplication when possible





## 2019 PARK SIGNAGE PROGRAM

### 4.1. STREET/HIGHWAY

Design must conform to the standards of the various agencies that regulate highway signs (e.g., state, county, municipalities).

#### 4.1.1. STREET/HIGHWAY SIGNS

Description and Purpose: Information signs provide basic park information to motorists at the initial highway/major road approach to the MTRP staging areas. Design the signs so that approaching motorists are able to read the sign from the roadway and well in advance of the exit ramp or turn off.

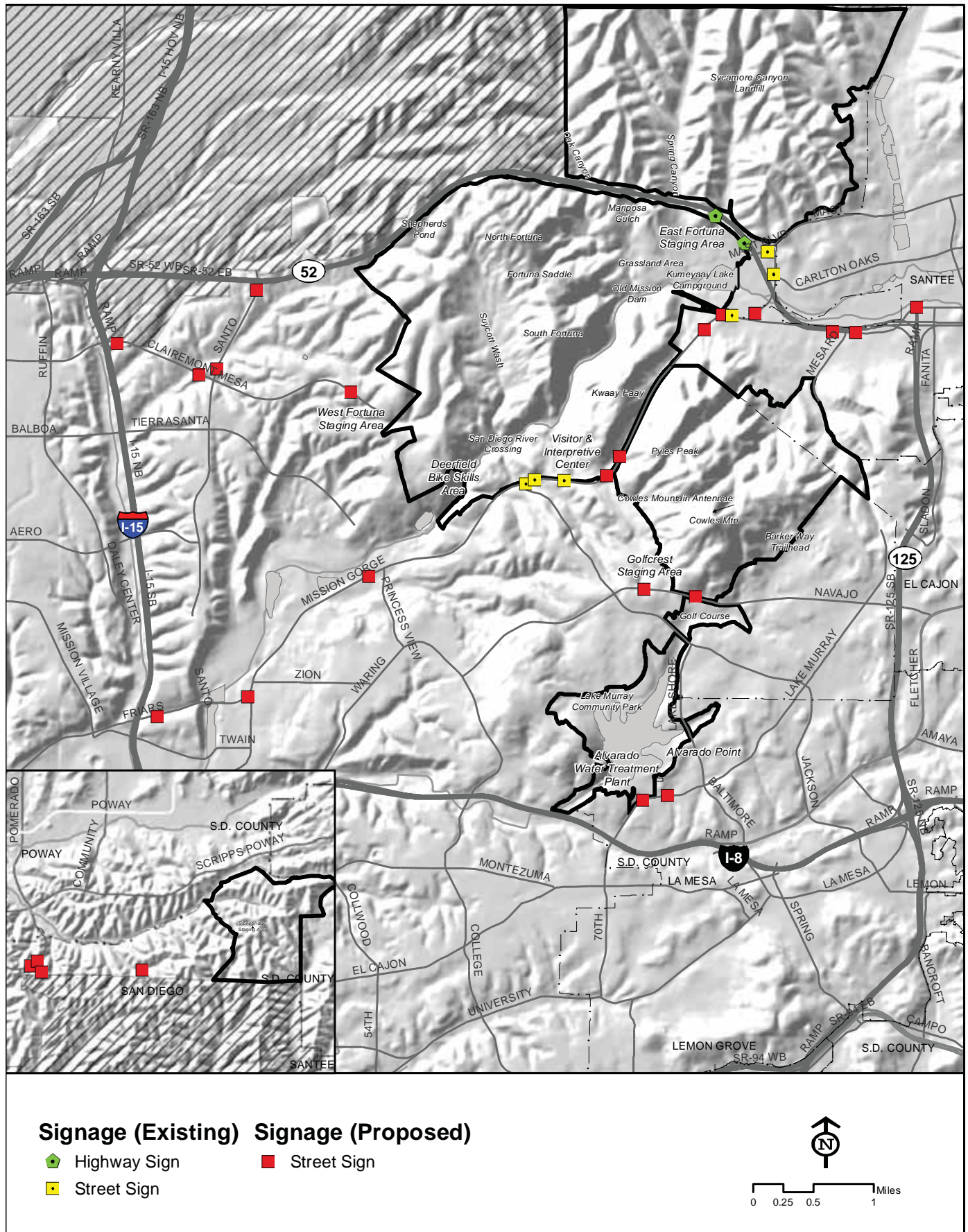
Location and Frequency: Existing street/highway signs are shown in Figure S-1. A few additional sign locations have been recommended. Posting of highway signs falls under the jurisdiction of the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans). Posting of street signs falls under the jurisdiction of the City of San Diego or the City of Santee. Coordinate with the appropriate agency regarding all street/highway signs.

Sample Street/Highway Sign Text: “Mission Trails Regional Park—I,000 feet”

Size and Color: The size and color of signs fall under the jurisdiction of Caltrans or the City of San Diego. All street/highway signs should be coordinated with the appropriate agency. Highway information signs, such as brown recreation signs, direct motorists and pedestrians to areas of public recreation and cultural interest. Signs should follow the U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD): Standard Highway Signs.



*Figure S-1: Street/Highway Signs*





## 2019 PARK SIGNAGE PROGRAM

### 4.2. ENTRY MONUMENTS

Almost all of the appropriate entry monuments currently exist within MTRP. These monuments will require periodic maintenance and eventual replacement. The original design utilized glu-lam beams with routed lettering and logo that was painted. Replacement signs should consider alternative construction materials such as synthetic wood or colored high density polyethylene (HDPE) plastic to extend the life-cycle and minimize maintenance requirements of the sign.

#### 4.2.1. LARGE ENTRANCE MONUMENTS

Description and Purpose: Large entrance monuments mark the regional entrances to MTRP. Photographs of the existing monuments are shown below.

Location and Frequency: Existing monuments are shown in Figure S-2. Post signs for maximum visibility from public access roads.

Sample Entry Monument Text: “Mission Trails Regional Park—Cowles Mountain”

Size and Color: The color is typically white lettering on brown background and includes the MTRP logo



## MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK

### 4.2.2. SMALL ENTRANCE MONUMENTS

Description and Purpose: Small entrance monuments mark community entrances into MTRP. Photographs of the existing monuments are shown below.

Location and Frequency: Existing monuments are shown in Figure S-2. A few additional monuments have been recommended. Post signs for maximum visibility from public access roads.

Sample Entry Monument Text: “Mission Trails Regional Park—Old Mission Dam Historical Site”

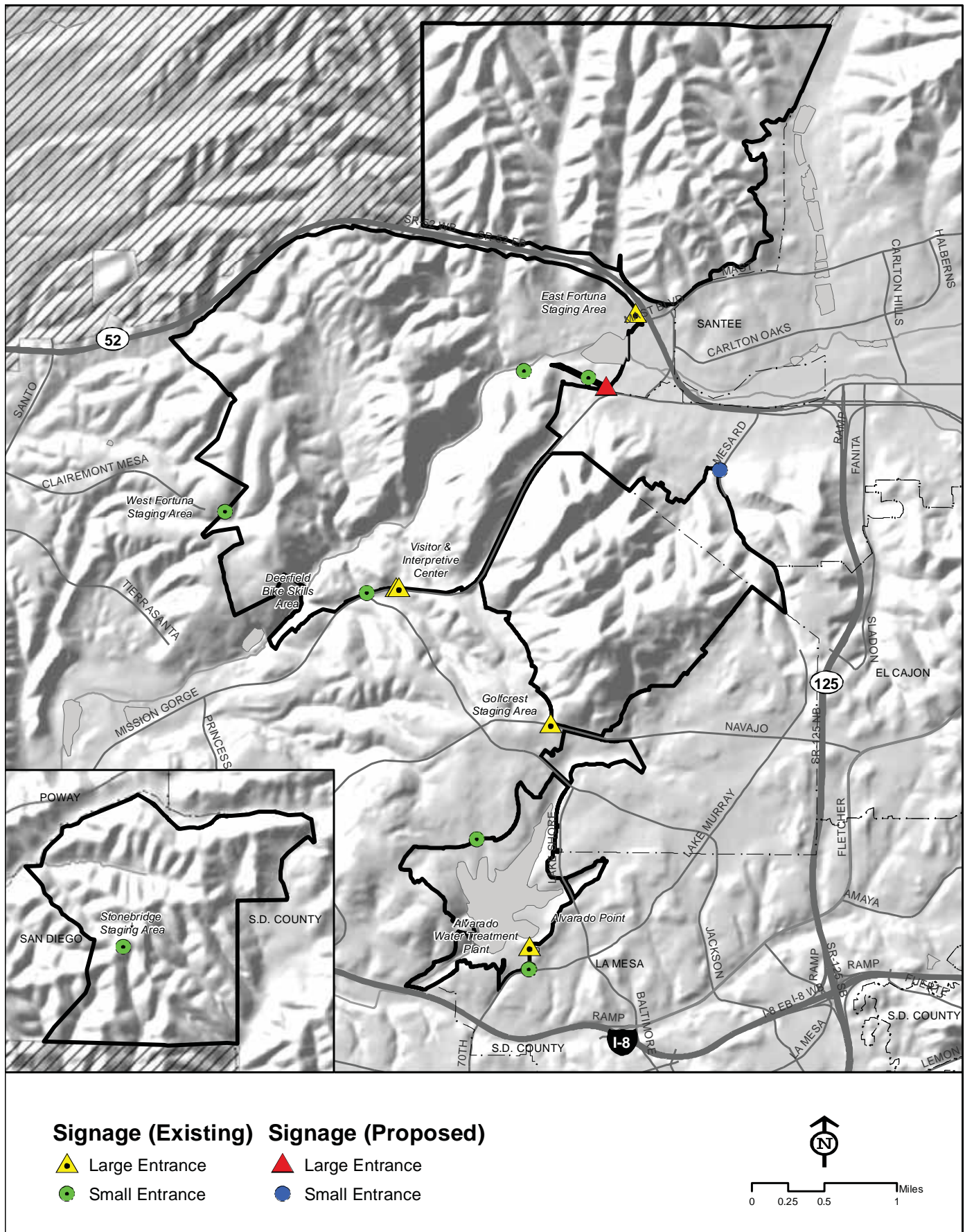
Size and Color: The color is typically white lettering on brown background and includes the MTRP logo





# 2019 PARK SIGNAGE PROGRAM

Figure S-2: Entry Monuments



# MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK

## 4.3. REGULATORY SIGNS

Regulatory signs, produced by the City of San Diego, delineate the permitted / non-permitted uses, applicable rules and regulations, trail edges, and the boundaries of MTRP.

### 4.3.1. PERMITTED USE (USAGE CONTROL) SIGNS

Description and Purpose: Permitted use signs provide information to park users about permitted and non-permitted uses of the park. Examples of these signs are shown below.

Location and Frequency: Post signs at all access points and other locations as appropriate.

Sample Permitted Use Sign Text: “Dogs must be on leash at all times” (emphasize permitted use; use a slash for non-permitted uses)

Size and Color: A variety of configurations are currently in use throughout MTRP.





## 2019 PARK SIGNAGE PROGRAM

### 4.3.2. ETIQUETTE SIGNS

Description and Purpose: Etiquette signs provide reminders of polite behavior for all parks users.

Location and Frequency: Post signs at all access points. Post trail etiquette signs before narrow, blind, or contentious sections of trail where trail user conflicts are likely, such as between bicyclists and equestrians. Example of etiquette signs are shown below.

Sample Etiquette Sign Text: “Yield to pedestrians,” “Ride and walk on the right,” “Warn others when passing from behind,” “Control speed!,” “Stay alert,” “Use caution around horses,” “Keep dogs on leash,” “No bicycles or horses”

Size and Color: The size and color may vary depending on application.



## MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK

### 4.3.3. BOUNDARY SIGNS

Description and Purpose: Boundary signs alert park users that they are at the boundary of MTRP and going any further is an act of trespass.

Location and Frequency: Post signs where trails / utility access roads enter/leave MTRP. Post signs where previous unauthorized trails trespassing onto adjacent property have been closed.

Sample Boundary Sign Text: “MTRP Boundary - Know Your Park Rules”, “MTRP Boundary-No Access Beyond This Point”

Size and Color: Letters should be blue on a white background.

Other Considerations: Signs should be two-sided.





## 2019 PARK SIGNAGE PROGRAM

### 4.4. INFORMATIONAL SIGNS

Informational signs produced by the City of San Diego provide information to park users, including the locations of entrances, information on the surrounding natural resources, distances of a trail, distances to key destinations, and locations of connector trails. All new signs shall meet accessibility guidelines per ABA-2013, Section 1017.11 and FSTAG-2013 Section 7.4.11.2 as described in the June 8, 2016 City of San Diego Memorandum titled 'Accessibility Signage' from the Open Space Division of the Park and Recreation Department

#### 4.4.1. TRAILHEAD KIOSK

Description and Purpose: Use trailhead kiosks to provide general information about the trail, navigational aids, and safety bulletins. Examples of Trailhead Kiosks are shown below.

Location and Frequency: Post signs at all primary trailhead locations within 50 feet of where the trail leaves the parking lot.

Sample Trailhead Information: Trailhead kiosk signs should include trail-specific information, such as: General trail information, Map of trail network, Description of local flora and fauna, Topographical map and trail profile, Trail length and elevation gain/loss, Technical difficulty and expected conditions, Safety information, Cautionary notes, Maintenance and emergency contact information. Trailhead information signs should indicate the number to contact in case of an emergency and provide a name of the trailhead that can be given to emergency responders.

Size and Color: The kiosk should include a roof and two to three information panels, or a roof with one two-sided panel.



## MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK

### 4.4.2. DESTINATION / JUNCTURE SIGNS

Description and Purpose: These signs show directions, distances and difficulty level to various destinations accessed by the trail network.

Location and Frequency: Post destination signs at trailheads, major junctions, and spur trails.

Sample Destination Sign Text: “Pyles Peak—0.2 miles ahead” (include a directional arrow to the destination)

Size and Color: Signs are typically 4-foot-high posts with aluminum panels attached to the post. Letters should be white on a brown background.

### 4.4.3. REASSURANCE MARKERS

Description and Purpose: Reassurance markers provide en-route reassurance of trail identity and visually mark the trail.

Location and Frequency: Post signs at points of confusion or at every 0.25 mile. Place signs on alternating sides of the trail. Sample Reassurance Marker Text: “North Fortuna Trail—0.25 miles, moderate difficulty”

Size and Color: The color should be white letters on brown background.





# 2019 PARK SIGNAGE PROGRAM

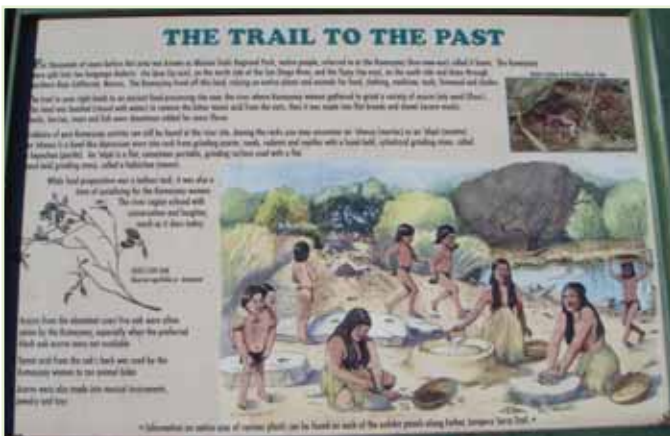
## 4.4.4. INTERPRETIVE SIGNS AND HISTORIC MONUMENTS

**Description and Purpose:** Provide interpretive signs that display information regarding the natural or cultural resources of a particular site, trail, or scenic vista.

**Location and Frequency:** Post signs at important interpretative features along trails, or at regular intervals along interpretative loop trails.

**Sample Interpretive Sign Text: "The Trail to the Past"**

**Size and Color:** Size and material of panel may vary.



# MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK





## **4.5. TRAIL NETWORK GRAPHICS AND MAPS**

Include trail network graphics and the MTRP logo on regulatory and informational signs:

### **4.5.1. YOU-ARE-HERE INDICATORS**

Description and Purpose: You-are-here indicators are optional markers that are included on interpretive signs or information kiosks to correlate the present physical location of a particular kiosk on a general trail map.

Location and Frequency: Symbolize you-are-here indicators, and include the symbol on the map legend.

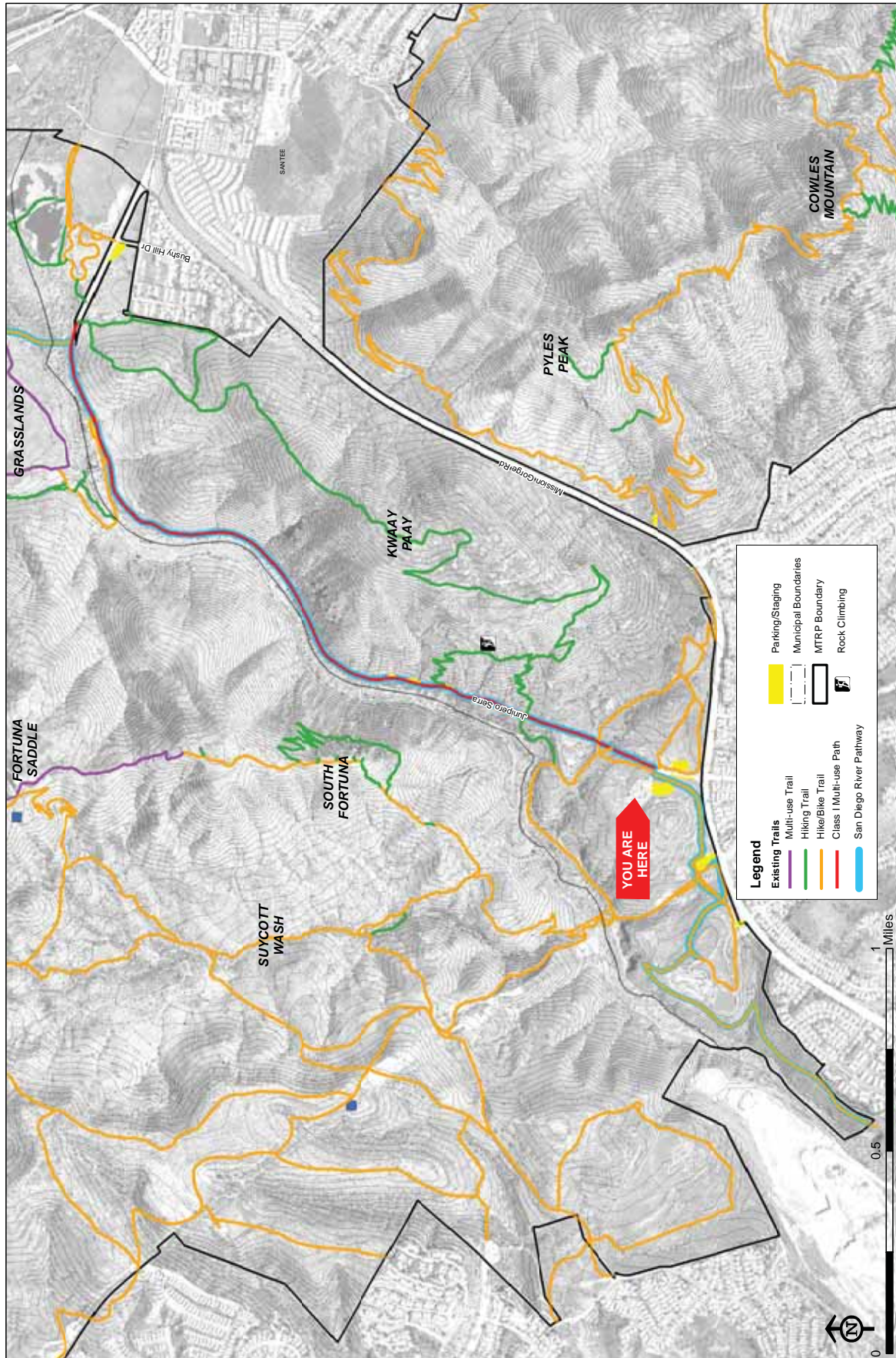
Sample You-Are-Here Text: “You are here” (include an arrow indicating the location of the sign)

Size and Color: The text should be larger than other map text, but should not dominate or distract from the map graphic.



# MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK

Figure S-3: Sample Trail Network Map





## 2019 PARK SIGNAGE PROGRAM

### 4.6. SIGN CONSTRUCTION DETAILS AND MATERIALS

Specifications for each sign type in terms of materials, background color, font color, and font size is included in Table S-1, *Sign Construction Details and Materials*.

*Table S-1: Sign Construction Details and Materials*

Type	Material	Background Color	Font Color
<i>Highway informational sign</i>	<i>Aluminum</i>	<i>Brown</i>	<i>White</i>
<i>Entrance Monument</i>	<i>Wood, plastic, synthetic</i>	<i>Brown</i>	<i>White</i>
<i>Permitted uses sign</i>	<i>Paint on aluminum or decal</i>	<i>Varies</i>	<i>Varies</i>
<i>Etiquette sign</i>	<i>Paint on aluminum or decal</i>	<i>Brown</i>	<i>White</i>
<i>Boundary sign</i>	<i>Paint on aluminum or decal</i>	<i>Brown</i>	<i>White</i>
<i>Trailhead kiosk sign</i>	<i>Wood</i>	<i>Varies</i>	<i>Varies</i>
<i>Destination sign</i>	<i>Paint on aluminum or decal</i>	<i>Brown</i>	<i>White</i>
<i>Reassurance marker</i>	<i>Paint on aluminum or decal</i>	<i>Brown</i>	<i>White</i>
<i>Juncture indicator</i>	<i>Paint on aluminum or decal</i>	<i>Brown</i>	<i>White</i>
<i>Interpretive sign</i>	<i>HPDE, metal, paint on aluminum, or other</i>	<i>Varies</i>	<i>Varies</i>
<i>HDPE = High-density Polyethylene</i>			

