

NOTICE OF PREPARATION FOR A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

LEAD AGENCY: California Department of Parks and Recreation (CDPR)

PROJECT NAME: Border Field State Park Resilience, Access and Habitat Restoration Project

LOCATION: Border Field State Park (BFSP) is located at 1500 Monument Road in the Cities of San Diego and Imperial Beach in the southwest corner of California, and immediately north of the United States-Mexico International Border. The Park is part of the Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve (TRNERR). The Project, as proposed, consists of upgrades to BFSP's vehicle access road alignment, which extends from Monument Road 1,100 feet east of the existing entrance kiosk, passes over the Goat Canyon sediment basins, runs along the base of Bunker Hill, and connects to the southern east-west leg of Monument Road. Refer to the following site map for the extent of project improvements.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The Project proposes to improve and relocate portions of Monument Road to address seasonal flooding of the existing roadway, provide improved public access to BFSP, establish resilience against the future effects of sea level rise (SLR) and improve the function of Tijuana Estuary including restoring native habitat and the removal of an existing approximately 2,300 foot road segment subject to regular flooding. The removed road segment would be realigned and an existing road segment would be elevated including the installation of box culverts and headwall systems to manage stormwater flows. The existing alignment and elevation of the roadway is subject to seasonal flooding in several locations caused by storm runoff from Goat Canyon and Yogurt Canyon, which convey flows from Tijuana, Mexico north into the United States. These flows result in Monument Road being flooded for a large portion of the year; thereby, preventing public access to BFSP and Monument Mesa. Project restoration would include the removal and restoration of approximately 2,300 feet of existing asphalt road, along with restoration of existing disturbed habitat adjacent to the roadway and within Border Field State Park.

Project Components

- **Proposed North-South Realignment.** Upgrade an existing dirt road to a 30-foot-wide Class II base road beginning just east of the existing entrance kiosk on Monument Road, which would then pass over the Goat Canyon sediment basins, run along the base of Bunker Hill, and connect to the southern east-west leg of Monument Road.
- **East-West Roadway Elevation.** Creation of approximately 1,000 feet of elevated asphalt concrete (A/C) roadway on Class II base road and installation of seven box culverts and headwalls. The road would be elevated 5 feet above existing grade to accommodate the new culvert system. A short access road to the Monument Mesa area would also be provided for maintenance purposes.
- **Equestrian Area.** Improvements to the existing equestrian staging area would be undertaken to reduce impacts to the surrounding wetlands and improve accessibility to the facilities. This includes the reconstruction of a parking lot including equestrian parking stalls and horse corrals.
- **Habitat Restoration.** A comprehensive habitat restoration plan is currently being developed and would include restoration of upland and wetland habitat areas within BFSP. Additionally, an approximately 2,300-foot length of existing asphalt road, running north-south through the estuary, would be removed. The road footprint would be filled with soil to existing grade and restored to the surrounding habitat types including salt and freshwater marsh. The restoration goals would include the management/control of non-native species, as well as improved habitat quality for wildlife usage, including foraging, nesting and breeding. Following plant establishment, a multi-year maintenance, monitoring and reporting period would be implemented.

Roadways

The North-South Realignment and East-West Roadway Elevation are classified as low-volume rural roads. The North-South Realignment would have a gravel surface and the East-West Roadway would have gravel surface for most of the length with A/C pavement used near the culverts over the Yogurt Canon discharge. These roadways would have two 12-foot-wide travel lanes and two shoulders (2-feet-wide and 4-feet-wide) and would accommodate a standard 45-foot bus template with a 125-foot minimum curve radius.

Culverts

The Project proposes the installation of seven precast culverts at three locations beneath Monument Road. The culverts would be 7-feet-wide by 3-feet-high. The culverts would be underlain by a 2-foot-thick layer of coarse aggregate wrapped in filter fabric.

SCHEDULE: Construction is currently anticipated to begin in Spring 2026 and occur over a period of approximately 12 months.

POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS: Environmental topics to be evaluated in the EIR include Aesthetics, Agricultural Resources, Air Quality, Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Energy, Geology and Soils, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Hydrology and Water Quality (including Sea Level Rise), Land Use and Planning, Mineral Resources, Noise, Population and Housing, Public Services, Recreation, Transportation, Tribal Cultural Resources, Utilities and Service Systems, and Wildfire.

PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING: CDPR is hosting an online public information meeting on **Wednesday May 7, 2025 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.** to present the Project and answer questions regarding the scope of the project and proposed environmental analysis. The public meeting will be held online. Please use the following link to register. The link to attend the meeting will be forwarded to the email address provided when registering. [Online Public Meeting Registration](#)

REVIEW AND COMMENT PERIOD: CDPR invites you to comment on the project and potential environmental impacts in advance of preparation of the Draft EIR. The NOP is available for review from **April 2, 2025 to May 21, 2025**. Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15082, responsible and trustee agencies and other interested parties, including members of the public, must submit any comments in response to this notice no later than **12:00 a.m. on May 22, 2025**, to the following:

Via email: enviro@parks.ca.gov including the subject "Border Field RAHR"

Via mail: Luke Serna, Associate Park & Recreation Specialist
California Department of Parks and Recreation, Southern Service Center
2797 Truxtun Road
San Diego, California 92106

During this period, the NOP (this notice) will be available for review at

California State Parks

https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=983

Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve

<https://trnerr.org/about/public-notice/>

FURTHER INFORMATION/LEAD AGENCY CONTACT: For environmental review information, please contact Luke Serna at enviro@parks.ca.gov.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Project Location Map



Figure 2.3: Existing and Proposed Road Alignment

2022-270.02 Border Field State Park Resilient Access
and Habitat Restoration Project