

RIVERSIDE COUNTY  
*Regional Park And Open-Space District*



4600 Crestmore Road • Riverside, CA 92509-6858 • (951) 955-4510

Fax (951) 955-4505

PAUL FRANSEN

General Manager

January 6, 2009

Ms Cathy Bechtel  
Project Delivery Director  
Riverside County Transportation Commission  
P.O. Box 12008  
Riverside, California 92502-2208

RECEIVED  
JAN 08 2009

RIVERSIDE COUNTY  
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

**RE: Draft EIR/EIS/Section 4(F) for the Mid-County Parkway Project  
Riverside County California**

Dear Ms. Bechtel:

The Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District has completed its initial review of the above referenced document and offers the following comments:

**3.6.2.1 Baseline Traffic Conditions**  
**Subsection Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities**

The County of Riverside's Trail Classifications currently consist of four (4) classifications:

**Class 1 Bikeways:** The trails consisting of a paved width of twelve feet within a twenty foot minimum easement or additional "right of way" usually located outside of but adjacent to the ultimate road "right of way". The trails are designed primarily for bicycle use as alternate commuter routes but can accommodate, all other non motorized trail uses.

**Regional Trails:** The trails are soft surface trails having a stabilized decomposed granite surface. The trail width is a minimum of ten feet within a twenty foot easement or additional "right of way" usually located outside of but adjacent to the ultimate road "right of way". In addition these trails can meander through open-space areas within Riverside County. These trails are designed for non-motorized multi-purpose use including, walkers, joggers, bikers, and equestrians.

**Combination Trails:** The trails are a combination of a Class I Bikeway and Regional trails within the same easement or "right of way" area. The trail tread widths are as designed for the respective trail type. These trails require a minimum easement width of thirty feet and are located outside of but adjacent to the ultimate road "right of way". These trails are not always bound to be adjacent to road "right of way" and like Regional Trails can meander through open-space areas.

Community Trails: The trails are soft surface trails having a stabilized decomposed granite surface. The minimum trail width is eight feet within a fourteen foot easement or additional "right of way" usually located outside of the ultimate road "right of way". These trails are designed for multi-purpose use including, walkers, joggers, bikers, and equestrians.

The above classifications are referred to in the document but are not clearly defined. They have been combined with City trail classifications and with discussion of sidewalks. The above trail classification is under the jurisdiction of the Regional Park and Open-Space District. The District has no authority or responsibility with trails systems within City limits or regarding sidewalks. All of the referenced trail systems have different management authority. The discussion regarding the County's Trail Network, City Trails and sidewalks need to be addressed separately.

#### Figure 3.6.3 General Plan Trails:

The proposed composite trail map for the alignment corridor is based on information mapped in the County's currently adopted General Plan. The Regional Park and Open-Space District, TLMA Transportation and County Planning have been working collaboratively to remap and update the County's Trail Network for the new General Plan cycle. The draft maps were completed in December, 2008 and are currently being field verified.

The information provided in these maps provides a much more accurate representation of the County's Trail Network. The map as was compiled in the graphic will not allow the project proponent to fully assess the impacts to the County's Trails Network and address mitigation of impacts the proposed project. The project proponent will need to up-date its mapping of trails for this document based on the County's new trail mapping. This information is available from either Jerry Jolliffe at County Planning or Marc Brewer at the Regional Park and Open-Space District.

General Trail Comments: As noted in the comments to Figure 3.6.3 General Trails Plan the County staff has completely remapped the trail network within Riverside County. The proposed project will have the potential to impact the system in the following:

- The proposed route is an east/west route. It will potentially sever all north/ south trail routes in the proposed alignment corridor. The trail routes being severed accommodate all classifications within the County's system. The rural/equestrian communities bisected by the alignment will be most heavily impacted. The proponent will need to address trail connectivity issues for all trail classifications and users as the project continues to develop.
- The County's only east/west crossing of the I-215 corridor is located on the Placentia Avenue Bridge between Mead Valley and the cities of Moreno Valley and Perris. It is a critical link for the trail network. The District understands this bridge is to be replaced as part of the parkway project. The District requests the replacement bridge provide trail crossings at this connection point.
- The proposed parkway project affords the County and project proponent the opportunity to create alternate urban commuter routes within its corridor. The document suggests there is no need to provide Class I Bikeways as part of the project because the County has historically tried to locate this trail type outside of road "right of way" and is not part

of the project. The project proponent is an agency that provides multimodal method of transportation. Alternate transportation methods are ideally suited to this type of project and should be included as part of its development.

General Park Comments: The preferred project alignment may impact the District's Harford Springs Reserve located in the Gavlin Hills area of unincorporated County. The facility approximately 527 acres is known to have both endangered plant and animal species including Munz's onion, mature riparian Oak Woodlands, Stephen's Kangaroo Rat, California Gnat Catcher and numerous threaten but currently unlisted species. Additionally, several developments proposed projects within the immediate vicinity of the reserve are proposing to donate acreage to increase the District's land holding as part of the reserve. The District anticipates the project proponent will more fully analyze the potential long and short term project impacts on the reserve and mitigate these impacts in a manner approved by the District.

Should you or the proponent have any question regarding this letter please contact me at 951.955.4316 or by email at [mbrewer@co.riverside.ca.us](mailto:mbrewer@co.riverside.ca.us).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Marc Brewer', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Marc Brewer  
Senior Planner