



City of Del Mar Agenda Report

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council Members

FROM: Beth Murray, Senior Management Analyst
Kristen M. Crane, Assistant City Manager
Via Ashley Jones, Interim City Manager

DATE: September 20, 2021

SUBJECT: Presentation by SANDAG and NCTD on San Dieguito Double Track Project

REQUESTED ACTION/RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the City Council receive the presentation by staff from the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) and North County Transit District (NCTD) on the San Dieguito Double Track Project (Attachment A).

BACKGROUND:

The San Dieguito Double Track Project has been in the planning stages since 2010. Previous public outreach efforts were conducted for Del Mar residents from 2013 to 2016 and included the convening of a Del Mar Citizens Ad-Hoc Committee, technical working group meetings, and presentations to the City Council.

The project will include a new bridge across San Dieguito River, the addition of 1.1 miles of second mainline rail track between Solana Beach and Del Mar, the addition of a special events platform at the Del Mar Fairgrounds for North County Transit District (NCTD) Coaster and Amtrak Pacific Surfliner trains, and a pedestrian undercrossing. The new special events platform to be located at the Del Mar Fairgrounds adjacent to its west parking lot, will serve special events at the Fairgrounds, including the Del Mar racing season and the San Diego County Fair.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT:

The proposed City Council action does not constitute a “project” under the definition set forth in California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15378 because it will not have a potential to result in a direct or indirect physical change in the environment and is, therefore, not subject to CEQA. No further action under CEQA is required.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment A – San Dieguito Double Track Project Update – September 20, 2021

City Council Action:



2

III. Project Phasing



Phase 1

- Solana Beach Double Track
- Relocate Stevens Creek
- Advanced Utility Relocation (City of Del Mar)
- Optional SDG&E and Fire Main (Fairgrounds)

Phase 2 – Not Funded

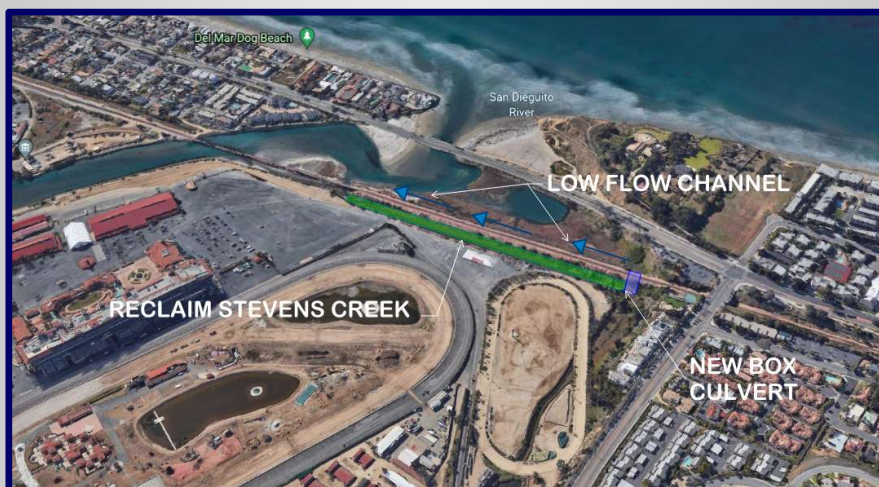
- Double Track Bridge
- Special Events Platform
- Double Track South of River
- Track Realignment South of VDLV

5

5

Stevens Creek Realignment

- Expand San Dieguito Lagoon
- Moves Alignment Rail Alignment Toward Fairgrounds
- Located as Far North as Possible



6

6

Del Mar City Council Presentation September 20, 2021

IV. Improvements in the City of Del Mar

- Phase 1: Water and Sewer Relocation
- Phase 2: Pedestrian Undercrossing




7

7

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IV. Phase 2 – Pedestrian Undercrossing



8

8

VII. Communications Plan

Goals

- Educate the public about the goals and objectives of the project
- Ensure an open and transparent process
- Provide opportunities for feedback

Activities

- 3rd party presentations and meetings
- Project website
- Social media
- Email blasts
- Community open house(s)
- Media outreach

11

11

Questions and Answers



12

12

Project Contacts:

Bruce Smith, PE
Principal Engineer

Email: bsm@sandag.org

Phone: (619) 699-1907

Angela Anderson, PE
Senior Engineer

Email: aan@sandag.org

Phone: (619) 699-6934

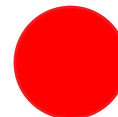
Connect with Us:

Website: KeepSanDiegoMoving.com/SanDieguitoDoubleTrack

Email: LOSSANRail@KeepSanDiegoMoving.com

Hotline: (858) 549-RAIL

13



From: Camilla Rang <camillarang@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 18, 2021 4:01 PM
To: City Clerk Mail Box
Subject: Red dot for Item #1 on Del Mar City Council 09.20.21

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear City Council, SANDAG and NCTD,

I have questions in regards to the planned double track at the Fairground.

- 1/ Are the tracks planned to fit all the five options for relocating the tracks from the Del Mar bluff inland?
- 2/Is the environmental protection of the lagoon taken into consideration, i.e. as little cut-in as possible or an Environmental Impact Study?
- 3/Is it really necessary to cut so much into the east side of the rails on the bluff that it removes the out door area for the people living there that they have enjoyed since the houses were built?
- 4/ Has there been a noise and environmental study of how much the double track will affect the community living close by?

Sincerely,

Camilla Rang
159 10th Street, Del Mar, CA 92014
Cell: 858 353 1948



From: City Clerk Mail Box
Subject: FW: Red-Dot Public Comment: 9/20/19 City Council Meeting - Item 1

From: Weiss, Shirli <shirli.weiss@dlapiper.com>
Sent: Monday, September 20, 2021 8:31 AM
To: City Clerk Mail Box <CityClerk@delmar.ca.us>
Cc: Ashley Jones <ajones@delmar.ca.us>
Subject: Red-Dot Public Comment: 9/20/19 City Council Meeting

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Dear City Council and Invited Representatives of SANDAG:

I am a 20-year resident of Del Mar and have practiced law in San Diego for over 43 years. I have read SANDAG's PPT Presentation updating the San Dieguito Double Track Project ("SDDT") and prior publications; I am familiar with the history of failures along Del Mar's sensitive 1.6 miles of ocean Bluff as a resident and have reviewed a number of expert reports and consulted geologists on the topic.

In brief, the stated goals of SDDT, a project conceived in 2010 before the more recent Del Mar Bluff failures, include double tracking Solana Beach and erecting an events platform with the intent of dramatically increasing the volume, speed, and frequency of trains for freight, Fairground events and ridership, **doubling trains by 2030.**

But since SDDT's conception, continuing Bluff failures, (despite repeated efforts at stabilization), have forced SANDAG and NCTD to acknowledge the **urgency of relocating the tracks off the fragile Del Mar Bluffs;** plans to do so have commenced.

While on paper the reduction of vehicle traffic is an admirable goal, here SANDAG's *sequencing* is the problem: implementation of SDDT and correlating dramatic increases in volume, speed and frequency of train traffic over the Del Mar Bluffs *prior to* track relocation off the Del Mar Bluffs poses a foreseeable and unacceptable risk.

Revisit if you will, the more recent Bluff failures and facts:

- **During August and December 2018** alone there were 4 bluff failures: **August 22, Sept 27, Oct 5 and Dec 24;** none of these failures were anticipated by NCTD or SANDAG;
- One collapse was 25 ft wide, another reportedly 50 ft wide.
- Dogs were brought in to search for possible victims of the collapse again demonstrating bluff failures pose risks to beach walkers as well as train riders;
- Adam Young, a researcher at Scripps Institute of Oceanography who estimated that the bluffs were eroding a long term average of 6 inches per year described the 2018 collapsed as **"20 years of retreat happening overnight"** and compared the collapsed to **"the aftershock of an earthquake"**.
- 2/28/21: Bluff collapsed south of 4th street only 35 ft from the tracks prompting emergency repairs; Storm water runoff in heavy rains Thanksgiving week in 2019 threatened the tracks and delayed trains just north of the 2/28 collapse;

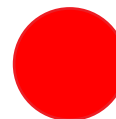
- At that time the transit district and SANDAG admitted another bluff failure is possible due to cracks observed at the top of the bluffs. (They nonetheless proceeded with train service albeit at a reduced speed).
- **Sept 16, 2021:** Metrolink suspended rail service to Oceanside to make emergency repairs due to earth movement; Freight trains were slowed;
- NCTD is seeking to **drill hundreds of holes for fencing along Del Mar's Bluffs which will further destabilize the Bluffs within the next year.**
- **There have been no studies that even pretend to support the safety of the Bluffs for the vibration and erosion that will be caused by projected increased speed, volume and frequency of trains that will result from the SDDT and impact the Del Mar Bluffs.**

The trains must be moved off the tracks *before* NCTD and SANDAG increase the volume, speed, and frequency of the trains on the Del Mar Bluffs due to SDDT or otherwise; all drilling for fencing must be stayed in light of the fragility of the Bluffs.

Thank you for your attention,

Respectfully Submitted,
Shirli Weiss
551 Stratford Court and
116 Spinnaker Court
Del Mar, CA.
858.449.4850

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From: Laura Schaefer <ls@boyce-schaefer.com>
Sent: Monday, September 20, 2021 12:04 PM
To: City Clerk Mail Box
Subject: Bluff/Railroad item red dot letter

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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Dear City Council and Invited Representatives of SANDAG:

I am a long-term resident of Del Mar. I am very concerned about this latest double tracking proposal and the significant increase in rail activity planned by NCTD increasing the volume, speed, and frequency of trains along this section of the LOSSAN corridor. Given the history of repeated bluff failures in Del Mar, this proposal creates an unacceptable risk to passenger safety and threatens to destroy the fragile bluff area. The train should be relocated before such a proposal is contemplated.

Laura Schaefer

Boyce & Schaefer
934 23rd St.
San Diego, CA 92102
619-232-3320

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From: Camilla Rang <camillarang@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, September 20, 2021 11:46 AM
To: City Clerk Mail Box
Subject: Red dot letter Item number 1 and 2

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Dear Sandag and City Council,

While we appreciate SANDAG's attempted efforts in minimizing the erosion of the bluff, please know that the best - and only way, would be to relocate the train OFF the bluff for everyone's safety. NOT to double track the Fairground and INCREASE the traffic. The way the bluff looks today, it is absolutely insane to still have the train running, not to mention increasing the traffic AND allowing NCTD to DRILL 2,000 holes into the already very fragile bluff. The only thing that will accomplish is to create 2,000 more opportunities for water to seep into the bluff and erode it even faster.

As everyone knows, the erosion is coming from run-off from land and rain. That risk should be Decreased, not INcreased by 2,000 new holes and increased train traffic.

Concentrate on the important things: Get the train off the bluff. Minimize the risk for run-off to seep into the bluff.

Sincerely,

Camilla Rang
159 10th Street, Del Mar, CA 92014
Cell: 858 353 1948