

# SR 76 Middle Project Construction Update #8

Spring 2012

## Reaching Milestones on SR 76

Construction, both visible and not so visible to the traveling public, continues on the State Route 76 (SR 76) Middle Project. We're happy to report steady progress.

**Visible Work Activities:** Crews are busily constructing the westbound lanes from Melrose Drive to East Vista Way. This work includes moving dirt to build up the roadbed and match the recently completed highway lanes.

The temporary detour configuration to Thoroughbred Lane is allowing workers to reconstruct this connection to SR 76.

In upcoming months, work will take place at Olive Hill Road to raise the grade along the north side of the intersection to tie into the new highway.

Also, a retaining wall will be built at the northeast section of East Vista Way. The old Ostrich Farms Creek Bridge, which has been replaced by a new bridge, will be removed and work will continue on the Bonsall Creek Bridge, which is now halfway complete.

Workers also are continuing to build wildlife directional fencing, which will direct wildlife away from traffic on the corridor. The poles for the fencing are now installed along the south side

of the corridor. Fencing is one way that the project is protecting the natural environment in order to provide a net ecological benefit along the SR 76 corridor.

**Not So Visible Work Activities:** Crews continue to construct the drainage system, which is already 75 percent complete. This drainage system will help divert runoff from, and prevent flooding of the highway.

Also, work will continue at night when the traffic is lighter to install permanent safety barriers near the roadway.

## A Look Back at the San Luis Rey River Bridge Construction



Area prior to bridge construction.



Construction of frame 1, structure on the east side of the new bridge.



Construction of frame 3, structure on the west side of the new bridge.



The newly constructed San Luis Rey River Bridge.

## San Luis Rey River Bridge Fun Facts

### Materials

- Four million pounds of steel bars were used for its construction.
- Nearly 12,000 cubic yards of concrete were poured into the bridge (That's enough to build 2,360 driveways).

### Columns and Foundation

- Each of the 18 columns is flared, so that the diameter on top is larger than the diameter at the bottom.
- These columns sit atop steel and concrete pile foundations.
- The deepest pile is anchored 90 feet into solid rock.

### Construction

- The bridge took two years to build and is 1,700 feet in length.

## Behind the Bridge: Meet Phong Le and The Bridge Team

This month's featured team member is Phong Le, Caltrans Structure Representative. He is responsible for all structure-related items for the bridges in this project. In total, this project includes four bridges: San Luis Rey River Bridge, Wild Animal Undercrossing Bridge, Bonsall Creek Bridge, and Ostrich Farms Creek Bridge. He and the team work on all these structures to make sure they are safe and sturdy. We are happy to feature him in this issue's interview.



The Caltrans Bridge Team: (Top from left to right - Waad Rafou, Purismo "Ris" Rosal, Phong Le. Bottom - Juan Torres Jr.)

**What do you do on a daily basis?** I conduct quality assurance to ensure that the structures are built according to the contract documents.

**What do you love about the job?** It is rewarding to take something conceptual and manifest it into something physical.

**What is the greatest challenge of the job?** The greatest challenge on this project is building a bridge over a river. You have to time the construction very carefully because the water levels in the river change with the weather.

**What is your proudest accomplishment on the job this far?** Being able to work as a team, both internally with Caltrans staff and externally working with contractors. There's a good feeling you get when your team works well together like a well-oiled machine. You can get things done efficiently and smoothly, and have fun doing the work together.

**What is your favorite fun fact about the San Luis Rey River Bridge?** It is a flared, curved nine-span bridge. That means the bridge width is wider at one end than the other. It is not straight, but curved, and it has nine column sets that support it.

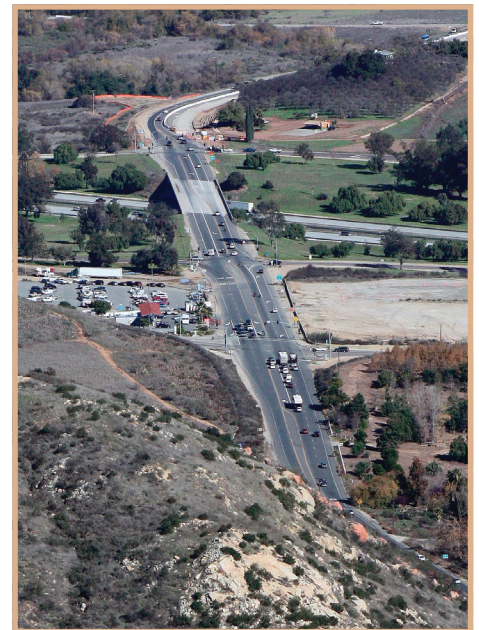
**What do you do in your spare time?** Spend time with the family and kids. I also like to fish.

## The Last Piece of the Corridor

The East Segment is the third and final link between I-5 and I-15 to go into construction. The project will invest \$201 million in improving the area between South Mission Road and I-15.

Construction will be in two parts. First, this summer, construction will focus on improving the SR 76/I-15 interchange. Then, in fall 2013, construction will begin on the roadway to widen it from its existing two lanes to four.

Construction is scheduled to be completed in 2015.



SR 76/I-15 Interchange

### Question of the Quarter



Nesy Burgers at Pala Mesa Market shopping area

### Where Is Nesy Burgers Now?

Fret not, burger lovers. A local favorite eatery, Nesy Burgers, is back. Its previous location was needed to expand the roadway's East Segment. The landmark burger joint relocated to a new home only 200 yards away. It's now on the west side of Old Highway 395 in the Pala Mesa Market shopping area.