

State Route 76 Corridor Frequently Asked Questions Series

Welcome to an informational series about the State Route 76 (SR-76) Corridor. This series will answer frequently asked questions about improvements to the corridor's travel, safety and environment. This month's question is:

Protecting, Preserving, and Restoring Natural Habitat



Question:

What environmental improvements are planned to support the habitat and native vegetation along the San Luis Rey River?

Answer:

The *TransNet* Environmental Mitigation Program has slated \$80 million to protect, preserve, and restore habitat adjacent to State Route 76 (SR-76) between I-5 and I-15. Through this program, land for mitigation purposes can be purchased prior to project impacts at a lower cost in support of conservation plans in the transportation corridors. Currently, close to 1,600 acres have been acquired along the San Luis Rey River and its tributaries.

Environmental improvements include:

- ▶ Constructing permanent animal crossings underneath the highway to facilitate safe wildlife movement through the river corridor.
- ▶ Installing fencing to direct wildlife to the animal crossings.
- ▶ Creating, preserving, and restoring habitat areas along the river with native vegetation, which in turn will make these areas ideal homes for native species of toads, gnatcatchers and song birds.
- ▶ Securing land to create a continuous wildlife corridor along the river and keep wildlife populations in the area connected.

SR-76 is part of the *TransNet* Early Action Program and is one of three transportation improvement projects that is required to provide a net ecological benefit, which means there is a gain in environmental value in comparison with the impacts to the environment. To learn more about the *TransNet* Early Action Program please visit www.KeepSanDiegoMoving.com.

Thank you for your continuing interest while we work to provide you with more reliable travel choices, improve the corridor's community and natural resources, and sustain economic growth.

Allan Kosup,
Corridor Director