



Build NCC Ribbon Cutting and Exploration Day – Saturday, June 4, 2022

Caltrans and SANDAG’s Build NCC Ribbon Cutting and Exploration Day began with a ribbon cutting ceremony at the new bike and pedestrian suspension bridge. Then, visitors enjoyed the new biking and walking trails, explored the San Elijo Lagoon Ecological Reserve, tested out e-bikes, and enjoyed refreshments.

The event celebrated environmental and transportation improvements that were five years in the making, including:

- A 1.5-mile rail double-track through the San Elijo Lagoon
- Safe biking and walking enhancements at Encinitas Boulevard and Santa Fe Drive I-5 interchanges
- Nine new miles of Carpool/HOV Lanes on I-5
- The restoration of the San Elijo Lagoon – a \$124 million investment as part of the SANDAG TransNet Environmental Mitigation Program

If you missed it, check out the [Explorer’s Guide](#) to learn about the new bikeways and walkways, and watch highlights from the event [here!](#)



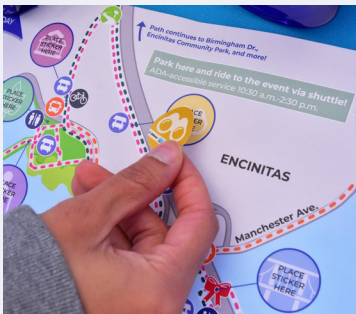
Festivities began with a Ribbon Cutting ceremony to celebrate the improvements in and around the San Elijo Lagoon Ecological Reserve including a 154 acre restoration and creation of new biking and pedestrian trails.



Visitors enjoyed the new extension of the Solana Hills walking and biking path which runs along the west side of Interstate 5, south of Manchester Avenue.



Visitors walked and biked to the newly enhanced I-5 Vista Point to experience the panoramic view of all the improvements to the San Elijo Lagoon Ecological Reserve and surrounding community.



Visitors of all ages could pick up their Explorer’s Guide at any of the 5 stations through the Exploration Day area. Explorers who collected stickers from each of the 5 stations could bring home a commemorative event water bottle to bring on future adventures.



Our agency partners provided support for our guests with opportunities to meet local animals at the San Elijo Lagoon Ecological Reserve and Nature Center or try out an e-bike from Encinitas BCycle.



Visitors on walking paths took photos to capture the incredible sights from the new trails.



Bicyclists head south on the completed suspension bridge - catching a refreshing breeze with a beautiful view.



Learn more about our event partners at our Ribbon Cutting and Exploration Day:



Nature Collective

Nature Collective is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to driving a passion for nature, for all. As one of the managing partners of San Elijo Lagoon, they are excited to celebrate the completion of the restoration project after a 5-year partnership.



Encinitas BCycle

Encinitas BCycle delivers a best-in-class bike share system for the City of Encinitas and is committed to providing an environmentally sustainable transportation alternative for cities. Residents and visitors can rent and return the shared bikes from BCycle stations, located along and around the Coast Highway, from Leucadia to Cardiff. Every bike has an attached battery that provides power with each pedal stroke, making it easier for any rider to get further faster. Encinitas BCycle believes that bike share has a valuable role in public transit and is on a mission to change the world by getting more people on bikes.



San Diego County Bike Coalition

The San Diego County Bicycle Coalition advocates for and protects the rights of all people who ride bicycles. They promote bicycling as a mainstream, safe, and enjoyable form of transportation and recreation. Since 1987, they have acted as a voice for bicyclists in the region and have advocated for safer streets and hundreds of miles of bike paths, lanes and trails all across the San Diego region. They conduct educational programs, promote awareness of bicyclists and bicycling issues, review infrastructure improvements, and act as a voice for bicyclists to elected officials and decision makers all over San Diego County.



City of Encinitas

Located along six miles of Pacific Ocean coastline in northern San Diego County, Encinitas has an approximate population of 62,000 and is characterized by coastal beaches, flat-topped coastal areas, steep mesa bluffs and rolling hills. The city was incorporated in 1986, drawing together the communities of New Encinitas, Old Encinitas, Cardiff-by-the-Sea, Olivenhain and Leucadia.



San Elijo Water Campus

San Elijo Joint Powers Authority (SEJPA) is a public agency in North County San Diego that provides clean water services (wastewater, stormwater, recycled water) to the cities of Encinitas, Solana Beach, and Del Mar, as well as portions of Rancho Santa Fe. Their mission is to provide sustainable water solutions through recycling and coastal water protection in collaboration with local water districts and cities.



County of San Diego Parks and Recreation

The County of San Diego Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) manages 156 parks across the County, balancing efforts to expand recreation opportunity with those that protect and preserve our region's land and local history. Projects are underway every day to improve habitats and protect species, and the restoration of the San Elijo Lagoon is a huge win for the public as well as the staff who manage the almost 1000-acre lagoon ecological reserve, paths and nature center. Throughout the construction process, staff have been directing visitors to safe and open trail routes while providing general information about this integral project – generating excitement about trail extensions and better connectivity and accessibility between routes.

Our other partners include:

