

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

455 MARKET STREET, SUITE 300
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94105
VOICE (415) 904-5200
FAX (415) 904-5400
WWW.COASTAL.CA.GOV



*****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*****

Coastal commission approves bike lane, safety upgrades for El Camino Real bridge in San Diego

The El Camino Real bridge over the San Dieguito River will soon receive significant mobility and safety upgrades, including protected bike lanes and pedestrian walkways.

The California Coastal Commission unanimously approved on Thursday the city of San Diego's proposal to replace the aging bridge with a new four-lane structure built to modern standards. The current bridge, located between San Dieguito Road and Via de la Valle, has been identified as seismically unsound.

"This new bridge is a win for public safety and the environment," said Imperial Beach Mayor Paloma Aguirre, who also serves on the commission. "Adding bike lanes and sidewalks will give folks more access options in our ongoing fight against climate change."

The project includes numerous environmental upgrades, including fencing to protect habitat, biofiltration basins to protect water quality and wildlife-sensitive lighting. The new design also eliminates existing bottlenecks on either side of the bridge, where two-lanes roads narrow to a single lane in each direction.

An equestrian-friendly multi-use trail will be created beneath the north side of the new bridge, connecting to an existing coastal trail to the west and eventually to a segment of the planned Crest to Coast Trail.

To minimize traffic congestion, the project will keep vehicles on the existing roadway during construction. The old structure will be demolished once the new bridge is open to traffic.

Contact: Joshua Smith, (415) 200-8052

Staff Report: <https://documents.coastal.ca.gov/reports/2024/3/Th16a/Th16a-3-2024-report.pdf>