

FACT SHEET
POTENTIAL REMOVAL OF
SAN DIEGUITO RIVER PARK BOARDWALK TRAIL

- The Boardwalk Trail, built in 2006, is located on the southern edge of the Fairgrounds South Lot parking area and is for pedestrian use. Viewing platforms, scopes, and educational interpretive signs provide opportunities for nature study.
- The boardwalk was financed with funds from the State Coastal Conservancy and Federal Transportation Enhancement Activities program, and partially built by volunteers including the Del Mar Rotary who installed all the boardwalk planks.
- Ongoing maintenance is provided through donations made by selling name plates on the boardwalk planks. Approximately 545 name plates have been installed along the edge of the boardwalk.
- The Fairgrounds south lot is currently being converted to a new wetland by the 22nd Agricultural Association – Phase I started in February 2014 restoring 3 acres of the parking lot to wetland habitat. Phase II (the remaining parking area) is required by a California Coastal Commission (CCC) order and is anticipated to be done in 2015.
- As required by the CCC, the 22nd DAA staff prepared a detailed restoration plan for the Phase II restoration, but is now being told to prepare a new plan without the boardwalk trail and that the boardwalk trail will be removed.
- The original coastal permit for the boardwalk trail (2005) required a note be placed on the project plans that “the boardwalk shall be addressed in the coastal development permit for the wetlands restoration of the South Overflow Lot and the boardwalk may be relocated at that time”.
- A coastal permit for the SOL restoration was approved by the CCC on February 13, 2014. The permit does not require the boardwalk trail be removed. No public process has occurred that would give the public (or the JPA) a chance to weigh in on the boardwalk’s existence or relocation. The opportunity for the Coastal Commission to “address” the boardwalk, as described in the permit condition quoted above, and to discuss possible removal of the boardwalk was when the Commission approved the 22nd DAA’s plans for the south overflow lot. There was no such public discussion, nor has a case been made that removal is necessary.
- The CCC needs to hear from the surrounding community that the boardwalk is a valuable community asset that provides educational and recreational access to the coastal wetlands and should not be removed.