Border Field State Park Resilience, Access, and Habitat Restoration Project

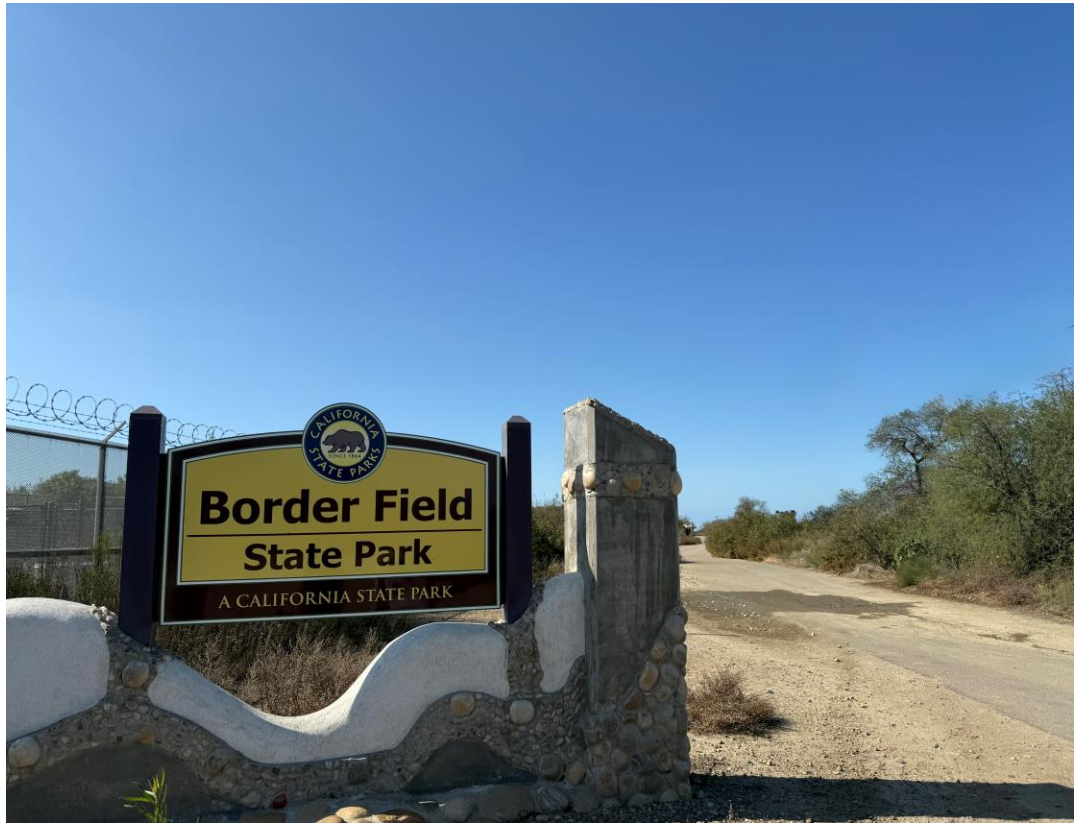
Public Information Meeting

April 17, 2025 - 5:30 PM to 7:00PM

Introductions

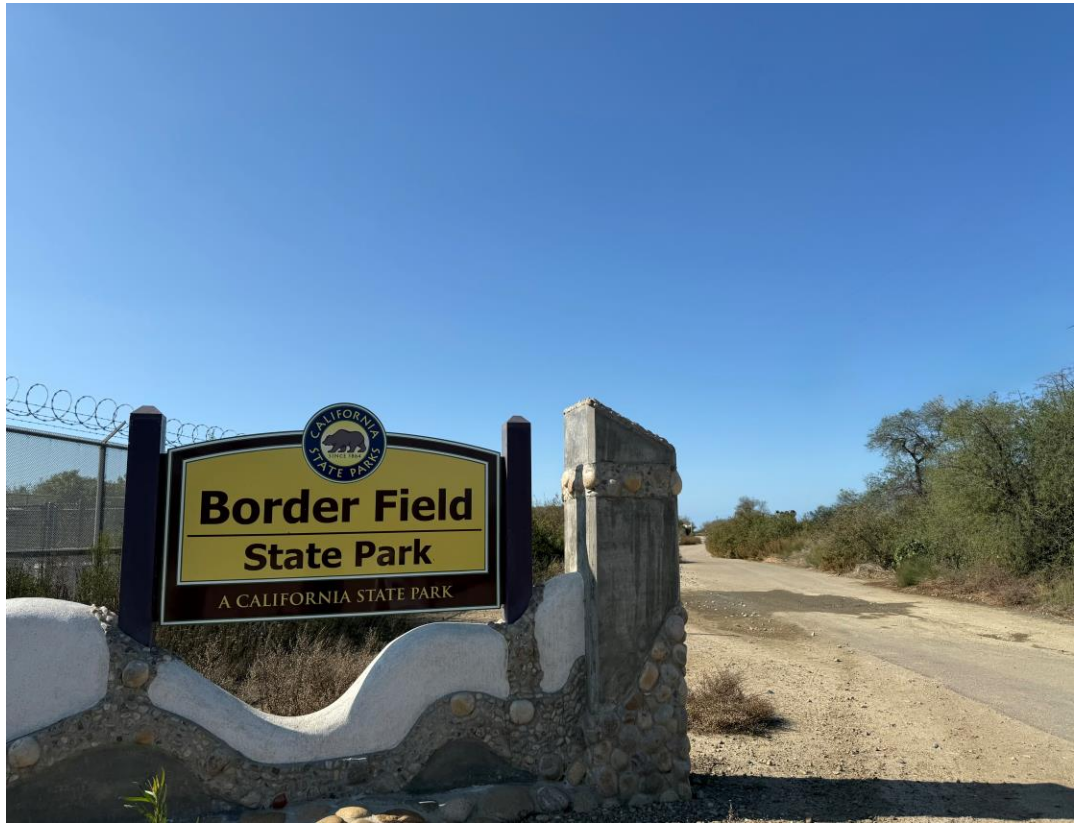
- **California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR)**
  - *Jim Engelke, Project Manager*
  - *Luke Serna, Environmental Coordinator*
  - *Aly Velloze, Project Environmental Scientist*
  - *Debbie Waldecker, Senior Environmental Scientist*
  - *Gregory Stone, PE, Senior Civil Engineer*
  - *Joanna Collier, Senior State Archaeologist*
  - *Chris Peregrin, Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve Manager*
  - *Ariana Yanez, San Diego Coast District Archaeologist/Tribal Liaison*
- **ECORP Consulting, Inc.**
  - *David Atwater, Senior Environmental Planner*
  - *Jesus "Freddie" Olmos, Principal Environmental Planner*
  - *Samantha Alfaro, Associate Environmental Planner*

Meeting Purpose



- This meeting will provide an introduction to the Project and is intended to be an informal "Open House" meeting.
- DPR is currently accepting written comments from the public to solicit input on the scope and content of the forthcoming Environmental Impact Report (EIR) via the Notice of Preparation (NOP). The NOP comment period ends May 1, 2025.
- The NOP is currently available for review, with release of the environmental document later this year, which will afford the public a second opportunity to formally comment on its contents.

Meeting Agenda



- Introductions
- Project Background
- Project Purpose
- Access Improvement Components
- Biological Resource Surveys
- Proposed Construction Approach & Timing
- Environmental Review Process
- Regulatory Permits & Approvals

Getting Started

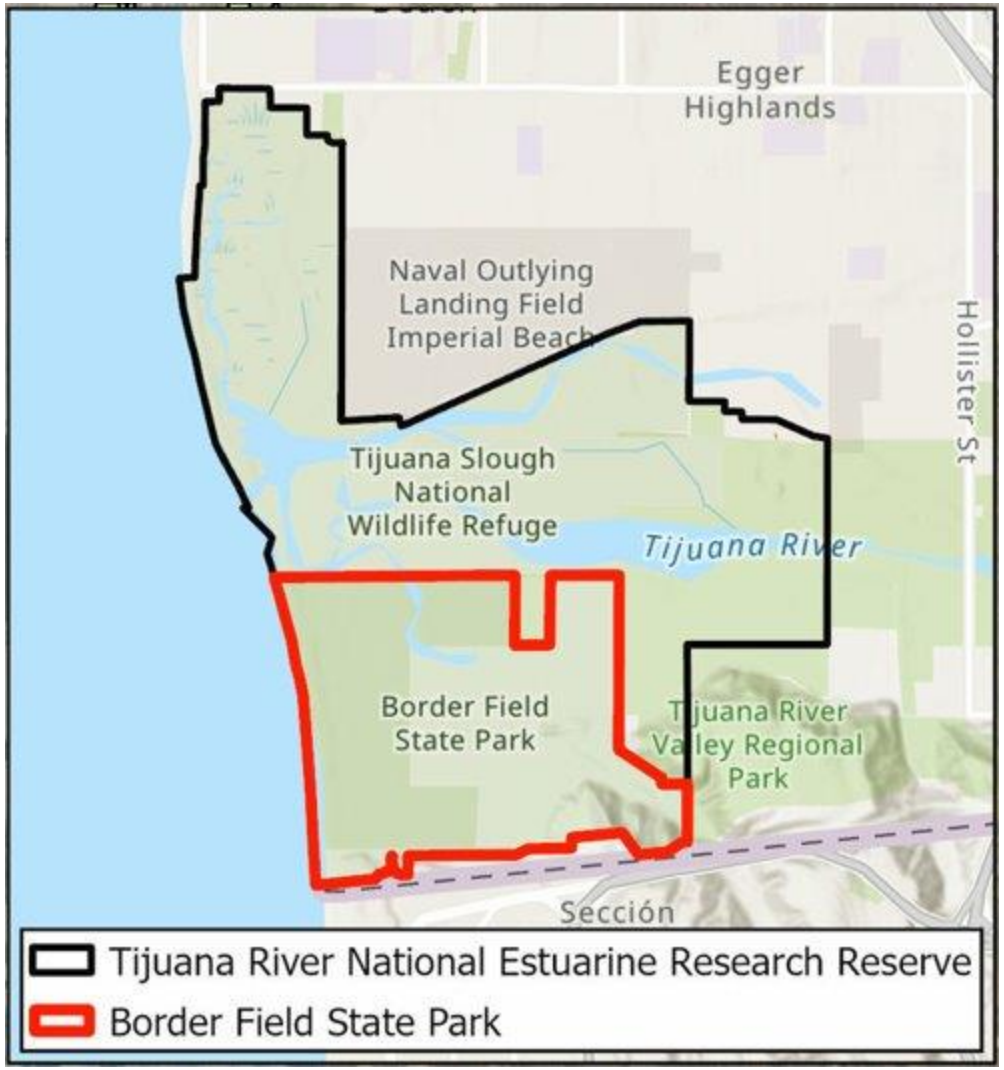
- **Asistencia en español disponible después de la presentación (Spanish translation assistance is available during the time after the presentation)**
- **Please Sign In at the Front Entry table if you have not already!**
- **Virtual participants – Please answer the visitor use question using the participant input feature in the right margin (available at the end of the meeting).**

Border Field State Park Resilience, Access, and Habitat Restoration Project

Project Background

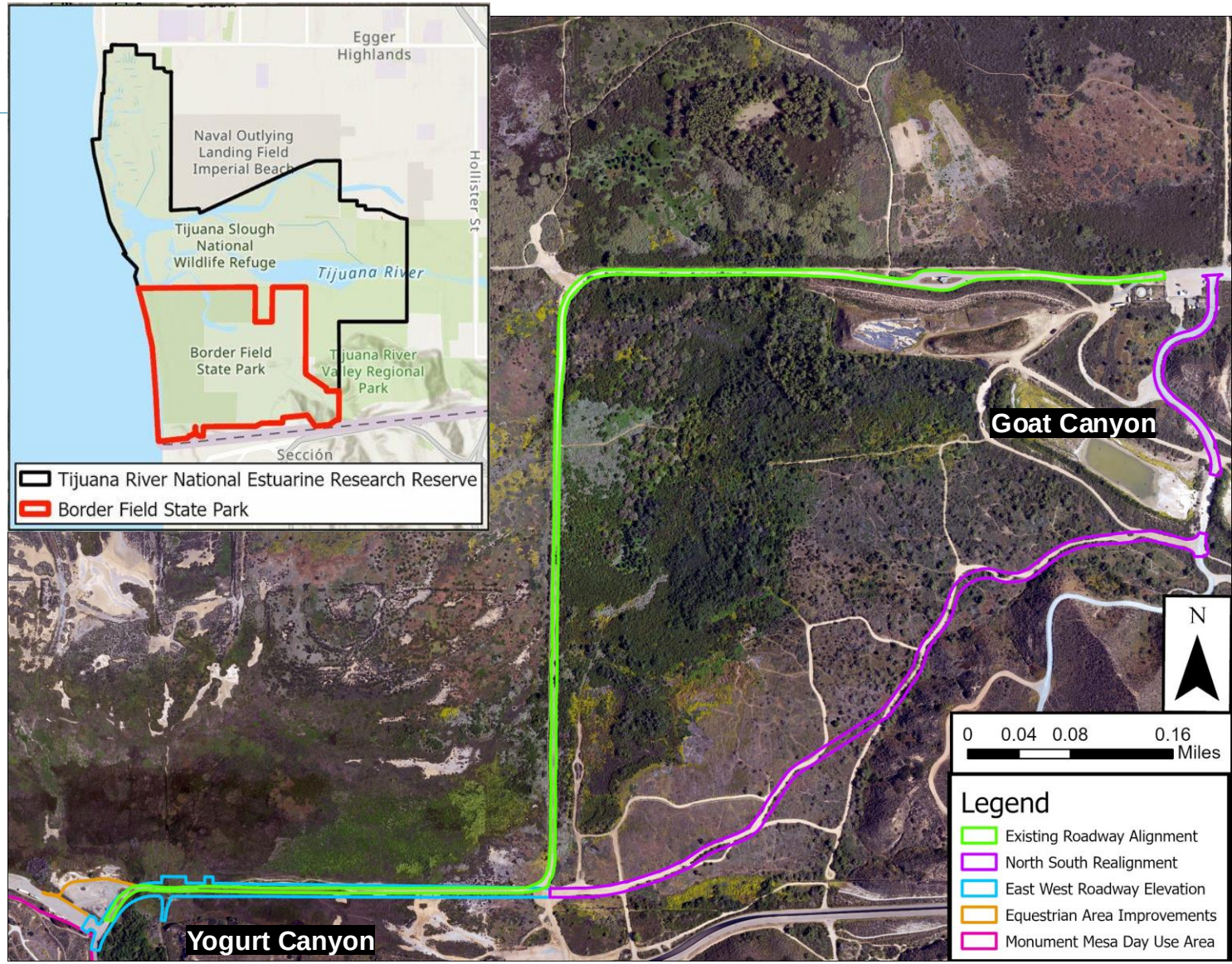
Project Location and Vicinity

- Border Field State Park (BFSP) is located within the Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve (TRNERR), which is situated just north of the border with Mexico in the southwest corner of San Diego County



Project Background

- Monument Mesa is the primary public use area, which can be accessed via the single park entrance road (i.e., Monument Road)
- Monument Road currently lies lower than the surrounding areas, resulting in flooding after rainfall events
- Contaminated water, originating in Tijuana, Mexico, flows north into the park
- Park closures are very frequent, with year-round closure occurring in 2024



Border Field State Park Resilience, Access, and Habitat Restoration Project

Project Purpose & Benefits

Project Purpose

The California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) proposes to:

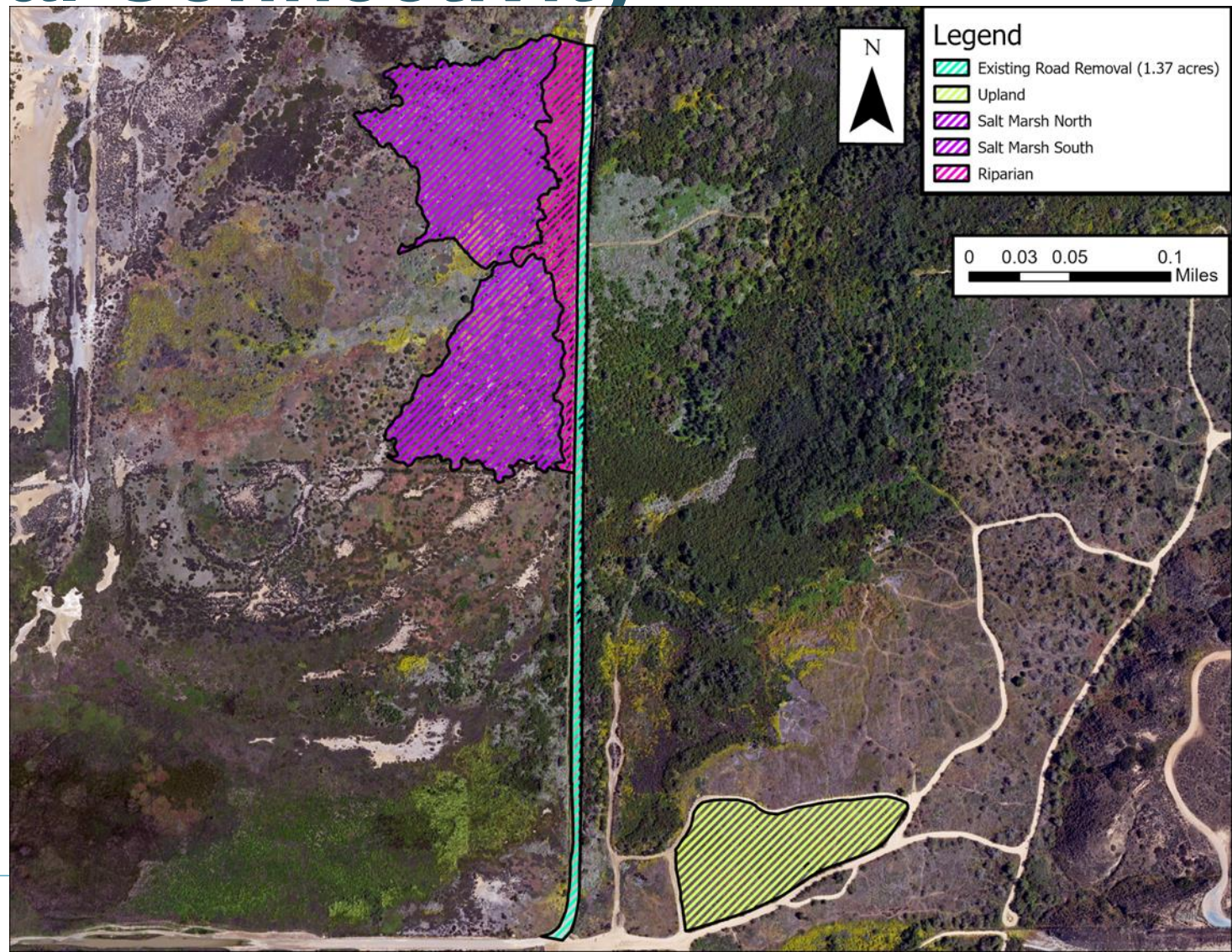
- Relocate, upgrade, and elevate portions of Monument Road to address seasonal flooding of the existing roadway and maintain year-round access to BFSP
- Restore existing disturbed and degraded areas within the Park and offset Project-related impacts to improve the health and function of the Tijuana Estuary including wetland, transitional, and upland habitats to complement improvements related to the Tijuana Estuary Tidal Restoration Program (TETRP) and TETRP II Phase I Projects.
- Maximize the resilience of Monument Road from the effects of future sea level rise

Project Benefits- Improved Hydrologic Connectivity

- The existing roadway channelizes flows coming from Goat Canyon and Yogurt Canyon.
  - Flows are trapped on the road causing nearly year-round flooding.
- By removing the existing North/South Segment and elevating and culverting the East/West segment the flows will be able to follow a more natural path and will reduce flooding adjacent to and on the road.

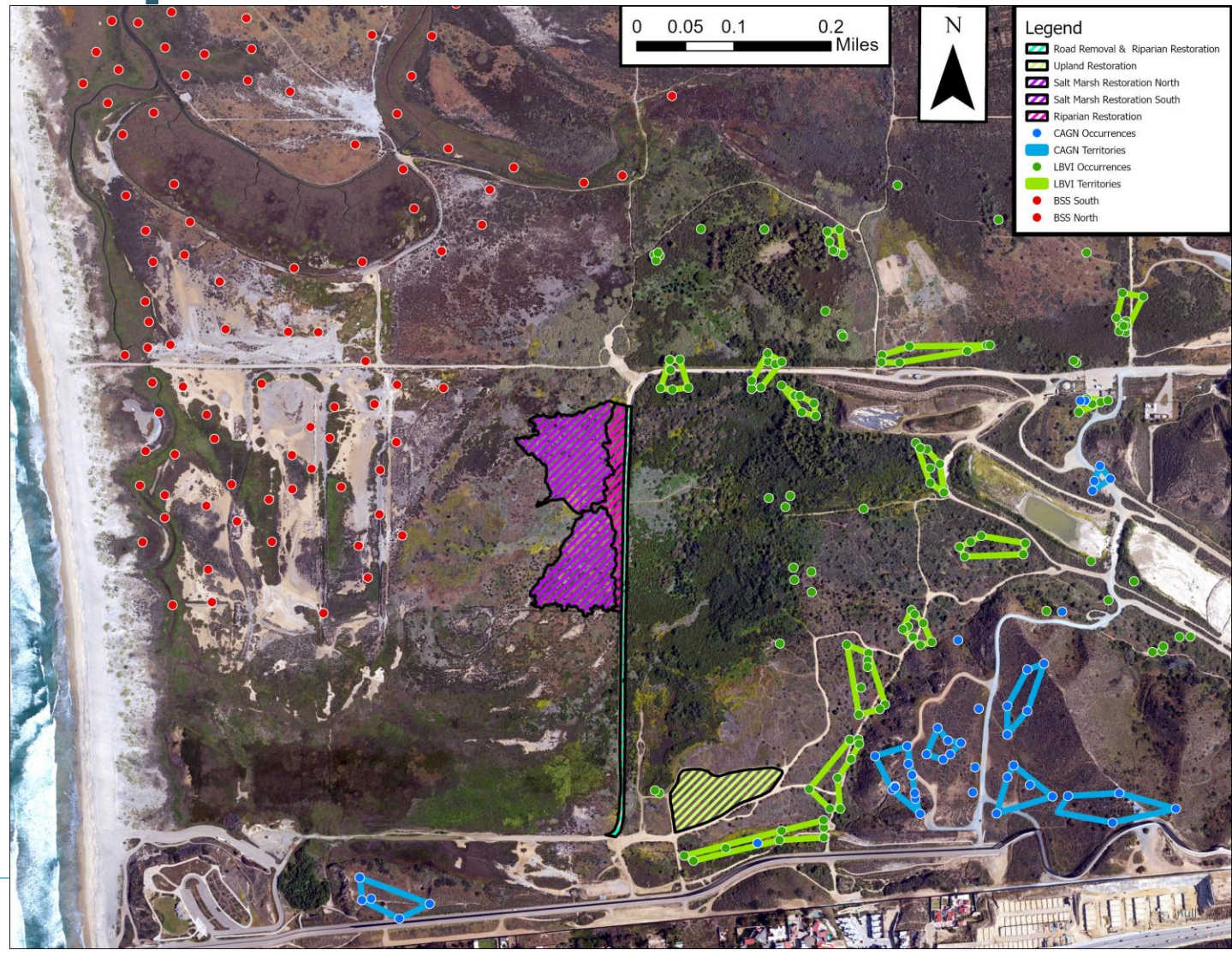
Project Benefits- Improved Biological Connectivity

- The current road bisects several types of wetland habitat.
  - After restoration work, the habitat will be continuous with a more natural transition from riparian to salt marsh (e.g. from east to west of Monument Road).

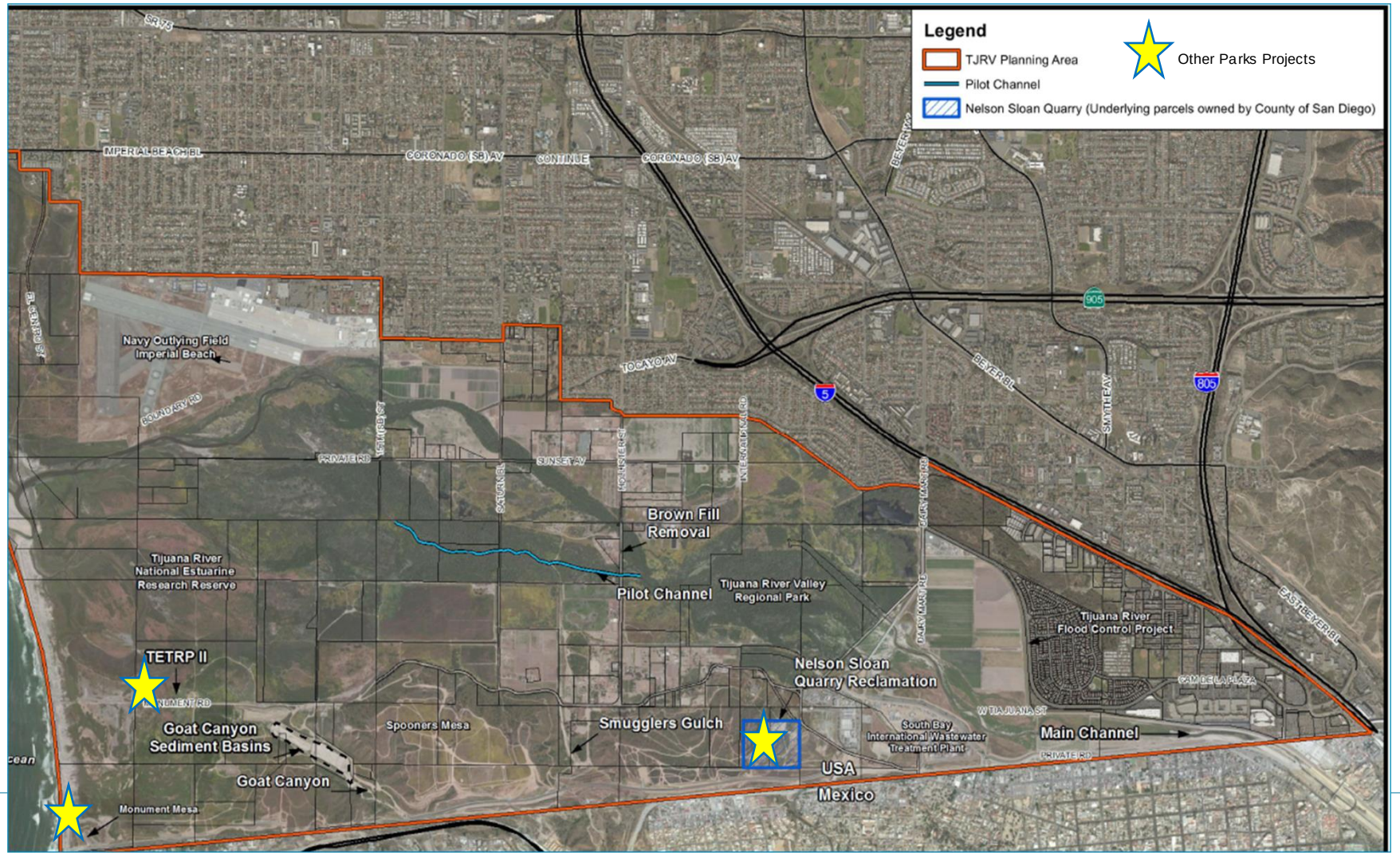


Project Benefits- Expansion of Listed Species' Habitat

- Restoration work will expand habitat for three listed species within the park
  - Riparian habitat will be restored for least Bell's vireo (LBVI)
  - Salt marsh habitat will be restored for Belding's savannah sparrow (BSS)
  - Coastal sage scrub will be restored for coastal California gnatcatcher (CAGN).



Project Benefits-
Integration with Other Parks Projects



Project Benefits-
Integration with Other Parks Projects

- This project, along with other current and future projects will allow for more habitat restoration and an improved visitor experience at Border Field State Park.
  - **Monument Mesa Day Use Area -** The site of Friendship Park has been inaccessible for the past two years due to flooding. A future parks project will update the outdoor educational plaza at Monument Mesa within Border Field SP with mixed-use group event areas and provide interpretive elements and exhibits along with updated walkways and landscaping.
  - **Nelson Sloan Quarry Restoration and Reuse of Sediment Project** - Is a multi-year phased habitat restoration of an abandoned quarry using excess sediment from flood control facilities and wetland restoration in the Tijuana River Valley.
  - **Tijuana Estuary Tidal Restoration Program (TETRP)** - The program initiated in the late 1980s. The current phase, TETRP II Phase I, would restore between 82 to 87 acres of coastal wetlands and associated native upland habitats within the Tijuana River NERR on portions of both Border Field SP and the Tijuana Slough NWR.

Border Field State Park Resilience, Access, and Habitat Restoration Project

Project Description

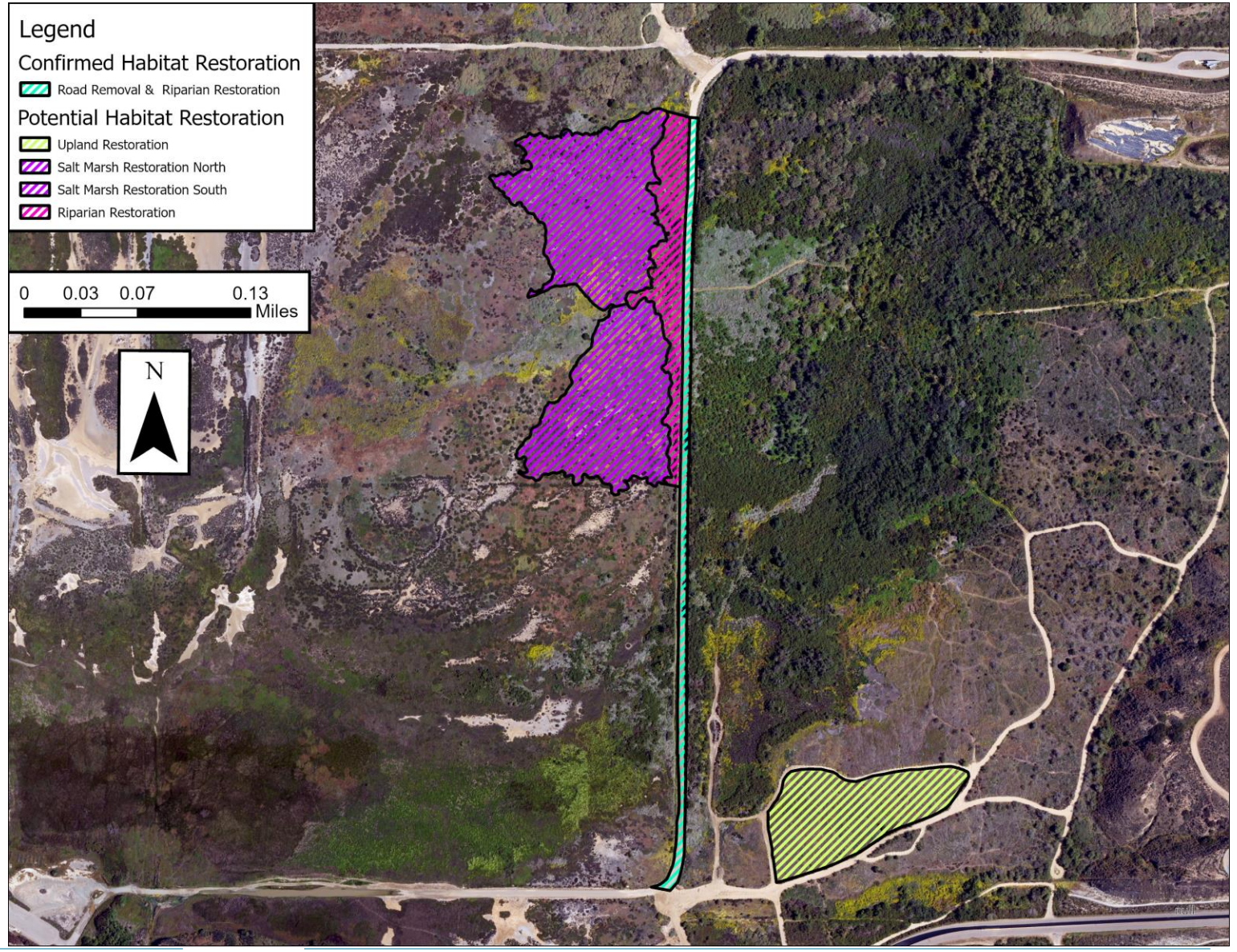
Restoration Component

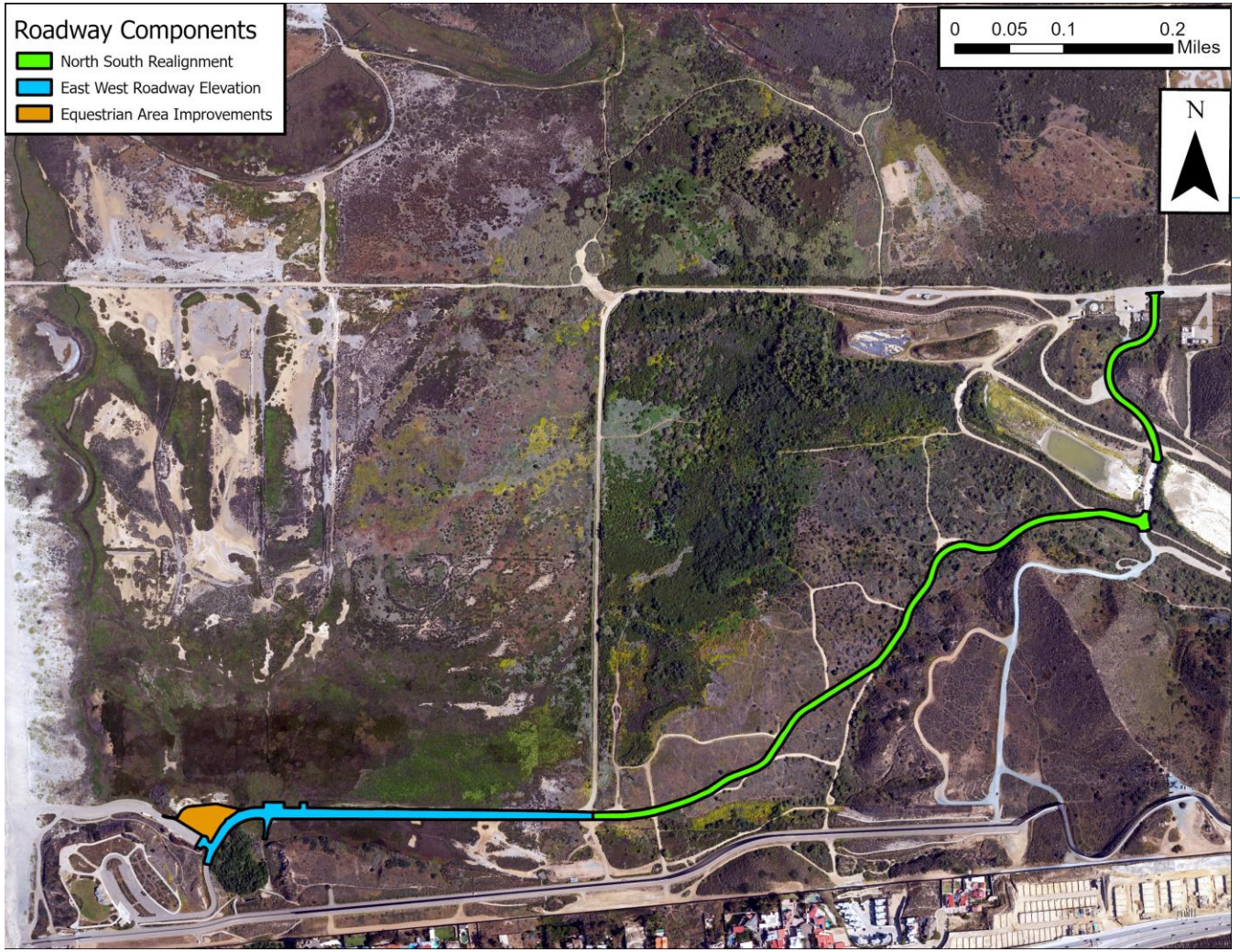
Confirmed Restoration (1.37 acres):

- Removal of Existing North/South paved roadway and restoration to various wetland and riparian habitats.

Potential Restoration (Area TBD):

- One area mapped for potential restoration of upland habitats.
- Two areas mapped for potential restoration of Southern Coastal Salt Marsh.
- One area mapped for potential restoration of various riparian communities.

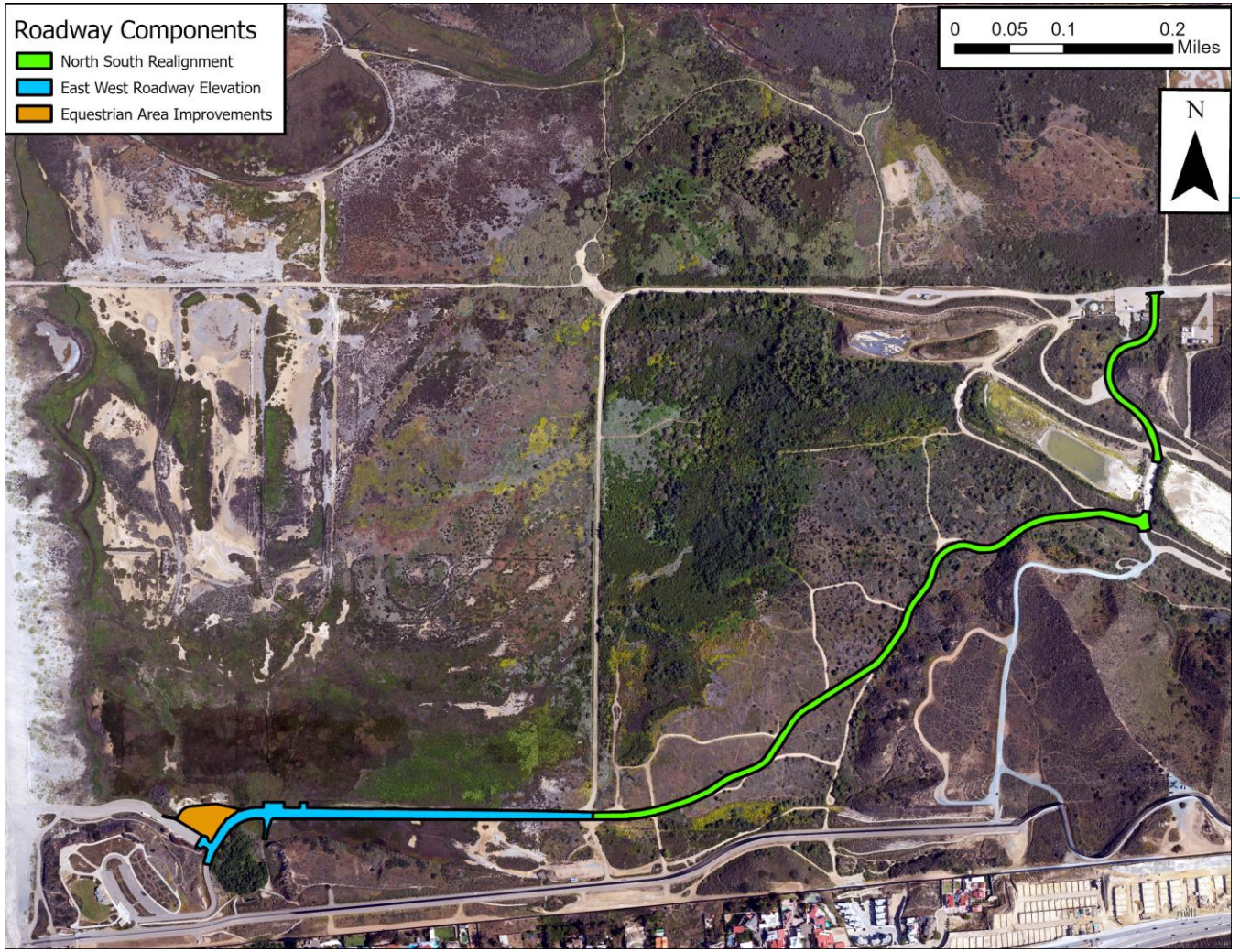




Access Improvement Components

Roadway Components

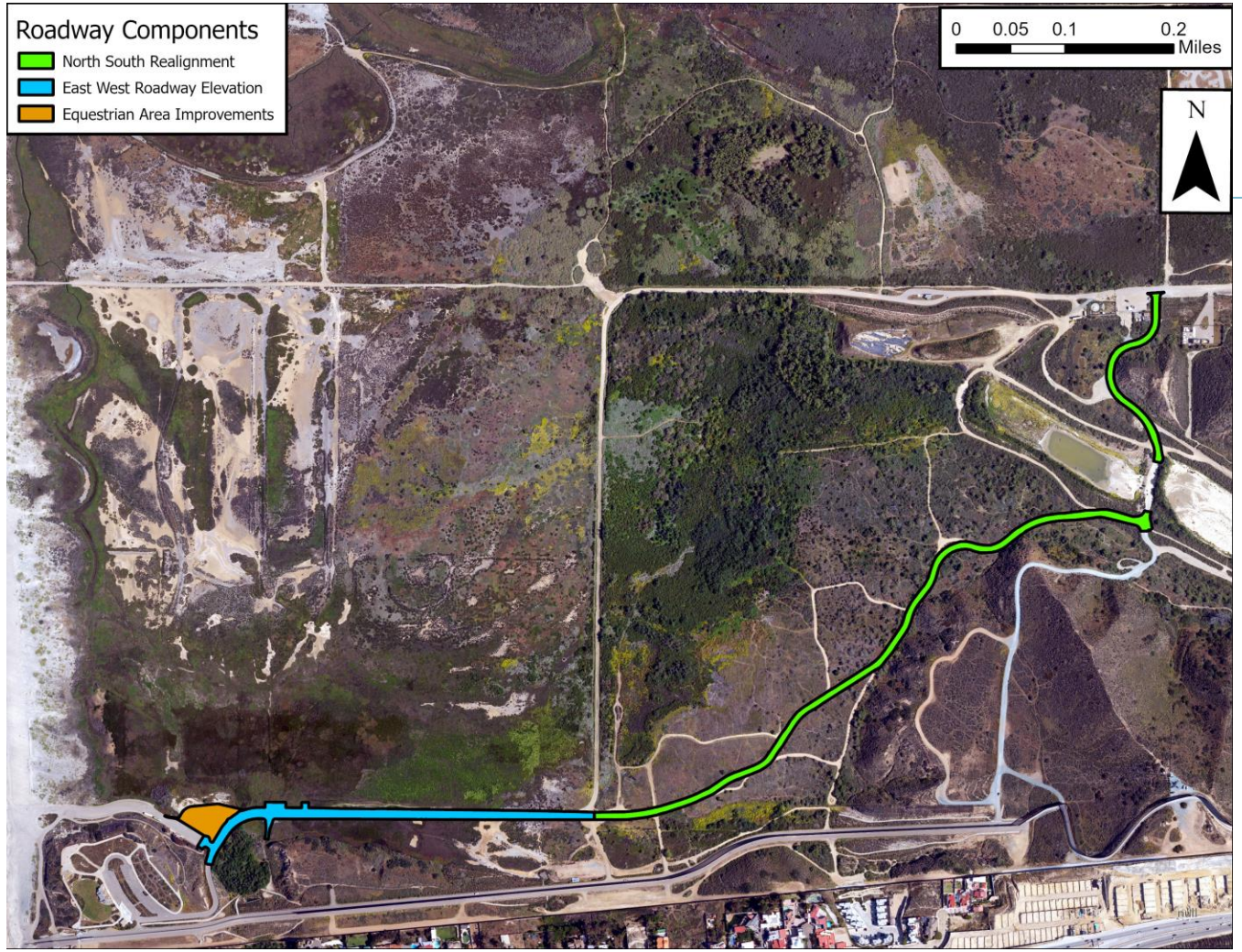
- North South Realignment
- East West Roadway Elevation
- Equestrian Area Improvements



Access Improvement Components

North South Realignment

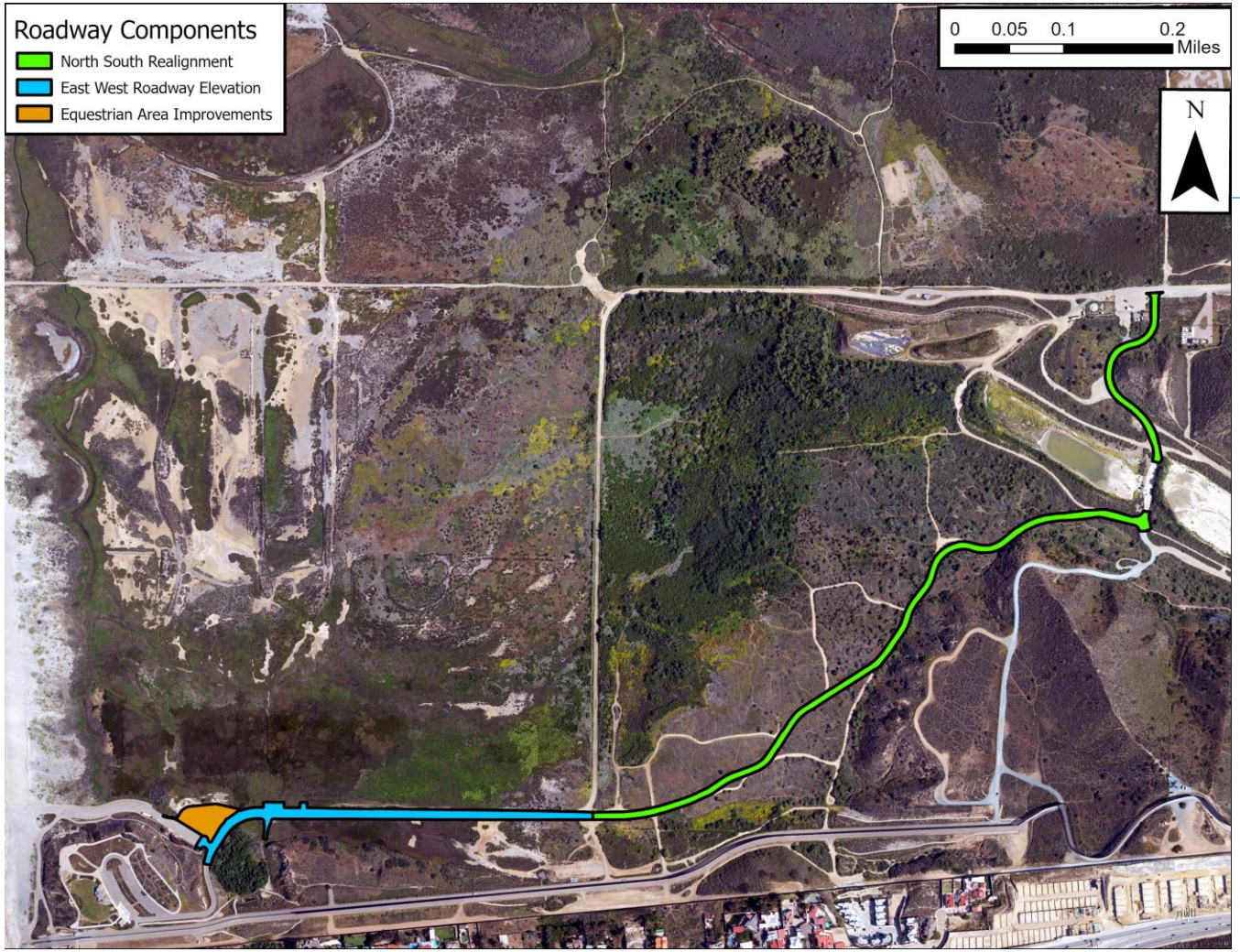
- Construct a 30-ft wide Class II base road (gravel surface) over 4,670 ft of the existing unpaved road
- Connect to the existing east-west segment of Monument Road



Access Improvement Components

East West Roadway Elevation

- Create 625 ft of elevated asphalt concrete roadway on Class II base road on western section of the existing east-west Monument Road segment
- 1,325 ft of the eastern section will be Class II base road with gravel surface
- Install three box culverts and headwall systems underneath the road
- Elevate road approximately 5 ft above existing grade to accommodate box culverts and headwalls



Access Improvement Components

Equestrian Area Improvements

- Proposed improvements to equestrian parking lot near terminus of Monument Road to further minimize wetland impacts
- Include two A/C pavement driveways, four equestrian parking stalls and eight horse corrals

Potential Access and Staging

Final access and staging areas will be determined by seasonal restrictions and authorization from U.S. Customs & Border Protection

Additional Project Components

New Park Entrance

Installation of an automated pay machine alongside the proposed north-south realignment of Monument Road.

Existing kiosk repurposed in-place for other park operations.

Utilities

Protect existing water main and subsurface electrical/telephone line in place and remove electrical pull boxes on existing north-south Monument Road.

Install new electric lines and 6-inch water main via trenching along elevated east-west segment.

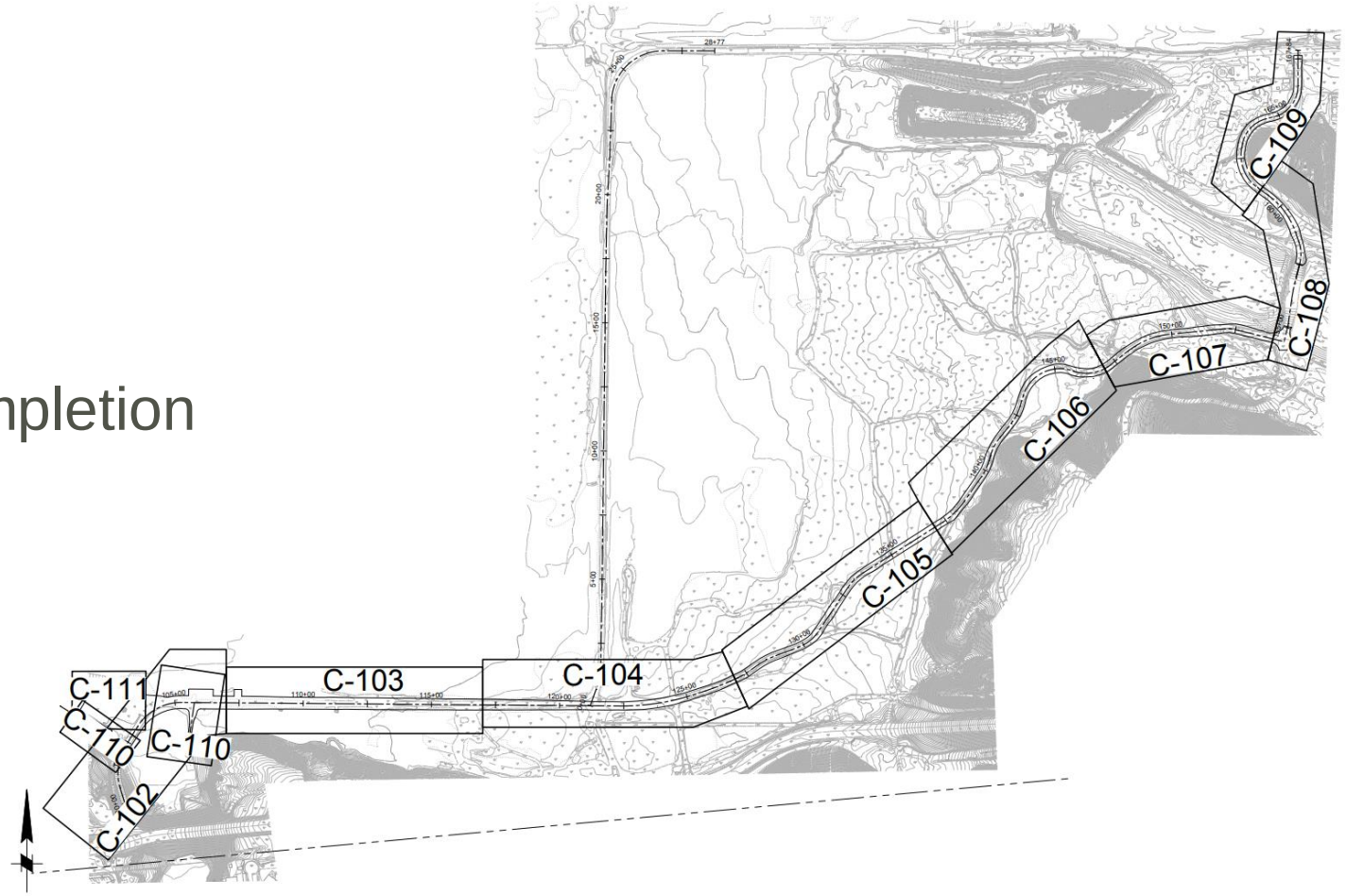
Border Field State Park Resilience, Access, and Habitat Restoration Project

Technical & Engineering Analyses

Project Engineering

Project Engineering (Moffatt & Nichol, 2024)

- Project Design at 60% completion



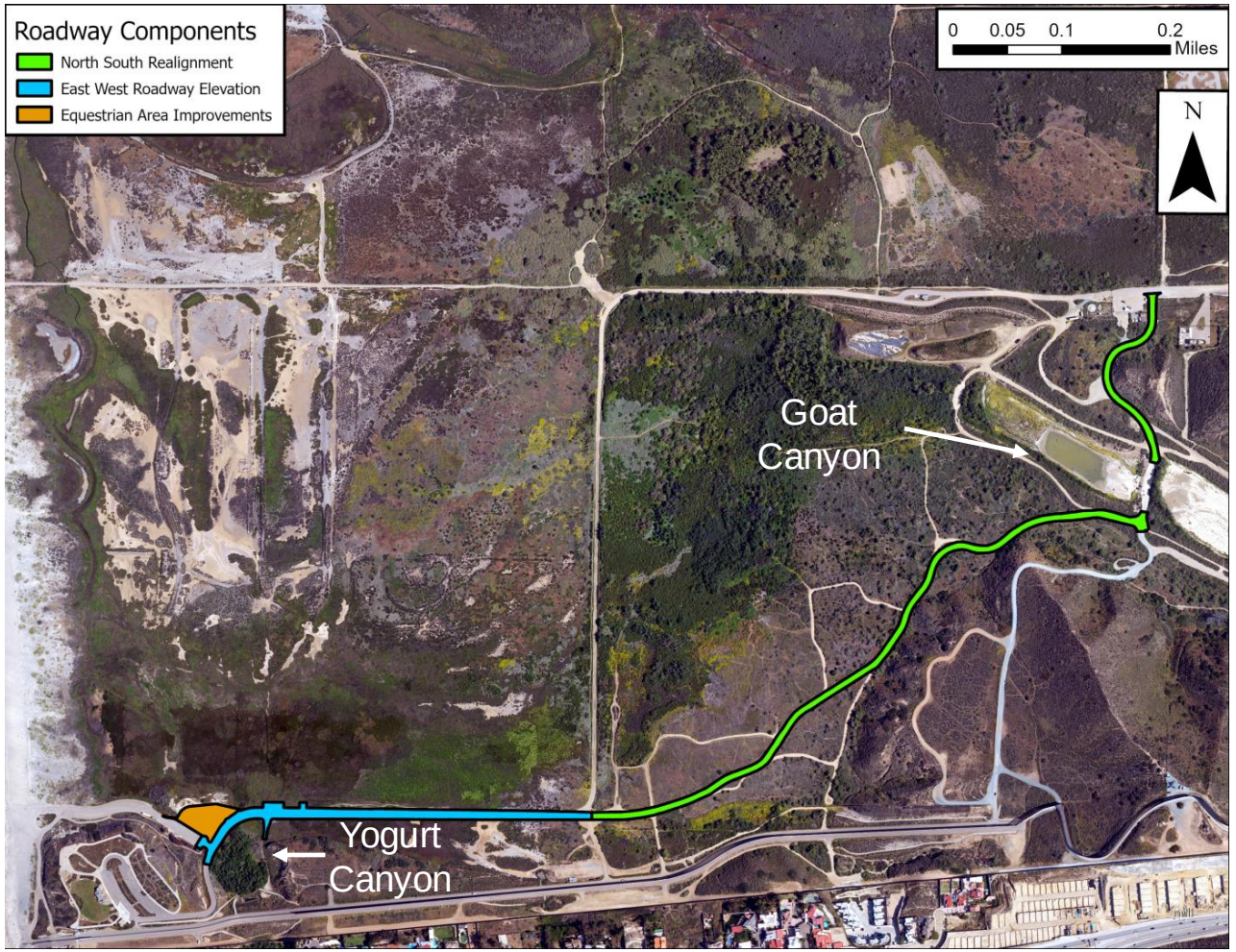
Technical Analyses

Hydrology and Sedimentation Analysis (Moffatt & Nichol, 2022)

- Identified sedimentation rates from stormwater flows out of Goat Canyon and Yogurt Canyon

- Annual sediment rate ranging from 250 to 15,500 tons per year estimated (*based on sedimentation rate of Goat Canyon and scaling down to drainage area of Yogurt Canyon as well as past topo survey)*

  - ➢ Data informed culvert design to allow more sediment to pass beneath Monument Road, reducing deposition rate and reducing flooding
  - ➢ Data informed roadway design and maintenance approach



Technical Analyses

Sea Level Rise Analysis
(Moffatt & Nichol, 2022)

- Informed by TRNERR Climate Understanding & Resilience in the River Valley (CURRV) and UCI's FloodRISE hydraulic and hydrologic model
- Based on 2018 State of California Sea Level Rise Guidance by California Ocean Protection Council (OPC)
- With 3.3 ft of SLR (relevant to 75-yr life span of project), existing Monument Road likely to experience more frequent and higher magnitude flood events as indicated by expanding closure period

Border Field State Park Resilience, Access, and Habitat Restoration Project

Proposed Construction Approach & Timing

Construction Approach

Road Materials:

Aggregate and asphalt/concrete.

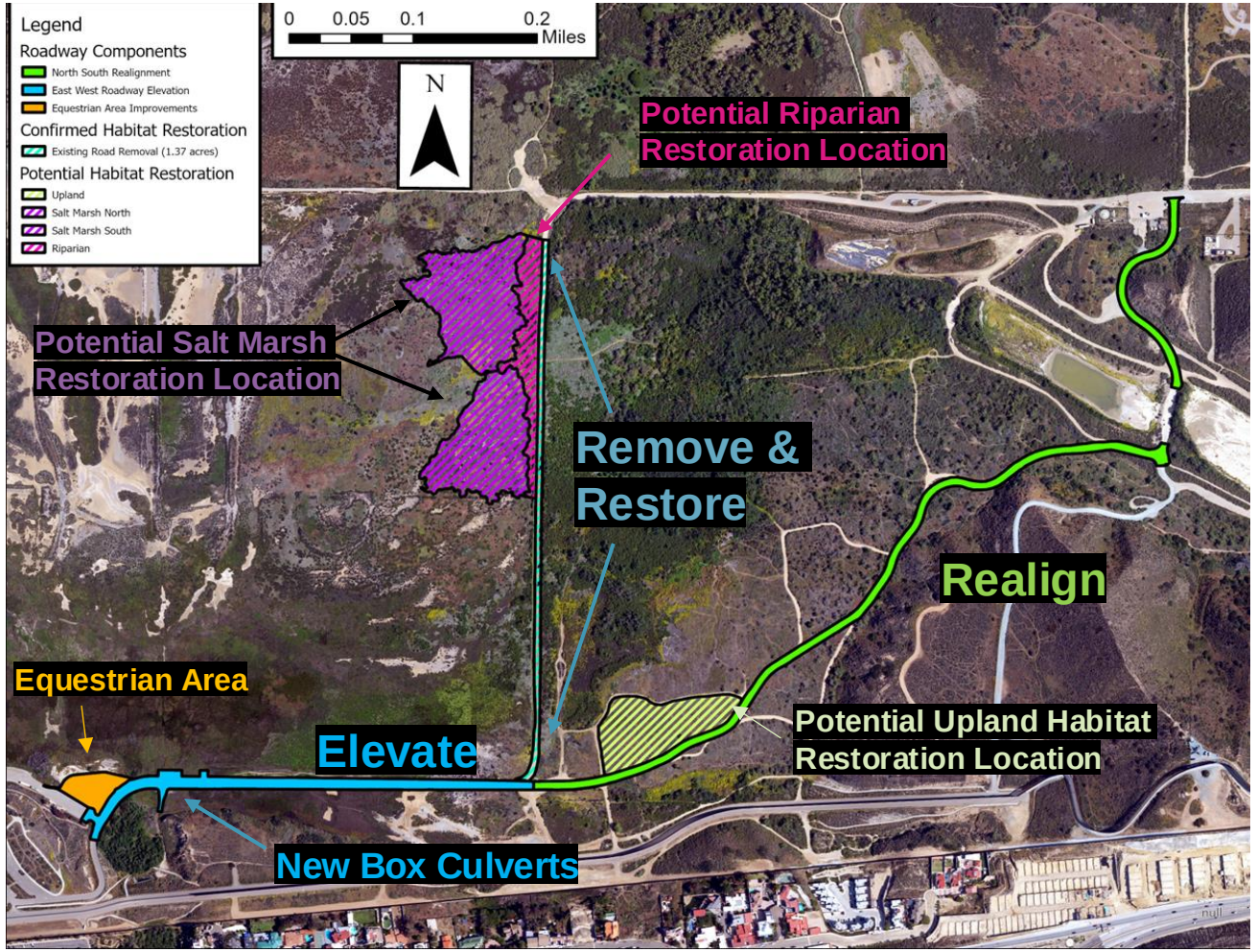
Road Design:

Approx. 1.3 miles widened and will accommodate trucks with horse trailers, large tour buses and large emergency response vehicles, such as fire trucks.

Other Features (East/West Segment):

Approx. 5 feet of fill and constructing single and triple box culverts beneath the southern east-west leg of Monument Road.

Specialized drains may be installed to expedite fill settlement, reduce construction time, and lessen impacts.



Anticipated Construction Schedule

June 2026 – June 2027 = 12 Months

Border Field State Park Resilience, Access, and Habitat Restoration Project

Environmental Review Process

Key Players and their Roles in the Environmental Review Process

- **California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR)**
  - ***Lead Agency for the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)***
- **National Parks Service (NPS)**
  - ***Lead Agency for the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)***

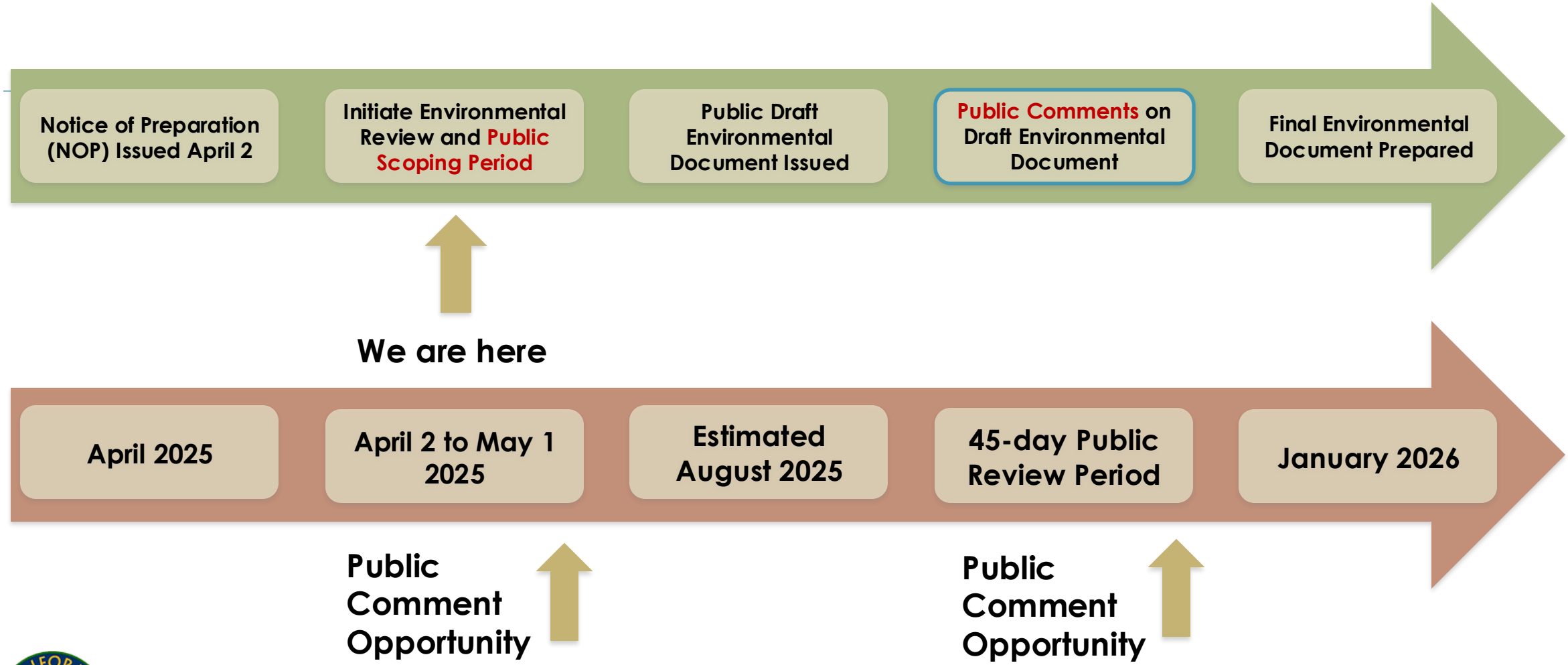
- **The environmental review documentation will consist of both a CEQA and NEPA document**
  - ***CEQA - Environmental Impact Report (EIR)***
  - ***NEPA – To Be Determined by the NEPA Lead Agency***

Key Players and their Roles in the Environmental Review Process

› **Environmental Review**: the CEQA process

- Technical studies were initiated in February 2023 and include a biological resources assessment (species-specific surveys), aquatic resources delineation, geotechnical investigation, hydrology and sedimentation report, cultural and archaeological resources assessment, and sea level rise report.
- DPR determined that Project impacts would be further evaluated in an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and a Notice of Preparation was published on April 2, 2025
- The Project's Scoping comment period is 30 days and ends on Thursday, May 1, 2025
- Project website: https://trnerr.org/about/public-notices/

CEQA Process Flowchart



Please submit written comments to
enviro@parks.ca.gov

General Contents and Purpose of an EIR

Contents:

- Describe the environmental setting of the Project Area
- Disclose the potential environmental impacts of the Project and alternatives
- Propose measures to reduce or avoid significant environmental impacts (mitigation measures)

Purpose:

- Provide technically sound information for decision-makers to consider in evaluating the Proposed Project

Major Elements of an EIR

- Detailed Project Description
- Description of Alternatives Screening Process and Alternatives Carried Forward
- Impacts of Proposed Project
- Impacts of Alternatives
- Mitigation Measures
- Cumulative Impacts, Indirect Impacts, Growth Inducing Effects
- Mitigation Monitoring

Environmental Issues Discussed in an EIR

- Aesthetics
- Agriculture and Forestry
- Air Quality
- **Biological Resources**
- **Cultural Resources**
- Energy
- Geology, Soils, Paleontology
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- **Hydrology and Water Quality**
- Land Use and Planning
- Mineral Resources
- **Noise**
- Population and Housing
- Recreation
- Transportation
- **Tribal Cultural Resources**
- Utilities and Service Systems
- Wildfire

Border Field State Park Resilience, Access, and Habitat Restoration Project

Regulatory Permits & Approvals

Regulatory Permits and Approvals

Permits and approvals anticipated to be required include:

FEDERAL

- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE): Permit under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S. Code [USC] 1344
- State Historic Preservation Officer/Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO/THPO): Section 106 Consultation with SHPO/THPO (36 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] 800)
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS): Section 7 Consultation under the Endangered Species Act (16 USC 1531-1544)

STATE

- California Coastal Commission (CCC): Coastal Development Permit/Consolidated Coastal Development Permit
- California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW): Streambed Alteration Agreement under Section 1601 of the California Fish and Game Code; Incidental Take Permit under Section 2081 of the California Endangered Species Act (CESA)
- Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB): Water Quality Certification under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act
- State Lands Commission: Verification of jurisdiction

REGIONAL/LOCAL

- San Diego Air Pollution Control District (SDAPCD): Authority to Construct/Permit to Operate

Next Steps

- Complete 30-day NOP Comment Period. Ends May 1, 2025
- Complete environmental review and publish the Draft EIR (estimated August 2025)
- Circulate the Draft EIR for a 45-day public review period
- Prepare Final Environmental Document (certification estimated January 2026)
- Secure Project Permitting
- Project implementation estimated June 2026 to June 2027 (12 months)

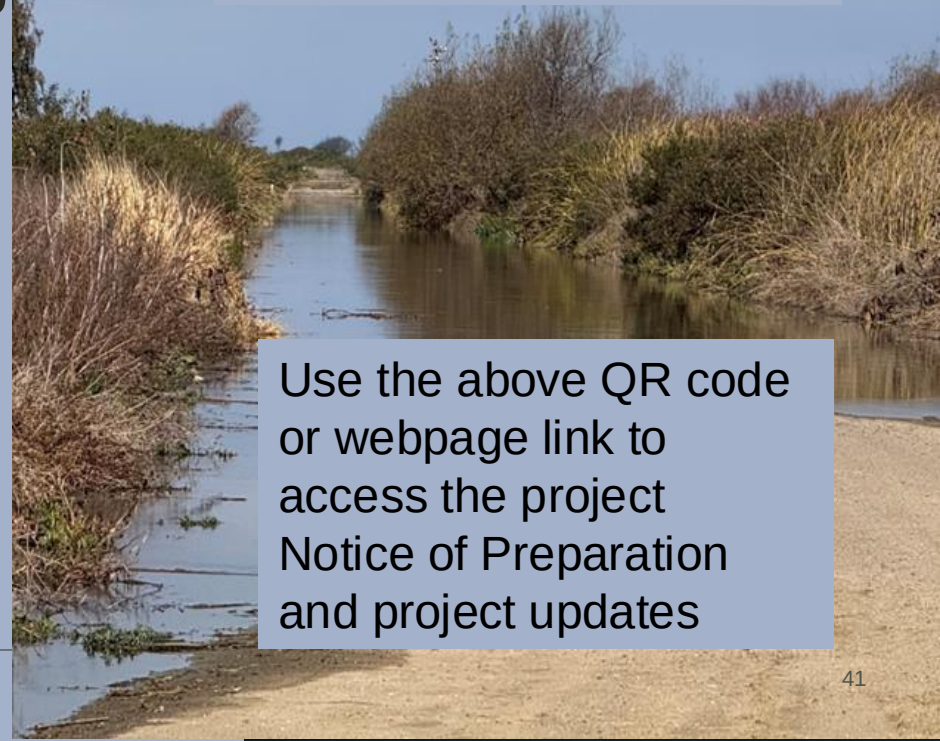
Thank you!

What are you most interested in seeing and/or doing at Border Field State Park?

In-person: Please give us your feedback using the post-its provided and place them on the whiteboards.

Virtual: Please respond to this question using the participant input feature in the right margin.

https://trnerr.org/about/public-notices/



Use the above QR code or webpage link to access the project Notice of Preparation and project updates