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Notice of Preparation of an Initial Study and  
Draft Environmental Impact Report

**Fenton Parkway Bridge Project**

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**MAY 2023**

*Prepared for:*

**THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE  
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY**

401 Golden Shore  
Long Beach, California 90802

*Prepared by:*

**SAN DIEGO STATE UNIVERSITY  
FACILITIES PLANNING, DESIGN,  
AND CONSTRUCTION**

5500 Campanile Drive  
San Diego, California 92182-1624



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# Notice of Preparation of an Initial Study and Draft Environmental Impact Report

## Notice of Public Information and Scoping Meetings

**To:** State of California  
Office of Planning and Research  
State Clearinghouse  
1400 Tenth Street  
Sacramento, California 95814

**From:** Paul Jackson, Program Manager  
Facilities Planning, Design, and Construction  
Business and Financial Affairs  
San Diego State University  
5500 Campanile Drive  
San Diego, California 92182-1624

The Board of Trustees of the California State University (CSU), which is the State of California acting in its higher education capacity, will be the lead agency for the preparation of an environmental impact report (EIR) in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA; Public Resources Code, Section 21000 et seq.) and Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations, Section 15000 et seq. (hereafter “CEQA Guidelines”). SDSU, an entity of the CSU, has prepared this Notice of Preparation (NOP) in accordance with CEQA Guidelines Sections 15082(a) and 15375. The EIR will address the environmental effects of the proposed Fenton Parkway Bridge Project (project) to connect Fenton Parkway with Camino Del Rio North in the City of San Diego (City). The Fenton Parkway Bridge (bridge) would span the San Diego River (river), which bisects the project site from east to west, to facilitate an additional vehicular, bicycle, and pedestrian connection between the businesses and residential areas north and south of the river. The proposed bridge (project site) is situated south of Fenton Parkway and the Fenton Marketplace and north of Camino Del Rio North in the Mission Valley community of the City (see **Figure 1**, Project Vicinity and Location). A portion of the project site traverses and lies adjacent to the City’s Stadium Wetland Mitigation Site and the City’s Multi-Habitat Planning Area (MHPA). The project will be constructed on real property owned by the City, and upon the completion of construction, the City will own, operate, and maintain the proposed bridge.

The project is referenced in the Mission Valley Community Plan and is a long-sought infrastructure enhancement in the Mission Valley community as a means of connecting residents and businesses south of the river to land uses north of the river off Friars Road, including the SDSU Mission Valley development, which was approved by the Board of Trustees of CSU in 2020. As part of the purchase and sale agreement between the CSU and the City for the SDSU Mission Valley site, which was executed in August 2020, the CSU agreed to help fund the planning, design, and construction of the bridge.

Pursuant to a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the CSU and the City, as well as City Ordinance No. O-21564, SDSU has agreed to plan, design, and construct the bridge to City transportation department design standards on behalf of the City. As described in the MOU, the CSU and the City have agreed to work collaboratively on the bridge project; the CSU (SDSU) is responsible for planning, design, environmental review and permitting, and construction of the bridge, with City input. Additionally, the CSU and the City will share the costs of the project. Once constructed, the City will assume operation and maintenance obligations for the bridge. As outlined in the MOU, the CSU (SDSU) is preparing the EIR and the Board of Trustees of the CSU will serve as the lead agency under CEQA.

The project would involve construction of an approximate 450-foot-long bridge spanning the river from north to south to connect the southern terminus of Fenton Parkway to the northern terminus of Camino Del Rio North/Mission City Parkway (see **Figure 2**, Project Site). The proposed design for the bridge is a conventional post-tensioned, trapezoidal, concrete box girder structure. The bridge would be approximately 58 feet wide and 7 feet, 6 inches deep and would consist of up to four spans. The spans would be supported on concrete seat-type abutments in the river embankments at each end and two to three piers within the river channel, each consisting of two to three approximately 20-foot-tall, 6-foot-diameter circular concrete columns. The bridge would include two 11-foot-wide through-traffic lanes and a 10-foot-wide center lane that would be used for southbound left-turn movements onto Camino Del Rio North. The 10-foot center lane would provide an optional additional traffic lane for flexible use during stadium or emergency events. Combined bicycle and pedestrian pathways would be installed and raised above the travel lanes on either side of the bridge. The 6'-6" wide bike lane would be separated from a 5'-6" wide pedestrian path by a 6-inch-wide strip of yellow truncated domes (see **Figure 3**, Project Site Plan).

Existing storm drain infrastructure in the project area, including a 96-inch reinforced concrete pipe storm drain and a 54-inch storm drain, would require relocation and/or extension during project construction to accommodate proposed bridge structure abutments.

The Fenton Parkway/River Park Road intersection, which is currently under construction, would be expanded to a three-legged configuration with the new bridge approach forming the south leg of the intersection. The intersection would be signalized and include pedestrian crossing features such as high-visibility crosswalks, pedestrian-initiated interval phasing, and crosswalk countdown meters. The existing striped bike lanes on Fenton Parkway north of the trolley tracks would be extended to River Park Road; these lanes would lead to ramps connecting the elevated bike lanes on the new bridge. Additionally, a three-way signal would be installed at the Fenton Parkway/River Park Road intersection.

SDSU is seeking public and agency input regarding the scope and content of the environmental information to be included in the Draft EIR. Any responsible or trustee agency may need to use the EIR when considering permits or other project approvals. The failure to respond to this notice, or otherwise object to the conclusions made in the accompanying initial study, may prevent later assertions that issues excluded by the initial study should have been included in the Draft EIR.

Consistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15082(b), all responses must be sent at the earliest possible date, but not later than 30 days after receipt of this notice. **All written comments received on or before 5 p.m. PST June 20, 2023, will be considered.** Please send written comments to [pjackson@sdsu.edu](mailto:pjackson@sdsu.edu) and include the name of the contact person for commenting parties or agencies. Written responses may also be sent via mail to:

Paul Jackson, Program Manager  
San Diego State University  
Facilities Planning, Design, and Construction  
5500 Campanile Drive  
San Diego, California 92182-1624

**Project Title:** Fenton Parkway Bridge Project

**Lead Agency:** The Board of Trustees of The California State University

**NOP Scoping Period:** May 22, 2023 – June 20, 2023

**Location:** The project site is located in the northeast portion of the Mission Valley Community, in the central portion of the metropolitan area of the City of San Diego. The project site is situated south of Fenton Parkway and the Fenton Marketplace and north of Camino Del Rio North and would connect these two roadways. The river bisects the project site from east to west. (see **Figure 1**).

**List of Probable Environmental Effects:** A more detailed description of the proposed project, the project location, and the potential environmental effects associated with development of the proposed project are provided in the initial study. A copy of this NOP and the initial study are available for review on the SDSU website at <https://bfa.sdsu.edu/campus/facilities/planning/eir>. As described in the initial study, the proposed project potentially could affect the following resources, which will be addressed in the Draft EIR: Aesthetics, Air Quality, Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Energy, Geology and Soils, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Hydrology and Water Quality, Land Use and Planning, Noise, Transportation, Tribal Cultural Resources, Utilities and Service Systems, and Wildfire.

### Requested Project Approvals

The following approvals by the CSU Board of Trustees are required prior to implementation of the proposed project:

1. Certification of adequacy and completeness of the CEQA document.
2. Approval of the proposed project.
3. Other approvals as necessary.

Development of the proposed project may require permits and/or approvals issued by public agencies other than the CSU Board of Trustees. The following is a non-exclusive list of other project permits or approvals that may be required by other agencies:

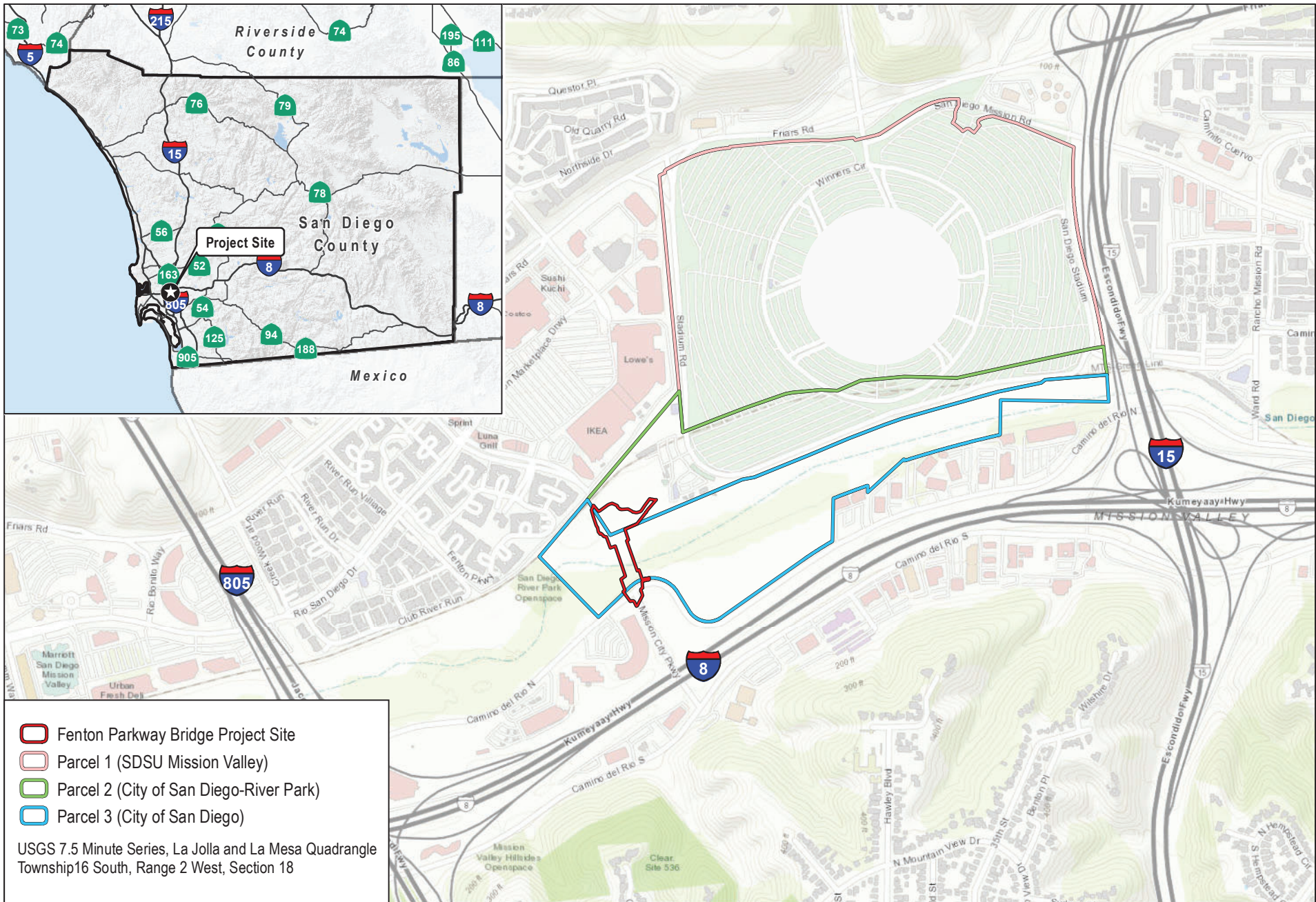
1. Consistency with the Multiple Species Conservation Plan (Findings prepared by the City of San Diego regarding the proposed project)
2. Approval of various easements, including vacations, replacements, etc. (issued by the City of San Diego consistent with the terms of the MOU)
3. Permits to construct within the City's rights-of-way (issued by the City of San Diego Transportation Department, consistent with the terms of the MOU)
4. Temporary access/right of entry permits for work on City-owned land within the river and for the use of staging areas southeast of the Camino Del Rio North/Mission City Parkway intersection (issued by the City of San Diego Department of Real Estate and Airport Management)
5. Authority to construct/permits to operate (issued by the San Diego County Air Pollution Control District)
6. Coordination for three-way signal at the Fenton Parkway and River Park Road intersection (coordination with San Diego Metropolitan Transit System)
7. Right of access permit for work within the MTS right-of-way (issued by San Diego Metropolitan Transit System)
8. Water Quality Certification pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (issued by the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board)
9. Construction Stormwater Permit consistent with the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System to ensure consistency with the Clean Water Act (issued by the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board)
10. Accessibility compliance (issued by the Division of the State Architect)

11. Approval of facility fire and life safety review (approval from the State Fire Marshal)
12. Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement pursuant to Section 1602 of the State of California Fish and Game Code (issued by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife)
13. Consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)
14. Department of the Army permit pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (issued by the US Army Corps of Engineers)

**Public Information/Scoping Meeting:** SDSU will hold a public information/scoping meeting on June 5, 2023 to present an overview of the project and to solicit public input regarding the proposed scope and content of the Draft EIR. The meeting will take place as follows:

Mission Valley Library  
2123 Fenton Parkway  
San Diego, California 92108  
June 5, 2023  
6:00 pm – 7:30 pm

All public agencies, organizations, and interested parties are encouraged to attend and participate at the meetings. The failure of any public agency, organization, or interested party to attend the scoping meetings or submit written comments may prevent that agency, organization, or party from later asserting that issues excluded by the initial study should have been included in the Draft EIR.



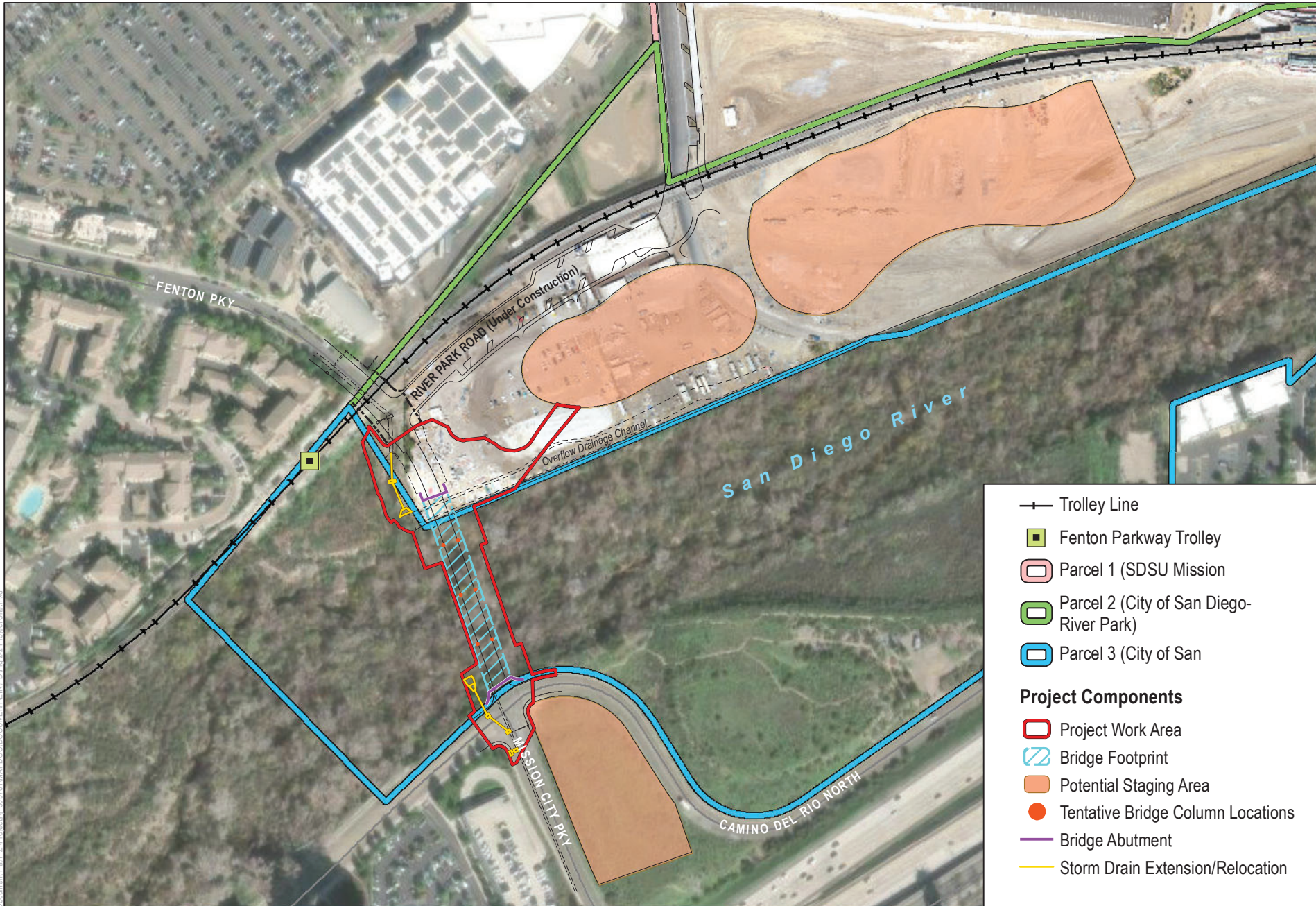
SOURCE: ESRI MAPPING SERVICE; BOWMAN/PDC 5/08/2023



**FIGURE 1**  
Project Vicinity and Location  
Fenton Parkway Bridge Project

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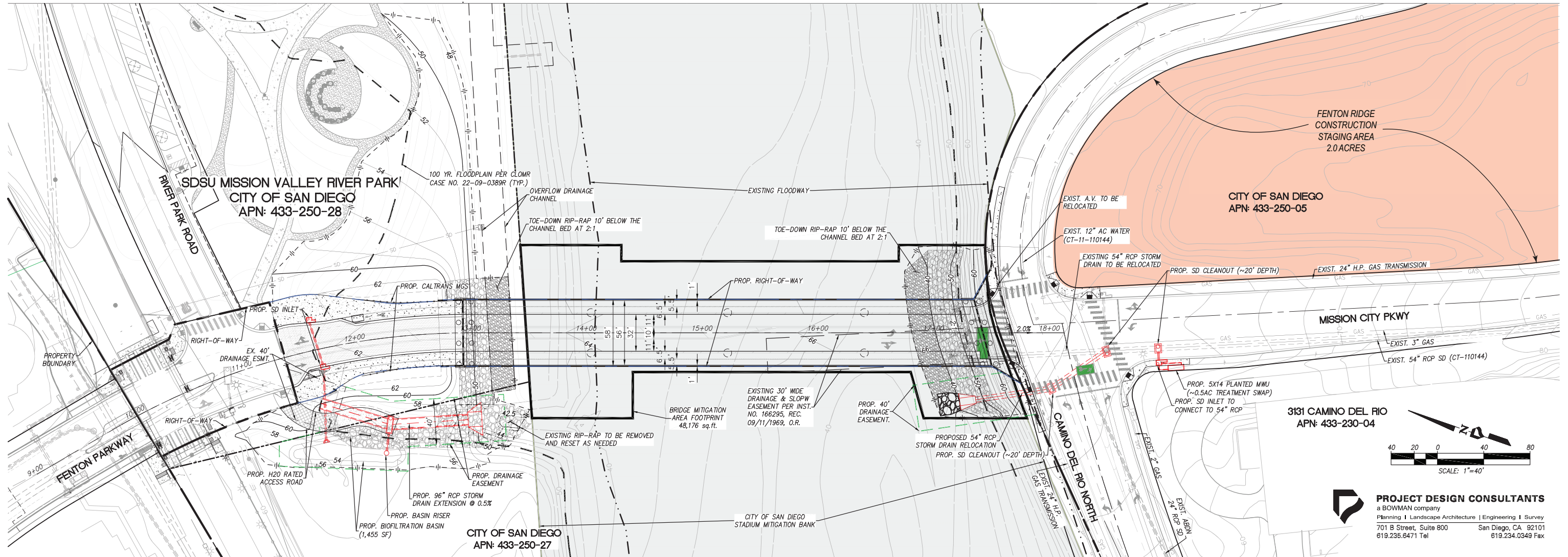
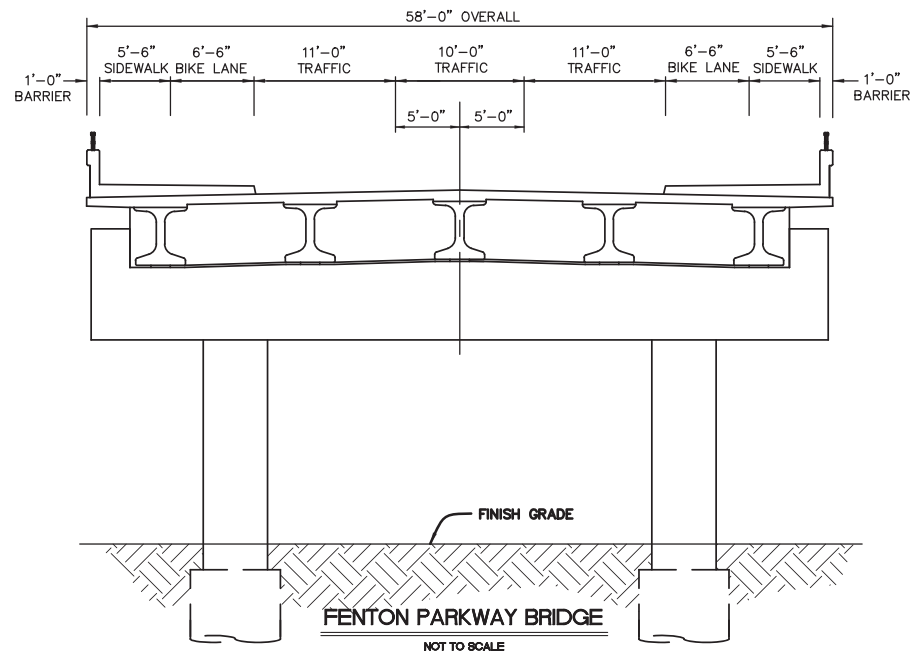


- +— Trolley Line
  - Fenton Parkway Trolley
  - ▭ Parcel 1 (SDSU Mission)
  - ▭ Parcel 2 (City of San Diego-River Park)
  - ▭ Parcel 3 (City of San Diego)
- Project Components**
- ▭ Project Work Area
  - ▭ Bridge Footprint
  - ▭ Potential Staging Area
  - Tentative Bridge Column Locations
  - Bridge Abutment
  - Storm Drain Extension/Relocation

SOURCE: AERIAL-ESRI IMAGERY SERVICE; KLEINFELDER 2/8/2023  
 DEVELOPMENT-BOWMAN/PDC 5/08/2023; PARCELS-BOWMAN/PDC 3/27/2023

**FIGURE 2**  
**Project Site**  
 Fenton Parkway Bridge Project

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SOURCE: BOWMAN/PDC 5/08/2023

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