



Tijuana River Valley Equestrian Association  
c/o Wigginton Ranch, 2191 Hollister St, San Diego, CA 92154

February 12, 2008  
Mr. CM Peregrin  
Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve  
301 Caspian Way  
Imperial Beach, CA 91932

Re: Tijuana Estuary Sediment Fate and Transport Study, "Sediment Study"

Dear Mr. Peregrin;

On behalf of those we serve, the Tijuana River Valley Equestrian Association (TRVEA) Board of Directors first congratulates your team on the excellent preparation and presentation for the Sediment Study.

TRVEA has several concerns and suggestions for the impact to recreational users during the Sediment Study period. Most of these concerns stem from denied access to a hallmark trail destination for equestrians throughout California and the wider region.

This could be an unusual hardship because over the study period there are at least two major holidays when riders, often at large expense and great distance, trailer their horses to the area for this hallmark trail. Due to the major devastation of the recent firestorms, many regional trails have closed this year with no reopening dates set. This leaves the remaining trails as destinations for many riders. Riders have no reason to believe this area would be closed, and no easy way to ensure the communication can reach them. Many local businesses rely on this natural resource for income and goodwill in the equestrian community. To mitigate probable hardships:

1. Reopen the trails from November 26 through 30 for the Thanksgiving weekend.
2. Reopen the trails from December 19 through January 5, 2009 for Christmas and New Years holidays.
3. Reopen the trails on the weekends and days the trucks are not transporting sediment.
4. Open an alternate trail to unused portions of the beach. Not using Monument Rd for sediment transport could meet this alternate with no additional environmental impact.
5. Provide at least an 8-ft wide path with natural footing on the roadways and entrances to the beach.



6. Use orange mesh or solid fencing, and do not use ribbon markers (anything that flaps with wind) for delineating boundaries.
7. Post closed and open dates at park entrances and at the nearby county park boards. With this, post informational signs on what is occurring.
8. Before summer end, post the open and closed dates on the park's website.
9. Instruct drivers that should an equestrian pass through the boundary, to stop their vehicles and sit at idle until the equestrian is 100 yards away. Do not honk, flash horns, rev engines or yell and gesticulate at the errant rider.
10. Conduct an intermediate review just before the Christmas trail opening to discuss issues to modify the rider's access if necessary.

Your team presented a concise and believable reason why the Sediment Study is important to our region and TRVEA supports this effort with limited duration. We believe we can work together to inform our constituents who will help in other ways you may need. Don't hesitate to ask.

Sincerely,

John Gabaldon  
President, Tijuana River Valley Equestrian Association  
[www.trvea.org](http://www.trvea.org)  
619-920-1282

