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Changes at Torrey Pines Entrance Road

*Improvements and signage will help keep hikers, bikers and vehicles separate*

Torrey Pines State Natural Reserve is a scenic gem of the San Diego region and one of the iconic parks run by California State Parks. Its popularity is evidenced seven days a week by the high number of visitors enjoying the network of trails and roads that wind through forests of the rarest pine tree on earth. The most popular route up to this hilltop oasis is the park entrance road, winding steeply up from the beach.

This route is shared by hikers, runners, parents with baby strollers, bike riders and vehicles driven by the general public. The great popularity of the park has caused many potential conflicts among these different users as they travel up and down the hill. To reduce the potential for these conflicts, California State Parks has implemented a variety of measures that will help keep hikers, bikers and vehicles separate from each other. These new measures include:

- Trail improvements immediately adjacent to the paved road
- Signage to direct pedestrians to stay off the road and stay on hiking paths
- Fencing to clearly delineate appropriate routes of travel
- A prohibition against riding bicycles down the hill (the steep hill promotes excessive speed)

District Superintendent Clay Phillips admitted that these changes may frustrate some people who are used to walking along the entire width of the route. “This isn’t the ideal solution; I know there will be times during our busiest periods when hikers will feel very congested as they are limited to just the trail along the side of the paved road. Over the next year, we will be working with a consultant to explore other long-term options but, for now, this is the best approach for the sake of visitor safety.”

Torrey Pines State Natural Reserve and Torrey Pines State Beach are visited by over 2.5 million visitors each year. They are located south of Carmel Valley Road, along North Torrey Pines Road.

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