

## **LAKE HODGES BICYCLE/PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE COMPLETE**

SAN FRANCISCO, CA – T.Y. Lin International (TYLI) is pleased to announce that the David Kreitzer Lake Hodges Bicycle/Pedestrian Bridge is complete and open to traffic. Bicyclists, residents, and community members turned out en masse on May 15, 2009 for the San Dieguito River Park's official opening of the world's longest stress ribbon bridge.

The San Dieguito River Park Joint Powers Authority retained TYLI to perform initial concept studies, detailed design, and resident engineering and inspection during construction for this record-setting bridge in San Diego, California. The approximately 1000-ft crossing of Lake Hodges provides an access route for bicycle and pedestrian traffic by connecting two separate portions of the existing 55-mile Coast to Crest Trail within the San Dieguito River Valley Regional Open Space Park.

To date only six stress ribbon bridges have been built in North America. At Lake Hodges, this structure uses a 16-inch-thick concrete deck to span 330 feet between supports for an amazing depth to span ratio of 1:248. The bridge can achieve such a remarkable depth to span ratio since it is actually a cable-supported bridge with the bearing cables embedded within its concrete deck. The result is a thin ribbon of concrete that creates a very low visual impact to its natural setting across the lake.

Not without its unique challenges, the project's construction took place around the breeding season (which lasts from March through September) of several endangered bird species that nest nearby, including the Coastal California Gnatcatcher, the Least Bell's Vireo, and the Southwestern Willow Flycatcher. The superstructure was built from precast concrete panels suspended from bearing cables, eliminating the need for costly falsework in the water.

The bridge expands recreational and commuter bicycling in the area. Where formerly, bicyclists and pedestrians were made to cross the lake via the busy Interstate 15 bridge, now they can travel safely over the new bridge. TYLI is proud to have played a vital role in the design and construction of this important bridge which adds a public recreational resource within a regional park and improving public access to surrounding recreational facilities.

*Founded in 1954, T.Y. Lin International is an internationally recognized, multi-disciplined transportation planning and engineering firm committed to providing innovative, cost-effective, constructible designs for the global transportation infrastructure market. With more than one thousand employees working in offices throughout the United States and Asia, the firm is able to provide support on projects of varying size and complexity.*

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