



## **Surfrider Foundation and the Safe Trestles Project**

**<http://www.safetrestles.org>**

The management at San Onofre State Beach has a mandate to provide safe access to the beach, and has wanted to improve the railroad crossing at Lower Trestles for many years. In addition, the many trails cut through the wetlands have had a deleterious effect on the fragile native ecosystem. Architecture for Humanity and the San Onofre Foundation are sponsoring this design contest, while Surfrider is assisting by spreading the word to our supporters.

The goal of this contest is to allow the community to create innovative designs that both eliminate the danger of crossing active train tracks and help to restore marshlands that have been damaged by the present paths. Any chosen design will have to be compatible with the rustic nature of the area, and be respectful of the sensitive habitat as well as the long history and culture of Trestles Beach.

We understand that there may be some concern that providing a structural access might somehow increase crowds, but rest assured any project that is built will not shorten the long hike that is required to get to the beach. It will simply make that portion of the hike safer and more environmentally sensitive. Recall that the current crossing is illegal and the North County Transit District has the ability to close off access if it deems necessary. This modest improvement will guarantee continued access to Lower Trestles for the future.