## Supporting Information

The nature of the DNA substrate influences pre-catalytic conformational changes of DNA polymerase  $\beta$ 

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**Figure S1. Single turnover kinetics of different DNA substrates.** The DNA substrates are (A) JS<sub>1+p</sub>T, (B) JS<sub>1-p</sub>T, (C) JS<sub>3+p</sub>T, (D) JS<sub>3-p</sub>T, (E) JS<sub>5+p</sub>T, (F) JS<sub>5-p</sub>T, (G) JT DNA.



Figure S2. Determination of  $k_{pol}$  and  $K_{d (dNTP)}$  from single turnover kinetics experiments. The DNA substrates are (A)  $JS_{1+p}T$ , (B)  $JS_{1-p}T$ , (C)  $JS_{3+p}T$ , (D)  $JS_{3-p}T$ , (E)  $JS_{5+p}T$ , (F)  $JS_{5-p}T$ , (G) JT DNA.



**Figure S3.** Confidence contours for the rate constants determined by KinTek Explorer for  $JS_{1+p}T$  DNA with *model containing the non-covalent step*. For each case the search was carried out up to a sum of squares error (SSE) that is 2-fold higher than the minimum SSE. The upper and lower limits of each parameter were determined using an SSE threshold of 1.2. A red oval shape indicates the pairs of parameters are well constrained.



**Figure S4.** Confidence contours for the rate constants determined by KinTek Explorer for  $JS_{1+p}T$  DNA with *model that does not contain the non-covalent step*. For each case the search was carried out up to a sum of squares error (SSE) that is 2-fold higher than the minimum SSE. The upper and lower limits of each parameter were determined using an SSE threshold of 1.2. A red oval shape indicates the pairs of parameters are well constrained.



**Figure S5.** Confidence contours for the rate constants determined by KinTek Explorer for  $JS_{1-p}T$  DNA with *model that does not contain the non-covalent step*. For each case the search was carried out up to a sum of squares error (SSE) that is 2-fold higher than the minimum SSE. The upper and lower limits of each parameter were determined using an SSE threshold of 1.2. A red oval shape indicates the pairs of parameters are well constrained.



**Figure S6.** Confidence contours for the rate constants determined by KinTek Explorer for  $JS_{3+p}T$  DNA with *model that does not contain the non-covalent step*. For each case the search was carried out up to a sum of squares error (SSE) that is 2-fold higher than the minimum SSE. The upper and lower limits of each parameter were determined using an SSE threshold of 1.2. A red oval shape indicates the pairs of parameters are well constrained.



**Figure S7.** Confidence contours for the rate constants determined by KinTek Explorer for  $JS_{3-p}T$  DNA with *model that does not contain the non-covalent step*. For each case the search was carried out up to a sum of squares error (SSE) that is 2-fold higher than the minimum SSE. The upper and lower limits of each parameter were determined using an SSE threshold of 1.2. A red oval shape indicates the pairs of parameters are well constrained.



**Figure S8.** Confidence contours for the rate constants determined by KinTek Explorer for  $JS_{5+p}T$  DNA with *model that does not contain the non-covalent step*. For each case the search was carried out up to a sum of squares error (SSE) that is 2-fold higher than the minimum SSE. The upper and lower limits of each parameter were determined using an SSE threshold of 1.2. A red oval shape indicates the pairs of parameters are well constrained.



**Figure S9.** Confidence contours for the rate constants determined by KinTek Explorer for JS<sub>5-p</sub>T DNA with *model that does not contain the non-covalent step*. For each case the search was carried out up to a sum of squares error (SSE) that is 2-fold higher than the minimum SSE. The upper and lower limits of each parameter were determined using an SSE threshold of 1.2. A red oval shape indicates the pairs of parameters are well constrained.



**Figure S10.** Confidence contours for the rate constants determined by KinTek Explorer for JT DNA with *model that does not contain the non-covalent step*. For each case the search was carried out up to a sum of squares error (SSE) that is 2-fold higher than the minimum SSE. The upper and lower limits of each parameter were determined using an SSE threshold of 1.2. A red oval shape indicates the pairs of parameters are well constrained.