

San Dieguito Wetlands Restoration Project

Quarterly Community E-Newsletter #13

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PROJECT TEAM MOBILIZES TO DREDGE SAN DIEGUITO RIVER TIDAL CHANNEL

COMMUNITY OUTREACH MEETING SCHEDULED FOR AUGUST 16, 2010, 6 PM - 8 PM, CITY OF SOLANA BEACH COUNCIL CHAMBERS

The San Dieguito Wetlands Restoration Project will enter its final phase of construction in summer of 2010 as dredging operations commence to remove approximately 65,000 cubic yards of sand from the San Dieguito River channel and inlet. Dredging the channel, which is located directly south of the Del Mar Fairgrounds, is the final major construction activity planned for the restored wetlands and is needed to restore the natural tidal flows between the Pacific Ocean and the hundreds of acres of new and existing habitat that depend on fresh seawater. Sand that meets beach replenishment specification standards will be placed on Del Mar Beach south of the river mouth.

The over-all design of the 150 acres of mixed-use, wetland habitat depends on the daily flows of ocean water into the newly created wetlands that provide both a deep water lagoon and more traditional mudflats. During each of two daily tides, hundreds of millions of gallons of fresh, ocean water bring fish, plankton and nutrients into the new wetlands to constantly reinvigorate the ecosystem. It is essential to the project to remove the sand that has accumulated in the channel over the last several decades to make the inlet more fully functioning in order to create a more sustainable eco-system. Dredge equipment will be mobilized in the area east of Jimmy Durante Bridge during early August in preparation for the dredge operations. Dredging will proceed in phases and will remove approximately 65,000 cubic yards of sand over a nine month period.

A community information meeting has been scheduled for Monday, August 16, 2010 at 6:00 pm at the Solana Beach City Council Chambers at 635 South Highway 101. The public is invited to hear a brief presentation from Southern California Edison (SCE), project developer and lead sponsor, and Marathon Construction. Team members that include coastal scientists, biologists and project engineers will also be available to showcase different aspects of the project at an informal open house following the presentation with ample time for public questions and discussion.



During August, the public can expect to see a floating dredge placed into the inlet channel. This specialized dredge is ideal for the San Dieguito Restoration Project because it is small, operates with minimum emissions and makes very little noise in comparison to other dredge equipment available. The dredge will first operate east of the Jimmy Durante Bridge and will pump the sand to a stockpile area where it will be dried and placed on upland sites that will be planted with

native habitat. The sand in the channel west of the Jimmy Durante Bridge will be pumped and either moved by pipe or, if more practical, possibly trucked to the beach for sand replenishment purposes. (continued on page 2)

General Work Hours

Monday—Friday,
7:00 a.m.—7:00 p.m.
Saturday, 9:00 a.m.—7:00
p.m.

Project Team Highlight

Can Am Marine Enterprise Inc. is a dredging firm based in Mount Vernon, WA licensed to perform work in the west coast states of Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Hawaii and California. The firm was incorporated in 1987 and has performed many hydraulic dredging projects on the west coast ranging from 400,000 cubic yard projects down to 6,000 cubic yard. Most notably here in San Diego, Can Am Marine has performed five maintenance dredging projects at Batiqitos Lagoon in Carlsbad, CA, averaging approximately 70,000 cubic yards per maintenance dredging project.

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Minimizing interference with any migratory and endangered bird nesting activity is one of the most important operational components to the dredge operation. Project biologists will work cooperatively with US Fish and Wildlife and California Fish and Game to monitor the site during construction for any nesting activities in order to protect any the birds. Scientists have documented nearly a tripling of bird species in the Lagoon since restoration project starts in September 2006.

Scientists have been tasked with monitoring the success of the new wetland habitat and the project is fast becoming a model to research how species colonize man-made habitats. Monitoring and testing of the lagoon will continue for the next several years, giving scientists and marine estuary planners ideas on best restoration practices for other coastal lagoons. Southern California Edison and its San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station (SONGS) co-owner SDG&E are paying to construct the wetlands as one of several measures that fully mitigate marine impacts by SONGS ocean water cooling system.

Dredge Phasing/Areas



Tentative Dredging Schedule

August 1 – August 15	Mobilize Dredge/Install Discharge Pipe
August 15 – September 15	Dredge Area A4/A5 – 6000 Cubic Yards
January 1 – February 15	Machine Excavate Area A1/A2 and truck to Beach – 39,000 Cubic Yards
February 15 – April 15	Machine Excavate/Screen/Pump to Beach Area A3 – 20,000 Cubic Yards



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