

Los Cerritos Wetlands Restoration Plan and Program Environmental Impact Report



Public Workshop #1



March 28, 2018, 6:00-8:30pm, Mary Wilson Library, Seal Beach

PRESENTATION – 6-7PM

Who Are We?

- **Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority (LCWA)**
 - Tidal Influence
- **Consultant Team**
 - Environmental Science Associates (ESA)
 - Altman Environmental Consulting (AEC)
 - Coastal Restoration Consultants (CRC)

Safety and Ground Rules

- **Courteous Behavior Welcomed**
 - Focus your input on the meeting objectives
 - Honor the agenda and time limits for discussion
 - Interact respectfully, no cross talk
 - Direct your questions and comments to the presenters, not other community members
 - Turn off or silence cell phones

Purpose of Today's Workshop

- Describe past efforts on restoration planning for the Los Cerritos Wetlands
- Describe next steps to develop an optimal design
- Get your input on public access

Los Cerritos Wetlands Complex



Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority

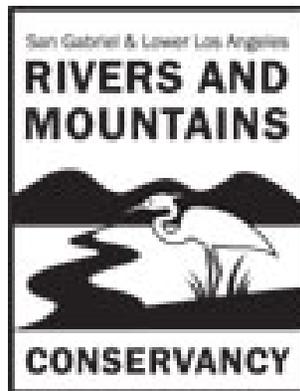
- Formed in 2006
- Comprised of the State Coastal Conservancy, Rivers and Mountains Conservancy, City of Long Beach and City of Seal Beach
- Promotes acquisition, restoration, conservation and management of the Los Cerritos Wetlands
- LCWA Board approved the Los Cerritos Wetlands Draft Conceptual Restoration Plan in August 2015



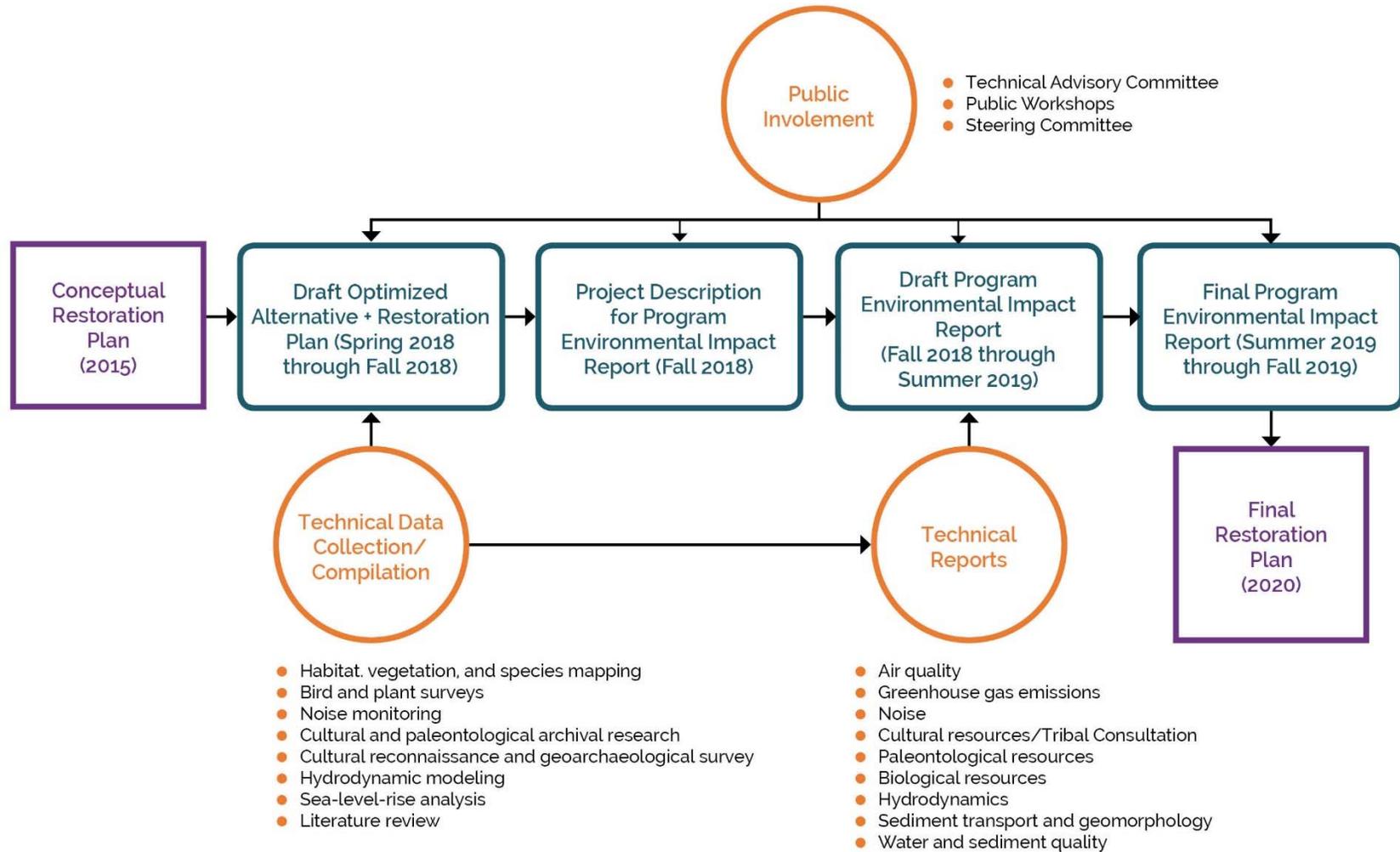
Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority

Why Are We Here?

- Grant funding received to initiate next steps
- Requires determining an “optimized” restoration alternative and preparation of a Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR)
- Approximately 2-year process with numerous opportunities for public participation throughout



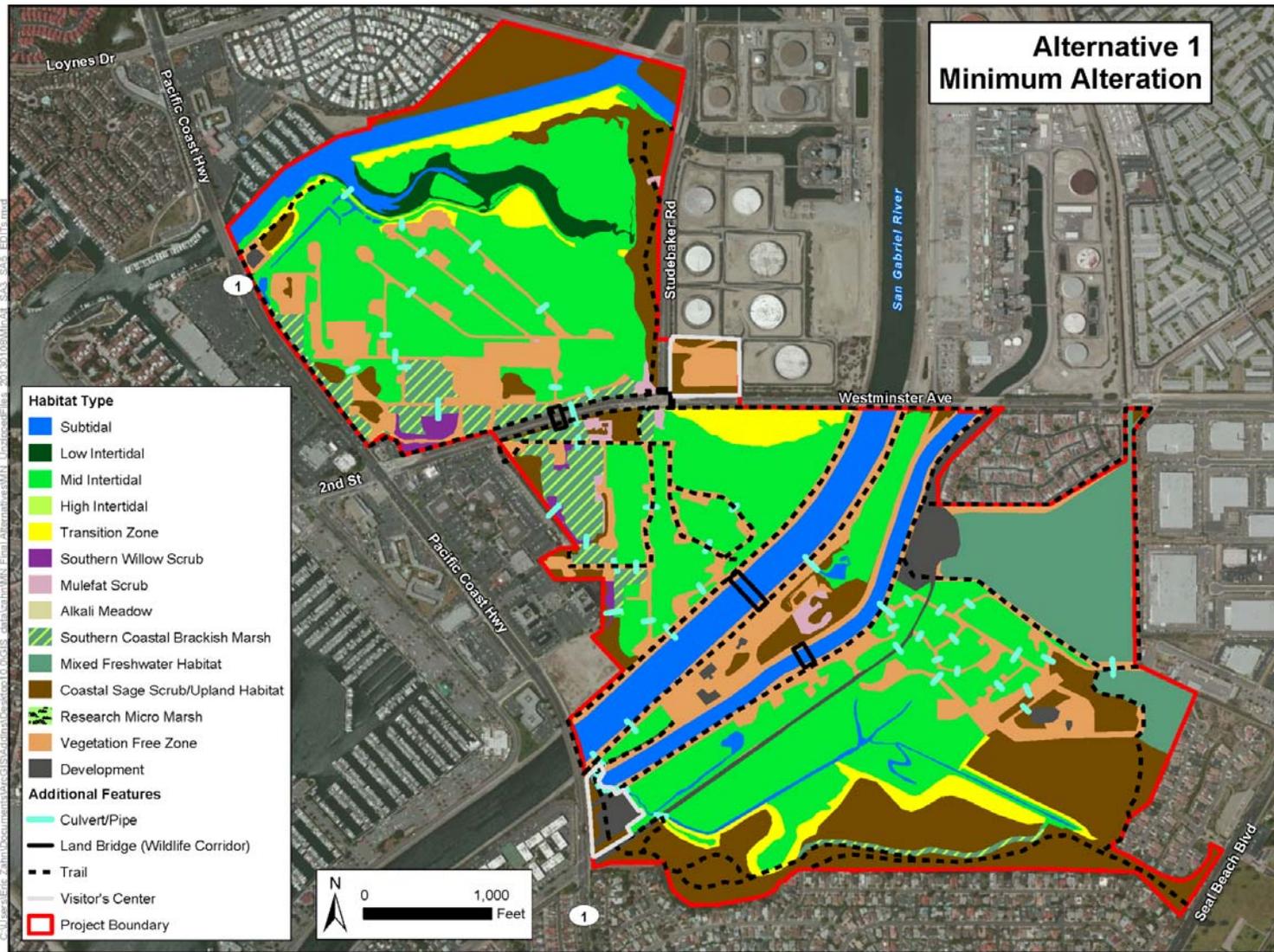
Overview of Process



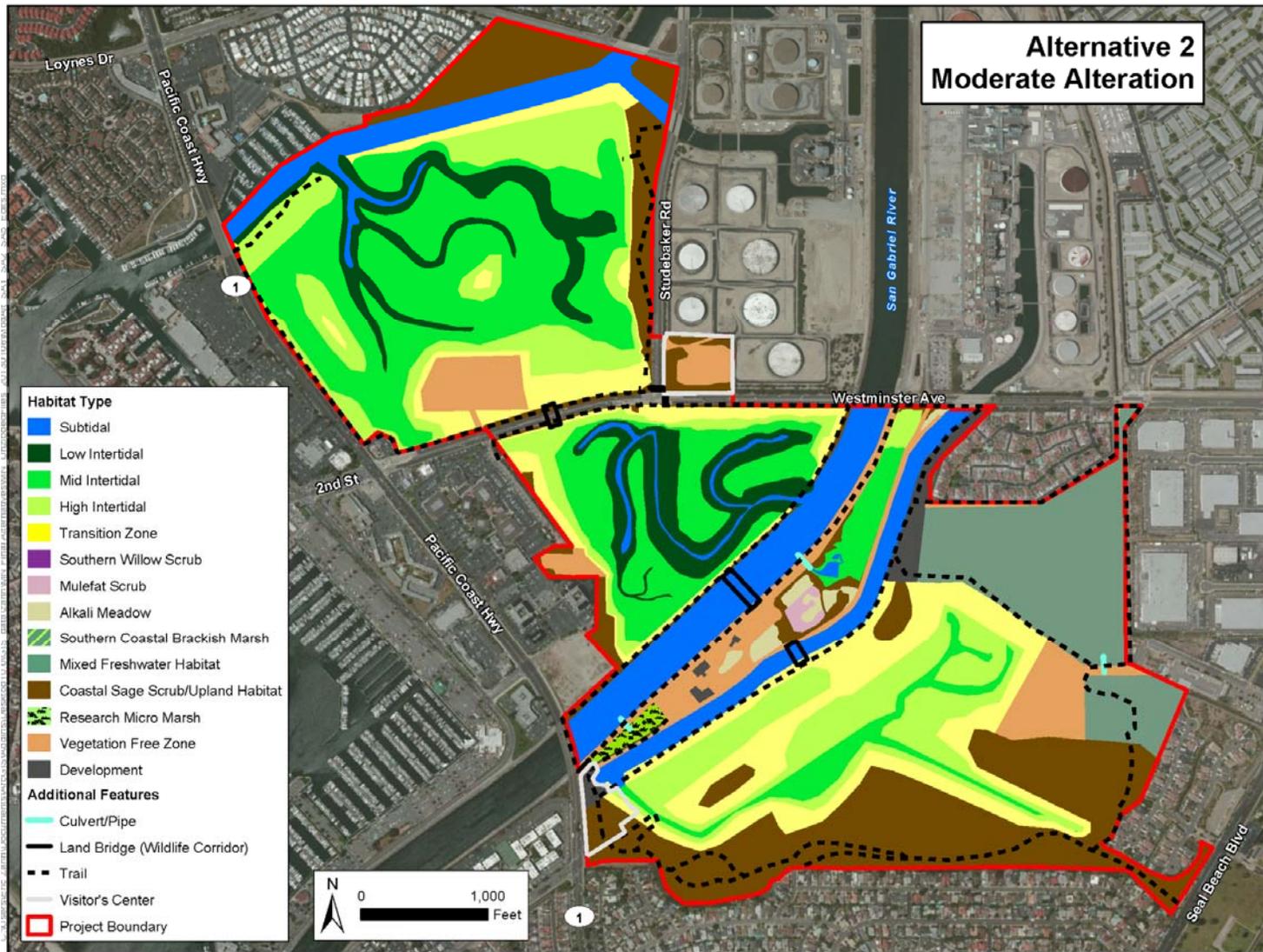
Draft CRP Alternatives

- 3 Alternatives: Minimum, Moderate, Maximum
- Analyzed by the following criteria:
 - Habitat
 - Hydrology
 - Construction and Maintenance
 - Consistency with project goals and objectives
 - Cost estimates
 - Public support
 - Public access

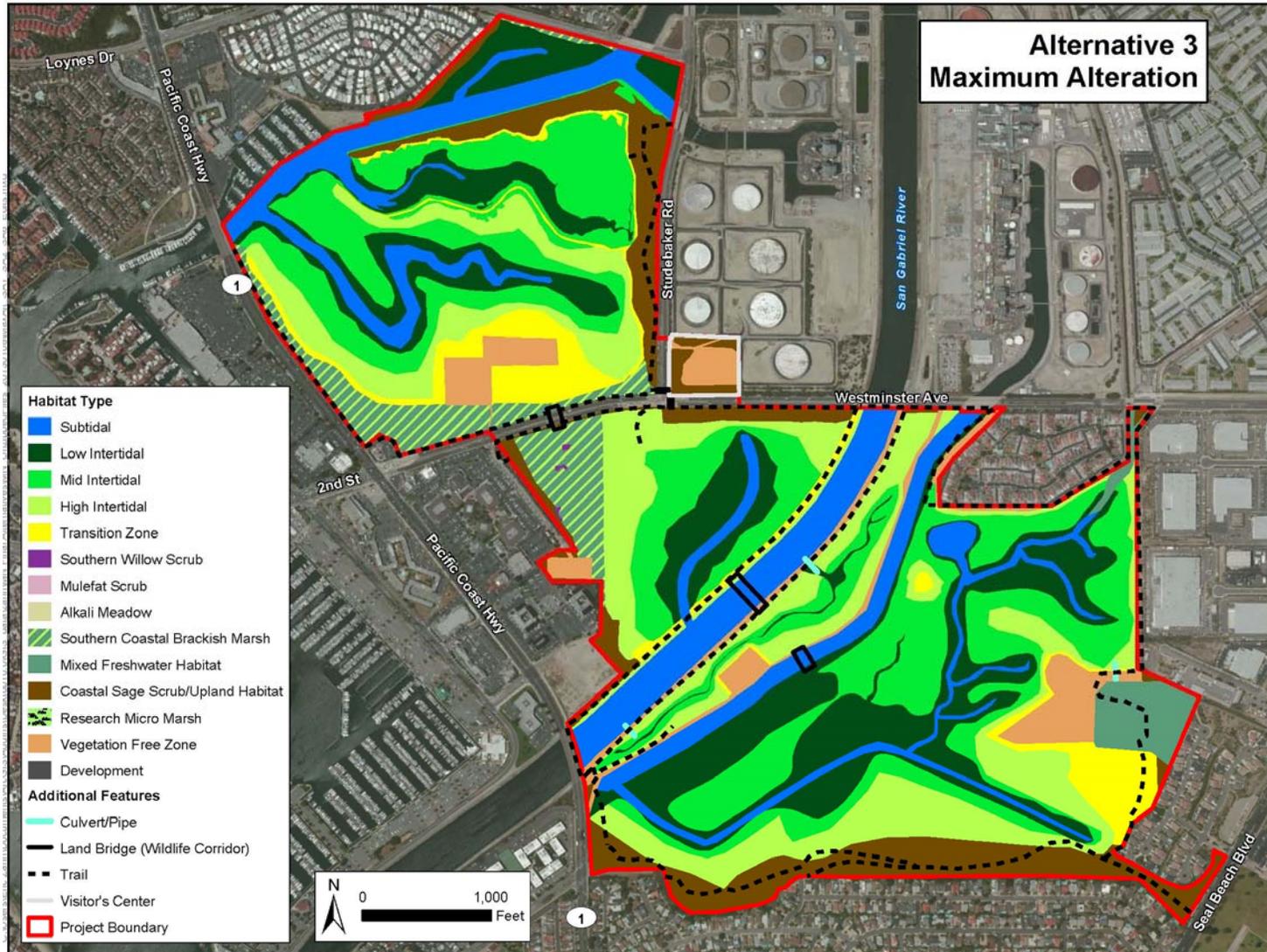
Minimum Alternative



Moderate Alteration



Maximum Alternative



LCWA Conceptual Restoration Plan Project Goals



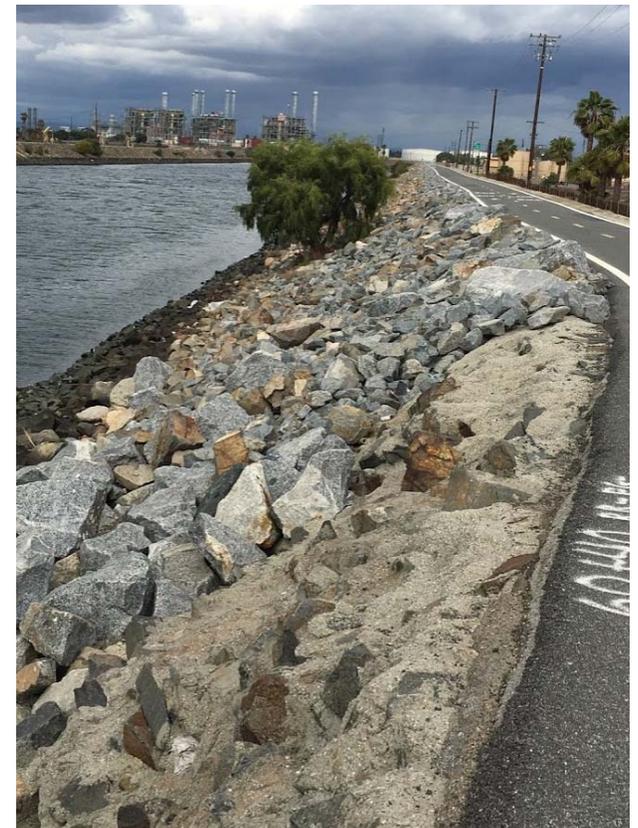
1. Restore wetland processes and functions to the maximum extent possible;
2. Maximize contiguous wetland areas and minimize the edge between wetlands and sources of human disturbance;
3. Create a public access and interpretive program that is practical, protective of sensitive habitat and ongoing oil operations, economically feasible, and will ensure a memorable visitor experience;
4. Incorporate phasing of implementation to accommodate existing and future potential changes in land ownership and usage, and as funding becomes available;
5. Strive for long-term restoration success; and
6. Integrate experimental actions and research into the project, where appropriate, to inform restoration and management actions for this project.

Moving from Conceptual to Analysis

- Changes since the 3 alternatives were conceptualized:
 - Drought Conditions
 - Restoration of Zedler Marsh plant communities
 - Creation of Zedler Marsh Trails
 - Sea Turtle Monitoring Program
 - Belding's Savannah Sparrow Monitoring Program
 - Land Ownership
 - Oil Consolidation Proposal

Moving from Conceptual to Analysis

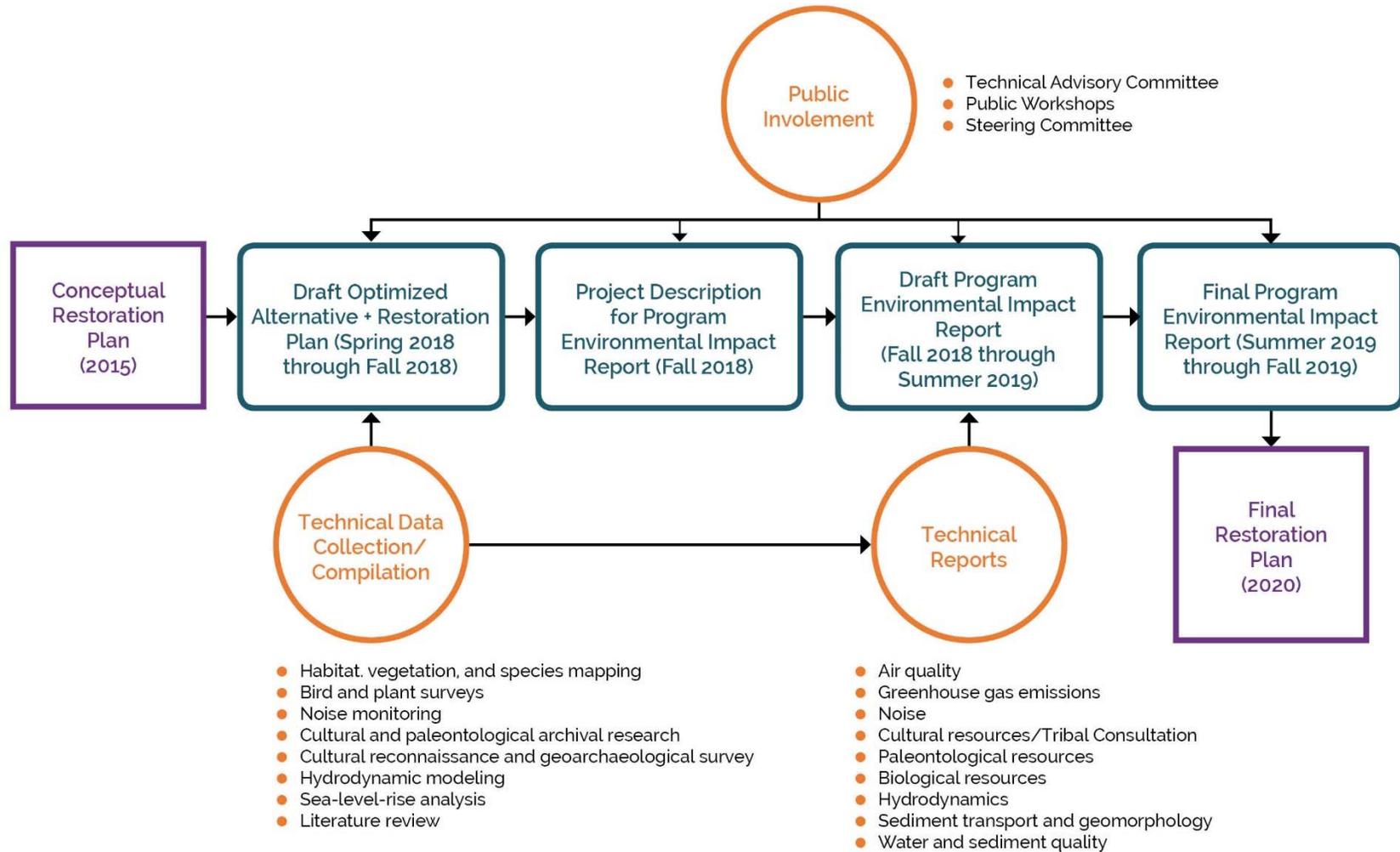
- Optimized alternative will address constraints and opportunities, including:
 - Land ownership and oil operations
 - Flood management
 - Sea-level rise resiliency
 - Integrating public access



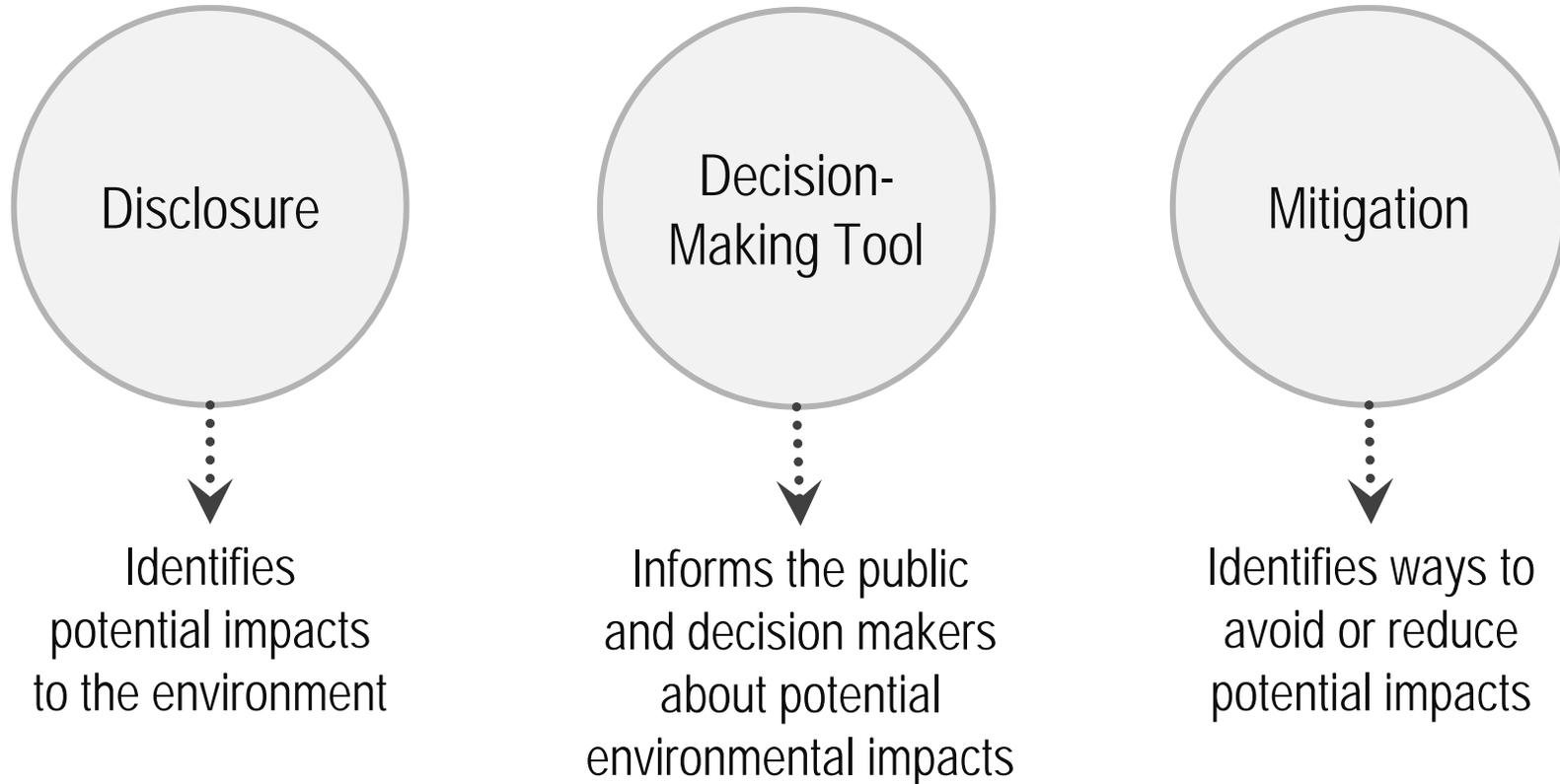
Final Restoration Plan

- The Final Restoration Plan will:
 - Consider ongoing habitat restoration planning
 - Consider phasing based on land ownership and land use
 - Provide details for what habitat types will be restored, and where and how they will be restored.
 - Describe the public access improvements
 - Describe how new tidal connections will be created
 - Identify discrete projects that can implemented as stand-alone efforts

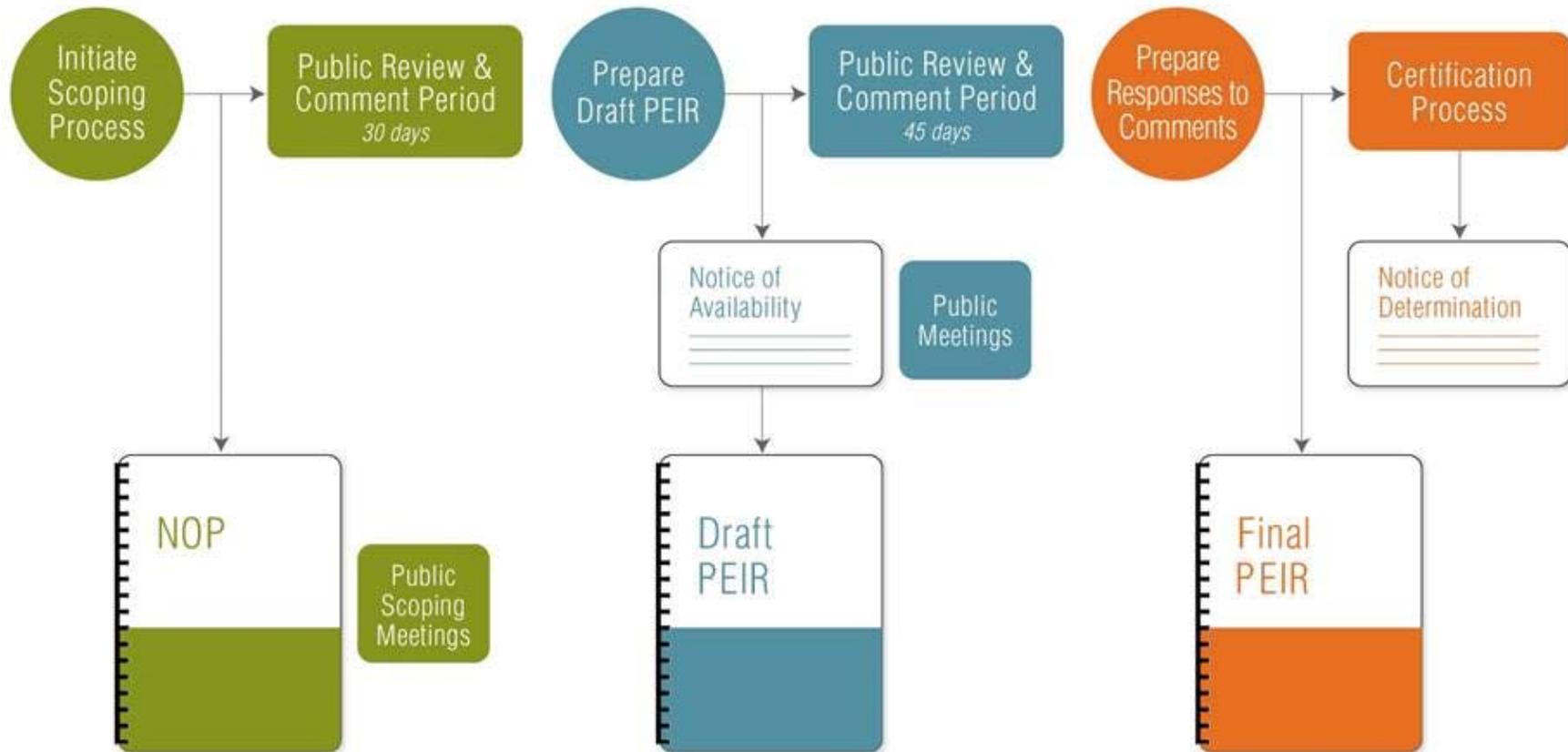
Overview of Process



California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Overview



CEQA Process for a Programmatic Environmental Impact Report



Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR)

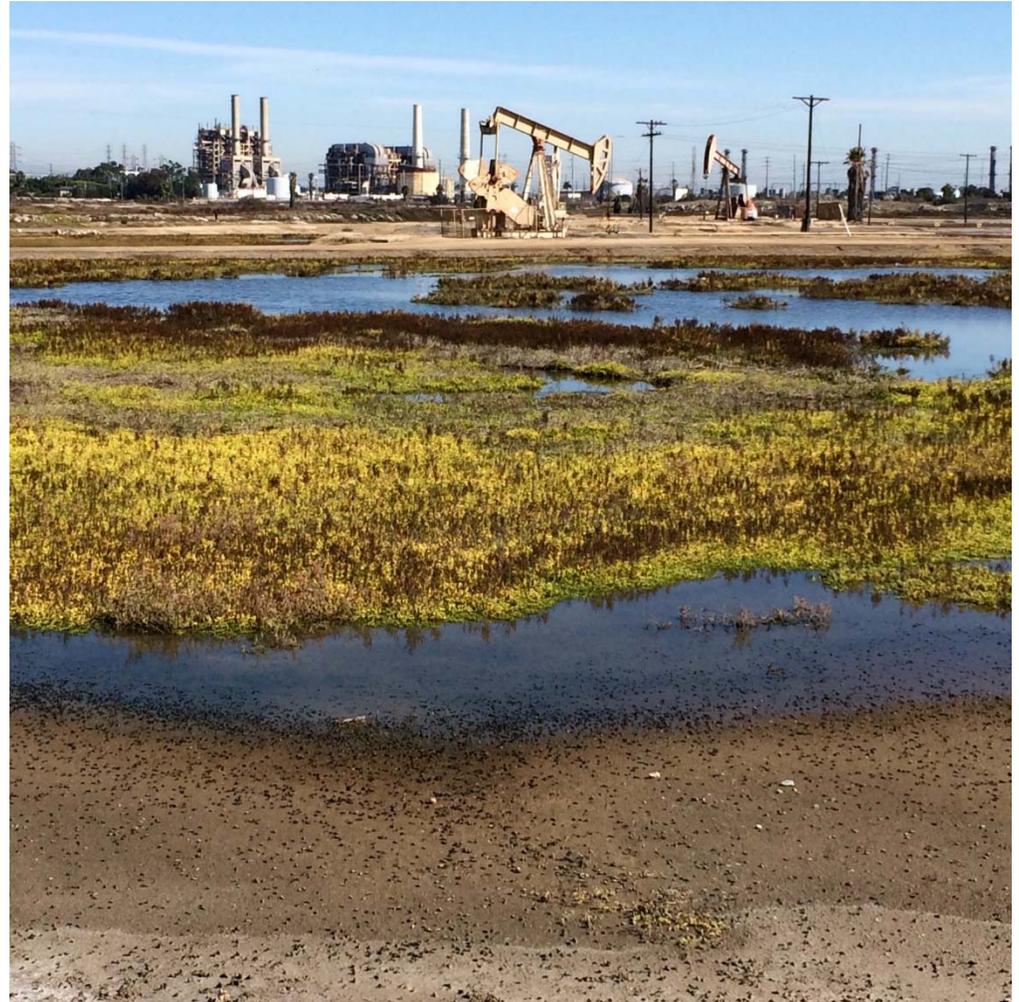
- **Studies and technical reports to be produced:**
 - Air Quality Impact Assessment
 - Biological Resource Assessments
 - Greenhouse Gas Assessment
 - Noise Technical Report
 - Cultural Resource Assessment
 - Paleontological Resource Report
 - Hydrodynamics Technical Report
 - Sediment Transport and Geomorphology Technical Report
 - Water and Sediment Quality Technical Report

Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR)

- **Preliminary list of Other Environmental Issues to be Analyzed in the PEIR**
 - Aesthetics
 - Geology and Soils
 - Energy
 - Hazards & Hazardous Materials
 - Land Use and Planning
 - Mineral Resources
 - Public Services
 - Recreation
 - Traffic and Transportation
 - Utilities & Service Systems

Los Cerritos Wetlands Oil Consolidation and Restoration Project

- Project initiated in 2014
- Located on 4 parcels within portions of the Los Cerritos Wetlands
- Received City Council approval in January 2018
- Anticipate California Coastal Commission hearings in 2018



LCW Oil Consolidation and Restoration Project EIR

- Parcel specific resource studies conducted for the BOMP EIR
 - Specials status species surveys
 - Vegetation mapping
 - Jurisdictional wetland delineation
 - Environmental site assessment
 - Cultural

QUESTION AND ANSWER – 7-7:20PM

Questions?

- 20 minutes
- 1 question per person
- Courteous Behavior Welcomed

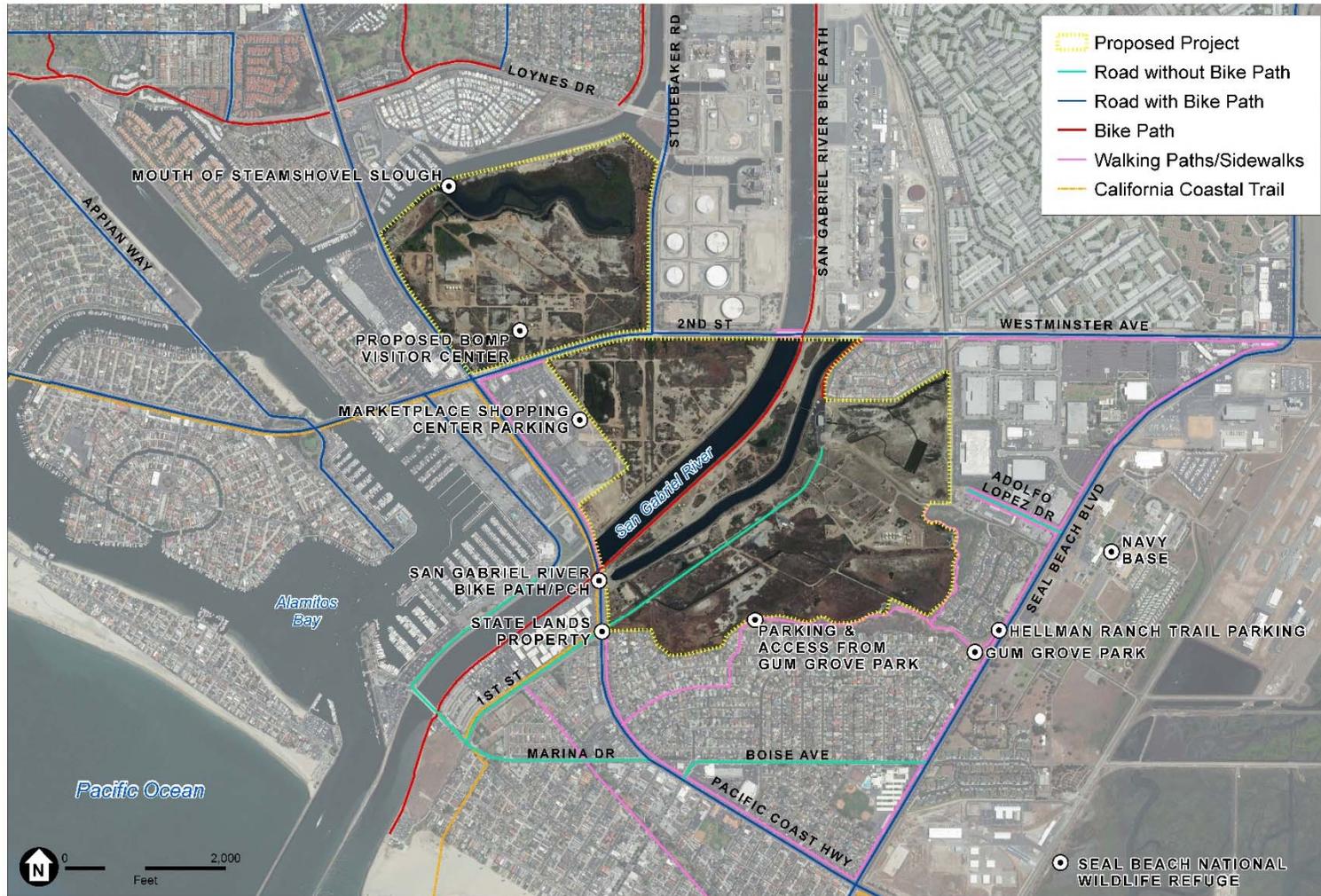


GROUP ACTIVITY – 7:20-8:00PM

Group Activity

- Break into groups and add notes on large boards
 - Be respectful
 - Listen to each other
 - Discuss topics constructively
 - Give others the opportunity to speak
- Individually respond to questionnaires and mark up small maps

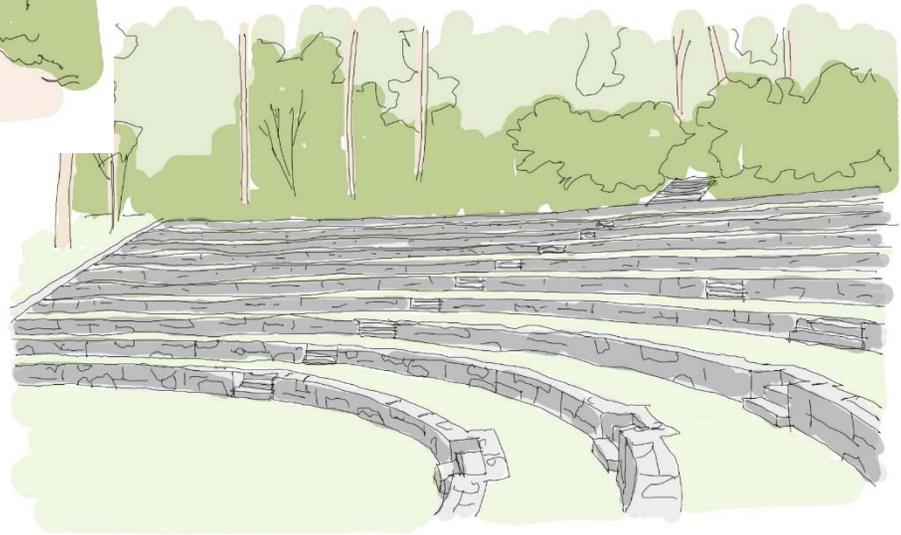
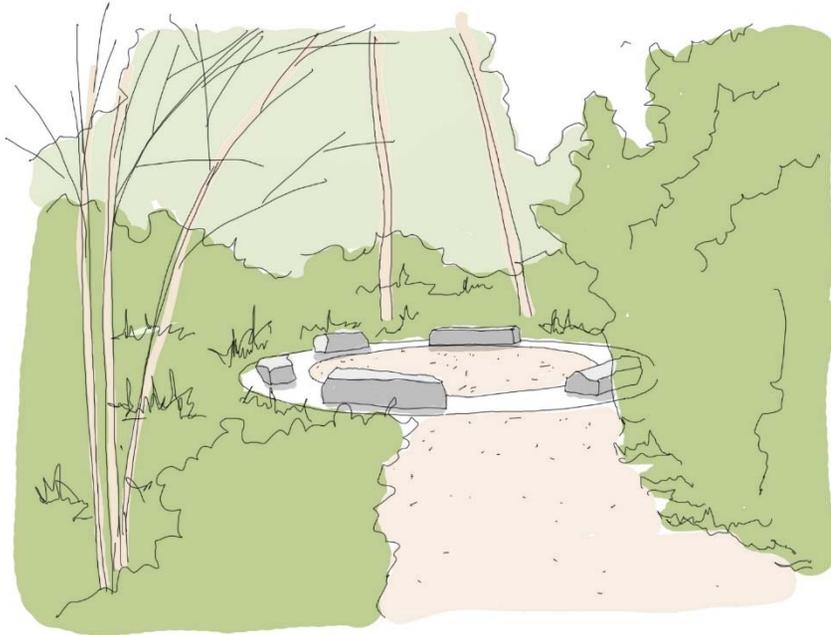
Existing Public Access Map



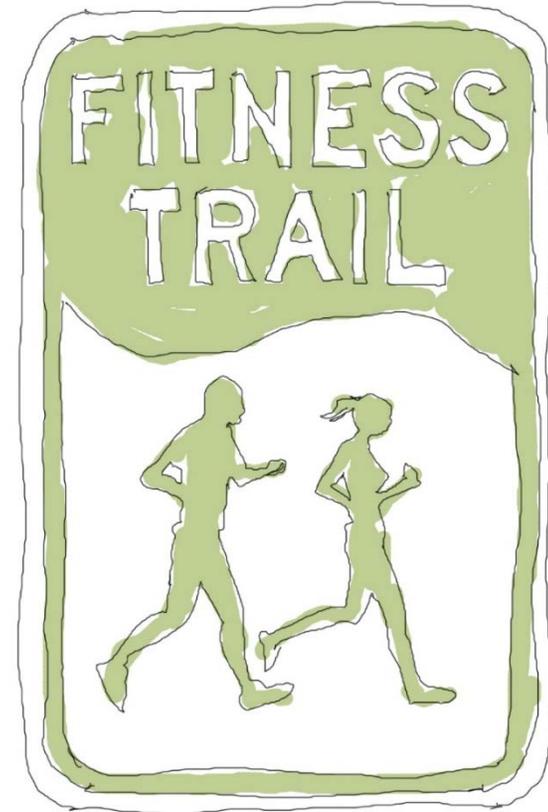
Public Access Amenities

- What types of amenities should be included?
 - Picnic Shelters
 - Kiosk
 - Gathering spaces / Amphitheater
 - Fitness Trail
 - Wildlife viewing / Bird blinds
 - Trails & Boardwalks
 - Site Furnishings: Benches, picnic tables, trash receptacles, bike racks, drinking fountains, bike maintenance kiosk

Gathering Spaces



Fitness Equipment



Overlooks & Bridges



Shelters & Information Kiosks



Site Furnishings



Public Access – Things to Consider

- Share information and your knowledge of:
 - Public access entry points
 - Potential Trail locations & connections
 - Points of interest/ view points
- Where would improvements be most useful?
- What are your priorities?

STAY INVOLVED – 8:00-8:15pm

Schedule and Contact Information

- Two more workshops – summer 2018, another late 2019
- CEQA scoping meeting and comment period – fall 2018
- CEQA Draft EIR meeting and comment period – fall 2019
- LCWA website for information:
 - www.intoloscerritoswetlands.org/lcw-eir
- Email:
 - LCWA@tidalinfluence.com