

# Los Cerritos Wetlands Restoration Plan Program Environmental Impact Report

## Public Meeting Starting Soon



### SOUND CHECK

Make sure your audio is working. You should hear a loop of  
Joni Mitchell - Big Yellow Taxi

# Los Cerritos Wetlands Restoration Plan Program Environmental Impact Report



## Public Meeting

May 21, 2020



### Presenters:

Eric Zahn, Principal Restoration Ecologist, Tidal Influence  
Heather Altman, Principal, Altman Environmental Consulting





Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority

## Webinar Format

- You can hear us, but we cannot hear you
- Ask questions at any time in chatroom
- Questions will be answered at several points during the webinar
- Webinar is being recorded

We appreciate your support!  
Thank you for being courteous!!

For all information visit  
[intoloscerritoswetlands.org](http://intoloscerritoswetlands.org)



# Purpose of Tonight's Meeting:

Informational session for Draft  
Program EIR's Project Description  
Question and Answer

## Agenda

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- Los Cerritos Wetlands  
Restoration Planning Process
  - CEQA Overview
- Proposed Restoration Program
  - Upcoming Dates



# Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority (LCWA)

- 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
- Lead Agency for CEQA

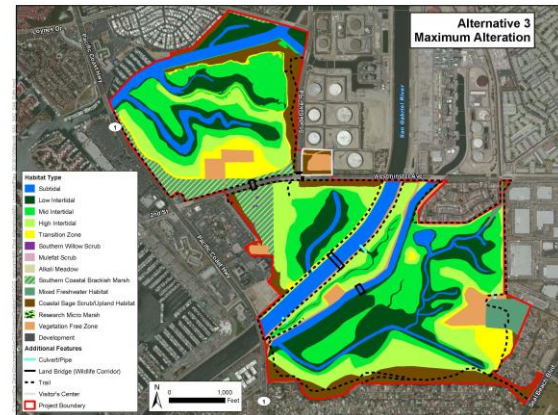
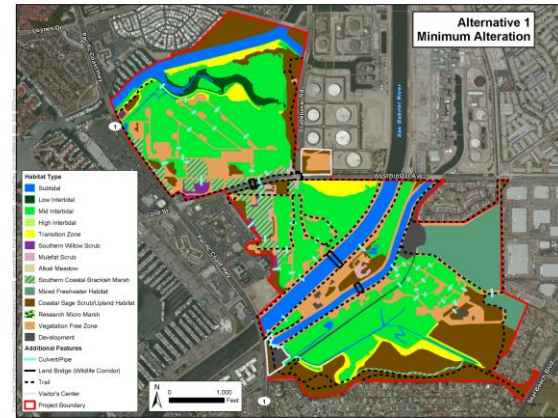


***Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority***



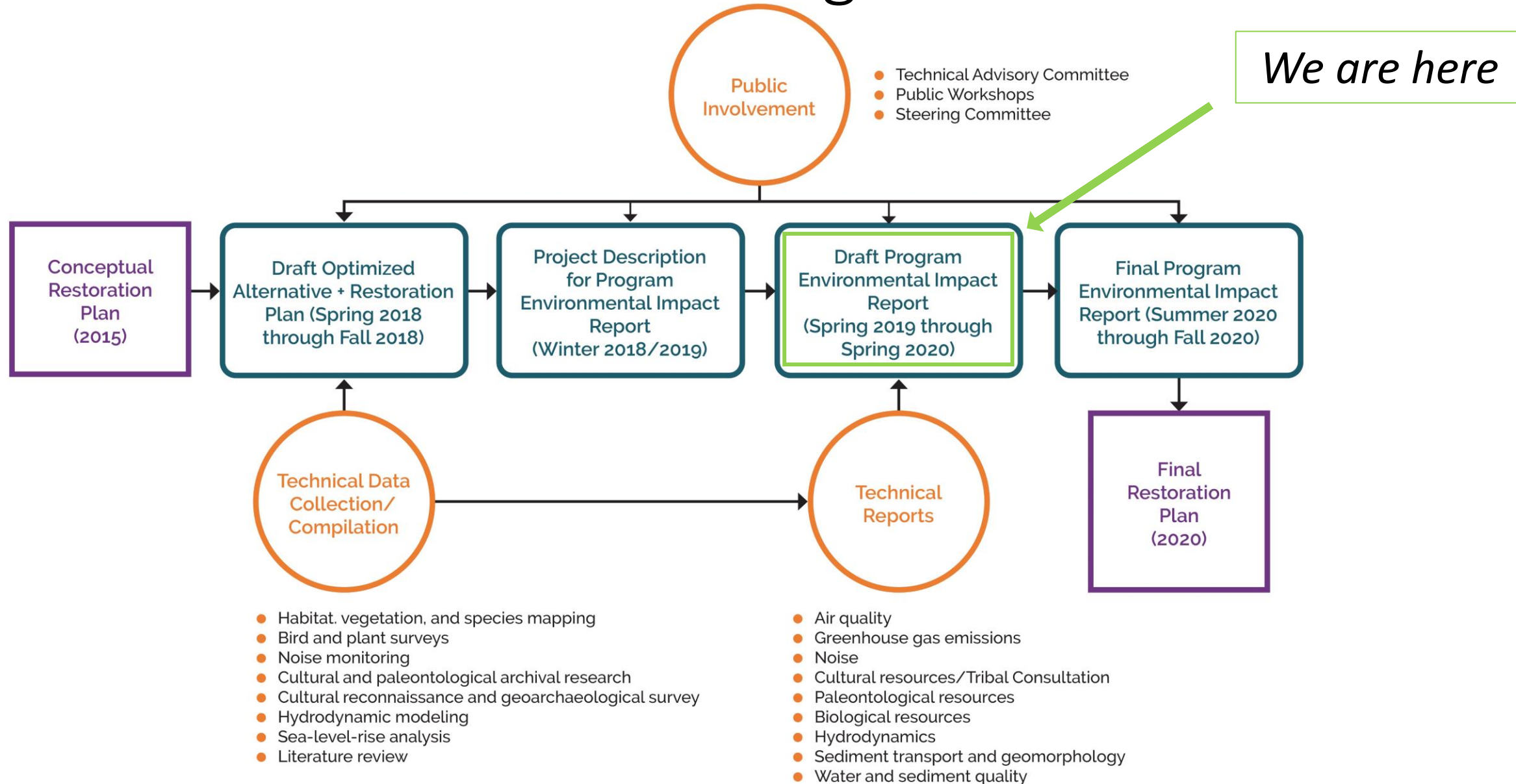
# Restoration Planning History

- LCWA Board approved the Los Cerritos Wetlands Conceptual Restoration Plan in August 2015
- Conceptual Plan Included 3 Restoration Alternatives: Minimum Alteration, Moderate Alteration, Maximum Alteration
- Funding received in 2017 to initiate next steps: prepare Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) and Final Restoration Plan



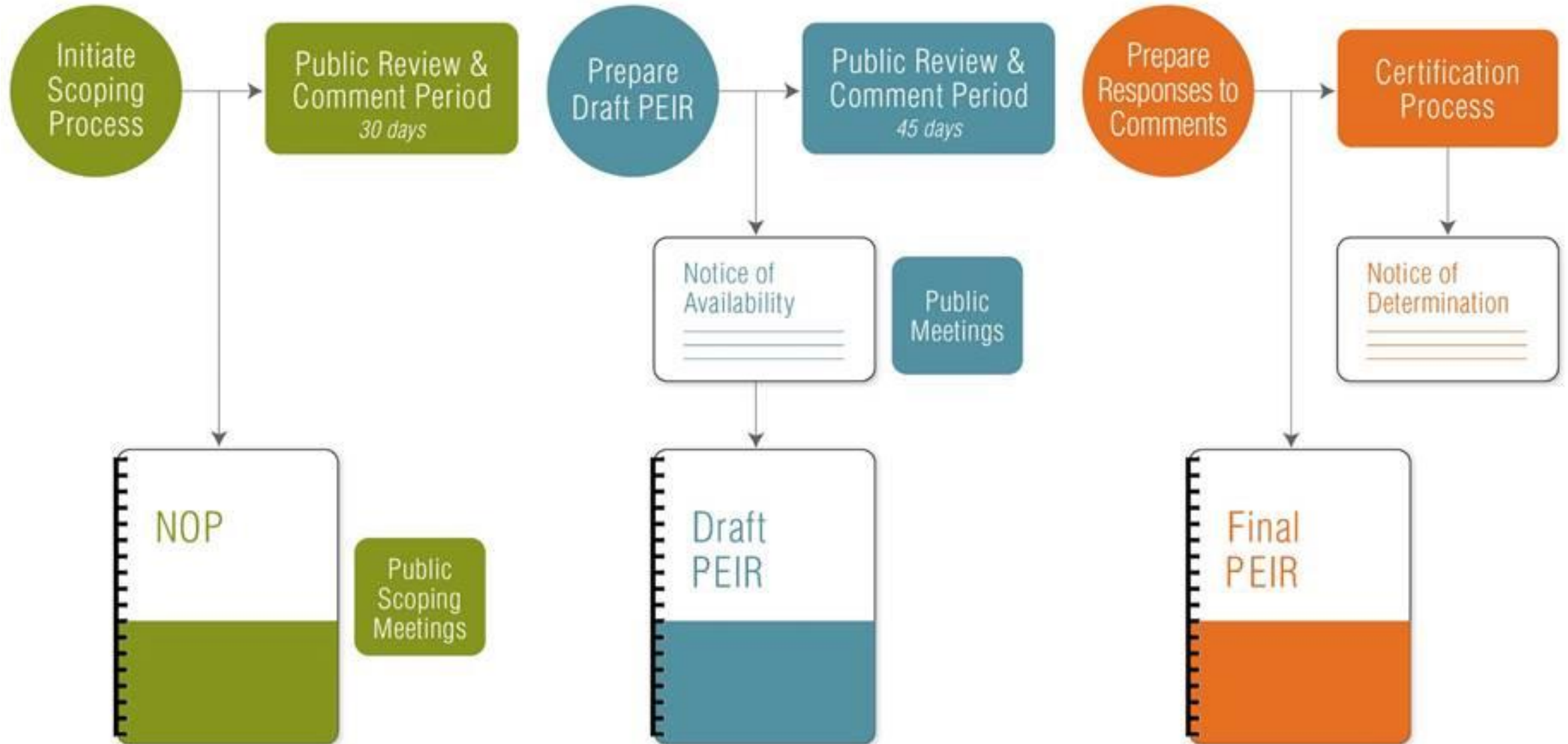


# Current Planning Process





# California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)



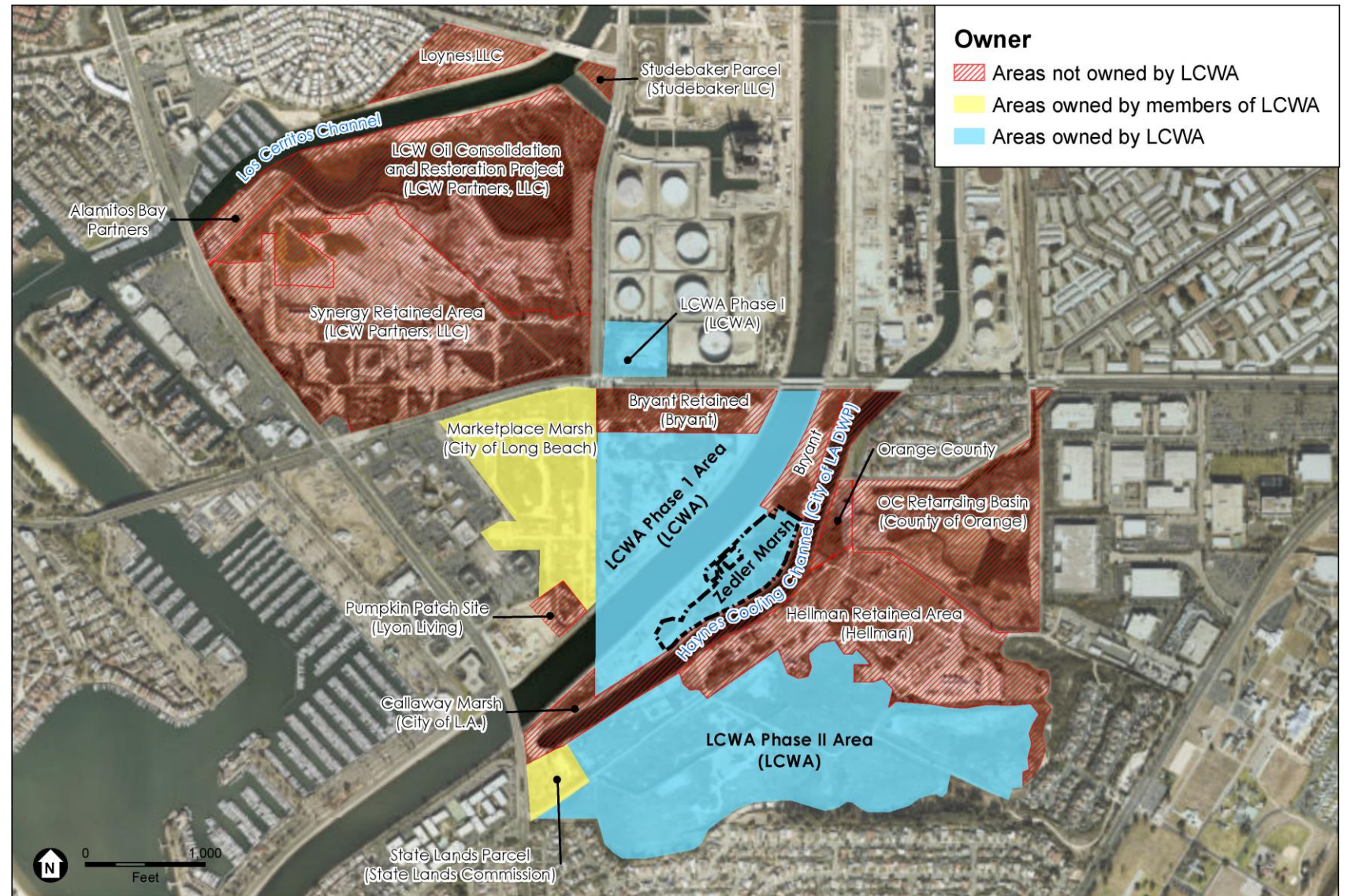


# Contents of the Draft Program EIR

- Executive Summary
  - Chapter 1: Introduction
  - Chapter 2: Project Description
  - Chapter 3: Environmental Setting, Impacts and Mitigation Measures
  - Chapter 4: Other CEQA Considerations
  - Chapter 5: Alternatives
  - Chapter 6: Report Preparers
  - Technical Appendices
- 
- The diagram shows a list of EIR contents. A green box highlights 'Chapter 2: Project Description' with a green arrow pointing to it from the text 'TODAY'S TOPIC'. An orange box highlights 'Chapter 3: Environmental Setting, Impacts and Mitigation Measures' and 'Chapter 5: Alternatives'. An orange arrow points from the text 'JUNE 4<sup>th</sup>'s TOPICS' to 'Chapter 5: Alternatives'.

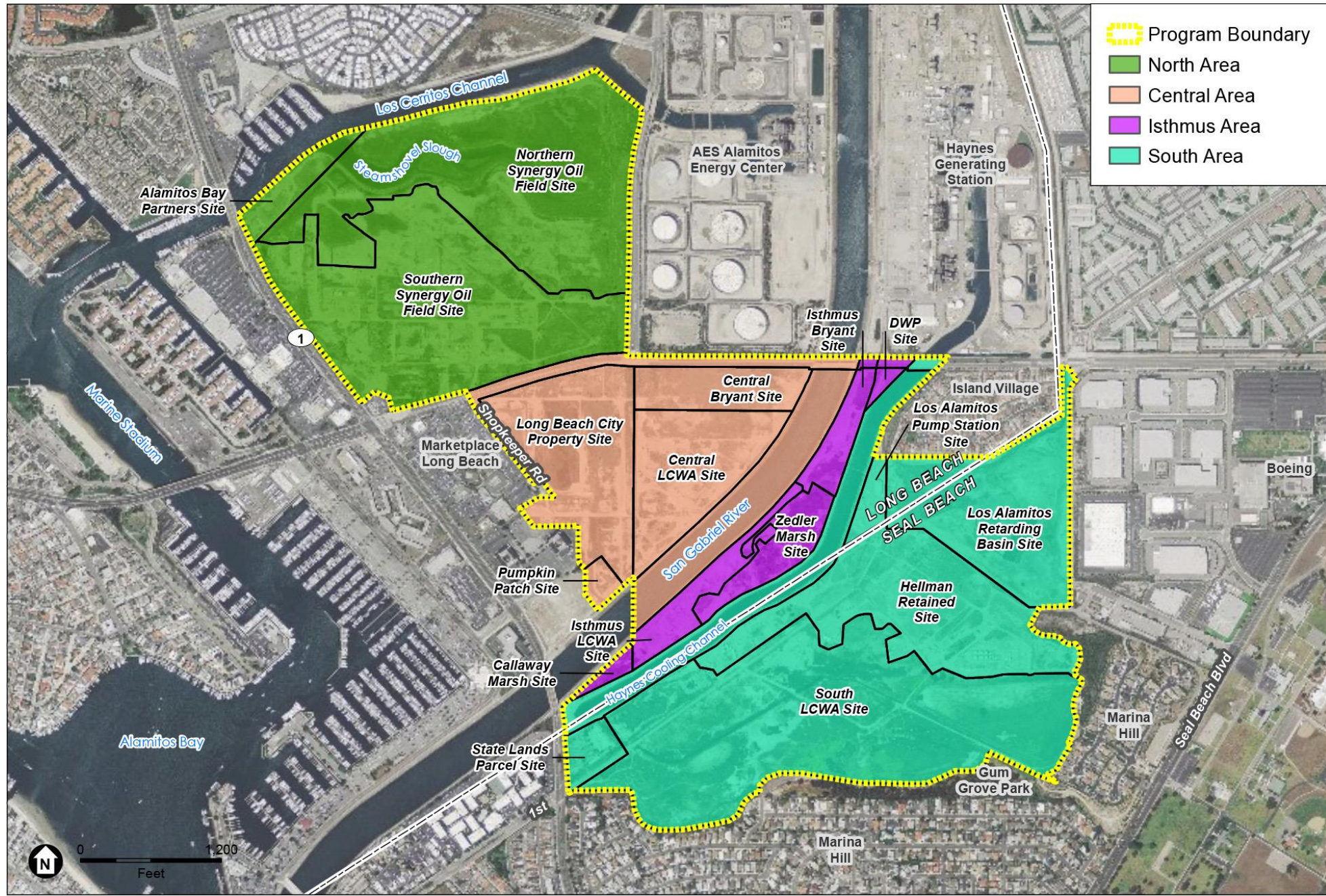


# Los Cerritos Wetlands Complex Land Ownership





# Program Area Boundary





# Time to Answer Some Questions

Questions are being answered based on the order queued up in the chatroom





# Restoration Program Goals

1. **Restore tidal wetland** processes and functions to the maximum extent possible;
2. **Maximize contiguous habitat areas** and **maximize** the **buffer** between habitat 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.





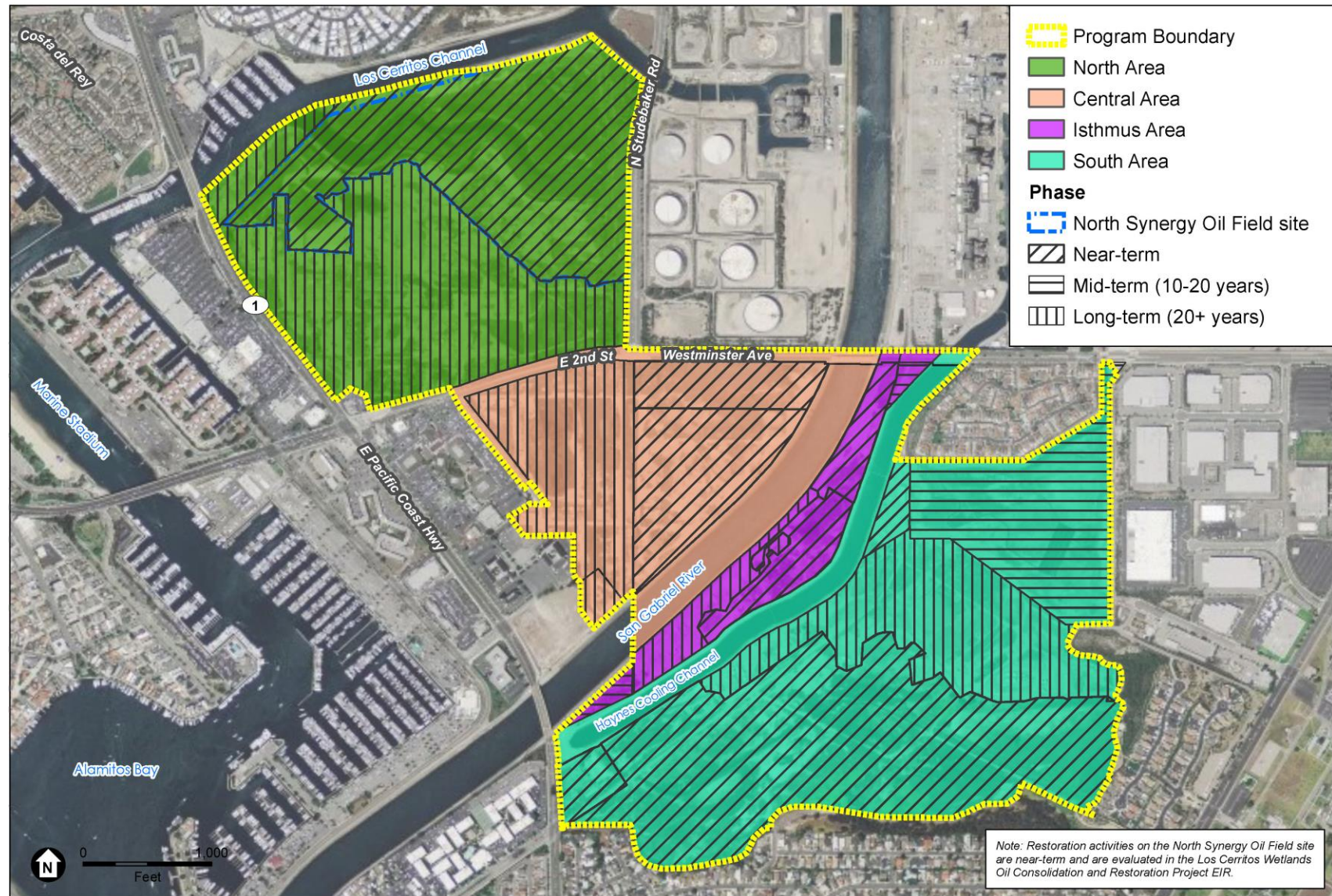
# Program Considerations

- Ecosystem Restoration
- Flood Risk and Stormwater Management
- Public Access and Visitor Facilities
- Infrastructure and Utility Modification
- Implementation and Restoration Process
  - e.g. grading, soil remediation, public facilities
- Monitoring and Adaptive Management
- Operation and Maintenance



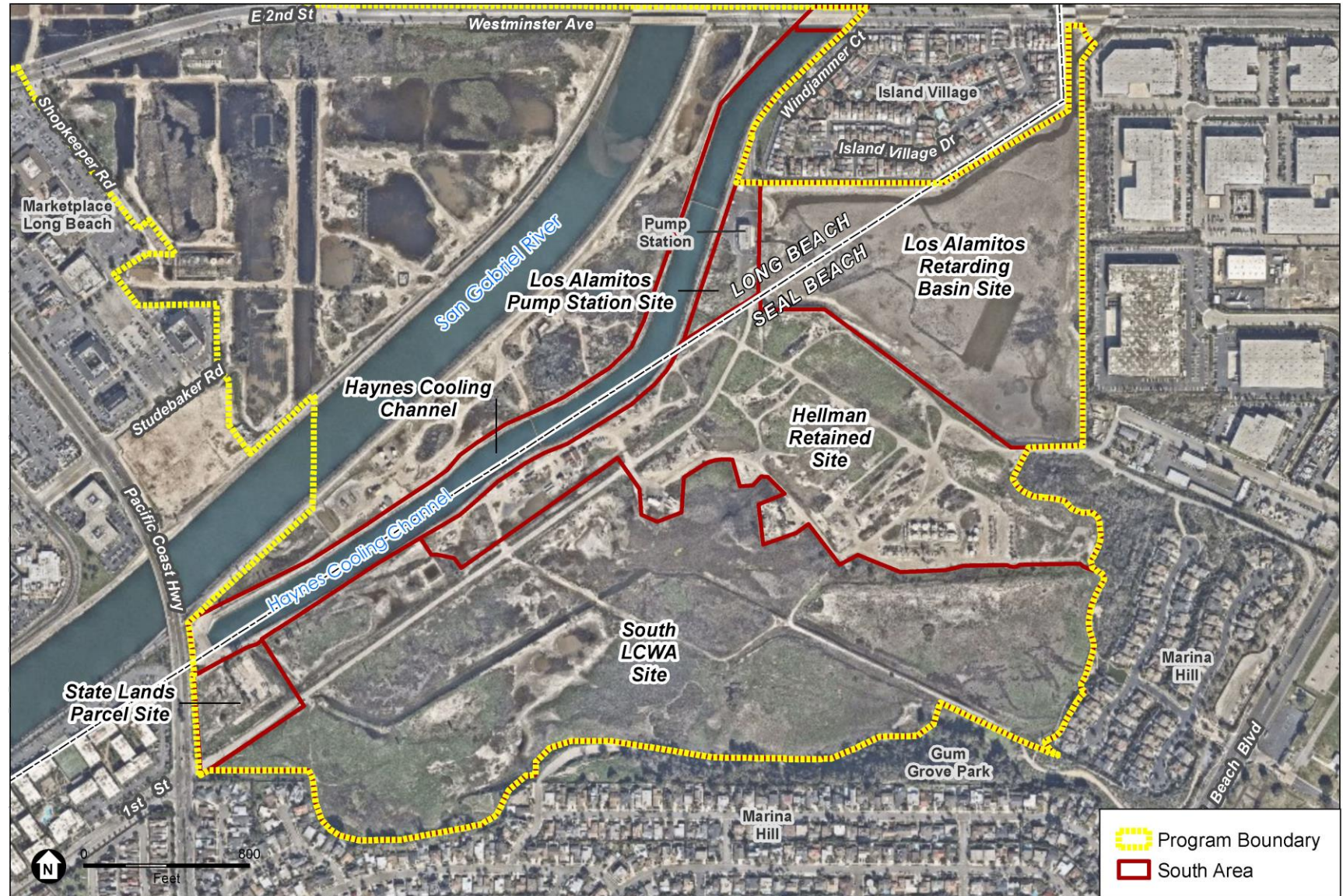


# Proposed Program Phasing





# South Area Restoration Program





# South Area: Near Term

- Remediating soils
- Grading to support a diversity of marsh, transitional, and upland habitats
- Construction of flood protection along the Hellman property boundary
- Raising 1st Street
- Building a Seal Beach Visitor Center and associated parking
- Removing the gate on the existing culvert connecting the South LCWA site to the San Gabriel River
- Removing the culverts under the former access roads
- Restoring native grassland for raptor foraging habitat





# South Area: Mid Term

- Excavating a channel connecting the Hellman Channel directly to the Haynes Cooling Channel
- Lowering the berm along the Haynes Cooling Channel to increase the tidal range in the South LCWA site
- Modifying the Los Alamitos Retarding Basin operations to enhance the habitat value in the basin (e.g., change pumping operations to maintain ponding for shorter or longer time).





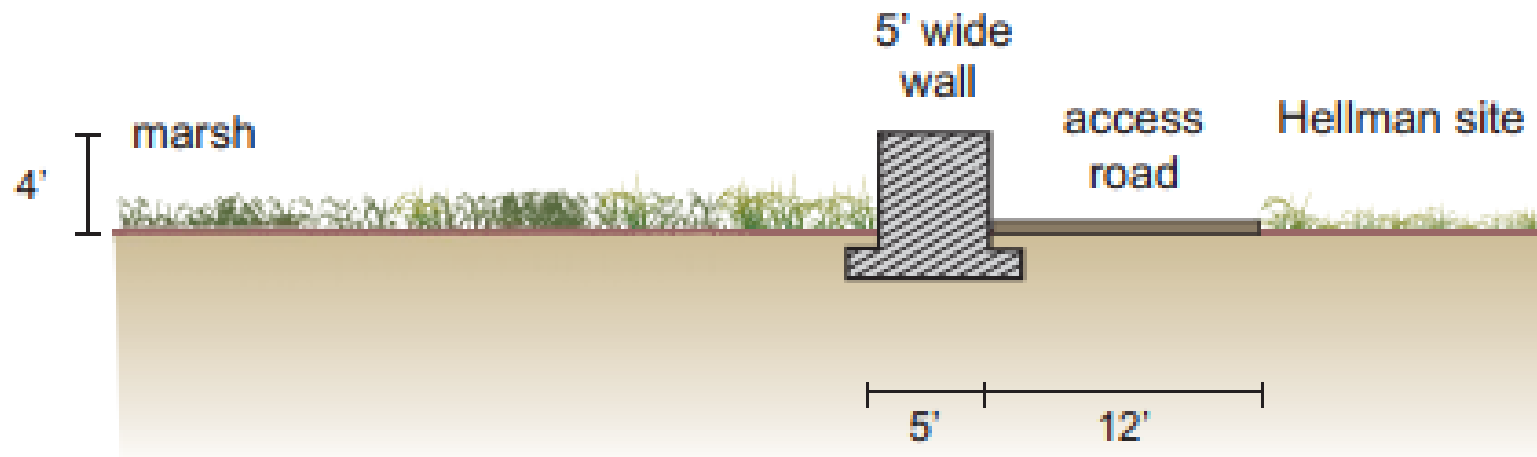
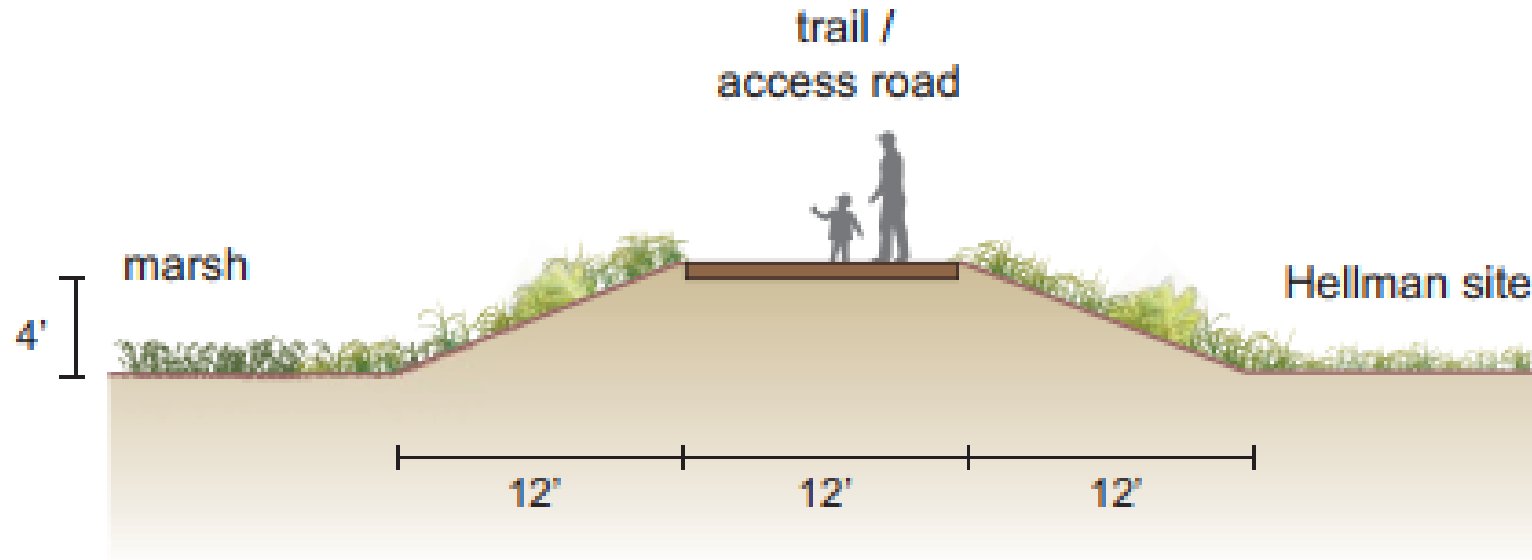
# South Area: Long Term

- Removing or consolidating oil operations on the Hellman Retained site to allow for restoration
- Lowering, breaching, or removing the earthen berm or flood wall separating the South LCWA site and the Hellman Retained site
- Removing 1st Street (through the South LCWA site) and removing, lowering, or breaching the berm under the road.





# South Area: Perimeter Berm and Flood Wall



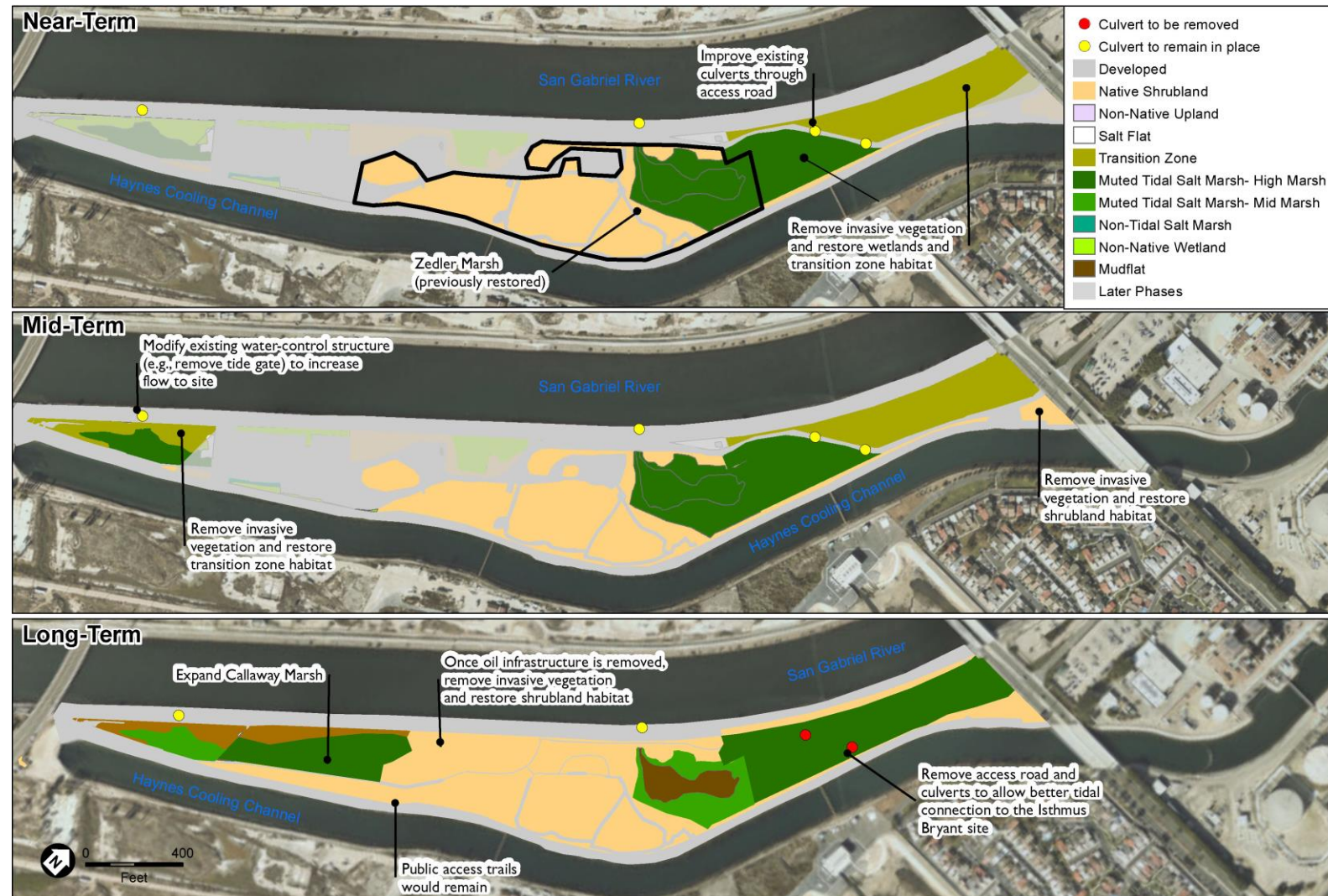
# Isthmus Area Restoration Program





# Isthmus Area: Near, Mid, and Long Term

- Near-term: Extend the restoration of Zedler Marsh site north into the Isthmus Bryant site
- Mid-term: the Callaway Marsh site and the rest of the DWP site would be enhanced once the Haynes Cooling Channel is decommissioned by LADWP and no longer in use for the Haynes Generating Station
- Long-term: the oil operations on the Isthmus LCWA site would be removed or consolidated off-site to allow for restoration





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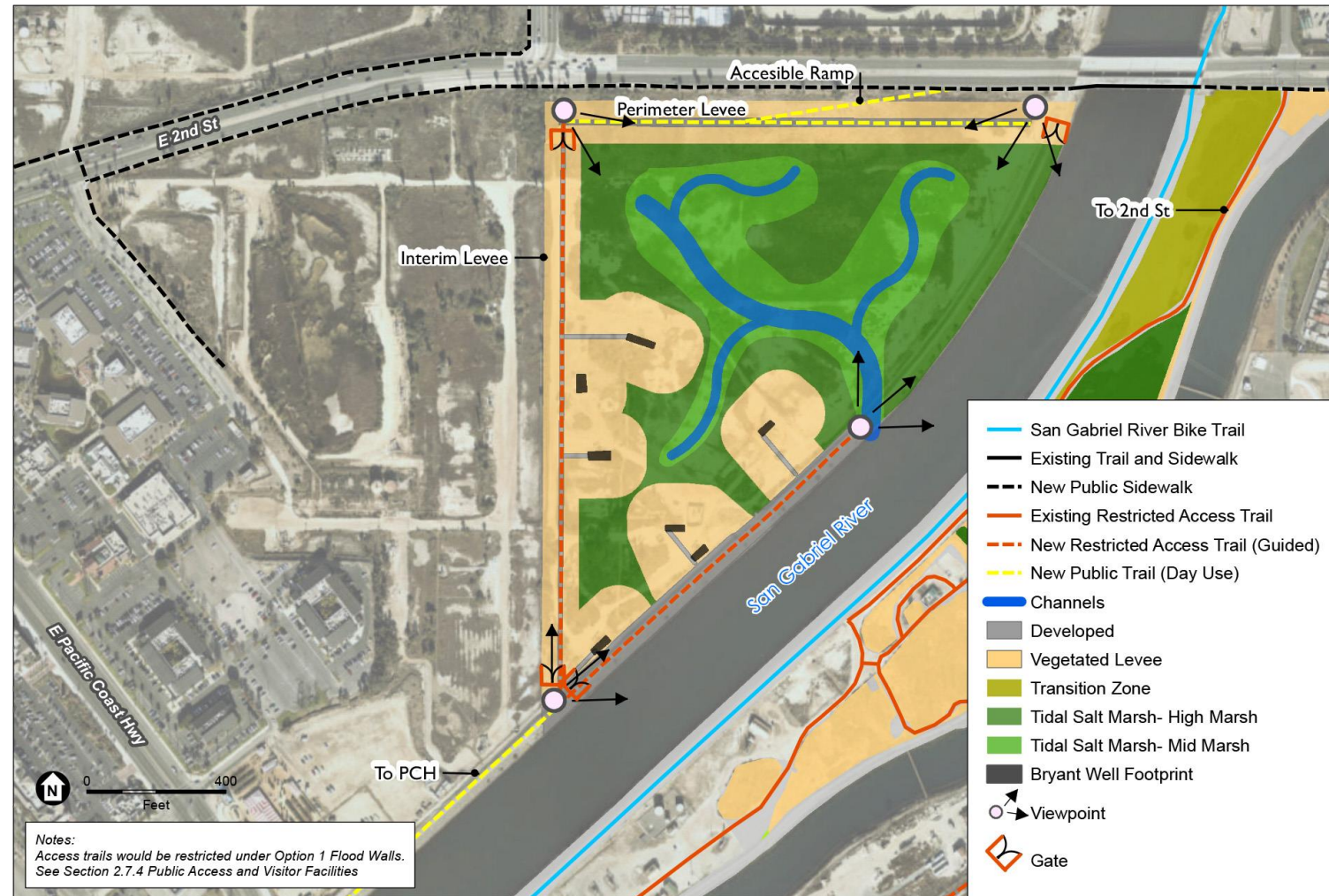
# Central Area Restoration Program





# Central Area: Near Term

- Relocating/modifying oil infrastructure and perform soil remediation
- Grading of the sites, including channels, and revegetation with native plants
- Removing segments of the existing levee separating the SGR from non-tidal areas
- Constructing a new earthen levee (Perimeter Levee) along 2nd Street from the San Gabriel River to the intersection with Studebaker Road
- Constructing a new interim earthen levee (Interim Levee) along the western boundary of the Central LCWA site
- Raising the well pads out of the floodplain
- Constructing public trails on levees, accessible ramps, and viewpoints.





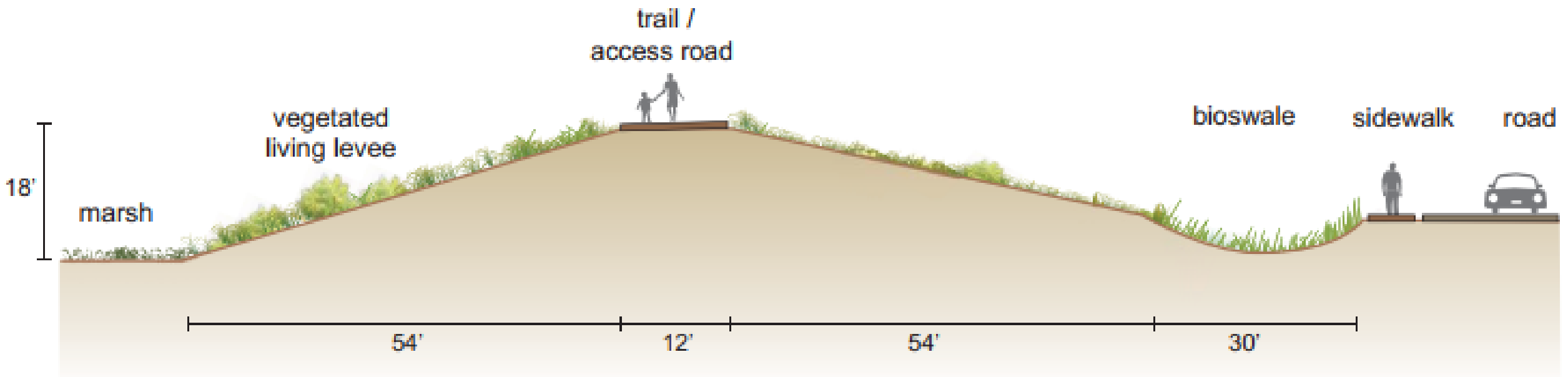
# Central Area: Long Term

- Grading the Long Beach City Property site, including tidal channels and new brackish marsh
- Removing the Interim Levee
- Constructing a new earthen levee (Perimeter Levee) along 2nd Street between the intersection with Studebaker Road to Shopkeeper Road on the Long Beach City Property site and then along Shopkeeper Road to the existing SGR levee on the Long Beach City Property and Pumpkin Patch sites
- Constructing public trails on levees, accessible ramps, stairs, and viewpoints.



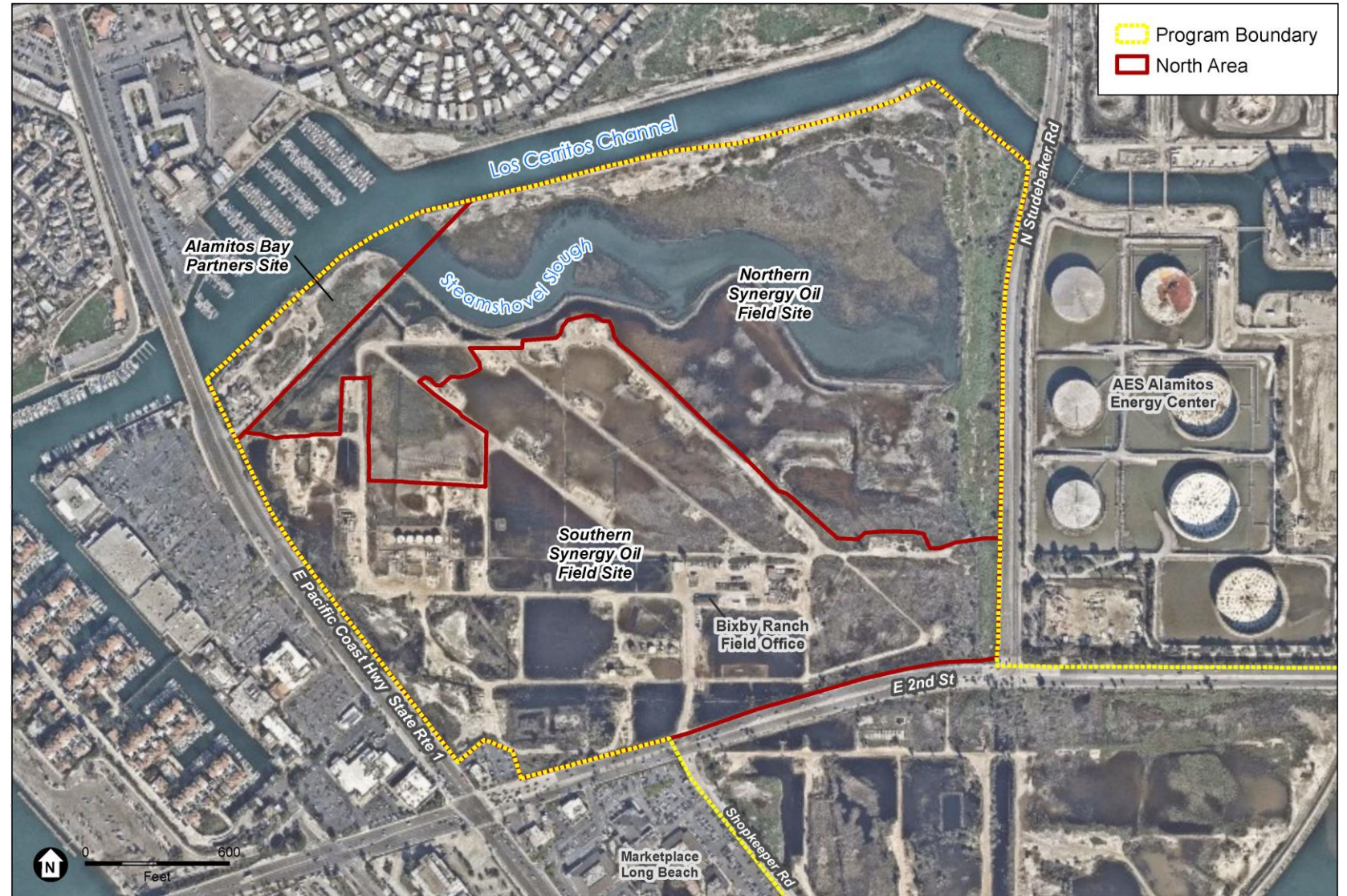


# Central Area: Perimeter Levee



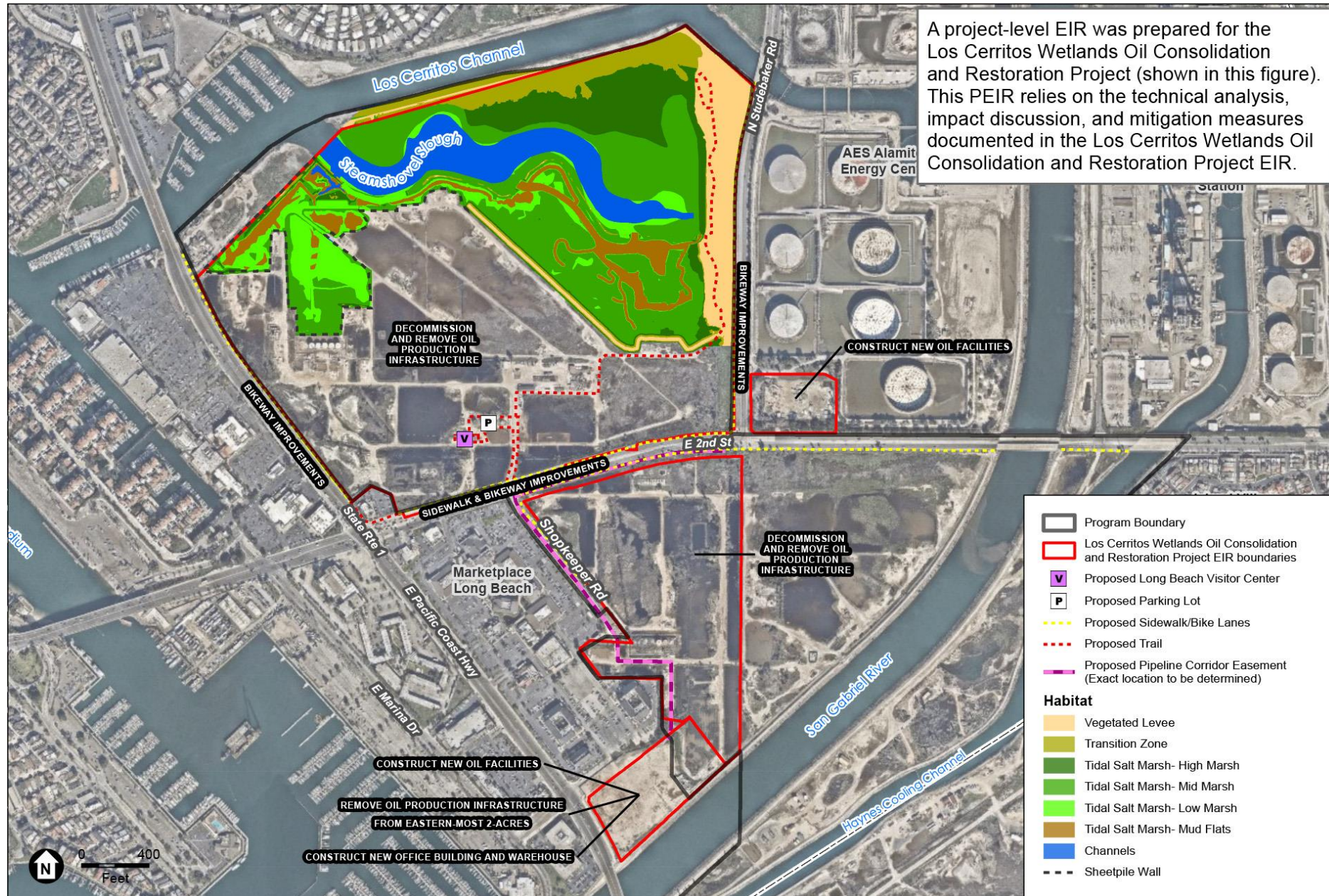


# North Area Restoration Program





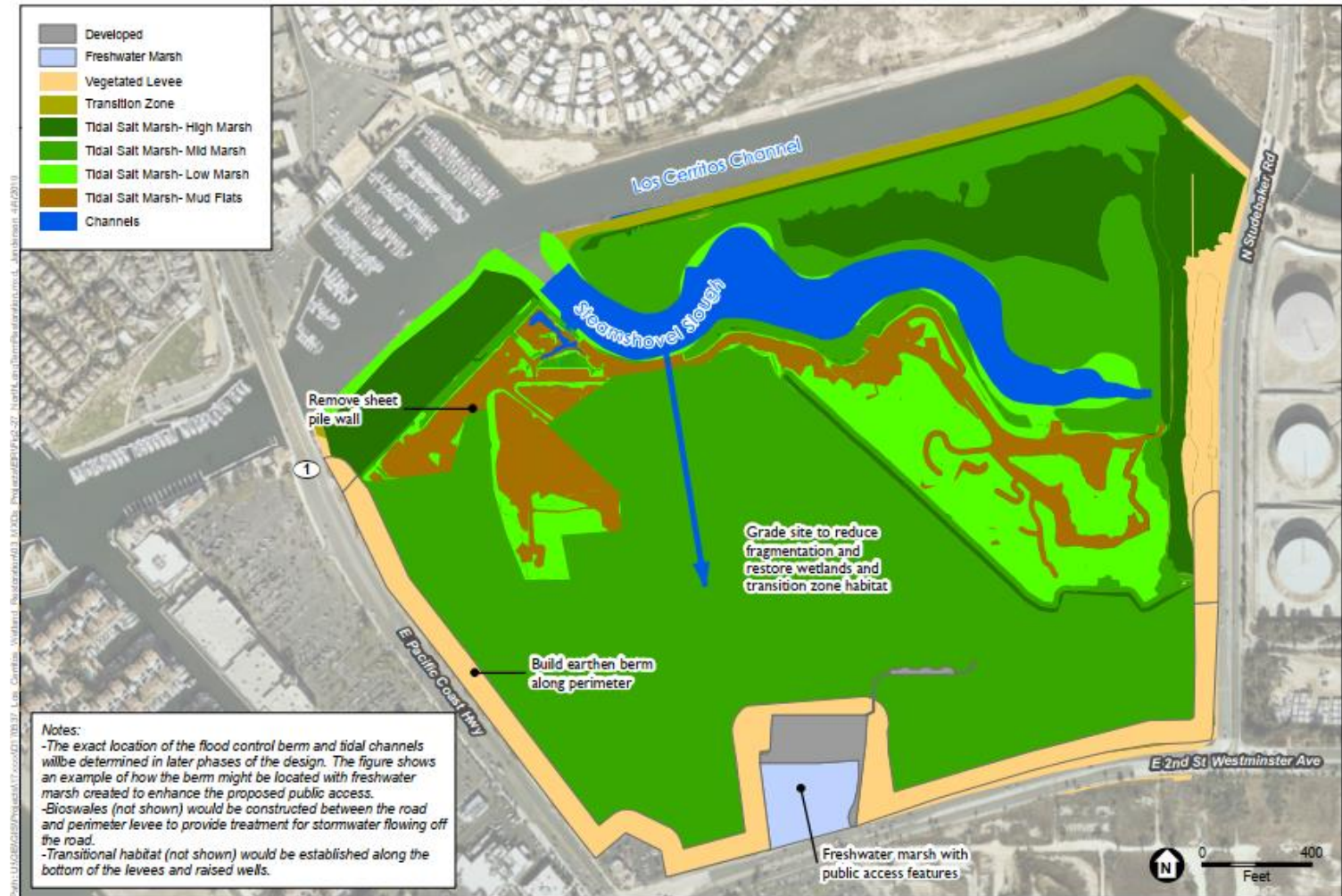
# Beach Oil Minerals Partners (BOMP) Project





# North Area: Long Term

- Grading and soil remediation on the Alamos Bay Partners site and the South Synergy Oil Field site, including excavation to create tidal channels, and revegetation with native plants
- Constructing a new earthen levee or flood wall along the South Synergy Oil Field and Alamos Bay Partners sites
- Excavating a tidal channel from the North Synergy Oil Field site to the South Synergy Oil Field site to increase tidal connection in the South Synergy site
- Removing the sheet pile wall along the Alamos Bay Partners site





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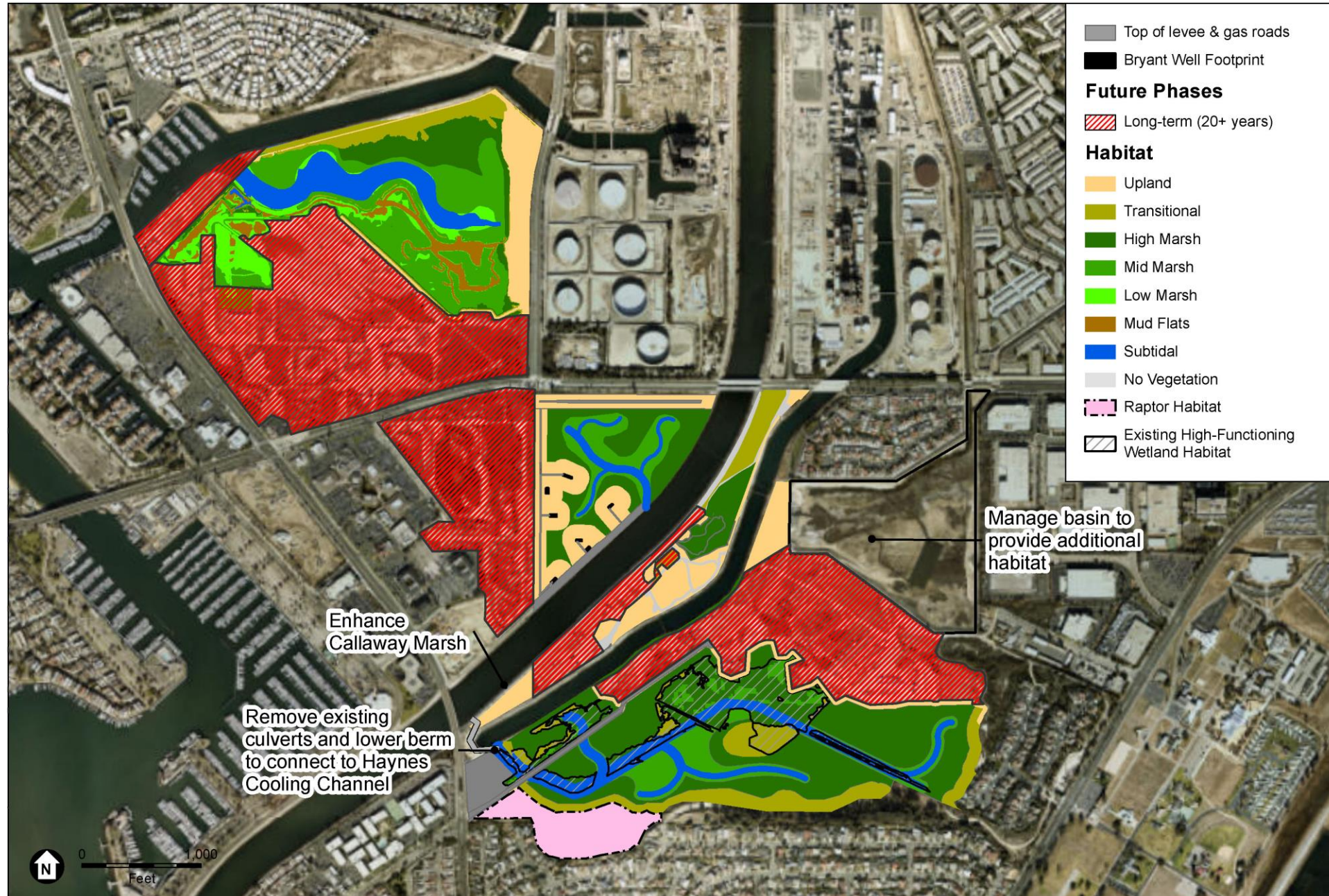


# Restoration Program: Near Term





# Restoration Program: Mid Term





# Restoration Program: Long Term





# Restoration Program: Sea Level Rise (2070)





# Restoration Program: Sea Level Rise (2100)





# Time to Answer Some Questions

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# Draft Program EIR Comment Period



***Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority***

- 45-day Comment Period:
  - May 8, 2020 – June 22, 2020
- Written comment can be sent either electronically or via US Post:

Sally Gee

Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority

100 Old San Gabriel Canyon Rd.

Azusa, CA 91702

Email: [sgee@rmc.ca.gov](mailto:sgee@rmc.ca.gov)



# Draft Program EIR Availability

- Online: <http://intoloscerritoswetlands.org/the-lcws-eir/>
- By appointment, for those that cannot view the document online. Please contact Sally Gee, LCWA:
  - Phone: 626-815-1019 x 104 or
  - Email: [sgee@rmc.ca.gov](mailto:sgee@rmc.ca.gov)



***Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority***



# Important Dates



*Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority*

- **May 7, 2020:** LCWA Quarterly Board Meeting
- **May 8, 2020 – June 22, 2020:** DEIR 45-day public comment period
- **May 21, 2020:** Public Meeting #1 Webinar
- **June 4, 2020:** Public Meeting #2 Webinar
- **July 2020:** Final Program Environmental Impact Report
- **August 6, 2020:** LCWA Quarterly Board Meeting  
(potential certification of the EIR)

**[intoloscerritoswetlands.org](http://intoloscerritoswetlands.org) regularly**