



Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority



Los Cerritos Wetlands Restoration Plan Draft Program Environmental Impact Report

Public Meeting #2

STARTING SOON



June 4, 2020 – 6:30 P.M.

Los Cerritos Wetlands Restoration Plan Draft Program Environmental Impact Report

Public Meeting #2



June 4, 2020 – 6:30 P.M.

We appreciate your support!
For all information visit
intoloscerritoswetlands.org

Webinar Format

- You can hear us. 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 and will be posted to the website

Steamshovel Slough



Draft Program EIR Comment Period

- 45-day Comment Period:
 - **Began on May 8, 2020**
 - **Ends at 4:30 p.m. on 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



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**

Purpose of Tonight's Meeting

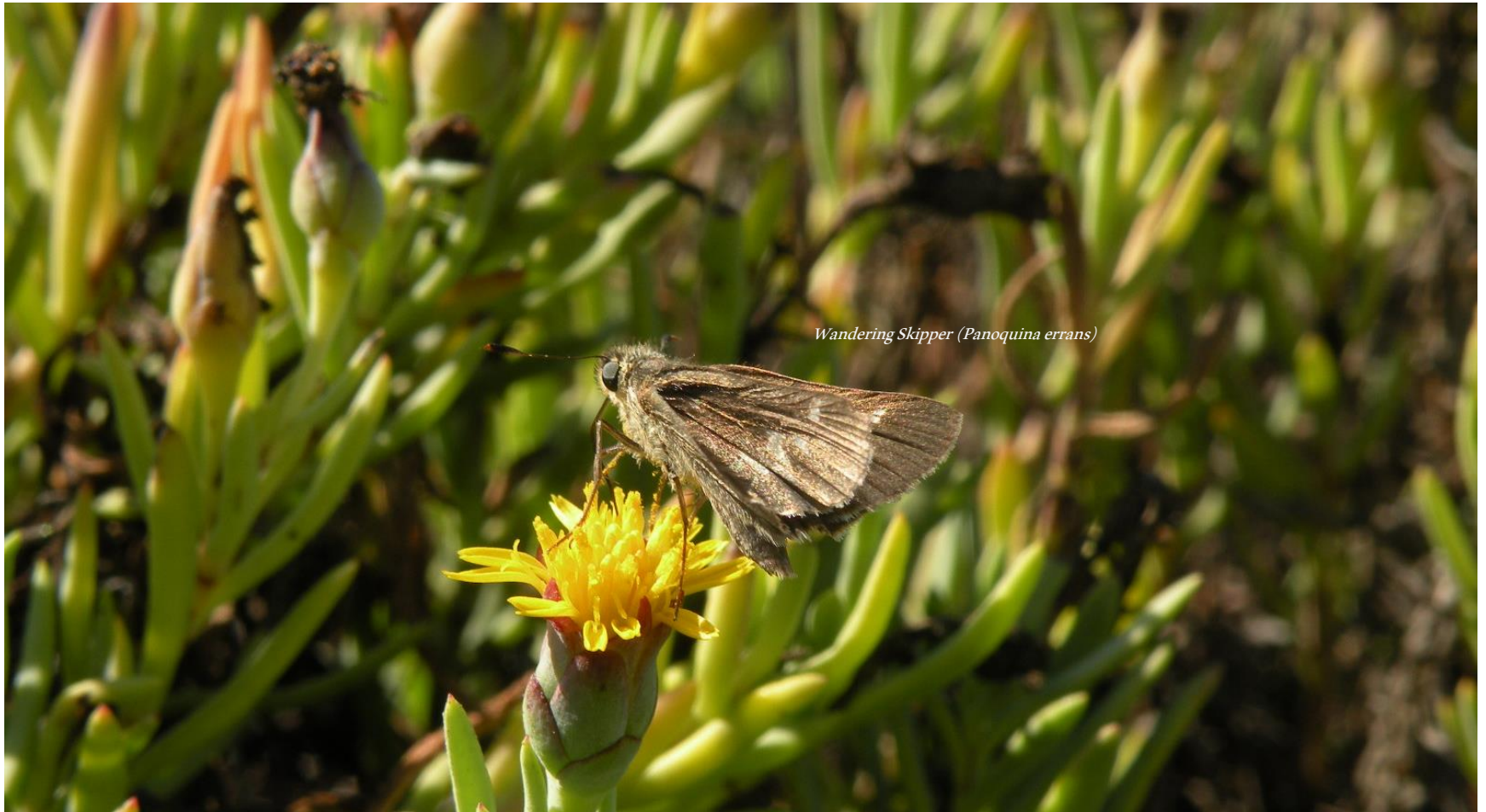
- Informational session for Draft Program EIR:
 1. **Environmental resource topic impact analyses**
 2. **Alternatives to the proposed program**
- Answer Questions
- Provide direction for how and when to comment on the Draft Program EIR

Agenda

- **Introductions**
- **May 21st Meeting Recap**
 - CEQA Purpose and Process
 - Brief description of Proposed Program
 - Topics from Q&A
- **Program EIR Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures (Chapter 3)**
 - Significant and Unavoidable Impacts:
 - Air quality, cultural resources, tribal resources
 - Less than Significant with Mitigation
 - Aesthetics, biological, hazards, hydrology and water quality, public services, traffic
- **Program EIR Alternatives (Chapter 5)**
 - Alternatives considered and withdrawn from Central and South areas
 - Alternatives evaluated (no build and culvert connection to the Central area)
 - “Environmentally superior alternative”
- **Next Steps**
- **Final questions (5 Q&A breaks throughout)**



INTRODUCTIONS



Wandering Skipper (Panoquina errans)

Meeting Leadership

- **Presenters:**

- Eric Zahn, Tidal Influence
- Ryan Todaro, ESA
- Reema Shakra, ESA
- Lindsey Sheehan, ESA

- **Chat Room Moderators:**

- Heather Altman, Altman Environmental Consulting
- Hannah Craddock, Tidal Influence

- **LCWA Representatives:**

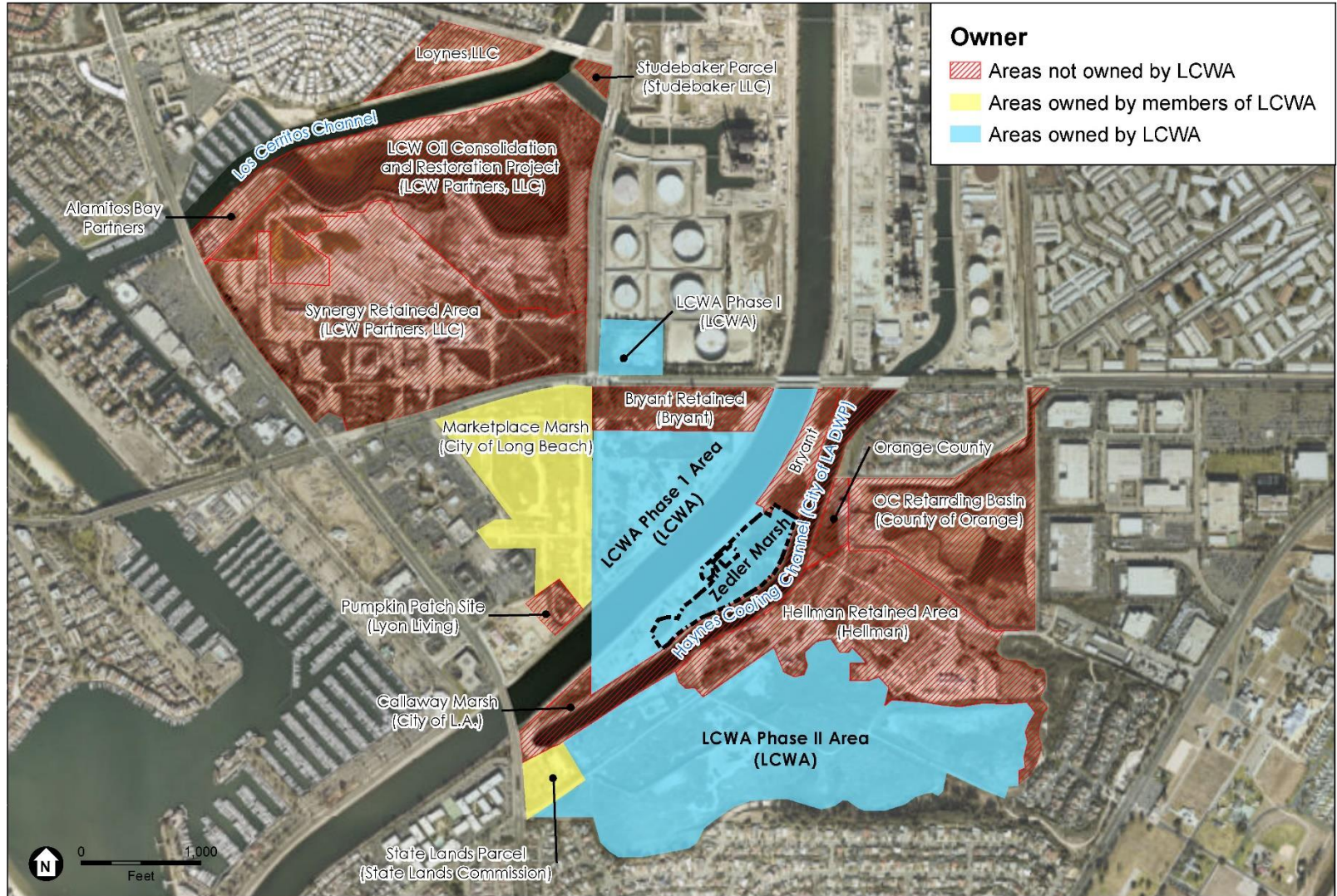
- Sally Gee, Rivers and Mountains Conservancy
- Joel Gerwein, California State Coastal Conservancy



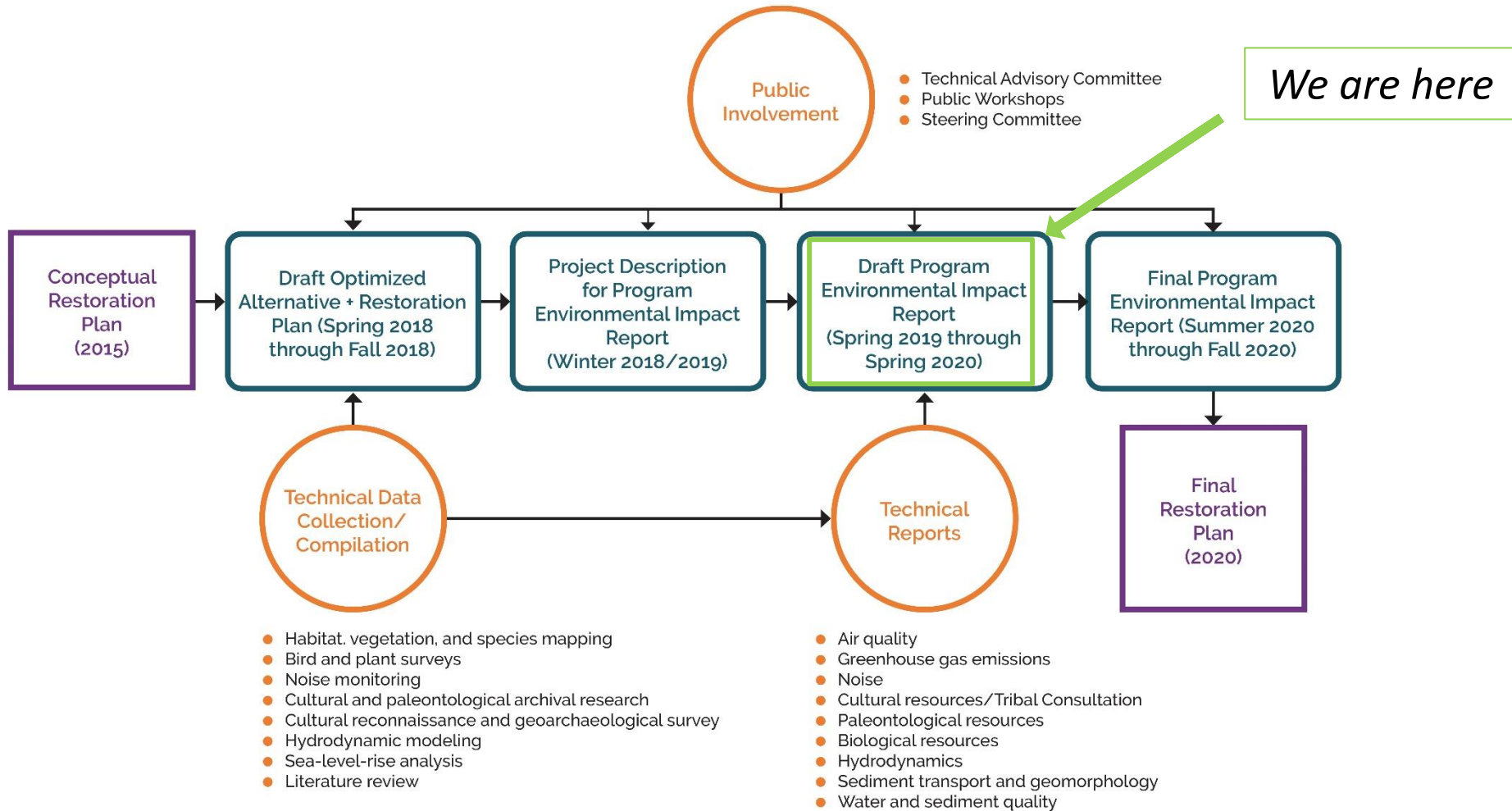


- JPA Comprised of the State Coastal Conservancy, Rivers and Mountains Conservancy, City of Long Beach, and City of Seal Beach
- Promotes acquisition, restoration, conservation and management of the Los Cerritos Wetlands
- Approved Los Cerritos Wetlands Conceptual Restoration Plan in August 2015
- Funding received in 2017 to initiate next steps: prepare Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) and Final Restoration Plan
- Lead Agency for CEQA

Los Cerritos Wetlands Complex Land Ownership



Current Planning Process



Time to Answer Some Questions

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



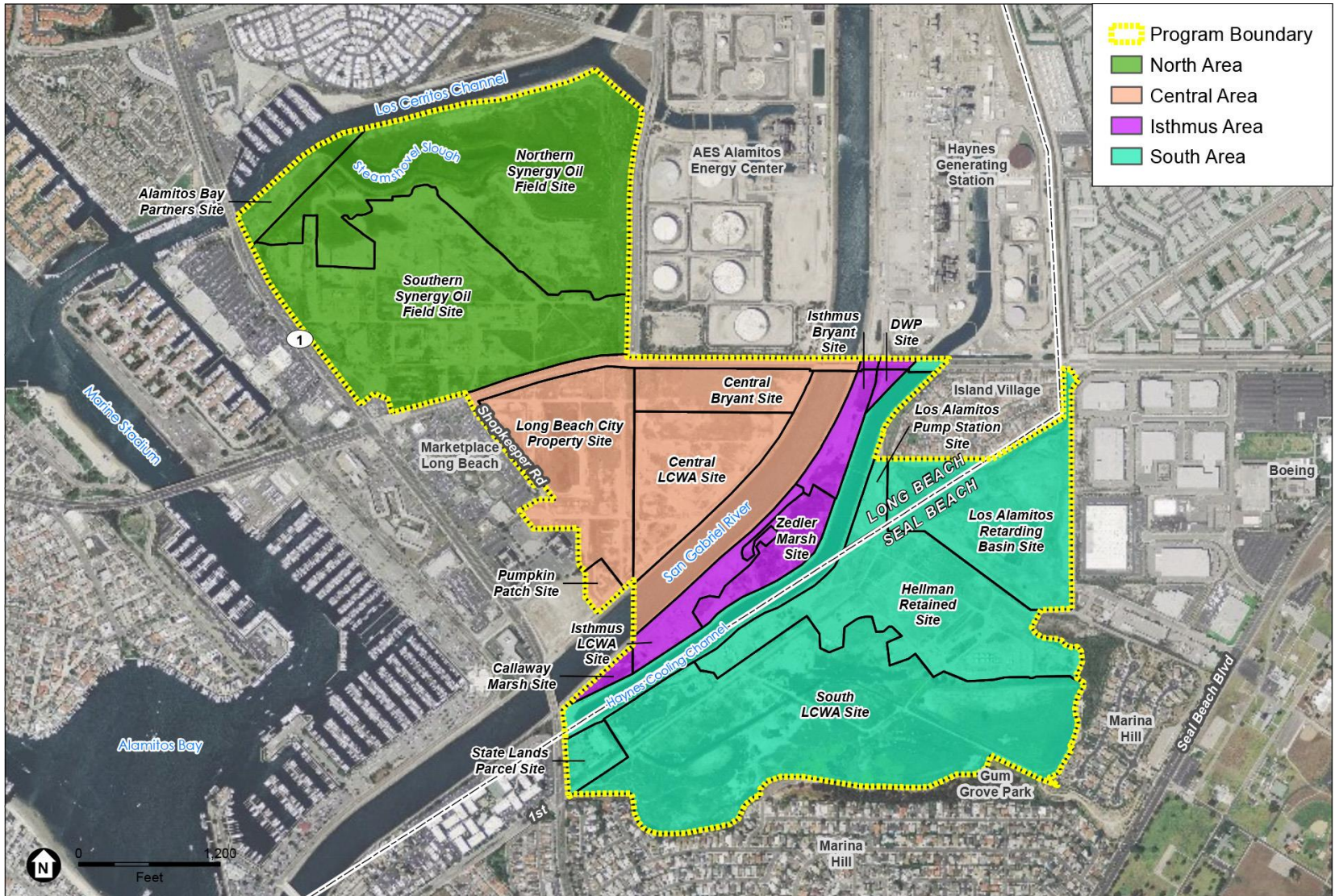
North Synergy Site

May 21st PUBLIC MEETING RECAP



Caspian Tern (Hydroprogne caspia)

Program Area Boundary

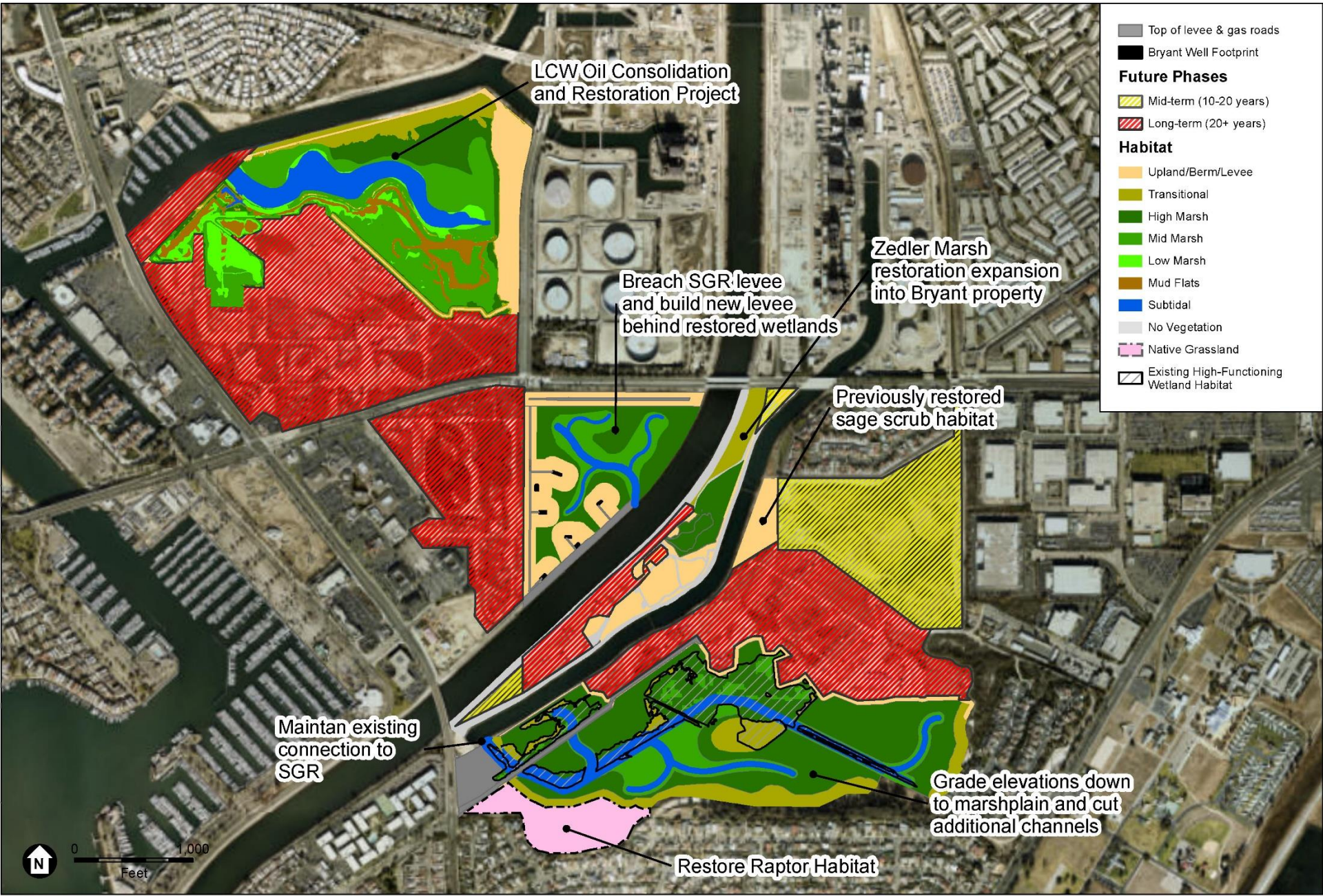


Program Considerations

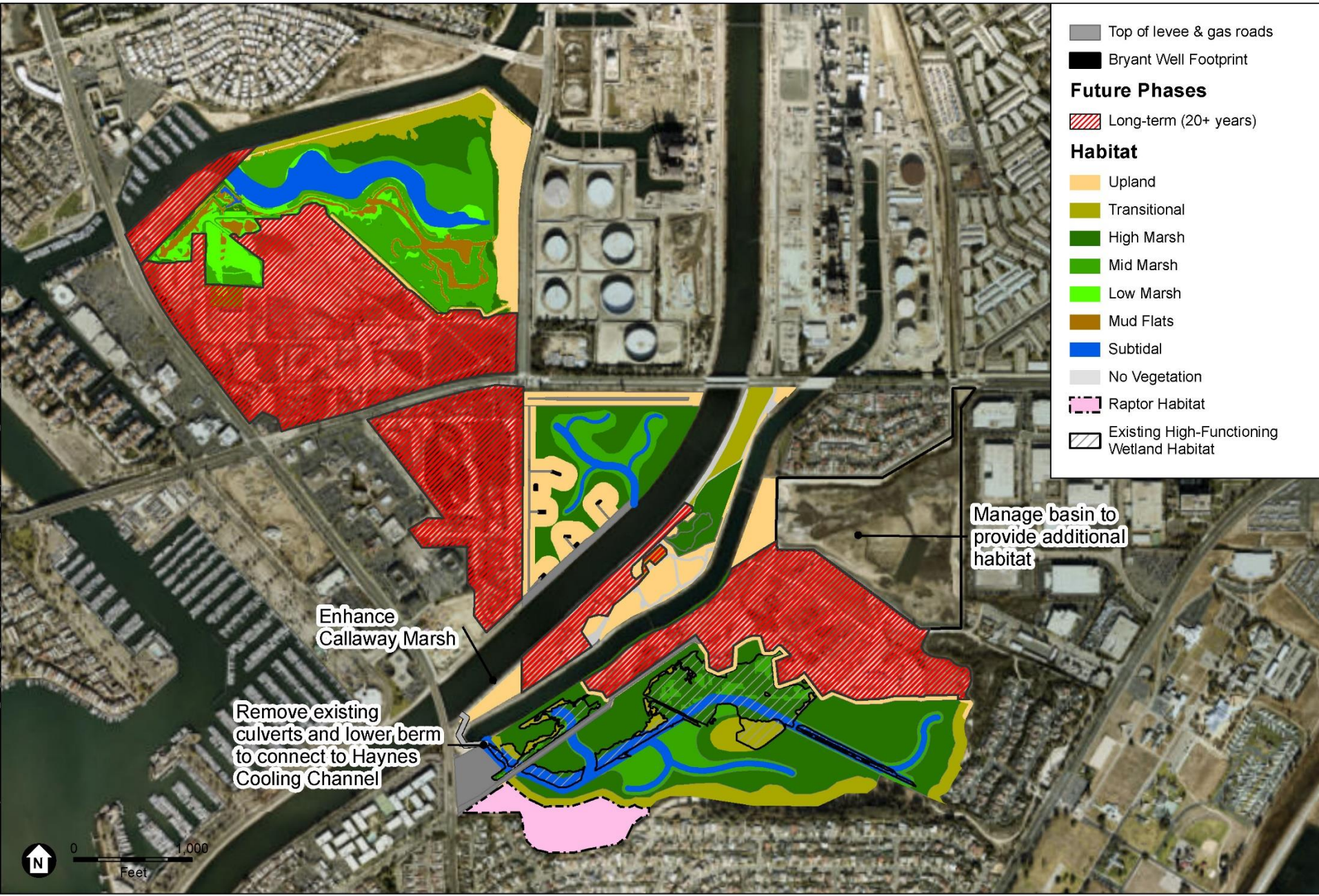
- **Ecosystem Restoration**
 - Soil amendments
 - Grading and excavating
 - Channel construction
 - Plantings
- **Flood Risk and Stormwater Management**
 - Flood walls, earthen levees, culvert alterations
- **Public Access and Visitor Facilities**
 - New trails
 - New visitor center in Seal Beach
 - New viewpoints and signage
- **Infrastructure and Utility Modification**
 - Raising internal roads
 - Modifying water line
- **Implementation and Restoration Process**
 - Soil remediation, construction of breaches, planting recommendations
- **Monitoring and Adaptive Management**
 - Adjusting to improve success (e.g. Sea Level Rise)
- **Operation and Maintenance**
 - Invasive plant control, trash removal, maintaining flood facilities



Restoration Program: Near Term



Restoration Program: Mid Term



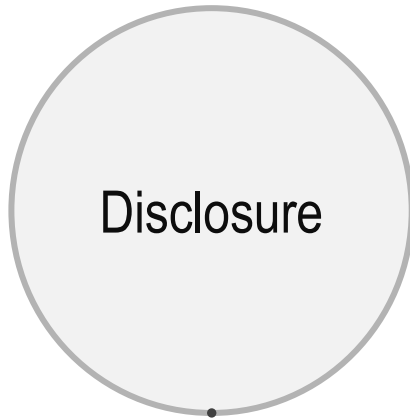
Restoration Program: Long Term



CEQA OVERVIEW



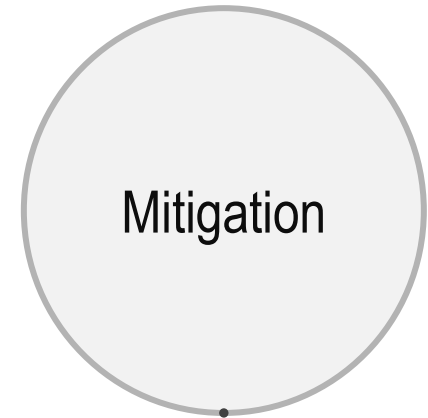
California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Overview



Identifies
potential impacts
to the environment

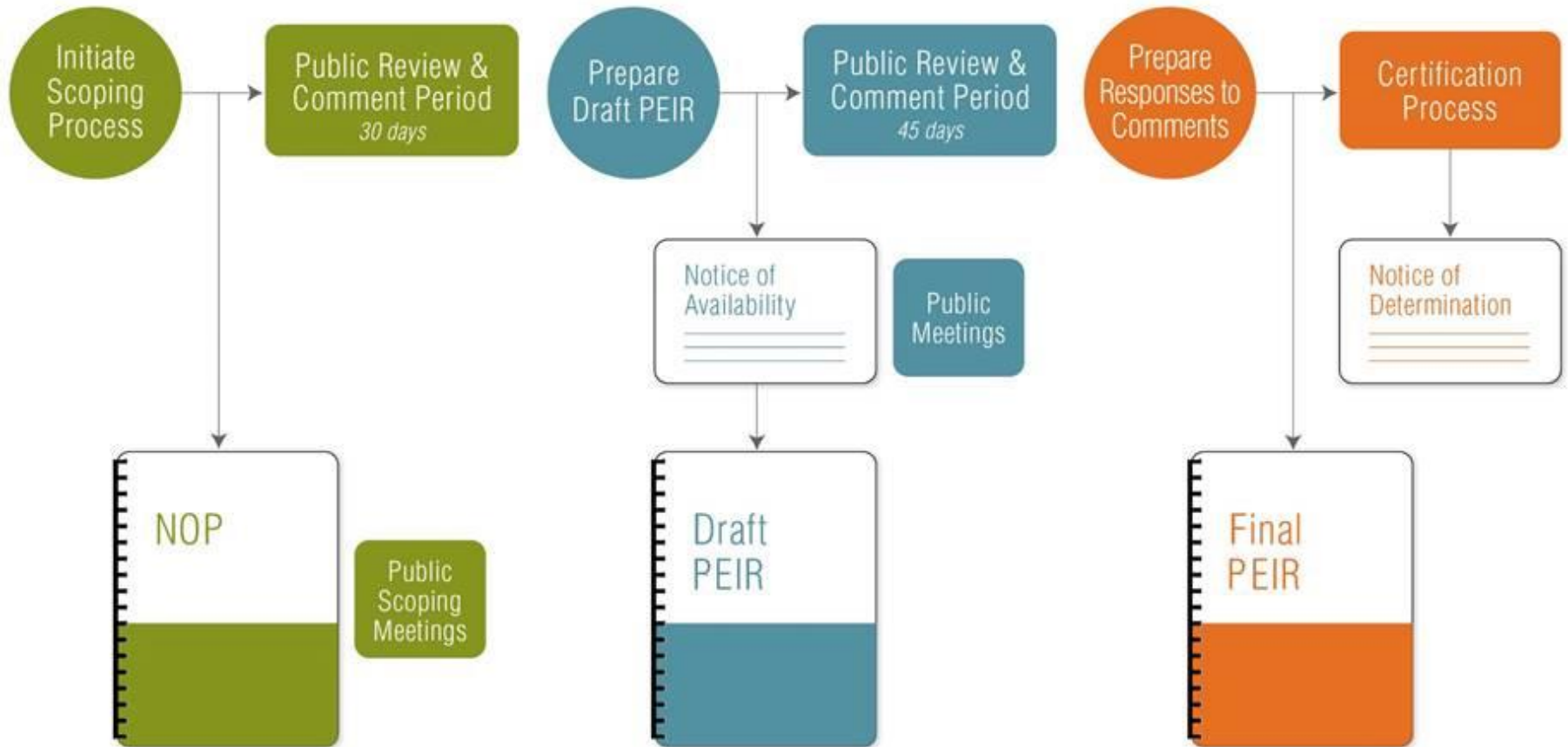


Informs the public
and decision makers
about potential
environmental impacts



Identifies ways to
avoid or reduce
potential impacts

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

Time to Answer Some Questions

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



Salt Wort (Batis maritima)

CHAPTER 3: Environmental Setting, Impacts & Mitigation Measures



Pacific Green Sea Turtle (Chelonia mydas)

Resource Topics

1. Aesthetics
2. Agriculture and Forestry Resources
3. Air Quality
4. Biological Resources
5. Cultural Resources
6. Energy
7. Geology and Soils
8. Greenhouse Gas Emissions
9. Hazards and Hazardous Materials
10. Hydrology and Water Quality
11. Land Use and Planning
12. Mineral Resources
13. Noise
14. Population and Housing
15. Public Services
16. Recreation
17. Transportation
18. Tribal Cultural Resources
19. Utilities and Service Systems
20. Wildfire

Items in grey scoped out during Initial Study



Format for Each Resource Topic

- **Environmental Setting**
- **Regulatory Framework**
- **Analysis of Impacts**
 - Assumptions are based on worst-case impacts
 - Significance Criteria or Thresholds
 - Methodology
 - Impact Evaluation
 1. No impact
 2. Less than significant impact
 3. Less than significant impact with mitigation
 4. Significant and unavoidable impact
 - Mitigation Measures
 - Cumulative Impacts



Significance Conclusions

Resources Topic	Significance Conclusions
Aesthetics	<i>Less than significant with mitigation</i>
Air Quality	Significant and unavoidable
Biological Resources	<i>Less than significant with mitigation</i>
Cultural Resources	Significant and unavoidable
Geology and Soils	Less than significant
GHG and Energy	Less than significant
Hazards and Hazardous Materials	<i>Less than significant with mitigation</i>
Hydrology and Water Quality	<i>Less than significant with mitigation</i>
Land Use and Planning	Less than significant
Mineral Resources	No impact
Noise	Less than significant
Public Services	<i>Less than significant with mitigation</i>
Recreation	Less than significant
Transportation	<i>Less than significant with mitigation</i>
Tribal Cultural Resources	Significant and unavoidable
Utilities and Service Systems	Less than significant

Focused Discussion

- **Significant and Unavoidable Impacts**
 - Air Quality
 - Cultural Resources
 - Tribal Cultural Resources
- **Less Than Significant with Mitigation Measures**
 - Aesthetics
 - Biological Resources
 - Hazards and Hazardous Materials
 - Hydrology and Water Quality
 - Public Services
 - Traffic and Transportation



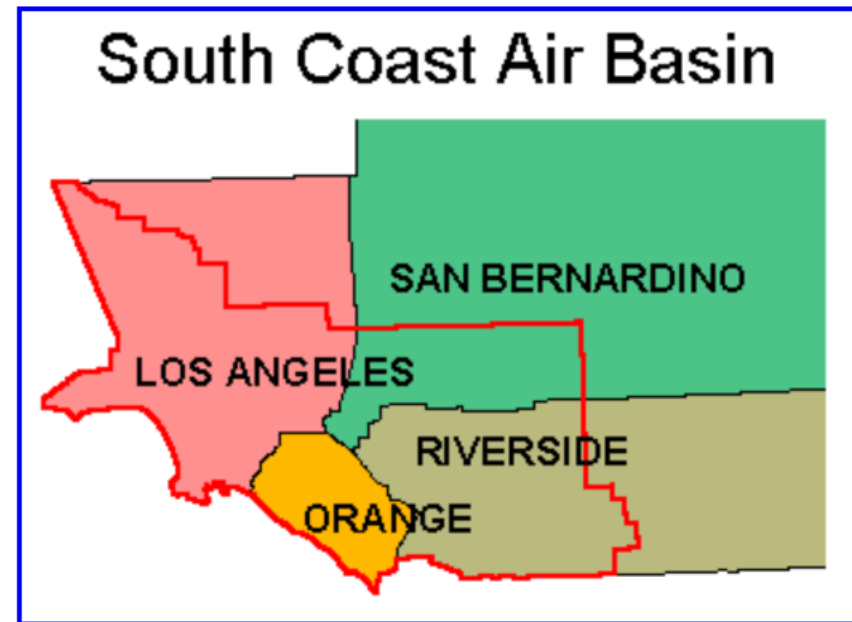
Significant and Unavoidable Impacts Air Quality (AQ)

- **AQ-3:** the proposed program would expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations during construction of the proposed program
 - Sensitive receptors include residents in Seal Beach (directly south of the South Area) and residents in Long Beach (across the Los Cerritos Channel)
 - Could not conduct a quantitative analysis
 - Localized emissions could exceed established thresholds
 - Mitigation AQ-1: Construction NOx Reduction Measures

Significant and Unavoidable Impacts

Air Quality

- **AQ-1:** the proposed program would conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan during construction of the proposed program.
 - Applicable air quality plan is the South Coast Air Quality Management District Air Quality Management Plan
 - Localized impacts would be significant
 - Inconsistent with the plan
- **Cumulative**
 - Mitigation AQ-1: Construction NO_x Reduction Measures



Significant and Unavoidable Impacts Cultural Resources (CUL)

- **CUL-1:** The proposed program would cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource
 - Potential historical resources identified
 - Not all have been evaluated for listing in the California Register
 - Program area was not systematically surveyed
 - High potential to encounter buried resources
 - Unable to identify adequate mitigation measures until resources are evaluated for listing



Significant and Unavoidable Impacts Cultural Resources

- Impact CUL-1 Mitigation Measures:
 - Mitigation BIO-1 thru BIO-11
 - Mitigation CUL-1: Cultural Resources Personnel Professional Qualification Standards
 - Mitigation CUL-2: Historic Resources Assessment
 - Mitigation CUL-3: Historic Resources Evaluation
 - Mitigation CUL-4: Archaeological Resources Assessment
 - Mitigation CUL-5: Extended Phase 1 Archaeological Investigation
 - Mitigation CUL-6: Phase II Archaeological Investigation
 - Mitigation CUL-7: Avoidance and Preservation in Place of Archaeological Resources
 - Mitigation CUL-8: Phase III Archaeological Resources Data Recovery and Treatment Plan



Significant and Unavoidable Impacts

Cultural Resources

- Impact CUL-1 mitigation continued:
 - Mitigation CUL-9: Archaeological Resources Monitoring and Mitigation Plan
 - Mitigation CUL-10: Construction Worker Cultural Resources Sensitivity Training
 - Mitigation CUL-11: Archaeological Resources Monitoring
 - Mitigation CUL-12: Native American Coordination
 - Mitigation CUL-13: Native American Monitoring
 - Mitigation CUL-14: Archaeological Resource Discoveries
 - Mitigation CUL-15: Curation and Disposition of Cultural Materials
 - Mitigation CUL-16: Future Native American Input



Significant and Unavoidable Impacts

Cultural Resources

- **CUL-2:** The proposed program would cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource
 - Potential archaeological resources identified
 - Not all have been evaluated for listing in the California Register
 - Program area was not systematically surveyed
 - High potential to encounter buried resources
 - Unable to identify adequate mitigation measures until resources are evaluated for listing
 - Mitigation CUL-1
 - Mitigation CUL-4 thru CUL-15
- **Cumulative**
 - Mitigation CUL-1 thru CUL-17



Significant and Unavoidable Impacts Tribal Cultural Resources (TRI)

- **TRI-2:**The proposed program would cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource. The lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.
 - Tribal cultural landscape composed of:
 - Village sites (prehistoric archaeological sites at the California State University, Long Beach and Hellman Ranch residential subdivision located outside the program area)
 - Native American or prehistoric sites within or near the program area
 - Waterways plants and animals in the program area
 - Ground-disturbing activities could impact Native American or prehistoric archaeological resources
 - Mitigation BIO-1 thru BIO-11
 - Mitigation CUL-1 thru CUL-17



Time to Answer Some Questions

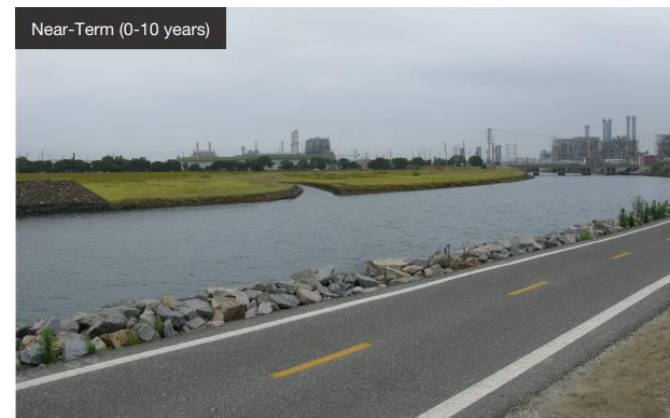
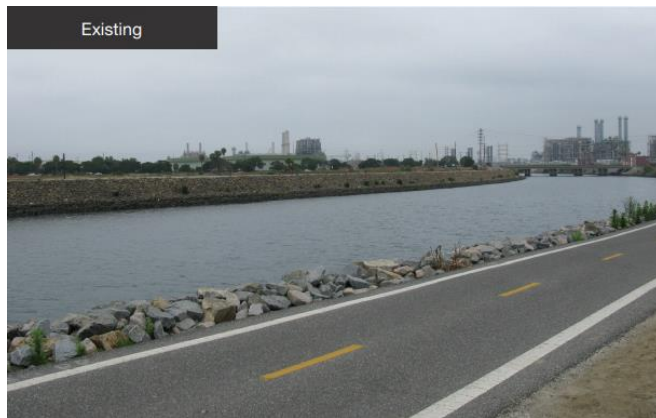
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Shore Grass (Distichlis littoralis)

Less Than Significant with Mitigation Aesthetics (AES)

- **AES-4:** The proposed program would result in a significant impact if the proposed program would create a new source of substantial light or glare that would adversely affect daytime or nighttime views in the area.
 - Mitigation AES-1: Lighting Plan



Less Than Significant with Mitigation Biological Resources (BIO)

- **BIO-1:** The proposed program would result in a significant impact if the proposed program would have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special-status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the CDFW or USFWS.
 - Mitigation BIO-1: Avoidance of Special-Status Plants
 - Mitigation BIO-2: Environmental Awareness Training and Biological Monitoring
 - Mitigation BIO-3: Belding's Savannah Sparrow Breeding Habitat
 - Mitigation BIO-4: Nesting Bird and Raptor Avoidance
 - Mitigation BIO-5: Habitat Assessment and Pre-Construction Surveys for Burrowing Owls
 - Mitigation BIO-6: Minimization of Light Spillage
 - Mitigation BIO-7: Preconstruction Bat Surveys
 - Mitigation BIO-8: Focused Surveys for Special-Status Wildlife Species



Less Than Significant with Mitigation Biological Resources

- **BIO-2:** The proposed program would result in a significant impact if the proposed program would have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations, or by the CDFW and USFWS.
 - Mitigation BIO-9: Revegetation of Sensitive Natural Communities
- **BIO-3:** The proposed program would result in a significant impact if the proposed program would have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, and coastal wetlands) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means.
 - Mitigation BIO-10: Jurisdictional Resources Permitting
 - Mitigation BIO-11: Monitoring and Adaptive Management Plan



Less Than Significant with Mitigation Biological Resources

- **BIO-4:** The proposed program would result in a significant impact if the proposed program would interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites.
 - Mitigation BIO-8: Focused Surveys for Special-Status Wildlife Species



California Least Tern (Sterna antillarum browni)

esassoc.com



Burrowing Owl (Athene cunicularia)

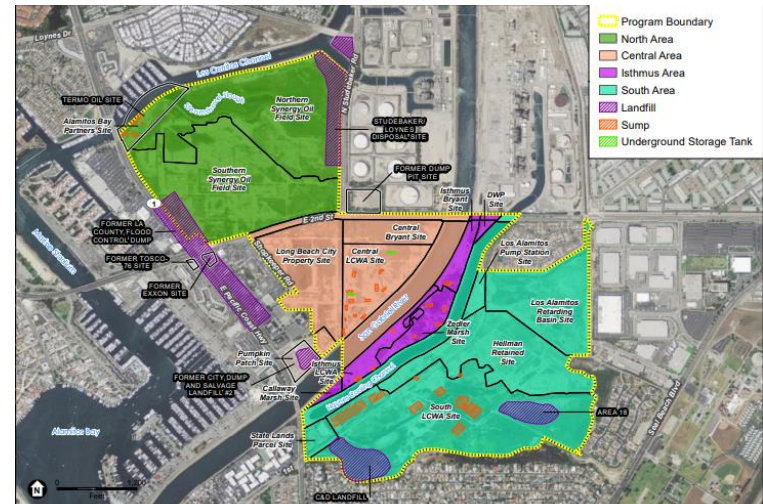


Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority



Less Than Significant with Mitigation Hazards & Hazardous Materials (HAZ)

- **HAZ-3:** The proposed program would result in a significant impact if the proposed program would be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment.
 - Mitigation HAZ-1: Health and Safety Plan
 - Mitigation HAZ-2: Soil, Landfill Materials, & Groundwater Management Plan



Less Than Significant with Mitigation Hydrology & Water Quality (HYD)

- **HYD-1:** The proposed program would result in a significant impact if the proposed program would violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality.
 - Mitigation HYD-1: Monitoring and Adaptive Management Plan
- **HYD-3a:** The proposed program would result in a significant impact if the proposed program would substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site.
 - Mitigation HYD-1: Monitoring and Adaptive Management Plan



Less Than Significant with Mitigation Public Services (PS)

- **PS-1a:** The proposed program would result in a significant impact if the proposed program results in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered government facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for fire protection.
 - Mitigation PS-1: Fire Protection and Prevention Training

Less Than Significant with Mitigation Transportation (TRA)

- **TRA-1:** The proposed program would result in a significant impact if the proposed program would conflict with a program plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities.
 - Mitigation TRA-1: Traffic Control Plan
- **TRA-3:** The proposed program would result in a significant impact if the proposed program would substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment).
 - Mitigation TRA-1: Traffic Control Plan



Time to Answer Some Questions

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



North Synergy Site

CHAPTER 5: ALTERNATIVES



South LCWA Site

Alternatives to the Proposed Program

- An EIR must describe a range of reasonable alternatives which would feasibly attain most of the basic objectives of the project but would avoid or substantially lessen any of the significant effects.
- An EIR need not consider every conceivable alternative to a project, but rather the determination of the range of alternatives should be governed by the rule of reason.
- The EIR must evaluate the comparative merits of the alternatives, including the “no project” alternative.

Discussion of Alternatives in the EIR

- The EIR must include sufficient information about each alternative to allow meaningful evaluation, analysis, and comparison with the proposed project.
- If an alternative would cause one or more significant effects in addition to those that would be caused by the proposed project, the significant effects of the alternative must be discussed, but in less detail than the significant effects of the proposed project.

Environmentally Superior Alternative

- The EIR must identify the environmentally superior alternative.
- If the environmentally superior alternative is the "no project" alternative, the EIR must also identify an environmentally superior alternative among the other alternatives.



Criteria for Selecting Alternatives

- Ability to achieve proposed program objectives
- Elimination or reduction of significant and unavoidable impacts
- Feasibility



Alternatives Considered & Withdrawn from Consideration South Area



Alternatives Considered & Withdrawn from Consideration

South Area

- Full tidal connection from San Gabriel River to the South Area through an Open Channel



Alternatives Considered & Withdrawn from Consideration

South Area

- Full tidal connection from San Gabriel River to the South Area through an Open Channel



Alternatives Considered & Withdrawn from Consideration

South Area

- Full tidal connection from the San Gabriel River through the Haynes Cooling Channel to the South Area.



Alternatives Considered & Withdrawn from Consideration

South Area

- Full tidal connection from the San Gabriel River through the Haynes Cooling Channel to the South Area.



Alternatives Considered & Withdrawn from Consideration

South Area

- Expanded culvert connection from the San Gabriel River to the South Area



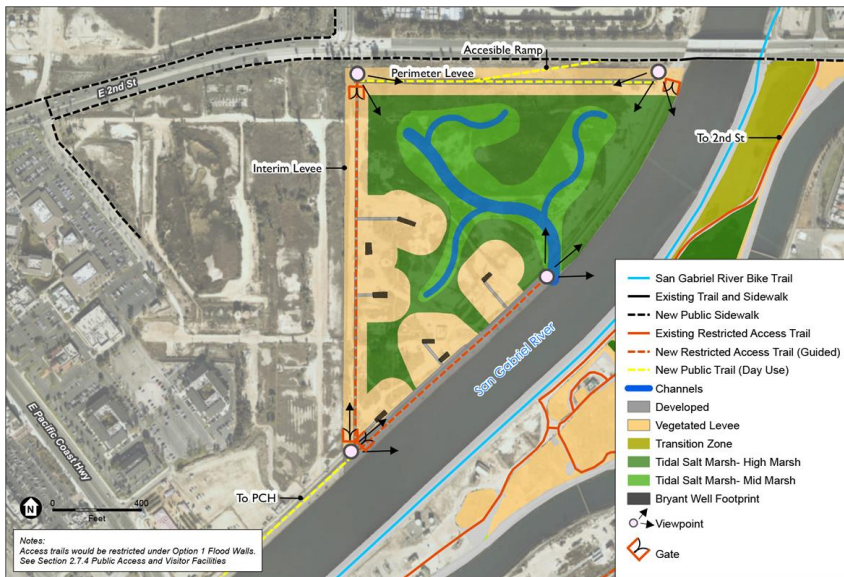
Alternatives Considered & Withdrawn from Consideration

South Area

- Expanded culvert connection from the San Gabriel River to the South Area



Alternatives Considered & Withdrawn from Consideration Central Area



Alternatives Considered & Withdrawn from Consideration Central Area

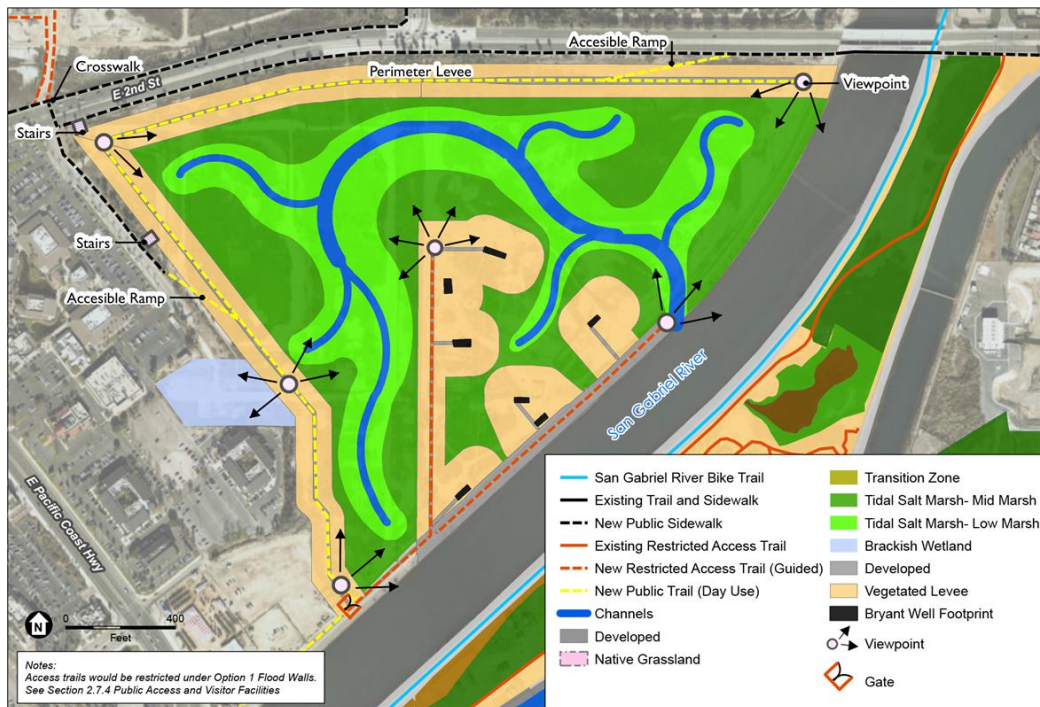
- Flood Wall Protection in the Central Area



Alternatives Considered & Withdrawn from Consideration

Central Area

- Culvert connection from the San Gabriel River to the Central Area – Full Tide Range Culvert Connection
- Culvert connection from the San Gabriel River to the Central Area – Managed Culvert Connection



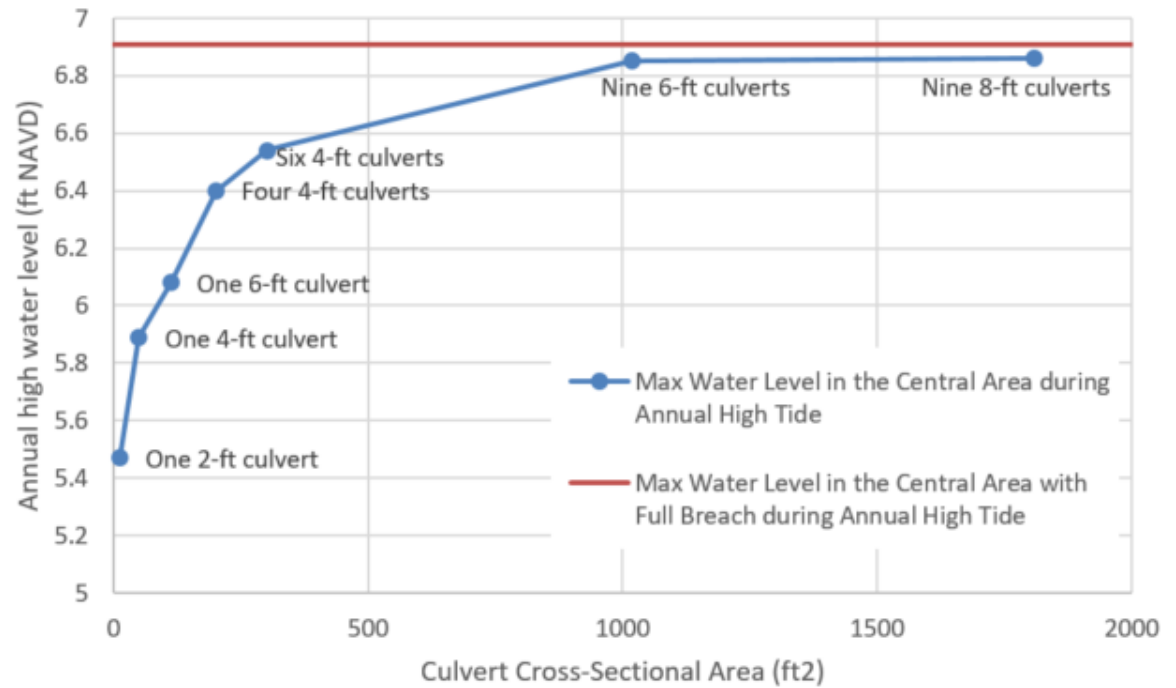
Alternatives Considered & Withdrawn from Consideration

Central Area

- Culvert connection from the San Gabriel River to the Central Area – Full Tide Range Culvert Connection
- Culvert connection from the San Gabriel River to the Central Area – Managed Culvert Connection



Culvert Connection



Maximum 100-year stormwater level (feet NAVD)	
<i>Full Breach (for reference)</i>	14.4
One 4-foot culvert ¹	7.7
Six 4-foot culverts	11.0
Nine 6-foot culverts	13.6
Nine 8-foot culverts	14.3

¹ For both culvert with invert of 2 feet and 0 feet NAVD

Alternatives Considered & Withdrawn from Consideration

Central Area

- Culvert connection from the San Gabriel River to the Central Area – Full Tide Range Culvert Connection
- Culvert connection from the San Gabriel River to the Central Area – Managed Culvert Connection



Alternatives Considered & Withdrawn from Consideration

Central Area

- Tidal connection from Steamshovel Slough to the Central Area



Alternatives Considered & Withdrawn from Consideration

Central Area

- Tidal connection from Steamshovel Slough to the Central Area



Alternatives Considered & Withdrawn from Consideration

Central Area

- Managed artificial flooding in the Central Area



Alternatives Considered & Withdrawn from Consideration

Central Area

- Managed artificial flooding in the Central Area



Alternatives Considered and Further Evaluated

- Alternative 1: No Program (No Build) Alternative
- Alternative 2: Culvert Connection from San Gabriel River to the Central Area



Alternative 1: No Program (No Build)

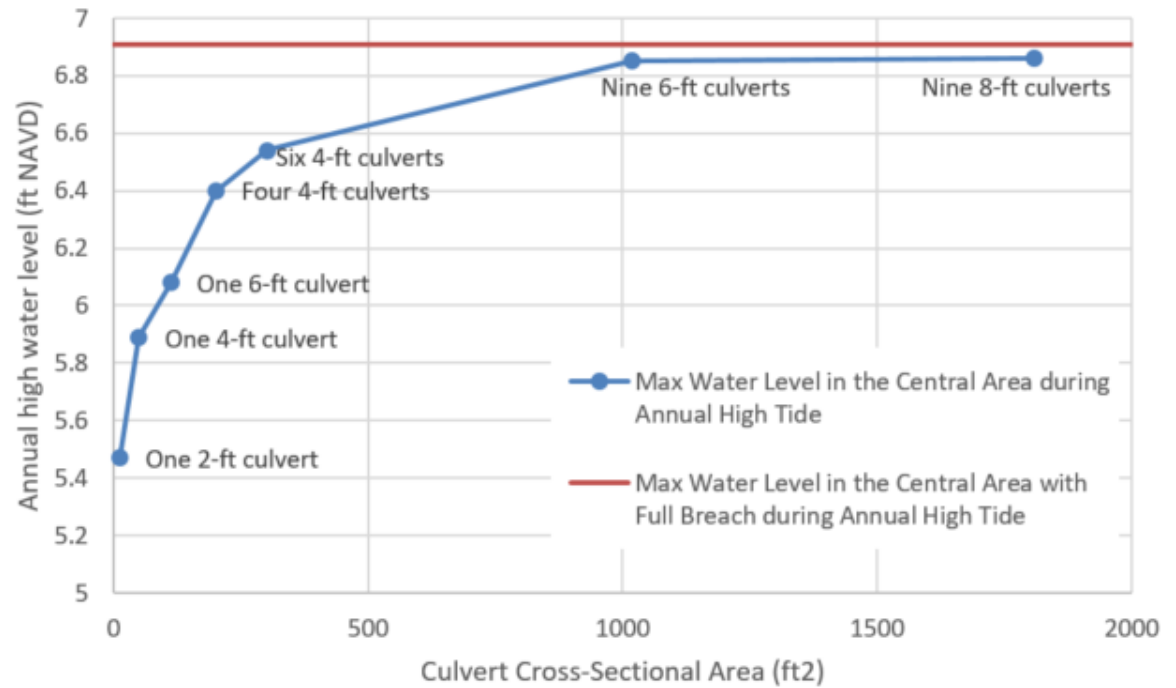
- None of the proposed program components would be constructed and implemented, and existing conditions would remain unchanged.
- Assumes restoration activities and development covered by the Los Cerritos Wetlands Oil Consolidation and Restoration Project would occur.

Alternative 2: Culvert Connection from San Gabriel River to Central Area

- A culvert (or set of culverts) would be installed within the northern San Gabriel River levee to connect the river to the Central Area rather than breaching the levee as in the proposed program. Would include a shorter and smaller footprint Perimeter Levee when compared to the proposed program.
- The South Area, Isthmus, and North Area would be restored as described for the proposed program; public access would be improved.



Alternative 2: Culvert Connection



Maximum 100-year stormwater level (feet NAVD)	
<i>Full Breach (for reference)</i>	14.4
One 4-foot culvert ¹	7.7
Six 4-foot culverts	11.0
Nine 6-foot culverts	13.6
Nine 8-foot culverts	14.3

¹ For both culvert with invert of 2 feet and 0 feet NAVD

Alternative 2 Phasing

- **Near term activities:**
 - Would be focused on the Central LCWA and Central Bryant sites.
 - Providing the conditions necessary for the reestablishment of coastal salt marsh habitat and associated hydrologic, biogeochemical, and habitat functions.
- **Long term activities:**
 - Constructing a new earthen levee (Perimeter Levee) similar to the proposed program but set to a lower elevation.

Alternative 2: Ecosystem Restoration

- **Restored Habitats:** A shorter and smaller footprint Perimeter Levee would result in less impact on existing wetlands.
- **Hydrology and Grading:** Culverts would limit the water elevations in the site. Less fill would be needed to construct the Perimeter Levee.
- **Flood Risk and Stormwater Management:** Culverts would restrict water levels in the Central Area during large riverine events, and would reduce the potential for erosion along the Perimeter and Interim Levees, so buried soil cement or rock protection of the levee core would not be included.



Alternative 2: Ecosystem Restoration

- **Public Access and Visitor Facilities:** Would allow for a loop trail to be constructed along the existing San Gabriel River levee and the Perimeter Levee.
- **Implementation and Restoration Process:** Would be similar to the proposed program, however culvert construction would likely take longer than construction of the levee breach.
- **Operation and Maintenance:** New culverts would require annual maintenance to ensure proper operation, similar to current operation and maintenance of the existing structures.



Environmentally Superior Alternative = **Alternative 2**

- **Reduced program impacts**
 - Biological resources
 - Soil erosion
 - GHG emissions
 - Wasteful, inefficient, and unnecessary energy consumption
- **Similar significant impacts**
 - Localized air emissions during construction
 - Historical, archaeological, and tribal cultural resources
- **Greater program impacts**
 - Noise and vibration



Time to Answer Some Questions

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Pickleweed (Salicornia pacifica)

NEXT STEPS



Pacific Cordgrass (Spartina foliosa)



Draft Program EIR Comment Period

- 45-day Comment Period:
 - Began on May 8, 2020
 - Ends at 4:30 p.m. on June 22, 2020
- Written comment can be sent either electronically or via US Post:

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Azusa, CA 91702
Email: sgee@rmc.ca.gov



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- 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**

Important Dates

- **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 2020:** LCWA Quarterly Board Meeting (potential certification of the EIR)



THANK YOU

Any Final Questions

