



Public Meeting #4
Southern Los Cerritos Wetlands Restoration Project:
Past, Present, Future

December 10, 2024

Presented by
Heather Altman, Altman Environmental Consulting,
Project Public Engagement Coordinator



Introductions

Presenters

Heather Altman, AEC
Shelby Bisaccio, AEC
Amanda Hedgecock, AEC

In Attendance

Rivers and Mountains Conservancy
CA State Coastal Conservancy
Tidal Influence
Moffatt & Nichol
MIG



Ground Rules

- Please keep your phone or computer on mute.
- Questions can be typed in the chat box. Alternatively, there will be numerous breaks in the presentation where questions can be asked aloud.
- Direct all questions and comments to the presenters, not other community members.
- Please be respectful.



Agenda

1. Past
2. Present
3. Future
4. Visioning
5. Get Informed





PAST



Alamitos Bay, circa 1896



Habitat Mapping, late 1880s



Past vs. Present



Why are Wetlands Important?

- Habitat
- Biodiversity
- Improved Water Quality
- Flood Protection
- Shoreline Erosion Control
- Education
- Climate Change
- Recreation
- Ecotourism



Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority

- Formed in 2006
- Comprised of the City of Seal Beach, City of Long Beach, California State Coastal Conservancy, and the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy
- Promotes protection, restoration, conservation, and management of the Los Cerritos Wetlands
- Maintains active Stewardship Program



LCWA Boundary



Restoration Planning Background

Conceptual LCW
Restoration Plan
(August 2015)



LCW Restoration
Plan Program EIR
(January 2021)



Southern LCW
Restoration Project MND
(August 2023)



Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

- National Marine Fisheries
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife
- California Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
- Regional Water Quality Control Board (L.A. + S.A.)
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- California Coastal Commission
- California State Lands Commission
- Port of LB, Environmental Planning
- Counties of Orange and Los Angeles
- So. California Water Resources Research Project
- Cal. State University, Long Beach
- Santa Monica Bay Restoration Committee
- Los Angeles Dept. of Water and Power
- Ocean Protection Council
- City of Seal Beach
- City of Long Beach
- Rivers and Mountains Conservancy
- California State Coastal Conservancy
- Tribal Advisory Group



Questions: Past?





PRESENT



LCWA and Project Boundaries



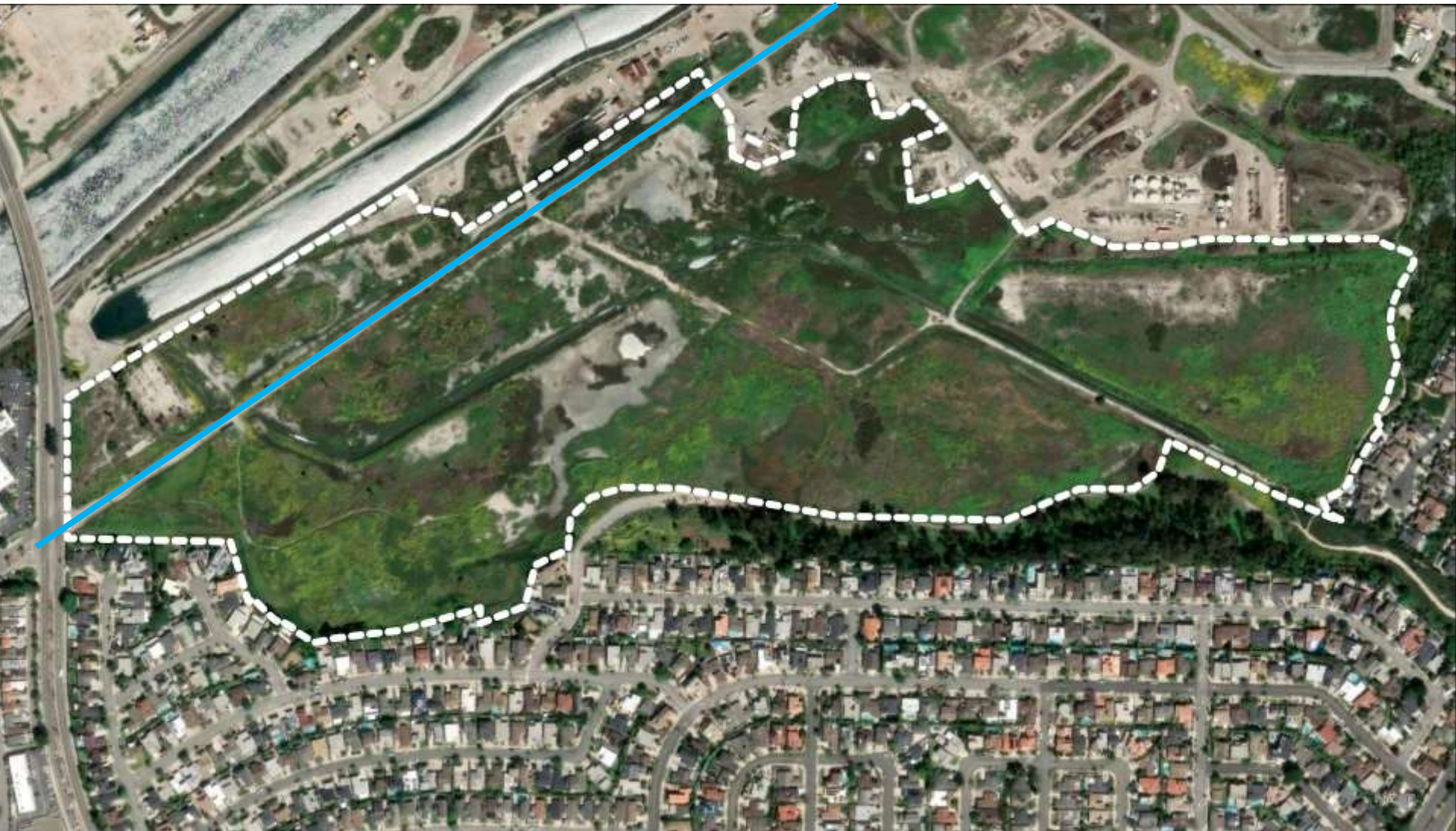
Project Boundary



State Lands Commission
(3.5 acres)

Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority
(~100 acres)

Easements



Contamination



Habitats



Special Status Plant Species

Lewis' evening primrose

- 2 main occurrences totaling 3.76 acres



California boxthorn

- 2 individuals found onsite



Southern Tarplant

- Numerous occurrences totaling 1.06 acres



Special Status Avian Species, part 1



Loggerhead shrike



American peregrine falcon



California brown pelican



California least tern

Special Status Avian Species, part 2



Yellow-breasted chat



Osprey



Belding's savannah sparrow

Tribal Cultural Resources

- Los Cerritos Wetlands Complex is located between the archaeological manifestations of *Puvungna* and the *Motuucheyngna* village sites
- LCWA commissioned a Tribal Cultural Landscape study
- Recommended eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places as a Traditional Cultural Property (TCP)
- Tribal Advisory Group (TAG) established
 - Consists 5 tribes and 2 additional advisors
 - First meeting held May 2021



Questions: Present?





FUTURE



Grant Funding

- \$25.85 million award from CA State Coastal Conservancy
- \$6 million award from Ocean Protection Council
- \$675,000 award from AES



Scope of Work

- Produce 90% and 100% construction design plans
- Finalize permits
- Implement Phase 1 restoration
- Conduct public outreach




Organizational Chart



Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority
Board of Directors

Steering Committee
(RMC, CA Coastal Conservancy,
Cities of Long Beach, Seal Beach)

**Technical Advisory
Committee**



**Tribal Advisory
Group**

**Project
Management**

**Permitting
CEQA**

**Engineering
Design**

**Restoration
Ecology**



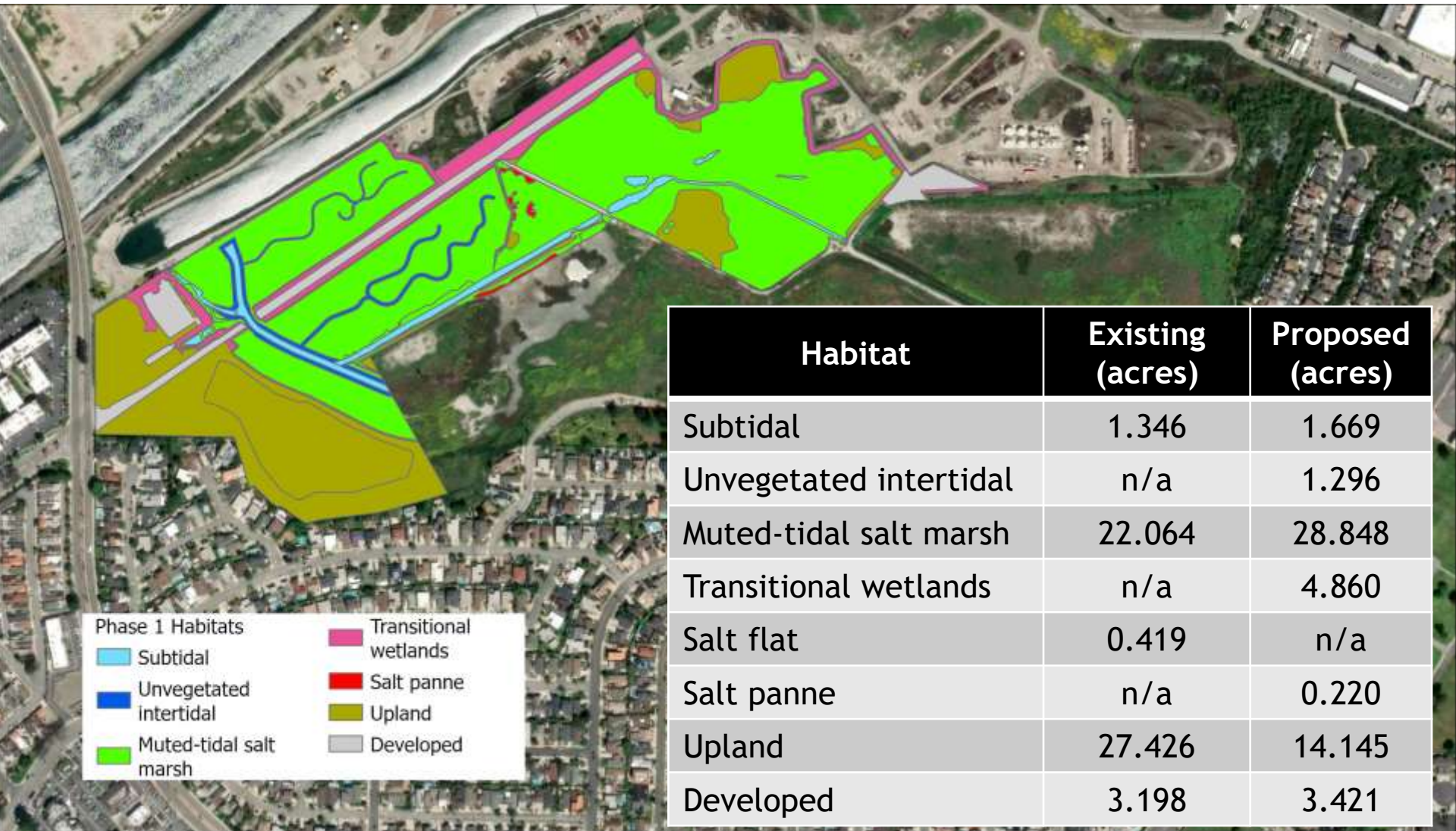
**Tribal
Engagement**

**Community
Engagement**

Project Phases



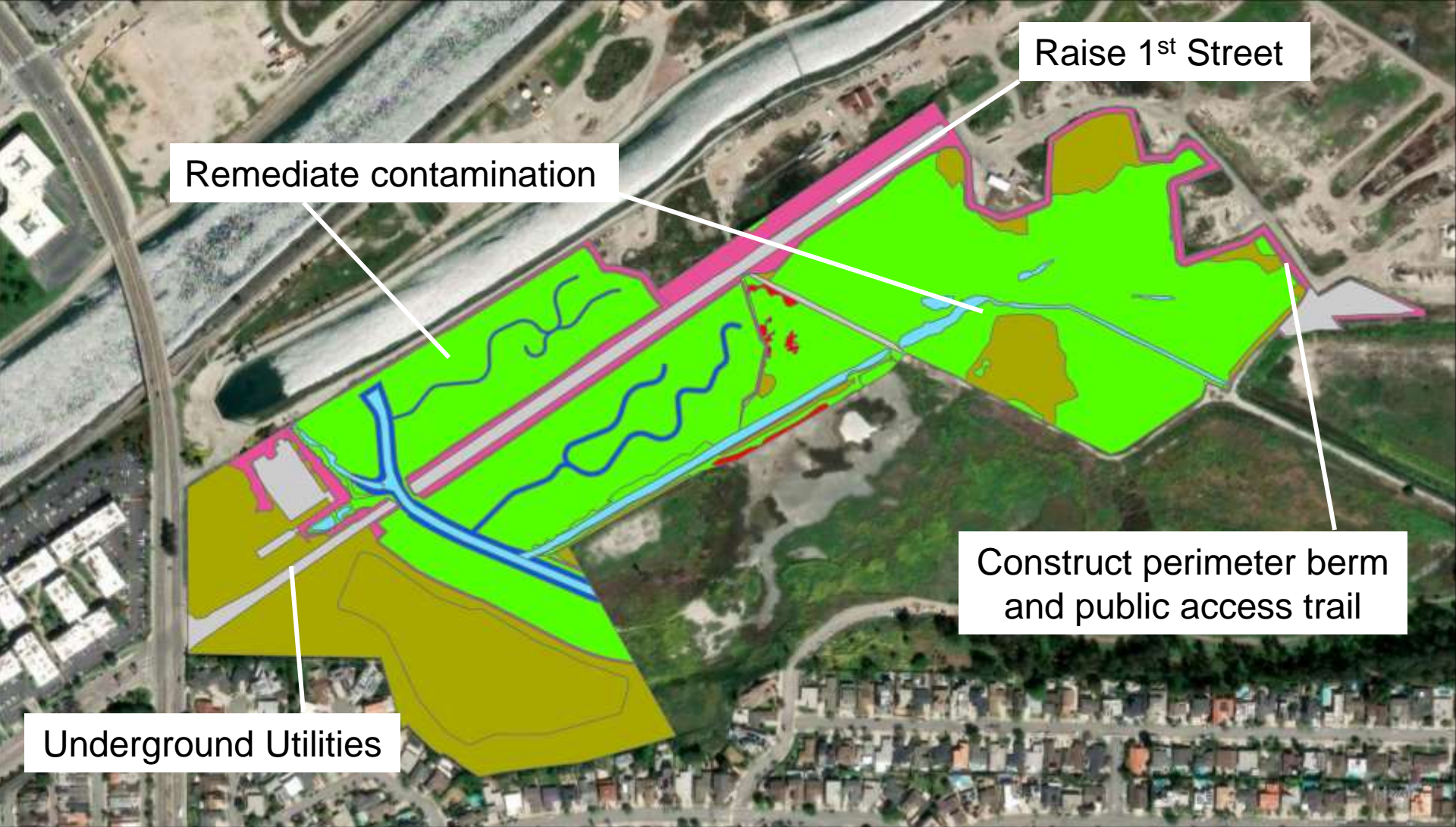
Proposed Habitats, Phase 1



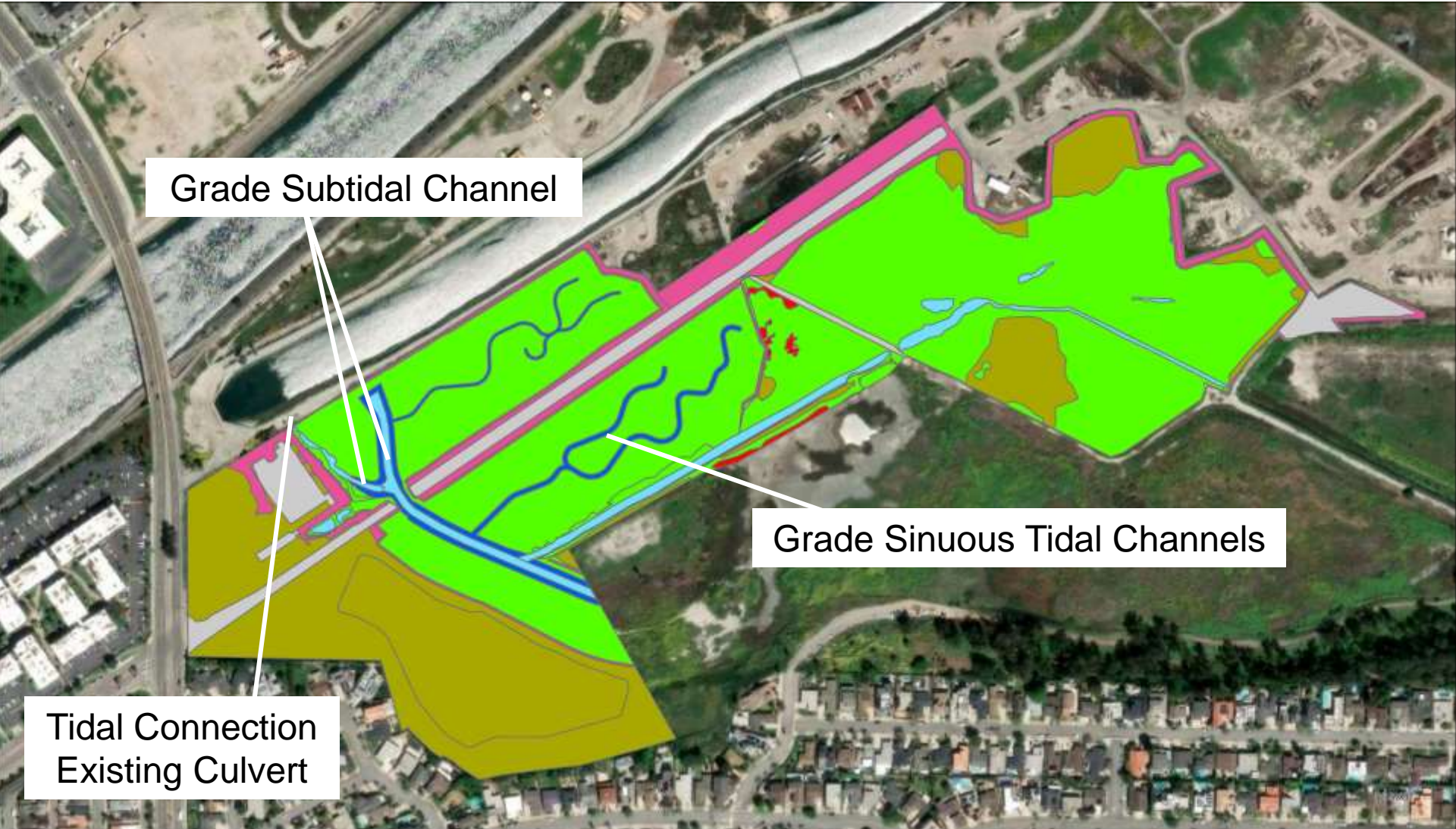
Phase 1 Habitats

-  Subtidal
-  Unvegetated intertidal
-  Muted-tidal salt marsh
-  Transitional wetlands
-  Salt panne
-  Upland
-  Developed

Phase 1 Restoration, Part 1



Phase 1 Restoration, Part 2

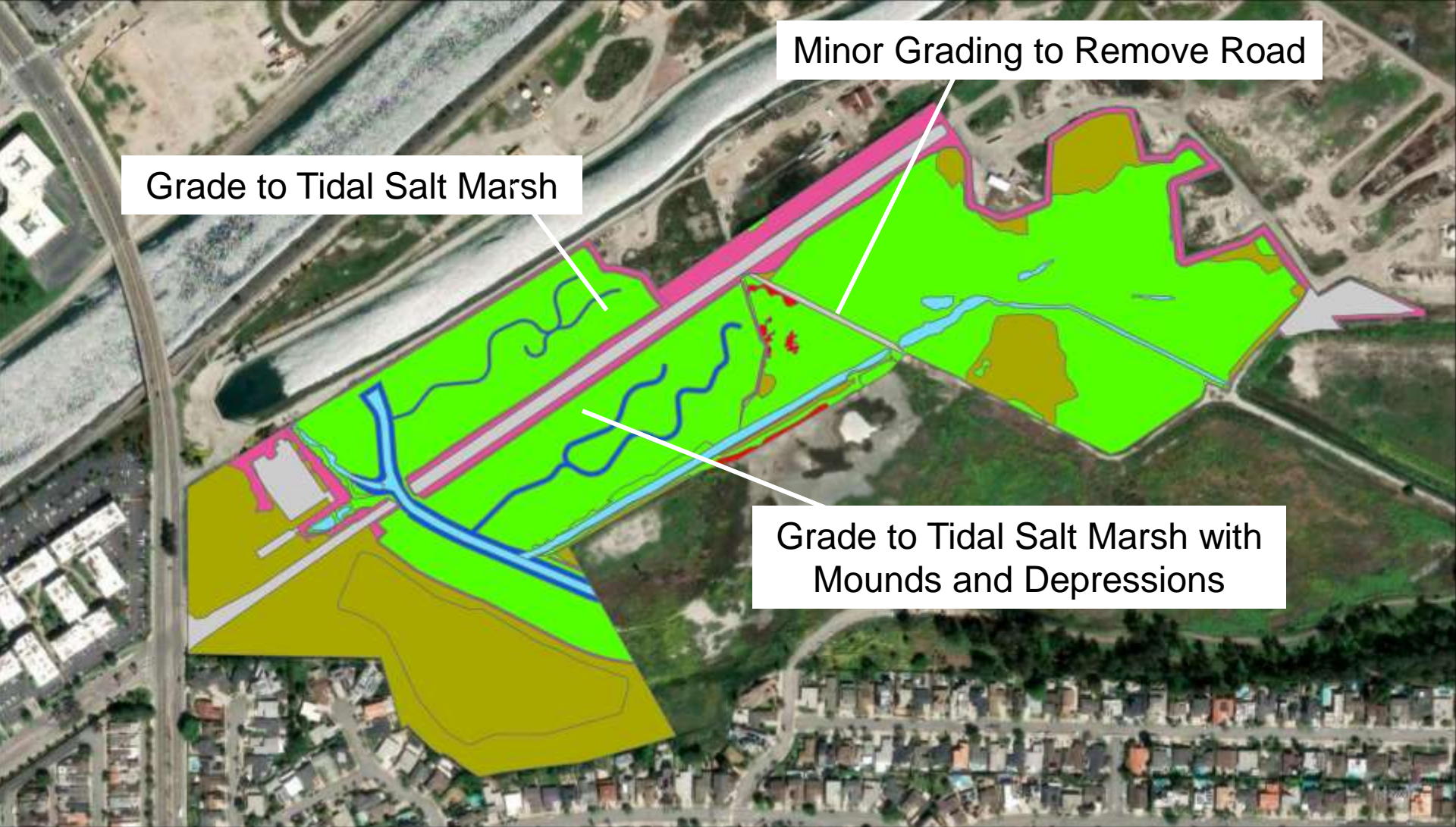


Grade Subtidal Channel

Grade Sinuous Tidal Channels

Tidal Connection
Existing Culvert

Phase 1 Restoration, Part 3



Grade to Tidal Salt Marsh

Minor Grading to Remove Road

Grade to Tidal Salt Marsh with Mounds and Depressions

Schedule

- December 2024: 90% Design Completed
- May 2025: 100% Design Completed
- June 2025: Contractor selected
- September 2025: Restoration Commences
- May 2027: Restoration Concludes



Questions: Future?





VISIONING



State Lands Parcel



Existing Conditions, part 1



Existing Conditions, part 2



Existing Conditions, part 3



Design Variables

- Cost (construction and operations/maintenance)
- Protection of sensitive habitats
- ADA compliance
- Community connectivity
- Site security
- Neighboring land uses
- Allowable use compatibility
- Public opinion



Features?



Online Survey

- A multiple choice survey has been created
- Solicit public opinion regarding various features of the Visitor Plaza on the State Lands parcel
- Accessed via SurveyPlanet:
<https://s.surveyplanet.com/w0yvrac9>



Questions: Visioning?





GET INFORMED



Community Events

- 3 events held “pre-restoration”
 - Virtual Meeting : Past, Present, Future (December 2024)
 - Workshop: Envisioning the State Lands Parcel (March 2025)
 - Open House: Final Design (2-3 months pre-restoration)
- 7 events held “during restoration” (times TBD)
 - Mixer: Public Access and Project Restoration
 - Mixer: LCWA Stewardship Program
 - Mixer: Trivia Night
 - Virtual Meeting: Restoration updates
 - 3 tabling opportunities



Stewardship Program

- Guided Habitat Tour: 1st Saturday, LCWLT
- Habitat Restoration: 1st Saturday, LCWLT
- Bird Walk: 2nd Saturday (Hellman Site), EDA
- Bird Walk: 4th Saturday (Zedler Marsh), EDA
- Zedler Marsh trail days: Every Friday and Saturday, LCWA



Stay Informed

LCWA Website: www.intoloscerritoswetlands.org

Email: info@tidalinfluence.com

Instagram: @lcwauthority

Threads: @lcwauthority

X: @lcwauthority





THANK YOU

