

Monday, September

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The City of Del Mar

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## Caterpillars Set to Invade the San Dieguito Wetlands

By Mayor Crystal Crawford

February 10, 2006


Yes, it's true. Starting in mid-February, "Caterpillars," in the shape of dump trucks, front-loaders, back-loaders, and dredgers will congregate at the San Dieguito Lagoon to begin construction on the long-awaited San Dieguito Wetlands Restoration Project. The wetland restoration is being completed by Southern California Edison and its contractor for the project, Marathon Construction.

In total, 150 acres of coastal wetlands will be restored in areas located within both the City of Del Mar and the City of San Diego. The project will involve restoring tidal wetlands, constructing berms and other forms of slope protection, constructing nesting sites for the endangered Least Tern, improving beach access, and excavating the inlet channel to maintain a healthy tidal exchange between the ocean and fresh water marsh. The entire project is estimated to take up to three years to complete.

Restoration work will occur Monday - Friday starting at 7:00 am. Initial construction will involve the clearing of vegetation, installing construction fencing and erosion control measures, and beginning the earthwork in the wetland areas south of the San Dieguito River and east of Interstate 5. The work will slowly move westward, and much of the work visible within the boundaries of Del Mar will not occur until 2008. Near the end of the project a new inlet channel will be dredged. The beach quality sand dredged from the channel will then be deposited back onto the beach. The initial and periodic inlet dredging and corresponding beach sand nourishment has been incorporated into the project requirements to ensure that our beaches do not lose sand as a result of the project. In fact, it is anticipated that with increased tidal exchange, more sand than ever before will be flushed naturally out of the channel and onto the beach.

The City of Del Mar has hired its own construction monitor to ensure that requirements imposed on the project by City permit approvals will be observed and the welfare of the community protected. Del Mar's project monitor, Mr. Lauren Wasserman, has extensive public sector background having served as the City Manager and Planning Director for several city and county agencies throughout the State. His contact information will be available on the City of Del Mar website or by calling 858.755.9313.

General project updates and answers to questions can also be obtained via the



project's public relations coordinator, Ms. Destree Lazo of Collaborative Services, at [DestreeL@collaborativesewrvices.biz](mailto:DestreeL@collaborativesewrvices.biz), by calling 619.232.2112, extension 104, or by visiting [Collaborative Services project web page](#).

I am very pleased to be a part of this legacy project and am excited to watch the Caterpillars as they transform the San Dieguito wetlands into a flourishing habitat that enriches this regional, and very significant, natural resource.


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**Emergency Preparedness Information**

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