

# San Dieguito Wetlands Restoration Project



## For Immediate Release

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## Restoration Work Begins on San Dieguito Wetlands Project

San Diego - The final permit allowing restoration work to begin is on its way. The California Coastal Commission ("CCC") has issued a "Conditional Compliance" letter, which allows Marathon Construction, the contractor, to start some work on the San Dieguito Wetlands Restoration Project.

"After 15 years of planning, and numerous coordination efforts, we are breaking ground with much excitement. We want to thank everyone for their continued patience. We are ready to take on this project that will enhance the neighboring communities and improve the surrounding environment," said Mike Furby, Marathon Construction Corporation Project Manager.

The San Dieguito Wetlands Restoration project is a mitigation measure for the San Onofre Power Plant's impacts. It includes:

- Creation/substantial restoration of 150 acres of tidal wetland and about 15 acres of additional wetland habitat,
- Initial inlet dredging and periodic dredging to permanently maintain an open inlet,
- Construction of 3 berms, including permanent access roads adjacent to the San Dieguito River to confine existing flows and maintain sediment transport to the ocean,
- Bank protection for portions of the berms and river channel, culverts in the berms to help balance water levels and a weir to eliminate backwater effect on the upstream river channel,
- Creation of four new nesting sites and rehabilitation for an existing site for the California Least Tern and Western Snowy Plover,
- Improvements to beach access, and
- Upland and beach disposal of excavated material, and maintenance and monitoring programs.

With this conditional compliance notification, initial work activities will include: clearing and grubbing parts of the project area and importing rock revetment and other miscellaneous rocks onto the site. The equipment that will be brought to the site for this work are trucks to haul rock, a water truck, a bulldozer and rubber tire loader. Work hours will be between 7:00 am and 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday.

To date, the project had received all but this last permit, which has delayed the start date of restoration work from Spring 2006 to Fall 2006. This conditional notice from the CCC is part of obtaining the final permit. The full Coastal Development Permit ("CDP") is anticipated within a week based various final conditions being met by Southern California Edison. This final CDP will allow all restoration work to proceed.

For more information, an upcoming quarterly e-newsletter will be sent out in September. The project information hotline is available to call in at (858) 259-1955.

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