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**DEL MAR: Wetlands project garners award**

By North County Times

DEL MAR ---- The San Dieguito Wetlands Restoration project was given an award in planning excellence Thursday by the San Diego Chapter of the American Planning Association.

The award is given every year to recognize outstanding community plans, planning programs and public education.

The San Dieguito Wetlands project is one of the state's largest coastal lagoon restorations and has taken decades of analysis and cooperation among numerous federal, state and local agencies.

The \$86 million project ---- designed to make up for effects that the cooling systems at San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station have on marine fish populations ---- is spearheaded by Southern California Edison. It is designed to be self-sustaining once construction and re-vegetation is complete.

"The jury had high praise for this project since it changed the landscape in a truly positive way," said Bill Chopyk, president of the San Diego chapter of the association. "They were impressed with the high level of technical analysis."

More than 20 companies, most based in San Diego, have played an important role in the development, permitting and construction of the restoration project, including Project Design Consultants, Marathon Construction and Coastal Environments.