



Lagoon doesn't need to fish for compliments

Thursday, September 11, 2008

Some exciting news was released last week concerning the ongoing San Dieguito wetlands restoration project. A scientific estimate has nine million new fish taking up residence in a large tidal basin created early this year as part of the project.

Welcome. We know you'll enjoy your new home.

All would agree the \$86 million restoration project so far has resulted in a visual success with tidal marshes, lagoons and waterways clearly visible from key several vantage points including Interstate-5. But now scientific evidence shows the project is an unequivocal environmental success as well.

One could say it's fitting, even ironic, that Southern California Edison's mitigation - the sole reason for the project - involved a large fish and egg kill at the company's San Onofre nuclear generating plant. Now here they are, back in spades.

Mitigation projects of this type, which usually involve large corporations or governmental entities damaging our precious resources, often involve superficial fixes like highway plantings or monetary contributions that have little real impact on our communities.

Not in this case. This mitigation is a thing of beauty and a lasting one at that.

Environmental engineer Hany Elwany said the fish infusion at San Dieguito, which involved numerous varieties, indicated, "Mother Nature was flourishing" in the area.

Those involved with the project should take pride that in our little area of the world a difference is being made.