

10News.com

Project To Restore North County Lagoon Complete

Related To Story

Restoration Project Funded By SDG&E, Southern California Edison

POSTED: 9:51 pm PDT September 29, 2011

UPDATED: 4:44 pm PDT September 30, 2011

DEL MAR, Calif. -- After 20 years and \$90 million, a project to restore the San Dieguito Lagoon is finally finished.

- » [Sign Up For Breaking News Alerts](#)
- » [Like Us On Facebook](#)

The wetlands restoration project was jointly funded by San Diego Gas & Electric and Southern California Edison.

On Monday afternoon, a giant Caterpillar earth-mover collected one last giant scoop of sand, opening the channel at Del Mar's Dog Beach.

A young woman named Katalin told 10News, "It's going to bring more water flow into the estuary, so that's going to be great. It's going to revitalize this entire ecosystem over here so we're pretty excited about it."

Experts say 80 million gallons of water flow out to sea at low tide, and then surge back in during high tide.

The project is payback to the community and the environment for the fish killed by the San Onofre Power Plant, which uses the ocean for cooling.

David Kay, Southern California Edison's manager of environmental projects, told 10News, "Wetlands are nurseries for fish. The fish swim in at high tide, they spawn. When the babies grow up, they swim out with high tide and populate the ocean."

Kay counted off several recreational benefits as well.

"In addition to the fish, we get vegetation and birds. And with the help of the river park we have hiking trails and biking trails and equestrian access, bird watching," Kay added.

San Diego County Supervisor Pam Slater-Price was in attendance and spoke about the years of effort needed to reach this goal.

"It took a long time and a lot of hardboiled politics, I will tell you that. We went through three different governors, the Coastal Commission," Slater-Price said.

In all, six cities and the county worked in cooperation to make it work.

The ocean will eventually plug up the mouth of the lagoon and it will have to be dredged again in a year-and-a-half to three years.

Do you have more information about this story? [Click here to contact us](#)