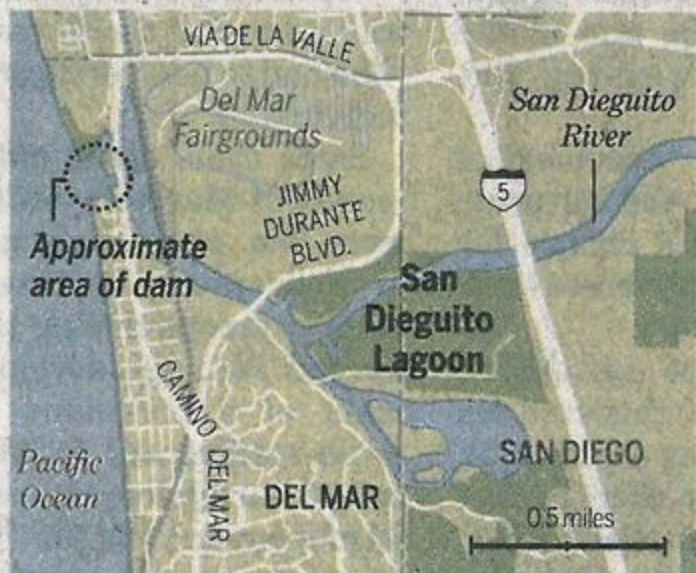


FEEDING THE WETLANDS



Source: SanGIS

AARON ATENCIO • U-T

Kevin Caskey, with friend Deanne Byrne, helps a fish as it struggles to make it from the shallow water of the San Dieguito River to the ocean at Del Mar's Dog Beach. CHARLIE NEUMAN • U-T

Contractors for the San Dieguito Wetlands Restoration Project on Thursday removed an earthen dam that had separated the wetlands from the ocean in Del Mar. The dam had allowed crews to excavate sand and move the San Dieguito River channel 150 feet north. When the dam broke, full tidal flows returned to the wetlands. The project is be-

ing funded by Southern California Edison and SDG&E to lessen the effect on the environment from the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station, which the utilities co-own.

The new opening will direct 80 million gallons of seawater to the San Dieguito Lagoon and wetlands during high tides to feed fish, birds and plants.