

**U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
San Diego National Wildlife Refuge Complex**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**Notice of Availability  
of a  
Draft Compatibility Determination for the  
Visitor Contact Station at the  
San Diego National Wildlife Refuge Complex  
Proposed Administrative Facility**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that a Draft Compatibility Determination (CD) has been prepared by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, San Diego National Wildlife Refuge Complex and is available for a 15-day public review period. The 15-day public review period begins on February 11, 2010 and ends on March 1, 2010.

**Project Title:** Visitor Contact Station at the San Diego National Wildlife Refuge Complex Administrative Facility, Chula Vista, California

**Lead Agency and Project Proponent:**

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
San Diego National Wildlife Refuge Complex  
6010 Hidden Valley Road, Suite 101, Carlsbad, CA 92011  
Contact: Andrew Yuen (760) 930-0168

**Project Location:** The project site is located on the Sweetwater Marsh Unit of the San Diego Bay National Wildlife Refuge, Chula Vista, California. The proposed visitor contact station would be located within the proposed administrative facility that would be constructed on uplands located on Gunpowder Point. The proposed facility would be next to the Chula Vista Nature Center.

**Project Description:** The focus of this compatibility determination is the construction and operation of a visitor contact station at the Sweetwater Marsh Unit of the San Diego Bay NWR. Public uses at the Sweetwater Marsh Unit currently consist of environmental education, environmental interpretation, wildlife observation, and wildlife photography. These public uses were analyzed and evaluated in a series of compatibility determinations completed for the Comprehensive Conservation Plan in 2006. Each of those public uses was determined to be compatible on this Refuge unit. NEPA compliance for the CCP consisted of an Environmental Impact Statement and a Record of Decision (*USFWS 2006*). The CCP/EIS and compatibility determinations presented a thorough analysis of the public use program to the public. We are not

proposing to change or add a new public use; however, development of a visitor contact station at the Sweetwater Marsh Unit will facilitate the current public uses. Although administrative offices would also be part of this facility, the focus of this CD is the construction and operation of a visitor contact station to facilitate public uses on the Sweetwater Marsh Unit. A compatibility determination is not required for construction of Service administrative facilities. For a detailed discussion of the public use program, see the 2006 Final CCP and EIS for San Diego Bay NWR, Sweetwater Marsh and South San Diego Bay Units.

The visitor contact station will serve as the portal to introduce visitors to the National Wildlife Refuge System and San Diego Bay NWR and encourage them to access Refuge trails, observe wildlife, and connect with nature. Through its design, the visitor contact station would also draw visitors from the Chula Vista Nature Center onto the Refuge to explore trails. The visitor contact station would also interpret the historical and biological resources of Gunpowder Point and Sweetwater Marsh. The visitor contact station includes a series of exhibit areas that will be installed along the new walkway that links the Chula Vista Nature Center and administrative facility.

**Review and Comment Period:** Comments on the CD must be provided in writing to Andrew Yuen, Project Leader, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, San Diego National Wildlife Refuge Complex, 6010 Hidden Valley Road, Suite 101, Carlsbad, California 92011, via email to [Andy\\_Yuen@fws.gov](mailto:Andy_Yuen@fws.gov), or via fax to 760-930-0256 no later than 5:00 PM PST on **March 1, 2010**. Questions regarding this document or the proposed project can be directed to Andrew Yuen at 760-930-0168.

**Report Availability:** Copies of the CD are available for public review at the following locations:

San Diego National Wildlife Refuge Complex  
6010 Hidden Valley Road, Suite 101  
Carlsbad, California 92011

The document can also be viewed electronically at the San Diego National Wildlife Complex Website at <http://www.fws.gov/sandiegorefuges/> and click on “What’s New” in Site Navigation column.