



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

San Diego Bay National Wildlife Refuge Sweetwater Marsh & South San Diego Bay Units

Planning Update 7, July 2005

Greetings

The U.S Fish and Wildlife Service is pleased to announce that the San Diego Bay National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), Sweetwater Marsh and South San Diego Bay Units, Draft Comprehensive Conservation Plan/ Environmental Impact Statement (CCP/EIS) is now available for public review and comment. Information on how you can review the Draft CCP/EIS and provide your comments is presented on page 2.

We would like to thank everyone who has participated in the planning process to date and encourage your continued involvement during the public comment period.

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Public Comment Period Begins for the San Diego Bay NWR Draft CCP/EIS

The San Diego Bay NWR, Sweetwater Marsh and South San Diego Bay Units, Draft CCP/EIS is now available for public review and comment. The Draft CCP/EIS consists of three documents, as described below.

Summary - A summary of the proposed alternatives and an overview of the potential environmental consequences of implementing each of the alternatives.

Volume I - A complete analysis of the management actions proposed in the Draft CCP/EIS, including a discussion of purpose and need, a description of each of the proposed alternatives, an account of the environment that could be affected by the proposed actions, and an analysis of the potential consequences that implementing the various alternatives could have on the environment.

Volume II - The appendices, which provide additional information related to the information presented in Volume I.

These materials are available in electronic format (on-line and on CD) and in print. Printed versions of the Draft CCP/EIS are available for review at various public locations. A CD or hard copy of the documents will also be provided upon request. See page 2 for additional details.



Photo by J. Konecny, USFWS

Important Dates - Mark Your Calendar

Wednesday, August 31, 2005 (6:30 PM - 8:00 PM)

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will host a public meeting at the Chula Vista City Council Chambers to discuss the Draft CCP/EIS. See page 3 for additional details.

Monday, September 19, 2005

The public comment period ends; all comments must be received by this date.

Reviewing the Draft CCP/EIS

On-Line Access to the Draft CCP/EIS

You can access the Draft CCP/EIS on our Refuge Complex website, <http://sandiegorefuges.fws.gov> (*Just click the What's New icon*), or the Service's Pacific Region Planning website, <http://pacific.fws.gov/planning/> (*Just click on the Projects Online icon*).

Access to Printed Versions of the Draft CCP/EIS

Printed versions of the Draft CCP/EIS are available for review at the following public locations:

San Diego Refuge Complex - 6010 Hidden Valley Road, Carlsbad, CA 92009

Tijuana Estuary Visitor Center - 301 Caspian Way, Imperial Beach, CA 91932

Chula Vista Public Libraries

Civic Center Branch - 365 F Street, Chula Vista CA 91910

South Chula Vista Branch - 389 Orange Avenue, Chula Vista CA 91911

Coronado Public Library - 640 Orange Avenue, Coronado, CA 92118

Imperial Beach Library - 810 Imperial Beach Blvd., Imperial Beach, CA 91932

National City Library - 200 East 12th Street, National City, CA 91950

City of San Diego Public Libraries

Central Library, Government Publications - 820 E Street, San Diego, CA 92101

Logan Heights Branch Library - 811 South 28th Street, San Diego, CA 92113

Otay Mesa Branch Library - 3003 Coronado Avenue, San Diego, CA 92154

Paradise Hills Branch Library - 5922 Rancho Hills Drive, San Diego, CA 92139

Obtain Your Own Copy of the Draft CCP/EIS

To obtain a CD or hard copy of the Draft CCP/EIS, please contact Victoria Touchstone, Refuge Planner at (760) 431-9440 ext. 349 (telephone), Victoria_Touchstone@fws.gov (email), or (760) 930-0256 (facsimile). Be sure to provide your mailing address and a phone number in case we need to contact you. You can also provide a written request to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, San Diego National Wildlife Refuge Complex, 6010 Hidden Valley Road, Carlsbad, CA 92011. All three documents that make up the Draft CCP/EIS are included on the CD. If you are requesting a printed version of the document, please specify which of the three documents you would like to receive. To conserve resources, we would ask you to only request hard copies of those documents that you know you will review. Remember that all of the information is available electronically, including the appendices.

How and When to Submit Your Comments

All comments related to the San Diego Bay NWR Draft CCP/EIS must be received at the Refuge Complex office no later than Monday, September 19, 2005.

Comments should be addressed to: Victoria Touchstone, Refuge Planner, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, San Diego National Wildlife Refuge Complex, 6010 Hidden Valley Road, Carlsbad, CA 92011. Comments may also be submitted via electronic mail to Victoria_Touchstone@fws.gov or via fax to (760) 930-0256. Please type "San Diego Bay CCP" in the subject line.

Although we encourage you to provide your comments in writing, you may also provide comments at the Public Meeting the Fish and Wildlife Service will host on Wednesday, August 31, 2005.

Notice of a Public Meeting



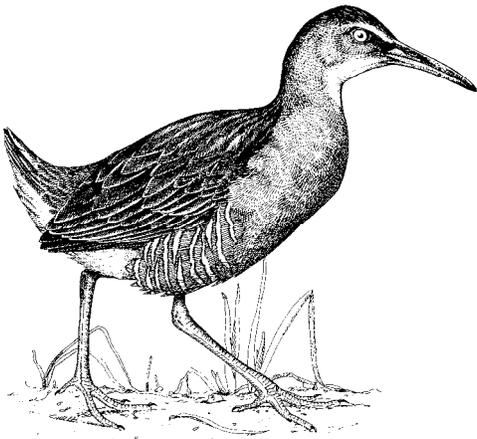
The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will host a **Public Meeting on**

**Wednesday, August 31, 2005
6:30 PM to 8:00 PM**

**Chula Vista City Council Chambers
276 Fourth Avenue
Chula Vista, CA 91910**

We will discuss the Draft CCP/EIS and provide an opportunity for public comments.

**For more information, contact Victoria Touchstone, Refuge Planner
(760) 431-9440 ext. 349 (telephone)
Victoria_Touchstone@fws.gov (email)**



Light-footed Clapper Rail
Shari Erickson, USFWS

Please feel free to contact us!

We are available to provide additional information about Refuge resources and visitor services and to answer any questions you might have about the planning process. You can contact us by phone, mail, or e-mail.

If you did not receive this *Planning Update* through the mail and would like to be on our mailing list, please let us know. If you would like to be removed from the list or are receiving multiple copies of these notices, please contact the Refuge Planner.



United States Department of the Interior
Fish & Wildlife Service
San Diego National Wildlife Refuge Complex
6010 Hidden Valley Road
Carlsbad, CA 92011

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CCP Timeline

July 2005	Public Comment Period for the Draft CCP/EIS Begins (60 Day Comment Period)
Aug. 31, 2005	Public Meeting - Chula Vista City Council Chambers (6:30 - 8:00 PM)
September 2005	End Public Comment Period (Comments due no later than Monday, September 19, 2005)
Sept/Oct 2005	Fish and Wildlife Service prepares responses to comments and Final CCP/Final EIS
November 2005	Publish Final CCP and Final EIS
January 2006	Record of Decision

You can review past Planning Updates by visiting our *CCP Webpage*.
 Go to: <http://sandiegorefuges.fws.gov>. Once at the website, click on "What's New" and then click on "Read the Comprehensive Conservation Plan."

Please pass this *Planning Update* along to anyone you think might be interested in the Draft CCP/EIS or the planning process in general. Thank you!