

Otay River Estuary Restoration Project
Draft Environmental Impact Statement
San Diego Bay National Wildlife Refuge
San Diego County, California

Lead Agency: U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service

Cooperating Agency: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

For Further Information: Brian Collins, Refuge Manager
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Abstract: This draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) describes the no action and two actions alternatives associated with the Otay River Estuary Restoration Project (ORERP) and analyzes the potential effects on the environment of implementing each alternative. The ORERP proposes to restore approximately 125 acres of coastal wetlands and associated uplands at two locations on the San Diego Bay National Wildlife Refuge (San Diego County, California), including a 33.5-acre portion of the Otay River floodplain, and a 91-acre active solar salt pond (Pond 15). To achieve elevations appropriate for supporting subtidal and intertidal wetlands within the Otay River Floodplain Site, the action alternatives propose the excavation of 320,000 to 370,000 cubic yards of material or which 260,000 to 310,000 cubic yards would be transported to the Pond 15 Site to be beneficially used to restore coastal wetlands within the pond. The remaining 30,000 to 40,000 cubic yards of material would be stockpiled on the Refuge for future beneficial use.

Providing Comments: A 45-day public comment period began on October 21, 2016 and ends on Monday, December 5, 2016. You may submit written comments as follows:

- Email: Otay_EIS@fws.gov (include “Otay Estuary EIS” in the subject line of the message);
- Fax: Attention to Brian Collins, 619-476-9149; or
- U.S. Mail: Brian Collins, USFWS, San Diego NWRC, P.O. Box 2358, Chula Vista, CA 91912.

Written and verbal comments can also be provided at a public meeting to be held on November 7, 2016 from 6 – 8 pm at the San Diego County Swiss Club (2001 Main St. Chula Vista, CA).

Please note that written comments we receive become part of the public record associated with this action. Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment, including your personal identifying information, may be made publicly available at any time.

For more information, visit the San Diego Bay NWR webpage at:
https://www.fws.gov/refuge/San_Diego_Bay/what_we_do/Resource_Management/Otay_Restoration.html.