

APPENDIX B
Public Scoping Report - 2013

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Public Scoping Report Otay River Estuary Restoration Project

Public Scoping Meeting held on January 23, 2013

Prepared for:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
P.O. Box 2358
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Prepared by:

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APPENDIX B 2013 Public Scoping Report

OTAY RIVER ESTUARY RESTORATION PROJECT

Scoping Comments from Scoping Meetings of January 23, 2013

Attendance: 14 people signed the attendance sheet

Comment Cards: One comment card was submitted.

Is it possible Poseidon could buy the magnesium pond and restore them, so maybe salt production could continue for a while longer. (Although I am for the ultimate restoration of the entire area.) Theresa Acerio

Comments from the Flip Charts:

Biological Resources

- Consider hydrologic interconnections namely Pond 20 restoration
- Intact nesting capacity concern for predator population
- Concern about impact of climate change on species assemblages and human pathogens (e.g., West Nile Virus, avian flu)
- (Although not recorded, Wayne Dickey indicated that he had provided information on potential sites for soil disposal [two park sites in the area] – did someone write those suggestions down? If not, we should try to get that information for the meeting notes.)

General Project Information:

- Potential impacts to south bay salt works?
- Design should consider and include a model for massive flooding events and flood modeling
- Does design for 2050 reduce current functions and values?
- Design access for future rework to address sea level rise
- Please design an outflow for Otay River to connect to Pond 13 as soon/close as possible so the river has somewhere to go in case of a flood. Since we cannot widen the river bed, or breach a levee of Ponds 22 and 23.
- Otay River floodplain values - uses are maximized

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Physical Environment:

- What is driving the project design, fish mitigation or habitat desires?
- What is the impact of pond restoration to nesting seabirds?
- Describe the impact on salt production and the effect on ecosystem of the project, including effect on brine invertebrates and associated bird species, describe shift in biodiversity (current conditions versus restored conditions)
- Provide for brine invertebrate production with restoration - can it be done?
- How small can we go and still have salt production?
- Berm between refuge and rest of Pond 20 – how can this project relate to possible future restoration in Pond 20, will timing allow for a coordinated restoration effort?
- Don't maintain a levee between the project and Pond 20
- How does the implementation of this project affect restoration planning for Pond 20 – will the future restoration of Pond 20 be constrained due to the current project?
- Can the Otay project be designed to allow future restoration of the rest of Pond 20 (removable berm or other features)?
- Describe how excavated material would be used – beneficial use in ponds or could it be used to restore eelgrass habitat in Emory Cove
- In consideration of sea level rise, allow for future access of construction equipment for maintenance activities and to keep pace with sea level rise

Attendees at the Otay River Estuary Restoration Project Scoping Meetings: January 23, 2013

Gene Mullenix, South Bay Salt Works, 1470 Bay Blvd. Chula Vista, California 91911

Don Grace, South Bay Salt Works, 1470 Bay Blvd. Chula Vista, California 91911

Tracy Strahl, South Bay Salt Works, 1470 Bay Blvd. Chula Vista, California 91911

Wayne Dickey, 3813 Coleman Avenue, San Diego, California 92154 (Planning Group member)

Joe Ellis, 1350 5th Street, Imperial Beach, California 91932-3208

John Holder, WildCoast, 925 Seacoast Drive, Imperial Beach, California

Jim Janney, Mayor, City of Imperial Beach

Mike McCoy, SWIA, Imperial Beach, California 91932

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Bill and Shannon Davis, 1185 East Lane, Imperial Beach, California 91932

Jim Peugh, San Diego Audubon

Khari Johnson (no address provided)

Michael De la Rosa, Office of San Diego Supervisor Greg Cox, 1600 Pacific Highway, San Diego, California 92101

Theresa Acerro, 3730 Festival Court, Chula Vista, California 91911

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