



# San Diego Bay National Wildlife Refuge (South San Diego Bay Unit)

## *Public Meeting Please Join Us*

The Service has prepared a draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) for the Otay River Estuary Restoration Project, and you are invited to provide your comments.

One opportunity for providing written or verbal comments will be at a Public Meeting to be held on **Monday, November 7, 2016** from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm at the **San Diego County Swiss Club**, located at 2001 Main Street, Chula Vista, CA.

All comments on the DEIS must be received no later than **December 5, 2016**. For other ways to provide your comments, please see page 2.

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## *Restoration Update - October 2016*

### **Otay River Estuary Restoration Project Draft Environmental Impact Statement Now Available for Public Review and Comment**

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is pleased to announce the availability of the draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) for the Otay River Estuary Restoration Project (ORERP). We invite you to review the DEIS and provide us with your written comments. Comments must be submitted by December 5, 2016. For information on how to provide your comments, please see page 2.

The ORERP proposes to restore approximately 125 acres of coastal wetlands at the south end of San Diego Bay within the San Diego Bay National Wildlife Refuge (NWR or Refuge). The proposed restoration would benefit a variety of coastal species, including native fish and migratory shorebirds and seabirds. In addition, implementation of the ORERP would assist us in achieving the wildlife and habitat management goal and objectives presented in the Comprehensive Conservation Plan for the San Diego Bay NWR.

The ORERP proposes restoration at two locations within the San Diego Bay NWR: a 33.5-acre portion of the Otay River floodplain, located to the north of Saturn Boulevard and east of 13<sup>th</sup> Street; and a 91-acre solar salt pond (Pond 15), located to the west of the northwest intersection of Bay Boulevard and Palomar Street in Chula Vista (Location Map on page 3).

Funding for the proposed restoration is being provided by Poseidon Resources to fulfill part of their mitigation requirements from the California Coastal Commission for the construction and operation of the Poseidon Resources Carlsbad desalination plant in Carlsbad, CA.

An overview of the DEIS and the proposed project is included in an Executive Summary, which can be downloaded from San Diego Bay NWR website ([https://www.fws.gov/refuge/San\\_Diego\\_Bay/what\\_we\\_do/Resource\\_Management/Otay\\_Restoration.html](https://www.fws.gov/refuge/San_Diego_Bay/what_we_do/Resource_Management/Otay_Restoration.html)). The entire DEIS is also available for downloading at the same site.

If you would like to obtain an electronic copy of the DEIS on a compact disc, please send an email request with your name and mailing address to: [Otay\\_EIS@fws.gov](mailto:Otay_EIS@fws.gov). Be sure to include "Otay Estuary EIS" in the subject line of the message of the email.

Hard copies of the document can be reviewed at the Chula Vista Public Library, Civic Center Branch, 365 F St., Chula Vista; San Diego County Library, Imperial Beach Branch, 847 Encina Ave. (temporary location), Imperial Beach; and Chula Vista Public Library, South Chula Vista Branch, 389 Orange Ave., Chula Vista.

## Providing Written Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement

We must receive your comments on or before **Monday, December 5, 2016**. You may submit written comments as follows:

- Email: [Otay\\_EIS@fws.gov](mailto: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.

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. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

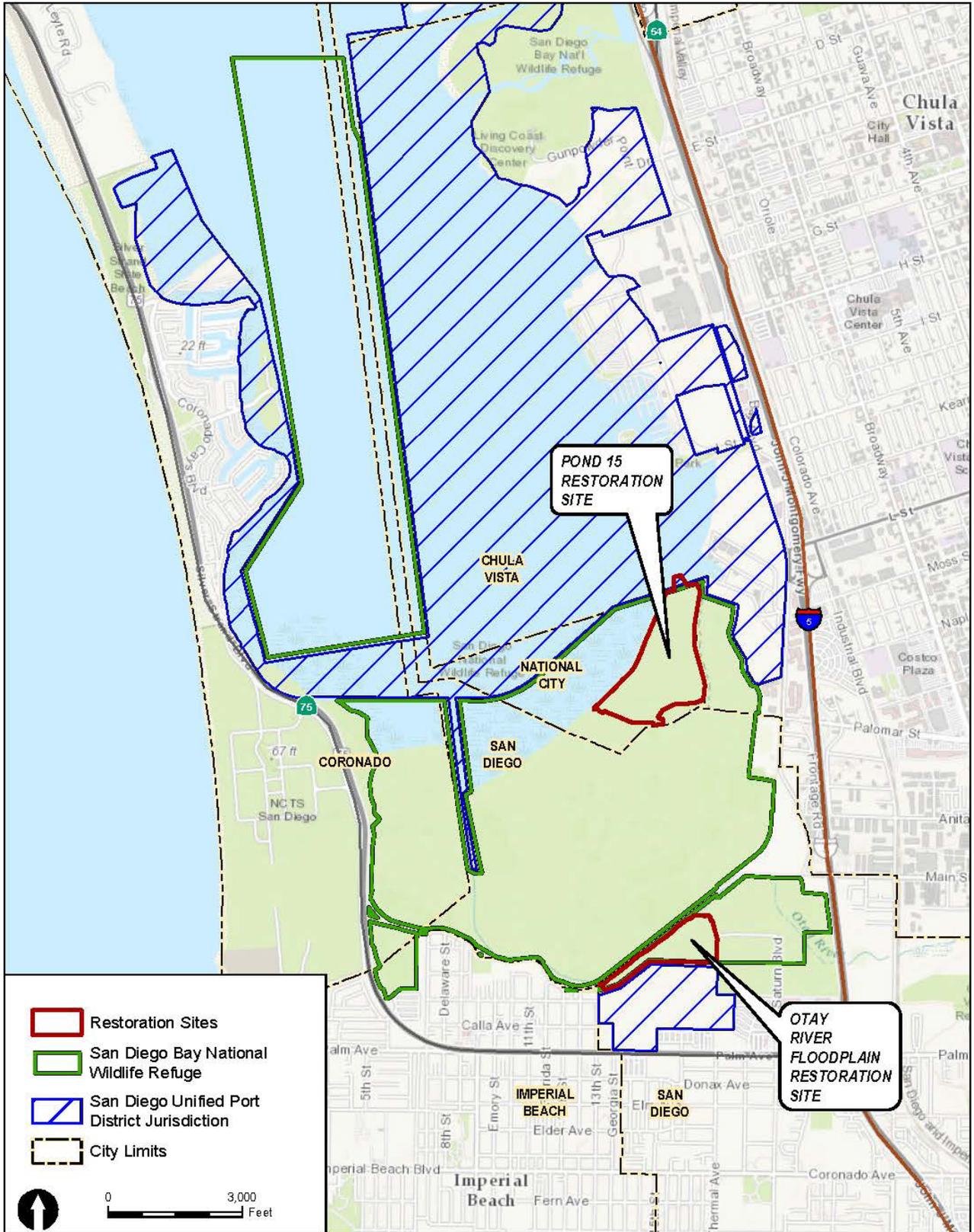
## Required Permits and Approvals for the Otay River Estuary Restoration Project

Implementation of the ORERP not only requires compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), it will also require various permits and approvals from other State agencies and the San Diego Unified Port District. Listed below are the primary permits or approvals that will be required prior to construction.

- Coastal Development Permit from the Coastal Commission for consistency with the California Coastal Act.
- Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification from the Regional Water Quality Control Board.
- Clean Water Act Section 404 Permit and Rivers and Harbors Act Section 10 Permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.
- National Pollution Discharge Elimination System permit for construction.
- Coastal Development Permit, Right-of-Entry Permit, long-term agreement, and other agreements or approvals required from the San Diego Unified Port District for encroachment into Port jurisdiction associated with breaching Pond 15.

For more information about the Otay River Estuary Restoration Project and the draft environmental impact statement, visit the San Diego Bay NWR website at:

[https://www.fws.gov/refuge/San\\_Diego\\_Bay/what\\_we\\_do/Resource\\_Management/Otay\\_Restoration.html](https://www.fws.gov/refuge/San_Diego_Bay/what_we_do/Resource_Management/Otay_Restoration.html)



BASE SOURCE: ESRI

### Project Location Map

Otay River Estuary Restoration Project DEIS



United States Department of the Interior  
Fish & Wildlife Service, San Diego NWR Complex  
P.O. Box 2358  
Chula Vista, CA 91912-2358

First Class Mail  
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US Department  
of the Interior  
Permit G-77

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## NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

A Public Meeting will be held to receive written and verbal comments on the Otay River Estuary Restoration Project Draft Environmental Impact Statement on

**Monday, November 7, 2016**

6:00 PM to 8:00 PM

at

**San Diego County Swiss Club**

2001 Main Street

Chula Vista, CA 91911

*Directions: From Interstate 5 take the Main Street exit (in Chula Vista), go west on Main Street. Just before the road ends, turn left (south) into the Swiss Club parking lot.*