

Doheny State Beach Campground

Climate Resilience and Modernization Project

California State Parks
Orange Coast District

South Coast
Water District



Public Engagement Meeting
OC Sailing & Events Center
April 28, 2026



LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Nathan Banda

Tribal Chairman, Juaneño Band of Mission Indians,
Acjachemen Nation





Meeting Purpose:

To involve our community in shaping the future of the Doheny Campground in a changing coastal environment.

- Review existing campground conditions and constraints
- Share currently proposed redesign & improvements
- Receive and collect public input to improve final design
 - 30 min open forum Q&A
 - 25 min small table discussion
- Promote transparency in planning and decision-making

Project Overview



Join us to learn about the **Doheny State Beach Campground Climate Resilience & Modernization Project** and share your input as the project moves into its next stage.

DOHENY CAMPGROUND COMMUNITY MEETING

TUESDAY, APRIL 28, 2026
6:00-7:30 PM
OC SAILING & EVENTS CENTER
DANA COVE ROOM

34451 Ensenada Pl
Dana Point, CA 92629




Presentation and Q&A:
Learn about project scope and benefits. Have questions answered from the project team.

Provide feedback on planned improvements:
Public safety and access, campground amenities, and sea level rise adaptation.

No RSVP required.

In partnership with:

For more information
Eliza.Atwood@parks.ca.gov



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- 02 Adaptive Planning Framework
- 03 Current Campground Redesign
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- 06 Adjacent Project Coordination
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01



Project Background & Existing Challenges

**High-use camping and day-use destination
(~1 million annual visitors to Doheny State Beach)**



Doheny Campground Context



**Located in a low-lying, highly dynamic coastal zone
(~6,000 ft of shoreline adjacent to the San Juan Creek mouth)**



Existing Challenges & Need for Adaptation



Aging infrastructure



Flooding, drainage, and groundwater issues



Increasing maintenance demands and disruptions



Circulation and public safety challenges



Wave overtopping and shoreline erosion

Existing Sites & Layout

- Small spaces (2-4 people max.)
- No electrical hookups
- Noisy generators
- Unsafe pedestrian access
- Frequent winter flooding



Scenes from the Winter 2023 Atmospheric River

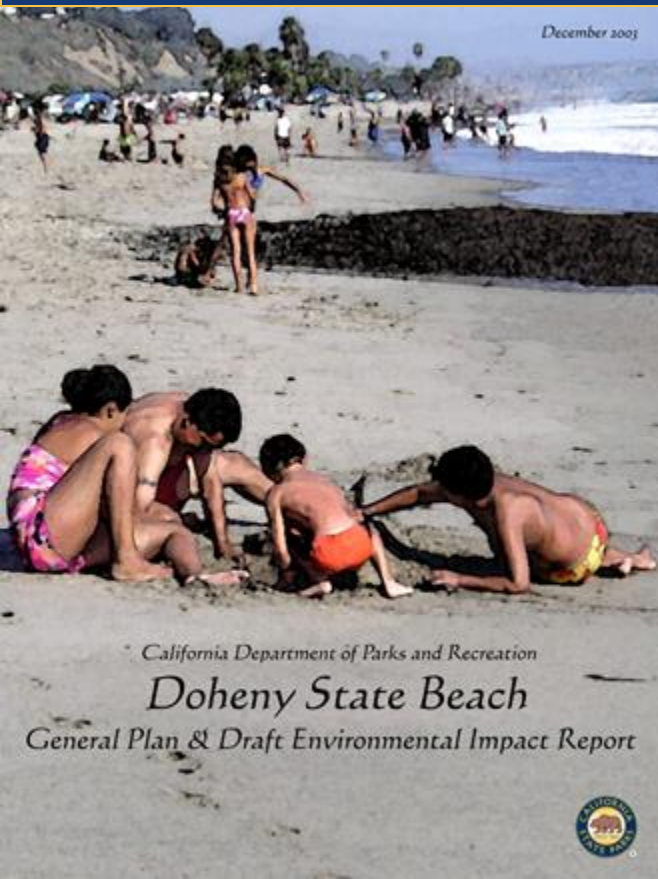


02



Adaptive Planning Framework

Doheny General Plan & EIR (2004): A Long-Term Programmatic Framework



ISSUES IDENTIFIED IN THE GP/EIR

1. CIRCULATION & ACCESS CONFLICTS

"...pedestrian and bicycle routes are disjointed, additional directional signage would be helpful, and improved separation from roads and parking areas is needed..." (GP Section 2.1.4)

2. CAMPGROUND AMENITY DEFICIENCIES

Public workshops identified need for "electrical hookups, more and larger campsites, and a group camp facility." (GP Section 2.1.4)

3. OVERUSE & CAPACITY PRESSURES

"Located in a heavily populated and well-traveled urban setting, the park is subject to outside stresses that challenge the ability of park staff to maintain a high-quality park visitor experience." (GP Section 1.1.2)

4. DRAINAGE & WATER QUALITY CHALLENGES

"Water quality...a significant local problem due to the high concentration of urban pollutants in the storm drain system." (GP Section 2.1.4)

CRITICAL GAP IN THE 2004 PLAN: Climate Resilience

The General Plan focuses on:

- Visitor use
- Facilities
- Circulation
- Resource protection

It does not evaluate:

- Sea level rise
- Long-term coastal flooding
- Wave overtopping
- Groundwater rise

At the time (22 years ago), sea level rise was not incorporated into our planning framework.

To address this gap,
a Vulnerability Assessment
(2025) was conducted.



Vulnerability Assessment Recommendations for SLR Adaptation

✓ Raise campground elevation (~+4 ft; ~20 ft NAVD88)

→ *Reduces risk of wave overtopping during high tides and large surf under moderate SLR scenarios*

✓ Shift campground inland (where feasible)

→ *Relocate seaward campsites to widen the beach and improve resilience to current and future coastal hazards*

✓ Regrade campground to improve drainage

→ *Directs runoff away from campsites and eliminate ponding*

03



Current Campground Redesign

This project implements key recommendations from the 2004 General Plan & 2025 SLR Vulnerability Assessment

Maximizing campsite capacity while improving safety, circulation, and long-term resiliency

1. SAFER PEDESTRIAN CIRCULATION

Dedicated multi-use path and enhanced connectivity & safety within campground

2. MODERNIZED CAMPING AMENITIES

Electrical hookups, larger sites, & greater variety (group campsite, 26 new tent-only sites)

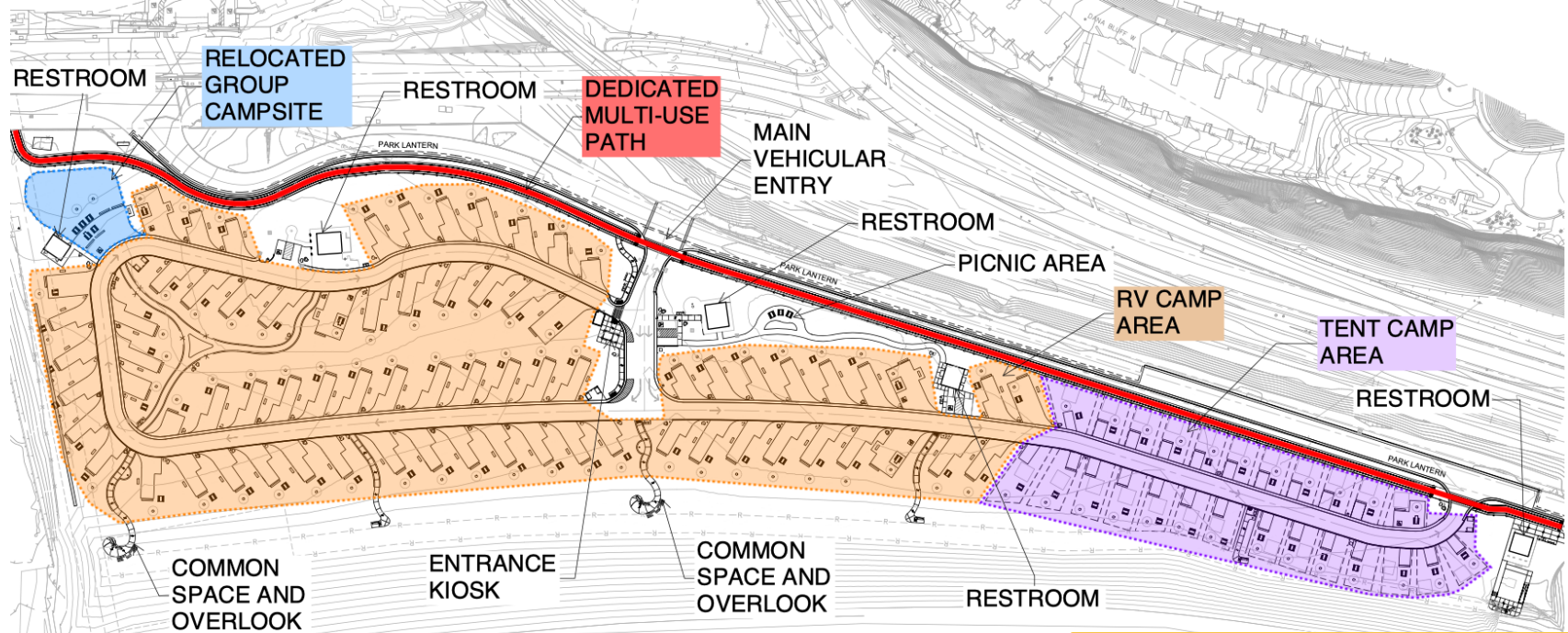
3. IMPROVED DRAINAGE

Regraded & contoured to decrease flooding

4. INCREASED COASTAL RESILIENCY

Elevated and relocated away from coastal hazards





| CAMPSITE SCHEDULE | |
|-------------------|------------|
| TENT CAMPSITES | 26 |
| RV CAMPSITES | 73 |
| GROUP CAMPING | 1 |
| TOTAL | 100 |

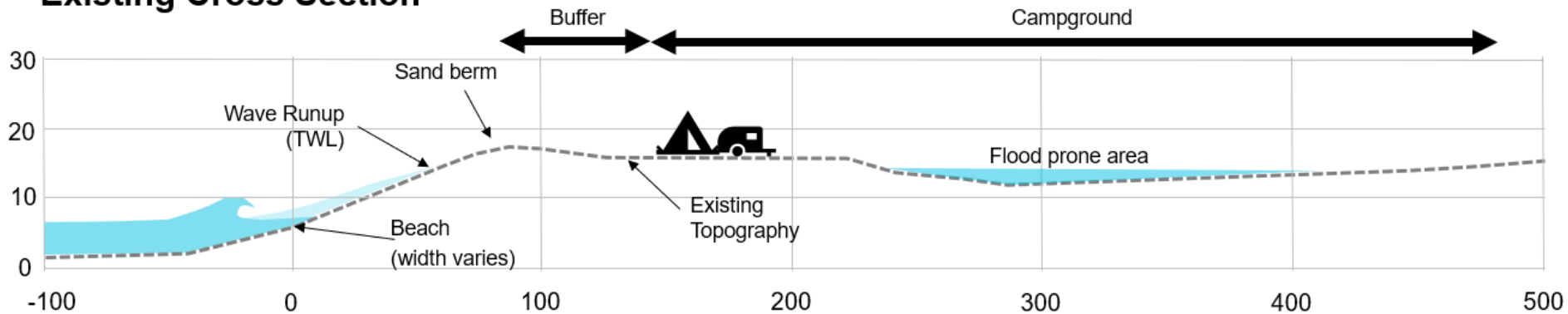
Current
Campground
Layout
(122 sites)



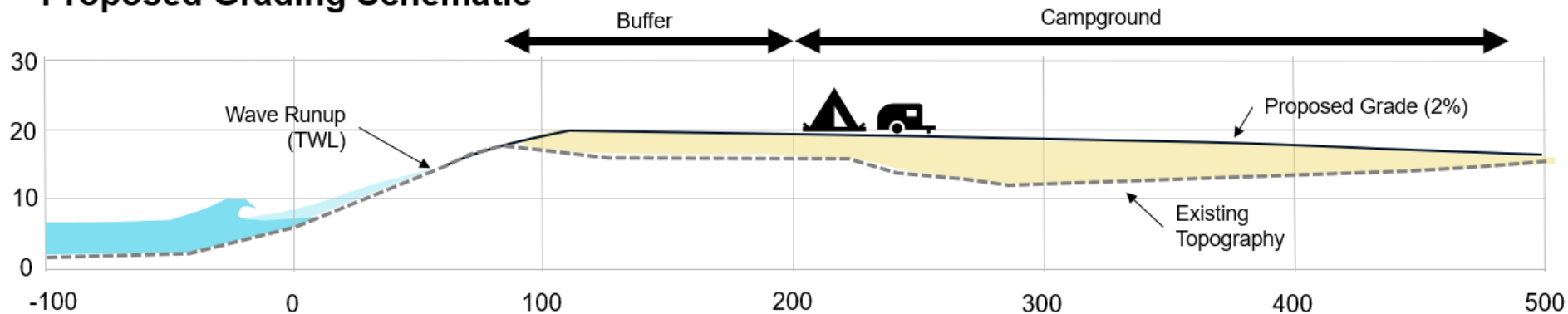
Conceptual Rendering: final design is subject to change

Cross Section & Shoreline Positioning

Existing Cross Section



Proposed Grading Schematic



04



**Partner Project:
SCWD Desalination**





DOHENY OCEAN DESALINATION

P R O J E C T

Local Water, Local Control.

Sponsored by South Coast Water District



- New local reliable supply for the region at a reasonable cost
- Phase 1 Capacity at 5 million gallons per day (MGD)
 - Future up to 15 MGD
- All Major Permits Approved
- Progressive Design-Build-Operate-Maintain (PDBOM) delivery
- \$200M+ Capital Project Cost / \$40M Grants
 - Local Resource Program (LRP) Funding / WIFIA + SRF + CP + Tax Exempt Bonds

State Ocean Plan Preferred Methods: Subsurface Intake & Commingled Discharge

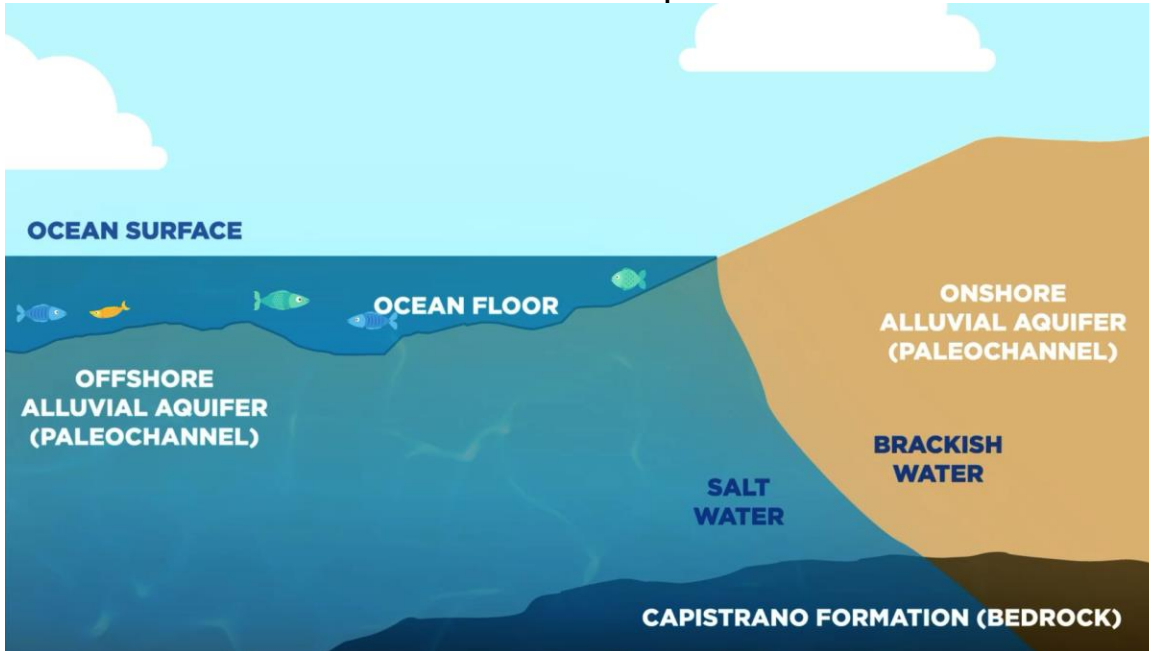
Subsurface Water Intake – Slant Well Technology

Wells draw ocean water from below the ocean floor

Slant Wells fully buried at Doheny State Beach

Submersible pumps reduce noise

Subsurface intakes avoids all impacts to marine life



Commingled Discharge

- Brine diluted with treated wastewater through existing San Juan Creek Ocean Outfall
- Blended effluent would minimize impact on coastal and marine water quality

Original Project Layout



Updated Project Layout



**DOHENY OCEAN
DESALINATION
PROJECT**

Local Water, Local Control.

Sponsored by South Coast Water District



NOTE: Alignments & slant well locations are representations and subject to change during final design.

California State Parks Agreement



Coordination with Doheny State Beach

Collaborative build aligned with **Doheny State Beach General Plan**

Campground rehab: new water/sewer/electrical hookups

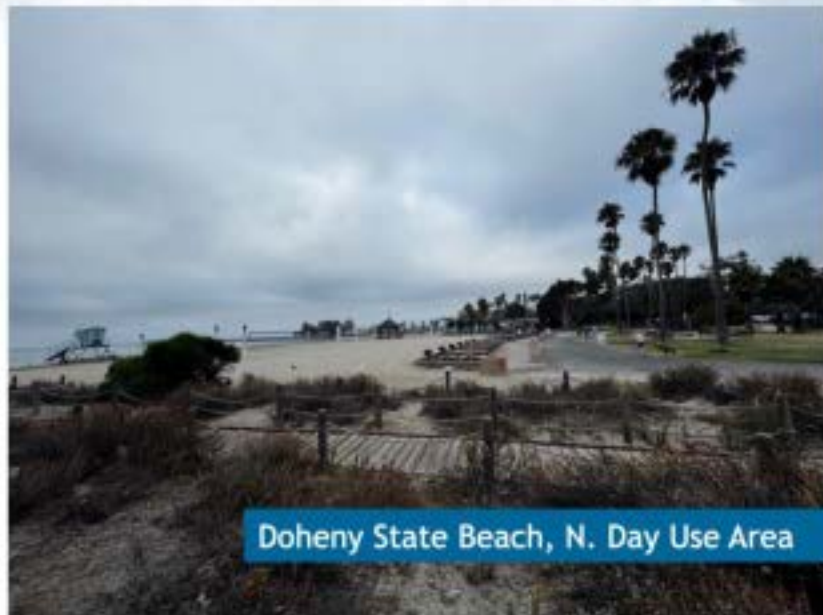
Access upgrades: improved pedestrian/bike circulation

Facility refresh: interpretive area, landscaping, and new restrooms



Next Steps

- Summer 2026 - Complete Design and Permit Amendment Approvals
- Fall 2026 – Commence Slant Well Construction at DSB North Day-Use Area
- Late 2029/early 2030 – Doheny Desalination Plant Online & Delivering Water

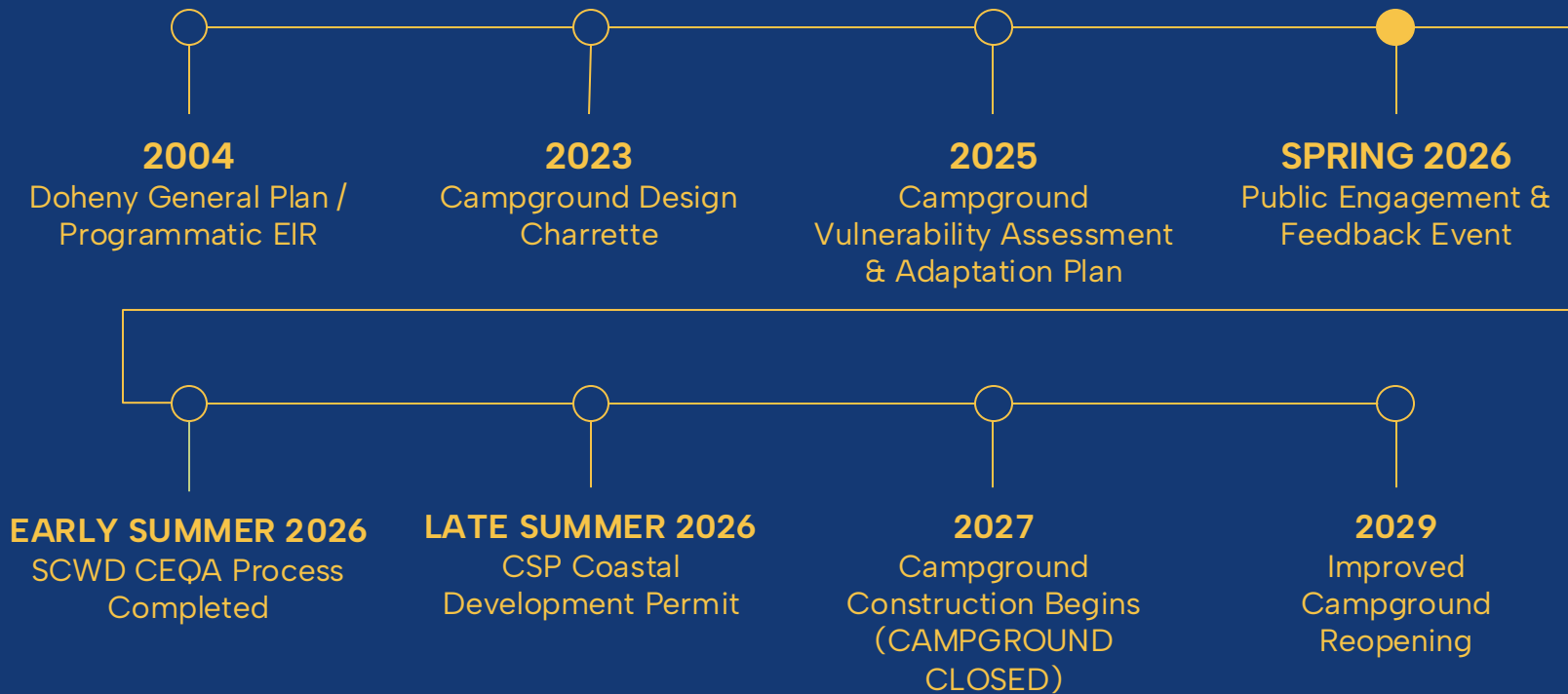


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**Estimated
Project
Timeline**

Approximate Timeline



06



Adjacent Project Coordination



DOHENY STATE BEACH PROJECT(S) OVERVIEW



Campground & Desal Project (Area A)

- SLR Vulnerability Assessment & campground redesign in progress
- Seeking implementation funds w/ SCWD
- SCWD matching funding

Capo-DSB Nature-Based Coastal Resilience Project

- Partnership project w/ OC Parks
- Living shoreline/cobble berm design
- Wave 1 funded (\$125,000)

South Day Use Redesign & Engineering Plans

- Builds off 2018 shoreline hazard plan
- Managed retreat + beach nourishment, coastal trail
- Wave 2 funding (\$250,000)

07



**Next Steps &
Public Input**

Next Steps

- ❑ Refine concepts based on public and partner input
- ❑ Advance preliminary design (50% → 90%)
- ❑ Continue environmental review and permitting
- ❑ Coordinate funding and implementation phasing
- ❑ Continue public outreach via websites & social media



QUESTIONS?



NEXT: Further opportunity for engagement at informational tables!

Resources

Doheny State Beach | CSP

https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=645

Doheny Ocean Desalination Project | SCWD

[SCWD.org/DohenyDesal](https://www.scwd.org/DohenyDesal)

Doheny State Beach Foundation

<https://www.dohenystatebeach.org/>

Capistrano–Doheny Beach Nature–Based Shoreline Adaptation Project | OC Parks

<https://ocparks.com/beaches/capistrano-beach/capistrano-doheny-beach-nature-based-shoreline-adaptation-project>

Contacts

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