

State of California – The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION



NOTICE OF PREPARATION

PROJECT TITLE: Los Peñasquitos Lagoon Enhancement Plan, Program Environmental Impact Report

December 8, 2017

The California Department of Parks and Recreation (CDPR) is the Lead Agency under the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and will be preparing a Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) for the Los Peñasquitos Lagoon Enhancement Plan. CDPR is requesting the views of your agency as to the scope and content of the environmental information which is germane to your agency's statutory responsibilities in connection with the proposed project. A brief description of the Project, the park unit's location, and a brief description of possible environmental effects are included.

Interested organizations or individuals may also respond to this notice with comments regarding the information contained within it.

Responses must be sent to CDPR no later than January 22, 2018. Please include your name and contact information or the name of a contact person in your organization or agency, if appropriate. Please reference the following project title in the subject line of your correspondence that is provided below.

Project Title: Los Peñasquitos Lagoon Enhancement Plan, Program Environmental Impact Report

Electronic submittals may be sent to the following email address:

Email: SDCD.CEQA@parks.ca.gov

Hard copies can be mailed to the following contact and address:

Cindy Krimmel, Environmental Planner
San Diego Coast District
California Department of Parks and Recreation
4477 Pacific Highway
San Diego, CA 92110
Phone (619) 688-3260

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The proposed project would enhance Los Peñasquitos Lagoon through reconfiguration of the channel network in the lagoon to provide better freshwater management and enhanced tidal exchange/influence. The project would also identify vector and trails management opportunities. Beginning in 2013, an updated Lagoon Enhancement Plan was developed to provide guidance on restoring Los Peñasquitos Lagoon's (Lagoon) habitats, protecting listed species, reducing threats to public health, and involving stakeholder groups with regard to coastal resource stewardship. Conceptual-level alternatives for restoring and enhancing the Lagoon's native habitats were developed as part of the process, and are identified in the updated Los Peñasquitos Lagoon Enhancement Plan (Enhancement Plan), which provides guidance over future design and implementation of lagoon improvements. In general, the conceptual-level alternatives focused on restoring salt marsh and transition habitats to allow for upslope migration of salt marsh in responses to sea level rise using various strategies.

Based on evaluation of criteria such as impacts to habitat and sensitive species during construction, contribution to climate change, and sustainability, one of the conceptual alternatives, referred to as Freshwater Management within the updated Enhancement Plan, was identified as the proposed project. The proposed project has three primary elements:

- Lagoon enhancement - modifications to the tidal channels to enhance areas of historic salt marsh. These areas of historic salt marsh have converted to a brackish system from both surface freshwater and groundwater inputs. Channel improvements would provide features in areas where salt marsh is expected to develop over time in response to sea level rise. Freshwater management measures would include decreases of input through watershed runoff reduction, potential diversion, and beneficial use of these flows where feasible.
- Vector management – vector management incorporating measures such as structural improvements to reduce stagnant water within storm drain systems, channel modifications to improve tidal circulation, and channel creation to connect areas of inundation to reduce residence time.
- Trail improvements – proposed improvements/enhancements to existing trails, identification of trails that are anticipated to become inundated with sea level rise, and opportunities to create linkages to regional trail networks and public transit centers.

A PEIR has been selected by CDPR as the appropriate overarching environmental evaluation document for current and future management priorities within the Lagoon, taking into account sea level rise.

PROJECT LOCATION: The Project site is State Marsh Natural Preserve that is part of the Torrey Pines State Natural Reserve located in northern San Diego County (see attached Figure 1-1). Los Peñasquitos Lagoon is a 565-acre coastal estuary that receives drainage from an approximately 59,212-acre watershed comprising three primary sub-drainages: Carmel Valley, Los Peñasquitos Canyon, and Carroll Canyon.

POSSIBLE EFFECTS AND MITIGATION: The scoping process is designed to elicit comments from the public, responsible agencies, and interested parties on the scope of the Draft PEIR. A preliminary list of probable environmental effects and considerations that could be related to the

project implementation is identified below to initiate the scoping process.

The following issues will be evaluated: Public Access and Recreation, Hydrology, Water Quality and Sediment Management, Geology/Soils, Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Paleontological Resources, Public Services and Utilities, Public Health and Safety, Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Air Quality, Traffic, Noise, and Odor.

PUBLIC INFORMATION: The following websites shall provide digital availability of the Notice of Preparation posting, Lagoon Enhancement Plan, and updates regarding progress with draft and final PEIR documents:

- https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=983
- https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=657
- https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=658
- <http://www.lospenasquitos.org/planning/lagoon-enhancement-plan/>
- <http://www.torreypines.org/index.php/management-plans>

In addition, copies of the PEIR and related documents can be reviewed at CDPR's San Diego Coast District Office located at:

California Department of Parks and Recreation
San Diego Coast District
4477 Pacific Highway
San Diego, CA 92110
Phone (619) 688-3260

A public meeting will be held at Sumner Auditorium on the campus of Scripps Institution of Oceanography (SIO) on January 6, 2018 from 10:00am to 12:00pm, located at 8625 Kennel Way, La Jolla CA 92037. Please note that parking for Sumner Auditorium on the campus on SIO is limited to faculty and students only with strict parking enforcement. Free parking for the public can be found along La Jolla Shores Drive. A location map for Sumner Auditorium is provided in Figure 1-2.

**FIGURE 1-1
Los Peñasquitos Lagoon Location Map**

**FIGURE 1-2
Sumner Auditorium Location Map**



FIGURE 1-1. Los Peñasquitos Lagoon Location Map

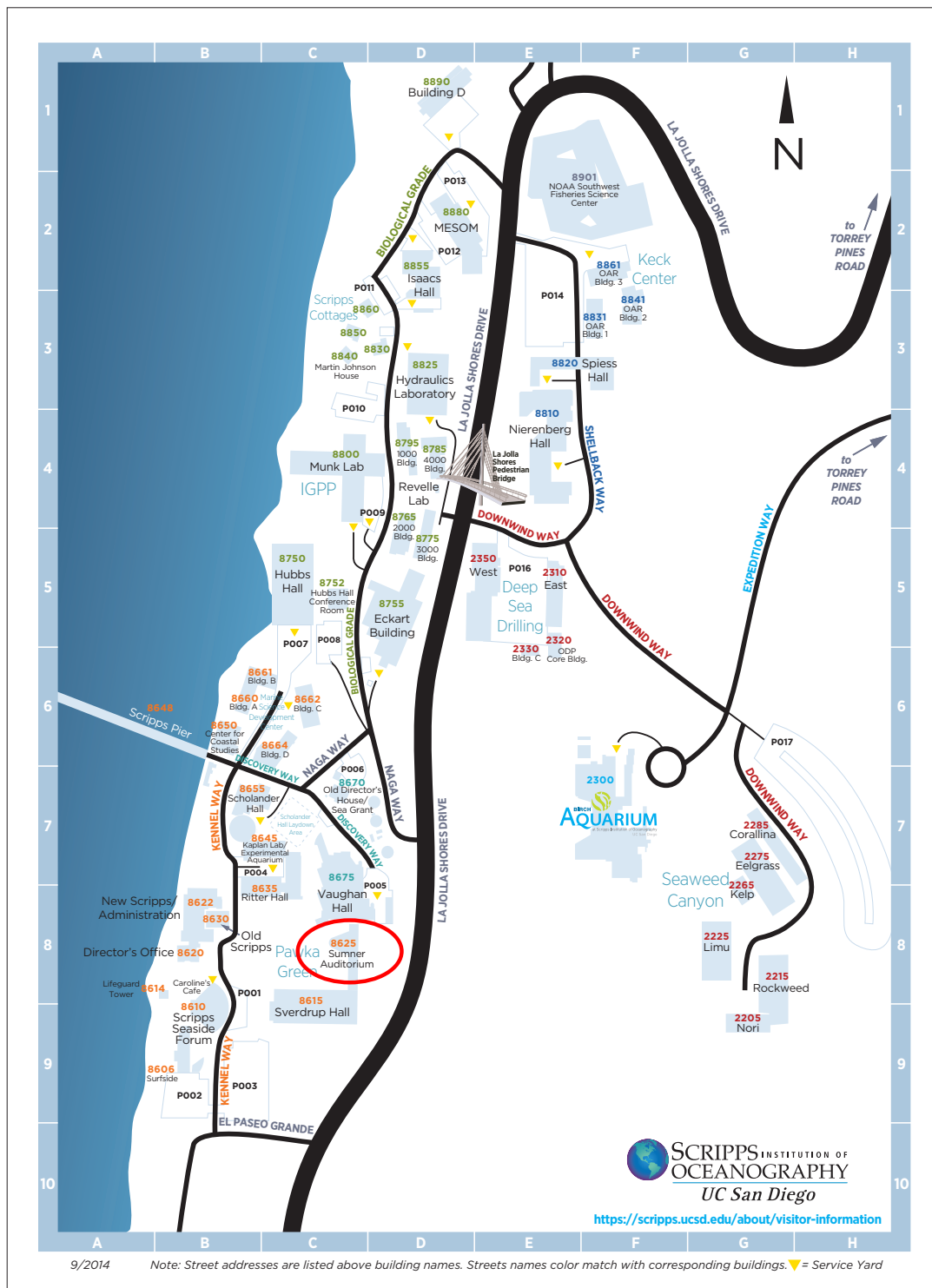


FIGURE 1-2. Sumner Auditorium Location Map