

**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING  
AND REQUEST FOR COMMENTS ON THE  
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR THE  
OCEAN RANCH RESTORATION PROJECT**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the California Department of Fish and Wildlife as Lead Agency has completed a Draft Environmental Impact Report (Draft EIR) for public review and comment for the Ocean Ranch Restoration Project pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). State Clearinghouse Number: 2018062020.

**AVAILABILITY OF DOCUMENT:** Public review and written comments on the Draft EIR are invited. The document is available for review at the Humboldt County Planning and Building Department, located at 3015 H Street, Eureka, California, and online at <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Notices>. Document files will also be made available upon request by emailing [orurestoration@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:orurestoration@wildlife.ca.gov). The document is not available at the Humboldt County Public Library, which is temporarily closed to the public and only offering curbside pickup due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

**PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT PERIOD:** State law requires a minimum 45 day public review period for the Draft EIR. The public review period begins on September 17, 2020 and ends November 2, 2020 at 11:59 p.m. All comments must be submitted to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and postmarked or received by November 2, 2020. Comments may be provided in writing, by email or orally at the virtual Draft EIR public hearing. All substantive comments received by the close of the comment period will be responded to in writing in the Final EIR. The Final EIR must be completed and certified by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife before a decision can be made on the proposed Project.

Written comments may be submitted to: California Department of Fish and Wildlife, 619 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Eureka, CA 95501, Attention Gordon Leppig, Project Manager, or emailed to [orurestoration@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:orurestoration@wildlife.ca.gov). Please put "Ocean Ranch Restoration Project Draft EIR Comments" in the subject line.

**PUBLIC HEARING:** The California Department of Fish and Wildlife will host a virtual public hearing on October 13, 2020. The hearing will be conducted by webinar and teleconference to avoid a public gathering and protect public health during the COVID-19 pandemic, consistent with Executive Order [N-33-20](#). The purposes of the public hearing are to provide an overview of the project and to receive public comments on the Draft EIR. The public hearing will include a brief presentation by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife followed by an open forum where the public may provide verbal or written comments. The public hearing will begin at 6:00 pm and the comment portion of the hearing will close at 7:30 pm. Each commenter will be provided up to 5 minutes to provide oral comments. As noted above, the hearing will not have a physical location; it will be a remote-only meeting. Parties interested in participating in the hearing may join via teleconference (901-602-7766; Conference ID 542 558 411#) or virtually through a [Microsoft Teams meeting](#). Additional information on how to participate in the public hearing is available online at <https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Notices>.

**PROJECT LOCATION:** The Project Area is approximately 850-acres and is located within the Ocean Ranch Unit of the Eel River Wildlife Area approximately 3.75 miles northwest of the community of Loleta, in Humboldt County, California. The Project Area is owned by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and includes portions of the following Assessor Parcel Numbers: 310-041-001, 310-031-001, 308-161-001, 308-161-002, 308-111-001, 308-101-001, 308-051-001, 308-041-003, 308-061-001, 308-091-002, 308-091-001.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** The goals of the Project are to restore and expand natural estuarine function in the restoration area, and to assist in recovery and enhancement of habitat for native fish, invertebrates, wildlife and plant species (Goal 1); and to restore natural dune function, and to assist in recovery and enhancement of habitat for native species, State and Federally listed or otherwise sensitive plants, and associated Sensitive Natural Communities (Goal 2). Please reference the Draft EIR, Chapter 2 (Project Description), for detailed information.

**CEQA STATUS:** The Draft EIR has been prepared consistent with CEQA (Public Resources Code [PRC] Section 21000 et seq.) and the State CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations [CCR] Title 14, Section 15000 et seq.). The Project could result in significant impacts, and mitigation measures have been proposed to reduce the significance of

impacts to a less than significant level for the following areas: air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, hazards and hazardous materials, and tribal cultural resources. The proposed Project could also result in significant hydrology and water quality impacts. These impacts were generally determined to be less than significant with implementation of mitigation measures, however some significant and unavoidable impacts could also potentially occur. Several Project alternatives were analyzed to avoid or reduce the potential significant and unavoidable impacts. Additionally, the Project site is not on any of the lists of hazardous waste sites enumerated under Governmental Code Section 65962.5.