

**PUBLIC NOTICE OF THE AVAILABILITY
OF THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT
FOR THE NELSON SLOAN QUARRY RESTORATION AND BENEFICIAL REUSE OF
SEDIMENT PROJECT
(SCH No. 2019049100)**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on September 20, 2021, California Department of Parks and Recreation (CDPR), acting as lead agency, issued for public review and comment a Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) that, in accordance with California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements, evaluates potential environmental effects associated with the proposed Nelson Sloan Quarry Restoration and Beneficial Reuse of Sediment Project (Project).

The Draft EIR may be accessed on the CDPR website at https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=983 and on the website of the Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve at <https://trnerr.org/about/public-notices/>. During the state-prescribed review period, copies of the Draft EIR will also be available for public review at the Tijuana Estuary Visitor Center (301 Caspian Way, Imperial Beach, California 91932), Imperial Beach Branch of the San Diego County Library (810 Imperial Beach Boulevard, Imperial Beach, California 91932), and the San Ysidro Library (4235 Beyer Boulevard, San Ysidro, California 92173). All written comments on the adequacy of the Draft EIR must be received by the CDPR no later than November 4, 2021. Written comments should be submitted to Lorena Warner-Lara, at California State Parks/Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve, 301 Caspian Way Imperial Beach, California 91932-3149 or via e-mail to SDCD.CEQA@parks.ca.gov.

Information on the October meeting associated with public review of the Draft EIR will be posted here: <https://trnerr.org/about/public-notices/>. The purpose of the public meeting is to solicit comments on the analysis presented in the Draft EIR.

In accordance with state law, a 45-day public review period has been established for the Draft EIR. Following the close of the public review period, responses to comments on the Draft EIR will be prepared. Together with the Draft EIR, these responses will constitute the Final EIR. If you wish to challenge CDPR's action on this Draft EIR in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or others raised in written correspondence delivered to CDPR during the public review period.

Pursuant to Executive Order N-8-20, the requirement to file and post Notices of Availability for Draft EIRs with the San Diego County Clerk was conditionally suspended. However, CDPR has satisfied alternative CEQA requirements on public filing, posting, noticing, and public access as identified in Executive Order N-8-20, including posting the Notice of Availability on the websites of CDPR and the Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve for a period of not less than 45 days, submitting the Notice of Availability to the State Clearinghouse, and noticing all parties who have previously requested to be notified regarding this Project.

PROJECT LOCATION: The Nelson Sloan Quarry property is located on County of San Diego (County) jurisdictional lands within the City of San Diego's Multi-Habitat Protection Area, in the southwestern portion of the County in the Tijuana River Valley Regional Park. The approximately 20-acre Project site/area of impact is located on Assessor's Parcel Numbers 664-011-05-00 and 664-011-04-00 and is situated approximately 400 feet south of the intersection of Monument Road and Old Dairy Mart Road.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The Project consists of the beneficial reuse of excess sediment excavated from flood control facilities and disturbed habitats in the Tijuana River Valley towards the reclamation of previously quarried slopes and restoration of the Nelson Sloan Quarry site to close to historic (i.e., pre-quarry operations) topography and habitat. Over an approximately 10- to 15-year period, up to 1,000,000 cubic yards of excess sediment extracted from flood control facilities and habitat restoration projects managed by federal, state, and local agencies in the river valley that are currently hauled off site to area landfills or construction projects would instead be characterized and hauled to the Project site for sorting and placement. The sediment would be used to (1) reclaim the oversteepened slopes associated with previous quarry operations and remove Surface Mining and Reclamation Act regulatory jurisdiction over the site and (2) restore the site to close to historic topography and habitat. In a phased approach, suitable sediment would be deposited and regraded to a stable condition on the eroded slopes of the eastern portion of the Project site and, in later phases, placed and stabilized on site to create new terrain and habitat. Erosion and drainage control measures and revegetation of regraded areas with appropriate native plant material would also be implemented.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS: The Draft EIR identifies that the proposed Project would result in either no impacts or less-than-significant impacts to the following resources: aesthetics, agricultural and forestry resources, energy, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use and planning, mineral resources, population and housing, public services, recreation, transportation, and utilities and service systems. Impacts to the following resources were determined to be less than significant or less than significant with implementation of mitigation: air quality; biological resources; archaeological, historic, and tribal cultural resources; noise; and wildfire. The Draft EIR identified no impacts that would be significant and unavoidable.

PUBLIC HEARINGS: Following the close of the public review period for the Draft EIR and preparation of the Final EIR, the proposed Project will be reviewed by the CDPR Deputy Director of Park Operations. The CDPR Deputy Director of Park Operations will be the final authority on Project approval with the exception of other regulatory agencies as described in Chapter 2, Project Description, of the EIR, that may utilize the document for additional approvals outside of the jurisdiction of CDPR. Notification of any public hearings associated with these agencies (if required) will be provided in accordance with state law and the agencies' public notification requirements.

DRAFT EIR PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD: September 20 to November 4, 2021.