



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

**NOTICE OF DETERMINATION**

**TO:** State Clearinghouse  
Office of Planning and Research  
1400 Tenth Street, Room 113  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**FROM:** Department of Parks and Recreation  
San Diego Coast District  
4477 Pacific Highway  
San Diego, CA 92110

**SUBJECT: Filing of the Notice of Determination in compliance with Section 21108 of the Public Resources Code.**

**PROJECT TITLE:** Tijuana Estuary Tidal Restoration Program II Phase I

**STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NUMBER:** 2021050599

**CONTACT PERSON:** Chris Peregrin

**E-MAIL:** SDCD.CEQA@parks.ca.gov

**PROJECT LOCATION:** Border Field State Park and Tijuana Slough National Wildlife Refuge, cross street – Monument Road, San Diego County

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

Tijuana Estuary Tidal Restoration Program II Phase I has been designed to restore coastal wetlands and associated native uplands in the area surrounding the previously restored Model Marsh. Two action alternatives that would restore between 82 to 87 acres of coastal wetlands and a no project/no action alternative are described and analyzed in the DEIR/EIS. Coastal restoration is proposed to reverse ongoing degradation of coastal resources essential to the long-term survival of migratory birds, fish, and other aquatic resources, while also increasing the Tijuana Estuary’s tidal prism (the volume of water coming and going with the tides) to improve water quality.

Restoration would involve the excavation of between 521,000 and 585,000 cubic yards (cy) of sediment, depending upon which alternative is implemented. Between 5,000 and 7,000 cy would be reused to establish higher elevation transitional areas within the restoration footprint, while the remaining sediment could be beneficially reused for beach nourishment on-site or transported off-site for beneficial reuse at other project sites (e.g., Nelson Sloan Quarry) or for disposal (e.g., Otay Landfill). The primary differences between the two action alternatives are the amount of intertidal mudflat restored versus salt marsh habitat; the total acreage of restored versus preserved habitats; and the number of connections provided to existing tidal channels.


Common features of the action alternatives include restoration of predominantly disturbed portions of the southern arm of Tijuana Estuary to tidal wetlands, tidal channel enhancements and new intertidal channel connections to restored habitat areas and the existing Model Marsh, incorporation of transitional habitat areas into the restoration design, and river mouth excavation, as needed, to maintain continued tidal exchange within the estuary.

The California Department of Parks and Recreation approved this project on 3/22/2023 and has made the following determinations:

- 1.  The project will not have a significant effect on the environment.  
 The project will have a significant effect on the environment.
- 2.  A Final Mitigated Negative Declaration was prepared and adopted, pursuant to the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).  
 An Environmental Impact Report was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.

- 3. Mitigation measures were were not made conditions of project approval
- 4. A Mitigation reporting or monitoring plan was was not adopted for this project.
- 5. A Statement of Overriding Considerations was was not adopted for this project.
- 6. Findings were were not made on environmental effects of the project.

This is to certify that the Final Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement with comments and responses and record of project approval, or the Negative Declaration, is available to the General Public at: [https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page\\_id=983](https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=983) and <https://trnerr.org/about/public-notices/>

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Kathleen J. Amann  
 Deputy Director, Park Operations

3/22/2023

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Date Received for Filing by SCH (*stamp*)

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Date

Authority cited: Sections 21083, Public Resources Code.  
 Reference Section 21000-21174, Public Resources Code.