

**BUENA VISTA LAGOON RESTORATION PROJECT  
PUBLIC SCOPING OVERVIEW  
(Provided by California Department of Fish and Game, U.S. Fish and  
Wildlife Service, and California Coastal Conservancy)  
(8/20/07)**

Scoping is an open process of eliciting comments from agencies and interested parties on the content and issues that should be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Report/Statement (DEIR/S) being prepared for the Buena Vista Lagoon Restoration Project. A series of Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meetings and informal public meetings/workshops were held over the past few years to solicit input on the development of project alternatives. Three public meetings were held between June 2002 and April 2004.

The Notice of Preparation/Notice of Intent (NOP/NOI) for the DEIR/S was published in the Federal Register and the State Clearinghouse on March 21, 2007 and in the North County Times on March 28, as well as mailed to homeowners near Buena Vista Lagoon. Public scoping comments were received between March 21 and May 24, 2007. Seventy-six comment submittals from agencies and citizens were received by the California Department of Fish and Game and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, representing the respective DEIR/S lead preparers for the project.

A Public Scoping Meeting was also held at the City of Carlsbad, Faraday Building, on April 18, 2007. A court reporter recorded the proceedings from the meeting. The Scoping Meeting was attended by approximately 75 members of the public, agencies, and municipal government. At the meeting, 17 speakers provided verbal input on the lagoon restoration alternatives.

The general categories of comments received by letter, email, or public meeting included: preference for a freshwater restoration alternative; preference for a saltwater restoration alternative; preference for a mixed water (i.e., part freshwater and part saltwater) alternative; concerns related to potential impacts to property values, property ownership and boundaries, the existing environment/habitats and species, privacy of land owners, beach access and use, and aesthetics; regulatory review and jurisdictions; the highway-rail crossing and bridge permits approval process; inlet jetties; sewage spills; effects to utilities; mosquitoes and other vectors; feasibility of engineering; and restoration costs. All scoping comments are being considered in the preparation of the DEIR/S.

As announced at the Scoping Meeting and in the NOP/NOI, the project purpose and consideration of a reasonable range of alternatives to satisfy that purpose, while reducing potentially significant environmental impacts, are an important part of preparing a DEIR/S. Following the conclusion of public scoping for the Buena Vista Lagoon Restoration Project, the work of preparing the DEIR/S was

begun with a variety of preliminary engineering studies and environmental analyses. The content of the DEIR/S will follow a standard format, with principal chapters focusing on Description of the Proposed Project and Alternatives, Environmental Setting, Environmental Consequences and Mitigation Measures, and Cumulative Impacts, among various chapters specified under CEQA and/or NEPA. Resources with particular focus in these chapters will include: Biological Resources, Hydrology and Water Quality, Geology, Air Quality, Land Use and Planning, Landforms and Visual Quality (Aesthetics), Cultural Resources, Public Health and Safety, Recreation, Agricultural Resources, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Noise, Socioeconomics, Environmental Justice, Transportation and Traffic, and Utilities and Service Systems.

Preparation of a DEIR/S is likely to take many months. Notification (e.g., via contact lists developed from Public Scoping, the Lagoon Foundation website, and City of Carlsbad and City of Oceanside property owner notification lists from the NOP/NOI) that the DEIR/S is available for public review will be made after the document is completed and begin a 45-day public review period, during which time comments will be solicited on the adequacy of the DEIR/S. A formal public hearing will also be conducted during the review period. The Final EIR/EIS (FEIR/S) will address the comments received on the DEIR/S and will be made available for public review during a 30-day FEIR/S circulation period. The final step will involve, for the State EIR, certification of the EIR and recordation of a Notice of Determination; and for the Federal EIS, preparation of a Record of Decision (ROD). These are the “decision” steps that will adopt an alternative described in the Draft and Final EIR/S.