

East San Pedro Bay Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles District

Public Scoping Meeting

Hosted By: City of Long Beach

Presentation By: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

7 April 2016 (2pm, 6pm)

Bixby Community Center, Long Beach

Diana Tang, Manager of Government Affairs,
City of Long Beach

Monica Eichler, Project Manager, USACE

Eileen Takata, Lead Planner, USACE

CITY OF
LONG BEACH



US Army Corps of Engineers
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Welcome, Introductions, Purpose

Speakers – Key Study Staff

- ▶ Honorable Dr. Robert Garcia, Mayor, City of Long Beach (2pm only)
- ▶ Eileen Takata, Lead Planner, USACE
- ▶ Diana Tang, Manager of Government Affairs, City of Long Beach
- ▶ Eduardo De Mesa, Planning Chief, USACE
- ▶ Monica Eichler, Project Manager, USACE
- ▶ Larry Smith, Environmental Coordinator, USACE

Purpose of Meeting

1. Introduce USACE planning process & feasibility study
2. ***We want to hear from you!***





Meeting Agenda

1. Welcome, Introductions, Purpose & Ground Rules
2. Introduction to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers & Planning Process
3. Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study Overview
4. Public Comments Session
5. Adjourn



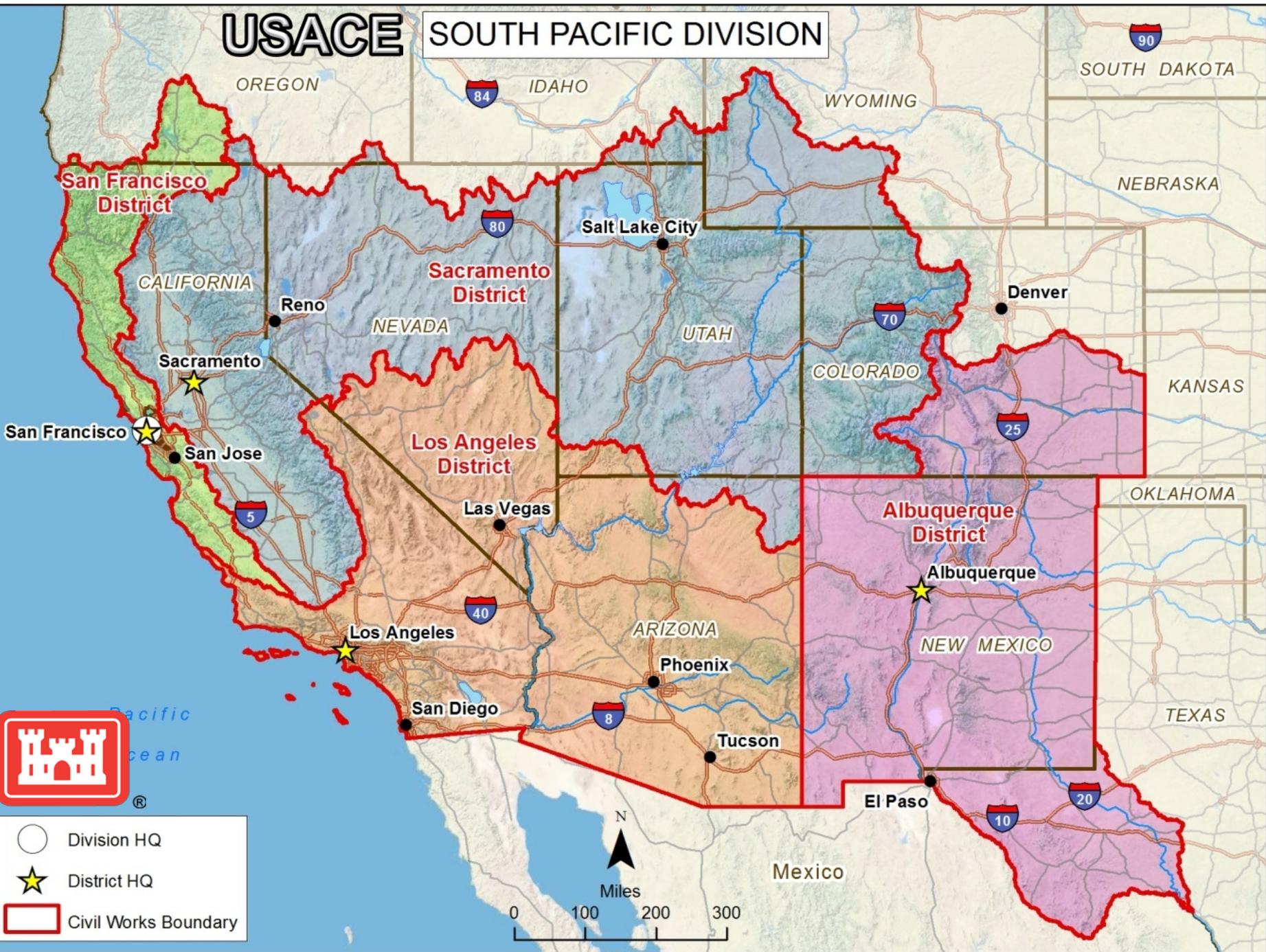


Ground Rules

1. Public Scoping Meeting focus is on *your comments* to the study, not to answer questions
2. Please hold all comments until presentation is over; Public comments session will follow the presentation
3. Fill out a Comment Card to make comments today, check the "Speaker Box" and hand it into one of the staff; Speakers will have 3 minutes each
4. Fill out a Comment Card to submit written comments



USACE SOUTH PACIFIC DIVISION



- Division HQ
- ★ District HQ
- ▭ Civil Works Boundary

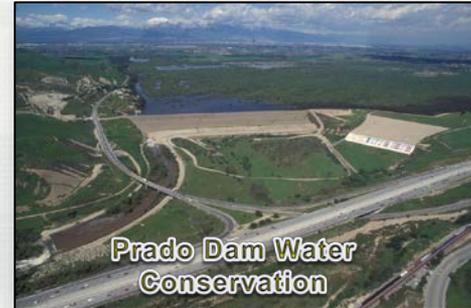
USACE Civil Works Primary Missions



- Flood Risk Management

- Navigation

- **Ecosystem Restoration**



- Regulatory (Wetlands / US Waters)

- Disaster Preparedness & Response



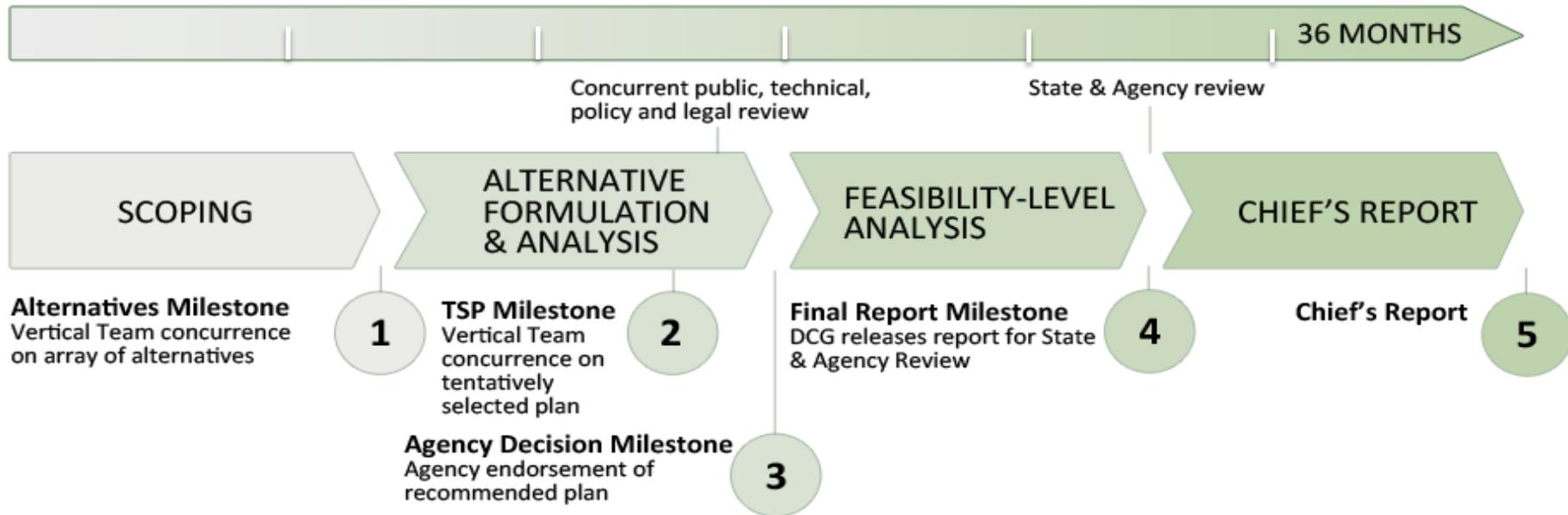


USACE Planning Process

- Focuses on incremental decision making in a **progressive 6-step planning process**
- Manage and balance an appropriate **level of detail** and acknowledge **uncertainty**
- Incorporates quality engineering, economics, real estate and environmental **analysis**
- Recognize there is no single “best” plan and there are quantitative and qualitative methods of **alternative comparison and selection**
- Fully **compliant** with environmental law (NEPA, etc...)
- Includes **public involvement**
- Identify **Federal Interest** in resolving a problem up front



USACE Planning Process



SMART Planning is...

Specific
Measurable
Attainable
Risk-Informed
Timely

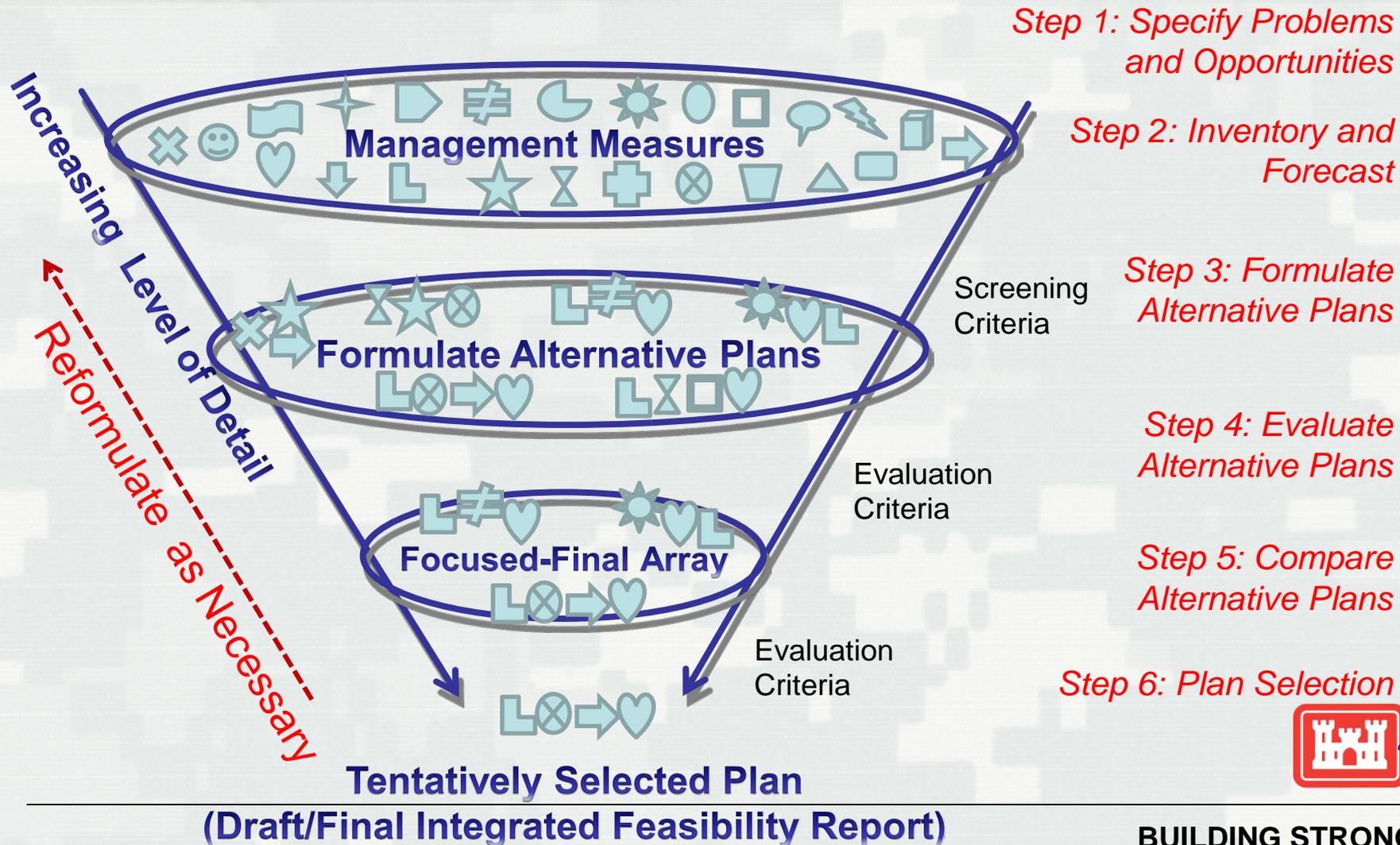
3x3x3 Rule:

- ✓ Completed within **3 Years**
- ✓ Cost up to **\$3 million**
- ✓ Coordinate with all **3 levels** of USACE decision-makers

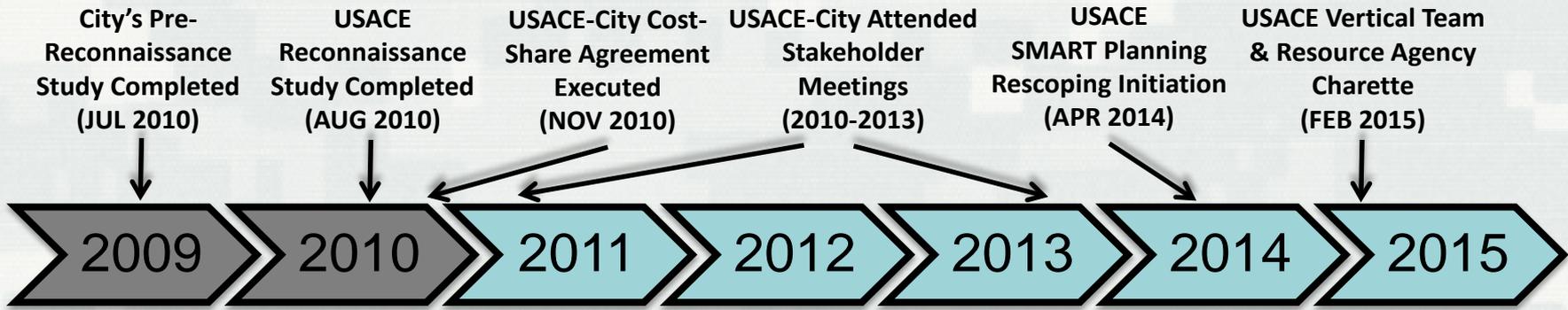


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USACE Planning Process



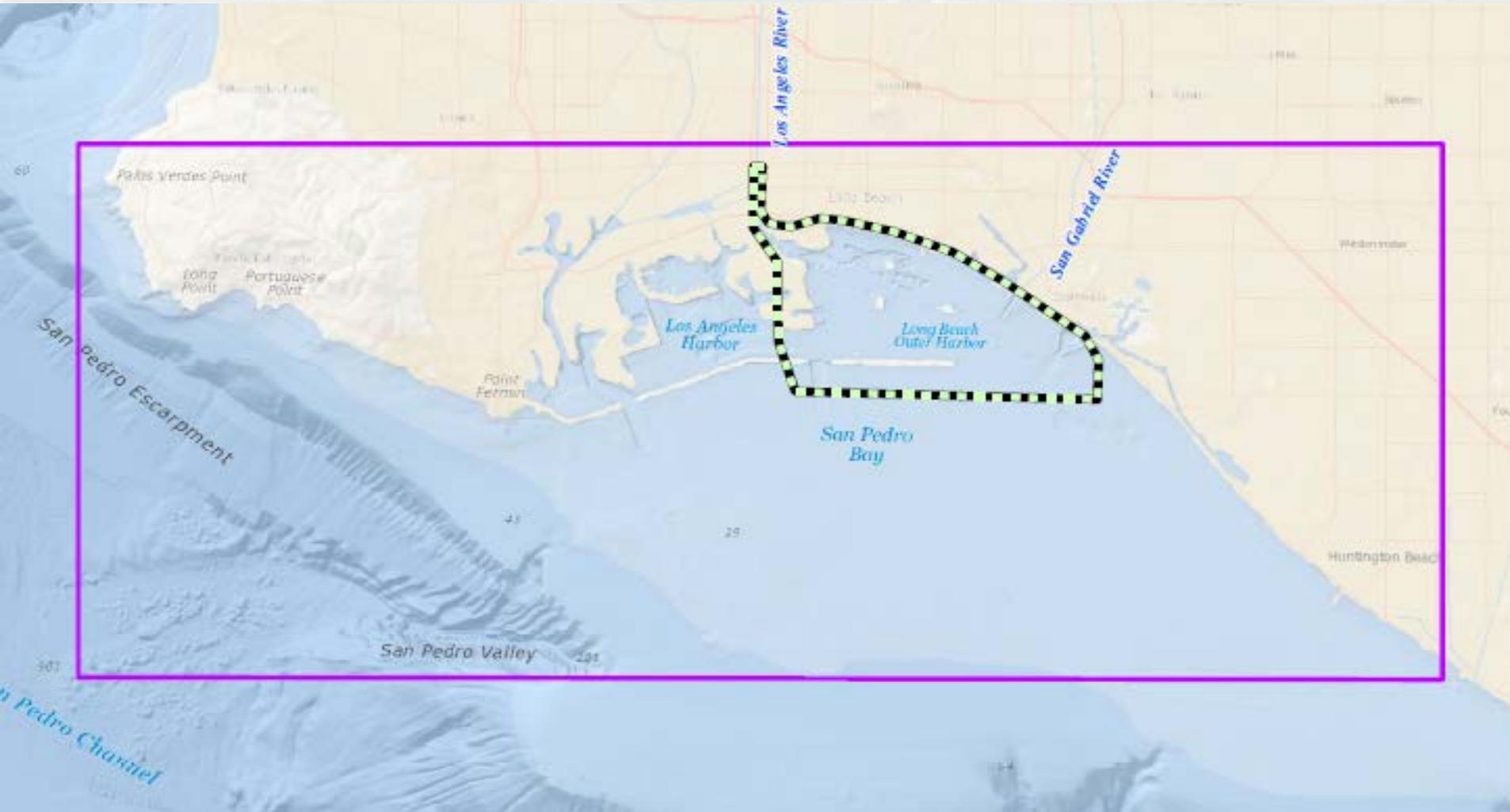
Study Timeline



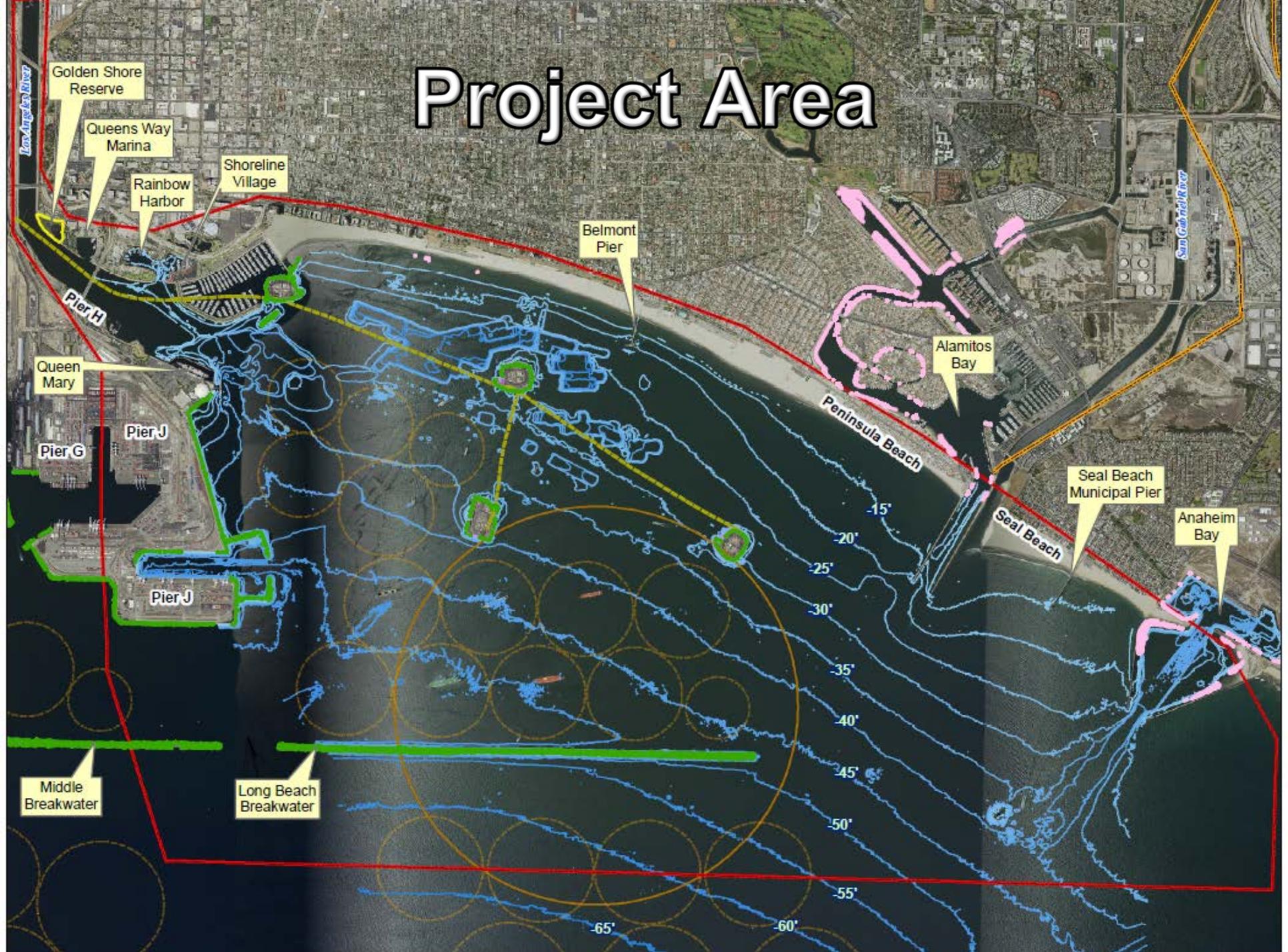
Public Scoping Meeting (APR 2016)
Public Meeting on Draft Alternatives
Public Meeting on Draft Feasibility Report & EIS/EIR
Public Review of Final Feasibility Report & EIS/EIR



Study Area



Project Area



Study Goal & Objectives

Goal – Restore and improve aquatic ecosystem structure and function for increased habitat biodiversity within East San Pedro Bay

Objectives

1. Restore aquatic habitat such as kelp, rocky reef, coastal wetlands and other types of habitats to support diverse resident and migratory species within East San Pedro Bay.
2. Improve water circulation to support and sustain aquatic habitat within East San Pedro Bay.



Study Problems

- Loss of historic coastal wetlands and marine habitat areas with associated nursery, reproductive and other ecological functions
- Degraded ecosystem conditions including poor tidal circulation, contaminated water and sediments, and poor water clarity
- Reduced abundance and biodiversity of marine populations





Study Opportunities

- Restore aquatic habitats that were historically present in/near San Pedro Bay to:
 - Increase biodiversity
 - Increase abundance of marine organisms
- Examples of habitat types to restore include:
 - Rocky reef, kelp forest, sandy bottom/open water, eelgrass, intertidal zone (sandy/rocky), coastal wetland, other?
- Improve physical conditions that support high quality habitat & healthy biodiversity by:
 - Increasing tidal circulation
 - Increasing water clarity





Preliminary Measures

- Construct rocky reef and kelp forests with relocated breakwater rocks
- Create sandy islands near shoreline to encourage eelgrass habitat and provide protected shorebird habitat
- Place rock and/or sand in intertidal zone for increased habitat complexity
- Modify the Long Beach Breakwater to increase tidal circulation and expand kelp habitat zones
- LA River training wall



Constraints and Considerations

- Do not reduce maritime operational capacity for the Port of Long Beach, the U.S. Navy, energy islands, utilities, or navigation.
- Do not allow increases in shoreline erosion, wave related damages, and coastal flooding to existing residences, public infrastructure, marinas, other structures, and recreational beaches.
- Minimize impact to flood risk management operations on LA River.
- Do not increase vulnerability of coastal areas to accelerating sea level rise.



Study Area – Port of Long Beach



Study Area – LB Breakwater



Study Area – Oil Islands

Long Beach Harbor today with Grissom oil island in foreground and Queen Mary, former Spruce Goose domed hangar in background



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Study Area – Rainbow Harbor

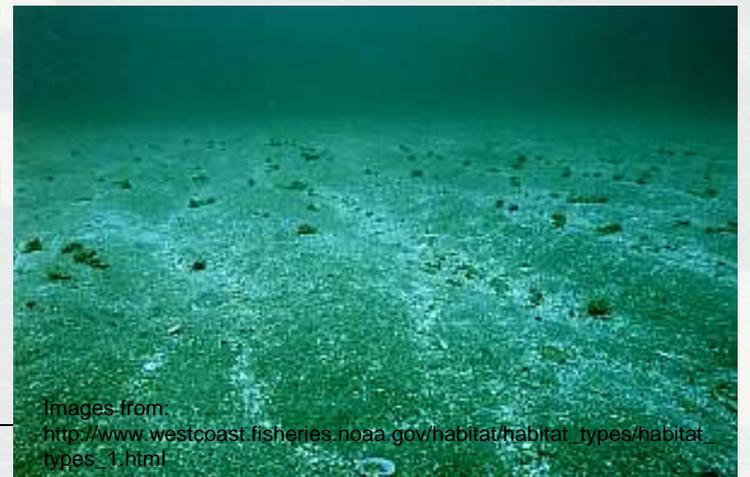


Examples of Habitat Types



Rocky
Reef

Tidal
Marsh
Estuary



Images from:
http://www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/habitat/habitat_types/habitat_types_1.html

Sandy Bottom

Keystone Species



Giant Kelp Forest

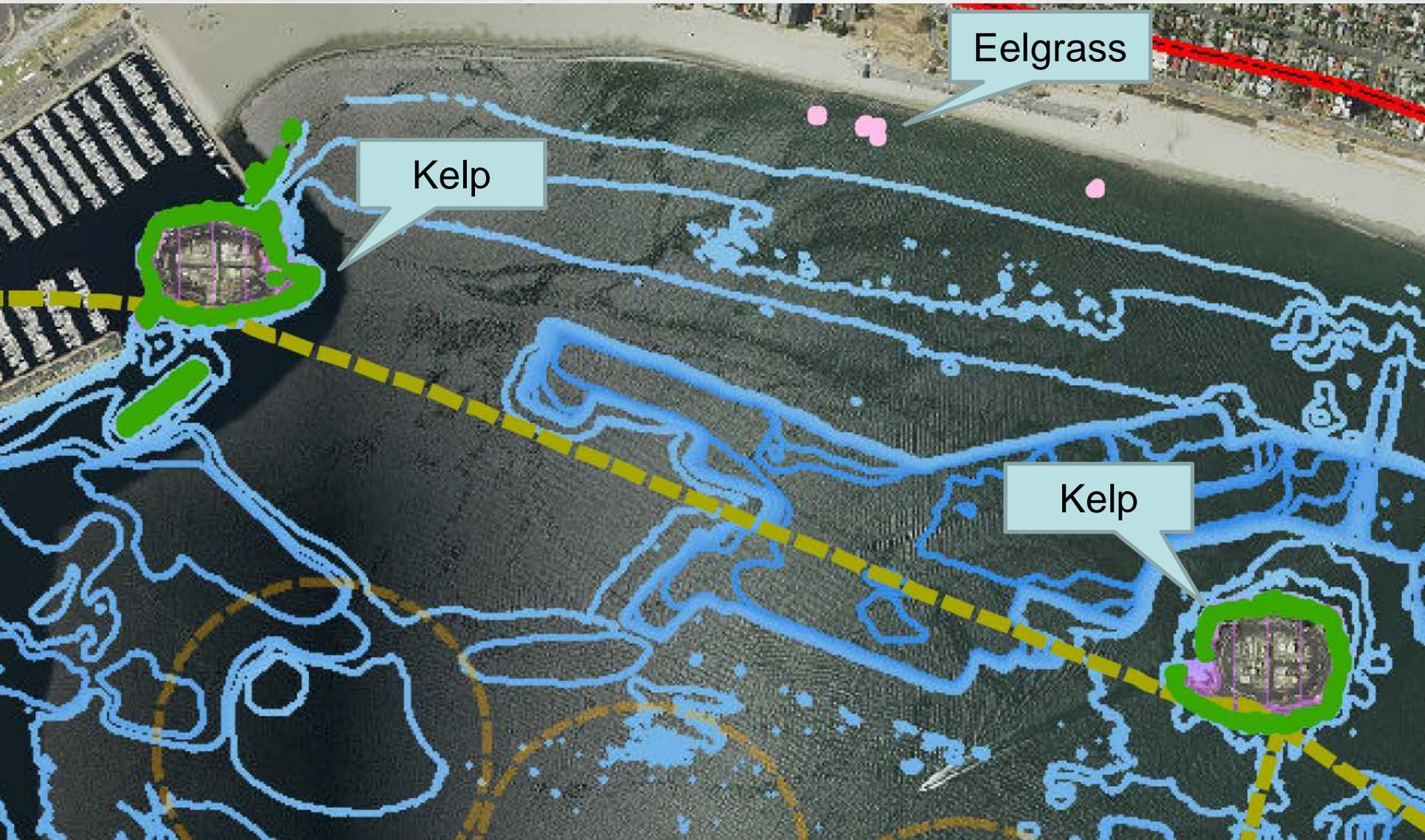


Eel Grass



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Current Eelgrass & Kelp Locations





National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

Requires agencies to assess the environmental effects of a proposed agency action and any reasonable alternatives before making a decision on whether, and if so, how to proceed.

NEPA requires federal agencies to determine whether a proposed action or project may have a significant impact on the environment, and to determine the appropriate level of environmental review.





The agency has the following three options:

- (1) Categorical Exclusion (not applicable to this study);
- (2) Environmental Assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI); or
- (3) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

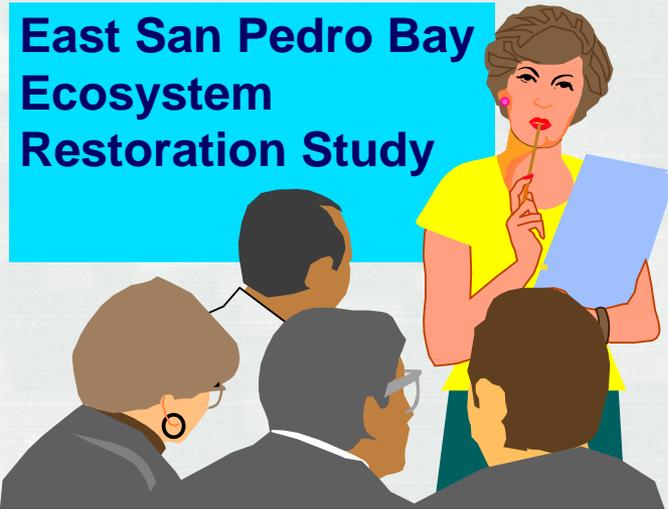
Participation of all interested Federal, State, and County agencies; groups with environmental interests; and any interested individuals is encouraged.

A court reporter is recording comments and questions for our record.



Public Comments

**East San Pedro Bay
Ecosystem
Restoration Study**



Please send written comments by
May 7, 2016 to:

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