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
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!
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
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 Civil Works Primary Missions

- Flood Risk Management
- Navigation
- Ecosystem Restoration
- Regulatory (Wetlands / US Waters)
- Disaster Preparedness & Response
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
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
Step 1: Specify Problems and Opportunities

Step 2: Inventory and Forecast

Step 3: Formulate Alternative Plans

Step 4: Evaluate Alternative Plans

Step 5: Compare Alternative Plans

Step 6: Plan Selection
Study Area
**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
• 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
Study Area – Rainbow Harbor
Examples of Habitat Types

Tidal Marsh
Estuary

Rocky Reef

Sandy Bottom

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

- Giant Kelp Forest
- Eel Grass
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.
Please send written comments by May 7, 2016 to:

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