



Bulletin #01

April 2006

PARTNERS: Through a partnership among the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the County of Orange, the California Department of Fish & Game and the California Coastal Conservancy, the first phase of physically constructing the ecosystem restoration project will commence at Upper Newport Bay on April 6, 2006.

PROJECT: Phase I construction for this project consists of habitat restoration of the upper bay and will be predominantly financed with non-federal funds (granted by the California Coastal Conservancy to the County of Orange). The remaining phases will include the dredging of large capacity sediment basins within the upper bay, to capture sediments discharged from San Diego Creek. When complete, the total project (to include design, construction and management) is estimated to cost \$39 million with the overall project costs shared between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at 65%, and state and local agencies at 35%.

CONSTRUCTION: The Corps of Engineers' construction contractor, DD-M Crane & Rigging, has mobilized its marine construction equipment to Upper Newport Bay and will begin work on Phase I of the project by undertaking dredge operations within the access channel nearby Dover Shores. The equipment includes a small dredge with pipeline, two dredged material disposal scows, two tugs and a survey boat. DD-M is expected to operate around-the-clock, six days a week (Sundays excluded), until Phase I construction is complete by June 2007.

IMPORTANCE: Upper Newport Bay is one of the last remaining coastal wetlands in Southern California, and it continues to play a significant role in providing critical habitat for a variety of migratory waterfowl, shorebirds and endangered species of birds and plants. Bay sedimentation has significantly increased in the last several decades due to the rapid urbanization of the watershed. As a result, open water areas are disappearing in the bay, tidal circulation has diminished and shoaling is occurring within Federal and local navigation channels and slips.

BENEFITS: The Upper Newport Bay restoration project will allow for the effective management of sediments deposited into the bay; reduce the frequency of maintenance dredging; improve or restore estuarine habitats; sustain a mix of open water, mudflat and marsh habitat; increase tidal circulation for water quality; reduce predator access to sensitive habitats; improve public use and recreational access; and improve educational opportunities.

POINTS OF CONTACT:

<p>U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, Los Angeles District GREG FUDERER, Public Affairs Officer gregory.a.fuderer@usace.army.mil or (213) 452-3923</p>	<p>COUNTY OF ORANGE, Resources & Development Management Dept. ANGELA BURRELL, Public Information Officer angela.burrell@rdmd.ocgov.com or (714) 834-5373</p>
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