

Los Cerritos Wetlands Conceptual Restoration Plan

Seal Beach & Long Beach, CA

Client:

Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority
Moffatt & Nichol

Project Staff:

Eric Zahn, Taylor Parker

Size:

550 acres

Completed:

April 2014

Focus:

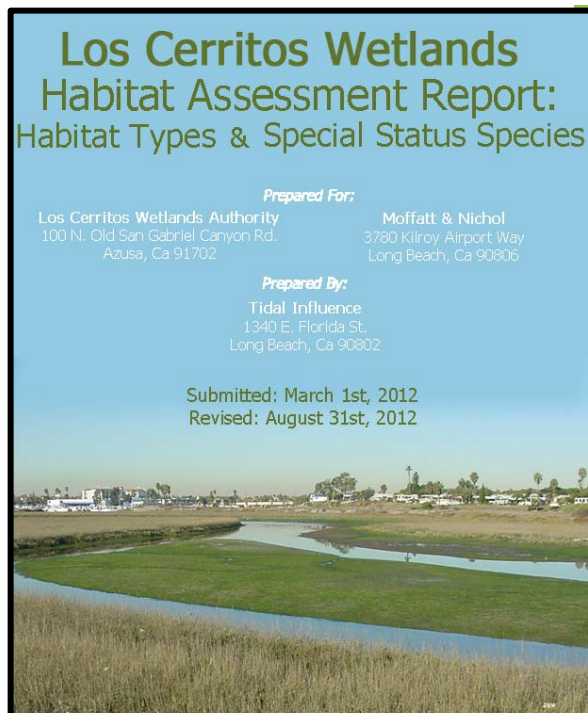
Coastal Wetlands Assessment;
Conceptual Restoration
Planning; GIS Mapping;
Stakeholder Outreach

Project Overview:

Los Cerritos Wetlands are one of the last major salt marsh complexes left to be restored in southern California. The Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority (LCWA) contracted Moffatt & Nichol to develop a Conceptual Restoration Plan to provide high-level design plans for the restoration of the conservation area of LCW. Tidal Influence was the ecological consultant on this 3-year long design process that included **6 community involvement workshops, 8 technical advisory committee meetings, and the productions of watershed, habitat assessment, hydrology, opportunities and constraints, public access and soil condition reports** all focused on developing three conceptual restoration alternatives for an eventual wetlands restoration project.

Tidal Influence Principal Restoration Ecologist Eric Zahn was involved with all aspects of this project and was the **lead consultant on the public involvement process, performing the habitat assessment and special status species mapping, and developing the habitat restoration alternative graphics**. Our firm's knowledge of oil operations and recreational activities made us a valuable team member in determining how to balance other land uses with sensitive habitat. We organized several meeting with oil operators and gathered information on how to consolidate their facilities to best accommodate wetlands restoration.

Tidal Influence is the first ecological consulting firm to perform a **comprehensive habitat assessment** of the entire Los Cerritos



1

Wetlands Complex. Utilizing GIS we geographically documented 13 habitat types including several wetland habitats: tidal salt marsh, alkali meadows, brackish marsh, willow scrub and mulefat scrubs.

We utilized the **California Natural Diversity Database**, former reports, and institutional knowledge to document and map the habitat of 7 special status plant species, including large populations of southern tarplant, as well as habitat for rare animals including the Pacific green sea turtle, California least tern, Belding's savannah sparrow, and the burrowing owl.



Our involvement in this project is indicative of Tidal Influence's ability to work with a diverse design team composed of hydrologists, geographers, landscape architects, modelers, and engineers. When developing restoration alternatives we worked closely with David Cannon of Everest International who was the project's Restoration Alternative Design Coordinator. Our involvement also demonstrates our capacity to work independently, within a team structure, and on projects with limited historic reports to produce professional communications regarding current conditions of a complex urban wetland system.

