

## Colorado Lagoon Western Arm Natural Area Restoration Project

Long Beach, CA

### Client:

Friends of Colorado Lagoon (FOCL)  
Rivers & Mountains Conservancy (RMC)  
City of Long Beach

### Project Staff:

Eric Zahn, Taylor Parker, Whitney Graves, Tia Blair, Alene Spindel

### Size:

7 acres

### Timeline:

January 2012 - June 2014

### Focus:

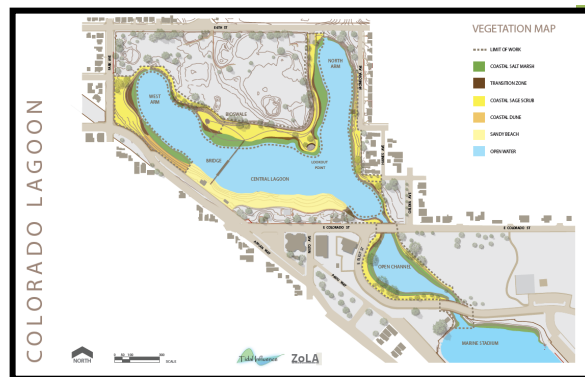
Habitat Restoration Planning;  
Wetlands Habitat Creation;  
Project Management; Site  
Planning

### Project Overview:

Tidal Influence has been involved with this project from the ground up. It demonstrates our ability to not only conceptualize restoration projects, but also implement them. Having **experience implementing restoration projects** makes us excellent planners.

Our firm specializes in **working with non-profit organizations**. For this project we attracted 7 different funders who contributed over \$700,000 total to Friends of Colorado Lagoon (FOCL) to plan and implement the project. We developed, coordinated, and actualized the work plans for each of these funders and managed each of the grants for FOCL, the largest of which was \$500,000 from the RMC. This showcased our ability to successfully manage several large budgets simultaneously for the same complex project. Furthermore, we coordinated every aspect of the project's work plan with City of Long Beach's Parks Recreation & Marine and Public Works departments.

In Summer 2012, the City completed a massive dredging and re-contouring project that left several acres of intertidal and upland areas unvegetated. The work plan we developed for



this project was initiated once the construction effort demobilized. It included native plant propagule salvation, soil investigations, site preparation (non-native control, mulching), irrigation system design and installation, trail improvements, educational kiosk design and implementation, **plant palette development**, the procurement of over 15,000 plants, the installation of native vegetation to create five distinct coastal plant communities,





Tidal Influence also prepared several **conceptual renderings** for the project that were used for outreach to the community while the project was in progress. The community support was critical for the success of this project since it is very visible from several neighborhoods and is a historically popular recreation site. Our design considered **viewsheds** and ensured that current views of the water would not be blocked by the new landscape. We teamed with FOCL to utilize community volunteers for much of the landscaping efforts including, mulching, planting, weeding, and watering. In total we hosted over 220 public events that attracted 2,400 event participants who provided in-kind volunteer services valued at over \$108,000.

The **plant palette** was specifically design to showcase a mixture of native plants that would provide flowers throughout the year. Care was also taken to ensure that brilliant wildflowers were established along the urban edges so that passersby's would be attracted by the new

native landscape. While the re-vegetation plan balanced urban conditions, it also was created to provide critical habitat. We introduced 3 special status plant species in the transition zone and planted approximately 2 acres of intertidal salt marsh. We also made improvements to an existing bioswale and created a scrub habitat that has already attracted nesting birds.

The most critical aspect for the sustainability of this project is the development of a **Conservation and Management Plan** that documents all of the efforts taken to establish this new natural area and provides directions on how to manage and maintain the site in the future. Creating habitat is often easier than maintaining its services and attractiveness in the long term.

Lastly, Tidal Influence authored and implemented a **2-year monitoring program** that has documented the ecological conditions of the site since before the project's alterations to site were begun.

