Zedler Marsh Restoration

Los Cerritos Wetlands
Long Beach, CA

Client:
Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority
Signal Hill Petroleum
Los Cerritos Wetlands Land Trust
Los Cerritos Wetlands Stewards

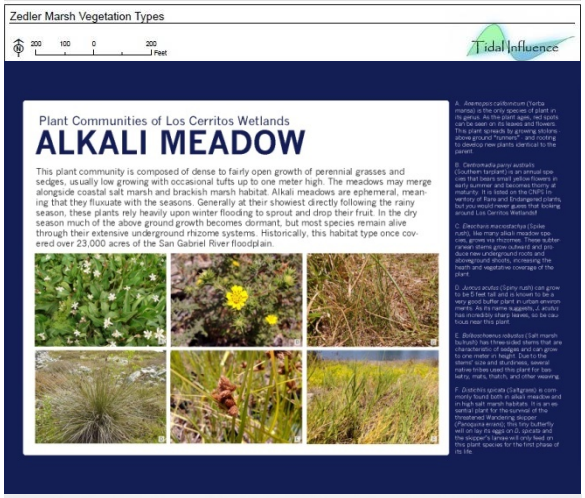
Project Staff:
Eric Zahn, Taylor Parker, & Whitney Graves

Size: 10 acres
Timeline: September 2009-Present
Focus: Wetlands Habitat Restoration

Project Overview:

Since Fall 2009, Tidal Influence has acted as the land manager, ecological restoration consultants, stewardship program coordinator, and authors and implementers of competitive grants for the Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority.

The focus of these efforts thus far has been on the implementation of a work plan and acquisition of funding for the enhancement of wetlands habitat at Zedler Marsh. Tidal Influence has been instrumental in procuring $278,000 in funding for the LCWA to support this effort and we continue to submit grant applications for this project. In cooperation with LCWA staff we developed a strong restoration work plan for this project that we have been successfully implementing through community-based habitat restoration events. Since September 2009 we have hosted over 320 public events that attracted over 5000 volunteers who have worked over 10,200 hours on this project to install nearly 10,000 plants and perform other habitat improvement efforts in Los Cerritos Wetlands. Furthermore, Tidal Influence has grown over 12,000 native plants for this project and worked with professional nurseries to acquire additional species. We developed an on-site native plant growing space facility that now houses over 12,000 plants and furnishes the project with needed vegetation.



We also performed all of the necessary environmental surveys and pre-monitoring for this project in co-operation with CSULB's Environmental Science and Policy Program. This project truly demonstrates Tidal Influences commitment to restoring Los Cerritos Wetlands and our dedication to the local community.

Most importantly, per this RFQ, Tidal Influence is retained to create, implement, and manage the Los Cerritos Wetlands Stewardship Program (LCWSP), a community-based service-learning program designed to restore critical wetland habitat by organizing the efforts of the surrounding community groups through education and outreach efforts. Tidal Influence has engaged each partner organization, developed cooperative agreements for mutually beneficial projects assessing the site, organized and facilitated quarterly meetings with members of the LCWSP, and represents the Stewardship Program at public meetings within the region. Of particular delight has been our strategy to empower at-risk/at-promise youth to engage with the wetlands habitat though service-learning and general education. Tidal Influence's principals have also developed and distributed outreach and education materials regularly to both the general public and our program partners; created logos and graphics to effectively communicate the conservation effort and have printed t-shirts, stickers, and similar materials to instill a sense of ownership in our participants.

Tidal Influence's Principals have worked hard to engage a diverse group of community members – each with similar goals but with potentially conflicting missions. Through this professional exercise, Tidal Influence's staff has been successful in negotiating resource-sharing and win-win situation amongst many stakeholders.