CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

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NOTICE OF TECHNICAL REVIEW WEBINAR for the SAN ONOFRE NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION (SONGS) SAN DIEGUITO WETLANDS RESTORATION PROJECT

A webinar will be conducted on the Zoom platform by the scientific staff of the wetland restoration project to provide an overview of the California Coastal Commission (CCC) wetland mitigation program (San Dieguito Wetlands) for the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station (SONGS). Presentations will include results from the 2021 performance monitoring of San Dieguito Wetlands as well as an update on the status of salt marsh vegetation in the restoration site.



The webinar will be held Monday, May 2, 2022 from 1:30 to 3:30 PM

To register for the webinar, please go to the following link:

https://ucsb.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN e6u53n3tT2uNh8o6olobAQ

For more information about the SONGS mitigation projects and monitoring programs go to: https://marinemitigation.msi.ucsb.edu

BACKGROUND

Four mitigation projects are required as conditions of Southern California Edison Company's (SCE) coastal development permit for the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station (SONGS) Units 2 and 3 (permit no. 6-81-330A, formerly 183-73), among them is the requirement to create or substantially restore a minimum of 150 acres of tidal wetlands. The CCC originally adopted the conditions in 1991 to mitigate the adverse impacts of the power plant on the marine environment. The 1991 conditions also require SCE to provide the funds necessary for CCC staff's technical oversight and independent monitoring of the mitigation projects, to be carried out by independent contract scientists under the direction of the Executive Director of the CCC.

Construction of the wetland habitats in San Dieguito Lagoon were completed in 2011 and annual post-construction monitoring to evaluate whether the restoration meets the performance criteria in the SONGS permit began in January 2012. Concurrent monitoring of physical and biological attributes of the San Dieguito Wetland Restoration and wetland reference sites (Mugu Lagoon, Carpinteria Salt Marsh and Tijuana Estuary) is being used to evaluate whether the San Dieguito wetland restoration meets the performance criteria set forth in the SONGS permit. The tenth year of compliance monitoring of the wetland restoration at the San Dieguito Wetlands was completed in 2021.

PURPOSE OF WORKSHOP

The CCC's technical oversight and independent monitoring program provides for periodic public review of the performance of the SONGS mitigation projects. The public webinar will provide an opportunity to review the results from the 2021 monitoring. The webinar will feature presentations on the monitoring results, the overall status of the San Dieguito Wetland Restoration in meeting the performance standards imposed by the CCC, potential problems and recommendations for solving them, and plans for 2022 management oversight and monitoring. The webinar will also provide a status update on recent efforts by Southern California Edison to increase the coverage of salt marsh vegetation, including experimental studies put in place to evaluate a range of potential approaches to accelerate colonization of salt marsh habitat. *No regulatory decisions will be made on the mitigation project at the webinar.* CCC staff will consider information from the workshop in carrying out its oversight and monitoring of the mitigation project.

It is the CCC's intention that the technical review webinar provide an opportunity for information exchange among representatives from state and federal resource agencies and local government, SCE, scientists interested in restoration and environmental monitoring, and the general public.