

PROGRESS REPORT

Progress has been made in the following areas:

Continued Restoration:

- Non-native removal: Six truckloads of invasive, non-native species, including grasses, chrysanthemum, and cheeseweed, have been removed from the site.
- Trash removal: Two truckloads of trash have been removed from the site.
- Demonstration garden: A demonstration garden was planted with a diverse selection of native wetland and upland plants to assist visitors in envisioning the river mouth restored. Clear trails were created through the garden area to allow visitors to enjoy the area without harming the plants.
- Over 1,000 species including, *Distichlis spicata*, *Limonium californicum*, *Ambrosia chamissonis*, *Rhus intregrifolia*, *Artemesia californica*, *Dudleya edulis*, *Encelia californica*, *Isomeris arboria*, *Bothriochloa barbinodis*, *Lycium californica*, *Mara macrocarpus*, *Viguiera lacinata*, *Nassella pulchra*, *Erogonum fasciculatum*, and *Salvia apiana*, were planted in the salt marsh, dune, upland, and demonstration garden areas.

Interpretive Signs:

- Interpretive signs: Additional interpretive signs for the demonstration garden are being designed.
- Pamphlet: Pamphlets for a self-guided tour for visitors to the wetland were restocked during each project.

Community Involvement/Education Element:

- Friends of San Diego River Mouth: The Friends of San Diego River Mouth has met in January and February to complete various projects at the wetland site. In total, 275 volunteers have participated in Friends of San Diego River Mouth projects this year.
- Adult Education: Informational tours and materials are provided at each event describing the benefits of wetlands, local species, and threats to the area.
- Youth Education: During the projects, youth groups have participated in wetland tours and educational activities. During tours, youth use binoculars, refractometers, and other scientific equipment to learn about wetlands and why they are important. Youth also participate in restoration efforts.

Upcoming projects include:

- Friends of San Diego River Mouth projects aimed at removal of non-native, invasive plants and trash, and maintenance of the interpretive trail. In addition, newly planted species will be cared for.
- Educational tours and activities for youth groups at each project.
- March 22, 2003 planting in the upland and sand dune communities. Non-native plants will be removed and the areas will be immediately planted with native species to reduce erosion and foot traffic.
- Installation of interpretive signs in the demonstration garden. Several signs will be added to help visitors identify native plant species. A sign including a watercolor of the river mouth restored will be added as well.