PROGRESS REPORT

Progress has been made in the following areas:

Continued Restoration:

- Non-native removal: Over 10 truckloads of invasive, non-native species, including grasses, chrysanthemum, cheeseweed, and sea rocket, were removed from the site.
- Trash removal: Two truckloads of trash were removed from the site.
- Demonstration garden: The newly planted species in the demonstration garden were cared for through watering and non-native plant removal. Clear trails were maintained through the garden area to allow visitors to enjoy the area without harming the plants.
- Over 500 plants including, *Ambrosia chamissonis, Rhus intregrifolia, Artemesia californica, Dudleya edulis, Encelia californica, Isomeris arboria, Bothriochloa barbinodis, Lycium californica, Viguiera lacinata, Nassella pulchra, Erogonum fasciculatum, and Salvia apiana*, were planted in the dune and upland areas.
- The temporary fence protecting the salt marsh and newly planted species was repaired.

Interpretive Signs:

- Interpretive signs: Additional interpretive signs marking designated trails were added to minimize foot traffic through the wetland site. A commissioned painting of the site was created for use on an interpretive sign for the demonstration garden.
- 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 March, May and July to complete various projects at the wetland site. In total, 325 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 and during field trips, 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.
- Installation of interpretive signs in the demonstration garden. Several signs will be added to help visitors identify native plant and animal species. A sign including a painting of the river mouth restored will be added as well.
- In planning the stage is an interpretive area that would hold the interpretive signage as well as benches and could be used as a viewing area of the demonstration garden and natural habitat. The area can be used for educational purposes and the public in general. The signage is underway. It is hoped that the area can be created through a partnership with Urban Corps and funding for the benches will be sought soon.