



NORTH FIESTA ISLAND WETLAND AND WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENTS

Preliminary Engineering Report (PER)

North Fiesta Island is situated in east Mission Bay, and is one of three wetland restoration projects discussed in the Mission Bay Park Improvements PEIR. A California Least Tern preserve is found on its north end. A kelp drying and sand maintenance area is located on the south end. The eastern and western edges of the island border Fiesta Bay and offer recreation areas including popular swimming beaches and an off-leash dog area.

This PER provides a plan to restore the east side of North Fiesta Island to its original wetland state. It would construct a tidal channel through the island to improve water flows, and includes grading to create a mosaic marshland with gentle transitions to the Least Tern preserve. The proposed marsh areas would improve the quality of water in Mission Bay and support a diverse range of fish and wildlife species while providing new viewing areas for plants and birds.

Project Goals

- Improve water quality with better tidal circulation and vegetation that filters runoff and removes pollutants
- Restore San Diego wetlands
- Enhance habitat for native plants and birds
- Support aquatic ecosystems in the bay for important fish stocks that sustain bird species such as the Least Tern
- Reduce contaminants that could impact water contact sports like kayaking, swimming and paddle boarding

Opportunities for Improvement

Element	Purpose
Tidal Channel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve water circulation and tidal flushing by connecting waters on the east and west side of Fiesta Island
Wetland Habitats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create subtidal, mudflat, low marsh, mid marsh, high marsh, and transitional areas • Improve drainage, help plants survive when storms drop sediment, provide habitats for native species, improve water quality through natural filtration, and store carbon to reduce greenhouse gas emissions
Bridge Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connect north and central Fiesta Island and provide public access to nearby beach areas
Fencing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restrict access to protect plant growth following construction

