

Notice of Completion & Environmental Document Transmittal

SCH # _____

Mail to: State Clearinghouse, P. O. Box 3044, Sacramento, CA 95812-3044 (916) 445-0613

For Hand Delivery/Street Address: 1400 Tenth Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

Project Title: Tijuana Estuary Sediment Fate and Transport Study

Lead Agency: California Department of Parks and Recreation Contact Person: Christopher Peregrin
Mailing Address: 301 Caspian Way Phone: (619) 575-3613 ext. 332
City: Imperial Beach Zip: 91932 County: San Diego

Project Location:

County: San Diego City/Nearest Community: Imperial Beach/San Diego Total Acres: 50-100
Cross Streets: Border Field State Beach between Monument Road and 2300' north of the horse trail road Zip Code: 91932
Assessor's Parcel No. Section: Twp. 19S Range: 2W Base:
Within 2 Miles: State Hwy #: N/A Waterways: Pacific Ocean, Tijuana River
Airports: N/A Railways: N/A Schools: N/A

Document Type:

- CEQA: [] NOP [] Draft EIR NEPA: [] NOI Other: [] Joint Document
[] Early Cons [] Supplement to EIR (Note prior SCH # below) [] EA [] Final Document
[] Neg Dec [] Subsequent EIR (Note prior SCH # below) [] Draft EIS [] Other
[X] Mit Neg Dec [] Other [] FONSI

Local Action Type:

- [] General Plan Update [] Specific Plan [] Rezone [] Annexation
[] General Plan Amendment [] Master Plan [] Prezone [] Redevelopment
[] General Plan Element [] Planned Unit Development [] Use Permit [X] Coastal Permit
[] Community Plan [] Site Plan [] Land Division (Subdivision, etc.) [X] Other Scientific Study

Development Type:

- [] Residential: Units Acres Employees [] Water Facilities: Type MGD
[] Office: Sq.ft. Acres Employees [] Transportation: Type
[] Commercial: Sq.ft. Acres Employees [] Mining: Mineral
[] Industrial: Sq.ft. Acres Employees [] Power: Type MW
[] Educational [] Waste Treatment: Type MGD
[] Recreational [] Hazardous Waste: Type
[X] Other: Scientific Study of Sediment Deposition

Project Issues Discussed in Document:

- [X] Aesthetic/Visual [] Fiscal [X] Recreation/Parks [X] Vegetation
[X] Agricultural Land [X] Flood Plain/Flooding [] Schools/Universities [X] Water Quality
[X] Air Quality [X] Forest Land/Fire Hazard [] Septic Systems [X] Water Supply/Groundwater
[X] Archeological/Historical [X] Geologic/Seismic [] Sewer Capacity [X] Wetland/Riparian
[X] Biological Resources [X] Minerals [X] Soil Erosion/Compaction/Grading [] Growth Inducement
[X] Coastal Zone [X] Noise [X] Solid Waste [X] Land Use
[X] Drainage/Absorption [X] Population/Housing Balance [X] Toxic/Hazardous [] Cumulative Effects
[] Economic/Jobs [X] Public Services/Facilities [X] Traffic/Circulation [] Other

Present Land Use/Zoning/General Plan Designation:

Endangered Species Protection/Preservation, Wetland/Wildlife Conservation, Wildlife Orientation/Interpretation, General Recreation, and Ecological Buffer Zones

Project Description: (please use a separate page if necessary)

Please see attached.

Reviewing Agencies Checklist

continued

Lead Agencies may recommend State Clearinghouse distribution by marking agencies below with an "X". If you have already sent your document to the agency please denote that with an "S".

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Air Resources Board | <input type="checkbox"/> Office of Emergency Services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Boating & Waterways, Department of | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Office of Historic Preservation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> California Highway Patrol | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Parks & Recreation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Caltrans District # _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Pesticide Regulation, Department of |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Caltrans Division of Aeronautics | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Utilities Commission |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Caltrans Planning | <input type="checkbox"/> Reclamation Board |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Regional WQCB # <u>9</u> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Coastal Commission | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resources Agency |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Colorado River Board Commission | <input type="checkbox"/> S.F. Bay Conservation & Development Commission |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conservation, Department of | <input type="checkbox"/> San Gabriel & Lower Los Angeles Rivers & Mountains Conservancy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Corrections, Department of | <input type="checkbox"/> San Joaquin River Conservancy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Delta Protection Commission | <input type="checkbox"/> Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Education, Department of | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Lands Commission |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Office of Public School Construction | <input type="checkbox"/> SWRCB: Clean Water Grants |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Energy Commission | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SWRCB: Water Quality |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fish & Game Region # <u>5</u> | <input type="checkbox"/> SWRCB: Water Rights |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Food & Agriculture, Department of | <input type="checkbox"/> Tahoe Regional Planning Agency |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Forestry & Fire Protection | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Toxic Substances Control, Department of |
| <input type="checkbox"/> General Services, Department of | <input type="checkbox"/> Water Resources, Department of |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Health Services, Department of | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Housing & Community Development | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Integrated Waste Management Board | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Native American Heritage Commission | |

Local Public Review Period (to be filled in by lead agency)

Starting Date Thursday, January 31, 2008

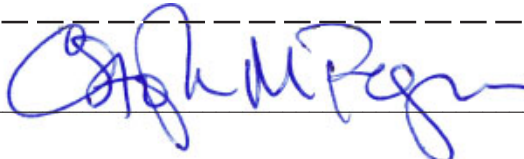
Ending Date Friday, February 29, 2008

Lead Agency (Complete if applicable):

Consulting Firm: AMEC Earth & Environmental
 Address: 104 West Anapamu St., Suite 204A
 City/State/Zip: Santa Barbara, CA 93101
 Contact: Jessica Rosen
 Phone: (805) 962-0992 ext. 228

Applicant: California Department of Parks & Recreation

Address: 301 Caspian Way
 City/State/Zip: Imperial Beach, CA 91932
 Phone: (619) 575-3613

Signature of Lead Agency Representative  Date 1/29/08

**NOTICE OF COMPLETION ATTACHMENT
MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION**

PROJECT: Tijuana Estuary Sediment Fate and Transport Study

LEAD AGENCY: California Department of Parks and Recreation

AVAILABILITY OF DOCUMENTS: The Initial Study for this Mitigated Negative Declaration is available for review in hard copy at:

- San Diego Coast District Headquarters
California Department of Parks & Recreation
4477 Pacific Coast Highway
San Diego, California 92110
- Tijuana Estuary Visitor Center
301 Caspian Way
Imperial Beach, CA 91932
- City of San Diego Central Library
820 Imperial Beach Blvd.
Imperial Beach, California 91932

The Initial Study for this Mitigated Negative Declaration is also available electronically at:
http://www.tijuanaestuary.com/vistors_center.asp.

Summaries of the project description and impacts are included in this form on the forthcoming pages.

The public hearing for the proposed project is Monday, February 11, 2008 at 6:30 pm at the Tijuana Estuary Visitor Center (address above).

Questions or comments regarding this Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration may be addressed to:

Christopher M. Peregrin
Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve
Silver Strand State Beach, Border Field State Park
301 Caspian Way
Imperial Beach, CA 91932
(619) 575-3613 ext. 332

Pursuant to Section 21082.1 of the California Environmental Quality Act, the California Department of Parks and Recreation (CDPR) has independently reviewed and analyzed the Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration for the proposed project and finds that these documents reflect the independent judgment of CDPR. CDPR, as lead agency, also confirms that the project mitigation measures detailed in these documents are feasible and will be implemented as stated in the Mitigated Negative Declaration.

SUMMARY OF PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The project consists of the implementation of a Sediment Fate and Transport Study within Border Field State Park at the Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve. The project would utilize sorted sediment from the Goat Canyon sediment basin and deposit it in designated areas along the beach south of the Tijuana River mouth. While the study would be conducted near important wetland habitat areas, no work would occur within these areas.

The project would include:

- Transportation and deposition of 60,000 cubic yards of sediment from the Goat Canyon sediment basin facility;
- Use of sediment previously sorted at an existing staging area;
- Transportation from the Goat Canyon sediment basins to the beach south of the Tijuana River mouth via haul truck;
- Commencement in the fall/winter of 2008/2009, so the placement of material in the nearshore would coincide with periods of fall/winter low tides;
- Sediment placement in three phases; Phases 1 and 2 would each involve transport and deposition of approximately 10,000 cubic yards of sediment over a maximum duration of 10 days; Phase 3 would involve transport and deposition of approximately 40,000 cubic yards of sediment over a maximum duration of 60 days;
- Extensive physical monitoring of the placed materials in the oceanic environment conducted by the US Geological Survey to determine potential impacts on marine habitats as a result of sediment movement; and
- Biological monitoring of the surrounding environment to determine potential impacts on marine flora and fauna and their habitat as a result of sediment movement.

SUMMARY OF IMPACTS

AESTHETICS

- Temporary reduction in the quality of visual resources in the proposed project area due to heavy equipment operation, large piles of sediment, orange construction fencing, and various signs would be less than significant without requiring mitigation.

AIR QUALITY

- If the dirt horse trail road were used as a route for trucks and/or scrapers to the beach area, the potential exists for intermittent and temporary dust generation. The project would also involve the use of equipment and materials that emit ozone (O₃) precursors such as reactive organic gases (ROG) and nitrogen oxides (NO_x). A three-component mitigation measure, **MITIGATION MEASURE AIR-1**, has been created to combat the temporary increase in emissions and includes the watering down of work areas, mandatory road speed of 15 miles per hour, and the maintenance of equipment engines in compliance with all State, Federal, and manufacturer's requirements.

BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

- Several sensitive plant and animal species reside near and within the proposed project area. Many of the species reside in habitats surrounding the sediment staging/sorting area and access roads that would not be directly disturbed by project activities. Project activities would not involve any direct disturbance of wetland or terrestrial habitats, but would cause short-term increases in noise and dust emissions. Project activities would occur outside of the avian breeding season. A five-component mitigation measure, **MITIGATION MEASURE**

BIO-1, has been designed to minimize any disturbances to sensitive species in and near the proposed project area through the use of a buffer zone, biological monitoring, prohibited operation of heavy equipment on the dunes and beach berm and others.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

- The precise location and elevation of historic remains from World War II beneath and around Monument Road is uncertain, as is the structural capability of Monument Road itself. To preserve cultural and historic resources, a four-component mitigation measure, **MITIGATION MEASURE CULTURAL-1**, including a historic study, archaeological testing, engineering review of the structural condition of Monument Road, and archaeological monitoring (if repairs to the road are required) was created to prevent significant impacts to these resources.

GEOLOGY AND SOILS

- Rain events, combined with the use of heavy equipment, could result in the loss of soil from the unpaved potential access route referred to as the horse trail road. A single-component mitigation measure, **MITIGATION MEASURE GEO-1**, has been devised to ensure all possible erosion control measures would be undertaken to prevent sedimentation from spilling into the surrounding marsh areas and that the road would be restored to its existing condition upon completion of the project.

HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

- Some activities associated with the proposed project would require the use of potentially hazardous materials, such as fuels, oils, and solvents used for equipment use and maintenance. In addition, the potential exists for sediments obtained from the Goat Canyon sediment basins to be contaminated. Three mitigation measures (each with several components), **MITIGATION MEASURE HAZMAT-1**, **MITIGATION MEASURE HAZMAT-2**, and **MITIGATION MEASURE HAZMAT-3**, will prevent impacts from accidental spills or leaks, protect workers and the environment from contaminated sediment, and prevent the accidental ignition or spreading of fire.

HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

- Deposition of contaminated sediment onto the intertidal area of the beach, which would eventually disperse to the ocean, would violate water quality standards and create significant adverse impacts. The implementation of **MITIGATION MEASURE HAZMAT-2** which enforces the testing of all sediment and prevents the use of contaminated sediment, combined with the four-component **MITIGATION MEASURE WATER QUAL-1** would avoid any reduction in water quality due to the proposed project. However, due to the nature of the proposed project, turbidity of the waters near the sediment deposition zone would increase temporarily. Because the surf zone is a naturally turbid, well-mixed area, impacts would be adverse but not significant.

LAND USE AND PLANNING

- There would be some periodic disruptions to public access and use of the coast along the proposed project area over a three- to four-month period during the off-peak season. With the implementation of **MITIGATION MEASURE REC-1**, designed to reduce impacts on recreation to less than significant, impacts on land use would also be reduced to less than significant. Additionally, using **MITIGATION MEASURE BIO-1**, **MITIGATION MEASURE GEO-1**, and **MITIGATION MEASURE WATER QUAL-1**, the proposed project would have less than significant impacts on any habitat conservation or natural community conservation plan.

NOISE

- Project activities would generate noise that normally does not occur in the area of the proposed project. **MITIGATION MEASURE NOISE-1** has three components and includes limiting work to daylight hours and on non-holidays and non-holiday weekends would reduce impacts to less than significant. With the implementation of **MITIGATION MEASURE BIO-1**, impacts to the over-wintering western snowy plover population would be reduced to less than significant.

PUBLIC SERVICES

- While the level of required public services for the proposed project is expected to remain relatively static, as noted in Hazards and Hazardous Materials, the use of heavy equipment near flammable vegetation presents an increase fire risk that could result in additional demands on local fire and CAL FIRE response teams. With the implementation of **MITIGATION MEASURE HAZMAT-3**, along with readily available on-site fire suppression equipment and support from State Park personnel, impacts to fire protection services would be reduced to less than significant.

RECREATION

- Activities associated with the proposed project such as trucks hauling sediment along access roads and depositing sediment along the beach could impact public recreational use due to closures and safety concerns. A six-component mitigation measure, **MITIGATION MEASURE REC-1**, has been designed to reduce impacts on recreation to less than significant through proper notification of closures, availability of alternate routes, preventing work on holiday weekdays and holiday weekdays and others.

TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC

- Temporary, intermittent interruption of traffic flow may occur along Monument Road, the horse trail road, and along the beach south of the Tijuana River due to trucks hauling and depositing sediment could pose potential significant impacts on transportation/traffic. The three-component mitigation measure, **MITIGATION MEASURE TRANS/TRAFF-1**, will reduce impacts to less than significant.