

Poseidon Water's Proposed Bolsa Chica Wetlands Restoration Project



Overview

In conjunction with the operation of its Huntington Beach Desalination Project, Poseidon Water has proposed to state regulators to assume responsibility for maintenance of tidal action to the Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve (Bolsa Chica) wetlands. This restoration action – helping maintain a functioning ocean inlet - will assure long-term and effective tidal action to support estuarine and coastal fish populations in this important regional wetland habitat.

The Bolsa Chica

Bolsa Chica is an approximately 1,500-acre coastal estuary located in Huntington Beach, Orange County, California. The property is owned by the State Lands Commission and managed by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and is the largest saltwater marsh between Monterey Bay and the Tijuana River Estuary. The Bolsa Chica wetlands have a variety of vital functions including; natural flood control, organic water purification, land erosion control, as well as providing bird flyways through Orange County and critical habitats to over 1,100 species, including 50 endangered fish and wildlife species. Approximately 30,000 people visit the reserve each year for recreational activities, educational tours, and wildlife watching.

Help Wanted

While much work has been done to restore and maintain the wetlands, funds are drying up. California has already lost 91 percent of its wetlands - more than any other state - and the Bolsa Chica Lowlands are the last remaining large-scale wetlands in the state south of Monterey.

“The Bolsa Chica wetland site in Huntington Beach is an example of an underfunded restoration project in need of additional funds to maintain the high value habitat that was created. Given its close proximity to the proposed desalination project area, it would be an ideal candidate for this type of mitigation derived funding augmentation.”

-CA State Lands Commission, October 2013

You can access Poseidon Water's proposed Marine Life Mitigation Plan by visiting <http://hbfreshwater.com/protecting-the-environment>.