NELSON SLOAN QUARRY RESTORATION AND BENEFICIAL REUSE OF SEDIMENT PROJECT

Draft EIR Public Meeting – October 14, 2021

Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve

DUDEK

Introductions

Lead Agency (CEQA)

- California Department of Parks and Recreation (CDPR)
  - Chris Peregrin
  - Lorena Warner-Lara

Environmental Consultant/EIR Preparer

- Dudek
  - Josh Saunders
  - Vipul Joshi
  - Bryn Evans

DUDEK

Meeting Overview

- Introductions (5 minutes)

- Presentation (35 minutes)
  - Meeting Objectives
  - Project Overview
  - Environmental Review Process
  - Summary of Impacts from the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR)

- Public Comment Period (remaining time)

Additional Roles

Responsible Agencies (CEQA)

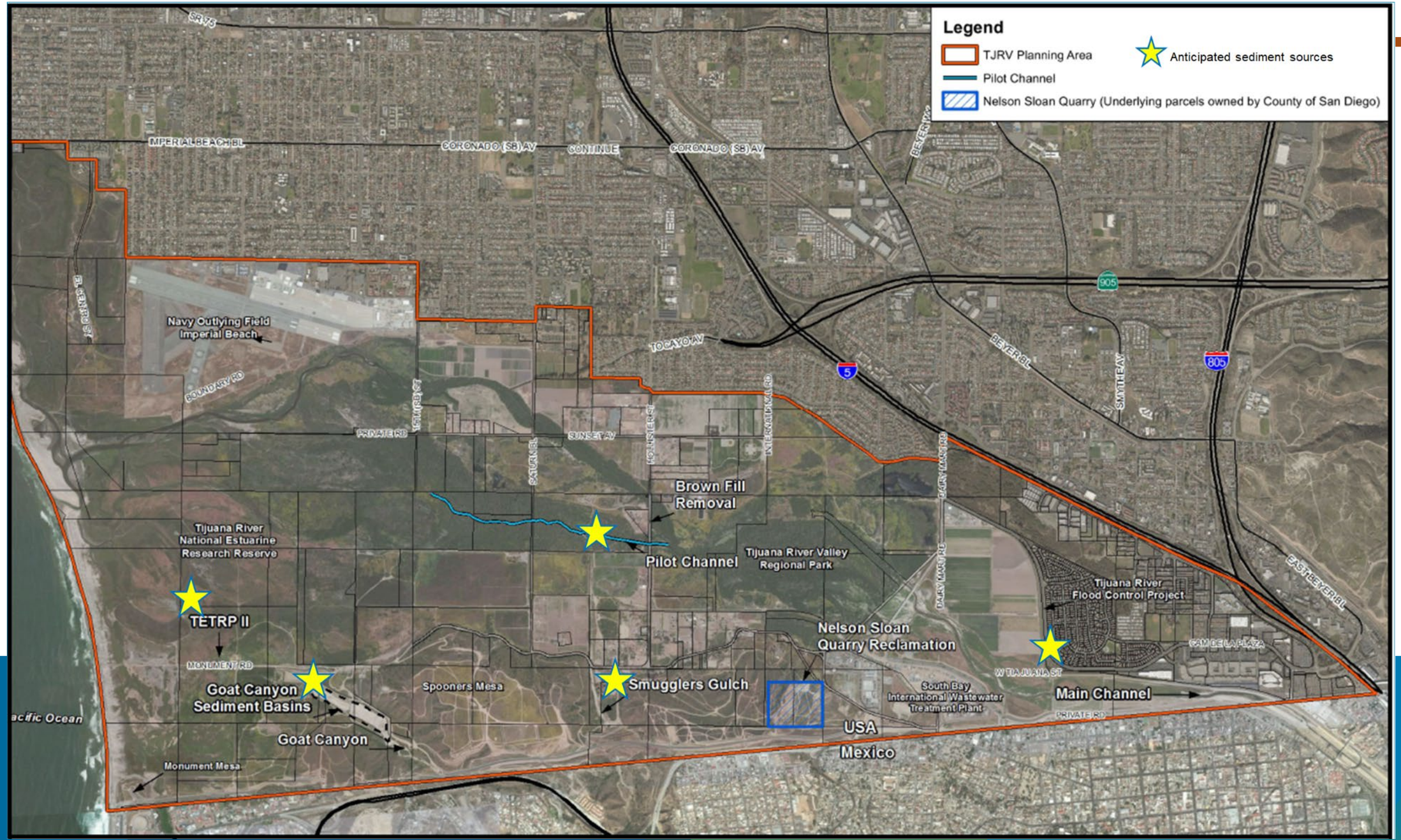
- State Coastal Conservancy
- County of San Diego
- City of San Diego

Meeting Objectives

- **Provide overview of the Project**
- **Provide overview of the environmental review process and Draft EIR impacts**
- **Provide opportunity for public input/comment on the Draft EIR impacts, mitigation measures, and conclusions ***
- **Inform public of the remaining duration of public review and how/where to submit comments in writing**

* Verbal comments (and responses) will not be included in Final EIR – please submit your formal comments via email or mail

Overview of the Project



Overview of the Project - Funding

Funding

- CA Department of Water Resources Disadvantaged Community Grant Program, Prop 1 (administered through the San Diego County Water Authority Integrated Regional Water Management Program)
- State Coastal Conservancy, Prop 84 and 68

Overview of the Project – Support/Previous Planning Efforts

- Tijuana River Valley Needs and Opportunities Assessment Report, County of San Diego, SB507
- Nelson Sloan Management and Operations Plan and Cost Analysis (County of San Diego 2016)
- Five-Year Action Plan, Tijuana River Valley Recovery Team (2015)
- Recovery Strategy: Living with the Water, Tijuana River Valley Recovery Team (2012)
- Nelson & Sloan Substantial Conformance Review (City of San Diego 2012)
- Land Use Options for the Nelson Sloan Property (City of San Diego 2010)

Overview of the Project

Nelson Sloan Quarry Restoration and Beneficial Reuse of Sediment Project

- Is a multi-year phased habitat restoration of an abandoned quarry using excess sediment from flood control facilities and wetland restoration in the Tijuana River Valley.

Project Objectives

- **Restore the landform, ecological functions, and values of the impacted habitats on the Project site that were significantly altered by past mining activity**

- **Improve water quality within the watershed and reduce public health and safety hazards associated with cross-border flows**

Project Objectives

- **Reduce downstream erosion, storm water runoff, and water quality impairment through stabilization of the Project site**

- **Facilitate cost-effective habitat protection, conservation and restoration opportunities in areas impacted by sedimentation and flooding in the Tijuana River Valley**

Project Objectives

- **Advance efforts to meet the intent of the recorded grant deed: property must be used for habitat protection, restoration and open space in perpetuity**

- **Release the existing Mine ID #91-37-0037 (Nelson Sloan Quarry)**

- **To divert sediment from landfills as well as reducing emissions and truck congestion**

Background and General Overview of Project

1970 (prior to quarry operations)

2016

Regional Context and Project Need

- **Import Material/Future Sediment Disposal Needs 2019-2039**
  - **State Parks: 800,000 CY**
  - **City of San Diego: 330,000 CY**
  - **County of San Diego: 164,000 CY**
  - **Federal (IBWC): up to 90,000 CY**
  - **TETRP II Phase I: 500,000 CY ***

* Protects 100+ acres of multiple downstream habitats and will allow for over 80 acres of salt marsh restoration (TETRP II Phase I)

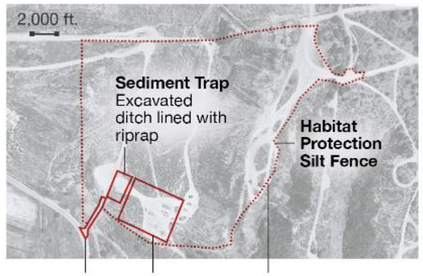
Step-by-Step

Nelson Sloan Quarry Restoration Project

The Nelson Sloan Quarry Restoration Project (Project) is a multi-phased program that would entail the beneficial re-use of excess sediment excavated from channels and sediment basin facilities in the Tijuana River Valley towards the landform reclamation and habitat restoration of the quarry property.

1 Site Preparation

The site must be prepared to accomodate vehicles, equipment, personnel and processing.



Driveway Improvements
Temporary access road

Stockpile and Staging Area
Equipment storage and processing.

Habitat Protection Silt Fence
Protects habitat during construction

2 Management/Excavation

Sediment from maintained channels and basins is excavated by in-valley land managers, processed at existing facilities and/or transported to the quarry property for further processing or stockpiling.

Smuggler's Gulch

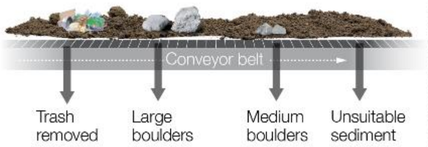
Pilot Channel

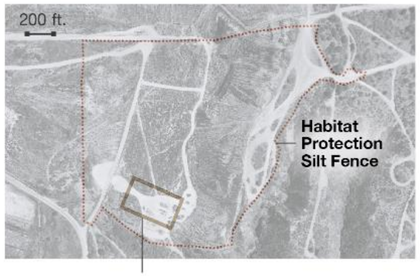
Goat Canyon Sediment Basin

TETRP II
Approximately 250 acres to be restored.

3 Processing

Excavated sediment is sorted, categorized, and tested. Trash and unsuitable sediment is transported off-site for proper disposal.

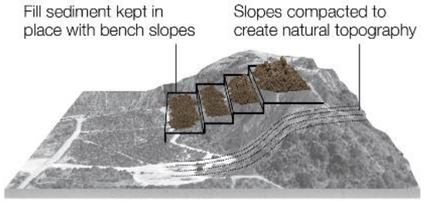


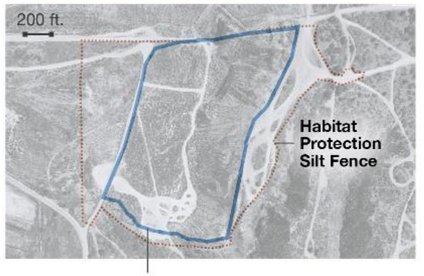


Sorting
Area where sediment is processed and separated by size into stockpiles.

4 Fill/Placement

Fill sediment is placed on site for topographical reclamation and restoration. New slopes would resemble existing hilly terrain in the valley.

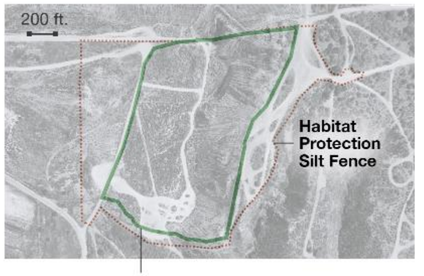




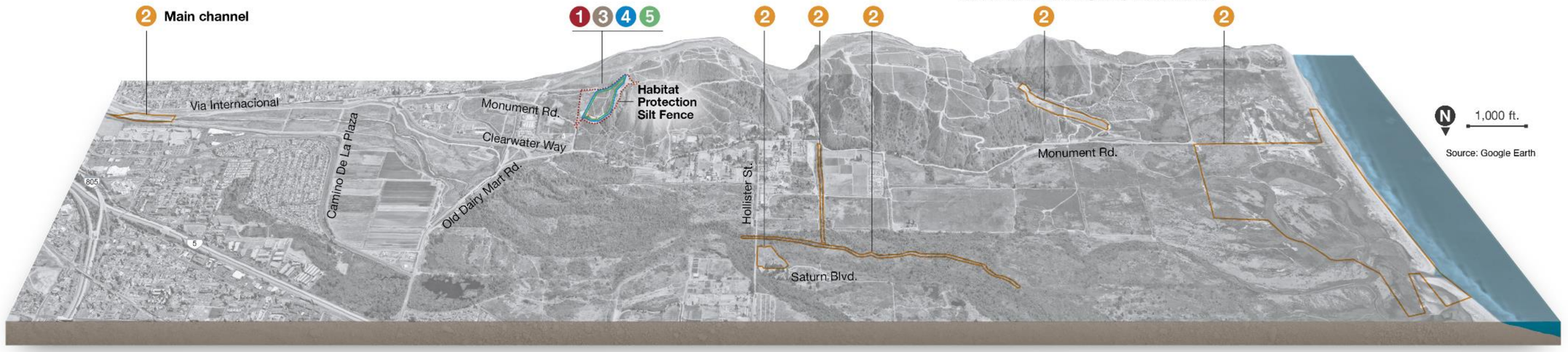
Fill placement
Area where fill is placed and compacted in place. The initial phase of the program is intended to close the existing Mine ID and remove the property from SMARA oversight. Later phases would build the topography up and out from the existing valley floor and mesa.

5 Restoration

After final graded surfaces are achieved, reclaimed areas would be revegetated by means of hydroseeding or container planting. Where slopes would be subject to subsequent disturbance, an erosion control seed mix would be applied.

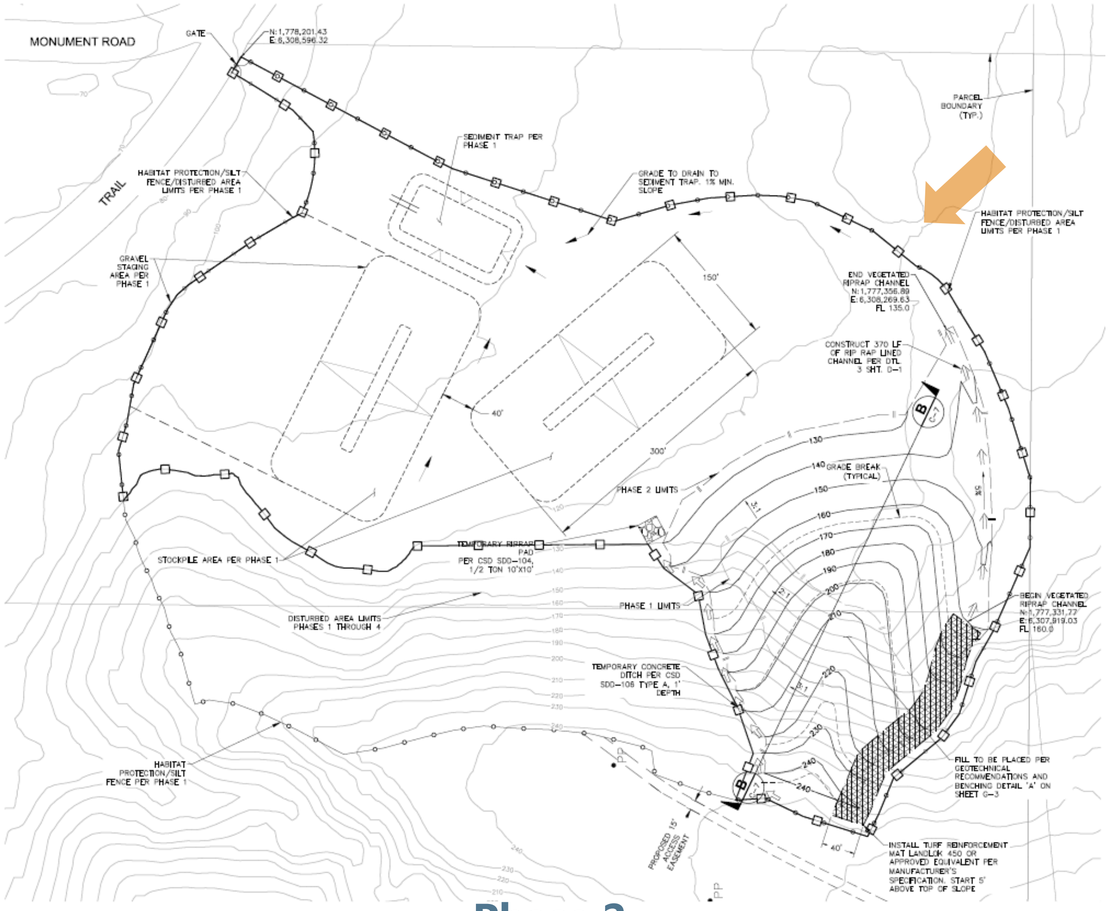


Restoration of Native habitat
Area of restoration.



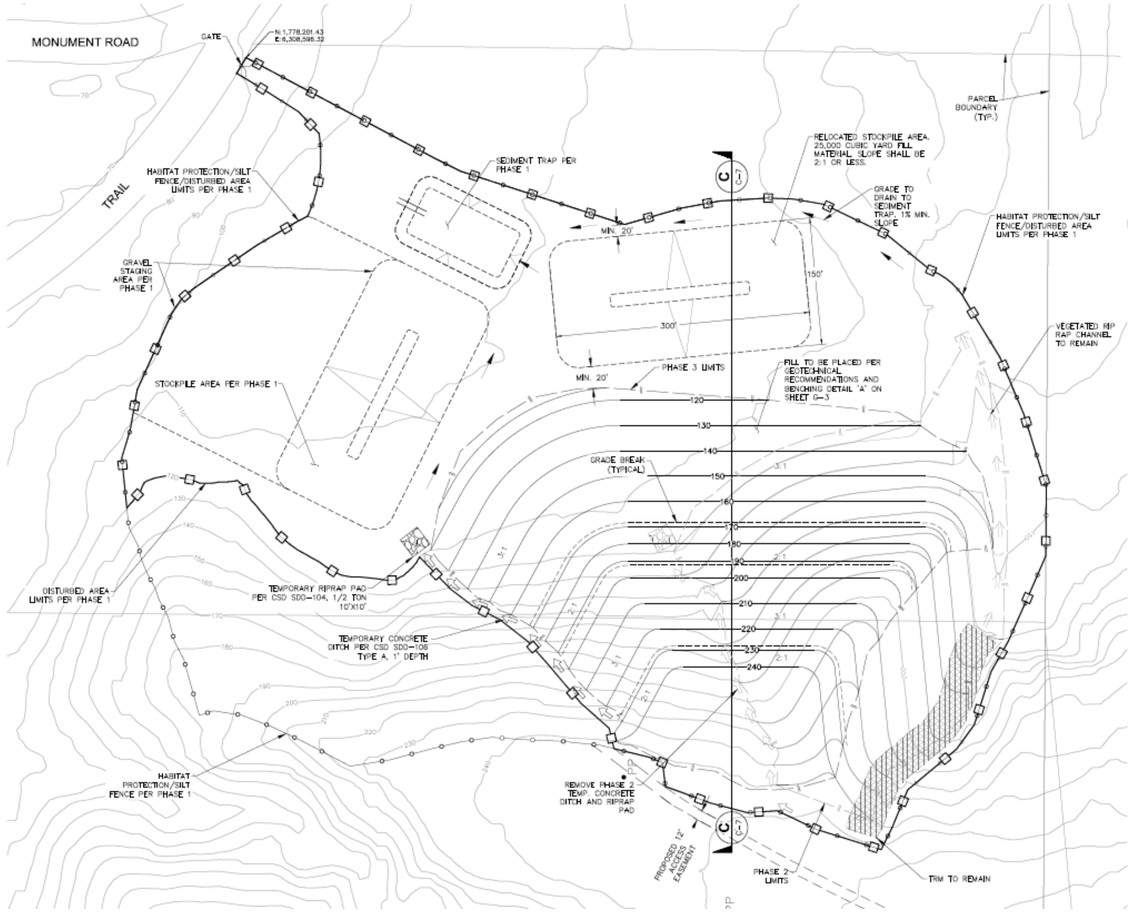
Overview of 80% Design and Restoration Plans

Phase 1

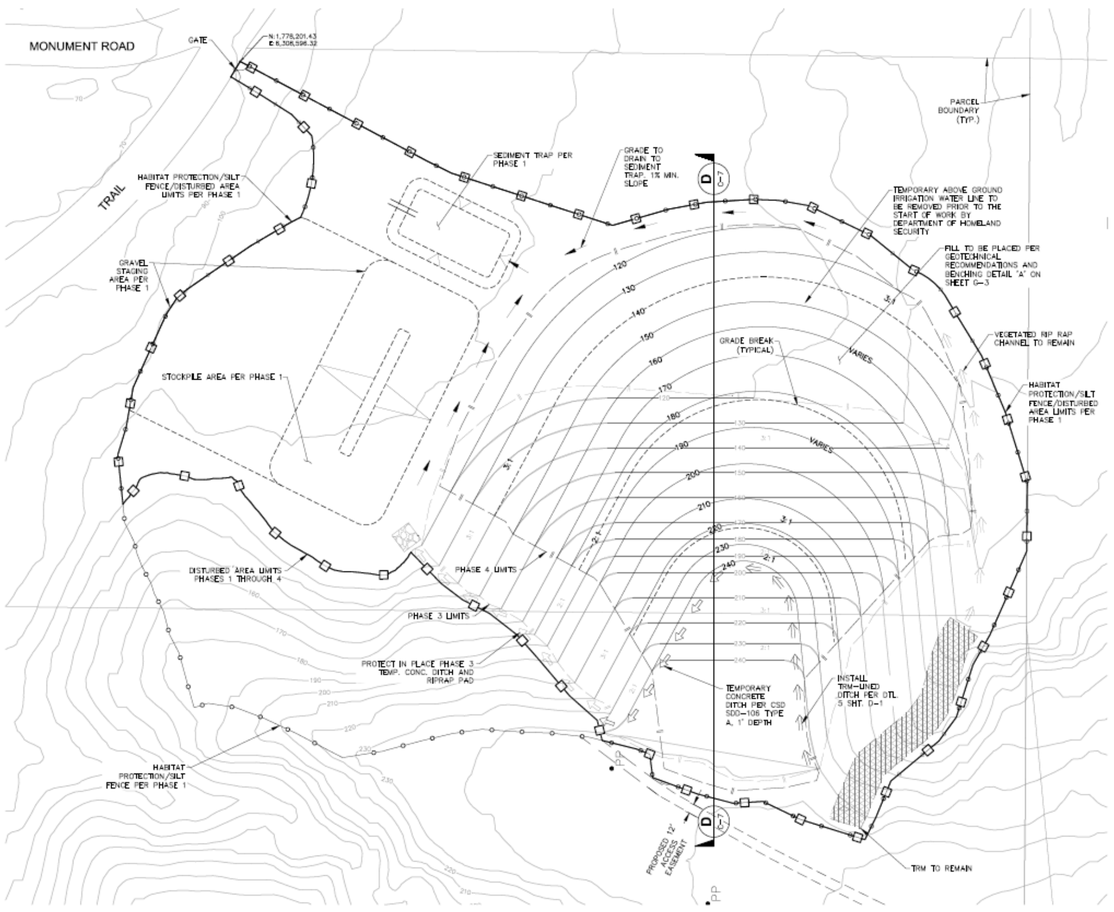


Phase 2

Overview of 80% Design and Restoration Plans

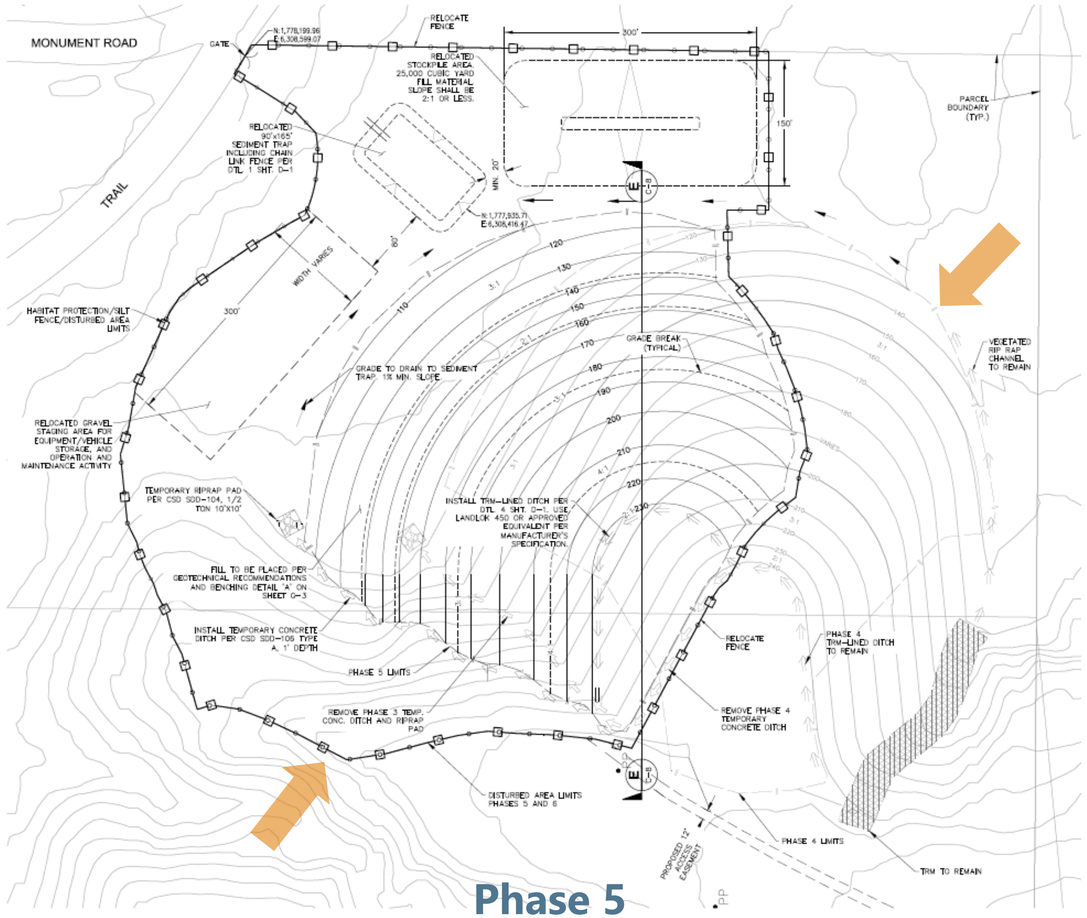


Phase 3

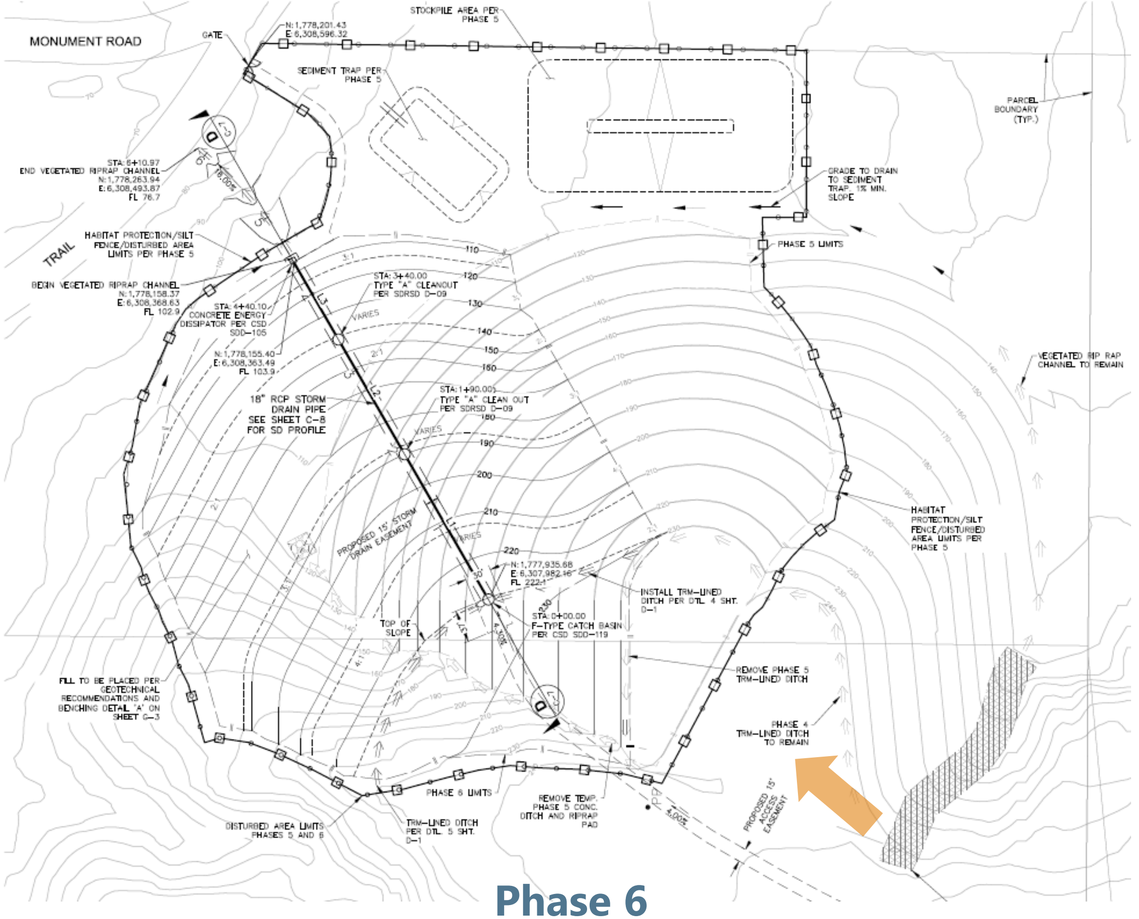


Phase 4

Overview of 80% Design and Restoration Plans



Phase 5



Phase 6

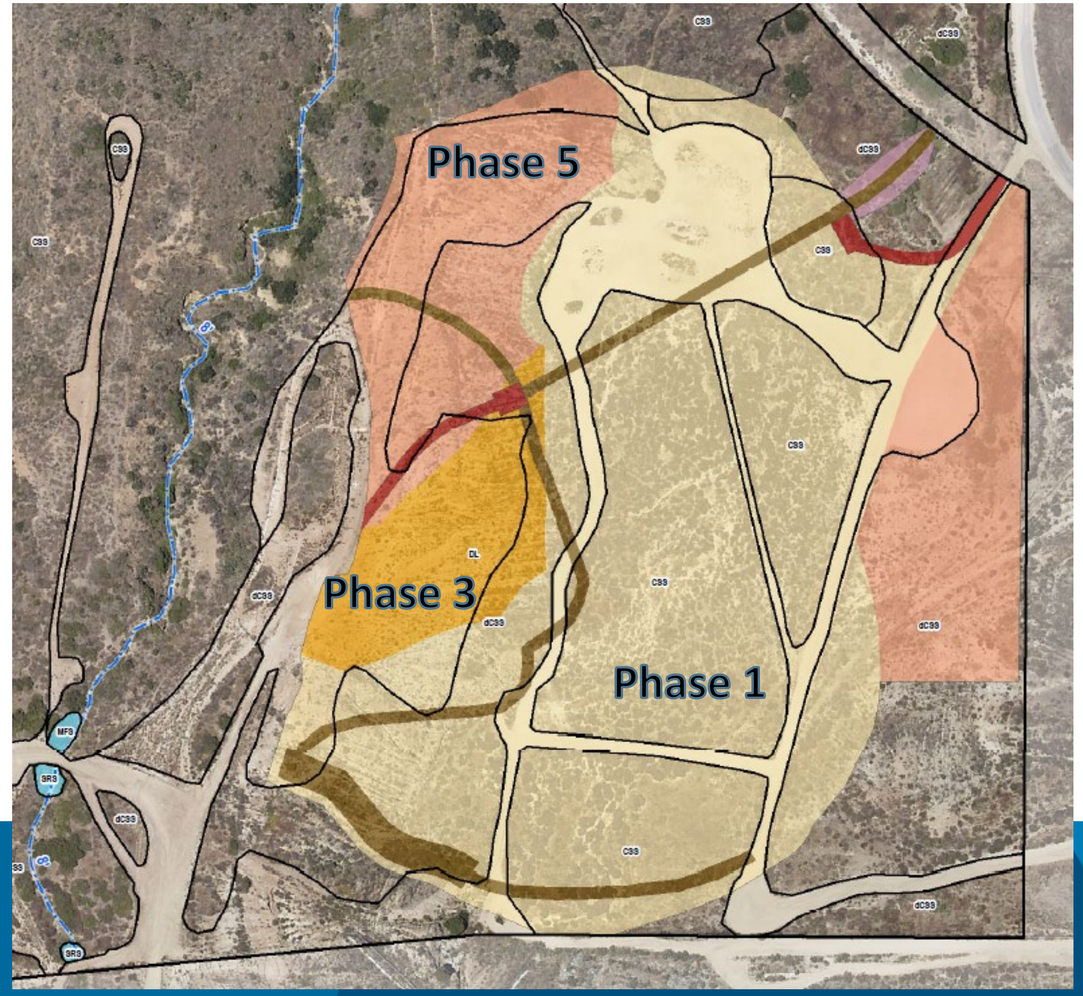
Coastal Sage Scrub Revegetation

Table 1. Schedule of Revegetation Phases

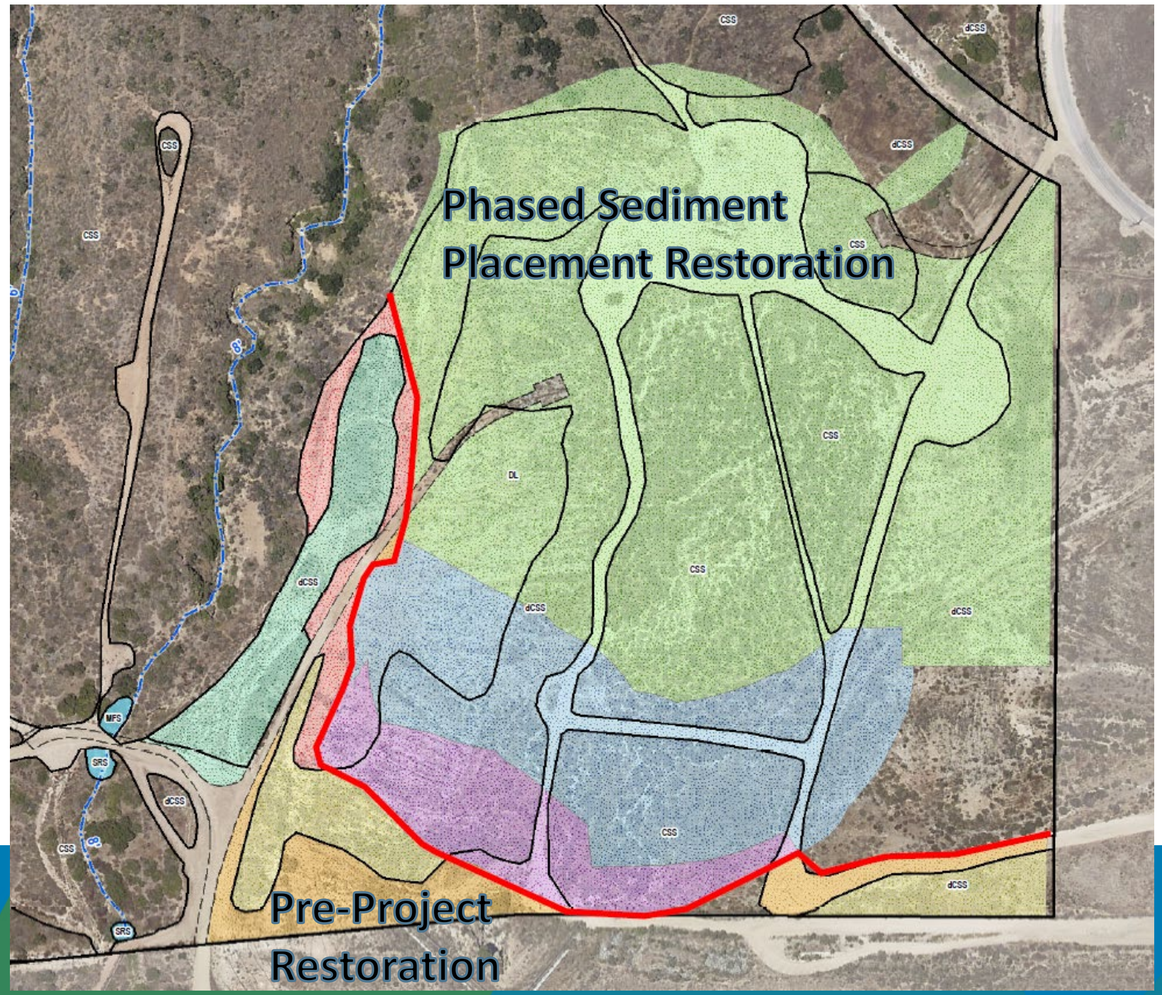
Revegetation Phase	Notes	Acres	Approximate Year Installed	5-Year Establishment Period
Pre-Project Restoration	This will occur at the onset of the project and does not involve grading or the import of sediment	3.57	Year 1	Year 6
Phase 3	This will occur following completion of sediment placement Phases 1 and 2	1.39	Year 3	Year 8
Phase 5	This will occur following completion of sediment placement Phases 3 and 4	3.50	Year 8	Year 13
Phase 6	This will occur following completion of sediment placement Phases 5 and 6	12.29	Year 14	Year 19
	Total	20.75		

Overview of 80% Design and Restoration Plans

Impact Summary



Restoration Summary



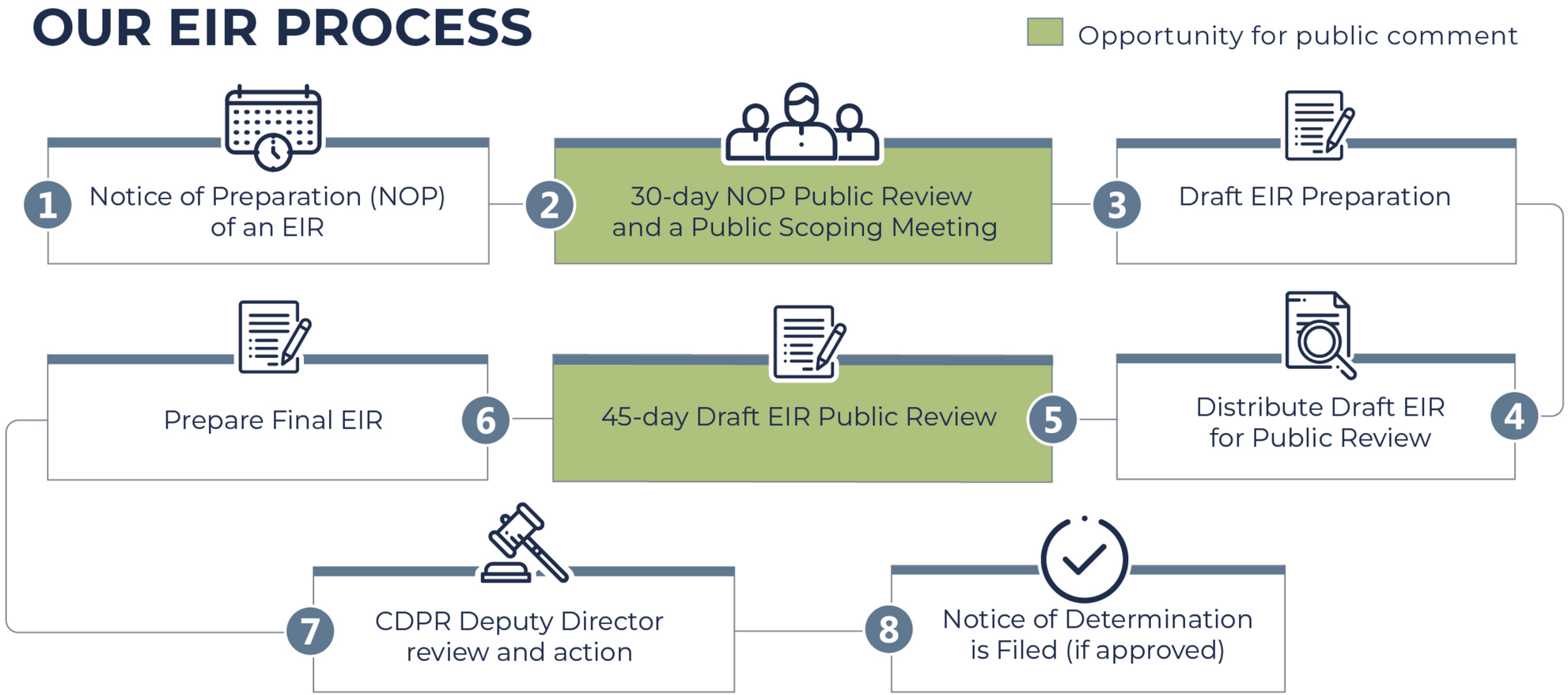
Environmental Review Process

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

Purpose and Objectives

- Inform the public and decision makers about the project and potential environmental impacts
- Provide an opportunity for the public and local/state agencies to comment on the environmental issues
- Identify feasible ways to avoid or reduce environmental impacts
- Consider alternatives that reduce or avoid impacts
- Disclose significant and unavoidable impacts

Environmental Review Process



Summary of Impacts from the Draft EIR

Significant and Unavoidable Impacts

- none

Less than Significant Impacts with Mitigation

- Air Quality
  - Exposure of receptors to toxic air contaminants generated by typical construction diesel vehicles

Summary of Impacts from the Draft EIR

Less than Significant Impacts with Mitigation

- Biological Resources
  - Temporary impacts to Diegan coastal sage scrub
  - Habitat- associated impacts to Quino checkerspot butterfly, California coastal gnatcatcher, and small terrestrial reptiles and mammals

Summary of Impacts from the Draft EIR

Less than Significant Impacts with Mitigation

- Archeological, Historical, and Tribal Cultural Resources
  - Potential impacts to unknown archaeological and/or tribal cultural resources
  - Potential impacts to human remains during on-site sediment sorting and ground disturbing activities in previously undisturbed areas
- Paleontological Resources

Summary of Impacts from the Draft EIR

Less than Significant Impacts with Mitigation

- Noise
  - Temporary exceedance of noise level limits during sediment hauling activities
- Wildfire
  - Increase in wildfire potential during construction activities

Summary of Impacts from the Draft EIR

No Impact or Less than Significant Impacts

- Aesthetics
- Agriculture and Forestry Resources
- Energy
- Geology and Soils
- Hydrology and Water Quality
- Land Use
- Mineral Resources
- Population and Housing
- Public Services
- Recreation
- Utilities and Service Systems

Public Comments

- **Comments must be received by 5:00 p.m. on November 4, 2021**

- **Comments related to the analysis presented in the Draft EIR will be addressed in the Final EIR**

- **Comments unrelated to the Draft EIR analysis will not be addressed with a detailed response**

How to Submit Public Comments

- **Submit comments via email:**

  SDCD.CEQA@parks.ca.gov

- **Submit comments in writing via mail to California State Parks:**

  ATTN: Lorena Warner-Lara
  California State Parks
  Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve
  301 Caspian Way
  Imperial Beach, CA 91932-3149

- **For more project information:**

  https://trnerr.org/about/public-notices/

Public Comment Period

- **Reminder: comments should focus on analysis provided in Draft EIR**

- **If you elect to provide verbal comments tonight:**
  - **2 minutes maximum allotment per speaker**
  - **Please clearly state your name prior to providing your comment**
  - **Verbal comments (and responses) will not be included in Final EIR – please submit your formal comments via email or mail**