

PROJECT SUMMARY

NAME: City of Long Beach's Colorado Lagoon

LOCATION: Long Beach, California

ACRES/RIVER MILES: 28.3 acres

NON-FEDERAL SPONSOR(S):

City of Long Beach
Friends of Colorado Lagoon

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The Colorado Lagoon is a 28.3 acre tidal lagoon that serves three main functions: hosting sensitive estuarine, wetlands and wildlife habitats, providing areas for public recreation and conveying storm floods. The Lagoon is used by hundreds of visitors from communities within and surrounding the City of Long Beach, California. There are over 700,000 local residents living in these communities. Project activities will consist of excavating contaminated sediment in the western arm of the Lagoon, re-contouring the slopes around the Lagoon, which will provide for increased and enhanced intertidal, mid and upland habitats, and re-vegetating these habitats by removing invasive non-native and ornamental plant species and replacing them with native plant species. The Lagoon is listed on the State of California's 303(d) list as an impaired water body.

EXPECTED BENEFITS:

This project will improve the estuarine habitat and prevent further native habitat loss by removing invasive ornamental landscaping and re-vegetating the Lagoon with native plant species. It will also create a better estuary habitat than currently exists by regrading the slopes surrounding the Lagoon to increase the amount of intertidal and upland habitat and will provide additional and improved estuary habitat such that animal and plant species are increased and/or introduced to the Lagoon. By removing contaminated sediments, biodiversity of the benthic community can be expected to thrive. This ensures that public access, use, and enjoyment of the Lagoon are enhanced.

STATUS: Planning and Design