



Southern California Edison Backgrounder

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San Onofre Plant's Marine Enhancement Projects – A Net Plus for Coastal Ecosystems

Major marine enhancement projects developed by Southern California Edison (SCE) related to its San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station are producing new science on restoring valued coastal ecosystems. The Wheeler North Reef off San Clemente and the San Dieguito Wetlands Project near Del Mar are helping nature create 174 acres of new ocean kelp forest and 150 acres of new fish spawning and bird habitat.

The projects will more than replace the amount of fish the plant's ocean water cooling system affects adversely.



San Dieguito Wetlands

This \$90-million restoration project has restored tidal flows, natural habitat and vegetation for the first time in 75 years. The new wetlands includes the coastal segment of the Coast to Crest Trail along the San Dieguito River, creating a perimeter to help protect sensitive habitat and vegetation. Major construction of the project was completed in the fall of 2011, including part of the San Dieguito River Park, a scenic trail system enhanced by viewing platforms and a visitors center.

Wetlands Benefits

- 440 acres of total wetlands will be visible to guests, including 150 acres of new Southern California wetlands.
- Significant increases of fish and wildlife.
- The return of tidal flow to the San Dieguito lagoon.
- The wetlands now serve as a fish nursery and a refuge for migratory waterfowl and endangered species, as well as an open space for community recreational activities.



Lagoon Day 2009!!!

Art by a Del Mar School District third-grader following a visit by 600 school children to SCE's wetlands project in April 2009.

Wheeler North Reef

Named after the Caltech environmental scientist Wheeler J. North, SCE's \$46-million, 174-acre artificial kelp reef located off the coast of San Clemente has



created a new habitat for local marine life. The reef was built to offset the impact on a nearby kelp bed by the ocean water cooling system of the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station. The initial independent scientific assessments of the reef's performance found that it has already met 10 of 14 success measures in its first two years.



Reef Benefits

- The reef is adding a significant amount of new marine habitat to the Southern California coast in an underwater forest protecting and nourishing as many as 50 varieties of fish and invertebrates.
- The reef also increases Southern California fishing and diving opportunities.

Hubbs Hatchery

SCE provided \$5 million toward the funding of the Hubbs Hatchery in Carlsbad, which is restoring the region's white sea bass population through innovative aquaculture and fishery enhancement techniques. The hatchery is capable of producing more than 350,000 juvenile white sea bass annually.



The California Spiny Lobster common to coastal kelp forests

Southern California Edison's environmental projects provide a model for the use of economical ocean water cooling by coastal power plants, while effectively offsetting environmental impacts.