

San Onofre Plant's Industry-Leading Environmental Restoration Projects

Southern California Edison (SCE), an Edison International company, is developing two of the largest and most important U.S. environmental projects of their kind associated with the operation of the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station – the Wheeler North Kelp Reef off San Clemente, Calif., and the San Dieguito Wetland Restoration Project near Del Mar, Calif.

San Dieguito Wetlands Restoration Project

This \$86 million restoration project is creating more than 160 acres of coastal wetlands in the San Dieguito River Valley of San Diego County, restoring tidal flows, natural habitat and vegetation, and offsetting the estimated impact on fish populations of the plant's ocean water cooling system.



The wetlands project includes construction of the coastal segment of the Coast to Crest Trail along the San Dieguito River, creating an outer perimeter to protect sensitive habitat.

Benefits

- More than 160 acres of new Southern California wetlands, including more than 100 acres of tidal salt marsh land.
- Significant increases of fish and wildlife.
- The return of tidal flow to the lagoon by opening the inlet at Del Mar beach.
- The wetlands eventually will serve as a fish nursery, a refuge for migratory waterfowl and endangered species. It also will serve as an open space for recreational activities.



Wheeler North Reef Project

Named after the pioneering Caltech environmental scientist Wheeler J. North, one of the early kelp restoration experts, SCE's 170-acre artificial kelp reef located a mile off the coast of San Clemente is creating a new habitat for local marine life.



Wheeler North, Ph.D., 1922 to 2002, professor of environmental science, California Institute of Technology

SCE built the reef after the California Coastal Commission approved the project as an effective way to offset the relatively minor impact on a nearby kelp bed by the ocean water cooling system of the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station.



Benefits

- The reef adds a significant new marine habitat to the Southern California coast, an underwater forest protecting and nourishing 50 varieties of fish and invertebrates.
- The reef also increases Southern California recreational opportunities including fishing and diving.

Marine Protection

The San Onofre plant uses advanced marine technologies to prevent fish from becoming caught in the facility's intake system, significantly reducing fish losses and returning most caught fish to the ocean alive.

