



COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO

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Meadow Creek Lagoon Habitat Restoration Project Status June 2023



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Project Goal and Objectives

- National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) determined that the Arroyo Grande Creek Waterway Management Plan (WMP) is expected to reduce the function and value of the project area as freshwater rearing and migration site for federally threatened steelhead.
- NMFS Biological Opinion requires the District to restore approximately 8.3 acres of Meadow Creek Lagoon with the following objectives:
 1. Increase connectivity between MCL and AGL.
 2. Improve and increase habitat in MCL for the growth and survival of smolt and rearing steelhead (e.g., habitat complexity, discernible flow, deep-water refugia, riparian banks).
 3. Ensure the project does not exacerbate existing flooding conditions.

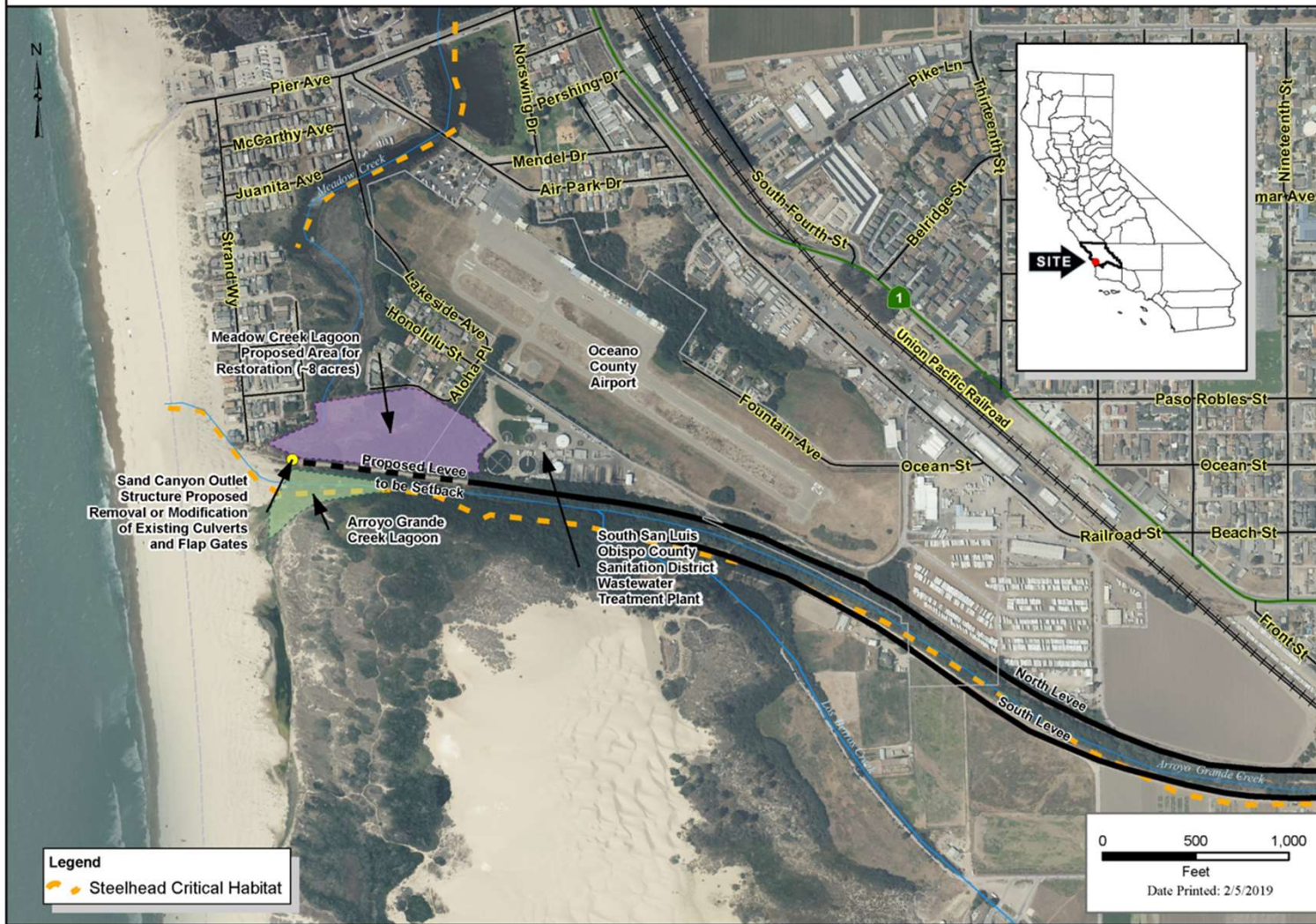


Tasks Completed to Date

1. Convened a Science Panel to provide technical input.
2. Literature review and data gaps.
3. Existing Conditions Report.
4. Preliminary alternatives list with benefits/constraints analysis.
5. Preliminary Alternatives Analysis Report to determine feasibility of levee setback alternatives.
6. Field survey program underway to document water quality in Upper MCL, MCL, and AGL



Meadow Creek Lagoon Watershed Restoration Plan - Location Map

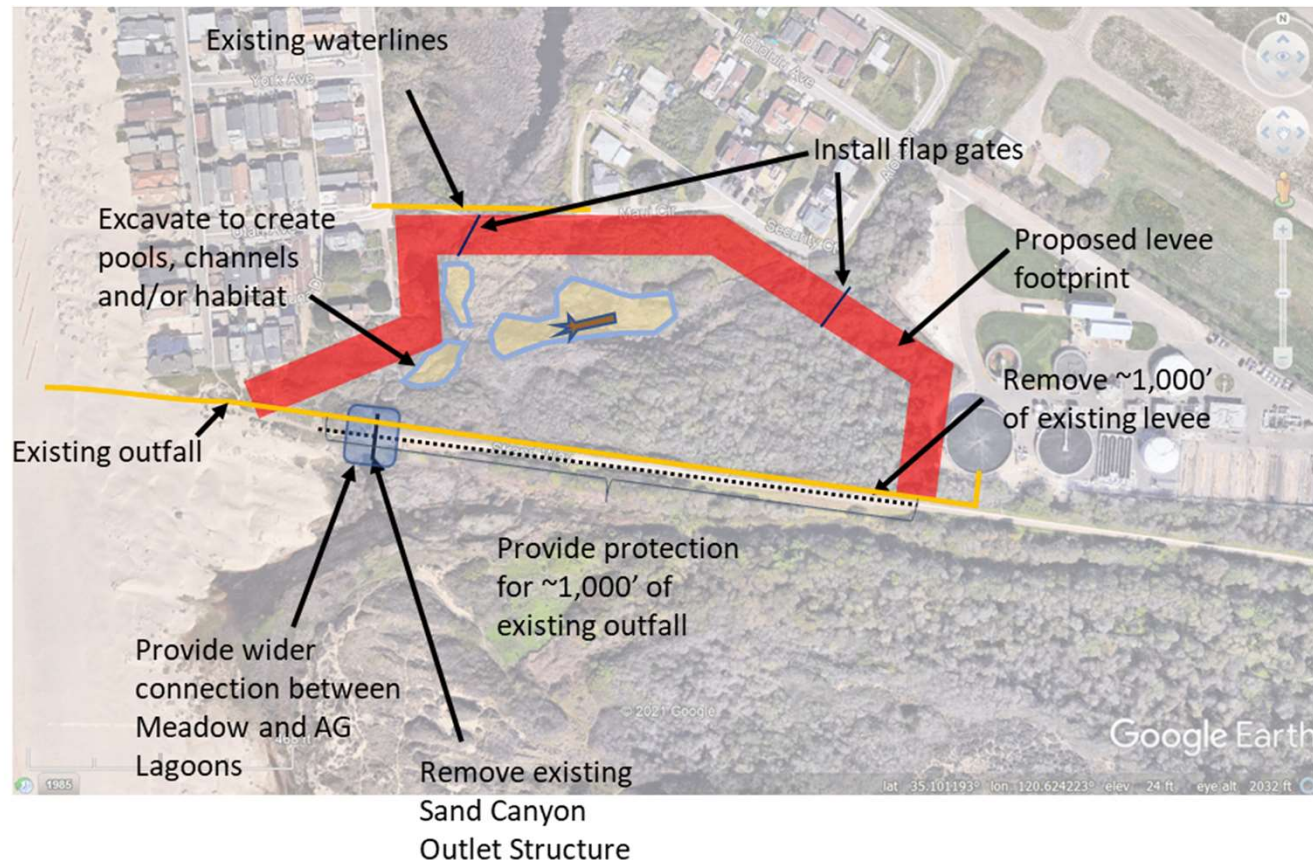


Alternatives

1. Levee removal
2. Levee removal/setback with relocation or protection of Sanitation District Outfall
3. Modify/improve Sand Canyon Flap Gate and enhance habitat in MCL
4. Improve habitat in Arroyo Grande Lagoon
5. Modify/improve Sand Canyon Flap Gate and improve connectivity between MCL and Upper MCL



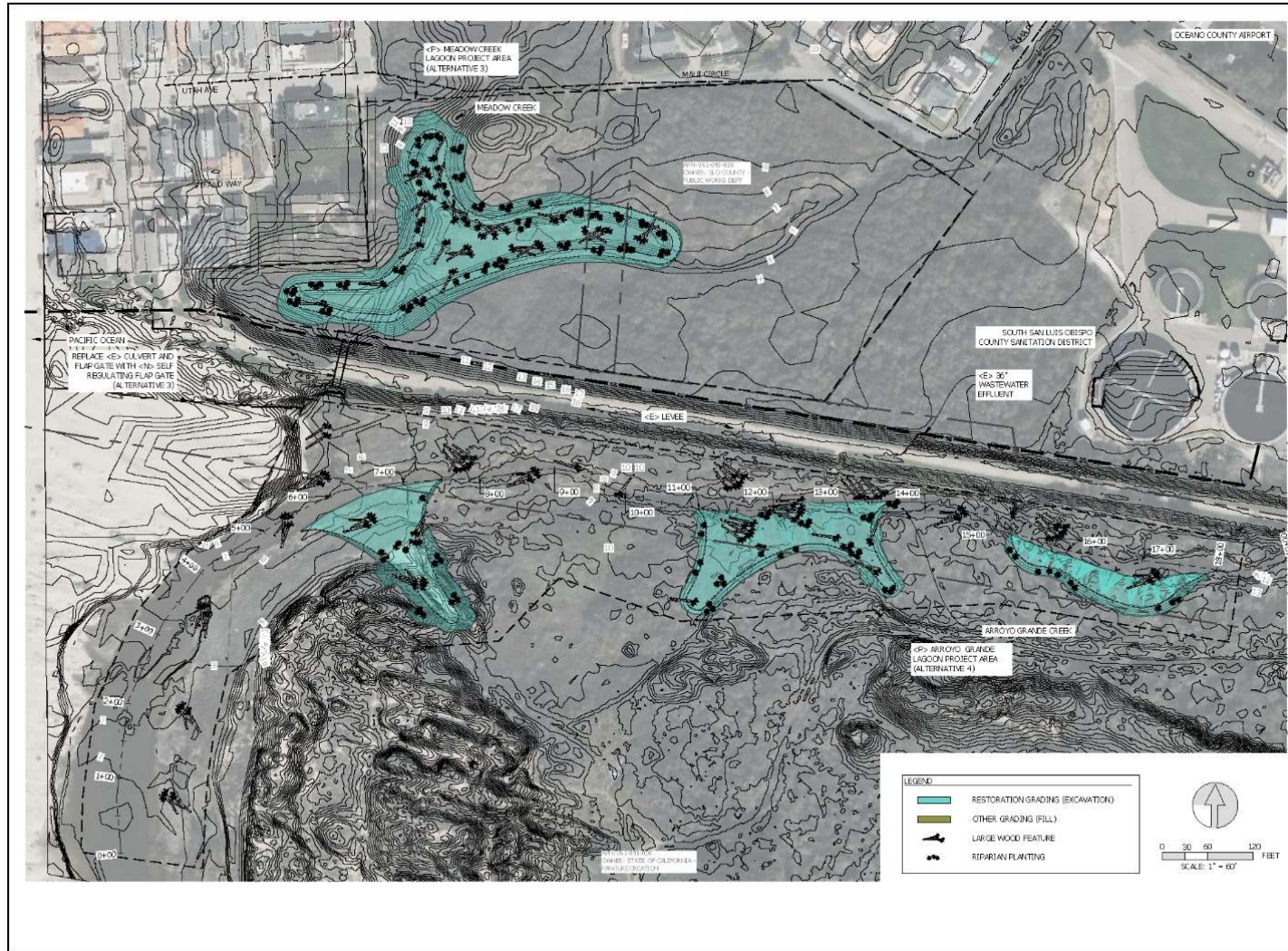
Alternatives 1 and 2 - Levee removal, setback



- *Determined unfeasible due to conflicts with existing Sanitation District Outfall and upstream flooding effects.*



Alternatives 3 and 4 - Enhance habitat in Lower MCL or AGL



Alternative 5 - Improve connection between Lower MCL and Upper MCL



- Will be evaluated for ecological benefits but will not be modeled due to conflicts with warm-water habitat conditions in Upper MCL



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Next Steps

Milestone	Approximate Date
Complete modeling (Alts. 3, 4) and ecological evaluations (Alts. 3, 4, 5)	Summer 2023
Zone 1/1A presentation of findings and opportunity for input	September 2023
Selection of Preferred Alternative	Fall 2023
30% Design Plans of Preferred Alternative	Winter 2023-2024
CEQA evaluation	2024
Permits	2025
Funding and Construction	2025+



Thank you!

For more information, please visit the Zone 1/1A Arroyo Grande Creek Channel Website.

Questions or Comments?

