FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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ReWild Coalition to Hold Press Conference: City Council To Vote on Restoring Wetlands In Mission Bay

ReWild Rally and Press Conference

Date: Tuesday, 11/17/22
Time: 1pm to 1:30pm
Location: Civic Center Plaza
Speakers:

Mayor Todd Gloria
Council President Joe LaCava
Brice Muñoz, City College Bird Alliance Club
Ali Linton: Community Connections Coordinator for Renascence Inc.
Dr. Marcus Gerber: San Diego Physicians for Clean Air
Andrew Meyer, Director of Conservation at San Diego Bird Alliance

SAN DIEGO - On Tuesday, November 17th, the ReWild Coalition, representing over 100 organizations, and key stakeholders will host a rally and press conference in Civic Center Plaza to request City Council vote in favor of the De Anza Natural wetland restoration plan, and get busy enacting it.

The vote will complete the approval process that began with the City's adoption of the plan two years ago and continued with the Coastal Commission's unanimous vote this August. De Anza Natural is that rare bright spot in our action against the climate crisis--a carbon-fighting chance to reconnect upland, tidal marsh, mudflat, and eelgrass habitats in a highly urbanized area while improving public access and recreation.

Approval of the De Anza Natural Plan will make wetland restoration in northeast Mission Bay a binding commitment. And for the first time, the City and the ReWild Coalition are moving forward together on a shared roadmap to get it built.

Approval of the final plan:

- Identifies wetland creation and restoration as a major component of De Anza Natural, with binding provisions.
- Commits to restoring and preserving over 260 acres of wetland and upland habitat, even if future studies identify conflicts with other proposed land uses.
- Requires marsh migration onto the proposed island and adaptable facilities as sea levels rise through 2100.
- Ensures improved public access to the northeast corner of the Bay, for all San Diegans including Kumeyaay Native Americans, and adds recreation opportunities that do not currently exist in Mission Bay.

"Restoring Mission Bay's wetlands is an investment in San Diego's environmental future," said **Mayor Todd Gloria.** "The De Anza Natural Plan will protect and restore more than 260 acres of critical habitat, strengthen our coastline against rising sea levels, and create new opportunities for San Diegans to enjoy this treasured public space. I'm proud that my administration has worked alongside environmental advocates and community partners to move this vision forward. Together, we're turning years of planning into a clear path toward a healthier, more resilient Mission Bay for generations to come."

"From initial advocacy to the adoption of the De Anza Natural Plan, I have valued the close partnership with the ReWild Coalition. Together we have achieved what many thought not possible--restoring a portion of the former wetlands in Mission Bay," said **Council President Joe LaCava**. "Now, with this plan in hand, I am committed to delivering a revitalized and resilient Mission Bay."

“For years, our coalition pushed to make restoration a promise the City had to keep. Now it is one, and we’re proud to be working alongside the City to keep it,” said **Andrew Meyer, San Diego Bird Alliance Director of Conservation**. “Our roadmap shows exactly how we get to a living marsh--next is funding the final plans, and we’re ready to help make that happen.”

Mission Bay’s wetlands provide critical habitat for birds and other wildlife, including the endangered Ridgway’s Rail. They also improve water quality, store carbon, and help the shoreline adapt to sea level rise.

The ReWild Coalition will keep advocating for the funding to start this work, including through the Mission Bay Park Improvement Fund and state grant programs.

To every organization and community member who signed a letter, submitted comments, attended meetings, spoke at a hearing, or shared our message: thank you. This plan belongs to all of us.

Today, we celebrate a final plan for Mission Bay. Tomorrow, we start restoring the marsh.

For more on ReWild Mission Bay, please contact Andrew Meyer at the San Diego Bird Alliance,
ameyer@sandiegobirdalliance.org , or go to http://rewildmissionbay.org.
For more on the San Diego Bird Alliance, please visit http://sandiegobirdalliance.org.