



For Immediate Release

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Environment Committee, Councilmember LaCava Paves Path for Major Peñasquitos Lagoon Restoration Project, Alleviating Regional Flooding and Preserving Threatened Habitat

San Diego — Today, the Environment Committee voted to advanced important elements in the implementation of the Los Peñasquitos Lagoon Restoration Project. This restoration includes wetland and habitat creation, water quality mitigation, and eliminates flooding in the biotech hub in Sorrento Valley.

“While a lot of work still lies ahead, we look forward for construction to start mid-2022,” said Councilmember Joe LaCava. “The leadership of the Mayor, many Transportation & Storm Water staff members, state & federal agencies, and the Los Peñasquitos Lagoon Foundation make this important project possible.”

The restoration project will occur in two phases. Phase 1 of the project will restore at least 23 acres of salt marsh and is estimated to complete construction in Fiscal Year 2027. Phase 2 of the project will restore the remaining required acres by 2035.

Comprehensive in nature, the Lagoon Restoration Project will provide various improvements to the region including:

- Wetland function restoration;
- Ecological preservation;
- Increased regional climate resiliency;
- Water quality mitigation;
- Improved management of vector-borne illnesses transmission; and
- Vital flood relief to the Sorrento Valley area.

“The Los Peñasquitos Lagoon Foundation has assembled a team of leading experts in the fields of salt marsh restoration, lagoon hydrology, coastal processes and wetland ecology that also possess decades of experience working in Los Peñasquitos Lagoon to help guide design, permitting, and implementation of this phased, large-scale restoration project,” said Mike Hastings, the executive director of the Los Peñasquitos Lagoon Foundation. “The Lagoon Foundation looks forward to partnering with the City of San Diego and other Responsible Parties identified in the Lagoon TMDL, California State Parks and other key stakeholders to make this project a reality with Phase 1 being a critical first step.”

Councilmember Joe LaCava represents San Diego City Council District 1, which includes the communities of Carmel Valley, Del Mar Heights, Del Mar Mesa, La Jolla, Pacific Highlands Ranch, Torrey Hills, Torrey Pines, and University City.

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