

## MISSION LAGOON & LAGUNA CHANNEL RESTORATION PROJECT

### PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The following objectives must be achieved by the final Project design:

1. Maintain or Improve Flood Protection – The Laguna Channel Pump Station and Tide Gates serve as the primary flood protection facility for a significant portion of the city. Any proposed improvements must maintain or increase flood protection provided by the existing system. If technically feasible, an improvement in the design and function of the tide gate, pump systems, and channel walls is desired.
2. Improve Water Quality – Water quality monitoring conducted by Creeks Division staff in the Laguna Channel has identified contamination by human fecal matter. In addition, the Mission Creek Lagoon suffers from algal blooms and low dissolved oxygen during certain times of the year. The project design must incorporate state-of-the-art methods for improving water quality in the Laguna Channel and Mission Creek Lagoon before it reaches the Pacific Ocean. An ultraviolet light treatment unit is tentatively proposed for decontaminating dry season urban runoff in the Laguna Channel.
3. Protect Surrounding Infrastructure – The project area includes public infrastructure that must be protected from high creek flows, ocean waves, storm damage, vandalism, and other potentially damaging actions. Important public amenities include Stearns Wharf, Cabrillo Beachway (multi-modal path), Skater’s Point, a parking lot, multiple buildings, and utility lines. The flood control structures at Laguna Channel and the Harbor dredging equipment are also important public facilities that must be considered in the design process.
4. Improve Native Plant and Wildlife Habitat – The project site includes wetland, beach, riparian, and dune habitats that currently support several endangered species and other wildlife. The project design must improve these habitats to better support native plants and wildlife, including the tidewater goby and southern steelhead.
5. Maintain and Support Existing Uses – The Santa Barbara Waterfront is a popular destination that supports multiple activities and stakeholders. The project design should enhance these activities by providing a safe, enjoyable, and visually pleasing experience for residents and visitors. Project elements may include interpretive signage, viewing platforms near the dunes and lagoon, and a functional site plan to preserve views and existing access.
6. Improve Aesthetics – The Project must improve the existing aesthetics of the area, particularly the Laguna Channel and associated infrastructure. A master landscape plan should be developed to comprehensively improve the aesthetics and public interpretation of the Project area.

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7. Ensure Public Safety – The Project design must provide for the safety of visitors to the site, as well as the safety of maintenance personnel and operators of the Laguna Channel Pump Station.
  
8. Ensure Consistency with Existing Projects, Plans, Permits, Laws, and Policies – The Project must be consistent with existing Federal, State, and local permits, laws, policies, management plans, and other projects. These include, among others, the Tidewater Goby Management Plan, the City’s General Plan and Local Coastal Plan, the Endangered Species Act, the Lower Mission Creek Flood Control Project, the Waterfront Sediment Management Plan, and the Cabrillo Bridge Replacement Project.