



City of Imperial Beach, California

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

825 Imperial Beach Blvd., Imperial Beach, CA 91932 Tel: (619) 628-1356 Fax: (619) 424-4093

**NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT
AND PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING
FOR THE
BAYSIDE COMMUNITY RESILIENCY: THE LIVING LEVEE PROJECT
(USE-24-0057 and EIA-24-0001)**

Public Scoping Period: January 24, 2025 to February 24, 2025 until 5 P.M.

Public Scoping Meeting (Virtual): February 13, 2025 at 6 P.M.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Imperial Beach (City), as the Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), is commencing the preparation of an environmental impact report (EIR) for the proposed project identified below. The City invites comments regarding the scope of the environmental analysis during the 30-day scoping period, specifically those that identify environmental concerns, potential mitigation measures, and alternatives to the proposed project. All scoping comments must be submitted to the City by 5:00 P.M. on February 24, 2025. Further information is provided within this notice.

PROJECT NAME: Bayside Community Resiliency (BCR): The Living Levee Project (Formerly known as the Bayshore Bikeway Resiliency Project [BBRP]) (USE-24-0057 and EIA-24-0001)

APPLICANT(S): City of Imperial Beach (City)

Location: The Project site, encompassing 14 acres, is primarily located within the City's Bayside neighborhood and the southwestern section of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (Service's) San Diego National Wildlife Refuge Complex. It is delineated by San Diego Bay to the north, State Route (SR) 75 to the west, the City to the south, and 13th Street to the east. On a regional scale, the Project site lies approximately one mile west of Interstate (I) 5, directly east of SR-75 within the City of Coronado and the City, and about 4 miles north of the United States/Mexico international border. Figure 1 provides the location details.

DESCRIPTION: The City and Service propose to prepare a joint draft environmental impact statement/environmental impact report in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and CEQA. The purpose is to evaluate the environmental impacts related

to repurposing a 1.2-mile segment of the Bayshore Bikeway corridor and adjacent pathways into a multi-benefit coastal resilience corridor. This corridor runs through the southwestern portion of the San Diego Bay National Wildlife Refuge and the adjacent Bayside neighborhood of the City of Imperial Beach. The total site area is approximately 14 acres, as shown in Figure 2. The objectives of the coastal resilience corridor include: a) improving flood protection for the adjacent community by converting the existing circulation corridor into a nature-based coastal flood resilience system; b) providing safe land-based public access along San Diego Bay; and c) strengthening ecosystem resilience by providing transitional habitat areas along the Bay's edge. The project site encompasses jurisdictional areas managed by, leased to, or with an easement or encroachment permit within the City of Imperial Beach; City of Coronado; City of San Diego; San Diego Unified Port District; Service's San Diego Bay National Wildlife Refuge; Department of Defense, U.S. Navy; South Bay Unified School District; and San Diego Metropolitan Transit System properties in San Diego County, California. The City is issuing this notice to open a public scoping period in accordance with the requirements of CEQA Guidelines Section 15082. The City welcomes comments from the public and local, State, Tribal, and Federal agencies.

PROBABLE ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS AS A RESULT OF THE PROJECT: Based on the initial evaluation of the Proposed Action Alternative, the following impacts are anticipated: short-term disturbances to habitat conditions for listed and sensitive species (Biological Resources); temporary loss of wetlands due to the discharge of dredged or fill material into U.S. waters (Biological Resources); construction-related impacts, including temporary increases in dust and other air pollutants from the use of fossil fuels in construction machinery and vehicles (Air Quality), noise and vibration from construction activities (Noise), and temporary adverse effects on water quality associated with grading and earthwork within existing wetlands and shallow water areas (Hydrology/Water Quality); temporary modifications to current public access (Land Use and Planning); and potential impacts on cultural resources (Cultural Resources). In terms of operational and long-term benefits, the project is expected to improve resiliency to future sea level rise, increase capacity for managing current and future stormwater flooding, reduce scour and erosional effects, and enhance wetland and upland habitats.

SCOPING PERIOD: The City has set a 30-day scoping period from January 24, 2024, to February 24, 2025. The NOP is available on the City's website at www.imperialbeachca.gov under "Public Notices" in the "Departments" menu. Comments should address the environmental analysis scope, significant issues, alternatives, and mitigation measures for the draft EIR. Agencies should specify if they are responsible or trustee agencies for the project.

Written comments must be received by 5:00 p.m. on February 24, 2025. Email comments to mopenshaw@imperialbeachca.gov with "BCR Scoping Comments" in the subject line. Responses sent via postal mail should be sent to:

Meagan Openshaw, Community Development Director
Community Development Department
City of Imperial Beach
825 Imperial Beach Boulevard
Imperial Beach, California 91932

Scoping Meeting Invitation: A public scoping meeting will be conducted virtually on **February 13, 2025, at 6:00 P.M.** To attend the virtual scoping meeting, please send an email request to Meagan Openshaw at mopenshaw@imperialbeachca.gov to receive a participation link.

FURTHER INFORMATION: For project or environmental review information, please contact Meagan Openshaw at the City of Imperial Beach at (619) 628-2381 or mopenshaw@imperialbeachca.gov.



Meagan Openshaw
Community Development Director
Community Development Department
City of Imperial Beach

January 24, 2025
Date of Notice

File: **USE-24-0057**

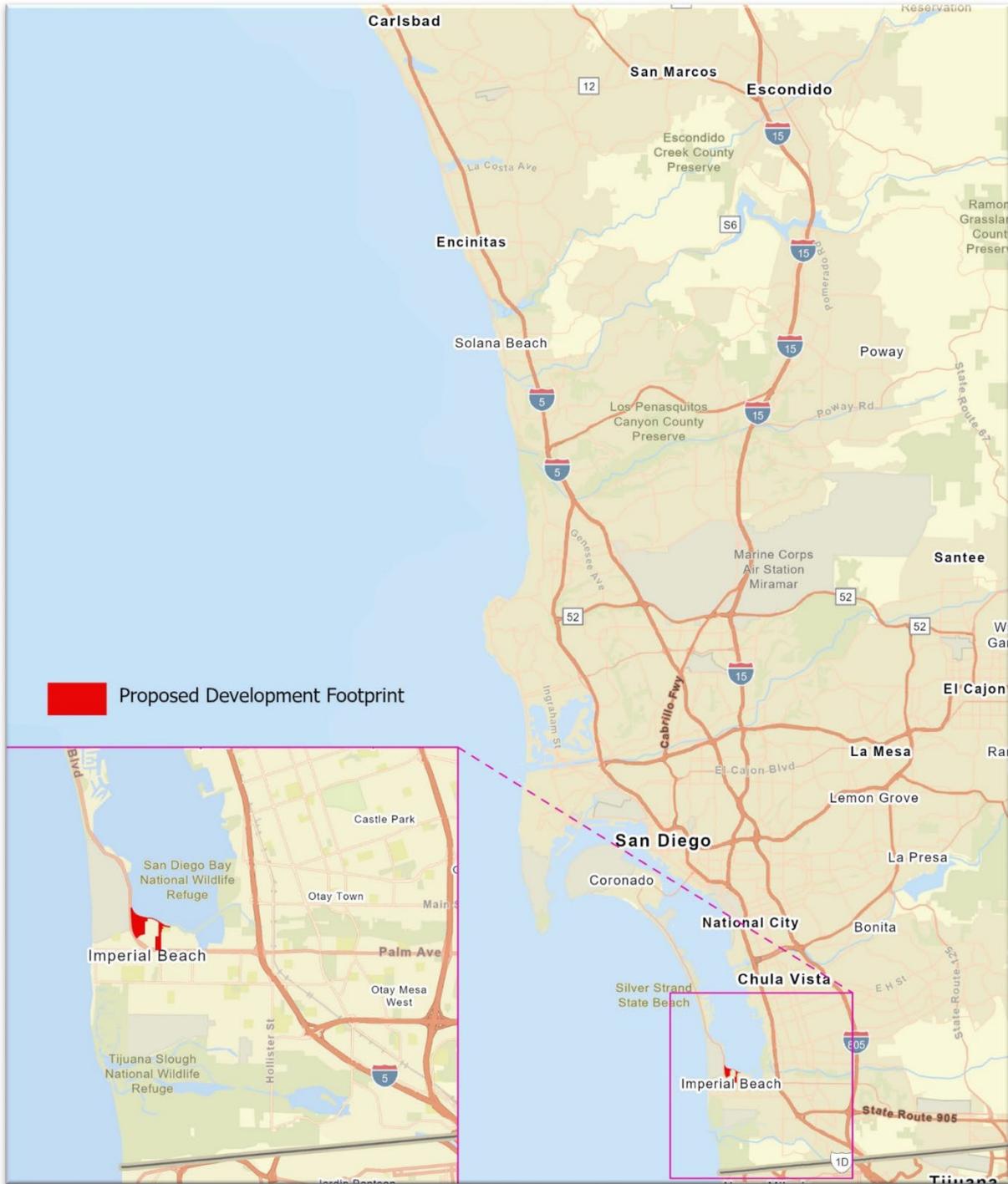


Figure 1: Project Location



Figure 2: Project Site