

## **Note from Batiquitos Lagoon Foundation**

With the support of California's Ocean Protection Council, the Batiquitos Lagoon Foundation (BLF) and Wildcoast are working to restore 33.6 acres of riparian habitat around Batiquitos Lagoon. The three-year project will improve the functionality of the lagoon as critical habitat for an abundance of wildlife and as a "carbon sink" – a resource that absorbs more atmospheric carbon than it produces. The BLF will be working with Wildcoast, The Nature Collective, members of the local community, and others to remove invasive plants, revegetate riparian areas with native species, maintain trail systems, provide community outreach and stewardship opportunities, and enhance interpretive education around the lagoon.

Restoration activities will begin shortly at three primary sites adjacent to Batiquitos Lagoon - the area of tall trees and dense vegetation frequented by migratory birds known as the "rookery", the trail system and sand dunes northeast of the lagoon known as E2, and the Cholla Point overlook (see map). The work will include the removal of some trees and the use of heavy equipment that could cause temporary disruptions along the eastern segment of the trail. The BLF is working hard to avoid temporarily closing any portion of the trail, but there may be times when it's necessary to keep everyone safe.

The multi-site restoration of these sites will directly benefit the Batiquitos Lagoon No-Take State Marine Conservation Area (SMCA), which makes up 324 acres of some of the most valuable wetland habitat remaining in Southern California. Batiquitos Lagoon SMCA is one of 11 marine protected areas (MPAs) in San Diego County and 124 MPAs in the state of California. California's marine protected area network was established in 2012 to recover fisheries, restore ecosystem health and enhance the recreational value for some of California's most iconic coastal areas.

**Please see below to view the map of BLF OPC Project Sites.**

**For more information and volunteer opportunities please visit [www.batiquitoslagoon.org](http://www.batiquitoslagoon.org) or [wildcoast.org](http://wildcoast.org).**