“A vision without a plan is a hallucination”: Management recommendations to implement the Regional Strategy

Restore America’s Estuaries
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Objective:
1. Restore Wetland Area
2. Restore Wetland Size
3. Restore Wetland Archetype Distributions
4. Protect Habitat Diversity
5. Protect and Restore Uplands around Wetlands
6. Restore Hydrological Connectivity
7. Improve Condition of All Wetlands
Key Concepts

- Work with Nature
- Be Aspirational
- Restore Processes
- Think Regionally, Act Locally
Protect and Restore Wetland Abundance and Size

Protect what we have
- Maintain 8,600 acres of existing tidal wetlands

Restore wetlands for the future
- Facilitate the migration and restoration of 7,700 acres after 24 inches of sea-level rise
Increase wetland sizes in areas that will be available with sea-level rise and to reflect more closely historical distributions.
Protect and Restore a Diversity of Wetland Types and Habitats

Increase and maintain hydrological connectivity between historically connected systems.

Maintain and restore guided by the historical distribution of archetypes.
Protect and Restore a Diversity of Wetland Types and Habitats

Restore coastal wetland habitat composition including subtidal, flats, marshes, salt flats, uplands.
Protect and enhance connectivity with wetland-upland transition zones.

Maintain transition zones up to 1,600 feet wide for 40% of the wetland perimeter.
Historic Santa Ana River Mouth

Current fragments include Santa Ana River, Santa Ana River Wetlands and Huntington Beach Wetlands

Restore tidal characteristics, sediment, and freshwater flow.

Restore Wetland Connections
Improve Condition of All Wetlands

Increase the CRAM score for mature wetlands
Facilitate Wetland Migration

**Management Strategy 1:** Remove barriers that prevent wetlands from expanding or migrating.

**Management Strategy 2:** Protect, manage and acquire adjacent land within the wetland migration space.

**Management Strategy 3:** Grade areas adjacent to wetlands to increase opportunities for migration.

**Management Strategy 4:** Relocate or modify adjacent infrastructure or development.
Restore Cycles of Tidal Inundation

Management Strategy 7: Modify or remove structures to restore inundation regime.

Management Strategy 5: Reduce or remove development such as berms and roads.

Management Strategy 6: Allow tidal inlets to open and close naturally.
Reconnect Water and Sediment

Management Strategy 11: Remove barriers to release sediment held higher in the watershed.

Management Strategy 12: Manage flows in river channels to increase their capacity to move sediment from the watershed.

Management Strategy 13: Augment sediment processes to raise and maintain marsh elevation.
Actions need to start today

- 2020: RESTORE, ACQUIRE, PROTECT (Tipping point)
- 2030: Decision
- 2040: AUGMENT, RECONNECT (Lead time)
- 2050: Effective
- 2060: MIGRATE
- 2070: REALIGN
Thank you!