

Seal Beach Dune Protection and Restoration

Presented by: Surfrider's Northern Orange County Chapter



What We'll Cover Today

- Who we are and why we're here
- Why coastal dunes matter
- Project site and current conditions
- Project overview
- Questions and next steps



Surfrider Foundation

The Surfrider Foundation is dedicated to the protection and enjoyment of the world's ocean, waves, and beaches, for all people, through a powerful activist network.

 <p>Plastic Reduction Reducing the impact of plastics in the marine environments that surround us.</p>	 <p>Ocean Protection Defending our ocean from challenges threatening the vitality of the ecosystem.</p>	 <p>Beach Access Working with decision-makers to ensure full and fair beach access for all to enjoy.</p>	 <p>Coast & Climate Taking on issues that threaten our beaches and natural shorelines</p>	 <p>Clean Water Protecting the health and sustainability of our planet's most precious resource.</p>
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Climate Action Program

Unlocking the Power of Nature to Combat Climate Change

The Climate Action Program empowers and supports chapters and clubs to restore our coastlines and oceans, mitigating and adapting to climate change impacts and protecting coastal environments for all future generations through nature-based solutions.



Surfrider's North Orange County Chapter

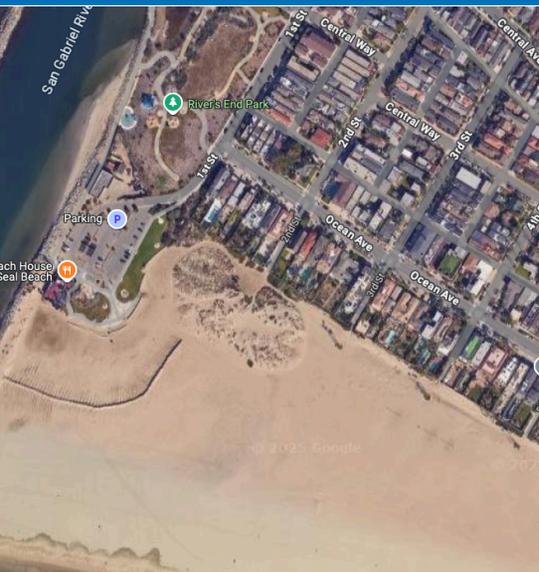


Surfrider's North Orange County Chapter

Beach Cleanups at the San Gabriel River Jetty
 3,900 lbs removed in 2025!



Native Plant Restoration at River's End Park



Vision for Seal Beach's Coastal Dunes

- Protect and restore approximately 2.3 acres of coastal dunes
- Engage the local community through hands-on volunteer restoration days
- Strengthen Seal Beach's natural coastal resilience and native biodiversity



Why Protect and Restore Coastal Dunes



Coastal Protection: Healthy dunes act as natural barriers against storm surge and erosion, protecting the coast and infrastructure.



Biodiversity: Healthy dunes play a critical role in supporting native wildlife, such as birds and plant species, and improving local ecosystems.



Cost-Effective Coastal Defense: Nature-based solutions like dune restoration can reduce long-term costs for coastal defense compared to man-made infrastructure.



Community Engagement: Engaging local residents through educational volunteer opportunities fosters community stewardship of the environment.





Current Conditions

Key pressures on this remnant habitat

- **Trampling:** Unmanaged foot traffic damages vegetation and dune structure.
- **E-bikes & Vehicles:** Unmanaged access causes erosion and habitat loss.
- **Invasive Species:** Outcompete natives and reduces biodiversity.
- **No Protection:** Lack protection measures leaves dunes exposed.



Current Conditions



Transforming Challenges into Solutions



Dune Protection

- Symbolic fencing
- Designated walking areas

Dune Restoration

- Invasive species removal
- Native plant installation/seeding

Ongoing Stewardship

- Regular maintenance restoration days as needed



A Community-Led Initiative for Coastal Resilience



Leadership: North OC Surfrider Chapter

Responsibilities: The Chapter will fund, plan, implement, and maintain the restoration project, coordinating restoration planning, monthly volunteer events, and permitting with Surfrider staff support.

Funding: The Chapter will cover project costs including materials, tools, and technical support through grants and donations. Local residents have also expressed interest in contributing.

Community Engagement: Ongoing collaboration with residents, partners, and stakeholders to shape and sustain the project.

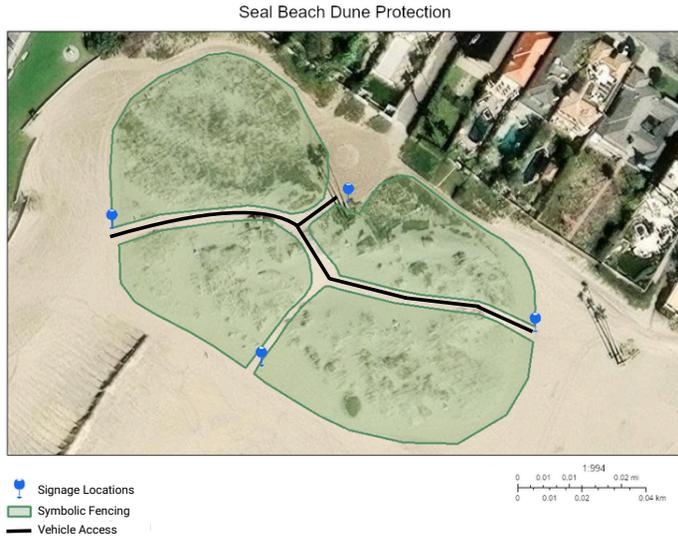
City Support: The City will be fully informed throughout the process and will approve any elements they want to review, such as project plans and event dates with potential support such as providing dumpsters for invasive species removal events, parking passes for volunteer events if needed



Protect Seal Beach Dunes

Timeline: Present through Summer 2026 (pending permit approval timeline)

- A. Secure Permits
- B. Secure Funding
- C. Organize Implementation
- D. Community Engagement



Restore Seal Beach Dunes

Timeline: Present through December 2027 (pending permit approval timeline and funding)

- A. Develop Restoration Plan
- B. Secure Permits
- C. Community Engagement
- D. Implement Restoration Plan through Regular Surfrider Led Volunteer Days



Ongoing Stewardship Days

Timeline: January 2028 +

- A. Annual Site Assessment
- B. Stewardship Days Hosted as Identified in Assessment
- C. Revisit Assessment Frequency
- D. Community Engagement



Where We Are Today

- ✓ Walked the site with City staff and community members to map vehicle and public access routes
- ✓ Identified fencing layout to reduce disturbance and preserve key access points
- ✓ Preliminary assessment of present vegetation and photographed site conditions
- ✓ Building community interest and engaged volunteers ready to help
- ✓ Going through permit application process, fundraising, and grant writing.



Community Impact & Inclusion

- Improves safety and public access
- Educates and engages community through hands-on restoration events
- Builds community pride through volunteer stewardship opportunities
- Connects inland and underserved communities across the watershed
- Protects infrastructure with low-cost, nature-based shoreline defense
- Demonstrates local climate leadership and supports eco-tourism



Thank you!

