Zedler Marsh Enhancement Project

Organization: Los Cerritos Wetlands Land Trust
Project Period: August 2019 – October 2022
Amount: $96,965
Location: Los Cerritos Wetlands, Long Beach

Project Description: The Los Cerritos Wetlands Land Trust and subcontractor Tidal Influences will improve and enhance the coastal salt marsh ecosystem at Zedler Marsh of the Los Cerritos Wetlands through planting of native vegetation and removal of nonnative plant material. This enhancement project will improve the upper marsh and mulefat scrub habitat quality and could improve breeding habitat for 2 special status bird species, the Belding's Savanah Sparrow and the Least Bell's Vireo, both of which use Zedler Marsh as breeding and nesting habitat. These efforts will be achieved through the involvement of community-based restoration programs, these events will occur monthly on the 1st Saturdays of the month.

Project Progress: During 2021, a total of 6 community were conducted, engaging 124 volunteers, removing 500 pounds of trash and non-native vegetation, and installing 263 plants. Progress has been made in restoring 0.5 acres of coastal salt marsh. In 2021, they installed 978 salt marsh plants of various species. The irrigation dripline installed last year has proved useful as they have seen a general increase in native vegetation coverage compared to last year (7.08% increase). They conducted a total of 5 Belding's savannah sparrow surveys and observed a total of 9 breeding territories. Mulefat scrub habitat was maintained and managed through the care of plants installed during the last two seasons, as well as through soil amendments and removal of non-native vegetation. In 2021, they installed a total of 935 plants. In the past year, they documented a general increase in native vegetation coverage in both the coastal salt marsh and mulefat habitat at Zedler Marsh. They also conducted a total of 10 least Bell's vireo surveys and unfortunately did not observe even the lone individual that had been seen sporadically throughout the last few seasons.

Table 1: Percent coverages for mulefat scrub vegetation community

	Native Vegetation Percent Coverage	Non-native Vegetation Percent Coverage	Unvegetated Ground Percent Coverage
Nov. 20, 2020	49.23	0.39	50.38
Feb. 3, 2021	30.48	14.56	54.96
May 7, 2021	45.83	8.92	45.25
Aug. 13, 2021	50.82	1.95	47.23

Table 2: Percent coverages for salt marsh vegetation community

	Native Vegetation Percent Coverage	Non-native Vegetation Percent Coverage	Unvegetated Ground Percent Coverage
Nov. 20, 2020	60.63	0.0	39.37
Feb. 3, 2021	47.89	0.07	52.05
May 7, 2021	42.27	0.60	57.13
Aug. 13, 2021	52.88	0.00	47.12