

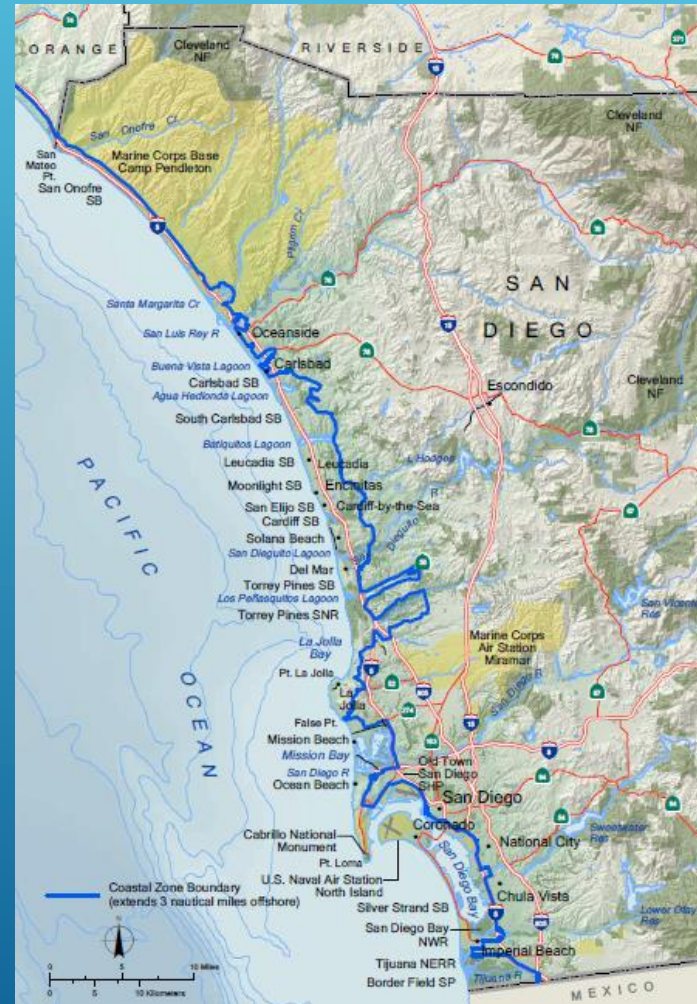
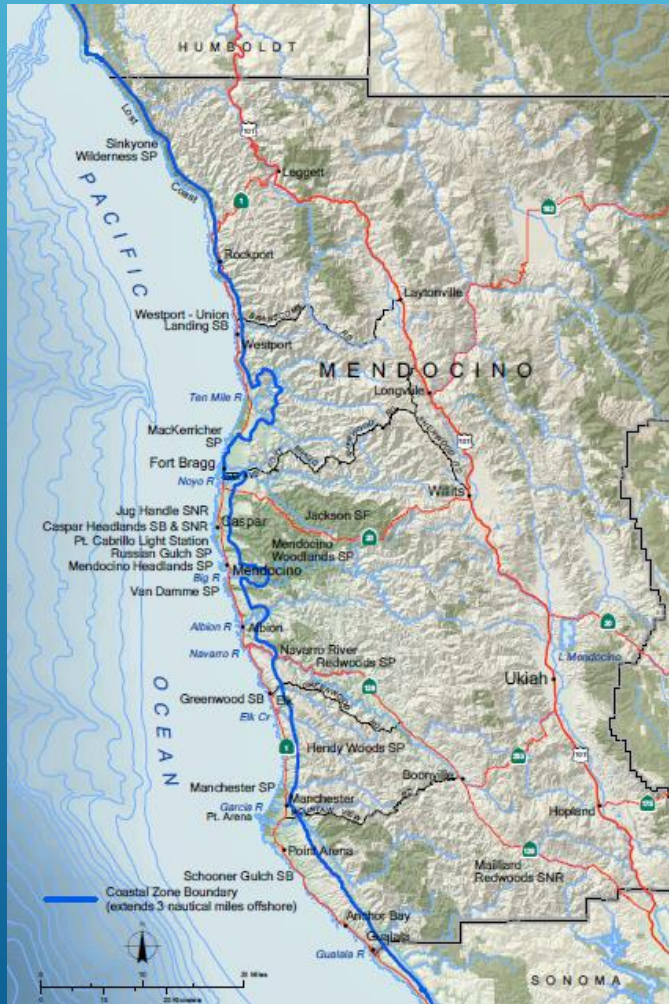
# TREATMENT OF SENSITIVE COMMUNITIES BY THE CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

Dr. Laurie Koteen, Senior Ecologist

December 7, 2021

A decorative graphic consisting of several parallel white lines of varying lengths, slanted diagonally from the bottom right towards the top right, set against a blue gradient background.

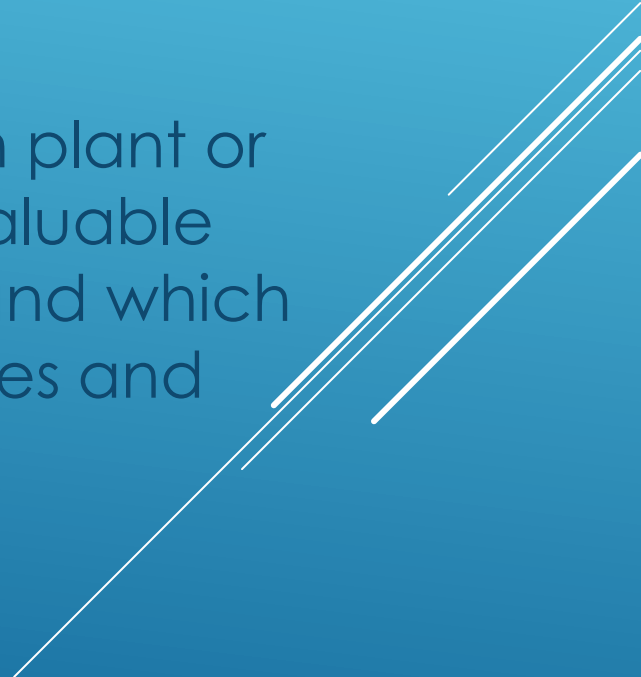
# CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION APPROACH TO PROTECTING SENSITIVE HABITATS AND SPECIES WITHIN THE COASTAL ZONE



Coastal Zone Boundary  
In Blue on County Maps

# COASTAL ACT POLICY 3017.5 DEFINITION OF WHAT CONSTITUTES AN ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE HABITAT AREA (ESHA)

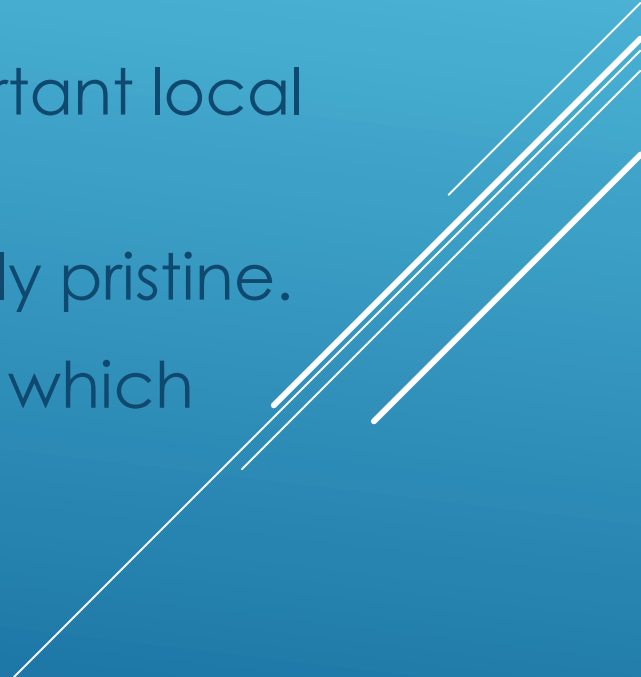
"Environmentally sensitive area" means any area in which plant or animal life or their habitats are either rare or especially valuable because of their special nature or role in an ecosystem and which could be easily disturbed or degraded by human activities and developments.

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# RARITY

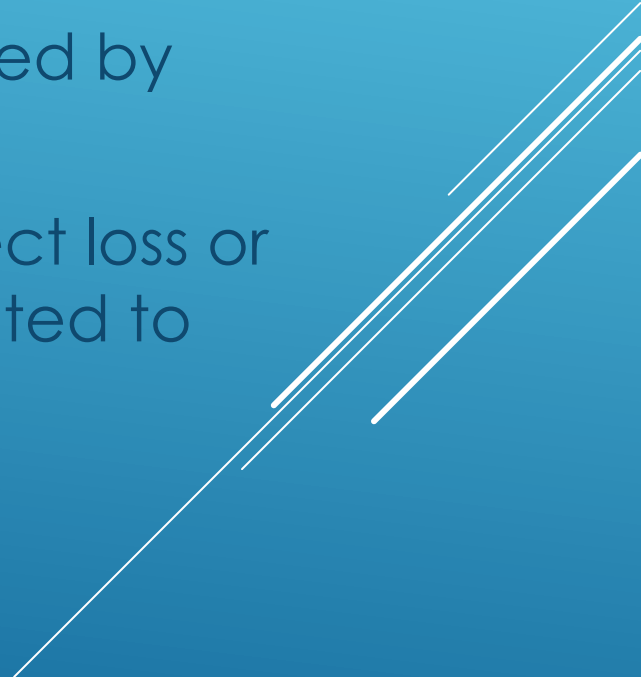
- Any plant or wildlife species listed as endangered or threatened by the federal government, including candidate species.
- Any plant or wildlife species listed as endangered or threatened by the state, including candidate species.
- Any CDFW wildlife species of special concern or fully protected species.
- Any plant species or habitat with a CDFW state ranking of S1- S3 or a global ranking of G1 – G3.
- Any plant species ranked by the California Native Plant Society as 1B or 2.

# ESPECIALLY VALUABLE BECAUSE OF THEIR SPECIAL NATURE OR ROLE IN AN ECOSYSTEM: EXAMPLES

- A community at the southernmost portion of its range with population-level genetic differences important for community adaptation to climate change.
  - An intensely-used riparian area that serves as an important local resource for wildlife.
  - A native grassland or other community that is especially pristine.
  - A corridor linking one sensitive habitat with another, or which enables migration as the climate changes.
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# EASILY DISTURBED OR DEGRADED BY HUMAN ACTIVITIES AND DEVELOPMENTS

- Rarity implies that a habitat is easily-degraded or disturbed.
  - Most areas of California have been significantly affected by urbanization and associated impacts.
  - Virtually all natural habitats are in grave danger of direct loss or significant degradation as a result of many factors related to anthropogenic changes.
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# COASTAL ACT POLICY 30240 SPECIFIES ALLOWABLE USES IN ESHA

- (a) Environmentally sensitive habitat areas shall be protected against any significant disruption of habitat values, and only uses dependent on those resources shall be allowed within those areas.
- (b) Development in areas adjacent to environmentally sensitive habitat areas and parks and recreation areas shall be sited and designed to prevent impacts which would significantly degrade those areas, and shall be compatible with the continuance of those habitat and recreation are

# CASE STUDY OF TREATMENT OF SENSITIVE COMMUNITIES: AVOIDANCE OF MUSSEL BED AT THE DR. FINE BRIDGE





# WESTERN PEARLSHELL MUSSEL, *MARGARITIFERA FALCATE*, UNDER THE DR. FINE BRIDGE



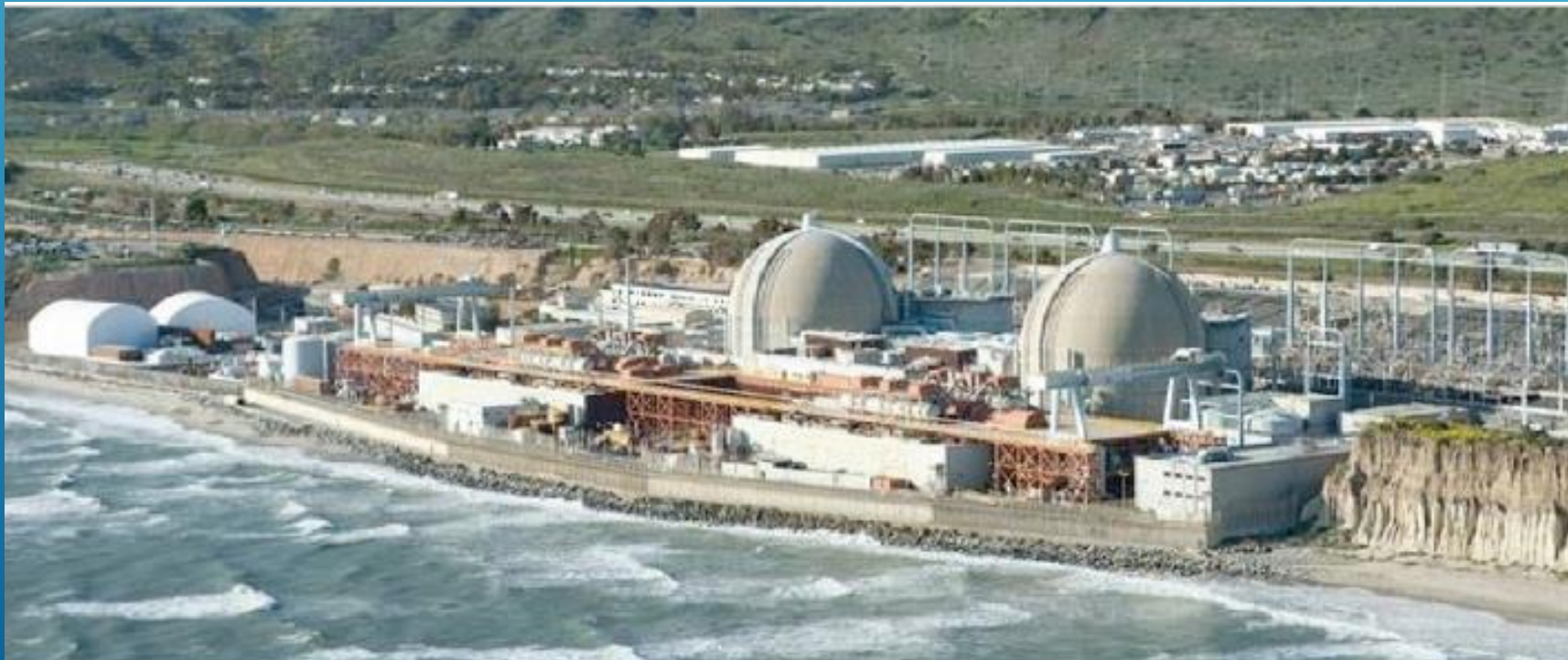
# WESTERN PEARLSHELL MUSSELBED UNDER THE DR. FINE BRIDGE



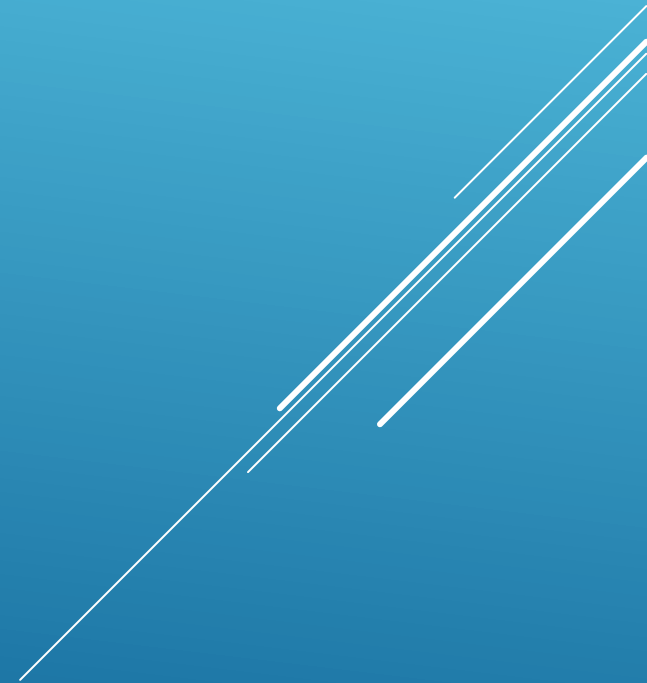


# EXAMPLES OF TREATMENT OF SENSITIVE COMMUNITIES: MITIGATION

San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station: Mitigation is for the intake of sea water for cooling of the nuclear reactor and discharge of hot water to the ocean, resulting in the ongoing loss of sea life.



# WETLAND MITIGATION





# ARTIFICIAL REEF MITIGATION

