

What is a California marine protected area (or “MPA”)?

An MPA is a type of managed area whose main purpose is to protect or conserve marine life and habitats in ocean or estuarine waters. California's MPA Network consists of 124 areas with varying levels of protection and 14 special closures, all designed to help safeguard the state's marine ecosystems. The ban on collecting and fishing in no-take marine conservation areas, such as Famosa Slough State Marine Conservation Area, provides very high levels of protection.

One goal for California's MPAs was to strategically place them near each other to form an interconnected network that would help to preserve the flow of life between marine ecosystems. Within that network each MPA has unique goals and regulations, and non-consumptive activities, permitted scientific research, monitoring, and educational pursuits may be allowed.

Why was this location chosen for a state marine conservation area?

One of the goals for Famosa Slough State Marine Conservation Area is to protect this unique, 37-acre urban wetland. Connected by a narrow channel to the San Diego River and influenced by salt water, the slough provides critical habitat for marine and estuarine fish, crustaceans, and plants. A wide variety of marine species use the slough, including topsmelt, longjaw mudsuckers, and striped shore crabs. Native salt marsh plants such as pickleweed thrive in the conservation area, and over 180 bird species visit over the course of a year. A significant stop on the Pacific Flyway, the slough is dominated by migrating waterfowl in the winter, such as brant geese and northern pintails. Pelicans, snowy egrets, and double-crested cormorants frequent the slough year-round. Placing a no-take state marine conservation area here provides very high levels of protection for marine species and the habitats they use.

Quick Facts: Famosa Slough State Marine Conservation Area

- **MPA size:** 0.03 square miles
- **Habitat composition:**
Estuary: 0.03 square miles



Non-Consumptive Activities

No Fishing

No Collecting

Further Information:

- MPA Website: www.wildlife.ca.gov/MPAs
- MPA and Sportfishing Interactive Map: www.wildlife.ca.gov/OceanSportfishMap
- Email: AskMarine@wildlife.ca.gov

Photos - Upper: Famosa Slough State Marine Conservation Area, photo © kellygrrr CC BY 2.0.
Lower right: Mexican fiddler crab in the conservation area, photo © upspurdog CC BY NC 2.0.
Lower left: Snowy egret eating a fish in the conservation area, photo © Patricia Simpson CC BY NC 2.0



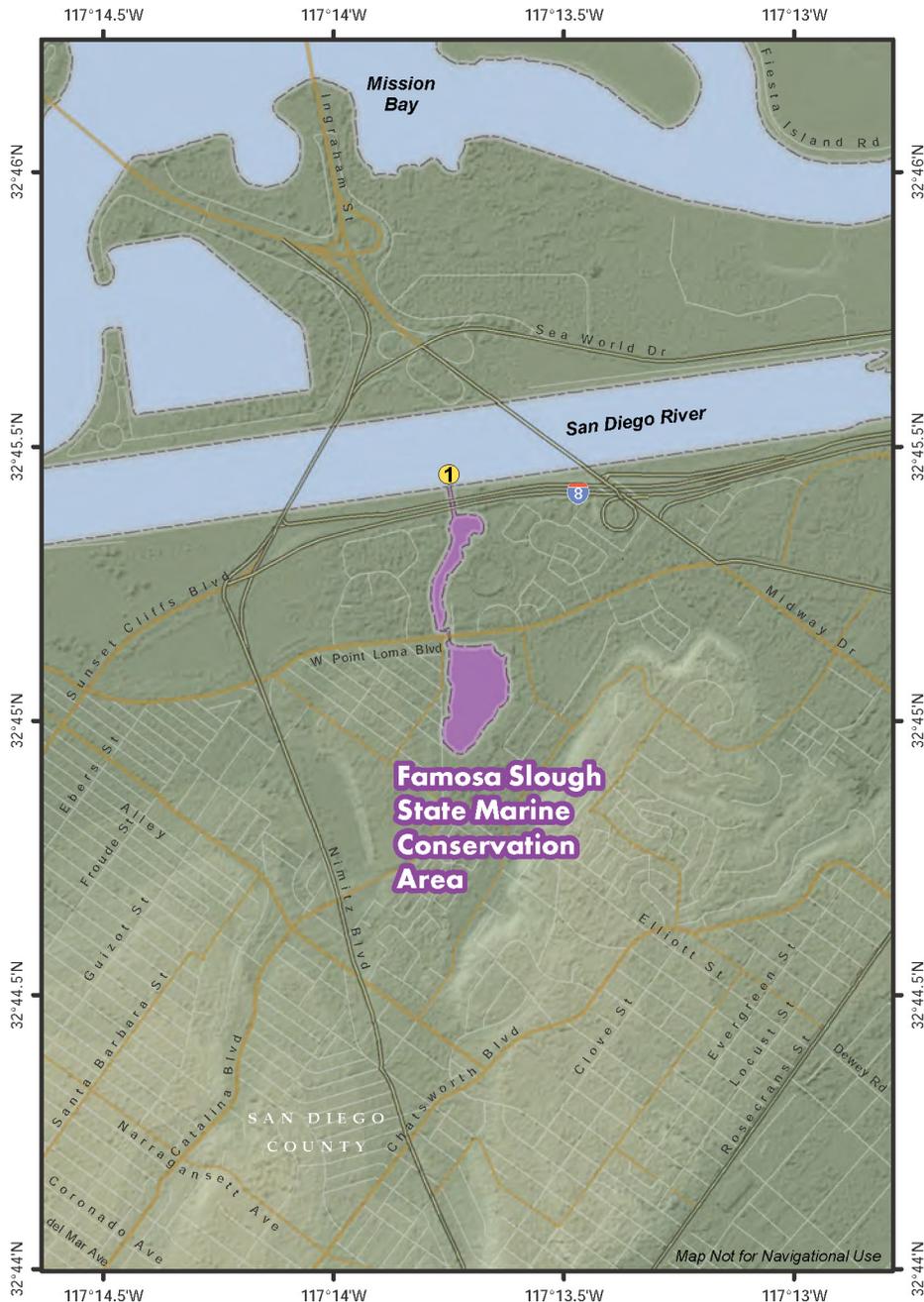
Report poachers and polluters
Call Caltip: 1 (888) 334-2258

or text 847411 - begin message with "Caltip"
followed by the details.



Famosa Slough State Marine Conservation Area

Southern California - San Diego County



Version 1, April 2021

Famosa Slough State Marine Conservation Area Boundary and Regulations from California Code of Regulations Title 14, Section 632

Boundary:

This area includes the waters below the mean high tide line within Famosa Slough estuary southward of the San Diego River channel, located at approximately 32° 45.430' N. lat. 117° 13.750' W. long. ①

Permitted/Prohibited Uses:

1. It is unlawful to injure, damage, take, or possess any living, geological, or cultural marine resource for commercial and/or recreational purposes, with the following specified exceptions:
 - a. Take pursuant to habitat restoration, maintenance dredging and operation and maintenance of artificial structures is allowed inside the conservation area pursuant to any required federal, state and local permits, or as otherwise authorized by the Department.