

SIGNIFICANT ECOLOGICAL AREA ALAMITOS BAY

Resource Description: This area is one of two remaining examples of salt marsh found in Los Angeles County, and the last remnant of the extensive salt marshes once found in Los Alamitos Bay. The majority of this vegetation type has been lost to urbanization, flood control projects, harbors, and marinas. It is one of the most productive types of ecological communities that exists and is extremely important as a breeding ground for both terrestrial and marine organisms, including the majority of commercial fish. This is due in part to the fact that estuaries and salt marshes are the interface between the terrestrial and marine worlds, and are important nutrient cycling centers for marine ecosystems. It is probable that the Belding's savannah sparrow occurs here. This species is restricted to salt marsh habitat, and has been placed on the state endangered species list. This type of habitat is also important as a wintering ground for migratory birds.