

## INTRODUCTION

From the late 1940s to the early 1970s, millions of pounds of DDTs and PCBs were discharged from industrial sources through a wastewater outfall into the ocean at White Point, near Los Angeles. These discharges resulted in widespread impacts on the natural and human environment. The contaminants, chemical mixtures banned in the United States today but manufactured in the past for pesticides and industrial purposes, contributed to severe declines in the populations of several species of birds, including the extirpation of bald eagles and peregrine falcons from the Channel Islands. The high levels of DDTs and PCBs in certain species of fish also led the State of California to issue consumption advisories, impose bag limits, and enact a commercial catch ban on certain types of fish. Although the releases were largely brought under control in the 1970s, these chemicals still contaminate the marine environment (sediments, water, and biota) of the Southern California Bight (SCB) (Figure ES-1).

In 1990, the federal government and the State of California initiated legal action against the Montrose Chemical Corporation (Montrose) and the other polluters responsible for the discharges of DDTs and PCBs.<sup>1</sup> In December 2000 the final settlement was signed, ending ten years of litigation. Under the terms of four separate settlement agreements, Montrose and the other defendants agreed to pay \$140.2 million plus interest to the federal and state governments. Of this amount, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) received \$66.25 million, the Natural Resource Trustees for the Montrose case (Trustees)<sup>2</sup> received \$63.95 million, and \$10 million of “swing money” was earmarked for EPA response actions, though the swing money may instead go to natural resource restoration, depending on the outcome of the EPA’s ongoing remedial investigation.

### **Facts About DDTs and PCBs**

#### ***DDT (Dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane)***

- DDTs include DDT and breakdown products (such as DDD, DDE, DDMU)
- Used in pesticides (insecticide)
- Manufactured at the Montrose chemical plant, Torrance, CA (1947–1982)
- DDT use banned in the U.S. (1972)

#### ***PCB (Polychlorinated biphenyl)***

- PCBs are a group of 209 related chemicals
- Used for electrical transformer cooling fluids, hydraulic fluid in the paper industry, antifouling paints, manufacturing processes (electrical, glass)
- Widely used in industry
- Banned from manufacturing (1977)

#### ***Sources of DDTs and PCBs to ocean:***

- Discharge through Joint Water Pollution Control Plant (JWPCP) ocean outfalls
- Ocean dumping of wastes
- Runoff and storm drain discharge
- Aerial transport

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<sup>1</sup> The other defendants were Aventis CropScience USA, Inc. (formerly Rhone-Poulenc, Inc., and corporate successor to Stauffer Chemical Company); Chris-Craft Industries, Inc.; Atkemix Thirty-Seven, Inc.; CBS Corporation (formerly Westinghouse Electric Corp.); Potlach Corporation; Simpson Paper Company; and County Sanitation District No. 2 of Los Angeles County (LACSD) and 150+ local government entities.

<sup>2</sup> The Natural Resource Trustees are charged with protecting, managing, and restoring natural resources that are held in trust for current and future generations. For the Montrose case, the Trustees include the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Park Service, the California Department of Fish and Game, the California Department of Parks and Recreation, and the California State Lands Commission.



Figure ES-1. Geographic extent of the Southern California Bight.

The EPA and DTSC are using the recovery funds to address the contaminated offshore sediments as well as for public outreach, education, monitoring, and enforcement actions aimed at reducing human exposure to contaminated fish. The Trustees have used \$35 million to reimburse past damage assessment costs and are using the remainder plus accumulated interest (approximately \$38 million to date) for natural resource restoration.

In 2001, the Trustees created the Montrose Settlements Restoration Program (MSRP) as a multi-agency effort to manage the work of restoring the injured resources. Through the MSRP, the Trustees initiated a broad restoration planning effort, which included soliciting and evaluating potential restoration ideas. During the planning period, the Trustees also initiated certain studies in support of resource restoration, including a feasibility study on the reestablishment of bald eagles on the Northern Channel Islands, a comprehensive survey of fish contamination, and a survey of angler fishing practices and preferences.

As required by Superfund law, the Trustees must use the settlement monies to restore the natural resources that were harmed by the chemicals at issue in this case and must prepare a restoration plan subject to public review. The MSRP Restoration Plan and Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)/Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is a comprehensive document detailing the characteristics of the affected region, the restoration planning process, and the restoration alternatives, including the Trustees' Preferred Alternative. As an EIS/EIR, the document also addresses National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements for environmental review for certain projects.

### RESTORATION GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The overall goals of the MSRP are to:

- Restore, replace, rehabilitate, or acquire the equivalent of the injured natural resources and the services those resources provide; and
- Compensate for the interim lost services of the injured natural resources while those resources are recovering.

The final consent decree for the Montrose case states: “The Trustees will use the damages for restoration of injured natural resources, including bald eagles, peregrine falcons and other marine birds, fish and the habitats upon which they depend, as well as providing for implementation of restoration projects intended to compensate the public for lost use of natural resources” (page 5, lines 18–22). The restoration objectives for the MSRP (i.e., the specific targets or milestones that help accomplish the overall goals) have been formulated with this consent decree provision in mind and with consideration of the input from the public during restoration planning workshops. The MSRP restoration objectives are to:

- Restore fishing services within the SCB;
- Restore fish and the habitats on which they depend within the SCB;
- Restore bald eagles within the SCB;
- Restore peregrine falcons within the SCB; and
- Restore seabirds within the SCB.

Of the two fish-related objectives, one addresses human use (restoring anglers' ability to catch fish that are low in contamination) and the other aims for ecological results. When the Trustees initially sorted and categorized the many restoration ideas they had compiled, they often found that little practical distinction existed between projects benefiting fish and fish habitat and projects benefiting fishing as a human use. Therefore, for the purpose of evaluating restoration ideas in categories, these two fish-related objectives have been combined into a single broad category labeled "fishing and fish habitat." Thus, the evaluation of restoration actions is organized into four categories (fishing and fish habitat, bald eagles, peregrine falcons, and seabirds) that encompass the five restoration objectives listed above.

### RESTORATION IDEAS

The Trustees began collecting and compiling potential restoration ideas even before the legal case was settled in 2000. The early list of ideas was expanded through a public scoping process in 2002 and 2003. This process included further consultation with scientific experts with specialized knowledge about the injured resources as well as a series of public workshops to encourage public participation (see Section 1.4). The initial broad list of potential restoration ideas that the Trustees gathered was then evaluated in a two-step process.

#### Tier 1 Evaluation

The initial list of project ideas was screened and consolidated in a Tier 1 evaluation, using the following criteria: nexus, feasibility, resource benefits, and ecosystem benefits. A detailed description of the Tier 1 process, including descriptions of the criteria and a list of those restoration ideas that did not receive further consideration after the Tier 1 evaluation, is included in Section 5 of this document.

The Tier 1 evaluation resulted in a list of the 17 most promising potential restoration actions. Some of these actions are fully developed, specific projects for which this EIS/EIR constitutes final environmental impact assessment under NEPA and CEQA. However, other actions are still conceptual approaches that would require further development and environmental review prior to initiation.

In addition to actions that directly and actively restore the specific injured resources and lost services of the Montrose case, the Trustees received several suggestions from the public that some of the restoration funds be used for more general public outreach and education. Other suggestions were received for further research studies to better understand the injuries and potential restoration approaches (data gap studies). The Trustees did not evaluate the outreach and education ideas gathered against specific actions that restore fishing and fish habitat, bald eagles, peregrine falcons, and seabirds. However, certain outreach concepts identified through this process have been incorporated into one of the fish restoration ideas ("provide public information to restore lost fishing services"). As the MSRP outreach program proceeds, other outreach and data gap ideas will receive consideration as planning and decision-making proceed and specific outreach and data needs become apparent.

#### Tier 2 Evaluation

In the Tier 2 evaluation, the 17 potential restoration actions were analyzed in greater detail. The Trustees expanded on the criteria used in the Tier 1 evaluation by including consideration of

environmental acceptability and cost. The Tier 2 evaluation is also summarized in Section 5, and the full evaluations of the actions are presented in their entirety in Appendices A–D. Section 7 includes analyses and discussions to address the requirements of NEPA and CEQA at the action-specific level.

### RESTORATION FUNDING ALLOCATION AND PHASING

One important consideration in this Restoration Plan is how available funds should be distributed between the different natural resources and services identified for restoration in the final Montrose consent decree, which did not specify how the restoration funds should be allocated. When the final consent decree for the case was signed in 2000, the settlements provided a principal amount of approximately \$30 million for natural resource restoration. As of summer 2004, interest had increased the amounts within these accounts to an estimated \$38 million. The ongoing restoration program operating costs are comparable to the interest currently accruing. The final legal settlements also provided the potential that additional settlement funds currently earmarked for EPA response actions (i.e., the swing money, which is \$10 million plus interest) may instead go to natural resource restoration, depending on the outcome of the EPA's ongoing remedial investigation.

Taking these factors into consideration, along with the uncertain outcomes of the ongoing data gap studies, the Trustees will commit \$25 million during the first 5 years (Phase 1) of restoration implementation under this Restoration Plan. At the 5-year point, several uncertainties should be resolved, including the outcome of the Northern Channel Islands Bald Eagle Feasibility Study and the EPA's site remediation decision. The Trustees will then assess their progress and allocate the remaining restoration funds.

The Trustees propose to allocate the \$25 million for Phase 1 among the four restoration categories: fishing and fish habitat, bald eagles, peregrine falcons, and seabirds. Considering the likely costs of the actions and various uncertainties, the Trustees propose to allocate the initial \$25 million on an approximately equal basis between fishing/fish habitat restoration and bird restoration as follows:

- \$12 million for fishing and fish habitat restoration actions
- \$13 million for bald eagle, peregrine falcon, and seabird restoration actions

This overall commitment (\$25 million for the first 5 years) and its allocation are built into the restoration alternatives discussed below.

### RESTORATION ALTERNATIVES

NEPA, CEQA, and the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) require consideration of a range of possible restoration alternatives, including a natural recovery alternative with minimal management actions (i.e., a No Action Alternative). The 17 potential actions evaluated in Tier 2 represent a range of individual injury-specific restoration options. In addition to evaluating the actions individually, the Trustees have considered ways that these actions can be combined to build a comprehensive Restoration Plan. The Trustees present three such alternatives below and in Section 6.2 of this plan: Alternative 1 (No Action Alternative), Alternative 2 (Preferred Alternative), and Alternative 3 (see Figure ES-2).

### Alternative 1 (No Action)

For the purposes of this plan, this alternative assumes that the Trustees would not intervene to restore injured natural resources or compensate for lost services for any of the affected resources of the Montrose case. Instead, the Trustees would rely on natural processes for the gradual recovery of the injured natural resources and would only take the limited action of monitoring natural recovery.

Although natural recovery may eventually occur for many of the injured resources, it may take a significantly longer time than would recovery under an active restoration scenario; also, the interim losses of natural resource services would not be compensated. Certain events, such as the extirpation of bald eagles and the introduction of exotic species on the Channel Islands, have led to consequences that may not be addressed under a natural recovery alternative. Because feasible restoration actions have been identified that would address the injuries and lost services of the case, the Trustees found that this alternative, as an overall approach across all resource categories, does not fulfill the goals of the MSRP. However, this determination does not preclude selection of natural recovery as an option for specific resources (e.g., peregrine falcons) within the overall framework of a comprehensive restoration alternative.

### Alternative 2 (Preferred)

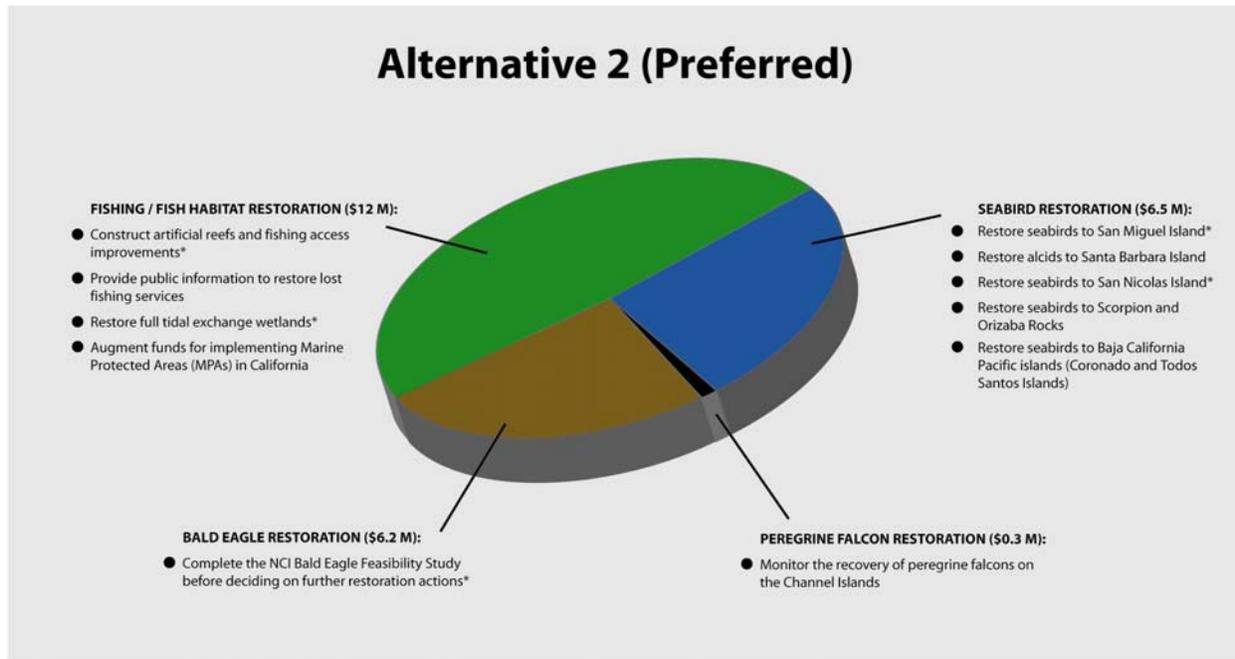
Based on the detailed evaluations performed in Tier 2 (see Appendices A–D), the Trustees have determined that the following subset of actions would most effectively address the continuing injuries and lost services of the Montrose case and compensate for past injuries. These actions, which constitute the Trustees' preferred alternative (Figure ES-2, top panel) include projects to restore fishing and fish habitat, bald eagles, and seabirds in the Southern California Bight, and a project to monitor the recovery of peregrine falcons in the Channel Islands. These actions will address all of the resource categories, their total cost falls within the limits of the funding allocated for Phase 1 of restoration implementation, and the actions encompassed by this alternative are distributed throughout the Southern California Bight (Figure ES-3).

The following sections describe how the restoration actions in Alternative 2 address the restoration objectives.

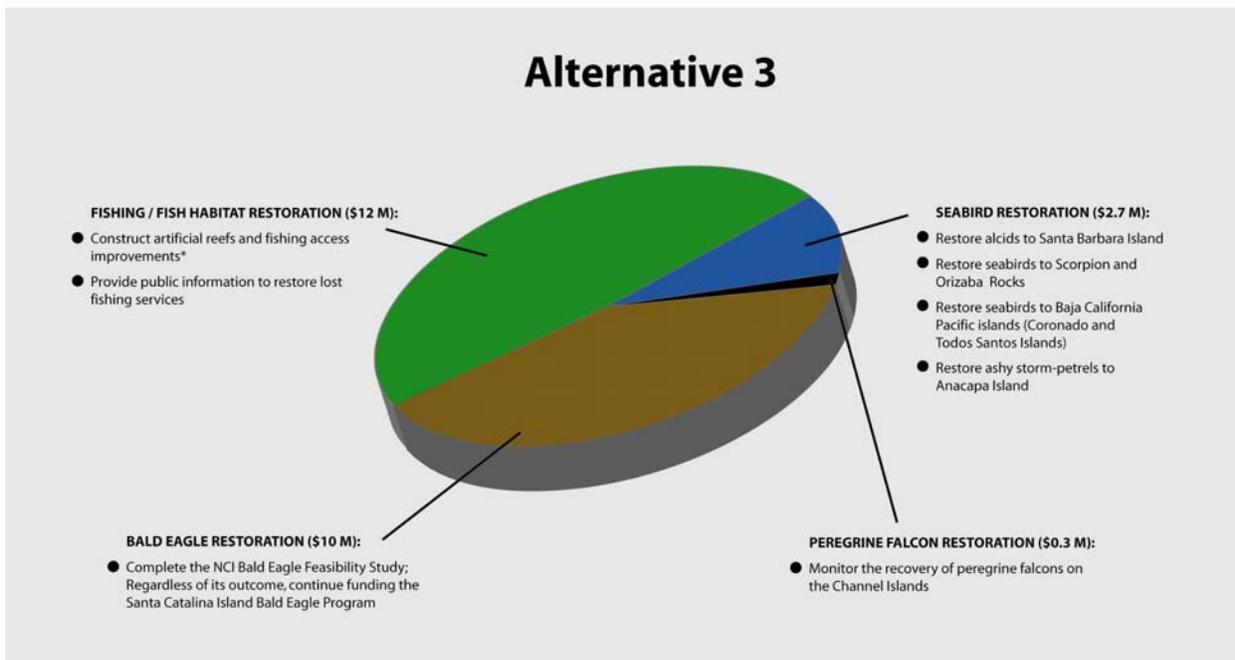
#### **Fishing and Fish Habitat**

Alternative 2 provides for a diverse set of actions that address both the restoration of human uses (fishing services) and the restoration of fish and the habitats on which they depend. The fishing and fish habitat actions for this alternative include:

**Construct artificial reefs and fishing access improvements.** This action funds the construction of reefs to displace the more highly contaminated fish that occupy existing soft-bottom habitats by recruiting and/or producing reef- and water-column-feeding fish that are lower in DDTs and PCBs. This action also provides facility improvements to promote the use of the enhanced fishing sites, to heighten awareness of how habitat affects the concentration of contaminants in different species of fish, and to provide compensatory restoration for past losses in fishing opportunities due to the limitations imposed by fish consumption advisories. This action would effectively address both fishing and fish habitat restoration close to the areas affected by the contaminants of the case.



\* These actions require further detailed development and subsequent NEPA and/or CEQA analysis prior to implementation.



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**Figure ES-2. Actions and fund allocations in Alternative 2 (Preferred) and Alternative 3.**

**Figure ES-2 BACK**

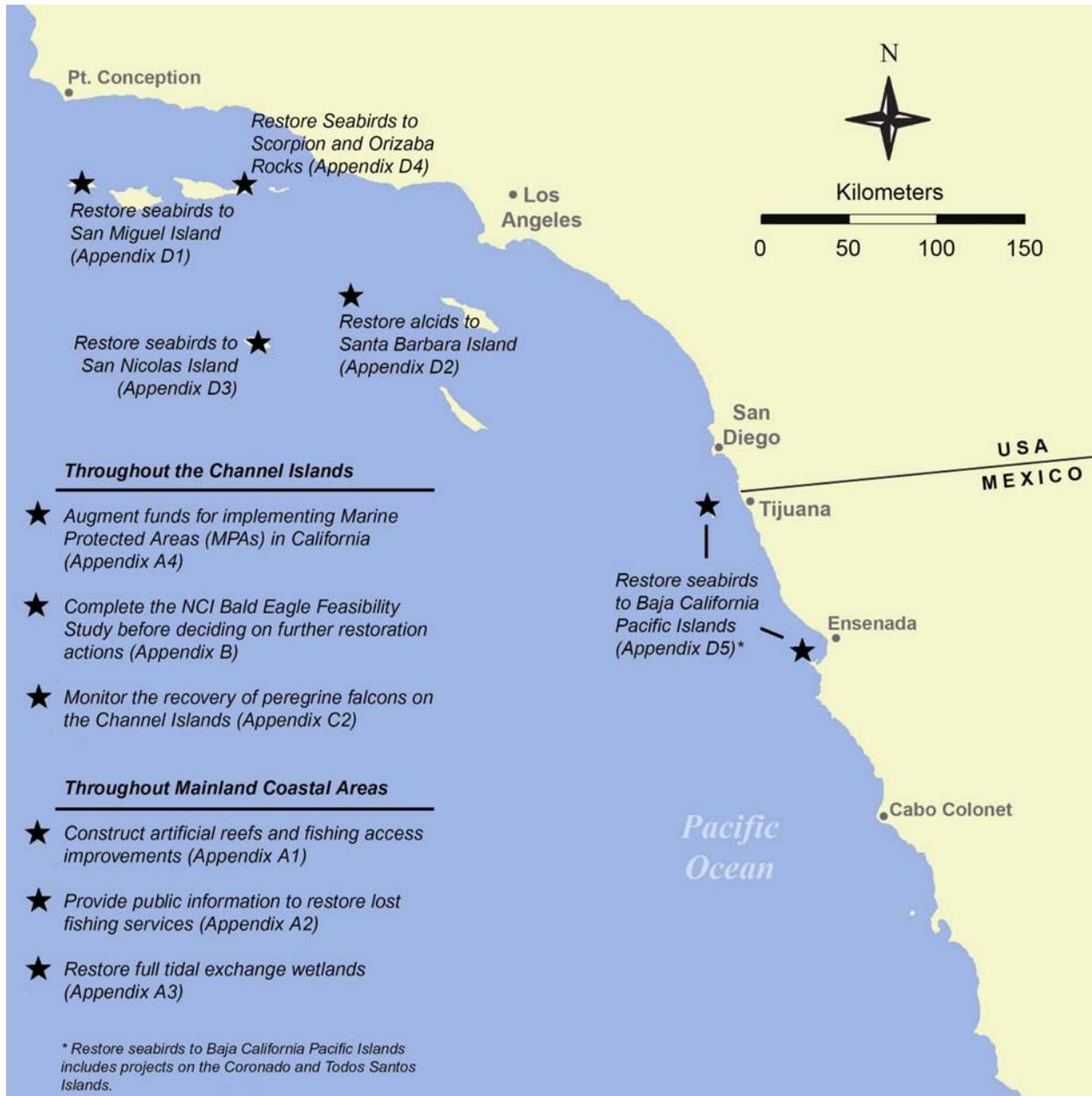


Figure ES-3. Geographic locations of actions included in Alternative 2 (preferred).

- **Provide public information to restore lost fishing services.** This action builds on the public outreach and education work initiated by the EPA through the establishment of the Fish Contamination and Education Collaborative (FCEC). FCEC is a federal, state, and local partnership project that addresses public exposure to contaminated fish in the Southern California coastal area. The FCEC focuses on educating the public about the human health hazards associated with DDT and PCB contamination in fish. In particular, the FCEC program provides information to help people reduce their exposures to DDTs and PCBs from the fish they eat.

The Trustees will expand this ongoing effort will be to increase fishing services by providing information to anglers that allows them to make sound decisions about where and for which species to fish. The Trustees will also provide outreach materials that establish the link between the ecology and life history of a particular species, and its tendency to bioaccumulate contaminants. This information will enable people to make knowledgeable choices about where, when, and for which species to fish and in doing so will minimize anglers' exposure to contaminants, regardless of where they fish.

- **Restore full tidal exchange wetlands.** This action seeks out opportunities to contribute funding toward ongoing or planned larger-scale wetland restoration efforts in the Southern California Bight. In particular, restoration projects that involve coastal wetland/estuarine habitats that have direct tidal links to the ocean and serve as nursery habitats for fish, especially species that are targeted by ocean anglers (e.g., California halibut) will be given highest priority.
- **Augment funds for implementing Marine Protected Areas in California.** This action supplements existing management and monitoring activities within the recently created Channel Islands Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). This action provides specific benefits to fish habitats adjacent to the Northern Channel Islands, but this action will also provide longer-term benefits for fishing and fish habitats throughout California by helping to generate sound empirical underpinnings for the siting and design of future networks of MPAs.

### **Bald Eagles**

Efforts to reintroduce bald eagles to Santa Catalina Island, one of the Southern Channel Islands, began in the 1980s; however, even today bald eagles on Santa Catalina Island have high concentrations of DDTs from their diet, produce abnormal eggs, and require continued human intervention (manipulation of eggs and fostering of chicks into their nests) to sustain their presence on the island. Assessments indicate that this situation is likely to persist on Santa Catalina Island for the foreseeable future. The Northern Channel Islands (NCI) Feasibility Study currently under way seeks to determine whether the bald eagles reintroduced onto the Northern Channel Islands (and therefore further from the Montrose contamination source) can be self-sustaining (i.e., reproduce without human intervention). Alternative 2 thus provides for the following:

- **Complete the NCI Bald Eagle Feasibility Study Before Deciding on Further Restoration Actions.** The Trustees will defer making longer-term decisions on bald eagle restoration until the results of the NCI Bald Eagle Feasibility Study are known (in or around 2008). In light of the continuing high levels of contamination in bald eagles on Santa Catalina Island, continued funding of the Santa Catalina Island Bald Eagle Program over the near term is

unlikely to achieve the goal of long-term restoration of bald eagles to the Channel Islands. Thus, during the interim period until the NCI Bald Eagle Feasibility Study is completed, the Trustees have chosen to focus restoration efforts on the Northern Channel Islands, which continue to hold the potential for long-term restoration, and discontinue funding of the Santa Catalina Island Bald Eagle Program. Even without continued Trustee funding for the current Santa Catalina Island Bald Eagle Program, it is highly likely that bald eagles will remain on Santa Catalina Island for several years despite their inability to hatch offspring naturally. When the results of the NCI Bald Eagle Feasibility Study become available, the Trustees will re-evaluate all potential options for bald eagle restoration, including measures that may be taken even if bald eagles are not able to reproduce on their own anywhere in the Channel Islands. The Trustees will then release a subsequent NEPA/CEQA document for public review and input once the results of the NCI Bald Eagle Feasibility Study are known. The remaining bald eagle restoration funds could then be used on any of the Channel Islands. This action conserves limited restoration funds until sufficient information is known on the ability of the environments on the different Channel Islands to support bald eagles.

### Peregrine Falcons

Given that previous peregrine falcon recovery efforts have been successful and that the number of breeding pairs is increasing on the Channel Islands, Alternative 2 provides for the following:

- **Monitor the recovery of peregrine falcons on the Channel Islands.** This action monitors recovering peregrine falcon populations on the Channel Islands through periodic surveys and contaminant analysis.

The Trustees also recognize that peregrine falcons will benefit from seabird restoration actions, as an increase in the numbers of seabirds increases the availability of the preferred prey of peregrine falcons.

### Seabirds

Alternative 2 incorporates a diverse set of actions that provide for significant benefits to several species of seabirds. Evidence indicates that the seabird species benefiting from these actions are known to have been injured by DDTs or had elevated levels of DDTs in their eggs. The Trustees have selected those seabird restoration actions that they consider to provide the greatest restoration benefits within the limits of funding. The seabird actions for Alternative 2 include:

- **Restore seabirds to San Miguel Island.** This action enhances seabird nesting habitat on San Miguel Island in the Channel Islands National Park by eradicating the introduced black rat over a period of approximately 5 years.
- **Restore alcids to Santa Barbara Island.** This action re-establishes a once-active Cassin's auklet breeding population and augments Xantus's murrelets on Santa Barbara Island in the Channel Islands National Park through social attraction and habitat enhancement.
- **Restore seabirds to San Nicolas Island.** This action restores the western gull and Brandt's cormorant colonies on the U.S. Navy-owned San Nicolas Island by eradicating feral cats on the island.
- **Restore seabirds to Scorpion and Orizaba Rocks.** This action restores seabird habitat off of Santa Cruz Island, within the Channel Islands National Park, through the removal of non-

native vegetation, the installation of artificial nesting boxes, and reduction in human disturbance.

- **Restore seabirds to Baja California Pacific Islands (Coronado and Todos Santos Islands).** This action restores seabird populations using social attraction, habitat enhancement, and human disturbance reduction.

Having considered the restoration goals and objectives, the current state of recovery of resources, and the continuing presence of contamination, the Trustees believe that Alternative 2 represents an optimal distribution of funding for natural resource restoration across the demonstrated injury types for the purposes of both primary and compensatory restoration.

### Alternative 3

The Trustees developed Alternative 3 through a reconsideration of some of the restoration priorities of the program (Figure ES-2, bottom panel). In this alternative, a greater level of effort is devoted to restoration of continuing injuries and lost services (primary restoration), and consequently the set of actions proposed is less diverse than in Alternative 2 (the Preferred Alternative). Alternative 3 provides for the maintenance of breeding bald eagles in the Channel Islands regardless of the outcome of the NCI Bald Eagle Feasibility Study. Thus, Alternative 3 reserves a greater level of funding for bald eagle restoration to sustain the Santa Catalina Island birds until, and potentially long after, the conclusion of the NCI Bald Eagle Feasibility Study. The funds available for seabird restoration are commensurately reduced.

Alternative 3 also recognizes the continuing human use impacts of fish contamination and state consumption advisories for several commonly caught species of fish and gives restoration of lost fishing services greater emphasis. Actions that benefit fish habitat but do not have as clear and measurable a benefit to anglers are not included.

### SUMMARY

Table ES-1 lists the 17 potential restoration actions that received detailed evaluation and indicates how they are assembled into the two comprehensive alternatives and the no action alternative for this Restoration Plan and programmatic EIS/EIR. Both Alternative 2 and Alternative 3 allocate \$25 million in restoration funding to cover data gap studies and the initial 5 years of restoration implementation. Alternative 2 distributes funding across a wide range of actions that are both primary and compensatory in nature. Alternative 3 focuses greater effort on primary restoration by (1) targeting the human use (fishing) benefits of fish restoration and (2) reserving greater funding for long-term intervention to maintain bald eagles on the Channel Islands despite continuing reproductive injuries. By reserving greater funding for bald eagles, Alternative 3 reduces the funds available for seabird actions. The Trustees' preferred alternative is Alternative 2.

**Table ES-1  
Comparison of Restoration Alternatives**

Potential Restoration Actions	Alternative 1 (No Action)	Alternative 2 (Preferred)*	Alternative 3*
<b>Fishing and Fish Habitat Restoration</b>		\$12 million	\$12 million
<i>Construct artificial reefs and fishing access improvements</i>		•	•
<i>Provide public information to restore lost fishing services</i>		•	•
<i>Restore full tidal exchange wetlands</i>		•	
<i>Augment funds for implementing Marine Protected Areas in California</i>		•	
<b>Bald Eagle Restoration</b>		\$6.2 million	\$10 million
<i>Complete the NCI Bald Eagle Feasibility Study before deciding on further restoration actions.</i>		•	
<i>Complete the NCI Bald Eagle Feasibility Study; Regardless of its outcome, continue funding Santa Catalina Island Bald Eagle Program</i>			•
<b>Peregrine Falcon Restoration</b>		\$0.3 million	\$0.3 million
<i>Restore peregrine falcons to the Channel Islands</i>			
<i>Monitor the recovery of peregrine falcons on the Channel Islands</i>		•	•
<i>Restore peregrine falcons to the Baja California Pacific Islands</i>			
<b>Seabird Restoration</b>		\$6.5 million	\$2.7 million
<i>Restore seabirds to San Miguel Island</i>		•	
<i>Restore alcids to Santa Barbara Island</i>		•	•
<i>Restore seabirds to San Nicolas Island</i>		•	
<i>Restore seabirds to Scorpion and Orizaba Rocks</i>		•	•
<i>Restore seabirds to Baja California Pacific Islands</i>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Coronado and Todos Santos Islands</i></li> <li>• <i>Guadalupe Island</i></li> <li>• <i>San Jeronimo and San Martin Islands</i></li> <li>• <i>San Benitos Islands</i></li> <li>• <i>Asuncion and San Roque Islands</i></li> <li>• <i>Natividad Island</i></li> </ul>		• <i>(Coronado and Todos Santos Islands)</i>	• <i>(Coronado and Todos Santos Islands)</i>
<i>Create/enhance/protect California brown pelican roost habitat</i>			
<i>Implement entanglement reduction and outreach program to protect seabird populations</i>			
<i>Restore ashly storm-petrels to Anacapa Island</i>			

\*The budgets shown in this table reflect the total amount of funding allocated for each resource category, including the funds already expended for fish contamination and angler surveys, bald eagle work on Santa Catalina Island and the Northern Channel Islands, and a peregrine falcon survey, as described in more detail in Section 4.2.1 and Appendices A, B, and C.

### ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

The NEPA and CEQA analyses of the environmental consequences of the Montrose Settlements Restoration Program and the restoration alternatives are presented in Section 7. Expanded discussions of the individual actions are provided in Appendices A–D. The environmental effects of the MSRP will be largely beneficial given its fundamental purpose; however, final analysis of all issues cannot be completed, given that certain actions, such as the construction of artificial reefs, are only developed to a conceptual level at this stage. The Trustees have identified seven of the 17 actions evaluated in Tier 2 that will need further development and subsequent NEPA and/or CEQA analyses prior to implementation. These actions are:

- Construct artificial reefs and fishing access improvements
- Restore full tidal exchange wetlands
- Complete the NCI Bald Eagle Feasibility Study Before Deciding on Further Restoration Actions
- Restore peregrine falcons to the Channel Islands
- Restore seabirds to San Miguel Island
- Restore seabirds to San Nicolas Island
- Create/enhance/protect California brown pelican roost habitat

### PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

The NEPA, CEQA, and CERCLA requirements that guide the restoration planning process require significant public involvement to support and direct the planning process. Public involvement for the MSRP Restoration Plan and Programmatic EIS/EIR was initiated through a scoping document released on August 24, 2001, which included notices of public meetings to discuss restoration planning. The document was disseminated to approximately 500 recipients, including individuals, organizations, and government agencies, and was posted to the program Web site. The Trustees also advertised the upcoming public meetings in local and area newspapers. The scoping document was followed by the publication of a Federal Register notice on October 9, 2001. The official public scoping period extended from October 9, 2001, to November 24, 2001.

In addition to the notice published in the Federal Register, the Trustees published a Notice of Preparation in the California State Clearinghouse on March 15, 2002. This established a second 30-day comment period, which extended from March 15, 2002, to April 15, 2002.

Since the close of the official scoping period, the Trustees have maintained open channels of communication with the public, other organizations, and government agencies. As planning progressed, the Trustees initiated a second round of technical and public workshops to encourage roundtable review of the draft restoration program goals and objectives as well as the screening criteria and to solicit restoration project ideas. These workshops were followed by a March 17, 2003, public announcement further soliciting restoration ideas that was disseminated to the mailing list.

The Trustees then released the draft MSRP Restoration Plan and programmatic EIS/EIR for a 45-day comment period from April 8, 2005, to May 23, 2005. During this time, a series of public

meetings were held in affected locations to accept comments on the draft document. The Trustees received many comments spanning all aspects of the draft Restoration Plan. These comments served to enhance the final version. A full copy of the written comments as well as transcripts from the public meetings and transcripts from telephone comments has been included in the MSRP Administrative Record and is available online at [www.montroserestoration.gov](http://www.montroserestoration.gov). The Trustees' responses to comments are included in Section 9 of this plan.

The public is encouraged to follow the MSRP planning and implementation process by accessing the program web site at [www.montroserestoration.gov](http://www.montroserestoration.gov) or by contacting program staff at:

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