EnvironmentalMitigation Project



Ecke Vernal Pool Mitigation Site

Restoring Native Habitats

In partnership with California State Parks, the SANDAG and Caltrans North Coast Corridor Program (NCC) are mitigating construction impacts of the Poinsettia Station Improvements Project by restoring vernal pool habitat. Vernal pools are highly sensitive habitats that are filled with rainwater and support rare plant and animal species that only survive in these habitats. SANDAG and Caltrans NCC will be implementing this project on California State Parks land to create four new vernal pools on property that historically contained vernal pools.



Goals

This vernal pool and maritime succulent scrub habitat will be the first of many restoration efforts onsite for California State Parks. SANDAG and Caltrans NCC will mitigate construction impacts and improve habitats within the park by creating 1,742 square feet or more of vernal pool habitat, and 31,798 square feet of upland habitat around the pools that will be vegetated with maritime succulent scrub plant species.

Restoration Activity

The vernal pool site is south of Manzano Drive and east of the railroad tracks. The four vernal pools will be graded approximately 12-inches down, tapering to the existing grade. Removed soil will be spread within the site to direct rainfall runoff towards the pools, and native maritime succulent scrub species will be planted in the area around the pool. An above ground irrigation system will be installed onsite. Construction began in December 2021 and was completed in Spring 2022.









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