

## PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE July 16, 2010

## Arcata Marsh and Wildlife Sanctuary Salt Marsh Restoration Starts Monday, July 26, 2010

(Arcata, CA) – The final phase of the Arcata Levee Repair Project—the restoration of two salt water marshes—is scheduled to start at the Arcata Marsh and Wildlife Sanctuary on Monday, July 26, 2010.

One salt marsh will be restored next to Butcher's Slough near the South "I" Street parking area. The second will be located at the end of South "I" Street next to Humboldt Bay. The work is expected to take about three weeks to complete. The South "I" Street trail to the Log Pond will be closed during construction. Please observe all posted construction signage and PLEASE SLOW DOWN in the construction zone.

Upland areas next to Butcher's Slough will be excavated to achieve the tidal depths needed for salt marsh habitat. The excavated areas will be top-dressed with sod salvaged from earlier levee repairs. The salvaged sod will provide a seed bank for native salt marsh species. Salvaged native salt marsh vegetation will also be planted and secured with biodegradable fiber mats to prevent soil erosion while the plants establish themselves. The City will also be controlling *Spartina densiflora*, denseflowered cordgrass, in nearby salt marsh areas to help reestablish habitat for native salt marsh plants including Point Reyes bird's beak and Humboldt Bay owl's clover.

The Arcata Levee Repair Project began in 2009 with Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) funds to repair damage from the severe winter storms of 2005/2006.

For more information, please call the City of Arcata Environmental Services Department at (707) 822-8184 or email *eservices@cityofarcata.org*.

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