

## WE GET QUESTIONS

*When will the Restoration Project begin dredging the inlet channel from the Ocean into the Lagoon?*

The North County Transit District has to retrofit the wooden train bridge before the dredging begins. Retrofitting involves wrapping and bracing the bridge pilings so it can withstand the dredging work and the increased tidal flow.

*When will the retrofitting start?*

Momentarily. NCTD is just waiting for specific retrofitting supplies and estimates that the retrofitting will be done by the end of February.

*Then the dredging will start?*

Yes, if the retrofitting is complete AND if Southern California Edison has confirmed that all dredging will occur outside of any nesting habitat. Generally dredging must occur 150 feet away from bird habitat. The contractor, Marathon Construction, is being very cautious about the dredging job using a small and quiet (as dredges go) dredge.

*So if all goes well the dredging may start in March 2011.*

Yes. About 65,000 cubic yards of sand will be removed bringing the land level to about ½ foot below mean low, low water, or -3NGVD, in technical navigation terms. This will improve and maintain the tidal exchange between the inlet and the lagoon.

*How long will it take?*

If everything goes as planned, dredging should be completed no later than Memorial Day. The City of Del Mar does not want any dredging, which requires putting some of the sand on the beach, to occur after that date.

*Is Marathon doing any other work now?*

Yes. They were working on hydro seeding the upland sites for natives, and they are now weeding. Otherwise the weeds take over. This year has been very successful with 20-30% coverage, a “dramatic” improvement over last year. The upland sites are the berms created to keep the River from flooding the wetlands and nesting sites and the disposal sites.

