

MEDIA ADVISORY—June 15, 2016



San Elijo Lagoon CONSERVANCY
Connecting communities. Protecting nature.

VOLUNTEERS TO EXPAND COASTAL DUNES AT SAN ELIJO LAGOON

Sand Removed From Lagoon Mouth Excavation Will Enhance Habitat for Endangered Species—June 18

CARDIFF-BY-THE-SEA – Imagine building “sand castles” for wildlife. On June 18 dozens of volunteers will assist San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy biologists to build coastal dune habitat for plants and animals that rely on these vanishing areas.

WHO San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy, the nonprofit land trust for San Elijo Lagoon Ecological Reserve

WHAT The conservancy will oversee volunteers in the transportation and spreading of sand, 25-pound bucket by bucket, to expand a 4-acre coastal dune site in the lagoon’s west basin. It’s a serious workout in nature, and a unique one, to sculpt dunes once plentiful along our coastlines. This excess sand came from the annual inlet excavation, under way through Thursday, which improves tidal flow and coastal water quality. Approximately 1800-cubic yards are onsite at the dunes for this habitat event.

WHEN **Saturday, June 18, 2016: 8:00 – 11:00 am**

WHERE The coastal dune site is across from Cardiff State Beach Seaside Reef parking lot, where the dunes are visible on the east side of Coast Highway 101. News media trucks have access to park in the coned-off right lane nearest the site.

WHY A fraction of Southern California’s coastal dune habitats remain. Yet, important avian, reptile, and plant species rely on them, including the threatened Western Snowy Plover and endangered California Least Tern. Expanding coastal dunes provides nesting and roosting habitat away from the stressors of our populated beaches.

VISUALS Community volunteers hauling sand, sculpting dunes, ocean and lagoon views in rare coastal dune habitat

CONTACT Onsite Interviews:
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*San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy is the nonprofit land trust for San Elijo Lagoon Ecological Reserve.
Its mission is to protect and restore the resources of the lagoon, its watershed, and related ecosystems for the benefit of current and future generations.*