

Project Updates Week Ending August 22, 2026

Last Friday, 8/14, Reyes began to remove sheet piles at the Eliot Street bridge which introduced tidal waters to the new open channel. This week, sheet pile removal along Eliot Street bridge was completed (see photos below) and skilled divers with American Marine, began cutting “windows” through steel sheet piles located along the Colorado Street bridge to reintroduce critical tidal flows to the lagoon. As of this week, natural tidal exchange is being achieved between Colorado Lagoon and Alamitos Bay, a significant step in achieving what was originally envisioned in the 2005 Master Restoration Plan.

IMPORTANT NOTE ON UPCOMING WORK AND IMPACTS:

As provided in prior week updates, SCE is expected to begin deenergizing overhead powerlines along Colorado Street (transmission line outage, which is different from a customer power outage). This is expected to occur nightly beginning Sunday, August 23 to Friday, August 28 to support worker safety during crane operations for pile removals.

Why is this work expected to occur at night? The sheet piles need to be removed using a large crane to provide the necessary leverage. However, high-voltage SCE transmission lines are located near the crane’s operating area. For crew and worker safety, these lines must be temporarily de-energized while the work is performed.

To accommodate the required SCE transmission line outage, the work must occur during approved overnight hours. Overnight outages minimize the potential for actual service impacts to surrounding neighborhoods and the broader electrical system because overall electricity demand is lower during these hours.

Why are cranes needed? Large cranes with adequate reach and lifting capacity will be required to safely extract the sheet piles embedded in the mudline. The sheet piles were installed to create a temporary cofferdam system, which allowed the work area to be dewatered so bridge construction could occur in dry conditions. With bridge construction complete and the open channel activated, the sheet piles must be removed to allow the channel to be fully opened. Because the sheet piles are deeply embedded in the mudline, significant vertical pulling force and leverage are required for their removal. The cranes must also have sufficient reach to safely access the sheet piles from the available work areas while maintaining appropriate positioning and stability during extraction.

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What is to be expected? Customer electrical service is expected to remain uninterrupted during the work. However, loud noise and vibration are anticipated throughout the sheet pile extraction process.

The crane currently located at Larry Curtis Park will be relocated to Alamitos Heights Park to support sheet pile removal. Similar to the temporary protective measures used at Larry Curtis Park, steel plates or other protective materials may be placed within Alamitos Heights Park to protect the grass, irrigation system, and other park improvements from heavy equipment.

Construction continues around the perimeter of the open channel to prepare for project planting and establishment. Prior to that work irrigation systems need to be finalized and crews are expected to perform leeching prior to planting. Log posts for the log-and-wire fencing system are being installed in preparation for landscape installation. Currently final surfaces including final course of decomposed granite will be installed towards completion to avoid damage while construction remains underway.

Colorado and Eliot Street paving is scheduled to occur in mid-September, however the streets are expected to re-open in phases. The paving of Colorado Street, including small portions of the Orlena and Eliot, will occur first for operational needs. Fire Station 14 will require access to Colorado Street prior to any additional work on Eliot Street is undertaken. Please note, Eliot Street requires a final pavement course, which was intentionally deferred to mitigate damage to the final asphalt surfacing from remaining construction work.

Additionally, repairs to Eliot Street near the City fueling station and repairs to the concrete bike path at 3rd Street are now necessary due to damage from temporary routing of emergency vehicles on this path. Eliot Street is expected to reopen after crews and equipment are demobilized. More details to come as the work window approaches.

Marina Vista Park is now open to the public. Construction fencing is still necessary as other portions of the project area remain under construction. The orange snow fencing is in place to allow the plants to further mature.

Photos from recent activities are provided below.



Photo: Aerial view of the tidally influenced open channel and Marine Stadium



Photo: Crews continue with the installation of irrigation lines to support future planting



Photo: Log and wire fence system being installed



Photo: Removal of sheet piles completed at Eliot Street and rip rap installed