



NEWS RELEASE

08-165

Today's Date: Tuesday, December 30, 2008

District: 1

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CALTRANS RESTORES DUNES AND SNOWY PLOVER HABITAT

Eureka – Caltrans has begun working on a restoration and revegetation project on a portion of Clam Beach County Park below the Route 101 Vista Point in McKinleyville. This work is needed to restore wetland habitat disturbed during the construction of a rock slope protection project to protect the Route 101 roadway. The majority of the work will be complete by February 29, 2009.

The work will enhance habitat for the federally threatened Western Snowy Plover. Work includes restoring 5.35 acres of dune habitat by planting regional native plants and removing invasive, non-native European beachgrass on 53 acres of beach by California Conservation Corps work crews.

The removed European beachgrass will be stacked and burned in small piles on permissive burn days. Burning will decrease substantially by the winter of 2009/2010 when the bulk of weeding will be completed. Light maintenance weeding and burning will continue periodically. Work activities will only occur outside the breeding season for the Western Snowy Plover.

In addition to the restoration work, Caltrans has contracted with the Friends of the Dunes to provide naturalist docents at the Vista Point to answer questions and provide information about the project to visitors. The docents will be on hand most weekends during the restoration and revegetation work period.

If you have questions or would like more information, please contact Environmental Coordinator Mitchell Higa at 707-441-5855.

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