



**Nature
Collective**

CONNECT. EXPERIENCE. PROTECT.

Project Title: Protecting Nature at a Rare Coastal Wetland

Rotary Year: 2022–23

Country: United States

Location: Solana Beach + Del Mar, California

Areas of Focus: The Environment

Activity Type: Education: Volunteer Services

Project Summary: Engaged over 200 volunteers to assist in restoring 25 acres of riparian woodland habitat in the San Elijo Lagoon Ecological Reserve to support the federally and state–endangered Least Bell’s Vireo and the Southwestern Willow Flycatcher.

Project Description: This project has two primary goals.

Goal 1: To show how people impact the natural environment

Goal 1 was successfully achieved as the project involved more than 200 volunteers in 17 community restoration experiences, which helped to restore 25 acres of riparian woodland habitat in the San Elijo Lagoon Ecological Reserve. The restoration efforts were aimed at supporting the federally and state–endangered

Least Bell's Vireo and the Southwestern Willow Flycatcher (birds), by removing invasive species, providing water to growing plants, and planting indigenous plant seeds. The project also addressed the negative impact caused by past agricultural practices and development on the acres in need of restoration.

Goal 2: To demonstrate the wonder of nature and develop knowledge of and respect for the environment

Goal 2 was successfully achieved through the project's efforts to invite and encourage Rotarians from Del Mar–Solana Beach, Solana Beach Eco, and other local Rotary Clubs to participate in weekly volunteer experiences. The project also hosted a private event for Rotarians Day At Work, scheduled for April 29, 2023. By engaging Rotarians in volunteer and recreational experiences within the wetlands, the project aimed to develop knowledge of and respect for the environment, as well as demonstrate the wonder of nature. The project recognized that protecting natural resources requires informed and inspired individuals willing to take action, and by promoting active civic engagement through volunteering, the project contributed to solving environmental problems, including climate change. The project also helped to build a more cohesive, safer, and stronger community, while increasing the social network between communities and neighborhoods.

District Number: 5340

Rotary Club of: Del Mar–Solana Beach

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Total Budget: \$5,000