



BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Overview

Surveys cover the entirety of the Swami's State Marine Conservation Area in Encinitas, CA. This area includes both popular sandy beaches and iconic surf spots. Swami's SMCA preserves the natural biodiversity formed by the interaction between the kelp forest and surfgrass habitats offshore and the species thriving in the brackish waters of the San Elijo Lagoon which interact via a permanently open outlet found within the SMCA.

Boundary Description

The north boundary of the SMCA is Cottonwood Creek at Moonlight Beach. The southern boundary is the seawall at Seaside Reef at the southern end of Cardiff State Beach.

Survey Locations



SWAMI'S 1

Cottonwood Creek at Moonlight Beach to white staircase at Swami's
(0.90 miles)



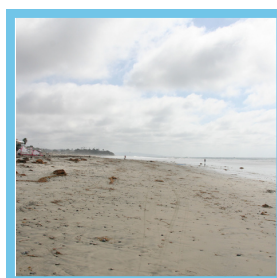
SWAMI'S 3 A/B

Pipes Ramp to north side San Elijo Lagoon outlet
(0.90 miles)
*Note: This transect is divided into two sections.



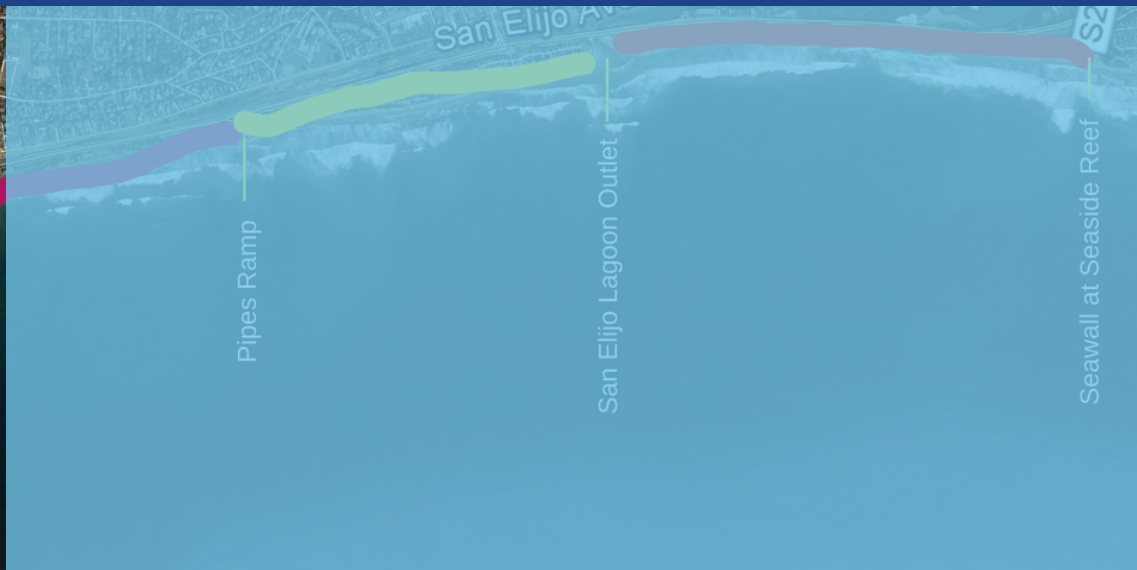
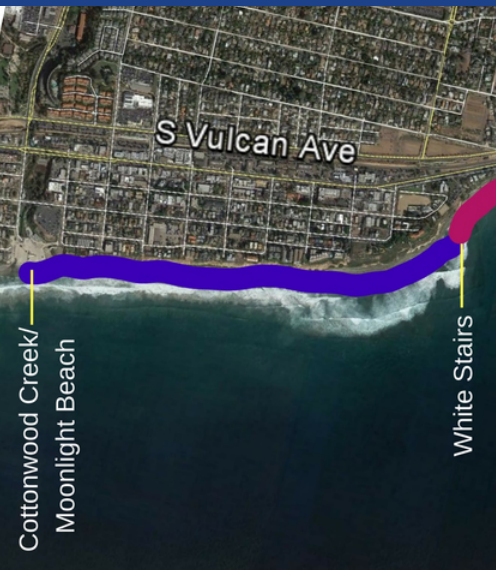
SWAMI'S 2

White staircase at Swami's to Pipes Ramp
(0.60 miles)



SWAMI'S 4

South side of San Elijo Lagoon outlet to end of seawall at Seaside Reef
(1.10 miles)



SURVEY NOTES

Advisory

The north end of SWAMI'S 1 is located at the northern boundary of the SMCA and corresponds to the Cottonwood Creek outflow at Moonlight State Beach. During extreme high tide events the entire beach might not be accessible in which case the survey terminates at the closest accessible point. Public restrooms are located at Moonlight Beach.

Parking

Free parking is available at the Moonlight State Beach parking area at the end of B Street. From there you will need to walk north to the start point. Additional parking is available on and around D Street. There is additional beach access at the D Street stair case.

Location Markers



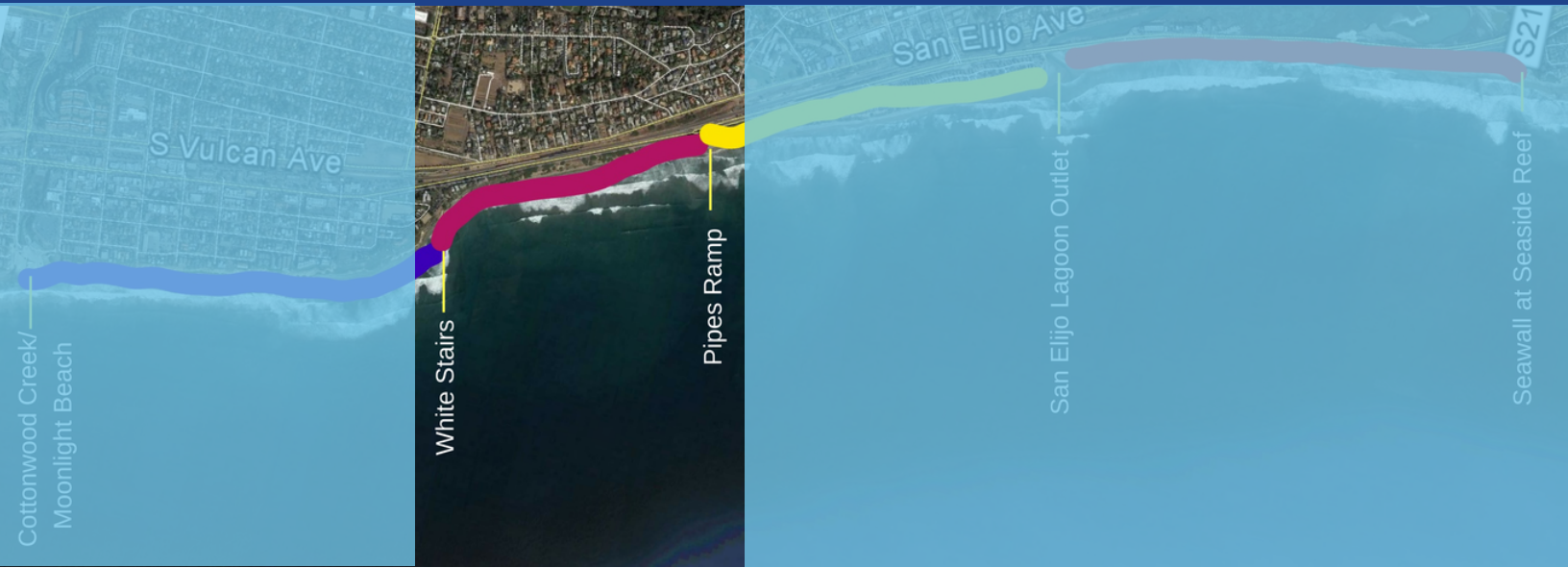
Start Point

Start at the Cottonwood Creek outflow at Moonlight State Beach. Orient yourself due south and include any activity occurring on the beach and in the ocean.



End Point

End at the white staircase at Swami's.



SURVEY NOTES

Advisory

During extreme high tides the start point will not be accessible in which case you can begin your survey at the closest accessible point.

Parking

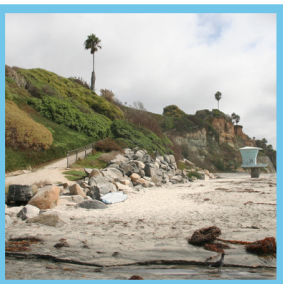
Free parking is available at the Swami's parking lot and on Highway 101 immediately around the Swami's parking lot. The beach is accessible via the Swami's staircase. The start point can be reached by walking north from the Swami's beach access to the white staircase (where the transect will begin).

Location Markers



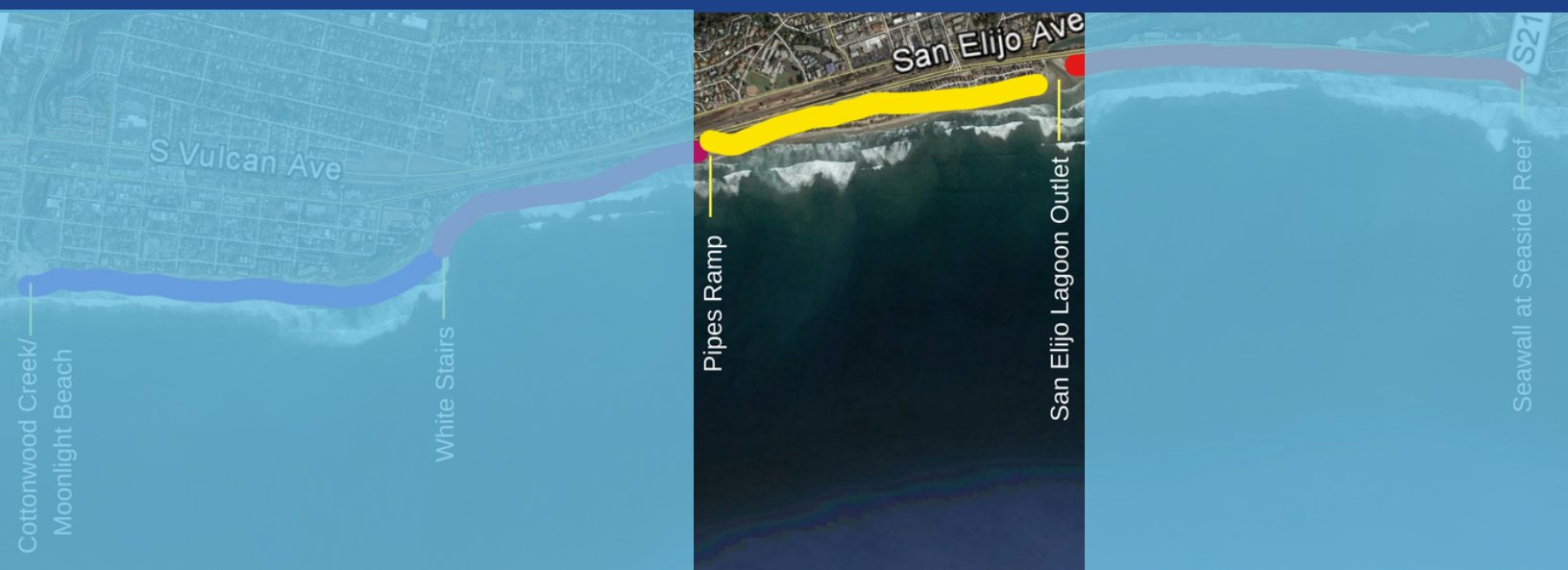
Start Point

Start at the white staircase at Swami's. Orient yourself due south and include any activity occurring on the beach and in the ocean.



End Point

End at the Pipes ramp and Tower 19.



SURVEY NOTES

Advisory

SWAMI'S 3a is accessible via the ramp or stairs at Pipes that descend from the northern end of the Cardiff Campground. Be mindful during high tides.

Parking

Free parking is available on Highway 101 and within the Pipes parking lot with a state park pass.

Location Markers



Start Point

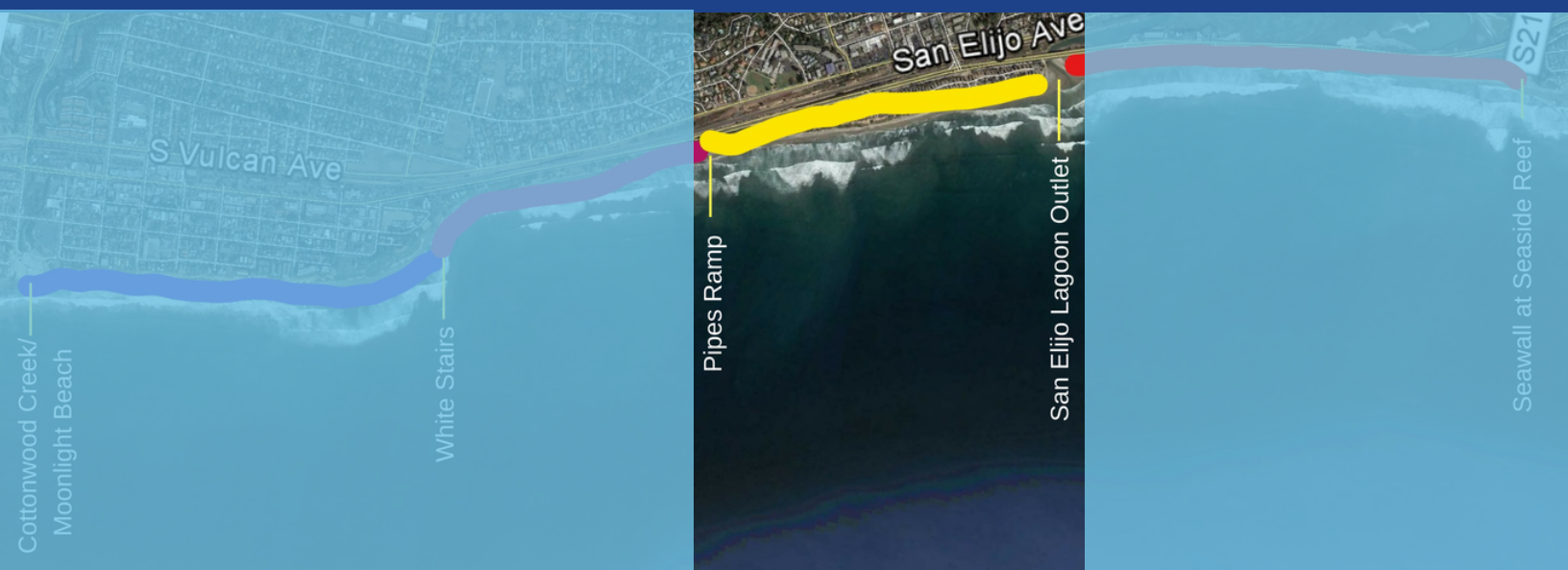
Start at the pipes ramp and Tower 19. Orient yourself due south and include any activity occurring on the beach and in the ocean.

Pipes Stairs →



End Point

Stairway 3 at San Elijo State Beach Campground. Stairway 3 leads you up to the store and entrance/exit of the campground. Note: It will be the fourth staircase you come to during your survey. The first staircase leads to the North Day Use parking lot.



SURVEY NOTES

Advisory

SWAMI'S 3b is accessible via Stairway 3, next the store, in the San Elijo State Beach Campground or by the staircase at the northern side of the river mouth.

Parking

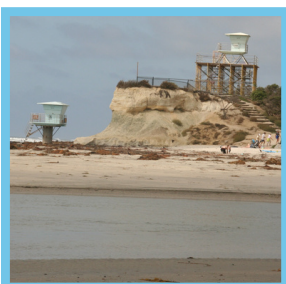
Free parking is available on Highway 101 or paid within the campground.

Location Markers



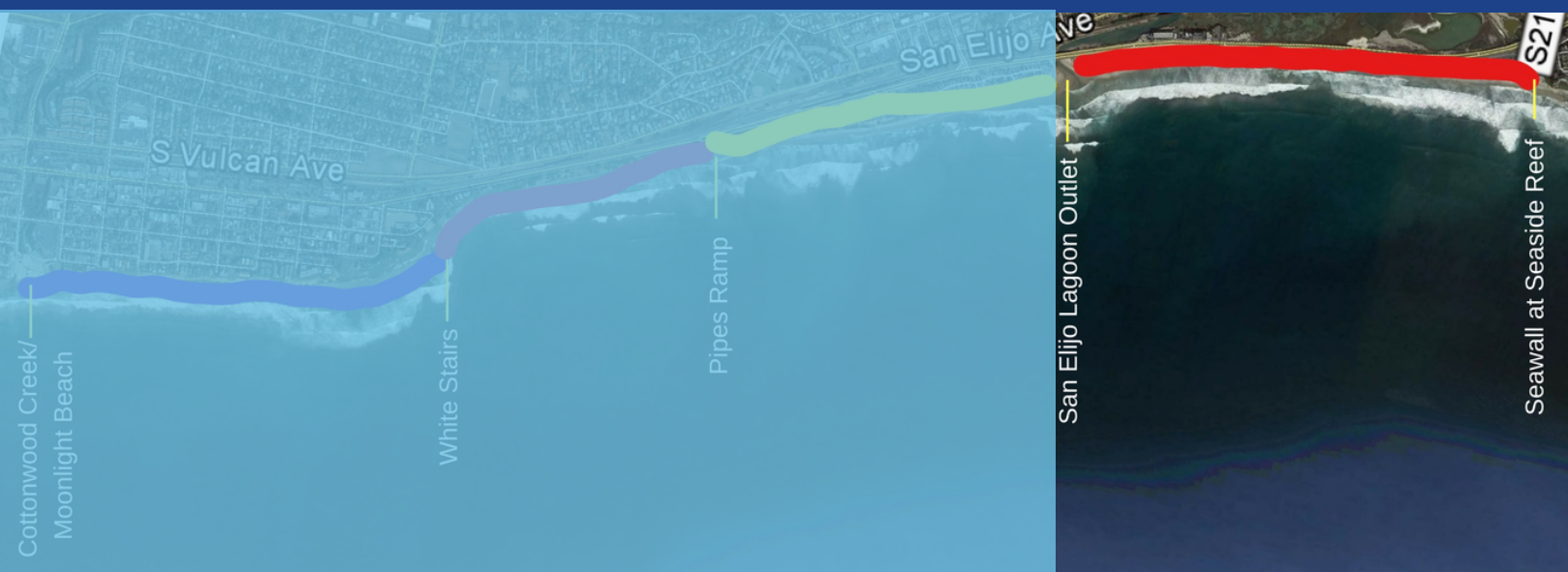
Start Point

Stairway 3 at San Elijo State Beach Campground. Stairway 3 descends to the beach from the store and entrance/exit of the campground.



End Point

End at the north side of San Elijo Lagoon outlet/Tower 16.



SURVEY NOTES

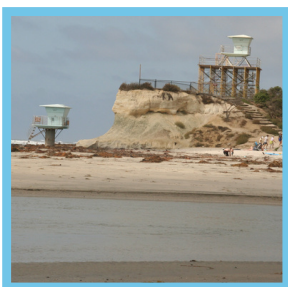
Advisory

Large sandy beach. There is a public infrastructure project underway that may limit access during high tide events between the Cardiff Reef Lot (north) and the Seaside Lot (south). Entire transect is accessible during medium and low tides, but may require wading through ankle deep water from the restoration project. Public restrooms are located in the Cardiff Reef parking lot.

Parking

Street parking is available for free across the bridge on the north side of the transect and along the west side of the street near the southern end of the transect. Paid parking is available on both the north and south sides of the beach in the Cardiff Reef and Seaside lots.

Location Markers



Start Point

The start point is the San Elijo Lagoon outlet. Orient yourself due south and include any activity occurring on the beach and in the ocean, but not in the parking lots.



End Point

The end point is the end of the seawall PLUS FIVE STEPS at the southern end of the beach past the Seaside parking lot, just after the start of the large cliff.