

Local Leaders Plan To Turn Salt Pond Into Profit

Pond 20 Is On Palm Avenue Between San Diego, Imperial Beach

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SAN DIEGO -- Local leaders are hoping to turn an abandoned salt pond near Imperial Beach into something profitable.

The Port of San Diego on Tuesday will discuss cleaning and developing Pond 20, a 95-acre area on Palm Avenue between San Diego and Imperial Beach.

The fenced-off area around Pond 20, which sits at the southernmost tip of San Diego Bay, is full of weeds and trash.

"Pond 20 is a huge economic opportunity. Right now, it's an economic detriment," said South County Economic Development Council CEO Cindy Gomper-Graves.

The SCEDC approached the Port to begin looking for ways to turn the land into something worthwhile.

"If we can improve it, these businesses will do better because more people will want to come and spend time here," said Gomper-Graves.

Short term plans include cleaning the area and removing the chain-link fence around it.

The fence would be replaced with a pathway for pedestrians and bicyclists along with signs that identify the wildlife who call Pond 20 home.

Long term plans could include developing small portions of the pond so visitors can participate in interactive sports such as kayaking.

Gomper-Graves also expressed interest in building a boutique hotel "or something that generates tax revenue."

She said a hotel would bring in customers for nearby businesses in San Diego and Imperial Beach.

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