



## Welcome to the Upper Newport Bay Ecological Reserve

The Upper Newport Bay Ecological Reserve is comprised of 752-acres of wetland and upland habitats in Newport Beach. It is one of the few remaining estuaries in Southern California and is home to nearly 200 species of birds, including several endangered species. The unique marine and terrestrial habitats within Upper Newport Bay also provide habitat for approximately 75 species of fish, 19 species of herpetofauna, 17 species of mammals, 12 orders of insects, and over 1,000 species of marine invertebrates.

In addition, Upper Newport Bay is of commercial significance because it provides critical habitat for commercially important species of fish, such as California halibut (*Paralichthys californicus*), sand bass (*Paralabrix* spp.), gobies, topsmelt (*Atherinops affinis*), and anchovy (*Engraulis* spp.).

These protected habitats are very delicate and easily damaged when disturbed. Please be respectful of nature. It is important that you do not litter or disturb any form of plant or animal life in the Ecological Reserve. Please stay on the paved Back Bay Drive during the race portion and do not enter any other areas of the Reserve.