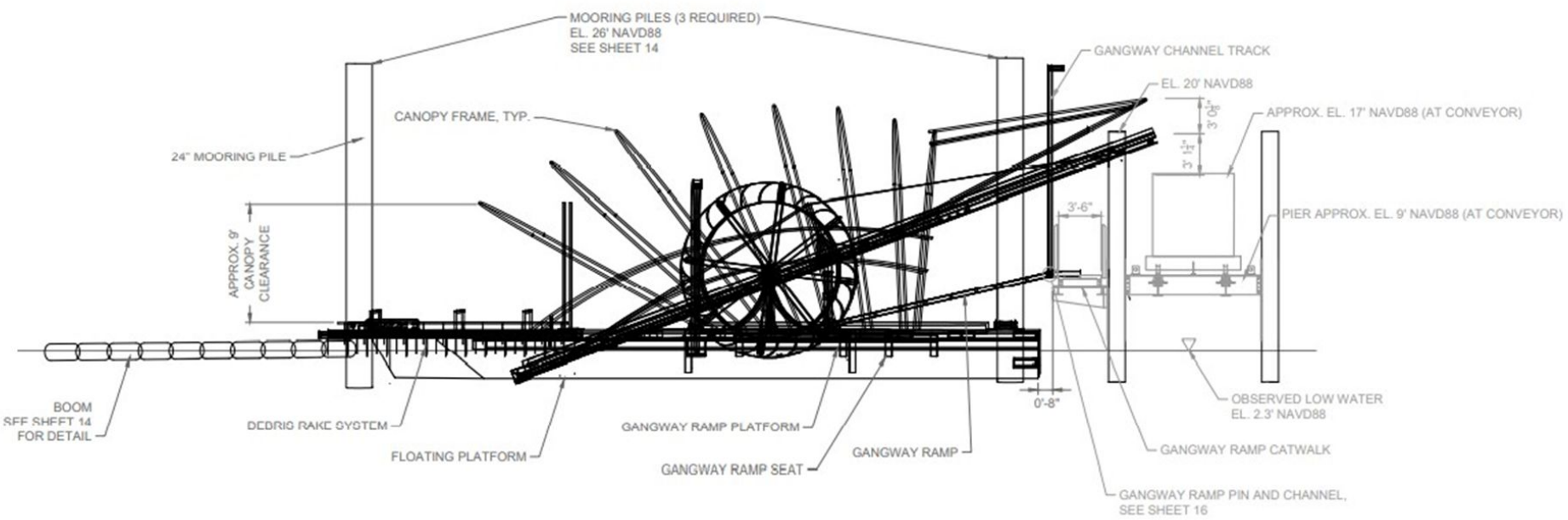
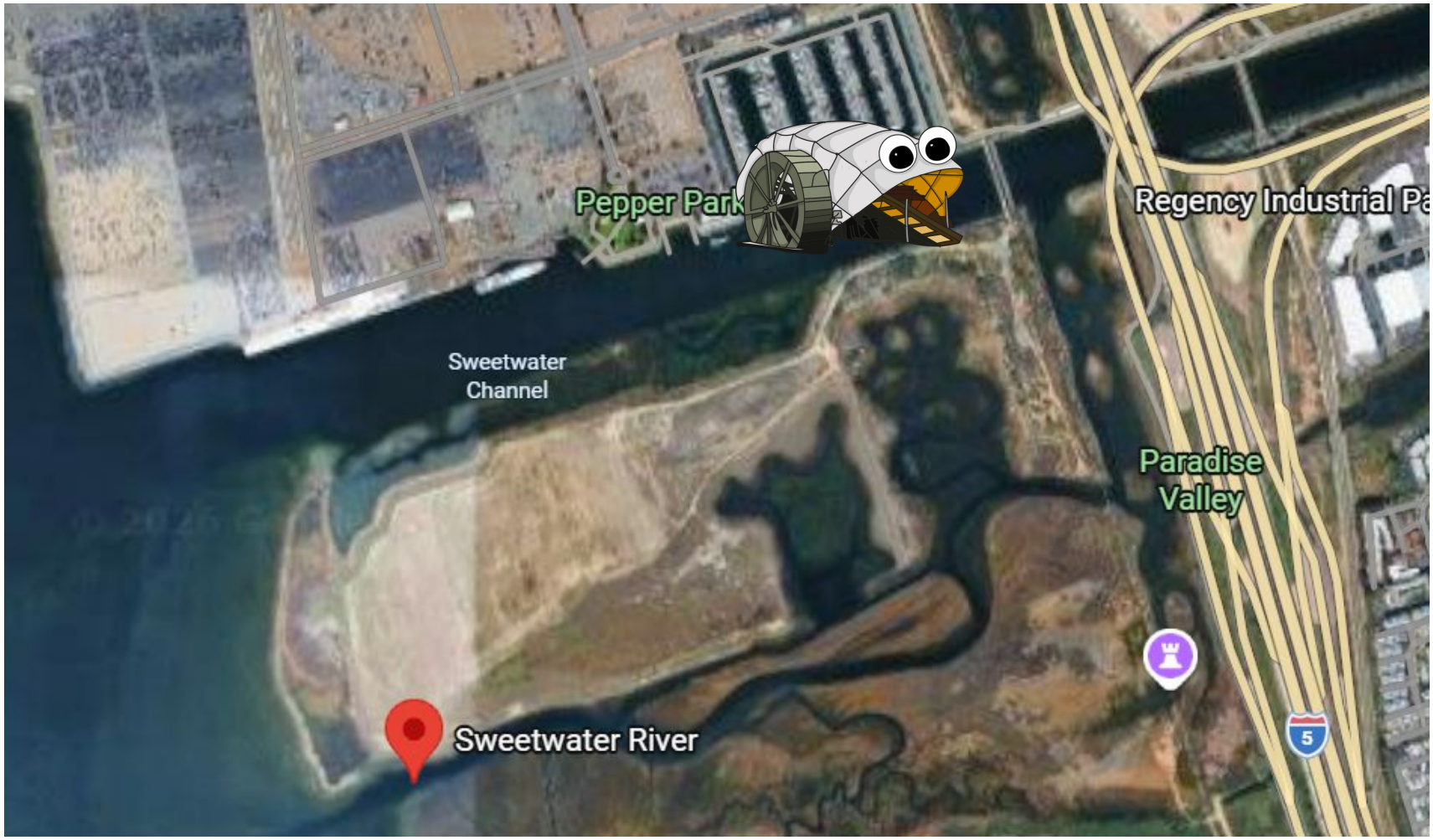
Sweetwater River Trash Wheel

2026



Presenter:
Travis Bushard, engaged citizen

Proposed Site – Sweetwater Channel



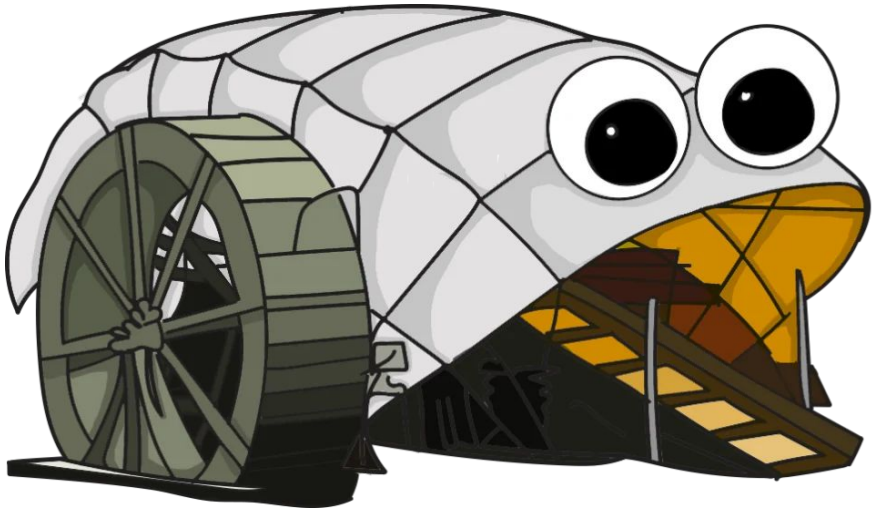
The System Works – Baltimore, MD and Orange County, CA

- The original Baltimore trash wheel has removed 3,000,000 pounds of trash from the inner harbor since it began operation in 2014.

- Baltimore has since expanded to four trash wheels removing a combined 500 tons annually from the harbor.

- Newport Bay's San Diego Creek trash wheel went live in early 2025. It captured 60 tons of trash and debris (plant material) in its first year.

Trash/Debris flows out of Sweetwater river and into San Diego Bay channel, first major rains bring MAJOR trash flows.

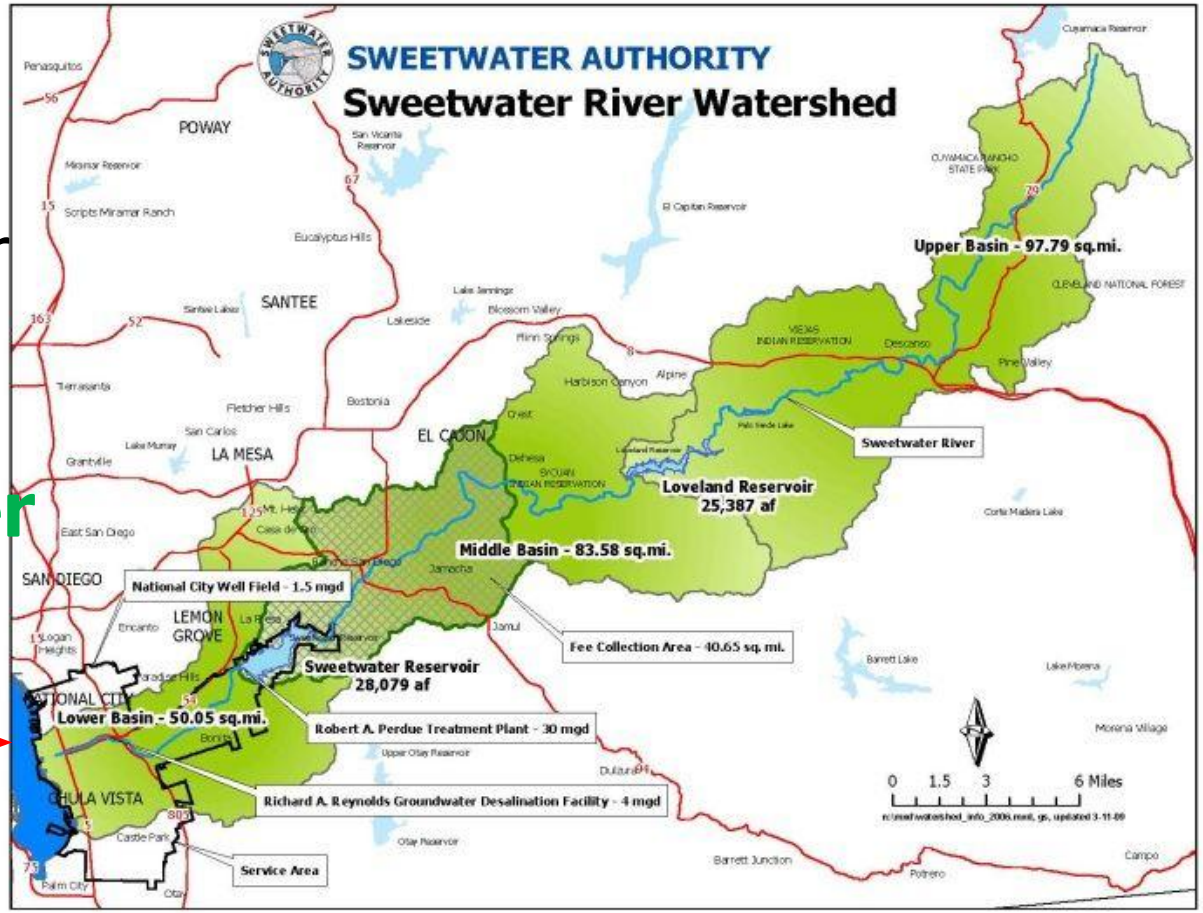


Trash Interceptor

Located near the terminus of Sweetwater River

230 square mile **Sweetwater River** Sub-Watershed

Trash Interceptor



Trash Volumes

- **Sweetwater Watershed** is nearly 2x the size of Orange County's San Diego Creek.

- **Sweetwater** is 220 Square miles and OC's San Diego creek is 120 Square miles.

- **Newport Bays San Diego Creek** trashwheel picked up 60 tons of trash in its first year. Plastic bottles, and other beverage containers, and even a mattress.

- If we are conservative in our estimates Sweetwater will do 80-100 tons annually based on our larger watershed.

Cost details

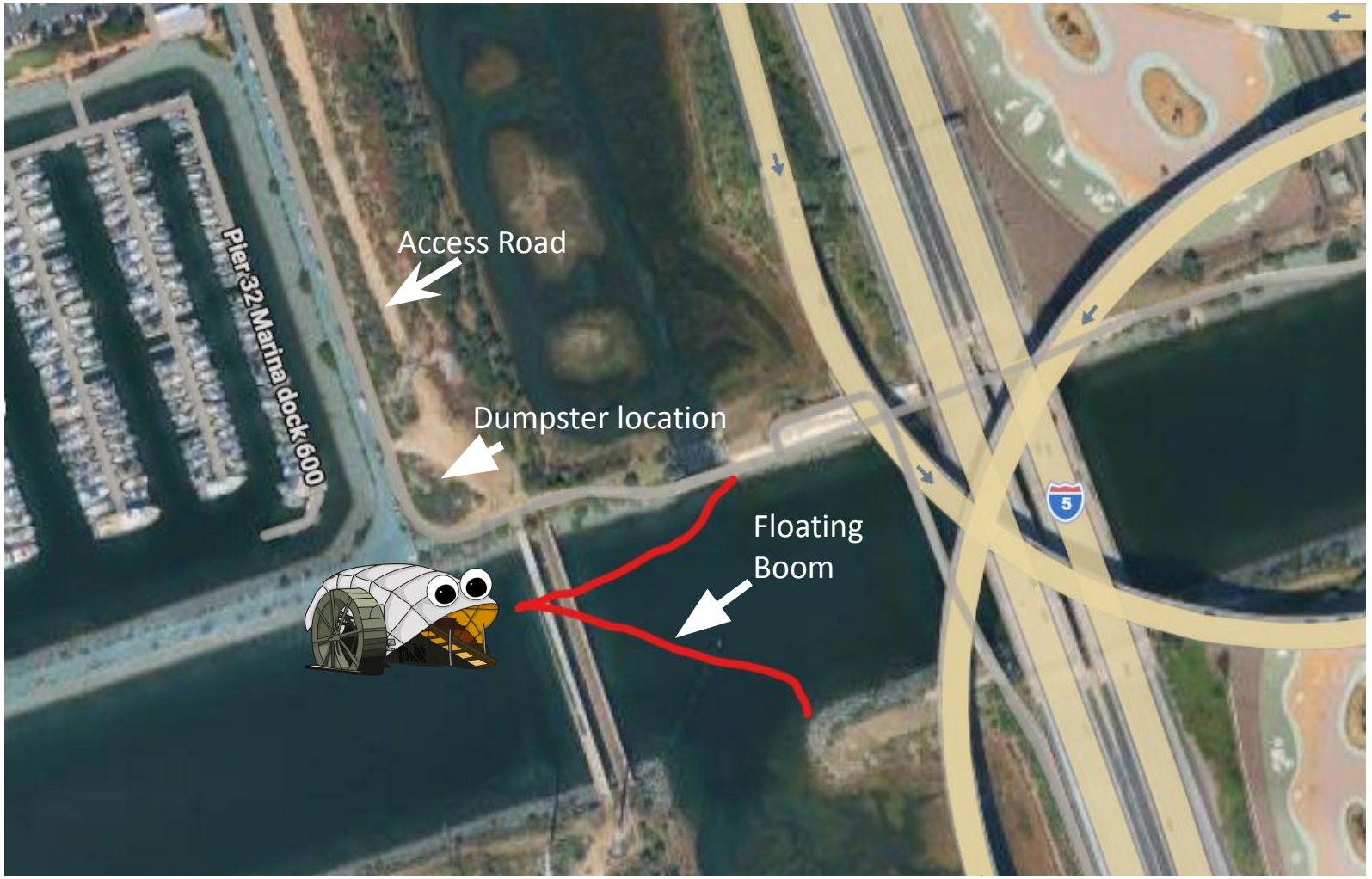
- The wheel is powered by the flow of the river water flowing out and solar power. They are not operated by people on an ongoing basis, so there is no full-time staffing need.

- Orange County trash wheel total cost was $5,500,000. With annual disposal costs estimated at $100,000

- Sweetwater system will need a land-based collection bin similar to Orange County System.

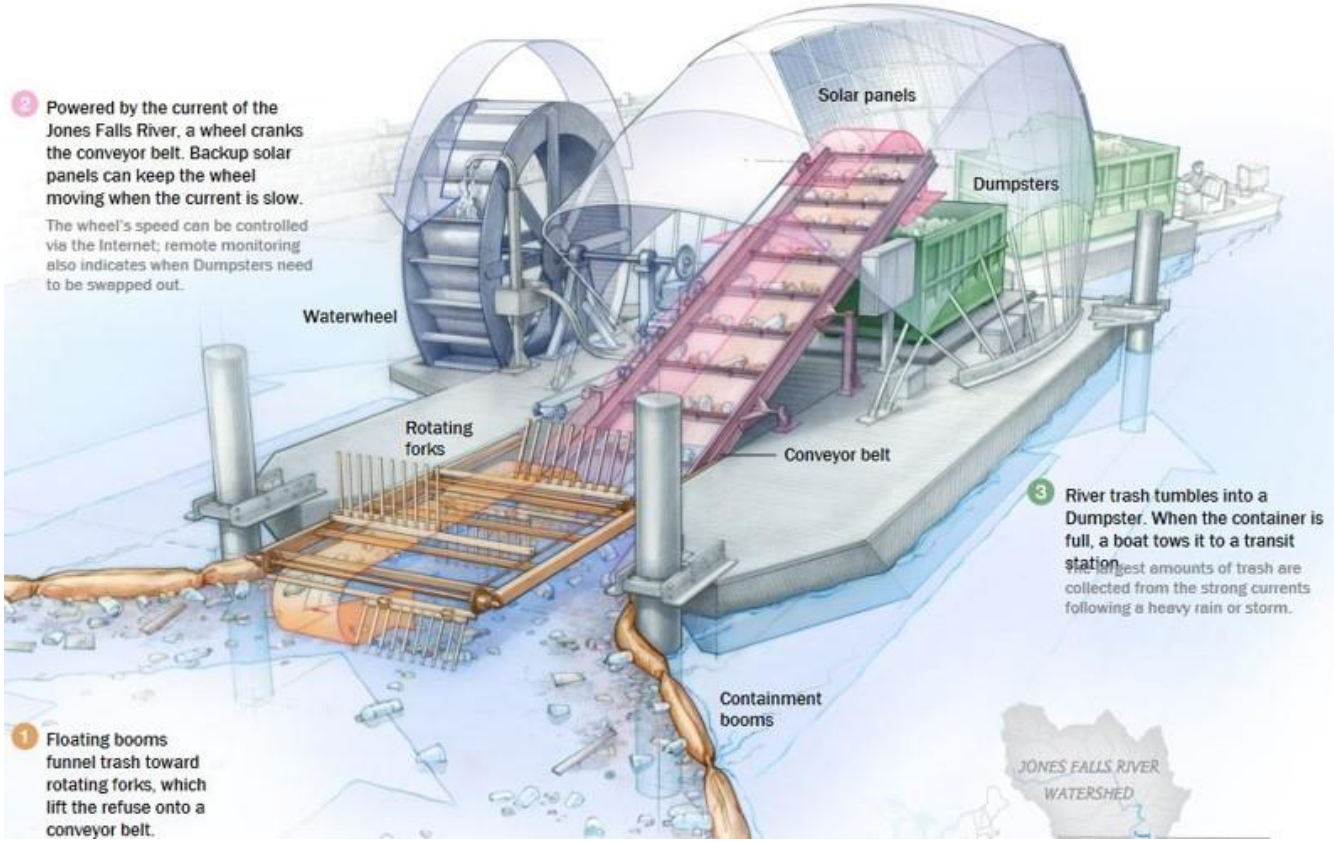
- Potential funding sources SB 54 Plastic mitigation fund, and San Diego Port Authority as mitigation effort for the ongoing development of the San Diego bayfront.

Sweetwater River mouth, Pier 32 marina



Operation of Baltimore's Mr. Trash Wheel

1. Solar panels located on top of the canopy charge a battery bank located on the barge.
2. Batteries power on-board pumps.
3. Water is pumped into the vanes of the Water Wheel.
4. The turning Water Wheel powers the rake and conveyor.
5. Floating trash is guided to rotating rakes that move the trash onto the conveyor.
6. Trash is conveyed upward and empties into a floating container.
7. A boat tows the container to transit station.



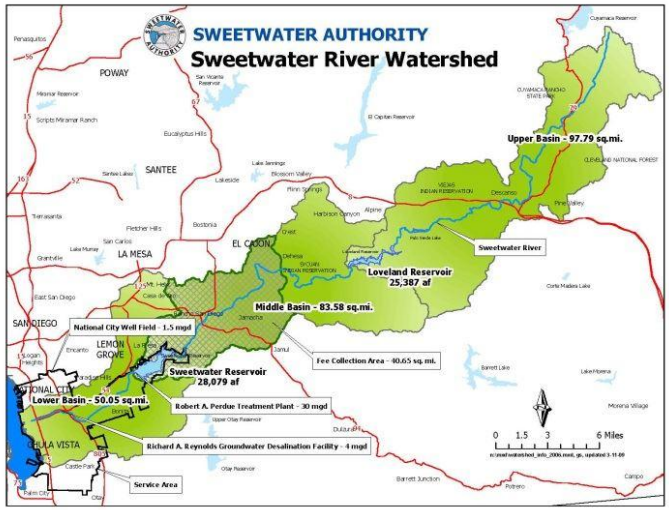
This gadget lift trash out of the water – how do you transport that landside?

Land based Rail System is the solution



Benefits:

1. Capture floating trash during the dry season and after storm events before it enters San Diego Bay and San Diego Bay National Wildlife refuge.
2. Become regional leader in bay conservation.
3. Reduce trash on local beaches where source is San Diego Bay via Sweetwater river mouth.





Concept: Travis Bushard – Engaged citizen

Stakeholders (Government & Industry)

- Port of San Diego- Jason Giffen - Chief Sustainability & Innovation Officer
- National City Council
- Chula Vista City Council
- Gaylord Resort
- Topgolf International

Potential Supporters

- Sierra Club
- SD350
- SD County Democrats for Environmental Action
- Ocean Discovery Institute
- San Diego Bird Alliance
- Surfrider San Diego County
- San Diego Coastkeeper
- San Diego Canyonlands
- Living Coast Discovery Center
- Environmental Health Coalition