



Group hopes for development of Pond 20 site

BY WENDY FRY, REPORTER - SOUTH COUNTY GA/GOVERNMENT
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IMPERIAL BEACH — A nonprofit South County group representing local business interests hopes to transform a 95-acre sensitive South Bay salt pond filled with weeds and trash into an attractive site ready to be developed.

The South County Economic Development Council plans to meet this month with the San Diego Unified Port District, which owns the land, to discuss long- and short-term proposals to clean up the area. Among its suggestions is a boutique hotel, a kayaking facility or ball fields.

Located north of Palm Avenue near 13th Street, the property is owned by the Port of San Diego, sits within the San Diego city limits and is adjacent to Imperial Beach. It also falls within Imperial Beach's redevelopment district.

“The South County EDC is committed to economic prosperity within our region. An important component of this effort is to identify hindrances’ to prosperity and transform them into opportunity,” said Cindy Gompper-Graves, CEO of the South County Economic Development Council. “Pond 20 is that opportunity.”

Imperial Beach stands to gain tax revenue if the area is developed.

Short-term plans include creating a bike path and scheduling maintenance.

“People don’t understand what they’re looking at, so it collects trash,” Gompper-Graves said. “We want to make it more aesthetically pleasing and more enticing for people to invest in.”

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