

# Morro Bay Power Plant

The Morro Bay power plant has influenced the city's development and has historically sustained its economy since it was built in the 1950's. In 2015, the power plant was officially decommissioned due to recent legal restrictions on the use of ocean and bay water in the plant cooling process. The unused site is home to the Morro Bay "Stacks", that stand as a historic symbol of the town's growth and development.

The site has unique potential to be transformed into an ecological haven and cultural hub for Morro Bay by reestablishing Morro Creek's connection to the estuary. By integrating the existing industrial and historic structures on site with restored habitat areas, the site could become a significant landmark and recreation area for the people of Morro Bay, as well as improve the function of the area's ecological systems.

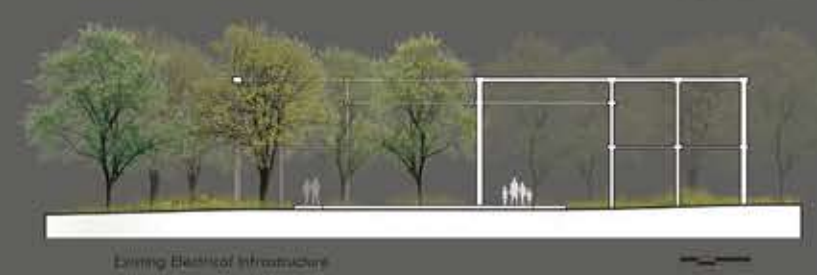
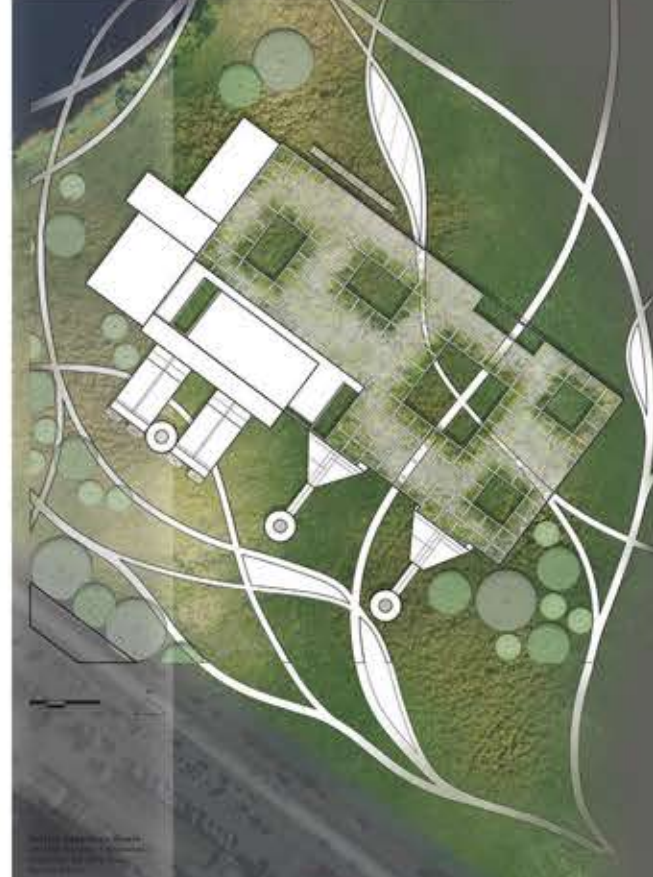
**Mission Statement:**  
To create a space that celebrates Morro Bay's identity that is tied to its unique ecological communities, history, and culture, by reclaiming and restoring the decommissioned power plant site for the local people, plants, and animals.

**Concept: Ebb + Flow**  
The confluence of tidal and riparian processes dynamically shapes the Morro Bay Estuary, ultimately by both defining its form and stabilizing unique ecological communities in the area. Drawing inspiration from these processes, the design will employ the concept of Ebb + Flow. This concept will enable the design to reflect the dynamics of these converging aquatic systems.

- Program:**
- Improve Water Quality**
    - Restore the water quality of Morro Bay Estuary
    - Reduce the total collection of Plastic Litter and Other Marine Debris on site to reduce the impact of litter and debris on the estuary.
    - Improve water quality by installing green infrastructure on site for filtration and retention of debris of the Morro Bay Estuary.
    - Install a water filtration system on site to filter debris and other marine debris.
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  - Restore Habitat**
    - Restore the natural habitat of Morro Bay Estuary
    - Create at least 1.0 acre of natural habitat
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  - Ecological Systems + Services**
    - Improve the ecological systems and services of Morro Bay Estuary
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  - Strengthen Connectivity**
    - Improve the connectivity of Morro Bay Estuary
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  - Provide Recreation**
    - Improve the recreational opportunities of Morro Bay Estuary
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  - Preserve History**
    - Improve the historical significance of Morro Bay Estuary
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Power Plant Interior



Existing Electrical Infrastructure



Public Art Hill



Wetland Wall