

El Segundo Blue Butterfly and the Dune Buckwheat

The El Segundo blue butterfly (*Euphilotes battoides allyni*) depends on the dune buckwheat (*Eriogonum parvifolium*)



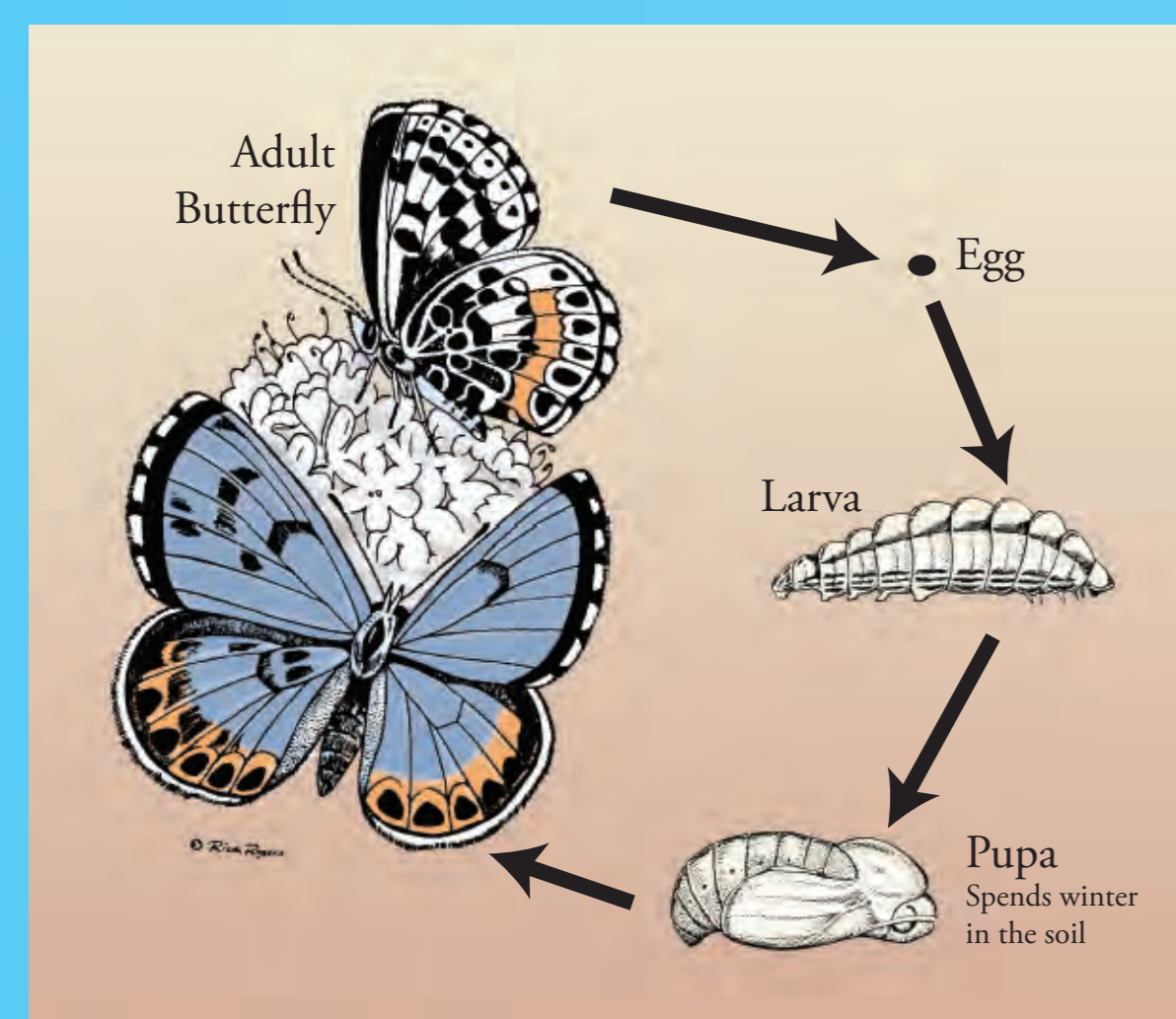
El Segundo blue butterfly (*Euphilotes battoides allyni*); photo by Jess Morton

for its entire life cycle. Adult butterflies feed on the dune buckwheat's nectar and lay eggs on the flowerheads. The caterpillars eat the flowerheads, form pupae in the soil, and then they wait for the next summer to emerge as butterflies. An individual butterfly can spend its entire life within a few yards of a single plant.



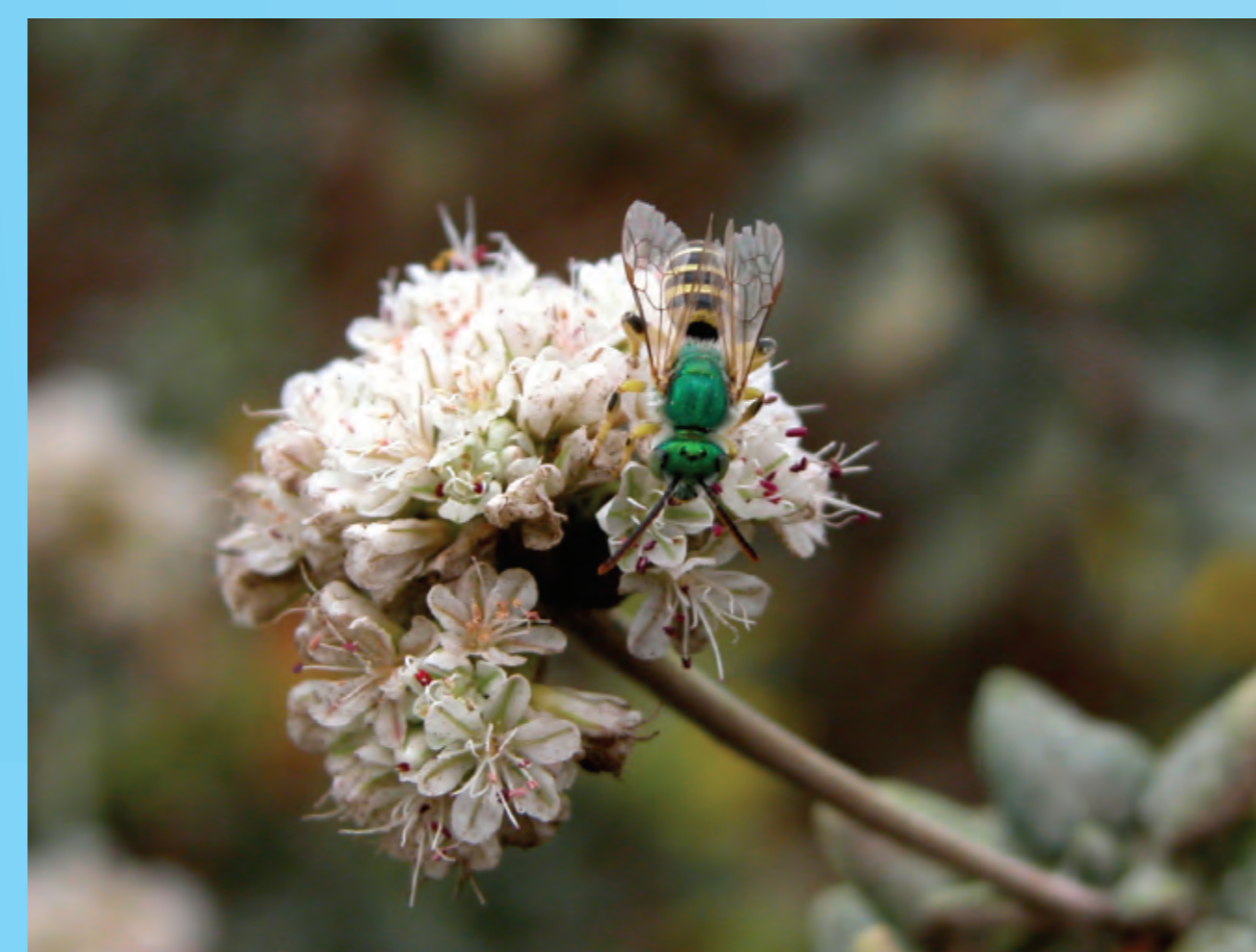
Dune buckwheat (*Eriogonum parvifolium*)

Urban development reduced the local distribution of dune buckwheat to three isolated areas: the dunes west of LAX, Chevron's El Segundo refinery property, and the bluffs northwest of Palos Verdes Estates. A dramatic decline in the El Segundo blue butterfly population following the loss of suitable habitat led to its listing as a federally endangered species. Replacing iceplant with dune buckwheat can allow establishment of

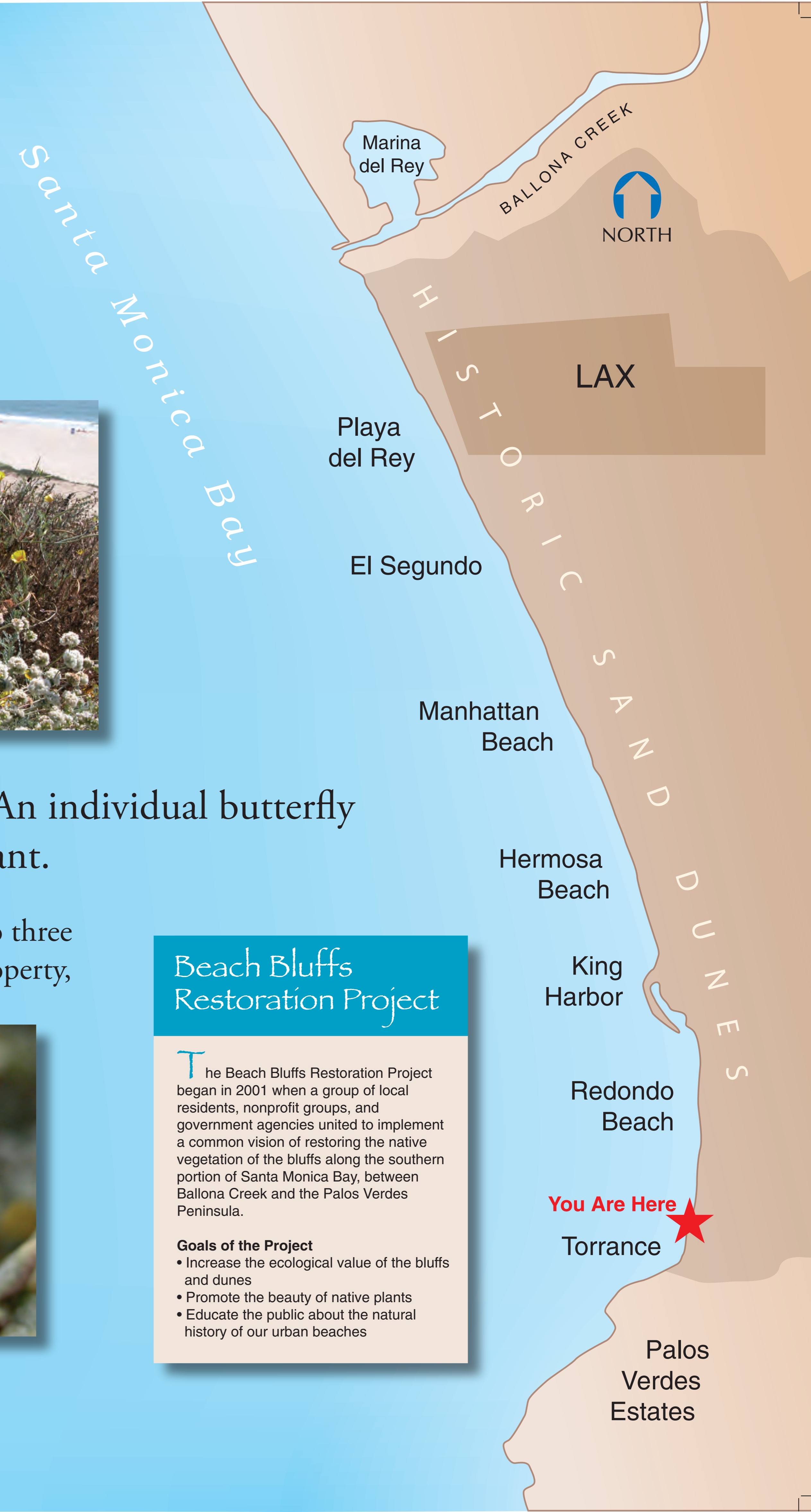


El Segundo blue butterfly life cycle; drawings by Rick Rogers

new populations to increase its chance of recovery and eventual removal from the endangered species list.



Sweat bee (*Agapostemon texanus*) on dune buckwheat



Beach Bluffs Restoration Project

The Beach Bluffs Restoration Project began in 2001 when a group of local residents, nonprofit groups, and government agencies united to implement a common vision of restoring the native vegetation of the bluffs along the southern portion of Santa Monica Bay, between Ballona Creek and the Palos Verdes Peninsula.

- Goals of the Project**
- Increase the ecological value of the bluffs and dunes
 - Promote the beauty of native plants
 - Educate the public about the natural history of our urban beaches