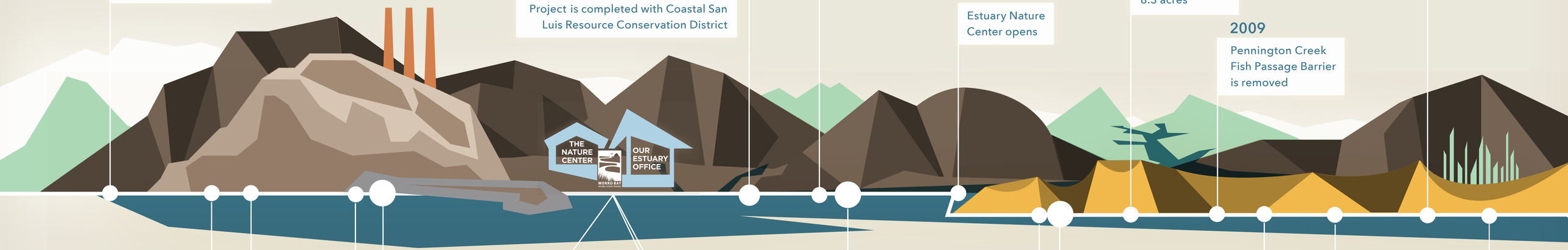

1986
The Morro Bay Task Force is re-established to provide a comprehensive approach to managing the watershed and estuary

1989
The Friends of the Estuary and The Bay Foundation are established to handle outreach and research, respectively, to encourage estuary preservation

1991
The First State of the Bay Conference is held. The nine-day event is designed to increase awareness of the need to protect Morro Bay

1993
The Volunteer Monitoring Program is established by Friends of the Estuary

1994
Morro Bay is recognized as a state estuary

1995
Morro Bay gains National Estuary Program status *from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)*

1997
The Volunteer Monitoring Program is reorganized and becomes part of the National Estuary Program

1999
Draft Management Plan (CCMP) is finalized. Over 700 individuals helped to draft the plan over a four-year planning process

2001
Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan is signed by the governor

Chorro Flats Floodplain Enhancement Project is completed with Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District

2002
Volunteer Monitoring Program achieves EPA's quality assurance seal of approval

2003
Walters Creek Restoration Phase One begins (completed 2005)

State of the Bay conference is held

The 580-acre Hollister Peak Ranch Acquisition sets aside property previously slated for development

2004
Estuary Nature Center opens

2005
Walters Creek Restoration Phase Two begins (completed 2008)

2006
Derelict Vessel Abatement Program begins to reduce hazardous waste from boats in the bay

State of the Bay conference is held

Morro Bay Watershed Riparian Fencing Program begins to reduce erosion and improve stream habitat and water quality

The (approximately) 42-acre Los Osos Dunes Hotel Site Acquisition prevents future development and is a significant link in the Los Osos greenbelt preserving open space around Los Osos and the Morro Bay estuary

2008
Sweet Springs East Acquisition expands Morro Coast Audobon Preserve by 8.3 acres

2009
Pennington Creek Fish Passage Barrier is removed

2010
State of the Bay conference is held

2011
Comprehensive Conservation & Management Plan update process begins (finalized 2012)

2013
First community-based eelgrass restoration effort begins

2014
State of the Bay conference is held

A Look at the Morro Bay National Estuary Program's History, 1995–2015.

Join us for our 20th anniversary year and beyond.

20 YEARS 1995–2015
MORRO BAY
NATIONAL ESTUARY PROGRAM