

INITIAL SEQUENCING Information

- **What:** Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve has been fragmented by roads, starved of its water sources, drilled for oil, and farmed. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) will commence its restoration of the ecological reserve by starting the project's initial two sequences which involve enhancing and restoring an approximate 110-acre degraded tidal, brackish, and freshwater wetland area in the south and southeast portion of the reserve for the benefit of wildlife and public enjoyment. These initial two project sequences involve removing and relocating an existing gas line and improving tidal circulation and freshwater flows (as analyzed in the Ballona Restoration Environmental Impact Report (EIR)).
- **Where:** Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve. This work is the initial two sequences of the restoration project and as such, improves south and southeast Area B only and will not include alteration of the levees.



Figure 1: Proposed Hydrologic Improvements in south and southeast Area B (culverts 3 and 5 are not a part of these improvement phases).

- **Why:** The purpose of moving forward with the initial two sequences of the larger restoration is to begin on-the-ground restoration work as soon as possible to avoid further degradation of the ecological reserve where feasible.
 - These initial two sequences will improve and expand approximately 100 acres of habitat for the Belding's savannah sparrow and improve and expand freshwater and brackish habitat for least Bell's vireo and potentially light-footed Ridgway's rail – all endangered and/or protected species that have suffered due to habitat loss.
 - With as minimal as possible ground disturbance and a focus on improving hydrology, these initial sequences will increase tidal circulation and freshwater inputs to an area of the reserve that has been hydrologically starved from its water source for many decades and where steady habitat decline continues to be documented.
 - These initial sequences are a positive first step in bringing back a healthy Ballona Wetlands that will be good for the surrounding community and species clinging to existence due to degraded and/or loss of habitat. CDFW will engage stakeholders and permitting authorities to solicit early input on these initial project sequences. If you feel a healthy natural environment that supports

native ecosystems is in everyone's best interest, CDFW feels the same and encourages your input and support.

- **When:** By February 2024, the goal is to have designs and permits sufficient to support CDFW in hiring a contractor for implementation.
- **What effect is there on the larger restoration project:** CDFW plans to implement the larger restoration project in smaller phases and this work is the initial two sequences of the larger restoration project.