BALLONA WETLANDS RESTORATION PROJECT

Revised Environmental Impact Report | 2026









TABLE OF CONTENTS

Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project Revised Environmental Impact Report

Executive Summary 3
- ES.1 Project Overview 3
- ES.2 Background 5
- ES.3 Purpose and Use of This Document 6
- ES.4 Organization of the REIR 7
- ES.5 Significant Impacts, Mitigation Measures, and Alternatives 9
- ES.6 Areas of Controversy Known to the Lead Agency 9
- ES.7 Issues to Be Resolved 9

Chapter 1. Introduction 11
- 1.1 Focus of This Document 11
- 1.2 Tiering and Incorporation by Reference 13
- 1.3 Summary of the 2020 Final EIR 13

Chapter 2. Project Description 17
- 2.1 Introduction 17
- 2.2 Description of Alternatives Evaluated in Detail 18
- 2.3 Potential Alternatives Considered but Not Carried Forward for More Detailed Consideration 37
- 2.4 References 37

Chapter 3. Hydrology and Water Quality 38
- 3.9.1 Introduction 38
- 3.9.2 Affected Environment 39
- 3.9.3 Applicable Laws, Regulations, Plans and Standards 50
- 3.9.4 Thresholds of Significance 51
- 3.9.5 Methodology 53
- 3.9.6 Direct and Indirect Impacts 63
- 3.9.7 Cumulative Impacts 81
- 3.9.8 References 81

List of Figures

Figure 3.9-3 Ballona Creek Accretion Between 1961 and 2012 42
Figure 3.9-4 FEMA Flood Map 46
Figure 3.9-9 Peak Shear Stress and Bed Change During the SPF 65
Figure 3.9-12 Water Levels During the SPF 70
Figure 3.9-13 Typical Tides with Sea-Level Rise 75

List of Tables

Table 2-6 Alternative 1 Restoration Sequence Stages 21
Table 2-7 Alternative 1 Restoration Schedule 22
Table 2-12 Tidal Marsh Performance Criteria 26
Table 2-13 Tidal Channel Performance Criteria 28
Table 2-14 Mudflat Performance Criteria 29
Table 2-15 Brackish Marsh Performance Criteria 30
Table 2-16 Seasonal Wetland Performance Criteria 31
Table 2-17 Salt Pan Performance Criteria 31
Table 2-18 Riparian Habitat Performance Criteria 32
Table 2-19 Dune Performance Criteria 33
Table 2-20 Upland Scrub and Grassland Performance Criteria 33

Appendices

F12 Hydrology and Hydraulics Report Addendum 2 83
K REIR Scoping Report 125
L Updated Draft Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program 496

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Revised Environmental Impact Report (REIR) is an informational document that supplements information previously disclosed in a final environmental impact report that the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) certified on December 30, 2020 (2020 Final EIR) for the Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project (Project).1 This REIR discloses to decision-makers, other agencies, and the public, the environmental impacts that could result from approving the Project as revised to respond to specific direction received from the Los Angeles County Superior Court in *Defend Ballona Wetlands et al. v. California Department of Fish and Wildlife*, Case No. 21STCP00240 (Los Angeles County Sup. Ct., May 17, 2023) (Order). This REIR has been prepared pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Public Resources Code §21000 et seq.) and the regulations implementing CEQA (CEQA Guidelines) (California Code of Regulations Title 14, §15000 et seq.). CDFW is the lead agency under CEQA.

CDFW will begin accepting public comments on the material in this REIR upon issuance of the Notice of Availability of the document for review and will continue to accept comments for no fewer than 45 days thereafter. Comments that raise a significant environmental issue related to this REIR will be responded to and included in a Final REIR for consideration by CDFW and other trustee and responsible agencies.

ES.1 Project Overview

The Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve (Ballona Reserve) is in Southern California, south of Marina del Rey and east of Playa del Rey, County of Los Angeles. It extends roughly from the Marina Freeway (State Route 90) to the east, the Westchester bluffs to the south, Playa del Rey to the west, and Fiji Way to the north. The Ballona Reserve consists of three areas:

- *Area A* is approximately 156 acres in the northwestern portion of the Ballona Reserve north of Ballona Creek, west of Lincoln Boulevard, and south and east of Fiji Way.

- *Area B* is approximately 335 acres in the southern portion of the Ballona Reserve, south of the Ballona Creek channel and west of Lincoln Boulevard.

- *Area C* is approximately 69 acres located in the northeastern portion of the Ballona Reserve, north of the Ballona Channel and east of Lincoln

Boulevard. The Ballona Creek channel runs through the center of the Reserve.

CDFW manages and maintains primary ownership of the Ballona Reserve, with a smaller interest owned by the California State Lands Commission. The Los Angeles County Flood Control District (collectively, LACFCD)owns and operates the Ballona Creek levee system, which are features of the federally authorized Los Angeles County Drainage Area (LACDA) project.

Seeking to restore degraded wetland habitat and functions within the Ballona Reserve, CDFW is proposing a large-scale effort to restore, enhance, and establish native coastal wetland and upland habitats within the Reserve. Additionally, these efforts would require incidental work on adjacent property. These efforts also would require authorization from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and Sections 10 and 14 of the Rivers and Harbors Act. Corps approval also would be required to modify the Operation, Maintenance, Repair, Replacement and Rehabilitation Manual (OMRR&R) to reflect any approved changes to existing LACDA project infrastructure within the Project site. Federal approvals would require analysis of Project impacts pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), which is occurring separate from CDFW's analysis pursuant to CEQA. The 2020 Final EIR provides a detailed analysis of four alternatives, including Alternative 1, which is the Project under CEQA.

The three main components of the Project are:

- Restoring wetlands and wetland functions within the Ballona Reserve.
- Restoring and improving public access to the Ballona Reserve.
- Maintaining existing levels of flood risk management provided by the Ballona Creek channel and levee system.

Regarding this third component, the Project would remove the existing concrete levees on a portion of the Ballona Creek channel and realign the creek into a meandering shape as it flows through the Reserve. The Project would replace the removed levees with partially earthen, sloping levees along Fiji Way in Area A and Culver Boulevard in west Area B to prevent flooding in the surrounding area. Maps in the 2020 Final EIR illustrate the locations of various levees. As described and analyzed in the 2020 Final EIR, the new levees would accommodate a flow rate of 46,000 cubic feet per second (cfs).

ES.2 Background

The Project was the subject of a Draft Environmental Impact Statement / Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR) that was circulated in September 2017. After considering comments and preparing responses to comments received on the Draft EIS/EIR, CDFW certified the 2020 Final EIR on December 30, 2020. Thereafter, plaintiffs in related cases filed petitions seeking to compel CDFW to set aside its certification of the 2020 Final EIR. The plaintiffs alleged that CDFW had violated CEQA for multiple reasons.

In its May 17, 2023, Order, the Los Angeles County Superior Court determined the 2020 Final EIR to be inadequate based on two issues, and in all other respects upheld the 2020 Final EIR. First, the Court determined that "CDFW was required to disclose and analyze the proper flood control design parameters in the DEIR and FEIR and its failure to do so was a failure to proceed in the manner required by law" (Order, p. 66). Second, the Court determined that the Project description in the 2020 Final EIR "does not adequately commit CDFW to specific performance criteria when it provides CDFW with authority to reduce restoration goals based on disturbance to other habitats without any supplemental environmental review and when it permits performance criteria changes to provide more attainable goals if hydrology or dissolved oxygen performance goals are not met" (Order, p. 66). In all other respects, the Court denied the petitions and upheld the 2020 Final EIR. The Court then entered a judgment directing CDFW to set aside the 2020 Final EIR and any Project approvals, and to prepare and certify a legally adequate EIR for the Project before proceeding.

Remedies in a CEQA lawsuit are governed by Public Resources Code §21168.9 and CEQA Guidelines §15234. CEQA Guidelines §15234(d) defines the scope of what a lead agency must consider in the event it is ordered on remand to take specific action necessary to bring the agency's consideration of the project into compliance with CEQA.[1] Based on the Court's decision and consistent with §15234(d), CDFW is now charged with disclosing and analyzing the proper flood control design parameters and adequately committing itself to specific performance criteria.

In accordance with the direction contained in CEQA Guidelines §15234(d), all unrelated portions of the 2020 Final EIR, as affirmed by the Court, remain valid. In this context, CDFW's responsibility for subsequent review is restricted only to those portions of the CEQA analysis that are germane to, or otherwise arise from, consideration of the design flow

[1] *Remand* means "send back." Here, the Los Angeles County Superior Court sent the EIR back to CDFW with directions to set aside the 2020 Final EIR and prepare and certify a legally adequate EIR for the Project.

question and commitment to performance criteria question. Because the Order was a final judgment on the merits, questions of law or fact unrelated to the two issues addressed in this REIR and about which the Court has already ruled are not subject to reconsideration.

ES.3 Purpose and Use of This Document

This REIR discloses to decision-makers, other agencies, and the public possible environmental impacts of approving the Project as revised to respond to the Court's Order. In response to the Order, this document does two things:

1. Revises the 2020 Final EIR to disclose a Standard Project Flood (SPF) of future, unrestricted channel flow at 68,000 cfs as the proper flood control design parameter.

2. Revises the 2020 Final EIR to clarify and confirm CDFW's commitment to conduct additional environmental review should conditions warrant a reduction of restoration goals, any change to performance criteria, or any material change to the Conceptual Habitat Restoration and Adaptive Management Plan provided as Appendix B3 to the 2017 Draft EIS/EIR.

Members of the public, along with federal, state, regional, local agencies and tribes, are invited to review the REIR and provide comments. The REIR and 2020 Final EIR are available for review during normal business hours at the following locations:

- County of Los Angeles Public Library, Lloyd Taber–Marina del Rey, 4533 Admiralty Way, Marina del Rey, CA 90292

- City of Los Angeles Public Library, Playa Vista Branch, 6400 Playa Vista Drive, Los Angeles, CA 90094

- City of Los Angeles Public Library, Westchester–Loyola Village Branch, 7114 W. Manchester Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90045

A copy of the Notice of Availability is available on CDFW's website at: https://wildlife.ca.gov/Notices/CEQA.

Additional Project information and documents are available on CDFW's website at: https://wildlife.ca.gov/Regions/5/Ballona-EIR.

Comments should be directed as follows:

By email: BWERcomments@wildlife.ca.gov

By mail: Attn: Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
3883 Ruffin Road, San Diego, CA 92123

The comment period for the REIR will begin upon issuance of the Notice of Availability and will remain open for at least 45 days. CDFW will respond to all timely submitted comments that raise a significant environmental issue related to this REIR and will include the responses in a Final REIR. Given the limited scope of the REIR, together with the directives contained in the Court's remand and the requirements of CEQA Guidelines §15234(d), the Final REIR will not respond to comments that are not related to the two specific issues under review.

The Final REIR will consist of information in the 2020 Final EIR, this REIR, comments on this REIR, and responses to comments within the scope of this REIR. Once complete and certified, the Final REIR will provide the CEQA compliance documentation upon which CDFW's reconsideration of, and action on, all applicable permits and other approvals (collectively, "approvals") for the Project or an alternative may be based. These include all approvals listed in the 2020 Final EIR, as well as any additional approvals that may be necessary to implement the Project or an alternative. Once finalized, the Final REIR also may be used by trustee, responsible, or other agencies pursuant to their consideration of the Project.

Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines §15200, public and agency review and evaluation of the REIR will serve the following purposes:

- Sharing expertise
- Disclosing agency analyses
- Checking for accuracy
- Detecting omissions
- Identifying public concerns

ES.4 Organization of the REIR

This document constitutes the REIR. Other environmental documents associated with the Project may be found at the website and physical address(es) noted above. Under the Court's directives, CDFW's responsibility for environmental review at this point is restricted to the disclosure and analysis of the proper flood control design parameters and

the adequacy of CDFW's commitment to specific performance criteria. Accordingly, this REIR is a relatively brief document and consists of the following:

The ***Executive Summary*** includes a brief overview of the Project and background information for this REIR. It describes the purpose and use of the REIR, including how to participate in public review of the REIR; confirms that CDFW will prepare and consider a new Final EIR before taking action on the Project; and discloses information about potential significant impacts and proposed mitigation measures and Project alternatives that would minimize such impacts, known areas of controversy, and the issues to be resolved as part of the CEQA process.

Introduction (Chapter 1) discusses the focus of the REIR, discloses CDFW's intention to incorporate by reference the entire 2020 Final EIR except the portions of the 2020 Final EIR that are specifically revised in this REIR, and summarizes elements of the 2020 Final EIR.

Project Description (Chapter 2) summarizes and presents details of the Project as described in the 2020 Final EIR and identifies the revisions proposed by CDFW to address the Court's directives. Amendments to the text of the Project description provided in the 2020 Final EIR are shown via tracked changes (i.e., additions are underlined and deletions are ~~crossed out~~).

Hydrology and Water Quality (Chapter 3) discloses and analyzes an SPF of future, unrestricted channel flow at 68,000 cfs; considers the details of a new hydraulic modeling report; and evaluates changes in velocity, water surface profiles, flow distribution, scour analysis, sediment transport analysis, and upstream and downstream impacts of proposed alterations associated with an increase in design flow capacity from 46,000 cfs to 68,000 cfs. As for the Project description, additions to the text of the hydrology and water quality section provided in the 2020 Final EIR are underlined in this REIR; deletions are ~~crossed out~~.

Appendices. Three appendices are attached to this REIR: **Appendix F12**, which contains a new technical report, entitled *Hydrology and Hydraulics Report Addendum 2*; **Appendix K** contains a scoping report for this REIR; and **Appendix L** contains a draft Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program for the Project as revised. These appendices supplement Appendices A–J of the 2017 Draft EIS/EIR included in the 2020 Final EIR.

ES.5 Significant Impacts, Mitigation Measures, and Alternatives

A complete list of the potential significant impacts of the Project and the proposed mitigation measures and Project alternatives that would reduce or avoid them can be found in the 2020 Final EIR. Based on the analysis provided in subsequent chapters, this REIR identifies no new potential significant impacts relative to those disclosed in the 2020 Final EIR. See also Appendix L, *Draft Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program*, which also identifies each significant environmental impact of the Project and proposed mitigation measures that would reduce or avoid each effect. Regarding alternatives that would reduce or avoid potential significant impacts of the Project, see Chapter 2 of the 2017 EIS/EIR, as revised by changes identified in Chapter 3 of the 2020 Final EIR.

ES.6 Areas of Controversy Known to the Lead Agency

Any of the environmental issues considered during scoping or in this REIR could become an issue of controversy. Preliminarily, CDFW has identified areas of controversy as including the issues and questions raised in agency and public comments received during scoping. All comments received during the scoping period are included in the Scoping Report included as **Appendix K** to this REIR. Potential areas of controversy identified by CDFW relate to the following issues:

- Whether changed circumstances or new information constitutes a triggering condition for expanding the scope of the REIR beyond the confines of the Trial Court's May 2023 decision.
- Issues related to flood risk, sea level rise, and the water budget for the Project site.
- Whether the REIR needs to satisfy the requirements of NEPA as well as CEQA.
- Biological resources, including vegetation, wildlife, and habitat conditions, and whether new baseline reports are needed.
- Whether reconsideration of alternatives, including the 20-point plan suggested as a "Gentle Alternative," is appropriate in the REIR.

ES.7 Issues to Be Resolved

Section 15123(b)(3) of the CEQA Guidelines requires that an EIR identify issues to be resolved, which include the choice among alternatives and

whether or how to mitigate significant impacts. The following major issues are to be resolved:

- Determine whether the EIR adequately describes the environmental impacts of the Project.
- Choose among alternatives.
- Determine whether the recommended mitigation measures should be adopted or modified.

CHAPTER 1
Introduction

This Revised Environmental Impact Report (REIR) is an informational document that supplements information previously disclosed in a final environmental impact report that the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) certified on December 30, 2020 (2020 Final EIR) for the Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project (Project).[2] This REIR revises the 2020 Final EIR to respond to specific direction received from the Los Angeles County Superior Court in *Defend Ballona Wetlands et al. v. California Department of Fish and Wildlife*, Case No. 21STCP00240 (Los Angeles County Sup. Ct., May 17, 2023) (Order). This REIR has been prepared pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Public Resources Code §21000 et seq.) and the regulations implementing CEQA (CEQA Guidelines) (California Code of Regulations Title 14, §15000 et seq.). CDFW is the lead agency under CEQA.

1.1 Focus of This Document

In the Order, the Court considered several issues raised in the lawsuits against the 2020 Final EIR, determining the 2020 Final EIR to be inadequate based on two issues. In all other respects, the Court upheld the 2020 Final EIR. In response to the Court's Order, this document does two things:

3. Based on the analysis presented and conclusions reached in the technical report entitled *Hydrology and Hydraulics Report Addendum 2* (a copy of which is provided in a new Appendix F12 included with this REIR), this document revises the 2020 Final EIR to disclose a Standard Project Flood (SPF) of future, unrestricted channel flow at 68,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) as the flood control design parameter.

4. This REIR revises the 2020 Final EIR to clarify and confirm CDFW's commitment to conduct additional environmental review should site conditions warrant a reduction of restoration goals or revisions to performance criteria to make them more attainable.

Because the new Hydrology and Hydraulics Report Addendum 2 demonstrates that no change to the levee design is needed to

[2] The 2020 Final EIR consists of a 2017 Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (2017 Draft EIS/EIR), comments on the 2017 Draft EIS/EIR, and CDFW's 2019 responses to those comments and revisions to the Draft EIS/EIR.

accommodate a design flow standard of 68,000 cfs, the 2020 Final EIR fully and accurately apprises agencies and the public that the anticipated design, size, and potential environmental impacts of the levees and the Project as a whole would not compromise flood risk. For this reason, this REIR does not revisit the 2020 Final EIR's analysis of potential impacts related to 1) biological resources (i.e., habitat availability and fragmentation, and habitat value for prey species), 2) aesthetics, 3) resources that would be affected by soil excavation for the Project, and 4) other environmental considerations that were previously described, analyzed, and disclosed in the 2020 Final EIR.

During the scoping process[3] CDFW received some comments stating that certain conditions have changed since certification of the 2020 Final EIR and as a result this REIR should analyze the new conditions. However, once an environmental impact report is certified, CEQA does not require additional environmental review of every single change. Instead, a lead agency need not review a change under CEQA unless the lead agency determines that one or more of the following events occurs:

> (a) Substantial changes are proposed in the project which will require major revisions of the environmental impact report.
>
> (b) Substantial changes occur with respect to the circumstances under which the project is being undertaken which will require major revisions in the environmental impact report.
>
> (c) New information, which was not known and could not have been known at the time the environmental impact report was certified as complete, becomes available.

(Pub. Res. Code § 21166; see also CEQA Guidelines § 15162.) The CEQA Guidelines explains that "new information" would show any of the following:

> (a) The project will have one or more significant effects not discussed in the previous EIR or negative declaration;
>
> (b) Significant effects previously examined will be substantially more severe than shown in the previous EIR;
>
> (d) Mitigation measures or alternatives previously found not to be feasible would in fact be feasible and would substantially reduce one or more significant effects of the project, but the project

[3] For more information about the scoping process, see Appendix K REIR Scoping Report.

proponents decline to adopt the mitigation measure or alternative; or

(d) Mitigation measures or alternatives which are considerably different from those analyzed in the previous EIR would substantially reduce one or more significant effects on the environment, but the project proponents decline to adopt the mitigation measure or alternative.

(CEQA Guidelines, § 15162(a)(3).) CDFW considered the scoping comments regarding the changed circumstances and determined that none of requirements for additional environmental review under CEQA were triggered. As a result, CDFW focused this REIR on the two items mentioned above.

1.2 Incorporation by Reference

This REIR supplements information that was previously disclosed in the 2020 Final EIR (State Clearinghouse No. 2012071090). The 2020 Final EIR is a public record and is available for inspection by the public on CDFW's website (https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Regions/5/Ballona-EIR) or during normal business hours at any of the following locations:

- County of Los Angeles Public Library, Lloyd Taber–Marina del Rey, 4533 Admiralty Way, Marina del Rey, CA 90292
- City of Los Angeles Public Library, Playa Vista Branch, 6400 Playa Vista Drive, Los Angeles, CA 90094
- City of Los Angeles Public Library, Westchester–Loyola Village Branch, 7114 W. Manchester Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90045

This REIR incorporates by reference the entire 2020 Final EIR except the portions of the 2020 Final EIR that are specifically revised in this REIR. Specific additions to the 2020 Final EIR are noted by underlined text and deletions are noted by text that is ~~struck out~~. Discussion and analysis from the 2020 Final EIR that contributes directly to CDFW's response to the Court's direction is included in the REIR. Remaining information from the 2020 Final EIR that is being incorporated by reference is either summarized or briefly described in this REIR.

1.3 Summary of the 2020 Final EIR

As noted above, the 2020 Final EIR consists of a 2017 Draft EIS/EIR, comments on the 2017 Draft EIS/EIR, and CDFW's 2019 responses to those

comments and revisions to the Draft EIS/EIR. The 2020 Final EIR consists of the following elements:

Summary and Introduction. The Executive Summary and Introduction to the 2017 Draft EIS/EIR, as revised by Chapter 3 of the 2019 responses to comments document, provide background information about the Project, alternatives to the Project, and the environmental review process; describe formal agency involvement; identify CDFW's Project objectives; identify known areas of potential controversy and issues to be resolved; summarize impacts and mitigation measures; and compares the impacts of the alternatives.

Description of Project and Alternatives. Chapter 2 of the 2017 Draft EIS/EIR, as revised by Chapter 3 of the 2019 responses to comments document, describes the Project, as well as the screening process for, and selection of, Project alternatives that could feasibly attain the Project's basic objectives while reducing or avoiding any of the Project's significant impacts. The alternatives discussion includes a No Project Alternative.

Environmental Setting and Environmental Impacts. Chapter 3 of the 2017 Draft EIS/EIR, as revised by Chapter 3 of the 2019 responses to comments document, describes the existing affected environment in the Project vicinity and discusses environmental resources that are rare or unique to the region. Chapter 3 also describes and analyzes significant environmental impacts—direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts, both temporary and long-term—in the context of applicable laws, regulations, plans, and standards and relative to significance criteria and thresholds. Mitigation measures that can be implemented to reduce or avoid each potentially significant environmental impact of the Project are identified. Chapter 3 further evaluates Project alternatives so that the comparative merits of each can be considered. The 2020 Final EIR identifies no unavoidable environmental impacts (i.e., potentially significant impacts that cannot be mitigated below a level of significance).

Other Considerations. Chapter 4 of the 2017 Draft EIS/EIR, as revised by Chapter 3 of the 2019 responses to comments document, discloses other CEQA considerations, including growth-inducing impacts (i.e., whether the Project would lead to economic or population growth or encourage development or other activities that could affect the environment) and irreversible environmental changes that could result from Project implementation.

EIR Preparers and List of Organizations and Persons Consulted. Chapter 5 of the 2017 Draft EIS/EIR, as revised by Chapter 3 of the 2019 responses to comments document, identifies the agencies and consultants who

prepared the 2020 Final EIR. It also discloses the Tribes, other agencies, and members of the public who were invited to participate in the environmental review process.

Appendices. The 2017 Draft EIS/EIR contains technical appendices A–J, the contents of which are summarized below.

- *Appendix A:* Scoping Report for the 2020 Final EIR.
- *Appendix B:* Technical and other detailed information about the Project description, including the Preliminary Design Report, Stormwater Management Plan, Conceptual Habitat Restoration and Adaptive Management Plan, Construction Equipment and Sequencing, Preliminary Operation and Maintenance Plan, Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program, Ballona Wetlands Inundation Memo, Ballona Wetlands Feasibility Report, Restoration Projects Cost Comparison, and a Conceptual Cost Analysis to Raise Culver and Jefferson Boulevards.
- *Appendix C:* Air quality and greenhouse gas emissions calculations.
- *Appendix D:* Technical information about biological resources, including a botanical survey summary; details about vegetation alliance and association acreages by habitat type; a study area plant list by survey effort; benthic invertebrate studies; information about biological resources existing conditions; terrestrial invertebrate studies; summaries of fish studies, reptile and amphibian studies, bird studies, and mammal studies; information about special-status plants, special-status wildlife, and species accounts; a Ballona Creek Wetlands Ecological Reserve preliminary delineation of wetlands and non-wetland waters and a jurisdictional delineation report regarding the potential well sites and Playa del Rey storage facility; information about patterns of vehicle-based vertebrate mortality in the Ballona Reserve; and a Biological Assessment.
- *Appendix E:* Geotechnical Investigation Report.
- *Appendix F:* Technical information about hydrology and water quality, including a Sediment Dynamics and Sediment Budget Analysis; Summary of Results from Sediment Sampling and Analysis in Area B–Ballona Marsh, Draft Technical Memorandum; Final Report–Ballona Wetland Preserve–Area A Preliminary Geotechnical Investigation and Beneficial Use Assessment; Sediment Characteristics Sampling and Analysis Plan for the Ballona Wetlands; Sediment Quality Investigation; Water Quality Technical Report; Hydraulics and Hydrology Report;

Hydraulic Modeling Addendum; Draft Area B Managed Wetlands Preliminary Design; Addendum 1 Sediment Transport Analysis; and Monitoring and Adaptive Management Plan.

- *Appendix G:* Noise Measurement Data and Calculations.
- *Appendix H*: Traffic Study.
- *Appendix I:* Local Study Area Census and Survey Data.
- *Appendix J:* Acronyms and Glossary.

CHAPTER 2
Project Description

NOTE TO READERS: As discussed in the Executive Summary, the conditions of the Court's remand were specific to disclosure and analysis of the flood control design parameters (i.e., a future Standard Project Flood (SPF) of unrestricted channel flow at 68,000 cubic feet per second (cfs)) and the adequacy of CDFW's commitment to specific performance criteria when the 2020 Final EIR contemplates CDFW being able to change restoration goals based on disturbance to other habitats without any supplemental environmental review and when the 2020 Final EIR contemplates performance criteria changes to provide more attainable goals if hydrology or dissolved oxygen performance goals are not met. In all other respects, the Court upheld the 2020 Final EIR. In such an instance, the CEQA Guidelines provide that Lead Agencies "need not expand the scope of analysis on remand beyond that specified by the Court" (CEQA Guidelines Section 15234[d]).

Therefore, the pages that follow include introductory or explanatory text and only those subsections of the 2020 Final EIR that contain relevant text specific to the two issues identified by the Court. Changes to the 2020 Final EIR's text are shown in underline for new text, and in ~~strikeout~~ for deleted text. People wishing to view the complete text from Chapter 2 of the 2020 Final EIR may do so in-person during regular business hours at the following locations:

- Los Angeles Public Library, Playa Vista Branch, 6400 Playa Vista Drive, Los Angeles, CA 90094
- County of Los Angeles Public Library, Lloyd Taber-Marina del Rey, 4533 Admiralty Way, Marina del Rey, CA 90292
- Los Angeles Public Library, Westchester-Loyola Village Branch, 7114 W Manchester Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90045

The 2020 Final EIR, this REIR, and other materials about the Project also are available for all-hours review online at https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Regions/5/Ballona-EIR.

2.1 Introduction

[Section 2.1 of the 2017 Draft EIS/EIR, as revised by changes identified in Chapter 3 of the 2020 Final EIR, provided introductory information about

CDFW's proposed restoration, the Project site, decisions to be made by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Section 404(b)(1) of the Clean Water Act, CEQA's requirements for the evaluation of alternatives, and the lead agencies' screening criteria for identifying and evaluating alternatives. This REIR proposes no changes to Section 2.1.]

2.2 Description of Alternatives Evaluated in Detail

Overview of Common Project Features

[Section 2.2.1 of the 2017 Draft EIS/EIR, as revised by changes identified in Chapter 3 of the 2020 Final EIR, summarized the elements common to each of the alternatives analyzed in detail (ecosystem restoration, flood risk and stormwater management, public access and visitor facilities, infrastructure and utility modification, implementation and restoration process, monitoring and adaptive management, and operations and maintenance) and advised readers that more specific details of each alternative would be provided in the sections that follow. This REIR proposes no changes to Section 2.2.1 except the proposed clarification of Section 2.2.1.6 set forth below.]

2.2.1.1 Ecosystem Restoration

[This REIR proposes no changes to Section 2.2.1.1.]

2.2.1.2 Flood Risk and Stormwater Management

[This REIR proposes no changes to Section 2.2.1.2.]

2.2.1.3 Public Access and Visitor Facilities

[This REIR proposes no changes to Section 2.2.1.3.]

2.2.1.4 Infrastructure and Utility Modification

[This REIR proposes no changes to Section 2.2.1.4.]

2.2.1.5 Implementation and Restoration Process

[This REIR proposes no changes to Section 2.2.1.5.]

2.2.1.6 Monitoring and Adaptive Management

The complexity of a large-scale restoration—ecological and funding objectives, constraints, and the presence of sensitive habitats and species—necessitates careful implementation of restoration within a monitoring and adaptive management program. Restoration monitoring

would evaluate the biologic, hydrologic, and geomorphic performance of each restoration phase prior to the commencement of further phases and actions.

Adaptive management includes restoration phasing (e.g., restoration and enhancements that increase Belding's savannah sparrow nesting habitat prior to restoration modifications within existing Belding's habitat) and activities necessary to address the impacts of climate change, fire, flood, other natural events, or changed site conditions.

To clarify and confirm, in the context of the Project and all Project alternatives, CDFW will develop and implement a Final Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan (HMMP) with specific performance criteria. Additionally, CDFW will conduct supplemental environmental review before electing to modify the performance criteria set forth in Tables 2-12 through 2-20 that provides for more attainable criteria or otherwise reduces restoration goals.

2.2.1.7 Alternative 1: Operation and Maintenance

[This REIR proposes no changes to Section 2.2.1.7.]

Alternative 1: Full Tidal Restoration/Proposed Action

[Section 2.2.2 of the 2017 Draft EIS/EIR, as revised by changes identified in Chapter 3 of the 2020 Final EIR, summarized the specific elements of the Project, i.e., Alternative 1: Full Tidal Restoration/Proposed Action. This REIR proposes no changes to Section 2.2.2 except as set forth below. Briefly, within Section 2.2.2.5, this REIR clarifies the anticipated schedule for the implementation and restoration process for the Project.

2.2.2.1 Alternative 1: Ecosystem Restoration

[This REIR proposes no changes to Section 2.2.2.1.]

2.2.2.2 Alternative 1: Flood Risk and Stormwater Management

[This REIR proposes no changes to Section 2.2.2.2.]

2.2.2.3 Alternative 1: Public Access and Visitor Facilities

[This REIR proposes no changes to Section 2.2.2.3.]

2.2.2.4 Alternative 1: Infrastructure and Utility Modification

[This REIR proposes no changes to Section 2.2.2.4.]

2.2.2.5 Alternative 1: Implementation and Restoration Process

Restoration Phasing and Sequencing

Implementation of Alternative 1 is anticipated to occur in two phases consisting of multiple sequences ~~beginning as soon as 2017~~.[4] The sequences would be grouped into two primary restoration periods, with the first lasting up to 5 years ~~(e.g., 2017 to 2022)~~ and the second beginning as soon as 1.5 years after the first period is complete ~~(e.g., as soon as 2023)~~. No restoration activities would occur between the two restoration periods to facilitate habitat restoration and plant establishment. See Table 2-6, *Alternative 1 Restoration Sequence Stages*~~, and Table 2-7, *Alternative 1 Restoration Schedule*. All restoration construction start dates are estimated for purposes of this analysis~~. The actual restoration start dates would depend on the permitting process and securing necessary funding, the anticipated durations are not expected to change.

Phase 1

In Phase 1, Area A site preparation would occur, including utility relocation, construction of bridges across Ballona Creek and Lincoln Boulevard for soil transport, and clearing and grubbing. Then soil would be excavated and used to build the Area A perimeter levee. Site preparation of North Area B would occur, including utility relocation, clearing and grubbing, and over-excavation along the levee alignment. Soil excavated from Area A would be transported to Area B and used to construct the Culver Boulevard levee and the interim levee. North Area C and South Area C would be cleared and grubbed and additional soil excavated from Area A would be transported to these areas and placed and graded to form new upland areas. The baseball fields may need to be closed during restoration. Soil for levee construction in Phase 2 would be stockpiled within the Culver and interim levees and East Area B.

For the South/Southeast Area B wetland enhancement, water-control structures would be installed and modified, and wetland enhancements, including channel excavation, berm construction, and invasive plant removal, would be completed.

~~[4] The proposed construction start date may be adjusted in the Final EIS/EIR.~~

TABLE 2-6
ALTERNATIVE 1 RESTORATION SEQUENCE STAGES

Sequence #	Restoration Phase	Project Area(s)	Activity Description
1	1	B	Southeast Area B gas line 1167—remove and relocate existing gas line to Gas Company Road
2	1	B	South and Southeast Area B enhancement – enhancement including channel excavation
3	1	A	Area A gas line removal and Del Rey 16 well modification– remove existing inactive gas line. This well is assumed to be 5 feet below grade and would require a pothole to locate the well.
4	1	A & B	Pedestrian/bicycle bridge—relocate bicycle path under proposed bridge and construct pedestrian/bicycle bridge across channel with connection to bicycle path under the bridge
5	1	A & C	Lincoln Boulevard Bridge—build Lincoln Boulevard Bridge next to Culver Boulevard Bridge to connect Area A to Area C
6	1	A	Clear, grub, and stockpile before grading Area A
7	1	A	Excavate Area A—excavation starts 70 feet north of levee
8	1	A	Construct north levee—grading and construction of levee within Area A with or without gas wells remaining
9	1	B	North Area B north gas line relocation and Del Rey 12 well abandonment and replacement—remove and relocate active gas lines within sleeve;
10	1	B	Clear and grub North Area B
11	1	B	North Area B over-excavate and stockpile—excavate along Culver Boulevard—Jefferson Boulevard to 70 feet south of levee
12	1	B	Construct Culver Boulevard levee—grading and construction of levee
13	1	B	Clear, grub, and stockpile before grading East Area B
14	1	B	East Area B grading
15	1	C	Clear and grub North and South Area C
16	1	A & C	Area A grading and export to North and South Area C
17	1	C	Finish grading for uplands in North and South Area C
18	1	B	Area B box culverts—install two new culverts on Culver Boulevard and Jefferson Boulevard and realignment of Freshwater Marsh outlet
19	1	A & B	Area A and North Area B—excavate and breach existing levees
20	1	A & B	Area A and North Area B—block and fill existing levees
21	1	A & B	Area A and North Area B—remove existing levees
22	1	B	West Area B – construct fire access road, reconstruct Area B parking lot, and construct storage basin

Sequence #	Restoration Phase	Project Area(s)	Activity Description
23	1	A & B	Construct bicycle path, pedestrian walk, and amenities along top of levee
24	1	A	Export soil from Area A to off-site landfill or ocean disposal site
25	2	B	West Area B well abandonment and replacement
26	2	B	Clear and grub West Area B levee alignment
27	2	B	Construct West Area B levee—excavate stockpiled material from Culver Boulevard levee and East Area B, grading and construction of levee
28	2	B	West Area B fire access road—construct the fire access road. The portion of connecting Culver Boulevard to the levee top must be built with Sequence 27
29	2	B	West Area B channel grading
30	2	B	Extension of bicycle path along south levee to Playa del Rey—extend the bicycle path along the top of the south levee to Playa del Rey with amenities
31	2	B	West Area B excavate and breach existing levees—remove existing levee at Ballona Creek and build levee on West Area B
32	2	B	West Area B remove existing levees—remove existing levee at Ballona Creek and build Levee on West Area B
33	2	A	Area A gas line and well abandonment and replacement
34	2	A	Area A grading and export to East Area B
35	2	B	Finish grading for uplands—complete grading in East Area B and construct optional bicycle path under Lincoln Boulevard Bridge
• NOTE: • * Performed concurrently.			

~~TABLE 2-7~~
~~ALTERNATIVE 1 RESTORATION SCHEDULE~~

~~Phase~~	~~Start Date~~	~~End Date~~
~~Phase 1—Interim Restoration: Area A, North Area B, South/Southeast Area B~~	~~January–November 2017 or later~~	~~March–July 2022 or later~~
~~Habitat Establishment, Monitoring & Adaptive Management—minimum of 1.5 years~~	~~April–August 2022 or later/longer~~	~~May–September 2023 or later/longer~~
~~Phase 2—Final Restoration: West Area B~~	~~April–September 2023 or later~~	~~January 2025–January 2026 or later~~

Once the new levees are in place, the channel meander shapes would be constructed. The new channel meander shapes would be excavated behind the existing levees, the existing levees would be breached to connect the new meanders to the existing Ballona Creek channel, and the existing Ballona Creek channel segments between the meander-shaped bends then would be blocked and filled. This sequence would maintain an open Ballona Creek channel throughout the restoration process. The existing levee then would be removed.

Finally, the public access features, including new bicycle and pedestrian paths and the West Area B fire access road and stormwater drainage improvements would be completed. The proposed parking structure across from Fisherman's Village along Fiji Way and parking improvements in the West Culver Parking Lot are included in Phase 1, although the availability of funding may affect the actual timing of restoration.

Phase 2

In Phase 2, the wells in West Area B would be abandoned and relocated. Clearing and grubbing would occur along with the alignment of the new West Area B levee and salt pan berm. The West Area B levee and salt pan berm would be constructed using the fill stockpiled in the Culver and interim levees and East Area B. A water control structure would be installed to connect the existing channel from West Area B to behind the dunes. A new water control structure would be installed under Culver Boulevard, and would be extended to reach under the West Area B levee. Tidal channels would be excavated in West Area B. The interim and south Ballona Creek levees would be lowered, regraded into the upland peninsula and salt pan berm, and breached. The wells in Area A would be abandoned, and the area would be graded sloping down to ~~marshplain~~ marsh plain. Revegetation would occur on the levees, berm, peninsula, and East Area B.

~~Restoration Schedule~~

~~Table 2-7, *Alternative 1 Restoration Schedule*, shows the proposed restoration schedule for Alternative 1.~~

2.2.2.6. Alternative 1: Monitoring and Adaptive Management

Monitoring Program

The monitoring program proposed as part of the Project would evaluate progress toward achieving restoration goals and inform the need for adaptive management for a minimum of 10 years post-restoration. In general, the proposed restoration performance criteria do not focus on specific acreages or specific species, but instead focus more broadly on habitat development, species composition, and ecosystem function

(Short et al. 2000; Zedler and Callaway 2000; Thom et al. 2010). The proposed performance criteria could be revised based on improvements in understanding of habitat development or species requirements, including lessons learned during the early phases of the restoration or from other similar restoration projects being conducted in the area. See Section 2.2.1.6, which commits CDFW to conducting supplemental environmental review before any modification to the performance criteria set forth in Tables 2-12 through 2-20 that provides for more attainable criteria or otherwise reduces restoration goals.

In addition to being broad-based and adaptable, the proposed monitoring program would be in place for at least 10 years, which will capture long-term trends in habitat development and use by wildlife species (Zedler and Callaway 1999). A 10-year monitoring period was chosen for most variables discussed in the Conceptual Plan (Appendix B3) to balance funding limitations with the need to document long-term trends in habitat development. Although a 10-year monitoring period is recommended, it is understood that some aspects of habitat development and function may not be evident within the first 10 years and, for such variables, it may be necessary to extend the monitoring period by an additional decade or more.

The goal of monitoring would be to document trends in habitat development and assess progress toward meeting restoration objectives. For cases in which the course of habitat development is relatively uncertain or for monitoring parameters which may be highly variable, assessment of performance relative to conditions in suitable reference habitats in the region would be utilized. It should be understood that some level of uncertainty will always be present, and performance criteria may require modification based on an improved understanding of habitat development, ecosystem function, or species requirements. See Section 2.2.1.6, which commits CDFW to conducting supplemental environmental review before any modification to the performance criteria set forth in Tables 2-12 through 2-20 that provides for more attainable criteria or otherwise reduces restoration goals. Furthermore, habitat development is an ongoing process that is likely to extend well beyond the prescribed monitoring period. Some aspects of the monitoring program would have a definitive end point (i.e., when performance criteria have been reached). However, given the highly modified nature of the watershed supporting the Ballona Reserve and the constraints imposed by the surrounding development, it is likely that some level of monitoring and management may be required indefinitely for invasive nonnative species or human disturbance, for example.

Monitoring would focus on the major biotic and abiotic factors that drive habitat development and ecosystem function—in particular, those factors that can be manipulated and managed or those parameters that can be used to gauge habitat development and ecosystem function (Thom et al. 2010). Sampling procedures and analyses of monitoring results would be implemented to appropriately reflect the level of accuracy achievable with each sampling procedure and the sample size achievable for each monitoring parameter. The end result of the monitoring program would be a simple, clear picture of habitat development at the Ballona Reserve in terms that can be understood by scientists, regulators, and members of the public alike.

Monitoring Parameters

[The REIR proposes no changes to the monitoring parameters in this section.]

Special-Status Species

[The REIR proposes no changes to the discussion of special-status species in this section.]

Reporting

[The REIR proposes no changes to the discussion of reporting in this section.]

Performance Criteria

Performance criteria developed for the proposed monitoring program are based on the primary ecological drivers of habitat development and function (e.g., frequency of tidal inundation for salt pan habitat), the characteristic expression of such ecological drivers (e.g., lack of vegetation for salt pan habitat), and the primary values of the habitat (e.g., birds foraging in salt pan habitat). In some cases, performance criteria are based on a more easily monitored surrogate for one or more of these factors. For example, the use of mud-flat habitat for foraging by wading bird species should be correlated with the development of a benthic invertebrate community and may serve as a reasonable surrogate for monitoring benthic invertebrates.

The use of performance criteria relative to conditions at reference sites may provide some ability to overcome uncertainties related to habitat development, of which there are many, and to account for stochastic events which may affect plant and animal communities and ecosystem function at a regional scale. Initial performance criteria for restored native habitats are provided in Table 2-12, *Tidal Marsh Performance Criteria*, through Table 2-20, *Upland Scrub and Grassland Performance Criteria*.

As explained in Section 2.2.1.6, CDFW is committed to conducting supplemental environmental review before any modification to the performance criteria set forth in Tables 2-12 through 2-20 that provides for more attainable criteria or otherwise reduces restoration goals.

[The REIR proposes no changes to Tables 2-12 through 2-20. Nonetheless, because they contribute directly to CDFW's response to the Court's direction, Tables 2-12 through 2-20 are set forth in full below as they appeared in the 2020 Final EIR.]

TABLE 2-12
TIDAL MARSH PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

Monitoring Year	Performance Criteria
Vegetation and Invasive Plants	
Years 1–3	A. Canopy cover of native salt marsh species will increase in each of the first three years to a minimum of 35% cover by the end of Year 3. B. Canopy cover of invasive species rated as "High" by the Cal-IPC will not exceed 10% cover in any year. Cal-IPC "moderate" species will be monitored and controlled if it is determined they are outcompeting or otherwise displacing native salt marsh species.
Years 4–7	A. Canopy cover of native salt marsh species will increase to a minimum of 50% cover by the end of Year 7. B. Vegetation will include a minimum of five native plant species, although one or two native species may dominate. C. Canopy cover of invasive species rated as "High" by the Cal-IPC will not exceed 10% cover in any year. Cal-IPC "moderate" species will be monitored and controlled if it is determined they are outcompeting or otherwise displacing native salt marsh species.
Years 8–10	A. Canopy cover of native salt marsh species will increase to a minimum of 75% cover by the end of Year 10. B. Vegetation will include a minimum of five native plant species present in the habitat area, although one or two native species may dominate. C. Canopy cover of invasive species rated as "High" by the Cal-IPC will not exceed 10% cover in any year. Cal-IPC "moderate" species will be monitored and controlled if it is determined they are outcompeting or otherwise displacing native salt marsh species.
Birds	
Years 1–3	A. A variety of tidal-marsh associated bird species will be observed foraging in the restored tidal marsh, although the species richness and abundance of birds may be lower than observed prior to the restoration. The species richness and abundance of tidal-marsh associated birds will not fall below 50% of pre-restoration levels after Year 1. Due to natural inter-annual variation, the determination of pre-restoration levels will take into account multiple years of seasonal prior survey data.

Monitoring Year	Performance Criteria
Years 4–7	A. Species richness and abundance of tidal marsh-associated birds may reach pre-restoration levels during this time and may increase. The species richness and abundance of tidal marsh-associated birds will not fall below 75% of pre-restoration levels after Year 7. Due to natural inter-annual variation, the determination of pre-restoration levels will take into account multiple years of seasonal prior survey data. B. Birds will be observed both foraging and demonstrating territorial behavior within the restored tidal marsh habitat.
Years 8–10	A. Species richness and abundance of tidal marsh-associated birds are expected to be greater than pre-restoration levels by the end of Year 10; however, annual increases may slow relative to increases observed in Years 4–7. The species richness and abundance of tidal marsh-associated birds will not fall below pre-restoration levels within Year 10. Due to natural inter-annual variation, the determination of pre-restoration levels will take into account multiple years of seasonal prior survey data. B. Birds will be observed both foraging and demonstrating territorial behavior within the restored tidal marsh habitat. C. Successful breeding will be documented for at least one (Belding's savannah sparrow) tidal marsh-associated bird species.

TABLE 2-13
TIDAL CHANNEL PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

Monitoring Year	Performance Criteria
Morphology	
All Applicable Years	A. Ballona Creek channel cross-section will be within predetermined maintenance limits for providing flood risk protection. B. Channel bed elevations will provide unobstructed drainage at water-control structures (i.e., channel sedimentation will not inhibit water control structure operations) channel network (i.e., planform extent and sinuosity) will be within design parameters based on reference wetlands.
Years 1–3	Channels would adjust through scour and deposition along anticipated trajectories that support target habitats and functions including tidal exchange (e.g., tidal flows would reshape constructed channel banks).
Years 4–7	The initial rate of channel adjustment would be reduced and continuing on a trajectory towards dynamic equilibrium with tidal flows.
Years 8–10	Channel would reach a dynamic equilibrium with tidal flows, with adjustments occurring in response to sea level rise and storm events.
Fish	
Years 1–3	A. Relative species richness and abundance of fish will each be within or approaching pre-restoration levels within surveyed areas. The species richness and abundance of fish will not fall below 75% of pre-restoration levels after Year 3. Due to natural inter-annual variation, the determination of pre-restoration levels will take into account seasonal prior survey data for multiple years if available. B. No major fish die-offs of wetland-dependent species will occur in greater numbers than baseline die-offs pre-restoration.
Years 4–7	A. Relative species richness and abundance of fish will reach approximately pre-restoration levels during this time. Due to natural inter-annual variation, the determination of pre-restoration levels will take into account multiple years of seasonal prior survey data if available. B. Native species richness and abundance of fish will not decrease continually across three or more consecutive years, when evaluated across the entire year. C. No major fish die-offs of wetland-dependent species will occur in greater numbers than baseline die-offs pre-restoration.
Years 8–10	A. Relative species richness and abundance of fish will each meet or exceed pre-restoration levels during Year 10. Due to natural inter-annual variation, the determination of pre-restoration levels will take into account multiple years of prior survey data if available. B. Native species richness and abundance of fish will not decrease continually across three or more consecutive years, when evaluated across the entire year. C. No major fish die-offs of wetland-dependent species will occur in greater numbers than baseline die-offs pre-restoration.
Water Quality	
All Applicable Years	Dissolved oxygen levels will remain within healthy levels for fish and other aquatic organisms; levels will not drop below 2 parts per million for more than 24 consecutive hours or more than 5% of the total number of readings across a year within primary channels.

TABLE 2-14
MUDFLAT PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

Monitoring Year	Performance Criteria
Macroinvertebrates[a]	
Years 1–3	A. Macroinvertebrate order richness will be near pre-restoration levels within three years following restoration of tidal activity and will not fall below 75% of pre-restoration levels after Year 3. Due to natural inter-annual variation, the determination of pre-restoration levels will take into account multiple years of seasonal prior survey data if available. B. Macroinvertebrate abundance or biomass (by order) will not decrease consistently (evaluated annually) during the first three years following restoration of tidal activity.
Years 4–7	A. Macroinvertebrate order richness will reach approximately pre-restoration levels during this time. Due to natural inter-annual variation, the determination of pre-restoration levels will take into account multiple years of prior survey data if available. B. Macroinvertebrate abundance or biomass (by order) will reach approximately pre-restoration levels during this time. Due to natural inter-annual variation, the determination of pre-restoration levels will take into account multiple years of prior survey data if available.
Years 8–10	A. Macroinvertebrate order diversity will meet or exceed pre-restoration levels during Year 10. Due to natural inter-annual variation, the determination of pre-restoration levels will take into account multiple years of prior survey data if available. B. Macroinvertebrate abundance or biomass (by order) will meet or exceed pre-restoration levels during Year 10. Due to natural inter-annual variation, the determination of pre-restoration levels will take into account multiple years of prior survey data if available.
Birds	
Years 1–3	A. A variety of wading and other mudflat-associated bird species will be observed foraging in mudflat habitat, although species richness may be lower than observed prior to the restoration. The species richness will not fall below 50% of pre-restoration levels after Year 1. Due to natural inter-annual variation, the determination of pre-restoration levels will take into account multiple years of seasonal prior survey data if available. B. The abundance of wading and other mudflat-associated bird species will show a steady increase in conjunction with the development of the macroinvertebrate community.
Years 4–7	A. The species richness of wading and other mudflat-associated birds observed foraging in mudflat habitat will reach approximately pre-restoration levels during this time. Due to natural inter-annual variation, the determination of pre-restoration levels will take into account multiple years of seasonal prior survey data if available. B. The abundance of wading and other mudflat-associated bird species observed foraging in mudflat habitat will reach approximately pre-restoration levels during this time. Due to natural inter-annual variation, the determination of pre-restoration levels will take into account multiple years of prior survey data if available.

Monitoring Year	Performance Criteria
Years 8–10	A. The species richness of wading and other mudflat-associated birds observed foraging in mudflat habitat will meet or exceed pre-restoration levels by the end of Year 10. Due to natural inter-annual variation, the determination of pre-restoration levels will take into account multiple years of seasonal prior survey data if available. B. The abundance of wading and other mudflat-associated bird species will meet or exceed pre-restoration levels during Year 10. Due to natural inter-annual variation, the determination of pre-restoration levels will take into account multiple years of prior survey data if available.

NOTE:

- [a] Based on sampling of macroinvertebrates greater than 0.1 inch (3 millimeters) in size.

TABLE 2-15
BRACKISH MARSH PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

Monitoring Year	Performance Criteria
Vegetation and Invasive Plants	
Years 1–3	A. Canopy cover of native brackish marsh species will be a minimum of 35% cover by the end of Year 3. B. Canopy cover of invasive species rated as "High" by the Cal-IPC will not exceed 10% cover in any year. Cal-IPC "moderate" species will be monitored and controlled if it is determined they are outcompeting or otherwise displacing native brackish marsh species.
Years 4–7	A. Canopy cover of native brackish marsh species to be a minimum of 50% cover by the end of Year 7, and will show signs of natural recruitment. B. Canopy cover of invasive species rated as "High" by the Cal-IPC will not exceed 10% cover in any year. Cal-IPC "moderate" species will be monitored and controlled if it is determined they are outcompeting or otherwise displacing native brackish marsh species.
Years 8–10	A. Canopy cover of native brackish marsh species to be a minimum of 70% cover by the end of Year 10. B. Canopy cover of invasive species rated as "High" by the Cal-IPC will not exceed 10% cover in any year. Cal-IPC "moderate" species will be monitored and controlled if it is determined they are outcompeting or otherwise displacing native brackish marsh species

TABLE 2-16
SEASONAL WETLAND PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

Monitoring Year	Performance Criteria
Hydrology	
All Applicable Years	During years of normal or greater rainfall, the majority of seasonal wetlands will be inundated for at least two consecutive weeks during the rainy season; these will generally be the same pools each year. The remaining seasonal wetlands will have soils that are saturated within 12 inches of the surface for at least two consecutive weeks during the rainy season; these will generally be the same pools each year.
Vegetation and Invasive Plants	
All Applicable Years	A. Canopy cover of invasive species rated as "High" by the Cal-IPC will not exceed 10% cover in any year. Cal-IPC "moderate" species will be monitored and controlled if it is determined they are outcompeting or otherwise displacing native wetland species. B. The majority of plant cover, both native and nonnative, will be composed of wetland-adapted species listed as facultative ("FAC") or wetter on the National Wetland Plant List.

TABLE 2-17
SALT PAN PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

Monitoring Year	Performance Criteria
Hydrology and Salinity	
All Applicable Years	A. Inundation frequency will range from monthly to seasonally. B. Inundation depths will range from 0 to 12 inches to support shorebird use. C. Water will pond, evaporate, and precipitate salt from tidal waters. D. Soil salinity will be on a trajectory to exceed soil salinity in adjacent tidal marsh areas.
Vegetation and Invasive Plants	
Years 1–5	A. A majority of the area originally designed as salt pan habitat will remain unvegetated (<15% canopy cover). Plants that establish during the early years may require physical removal; however, new plants will be prevented from becoming established as salinities rise. B. Canopy cover of invasive species rated as "High" by the Cal-IPC will not exceed 5% cover in any year. Cal-IPC "moderate" species will be monitored and controlled if it is determined they are outcompeting or otherwise displacing native salt pan species.
Years 6–10	A. A majority of the area originally designed as salt pan habitat will remain unvegetated (<5% canopy cover). Plants that became established during the early years will no longer be present within the salt pan habitat, and new plants will not become established. B. Canopy cover of invasive species rated as "High" by the Cal-IPC will not exceed 5% cover in any year. Cal-IPC "moderate" species will be monitored and controlled if it is determined they are outcompeting or otherwise displacing native salt pan species
Birds	
Years 1–3	A variety of bird species will be observed foraging in the salt pan habitat, although the species richness and abundance of birds may be lower than observed prior to the restoration. The species richness and abundance of birds will not fall below 50% of pre-restoration levels after Year 1. Due to natural inter-annual variation, the determination of pre-restoration levels will take into account multiple years of prior seasonal survey data if available.

Monitoring Year	Performance Criteria
Years 4–7	Species richness and abundance of birds observed using salt pan habitat will reach approximately pre-restoration levels during this time and will increase in most years. Due to natural inter-annual variation, the determination of pre-restoration levels will take into account multiple years of seasonal prior survey data if available.
Years 8–10	Species richness and abundance of birds observed using salt pan habitat will each meet or be greater than pre-restoration levels during Year 10; however, annual increases may slow relative to increases observed in Years 4–7. Due to natural inter-annual variation, the determination of pre-restoration levels will take into account multiple years of prior seasonal survey data if available.

TABLE 2-18
RIPARIAN HABITAT PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

Monitoring Year	Performance Criteria
Vegetation and Invasive Plants	
Years 1–3	A. Canopy cover of riparian-associated species (outside of areas occupied by eucalyptus trees) will increase in each of the first three years to a minimum of 35% cover by the end of Year 3. Areas not occupied by eucalyptus trees will show signs of natural vegetation recruitment or will be planted with appropriate native species. B. Canopy cover of invasive species rated as "High" by the Cal-IPC, exclusive of eucalyptus trees, will not exceed 10% cover in any year. The eucalyptus population will not be allowed to expand beyond the baseline population size as measured by the number of trees. Cal-IPC "moderate" species will be monitored and controlled if it is determined they are outcompeting or otherwise displacing native riparian species.
Years 4–7	A. Canopy cover of riparian-associated species (outside of areas occupied by eucalyptus trees) will increase to a minimum of 65% cover by the end of Year 7, and will show signs of significant natural recruitment. B. Canopy cover of invasive species listed as "High" by the Cal-IPC, exclusive of the eucalyptus trees, will not exceed 10% cover in any year. The eucalyptus population will not be allowed to expand beyond the baseline population size as measured by the number of trees. Cal-IPC "moderate" species will be monitored and controlled if it is determined they are outcompeting or otherwise displacing native riparian species.
Years 8–10	A. Canopy cover of riparian-associated species (outside of areas occupied by eucalyptus trees) will increase to a minimum of 80% cover by the end of Year 10. B. Canopy cover of invasive species listed as "High" by the Cal-IPC, exclusive of the eucalyptus trees, will not exceed 10% cover in any year. The eucalyptus population will not be allowed to expand beyond the baseline population size as measured by the number of trees. Cal-IPC "moderate" species will be monitored and controlled if it is determined they are outcompeting or otherwise displacing native riparian species.

TABLE 2-19
DUNE PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

Monitoring Year	Performance Criteria
Vegetation and Invasive Plants	
Years 1–3	A. Total plant cover may increase to be similar to that of other stabilized dunes in the region (25% to 75% canopy cover) within the first three years. Approximately 25% of the dunes may remain unvegetated. B. The species richness of native dune-associated plant species will be similar to that of other stabilized dunes in the region. C. Existing populations of invasive species listed as "High" by the Cal-IPC will be significantly reduced during the early years of the restoration and will not exceed 10% canopy cover. Newly developed populations [of non-native species] will not be allowed to become established. Cal-IPC "moderate" species will be monitored and controlled if it is determined they are outcompeting or otherwise displacing native dune-associated species.
Years 4–7	A. Total plant cover will be similar to that of other stabilized dunes in the region (25% to 75% canopy cover). Approximately 25% of the dunes may remain unvegetated. B. The species richness of native dune-associated plant species will be similar to or greater than that of other stabilized dunes in the region. C. Existing populations of invasive species listed as "High" by the Cal-IPC will be significantly reduced during the early years of the restoration and will not exceed 10% canopy cover. Newly developed populations [of non-native species] will not be allowed to become established. Cal-IPC "moderate" species will be monitored and controlled if it is determined they are outcompeting or otherwise displacing native dune-associated species.
Years 8–10	A. Total plant cover will be similar to that of other stabilized dunes in the region (25% to 75% canopy cover). B. The species richness of native dune-associated plant species will be similar to or greater than that of other stabilized dunes in the region. C. All populations of invasive species listed as "High" by the Cal-IPC will be significantly reduced during the early years of the restoration and will not exceed 10% canopy cover. Newly developed populations [of non-native species] will not be allowed to become established. Cal-IPC "moderate" species will be monitored and controlled if it is determined they are outcompeting or otherwise displacing native dune-associated species.

TABLE 2-20
UPLAND SCRUB AND GRASSLAND PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

Monitoring Year	Performance Criteria
Vegetation and Invasive Plants	
Years 1–3	A. Native canopy cover will be a minimum of 30% cover by the Year 3 surveys. B. Canopy cover of invasive species listed as "High" by the Cal-IPC will not exceed 10% cover in any year. Cal-IPC "moderate" species will be monitored and controlled if it is determined they are outcompeting or otherwise displacing native upland scrub or grassland species.

Monitoring Year	Performance Criteria
Years 4–7	A. Canopy cover will increase to a minimum of 50% cover by the end of Year 7, and will show signs of significant natural recruitment. B. Canopy cover of invasive species listed as "High" by the Cal-IPC will not exceed 10% cover in any year. Cal-IPC "moderate" species will be monitored and controlled if it is determined they are outcompeting or otherwise displacing native upland scrub or grassland species.
Years 8–10	A. Canopy cover will increase to a minimum of 65% cover by the end of Year 10. B. Canopy cover of invasive species listed as "High" by the Cal-IPC will not exceed 10% cover in any year. Cal-IPC "moderate" species will be monitored and controlled if it is determined they are outcompeting or otherwise displacing native upland scrub or grassland species.
Birds	
Years 1–3	A. A variety of bird species will be observed foraging in the restored uplands, although the species richness and abundance of birds may be lower than observed prior to the restoration. The species richness and abundance of birds will not fall below 50% of pre-restoration levels after Year 1. Due to natural inter-annual variation, the determination of pre-restoration levels will take into account multiple years of prior survey data if available.
Birds (cont.)	
Years 4–7	A. Species richness and abundance of birds will reach approximately pre-restoration levels and will not decrease with each successive year. Due to natural inter-annual variation, the determination of pre-restoration levels will take into account multiple years of prior survey data if available. B. Birds will be observed both foraging and demonstrating territorial behavior within the restored upland habitat.
Years 8–10	A. Species richness and abundance of birds will each be at or greater than pre-restoration levels by the end of Year 10. Due to natural inter-annual variation, the determination of pre-restoration levels will take into account multiple years of prior survey data if available. B. Birds will be observed both foraging and demonstrating territorial behavior within the restored upland habitat.

Adaptive Management

[The REIR proposes no changes to the discussion of adaptive management in this section.]

Sea Level Rise

[The REIR proposes no changes to the discussion of sea level rise in this section.]

Phase 1 Implementation

[The REIR proposes no changes to the discussion of Phase 1 implementation in this section.]

Phase 2 Implementation

[The REIR proposes no changes to the discussion of Phase 2 implementation in this section.]

2.2.2.7. Alternative 1: Operation and Maintenance

[The REIR proposes no changes to Section 2.2.2.7.]

Alternative 2: Restored Partial Sinuous Creek

[Section 2.2.3 of the 2017 Draft EIS/EIR, as revised by changes identified in Chapter 3 of the 2020 Final EIR, described the specific details of Alternative 2: Restored Partial Sinuous Creek. This REIR proposes no changes to Section 2.2.3 except the proposed amendments to Section 2.2.3.6 set forth below.]

2.2.3.1 Alternative 2: Ecosystem Restoration

[The REIR proposes no changes to Section 2.2.3.1.]

2.2.3.2 Alternative 2: Flood Risk and Stormwater Management

[The REIR proposes no changes to Section 2.2.3.2.]

2.2.3.3 Alternative 2: Public Access and Visitor Facilities

[The REIR proposes no changes to Section 2.2.3.3.]

2.2.3.4 Alternative 2: Infrastructure and Utility Modification

[The REIR proposes no changes to Section 2.2.3.4.]

2.2.3.5 Alternative 2: Implementation and Restoration Process

[The REIR proposes no changes to Section 2.2.3.5.]

2.2.3.6 Alternative 2: Monitoring and Adaptive Management

Monitoring program development, performance criteria, and adaptive management approaches would be the same under Alternative 2 as those described for Alternative 1 in Section 2.2.2.6, *Alternative 1: Monitoring and Adaptive Management*. The 10-year monitoring program would evaluate the progress toward achieving restoration goals and inform the need for adaptive management during the lifespan of the restoration. Performance criteria would be open to revision based on improvements in understanding of habitat development or species requirements, including lessons learned from the restoration or other similar restoration projects being conducted in the area. See Section 2.2.1.6, which commits CDFW to conducting supplemental environmental review

before any modification to the performance criteria set forth in Tables 2-12 through 2-20 that provides for more attainable criteria or otherwise reduces restoration goals.

Alternative 2 would not be dependent on the habitat performance in order to complete the restoration as in Phase 2 of Alternative 1.

2.2.3.7 Alternative 2: Operations and Maintenance

[The REIR proposes no changes to Section 2.2.3.7.]

Alternative 3: Levee Culverts and Oxbow

[Section 2.2.4 of the 2017 Draft EIS/EIR, as revised by changes identified in Chapter 3 of the 2020 Final EIR, described the specific details of Alternative 3: Levee Culverts and Oxbow. This REIR proposes no changes to Section 2.2.4 except the proposed amendments to Section 2.2.4.6 set forth below.]

2.2.4.1 Alternative 3: Ecosystem Restoration

[The REIR proposes no changes to Section 2.2.4.1.]

2.2.4.2 Alternative 3: Flood Risk and Stormwater Management

[The REIR proposes no changes to Section 2.2.4.2.]

2.2.4.3 Alternative 3: Public Access and Visitor Facilities

[The REIR proposes no changes to Section 2.2.4.3.]

2.2.4.4 Alternative 3: Infrastructure and Utility Modification

[The REIR proposes no changes to Section 2.2.4.4.]

2.2.4.5 Alternative 3: Implementation and Restoration Process

[The REIR proposes no changes to Section 2.2.4.5.]

2.2.4.6 Alternative 3: Monitoring and Adaptive Management

Monitoring program development, performance criteria, and adaptive management approaches would be similar under Alternative 3 as those described for Alternative 1 in Section 2.2.1.6, *Alternative 1: Monitoring and Adaptive Management*. The 10-year monitoring program would evaluate the progress toward achieving restoration goals and inform the need for adaptive management during the lifespan of the restoration. Performance criteria would be open to revision based on improvements in understanding of habitat development or species requirements, including lessons learned from the restoration or other similar restoration projects

being conducted in the area. See Section 2.2.1.6, which commits CDFW to conducting supplemental environmental review before any modification to the performance criteria set forth in Tables 2-12 through 2-20 that provides for more attainable criteria or otherwise reduces restoration goals.

Alternative 3 would not be dependent on the habitat performance in order to complete the restoration as in Alternative 1.

2.2.4.7 Alternative 3: Operations and Maintenance

[The REIR proposes no changes to Section 2.2.4.7.]

Alternative 4: No Federal Action/No Project

[Section 2.2.5 of the 2017 Draft EIS/EIR, as revised by changes identified in Chapter 3 of the 2020 Final EIR, described the specific details of Alternative 4: No Federal Action/No Project. This REIR proposes no changes to Section 2.2.5.]

2.3 Potential Alternatives Considered but Not Carried Forward for More Detailed Consideration

[Section 2.3 of the 2017 Draft EIS/EIR, as revised by changes identified in Chapter 3 of the 2020 Final EIR, described nine additional potential alternatives that were considered but not carried forward for more detailed consideration. This REIR proposes no changes to Section 2.3.]

2.4 References

[Section 2.4 of the 2017 Draft EIS/EIR, as revised by changes identified in Chapter 3 of the 2020 Final EIR, provided citation information for the references identified and relied upon in Chapter 2. This REIR proposes no changes to the references section for 2017 Draft EIS/EIR Chapter 2.]

CHAPTER 3
Hydrology and Water Quality

NOTE TO READERS: This Chapter focuses on hydrology and water quality, considers the analysis presented and conclusions reached in the technical report provided in Appendix F12, *Hydrology and Hydraulics Report Addendum 2*, and revises the 2020 Final EIR to disclose a Standard Project Flood of future, unrestricted channel flow at 68,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) as the proper flood control design parameter. In the pages that follow, relevant portions of Section 3.9, *Hydrology and Water Quality*, from the 2017 Draft EIS/EIR have been reproduced as they appeared in the original document, including corrections and other clarifying edits shown in Section 3.9 of the 2020 Final EIR. Only those subsections containing relevant introductory text and text specific to disclosure and analysis of the proper flood control design parameters have been included, and changes to the original text have been modified in underline for new text, and in ~~strikeout~~ for deleted text. Persons wishing to view the complete text from Section 3.9 of the 2017 Draft EIS/EIR may do so on CDFW's website (https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Regions/5/Ballona-EIR) or during normal business hours at any of the following locations:

- County of Los Angeles Public Library, Lloyd Taber–Marina del Rey, 4533 Admiralty Way, Marina del Rey, CA 90292
- City of Los Angeles Public Library, Playa Vista Branch, 6400 Playa Vista Drive, Los Angeles, CA 90094
- City of Los Angeles Public Library, Westchester–Loyola Village Branch, 7114 W. Manchester Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90045

3.9 Hydrology and Water Quality

3.9.1 Introduction

[This REIR proposes no changes to the introductory material provided in Section 3.9.1, which summarizes the topics covered in Section 3.9.1 of the 2020 Final EIR.]

3.9.2 Affected Environment

3.9.2.1 Study Area

[This REIR proposes no changes to the description of the study area provided in Section 3.9.2.1 of the 2020 Final EIR.]

3.9.2.2 Environmental Setting

[This REIR proposes changes to 2020 Final EIR Section 3.9.2.2, Environmental Setting*, regarding the following four topics: Surface Water Hydrology and Drainage, Erosion and Sedimentation, and Flooding. Except where additions are shown in underline and deletions are shown as ~~struck though~~, the text below remains as it appeared in the 2020 Final EIR.]*

Surface Water Hydrology and Drainage

[This REIR proposes changes to 2020 Final EIR Section 3.9.2.2, Environmental Setting*, under the heading of Surface Water Hydrology and Drainage regarding Ballona Creek at the Project Site – Ballona Creek Estuary. This REIR proposes no other changes to the discussion under the heading of Surface Water Hydrology and Drainage.]*

Ballona Creek at the Project Site – Ballona Creek Estuary

Within the Ballona Reserve, Ballona Creek is a straight, trapezoidal, soft-bottomed channel with concrete flood control levees. Ballona Creek is connected to the Ballona Reserve in West Area B through two self-regulated tide (SRT) gates, which limit the high tide levels in the wetland or "mute" the tides. As discussed in more detail in Appendix F9 of the 2020 Final EIR, the SRT gates are designed to close and prevent inflows when the Ballona Creek water levels reach a certain elevation, but in practice, they leak and allow water levels to increase in West Area B (LA County 2012). To keep water levels in the marsh at the designed elevation, the gates are operated under existing (baseline) conditions to close at a lower creek elevation (LA County 2012). The tidal channels in this area convey tide water to the marsh and drain the water during low tides. A second culvert with a flap gate allows flow out of West Area B into the creek when West Area B water levels exceed the water levels in Ballona Creek. Additional culverts under Culver Boulevard and the Gas Company Road connect West Area B to South and then Southeast Area B respectively. These areas receive severely muted tides, and the tidal waters are limited to the western ditches that run through these areas.

The Freshwater Marsh treats urban runoff and stormwater from the Playa Vista development (central inlet) and from Jefferson Boulevard (Jefferson inlet). Water flows into the Freshwater Marsh year-round from the storm

drains and an adjustable outlet weir ~~into Southeast Area B~~ provides water level control. Water flows out of the Freshwater Marsh ~~through~~ over an adjustable weir to an underground culvert with a flapgate that connects to Ballona Creek. During storm events greater than the 1-year event[5], the Freshwater Marsh flows over a spillway with an adjustable weir into ~~spillway in~~ an overflow pond adjacent to Southeast Area B. In addition, a partially constructed culvert is located at the southern end of the marsh that could be used to manage the periodic release of freshwater into Southeast Area B with completion of the outlet. While existing permits allow the Ballona Wetlands Conservancy to lower water levels in the Freshwater Marsh to -2 feet mean lower low water (MLLW), in recent years the Conservancy has been managing water levels higher due to concerns about drought conditions limiting how much water reaches the Freshwater Marsh. Additionally, the Conservancy has been directing flows into Southeast Area B rather than the culvert to the creek for the benefit of the marsh in the Ballona Reserve.

The creek levees and the high ground elevations prevent water from Ballona Creek from entering Area A and Area C under existing conditions. However, Fiji Ditch, in the north of Area A, is connected to Marina del Rey by a culvert, so water from parts of Area A adjacent to the ditch can flow out to the marina. A second overflow culvert under Lincoln Boulevard also provides Area C drainage to Fiji Ditch during storm events.

Erosion and Sedimentation

[This REIR proposes no changes to the discussion of erosion and sedimentation under this subheading except as noted below. Descriptions and analysis from the 2020 Final EIR that are not being revised are included below because it contributes directly to CDFW's response to the Court's direction and may provide useful context for readers.]

Throughout most of its length, Ballona Creek is a concrete-lined, flood-control channel in a highly urbanized watershed. These factors limit the supply of sediment to the creek, which in turn limits the potential for sedimentation in the channel. The concrete lining also prevents channel erosion, so erosion only occurs in the soft-bottom portion of the channel (downstream of Centinela Boulevard). At the mouth of Ballona Creek, coastal sediment transport processes strongly influence sediment dynamics.

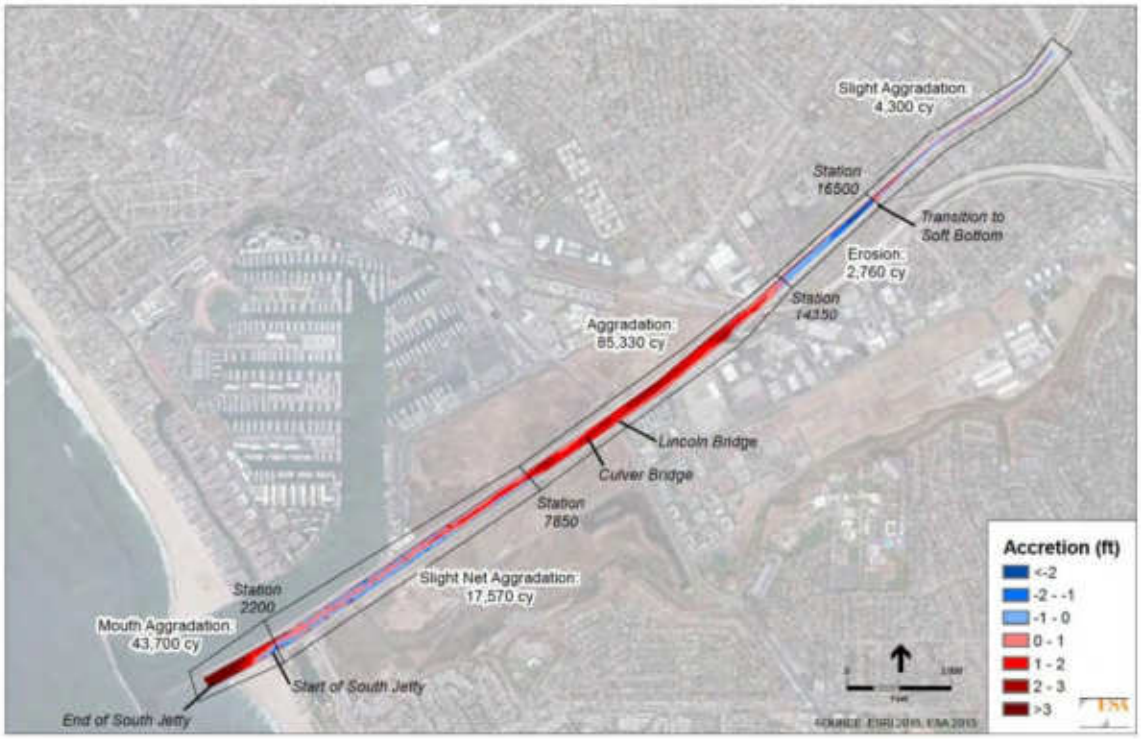
5 The size of a storm event that has a 100% chance of occurring each year.

Erosion and Sedimentation in Ballona Creek Upstream of the Project Site

Storm events can mobilize sediment from the watershed or within Ballona Creek and result in either net deposition or, where the channel has a soft-bottom, net erosion within the channel. Channel profiles from 1961 and 2012 were compared to identify areas of net channel deposition or erosion over time. Based on these historic data, and sediment transport modeling results, five different sediment transport reaches were identified, three of which are upstream of the site (Figure 3.9-3, *Ballona Creek Accretion Between 1961-2012*~~, p. 42~~) as discussed in the May 2013 Preliminary Hydrology and Hydraulics Report prepared by ESA for the Project (Appendix F7):

1. (Station 23070 to 16500) – A slightly depositional reach exhibiting both erosion and deposition from I-405 to Centinela Avenue.
2. (Station 16500 to 14350) – An erosional reach immediately downstream of the terminus of the concrete channel lining to just upstream of the Marina Freeway, which includes a scour hole at the transition to the earthen channel bottom.
3. (Station 14350 to 7850) – A depositional reach, which extends from upstream to the middle of Area A.

Figure 3.9-3 Ballona Creek Accretion Between 1961 and 2012



Erosion and Sedimentation in Ballona Estuary and Project Site

Historic data and sediment modeling show the following sediment transport reaches within the Project site (Appendix F7):

1. (Station 14350 to 7850) – A depositional reach, which extends from just upstream of the Marina Freeway to the middle of Area A.
2. (Station 7850 to 2200) – A slightly depositional reach exhibiting both erosion and deposition to the Pacific Avenue bridge.
3. (Station 2200 to 0) – A depositional reach with a wave-driven shoal in the mouth of the creek.

Figure 3.9-3, *Ballona Creek Accretion Between 1961-2012* ~~(p. 42),~~ shows each of the five sediment transport reaches described above.

Since Area B is separated from Ballona Creek by SRT gates, which close when Ballona Creek water levels rise during high tides or storm events, no erosion occurs in the marsh as a result of Ballona Creek flood flows.

Erosion and Sedimentation in Marina del Rey and Santa Monica Bay

In the vicinity of Ballona Creek, the alignment of the coastline and the associated prevailing waves create a predominant net coastal sediment transport to the southeast or downcoast. Ocean waves and long-shore[6] currents carry sediment, whether from terrestrial or ocean sources, southeastward along the coast. This is reversed when southern swells approach the coastline during the summer, and occasionally under other conditions. Whether sediment is deposited or eroded from the shoreline depends on the actions of the long-shore currents, the shape of the coastline, and anthropogenic factors such as dredging and structures.

The construction of the Marina del Rey jetties and breakwater, as well as a series of other coastal structures in Santa Monica Bay, created littoral barriers that limit coastal sediment transport and that, along with sand nourishment, create compartmentalized, wide, stable beaches. The Marina del Rey breakwater creates a wave shadow that encourages deposition behind it. It is estimated that approximately 48,000 cy/yr of sand is deposited in the entrance to Marina del Rey as a result of coastal sediment transport processes.

Ballona Creek can also be a source of sediment to Santa Monica Bay. Sediment transport is extremely variable depending on sediment supply and hydrology, but the average sediment delivery from Ballona Creek into

6 "Long-shore currents" run parallel to or along the shoreline.

Santa Monica Bay and Marina del Rey is estimated to be approximately 7,000 cy/yr (Appendix F1).

Sediment deposited in the entrance to the marina is dredged to maintain boat access by the Corps and Los Angeles County. Since 1999, the following major dredge events have occurred:

1. 1999: 670,000 cy dredged
2. 2007: 330,000 cy dredged
3. 2012: 780,000 cy dredged

Based on all of the dredging records (1969-2012), a total of approximately 55,000 cy of material are deposited each year in the marina entrance from all sources (Corps 2003a, 2003b, 2004, 2014, Kinnetic Laboratories and Halcrow 2011). Of this, an average of approximately 5,000 cy/yr is from Ballona Creek (the remaining 2,000 cy/yr from Ballona Creek is exported to Santa Monica Bay or further downshore).

Flooding

Flooding can occur when stormwater runoff exceeds the conveyance capacity of the drainage system. Flooding can also occur due to tsunamis, high tides/storm surge, dam or levee failure, sea-level rise, or other causes.

Current Flooding Conditions Upstream of the Project Area

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) identifies areas throughout the United States that are at risk for flooding. FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) show areas that have a 0.2% risk (500-year event) or a 1% risk (100-year event) of being inundated by a flood event in a given year. The FIRM for Ballona Creek shows the 1% and 0.2% flood zones are contained within the channel (Figure 3.9-4, *FEMA Flood Map*; FEMA 2008~~, p. 46).~~).

Hydraulic modeling was conducted to evaluate the water elevations under flood conditions (see Section 3.9.5, *Methodology*). The flood analysis was performed for a ~~steady~~ flow rate of ~~46~~68,000 cubic feet per second (cfs), as directed by the Los Angeles County Superior Court. The 68,000 cfs flow is the ~~design flow used~~ Standard Project Flood calculated by the Corps in 1978 for "future conditions" and "unrestricted" channel~~.~~ ~~The~~ flow (Corps ~~developed~~1978). "Future conditions" refers to the Corps' estimate of anticipated future development in the ~~design~~ watershed, referred to as the "ultimate condition" (Corps 1978). "Unrestricted flow

from a 24-hour, 50-year rainfall event using a modified Rational Method.[7] The design flow" refers to conditions where all flows are conveyed downstream without overflow. The Standard Project Flood is greater than the 100500-year event which is 57,185 cfs for Ballona Creek(44,690 cfs) because it includes "burning" and "bulking," or consideration of canyon and mountainous area wildfires adding debris to the runoff modeling. Current modeling of the design showed Standard Project Flood shows that the flow is contained withina 68,000 cfs flow would overtop Centinela Blvd. bridge and the channel banks/levees upstream and also potentially the channel with 5 to 7 feet banks/levees upstream of freeboard[8] below the levee crests Lincoln Blvd bridge (Appendix F7F12). As a result, 68,000 cfs would not reach the Project Site during such an extreme and unlikely event.

Current Flooding Conditions at the Project Site and Downstream of the Project Site

Storm Events

The Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) (FEMA 2008) shows that the 100- and 500- year storm events (a 100-year event is one with a 1% chance of occurring in a given year, a or 500-year event has a 0.2% chance of occurring in a given year) are contained within the Ballona Creek channel (Figure 3.9-4, *FEMA Flood Map* p. 46).). Hydraulic modeling results indicate the design event Standard Project Flood of 4668,000 cfs (approximately 10,800 cfs greater than the 100500-year event) is contained within the channel with 50.3 to 8.7 feet of freeboard to the levee crest within and downstream of the Project site (Appendix F7F12).

[7] The Rational Method is a simple method for estimating peak discharge from a drainage using a formula that relates flow rate to drainage area, rainfall intensity, and a runoff coefficient. It is commonly used to estimate design flow rates for engineering studies.

[8] "Freeboard" is the distance between the water elevation and the top of the channel or levee.

Figure 3.9-4 FEMA Flood Map



Localized flooding has been observed at the west end of Culver Boulevard near the intersection with Nicholson Street. The Pershing Drive storm drain collects the drainage from the Playa del Rey neighborhood south of Culver Boulevard and routes it toward the intersection of Nicholson Street, Pershing Drive, and Culver Boulevard. This pipe is undersized and contains an overflow drain that occasionally discharges on to the intersection of Culver Boulevard and Nicholson Street (Appendix B1).

For storms greater than the 1-year event, flow from the Freshwater Marsh overtops the weir into Southeast Area B. When the water levels in the creek are high, Area B acts as storage for water from the Freshwater Marsh until the creek water levels are low enough for water to flow out of the SRT gates in West Area B and the flap gate from the Freshwater Marsh into Ballona Creek.

Tsunamis

[This REIR proposes no changes to the description of tsunamis in Section 3.9.2.2.]

Sea ~~Level~~ level Rise

~~Estimates of sea level rise can be used to evaluate potential future flooding conditions. In 2013, the Ocean Protection Council released a resolution, which revised previous global sea-level rise projections. The resolution advises California state agencies to consider 10-17 inches of sea level rise by 2050 and 31-69 inches by 2100 (measured from a 2000 baseline) based on the National Research Council's *Sea-Level Rise for the Coasts of California, Oregon, and Washington* report (OPC 2013, NRC 2012). The 2100 estimates reflect the range in greenhouse gas emission scenarios, with low emissions resulting in 31-50 inches of sea level rise and high emissions resulting in 43-69 inches. To date, emissions have been tracking on the high scenario. Assuming continuation of the high emissions trajectory, the higher range of sea level rise projections would apply.~~ The ~~high estimate is similar to the~~ Estimates of sea-level rise can be used to evaluate potential future flooding conditions. Studies for this Project (Appendices F7, F8, F9, F12) used the Corps Modified NRC-III curve which predicts 59 inches by 2100 (from a 1992 baseline) (Corps 2011). ~~As global water levels increase, land elevations may also be changing. Land subsidence in Los Angeles is on the order of 0.06 inches per year (1.5 mm/yr), which is much less than projected sea-level rise rates (NRC 2012).~~

The most current state guidance for sea-level rise planning is the Ocean Protection Council's (OPC) *California Sea-Level Rise Guidance, 2024*

Science and Policy Update 2024. California Sea Level Rise Science Task Force, California Ocean Protection Council, California Ocean Science Trust. (OPC 2024 Guidance).

The OPC 2024 Guidance was based on updated relative sea-level rise projections from the national Global and Regional Sea Level Rise Scenarios for the United States (NOAA 2022). The OPC 2024 Guidance includes sea-level rise projections and the following five California sea level scenarios:

- Low: assumes "the current rate of sea-level rise [will continue] on into the future. This assumption is inconsistent with current observations of an acceleration in sea level rise . . ."

- Intermediate-Low: "provides a reasonable estimate of the lower bound for the most likely sea-level rise by 2100."

- Intermediate: "provides a reasonable upper bound for the most likely range of sea-level rise by 2100." Under the Intermediate scenario, approximately 59 inches of sea-level rise are expected to occur around 2135 for the Santa Monica gage.

- Intermediate-High: "heavily reflective of a world where rapid ice sheet loss processes are contributing to sea-level rise…corresponds to other scientific estimates of plausible high-end projections." Under the Intermediate-High scenario, approximately 59 inches of sea-level rise is expected to occur around 2105 for the Santa Monica gage. The guidance states, "at a warming level of 3°C in 2100, the probability of exceeding this scenario is 0.1% when not considering the low confidence processes" such as rapid ice sheet loss "emphasizing the degree to which these processes are needed to get to this scenario." Additionally, "with the low confidence processes, the probability of exceeding this scenario is approximately 20% for very high warming levels [>4°C]."

- High: "Deep uncertainties and ambiguity embedded in this scenario frame a worst case beyond 2100 as we currently understand it, and a statement about the likelihood of reaching this scenario is not possible. It should be used with caution and consideration of the underlying assumptions." Under the High scenario, 59 inches of sea-level rise is expected to occur around 2085 for the Santa Monica gage.

The guidance recommends evaluating the Intermediate, Intermediate-High, and High scenarios as well as consideration of the 100-year storm conditions but acknowledges that not all scenarios need to be evaluated.

Since the Standard Project Flood is greater than the 500-year event, evaluating the Standard Project Flood with 59 inches of sea-level rise, which is projected to occur between 2090 in the High scenario and 2135 in the Intermediate scenario, provides a conservatively high estimate of how high water levels could reach during a storm event with future sea-level rise.

Hydraulic modeling of Ballona Creek under 59 inches of sea-level rise (by 2100) found that flood flows for the 100-year event would still be contained within the existing channel except for ~~at~~ the south jetty, where flows would overtop onto the adjacent beach (Appendix F7). For the 68,000 cfs Standard Project Flood with 59 inches of sea-level rise, the hydraulic modeling under existing levees showed the Lincoln Blvd bridge and levees upstream would overtop, flooding would occur at the west end of Area A and North Area B, and the West Area B levee and Marina del Rey levee would overtop. In Area B, ~~mean lower low tide (~~MLLW~~),~~ which is an average of the lowest water level every day, would be higher than the SRT gates closing elevation, so the marsh would no longer experience a tide range and would drown out (ESA 2014).

Groundwater Occurrence and Flow

[This REIR proposes no changes to the text under the heading Groundwater Occurrence and Flow in Section 3.9.2.2. Nor does this REIR propose any changes to the text under the heading Groundwater Quality in Section 3.9.2.2.]

3.9.3 Applicable Laws, Regulations, Plans, and Standards

3.9.3.1 Federal

[This REIR proposes no changes to the description of federal laws, regulations, plans, and standards as presented in Section 3.9.3.1.]

3.9.3.2 State

[This REIR proposes to supplement the description of State laws, regulations, plans, and standards as presented in Section 3.9.3.2 of the 2020 Final EIR to include a summary of the 2014 Sustainability Groundwater Management Act and the Groundwater Sustainability Plan for the Santa Monica Groundwater Subbasin (Dudek 2022). No other changes to section 3.9.3.2 are proposed.]

Groundwater Sustainability Plan

The state of California codified the 2014 Sustainable Groundwater Management Act in Water Code §10720 et seq. The Act requires high- and medium-priority basin Groundwater Sustainability Agencies to develop a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) in order to meet the sustainability goals developed as part of the plan.

The Santa Monica Groundwater Basin is a medium-priority groundwater basin (City of Santa Monica 2024). The Santa Monica Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency adopted the *Groundwater Sustainability Plan for the Santa Monica Groundwater Subbasin* in 2022 (Dudek 2022). The purpose of the *Groundwater Sustainability Plan for the Santa Monica Groundwater Subbasin* is to "define the groundwater conditions that will be used to ensure the long-term sustainability of groundwater resources for current and future stakeholders through ongoing, proactive stewardship." The GSP identifies parts of the Ballona Wetlands as groundwater dependent ecosystems and notes "depletion of groundwater supporting these areas is not currently occurring and will not occur as a result of groundwater production because the groundwater that supports the GDE [groundwater dependent ecosystem] habitats occurs within the Bellflower aquitard, a shallow surface aquifer that is not used for groundwater production." (Dudek 2022).

3.9.3.3 Local

[This REIR proposes no changes to the description of local laws, regulations, plans, and standards as presented in Section 3.9.3.3.]

3.9.4 Thresholds of Significance

[This REIR proposes changes to the discussion in Section 3.9.4 of the 2020 Final EIR to identify the authorized design discharge in the affected section of Ballona Creek as the 68,000 cfs Standard Project Flood.]

In this analysis, ~~the Corps~~ CDFW has elected to evaluate the context and intensity of potential environmental consequences relative to the criteria identified in CEQA Guidelines Appendix G, Section IX. In addition, the analysis considers where improvements of the Project would provide a net benefit relative to existing conditions, which are described in Section 3.9.2, *Affected Environment*.

For purposes of this analysis, Alternative 1, 2, 3, or 4 would result in significant impacts to Hydrology and Water Quality if it would:

WQ-1 Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements; otherwise substantially degrade water (or sediment) quality; or create or contribute runoff water, which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff;

WQ-2 Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table ~~level~~ (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted);

WQ-3 Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site;

WQ-4 Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site, or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff; or

WQ-5 Result in inundation by seiche[9] or tsunami.

CEQA Guidelines Appendix G, Section IX criterion (g) suggests that a project would have a significant adverse impact to Hydrology and Water Quality if it would place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map. None of the Alternatives would place housing within a 100-year flood hazard zone. Therefore, the

[9] A standing wave in an enclosed or partially enclosed body of water.

Project would have no direct or indirect impact during or following restoration under any of the alternatives, and could not cause or contribute to any potential cumulative impact in this regard. Because this CEQA Guidelines Appendix G criterion is not applicable to the Project, it is not discussed further in this analysis.

CEQA Guidelines Appendix G, Section IX criterion (h) suggests that a project would have a significant adverse impact to Hydrology and Water Quality if it would place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures that would impede or redirect flood flows. None of the Alternatives would place a structure within a 100-year flood hazard zone. The only proposed structure – the proposed parking structure in Area A -- would be outside of the floodplain. Therefore, the Project would have no direct or indirect impact during or following restoration under any of the Alternatives, and could not cause or contribute to any potential cumulative impact in this regard. Because this CEQA Guidelines Appendix G criterion is not applicable to the Project, it is not discussed further in this analysis.

CEQA Guidelines Appendix G, Section IX criterion (i) suggests that a project would have a significant adverse impact to Hydrology and Water Quality if it would expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam. The Project site is located within the predicted dam inundation zone for Stone Canyon, Mulholland, Silver Lake, and Lower Franklin Canyon Dams. However, the Project under any of the Alternatives would have no impact on exposure of people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding during or following restoration because, consistent with the purpose and need (as stated in Section 1.2.1, *Statement of Purpose and Need under NEPA*, and in Objective 6 in Section 1.2.2, *CEQA Project Objectives*), it would ~~ensure~~ be designed so that any alteration or modification to the LACDA project components would maintain the authorized LACDA project levels of flood risk management for the authorized design discharge, which in this section of Ballona Creek~~, includes ensuring there~~ is ~~no reduction to the conveyance capacity of 46~~the 68,000 cfs ~~and that LACDA project features reduce flood risk to the surrounding communities and infrastructure for up to~~ Standard Project Flood calculated by the ~~100 year flood event~~ Corps in 1978. ~~.~~ Therefore, the Project would have no direct or indirect impact during or following restoration under any of the alternatives, and could not cause or contribute to any potential cumulative impact in this regard. Because this CEQA Guidelines Appendix G criterion is not applicable to the Project, it is not discussed further in this analysis.

CEQA Guidelines Appendix G, Section IX criterion (j) suggests that a project would have a significant adverse impact to Hydrology and Water Quality if it would result in inundation by any of three events: seiche, tsunami, or mudflow. The potential for the Alternatives to result in inundation by seiche or tsunami is addressed for each of the Alternatives in Section 3.9.6, *Direct and Indirect Impacts.* (For each, see the analysis of WQ-5). However, due to the relatively flat topography of the project area, Project implementation would not result in inundation by mudflow. Therefore, the Project would have no direct or indirect impact relating to inundation by mudflow during or following restoration under any of the Alternatives, and could not cause or contribute to any potential cumulative impact in this regard. Because this CEQA Guidelines Appendix G criterion is not applicable to the Project as it relates to mudflow, it is discussed below only in connection with inundation by seiche or tsunami.

3.9.5 Methodology

[This REIR proposes no changes to Section 3.9.5 of the 2020 Final EIR except to Section 3.9.5.2 and to Section 3.9.5.3, as shown below.]

3.9.5.1 Subsurface Investigations

[This REIR proposes no changes to the discussion of subsurface investigations in Section 3.9.5.1 of the 2020 Final EIR.]

3.9.5.2 Hydraulic Modeling

Hydraulic modeling was a primary analytical tool used to evaluate Project impacts on flooding. This section describes the hydraulic models and how they were used to simulate the surface water response to the Project during storm events. The results of the hydraulic modeling are presented in Appendix 7 ~~and~~ , the Hydraulic Modeling Addendum prepared by ESA in 2015 (Appendix F8), and the Hydraulic Modeling Addendum 2 prepared in 2026 (Appendix F12).

What is a Hydraulic Model?

[This REIR proposes no changes to the explanation in Section 3.9.5.2 of what a hydraulic model is.]

Hydraulic Model Terminology

Certain terminology is used in hydraulic modeling to describe and illustrate the nature, extent, and movement of surface water and the responses to changes. Key terms are presented below.

100-year Flow/Flood/Storm/Event—a storm/flood/event expected to occur once every 100 years or with an annual probability of occurring of 1%. Any X-year event is expected to occur once every X years or with a 100/X% chance of annual occurrence.

~~*Design Flow/Flood/Storm/Event*—the flow rate used in the design of flood risk management projects.~~

Standard Project Flood (SPF)—a hypothetical flood event designed to represent the most severe flood that could reasonably be expected at a particular location based on historical data and projected future conditions. While the Corps no longer considers the SPF to be a design target, analysis of the SPF is considered part of the risk framework required for a Section 408 permit. For Ballona Creek, the SPF is 68,000 cfs.

Design Water Level—the downstream boundary water level used in the design of flood risk management projects.

Freeboard—the distance between the water surface and the lowest possible entry point along a levee or berm during flooding or large waves.

MLLW—mean lower low water, average height of the lowest tide each day.

MHHW—mean higher high water, average height of the highest tide each day.

Q100 – the flow rate for the 100-year event. Any QX represents the flow rate for the X year event.

Steady/Unsteady Model—steady models represent one point in time while unsteady models represent a time series.

Tidal Prism—the volume of water that is exchanged in a given tidal area between MLLW and MHHW.

Limitations of Hydraulic Models

Hydraulic models use simplified mathematical equations to represent extremely complex natural systems. Therefore, significant uncertainty is inherent in model results, even when parameters have been calibrated to measured data. Nonetheless, hydraulic modeling is a standard tool for project planning, design and impact analysis, and the results provide a basis for comparing the hydraulic performance of different scenarios relative to a baseline.

Hydrodynamic Models Used for Project Analysis

Two models were used to predict the potential impacts of the Project on water levels and velocities during storm events. ~~A steady state,~~ A one-dimensional HEC-RAS hydraulic model was the primary analytical tool used to evaluate project impacts on flooding. HEC-RAS is a public domain hydraulic modeling program that was developed by the Corps' Hydrologic Center and is used extensively in flood and sediment transport analysis applications. A two-dimensional model also was used to inform the setup of the HEC-RAS model ~~and~~ to more closely examine two-dimensional flow processes to inform project design. The two-dimensional Environmental Fluid Dynamics Code (EFDC) was developed at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science and receives continuing support from the USEPA.

HEC-RAS Model

Model set-ups were built for baseline conditions (no project), Phases 1 and 2 ~~1~~ of Alternative 1, ~~Phase 2 of Alternative 1~~, and Alternative 2. Both phases of Alternative 1 were modeled to assess potential interim impacts following Phase 1, and any unexpected delays to implementing Phase 2. Alternative 2 was modeled to assess the effects of removing the gas wells in Area A (which would not be removed in Alternative 1, Phase 1). Alternative 3 was not modeled since the channel would remain the same as under baseline conditions. The model extents includes Ballona Creek from the Pacific Ocean to the streamflow gage approximately 500 feet upstream of Sawtelle Boulevard, the Centinela Channel from Ballona Creek to Margaret Avenue, and the Sepulveda Channel from Ballona Creek to Braddock Drive. The models include the following bridges: Sawtelle Boulevard, I-405, Inglewood Boulevard, South Centinela Avenue, State Route (SR) 90, Lincoln Boulevard, Culver Boulevard, and Pacific Highway. Appendix F6 provides the detailed model set-up for Alternative 1. Appendix F7 includes details on the model-set up for Alternative 2.

~~HEC-RAS computes water surface elevations for each cross section working upstream from a known water surface elevation.~~ A HEC-RAS model simulation can be run as a steady-state or unsteady simulation by adjusting the boundary condition settings. Steady-state modeling is a conservative method that assumes water continuously flows into the site at a specified rate; it assumes flow does not change with time and that storage in the conveying flow area has a negligible effect on flows and water surface elevations. Unsteady modeling uses hydrographs, which relate flow of water to time, so the flow changes with time in the model. An example hydrograph is shown in Figure 1 in Appendix F12.

For the Ballona Wetlands model, flows below approximately Q100 (Q100 is a 100-year event, which has a 1% chance of occurring in any year, and is calculated to be 44,270 cfs) can be modeled as steady-state to conservatively estimate high water levels during flood conditions. 68,000 cfs is 10,800 cfs greater than a 500-year event, therefore, the likelihood of a 68,000 cfs event occurring is much lower than 0.2% in a year. The steady state model assumes 68,000 cfs flows into the site continuously (i.e. the 68,000 cfs flow would last for 24 hours in the day). It is unrealistic to assume that the extremely high flow of 68,000 cfs enters the reserve continuously as exemplified by the Corps (2010b) hydrograph for Ballona Creek. When the Corps hydrograph is scaled so that the peak of the hydrograph reaches 68,000 cfs, it shows flows only exceed the 100-year discharge (44,270 cfs) for about 1 hour. In fact, flows would exceed the five-year discharge for less than four hours. In contrast, the steady-state model assumes the continuous high flow fills the Project's restored wetland floodplain basin and does not consider dynamics due to time-varying conditions. In reality, filling of the Project's restored wetland floodplain basin would be limited by the relatively short duration of the peak flow. Furthermore, as the Project's restored wetland floodplain fills over time, it provides temporary storage of storm flows and reduces the water levels downstream of the Project. The steady-state model does not account for the increased floodplain storage and reduced water levels downstream. Running the model with an unsteady flow based on the hydrograph does account for these processes and is, therefore, more realistic for simulating the extreme 68,000 cfs SPF.

After running the model with a steady-state flow, it was clear that the model's limitations produced unrealistic results and could not be relied on as an accurate simulation of the Project's potential effects on the environment. Although CDFW could have ignored these limitations and proceeded with the environmental analysis, the assumptions were excessively extreme compared to the prior modeling with 46,000 cfs, and could not be reasonably relied on to be informative during the decision-making process. As mentioned above, the steady-state model's limitations include: 1) the inability to account for water overtopping the existing levees upstream of the Centinella bridge and therefore accurately simulate the amount of water entering the Project Site, as a result the model assumes all 68,000 cfs enter the Project site, 2) the inability to account for variation in flow based on time, as a result the model assumes 68,000 cfs flows continuously for 24 hours, and 3) the inability to account for the Project's expanded floodplain and ability to store flows thereby reducing peak flows downstream, as a result the model assumes peak flows downstream of the Project site are artificially high.

Although the prior modeling included the aforementioned limitations, the extreme nature of a 68,000 cfs flow exacerbated these limitations. As mentioned above, the 100-year flow of 44,270 cfs has a 1% chance of occurring in any year, and the 500-year flow of 57,185 cfs has a 0.2% chance of occurring in any year. The 68,000 cfs flow exceeds the 500-year flow event by more than 10,800 cfs, which makes the likelihood of it occurring much less than a 0.2% chance in any year. The flood management infrastructure upstream of the Project Site are unable to contain a 500-year event, let alone a 68,000 cfs flow. Moreover, the duration that the flow would be 68,000 cfs is less than an hour; let alone 24 hours as assumed in the steady-state model. As the hydrograph shows (Figure 1, Appendix F12), for approximately two hours the flow is above 30,000 cfs, and within those two hours the flow is above 50,000 cfs for one hour. As a result, the steady state model's limitations produced results for a 68,000 cfs flow that were unrealistic and defeated the purpose of modeling to help inform reasoned decision making.

To be clear, using an unsteady model (i.e. using the flow based on time) rather than the steady-state model does not introduce an element of risk as compared to the steady-state model. In fact, the unsteady model continues to include conservative assumptions from the steady-state model. Like the steady-state model, the unsteady model cannot account for water overtopping the existing levees upstream of the Centinella bridge and therefore assumes all 68,000 cfs enter the Project Site. Also, the unsteady model continues to assume 59 inches of sea-level rise which is projected to occur between 2090 in the High scenario and 2135 in the Intermediate scenario, providing a conservatively high estimate of high water levels during a storm event with future sea-level rise. Furthermore, although CDFW is unaware of any regulatory requirement that bed aggradation be modeled (bed aggradation is the increase in bed elevation due to sediment deposition), bed aggradation is included in the modeling because it is good practice. Ultimately, unlike the steady-state model, the unsteady model accounts for the time variation in flows based on the hydrograph and the temporary storage of flows by the Project's wetland floodplain basin; the unsteady model does not change risk.

CDFW recognizes that petitioners to the prior litigation may criticize CDFW's reliance on the unsteady model to analyze the Project's environmental effects and advance Project design. CDFW also recognizes that those same petitioners expected the Project levees to be raised in order to contain the 68,000 cfs flow. Accordingly, CDFW is providing the results of both the steady-state modeling and unsteady modeling to be as transparent as possible and dispel any concerns that CDFW is somehow sacrificing public safety to avoid redesigning the

levees. By presenting the information that CDFW considered, and the rationale CDFW employed to rely on the unsteady model results, CDFW hopes to reassure the public that maintaining or improving flood protection and storm water management continues to be a Project objective.

Boundary conditions are applied to the model to simulate the water conditions at the upstream and downstream ends of the model domain and to provide a starting place for computations. The downstream boundary condition (water level) is therefore an important input to the model. For this study, the downstream boundary of the HEC-RAS model was Santa Monica Bay where Ballona Creek discharges to the Pacific Ocean.

LACDPW provided hydraulic calculations dated January 3, 1940, which indicated that a downstream water level of 5.23 ft NGVD10 (7.63 ft NAVD 88) was used in the channel design hydraulic analysis for Ballona Creek. This water level is referred to as the "highest tide of record." This water level represents the best available information on the downstream water level used in the original channel design analysis and, therefore, was selected as the downstream A boundary condition for the design flood SPF analysis. Verification time series of observed water level data was also provided by the LACDPW (LACDPW; Tide Gate 702 A2) were used in unsteady flow analyses.

The model was verified using water level data provided by LACDPW. The largest recorded fluvial flow (14,000 cfs) was relatively small compared to the ~~design~~ SPF flow rate for Ballona Creek (~~46~~68,000 cfs) and did not influence high water levels recorded at the LACDPW gage. HEC-RAS model results were similar to recorded water surface elevations at the location of the tide gage. Both modeled and recorded water levels reflect the dominance of tidal water surface elevations at this location and flow rate.

A range of flow rates was applied at the upstream boundary of the model (see HEC-RAS Model Scenarios Section). Based on ~~preliminary~~ direction from Corps staff, analyses of flood performance were based on the

[10] National Geodetic Vertical Datum has been superseded by the NAVD datum. NGVD 29 was a system that was used by surveyors and engineers for most of the 20th Century. It has been the basis for relating ground and flood elevations, but it has been largely replaced by the more accurate North American Vertical Datum of 1988 (NAVD 88). The Corps uses NGVD 29 in the context of this Project because the Ballona Creek channel and levee system were built to that datum. This EIS/EIR uses NAVD 88 because it is more accurate and because it is the current national geodetic vertical datum as of the drafting of the EIS/EIR.

~~design~~ SPF flow rate of ~~46~~68,000 cfs (Renee Vermeeren, pers. comm. ~~August 22, 2012~~March 20, 2017).

To model Area B, a second HEC-RAS model was set up to include storage areas for West, South, and Southeast Area B. Under the conditions described in Section 3.9.2, Affected Environment, West Area B was modeled as a storage basin. For Alternative 1 Project conditions, West Area B was modeled as part of the cross-sections within the channel. Culverts between West and South Area B, South and Southeast Area B, and Southeast Area B and Ballona Creek were included in the model as well. The October 2013 Area B Modeling Memo, included as Appendix F9, provides the detailed model set-up for the Area B model.

HEC-RAS Model Scenarios

The HEC-RAS model was run with a range of tidal conditions and storm flows. Table 3.9-7, *HEC-RAS Model Scenarios*, presents the different scenarios. Table 3.9-8, *HEC-RAS Area B Model Scenarios*, presents the scenarios run for the Area B HEC-RAS model.

TABLE 3.9-7
HEC-RAS MODEL SCENARIOS

Model Set-Up	Upstream Boundary Condition	Downstream Boundary Condition
Existing (Baseline) Conditions, Alternative 1, Phase 1, Alternative 1, Phase 2, Alternative 2	~~Design Event (46,000 cfs)~~	~~Design Water Level (7.63 ft NAVD 88)~~
	~~Design Event~~	~~Design Water Level + 2100 Sea Level Rise (10.1 ft NAVD 88)[1]~~
	Q500	MHHW (5.2 ft NAVD 88)
	Q200	MHHW
	Q100	MHHW
	Q50	MHHW
	Q25	MHHW
	Q10	MHHW
	Q5	MHHW
	Q2	MHHW
Existing (Baseline) Conditions, Alternative 1, Phase 1, Alternative 1, Phase 2	SPF (68,000 cfs)	Design Water Level (7.63 ft NAVD 88)
	SPF	Design Water Level + 59 inches Sea-level Rise (10.1 ft NAVD 88)[1]

NOTE: [1] Includes bed aggradation

TABLE 3.9-8
HEC-RAS AREA B MODEL SCENARIOS

Model Set-Up	Upstream Boundary Condition	Downstream Boundary Condition
Existing (Baseline) Conditions	No flow	Typical tides
	Q100	Typical tides
	SPF (68,000 cfs)	Design Water Level (7.63 ft NAVD 88)
	No flow	Typical tides + SLR
	Q100	Typical tides + SLR
Alternative 1, Phase 2	No flow	Typical tides
	Q100	Typical tides
	SPF	Design Water Level
	No flow	Typical tides + SLR
	Q100	Typical tides + SLR

EFDC Model

[This REIR proposes no changes to the description in Section 3.9.5.2 of the environmental fluid dynamics code (EFDC) model.]

3.9.5.3 Sediment Dynamics and Sediment Budget Analysis

Sedimentation and erosion in a stream channel can impact the flood conveyance capacity of the channel. Sediment analyses were used to evaluate the potential impact of sedimentation and/or erosion on flooding under Project conditions. This section describes the sediment dynamics analysis, including sediment transport modeling and geomorphic analyses, and how the results were used to build a sediment budget. The results of these analyses are presented in the Sediment Transport Analysis prepared for the Project by ESA in April 2014 (Appendix F10) and in Appendix F7.

Sediment Transport Model

A sediment transport model was developed based on the HEC-RAS model described above. This section describes the sediment transport model and how it was used to estimate potential changes to the bed surface and the surface water response to the Project during storm events. The results of the sediment transport modeling are presented in Appendix F7, Appendix F10, and Appendix ~~F10~~ F12.

What is a Sediment Transport Model?

[This REIR proposes no changes to the explanation in Section 3.9.5.3 of what a sediment transport model is.]

Sediment Dynamics Terminology

Certain terminology is used in sediment dynamics modeling to describe and illustrate the nature, extent, and movement of sediment. Key terms are presented below.

Bed Load—the volume of sediment that is transported along the bottom of a channel and does not enter the water column like the suspended load. The bed load moves by rolling, sliding, or hopping (saltation).

Effective discharge—the flow rate that moves sediment within a channel frequently enough to determine the average channel dimensions.

Grain size distribution—the distribution of sediment grain sizes, or what grain sizes are present in what proportions.

Shear stress—the force that causes materials (such as water and sediment) to slide upon each other in opposite directions.

Suspended Load—the volume of sediment that is transported in the water column and only rarely touches the channel bed.

Limitations of Sediment Transport Models

Like hydraulic models, sediment transport models use simplified mathematical equations to represent extremely complex natural systems. Therefore, significant uncertainty is inherent in model results, even when parameters have been calibrated to measured data. Nonetheless, sediment transport modeling is a standard tool for Project planning, design, and impact analysis, and the results provides a basis for comparing the hydraulic performance of different scenarios relative to existing conditions.

HEC-RAS Sediment Transport Model

Sediment transport modeling was conducted using the HEC-RAS model described in the Hydrodynamic Models section above. A range of tidal boundary conditions and flow rates was used to test the sensitivity to these parameters. For the sediment load inputs to the model, a sediment load rating curve was developed to relate sediment load to flow rate. The curve was developed based on suspended sediment measurements taken by the LACDPW and Southern California Coastal Water Research

Project (SCCWRP) with an added factor of 10% to represent bed load. GSD for the bed material was input to the model based on sediment samples taken in the creek.

Since measured sediment transport data was not available to verify the model results, a sensitivity analysis was conducted to test the sensitivity of the different input parameters. A sensitivity analysis examines an upper and lower end for each parameter to determine how sensitive the model is to that parameter. If the model is very sensitive (i.e., the results change substantially between scenarios), then that parameter would require very accurate data to properly represent a system. If the model is not sensitive to a parameter, then the accuracy of the input data is less important to the model results.

The sensitivity analysis showed that the tidal boundary condition had the biggest influence over model results. When an upper bound scenario and a lower bound scenario were modeled with the same tidal boundary condition, there was no difference in water surface results relative to existing conditions. This indicates that, over a reasonable range of parameter combinations, the water surface profile is not sensitive to the selection of bed grain size distribution, sediment load grain size distribution parameters, and sediment load. The range of deposition and scour incurred under the parameter combinations did not impact the water surface profiles. The water surface is, however, inherently a function of the downstream boundary tide level and thus is sensitive to this parameter. In order to capture the possible variations due to this parameter, the sediment transport model was run with a range of tidal boundary conditions. Table 3.9-9, *Sediment Transport Model Sensitivity Scenarios*, presents the model scenarios used in the sediment transport model.

TABLE 3.9-9
SEDIMENT TRANSPORT MODEL SENSITIVITY SCENARIOS

Model Set-Up	Flow Event	Tidal Boundary
Existing Baseline Conditions	~~Design Flow~~ SPF	Design Water Level
Existing Baseline Conditions	Q5	Mean Tide Level (MTL)
Existing Baseline Conditions	Qeff	MTL
Existing Baseline Conditions	Q100	MLLW
		MTL
		MHHW
		MHHW + Sea-level Rise
Alternative 1 Conditions	~~Design Flow~~ SPF	Design Water Level
Alternative 1 Conditions	Q5	MTL

Model Set-Up	Flow Event	Tidal Boundary
Alternative 1 Conditions	Qeff	MTL
Alternative 1 Conditions	Q100	MLLW
		MTL
		MHHW
		MHHW + Sea-level Rise

Geomorphic Analyses

[This REIR proposes no changes to the subsection of Section 3.9.5.3 regarding geomorphic analyses.]

Sediment Budget

[This REIR proposes no changes to the subsection of Section 3.9.5.3 regarding the sediment budget.]

3.9.6 Direct and Indirect Impacts

3.9.6.1 Alternative 1: Full Tidal Restoration/Proposed Action

1-WQ-1a: The excavation and grading associated with restoration proposed under Alternative 1 could expose and release contaminated sediments resulting in water quality impacts in Ballona Creek. (Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated)

[This REIR proposes changes only to the text under the heading Erosion from Ballona Creek: Erosion During Storm Events. All other text under 1-WQ-1a remains the same]

Erosion during Storm Events

As described in Section 3.9.5, *Methodology*, a sediment dynamics assessment evaluated the areas that may experience additional scour during storm events and estimated the additional quantities of sediment that may be transported through the system as a result of the Project. Sediment transport modeling was conducted for both existing and Alternative 1 conditions. Results for existing conditions under a range of storm events showed scouring in the channel in two locations: 1) at the location where the channel transitions from a concrete bottom to an earthen or soft bottom and 2) near the Lincoln Boulevard Bridge (Appendix F7).

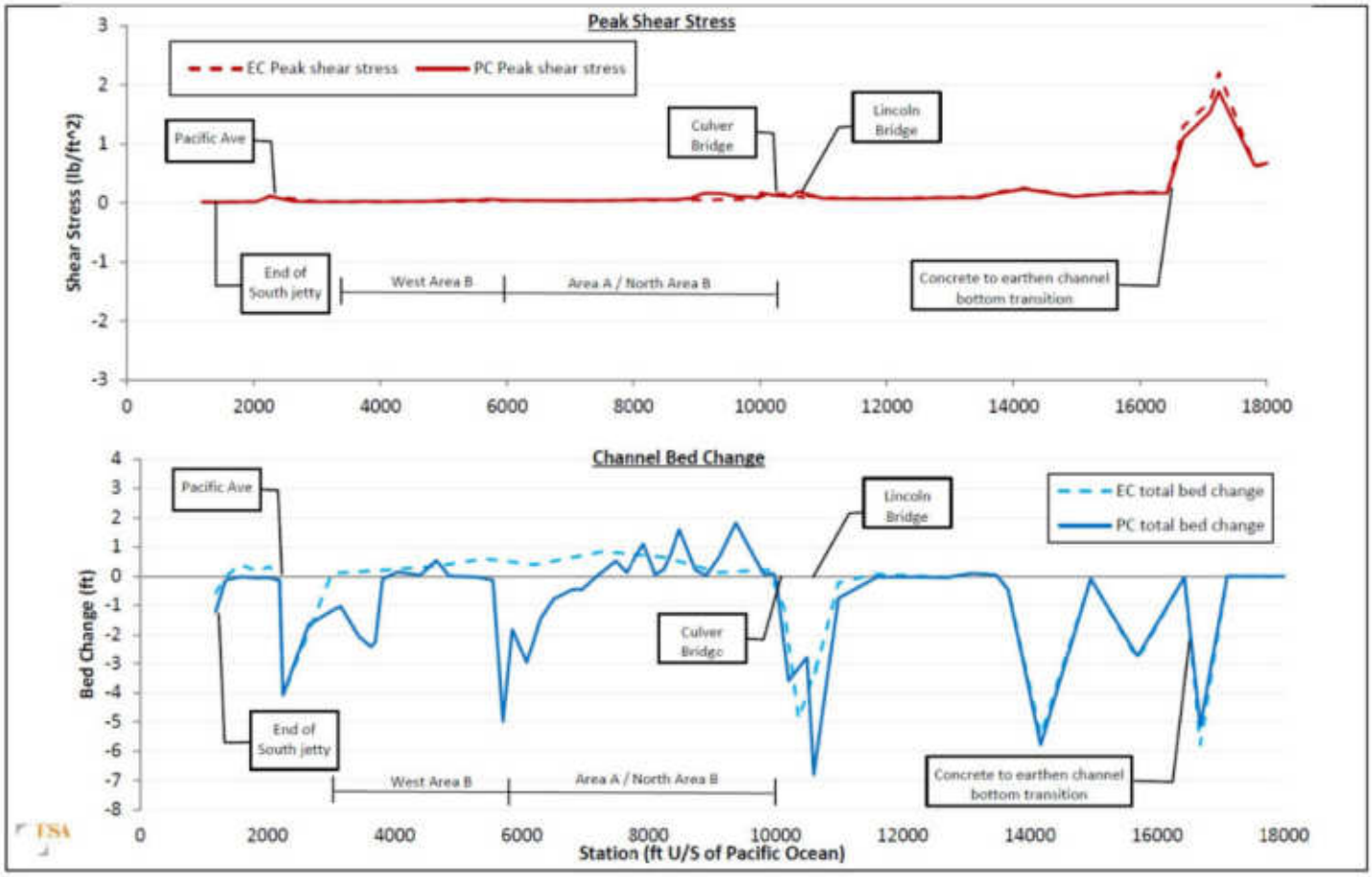
Sediment transport modeling results for Alternative 1 conditions showed similar erosion at the transition from the concrete to soft-bottom channel as under existing conditions, but increased scour from existing conditions in the

vicinity of the Lincoln Boulevard Bridge. The increased scour is caused by flows expanding over the floodplain and lowering water levels as the channel enters the site. The difference in modeled water elevations between the channelized creek upstream of the site and the expanded floodplain within the site causes a slope in the water surface that increases velocities near the Lincoln Boulevard Bridge. Higher velocities cause an increase in shear stress at the channel bottom resulting in increased erosion. As described in Chapter 2, Table 2-2, *Project Design Features Incorporated into the Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project for Alternatives 1, 2, and 3*, Alternative 1 would include an armored sill across the channel from the Culver Boulevard Bridge to the Lincoln Boulevard Bridge. This feature of the proposed design would limit excessive erosion caused by the flow acceleration at the entrance to the site.

Modeling results of Alternative 1 conditions also showed erosion just upstream of West Area B in Phase 1 and Phase 2, and just before the downstream end of West Area B in Phase 2 ~~(~~(Revised Figure 3.9-9, *Peak Shear Stress and Bed Change ~~Under Design Conditions (46~~During the SPF ~~(68~~,000 cfs at 7.63 ft NAVD 88)* ~~(p. 3.9-46);~~); Appendix ~~F7~~F12). When flood waters are funneled back into the channel by the interim levee (Phase 1) or the peninsula and salt pan berm (Phase 2) on the east side of West Area B, the water speeds up to pass through the constriction, increasing shear stresses and causing erosion. Additionally, in Phase 2, the flood waters would expand into West Area B. Model results show that when flood waters are funneled back into the flood control channel downstream, higher velocities and shear stresses may result in erosion. However, some erosion is expected in natural systems.

At Pacific Avenue, both existing (baseline) and Project conditions show similar amounts of erosion during the SPF, which indicates the Project is not likely to increase the potential for scour at the Pacific Avenue bridge. Previous modeling (Appendix F7 and Appendix F10) showed less than 1 foot of erosion at this bridge for flows up to 46,000 cfs for both existing and Project conditions, indicating substantial erosion at the Pacific Avenue bridge is likely limited to storms greater than the 100-year event.

**Revised Figure 3.9-9 Peak Shear Stress and Bed Change ~~Under Design Conditions (46~~During the SPF (68,000 cfs at 7.63 ft NAVD88)



Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project

Revised Figure 3.9-9
Peak Shear Stress and Bed Change
During the Standard Project Flood (68,000 cfs at 7.63 ft NAVD88)

Under existing conditions, which are described in Section 3.9.2, Affected Environment, estimates of sediment export from Ballona Creek range from 700 cy of sediment during the annual storm event up to 25,000 cy during the 100-year event (1% annual chance of occurrence) (Appendix F1). Storm events vary in intensity from typical seasonal events (i.e., annual storm) to infrequent~~ly occurring~~ extreme events (i.e., 100-year storm). Infrequent extreme events have the potential to cause greater erosion and deposition; however, more frequent ~~ly occurring~~ events can have a greater cumulative impact on sediment dynamics over time. On average, Ballona Creek exports an estimated 7,000 cy of sediment per year (Appendix F1). This average annual rate is a weighted-average that accounts for the chance of occurrence of extreme events and represents an annual average that could be expected over a series of years.

Under Alternative 1, Ballona Creek could export 8,000 cy of sediment in the average year. This is an additional 1,000 cy of sediment per year, or a 14% increase from existing conditions. The sediment transport model results showed ~~that~~ export from the channel under Alternative 1 could range from an increase of 300 cy (44% increase relative to existing conditions) during the annual event to an increase of 2,500 cy (10% increase relative to existing conditions) during the 100-year event. Although Alternative 1 would increase turbidity during storm events, it would only be for the limited time as the storm flows pass through. For example, the additional 300 cy of sediment produced during the annual storm would only occur for a few hours every year.

The additional 2,500 cy produced during the 100-year event would only occur, ~~(~~on average,~~)~~ once every 100 years. Additionally, such an increase in sediment erosion is typical in natural systems. As discussed above, constituents in the sediments in the channel would be below regulatory thresholds by the time of Alternative 1 implementation and any post-restoration channel erosion would not contribute constituents to Ballona Creek or Santa Monica Bay at a level that would impact the beneficial uses of the system. However, since some amount of erosion is expected in a natural system, Mitigation Measure WQ-1a-i has been developed to ensure monitoring and adaptive management is conducted to recognize and minimize any erosion or sediment quality issues identified such that the impacts would be less than significant.

1-WQ-1b: Under Alternative 1, contaminated water and sediment from the watershed could, unless mitigated, be transported into the restored marsh resulting in areas of accumulated contaminated sediments and potential exceedance of water quality limits set forth by the Ballona Creek TMDL. (Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated)

[This REIR proposes no changes to this impact discussion.]

1-WQ-1c: Under Alternative 1, water quality degradation could occur at Los Angeles (LA-2) or Newport Bay (LA-3) ocean disposal sites due to placement of excavated project site sediments. (Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated)

[This REIR proposes no changes to this impact discussion.]

1-WQ-2: Alternative 1 would increase the extent of tidal inundation and could increase infiltration of salt water into the groundwater table resulting in the inland advancement of sea water intrusion. (Less than Significant Impact)

[This REIR proposes no changes to the Project that result in a change to the analysis, conclusions, or recommended mitigation for Impact 1 WQ-2.]

1-WQ-2: Alternative 1 would increase the extent of tidal inundation and could increase infiltration of salt water into the groundwater table resulting in the inland advancement of sea water intrusion. (Less than Significant Impact)

[This REIR proposes no changes to this impact discussion.]

1-WQ-3a: The realignment and restoration of Ballona Creek proposed under Alternative 1 would result in erosion that could result in localized and downstream siltation. (Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated)

[This REIR proposes no changes to this impact discussion.]

1-WQ-3b: Alternative 1's proposed connection of Ballona Creek to the marsh would result in erosion but would not result in significant loss of habitat and/or levee destabilization. (Less than Significant Impact)

[[This REIR proposes no changes to this impact discussion.]

1-WQ-3c: Alternative 1 would not alter the capacity or characteristics of the existing storm drainage system such that there would be a reduction in available drainage capacity. (Less than Significant Impact)

[[This REIR proposes no changes to this impact discussion.]

1-WQ-4: Alternative 1's proposed realignment and restoration of Ballona Creek could, unless mitigated, significantly increase the risk of flooding. (Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated)

Direct Impacts

Operation and maintenance activities would not result in any adverse impacts to the risk of flooding because they would not result in a hydraulic change.

Off-site Flooding

Phase 1 of Alternative 1 would reconnect Ballona Creek to the restored wetland floodplain by grading Area A and North Area B to marsh plain elevations and removing the levees along the creek. In Phase 2, the levee in West Area B would be breached and lowered to reconnect the marsh to the creek. The expansion of the floodplain could increase water levels upstream and downstream during storm events, thereby increasing off-site flooding.

As described in Section 3.9.5, *Methodology*, hydraulic modeling evaluated any changes to flood water elevations that would result due to Alternative 1. Modeling was conducted for both existing and Alternative 1 conditions. Under existing conditions, model results indicate ~~that~~ the ~~design flow~~ SPF is not contained within the channel with ~~5 to 7 feet of freeboard to~~ the ~~top~~ levees upstream of the ~~levees.~~ Lincoln Boulevard Bridge overtopping by 0.3 ft. With Alternative 1, the expansion of flow onto the floodplain reduces ~~flow velocities through the Project site and increases the water level. However, the slower flow results in less head loss or energy dissipation through the~~ water levels downstream of Culver Boulevard Bridge ~~and Lincoln Boulevard Bridge, which reduces~~. This reduction in water levels in the Project site also decreases water levels upstream to State Route 90 ~~((~~Revised Figure 3.9-12, *Water Levels during the ~~Design Event~~ SPF*, ~~p 70). Upstream of State Route 90 Alternative 1 does not change flood levels.~~, below). The model results indicate that Alternative 1 actually decreases flood water levels just upstream of the site, which would be a beneficial effect.

~~Downstream of the site under Alternative 1, elevated water levels in the vicinity of West Area B reduce the amount of freeboard provided by the existing north levee/jetty. Since the majority of this bank is formed by the jetty that separates Ballona Creek from Marina del Rey, a reduction in freeboard may not represent a substantial increase in flood risk, since waters would spill over into the Marina del Rey channel. However, there is a section of the existing levee between the upstream end of the jetty and Area A that may need to be raised in order to maintain or improve the existing level of flood protection to the Breakwater at Marina del Rey Apartments. Further modeling for the 408 permit is required to receive that permit and will determine the elevation of the levee that is required to maintain the existing level of flood protection. Since Alternative 1 would raise the existing levee if that future modeling for the 408 permit determines Alternative 1 is raising flood levels in the vicinity of West Area B, there would be no increased flood risk downstream of the site.~~

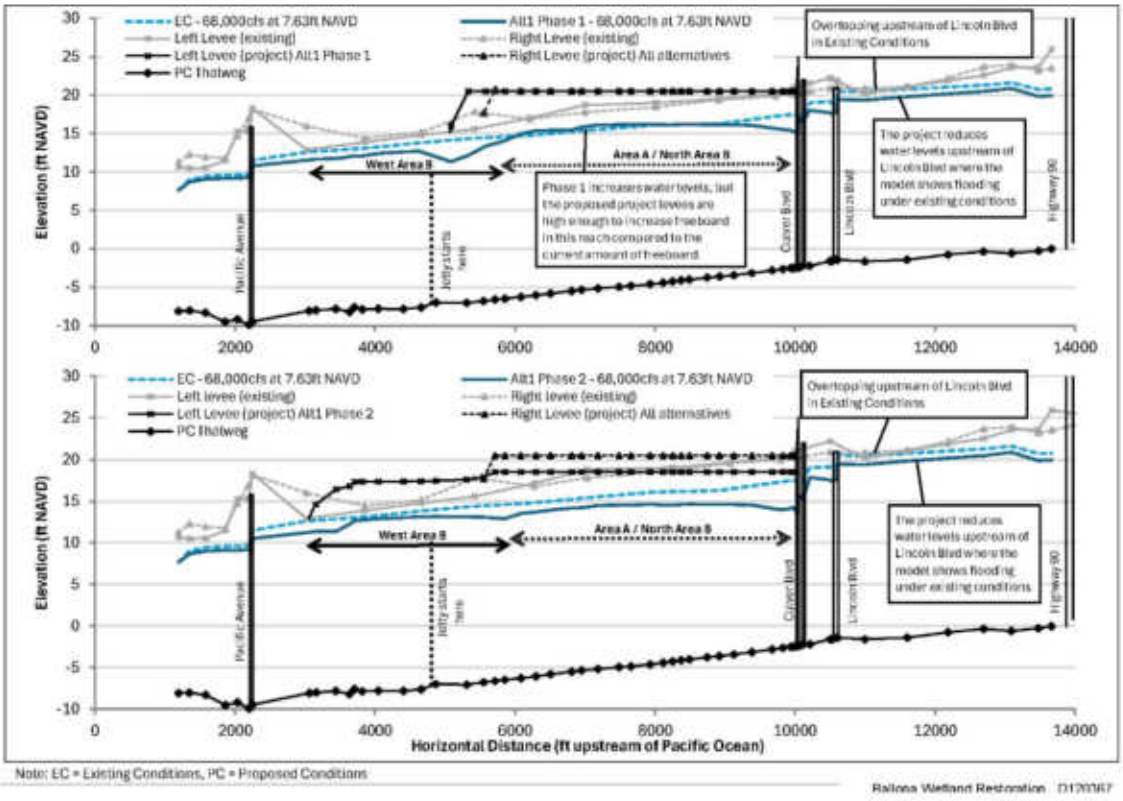
Downstream of the site under Alternative 1, the model results for the SPF with 59" of sea level rise and bed aggradation show no change in water levels compared to existing conditions along the right levee. Along the left levee, water levels could increase by approximately 0.5 inch. Further modeling for the 408 permit is required to receive that permit and will determine the elevation of the levee and project design that is required to maintain the existing level of flood protection. Since Alternative 1 would raise the existing levee or modify the project design if that future modeling for the 408 permit determines it is necessary to maintain the existing level of flood protection, there would be no change in water levels downstream of the site. Implementation of Mitigation Measure 1-WQ-4b would ensure that Project implementation will not increase downstream water levels compared to existing conditions.

On-site Flooding (Area A, North Area B, West Area B, and Ballona Creek)

In Phase 1, Alternative 1 would build levees along the perimeter of Area A and along Culver Boulevard, remove the levees along Ballona Creek, and reconnect the channel to its historic floodplain. In Phase 2, Alternative 1 would build a levee along the perimeter of West Area B and breach and lower the levee to reconnect West Area B to Ballona Creek. By removing the levees and expanding the floodplain, Alternative 1 could increase on-site flooding during large storm events. However, as discussed below, this is one of the primary goals of the restoration and a desired beneficial effect of reconnecting the floodplain.

As described in Section 3.9.5, *Methodology*, hydraulic modeling evaluated any changes to flood water elevations that would result due to the Project. Modeling was conducted for both existing and Project conditions. ~~As discussed for Off-site Flooding, existing~~ Existing conditions model results indicate that the ~~design flow~~ SPF is contained within the channel with ~~5~~0.3 to ~~7~~3.3 feet of freeboard to the tops of the levees. Under Phase 1, Alternative 1, water levels would increase within the site ~~by 1~~up to ~~2~~0.6 feet during the ~~design event~~ SPF compared to existing conditions. Because Alternative 1 allows flows to expand over the floodplain, flow velocities decrease, water backs up, and the water level increases. However, the Project would increase levee elevations compared to existing conditions, resulting in a freeboard of 1.5 to ~~8.1~~6.4 ft after Phase 1. Under Phase 2, the model shows water levels are lower than existing conditions throughout the site and ~~a~~ freeboard ~~of 6.4~~increases to ~~9.4 after Phase 2.~~1.7 to 5.6 ft. Table 3.9-10, *Levee Freeboard during the ~~Design Flood (46~~SPF (68,000 CFS)*, shows the freeboards under existing conditions and Phase 1 and Phase 2 of Alternative 1. Since freeboard would increase with the Project, this would be a beneficial effect.

Revised Figure 3.9-12 Water Levels during the ~~Design Event~~**SPF**



(Top graph shows Phase 1) this shows water levels with a 68,000 cfs flow relative to the existing levees (i.e. "EC" or "existing") compared to water levels with a 68,000 cfs flow relative to the levees that would be constructed under phase 1 (i.e. "Alt 1 Phase 1" or "project").

(Bottom graph shows Phase 2) this shows water levels with a 68,000 cfs flow relative to the existing levees (i.e. "EC" or "existing") compared to water levels with a 68,000 cfs flow relative to the levees that would be constructed under phase 2 (i.e. "Alt 1 Phase 2" or "project").

TABLE 3.9-10
LEVEE FREEBOARD DURING THE ~~DESIGN FLOOD (46~~SPF (68,000 CFS)

	Levee Freeboard ~~in Area A/North Area B~~within the Project Site (ft)	
	Reach Average	**Range**
Area A/North Area B		
Existing Conditions[1]	~~5.7~~2.6	~~5~~2.0 – ~~6~~3.3
Phase 1[2]	~~5.9~~4.8	~~5.4 – 8.1~~4.3 – 6.4
Phase 2[2]	~~6.9~~4.3	3.9 – ~~5.6.4 – 9.4~~
West Area B		
Existing Conditions[1]	0.8	0.3 – 1.2
Phase 1[2]	2.8	1.5 – 5.4
Phase 2[2]	3.1	1.7 – 4.6

NOTE:
[1] Freeboard based on existing levee elevations
[2] Freeboard based on the Project levee ~~elevation of 20.5 feet North American Vertical Datum (NAVD 88)~~elevations. The lower freeboard provided by either the left or right levee is used

On-site Flooding (South of Culver Boulevard)
[This REIR proposes no changes to the text under this sub-heading.]

Typical Tides
[This REIR proposes no changes to the text under this sub-heading].]

Storm Events
During the SPF under existing conditions, the water level in South and Southeast Area B increase faster than the water level in West Area B, since they receive more runoff from the bluffs and the Freshwater Marsh. West Area B acts as additional storage, but because the culverts connecting South and West Area B are undersized, the water levels remain higher in South and Southeast Area B. The undersized culverts prevent full drainage to West Area B over the duration of the storm. During the ~~design flood~~ SPF, water levels remain 1.5 feet below the lowest point along Culver Boulevard, which is near the existing southern channel.

The increase in tides in South and Southeast Area B during Phase 1 and the reconnection of West Area B to Ballona Creek in Phase 2 could reduce the flood storage capacity of the system and increase flood risk behind Culver Boulevard. However, the new culverts would limit flow from Ballona Creek

into Southeast Area B during storm events. Under Phase 1, tide levels would be higher than under existing conditions, but the proposed berms would increase the storage capacity in South and Southeast Area B and the increased culvert capacity would better connect South and West Area B, allowing flood waters to drain to West Area B for added storage capacity. Under Phase 2, the West Area B storage capacity would be lost since the breached and lowered levee in West Area B would make water levels the same as those in Ballona Creek. However, the new berms in South and Southeast Area B would increase the storage capacity behind Culver Boulevard. The freeboard with the new berm under the ~~design storm~~100-year event would be the same as the freeboard at the low point in Culver Boulevard under existing conditions, indicating no increase to the flood risk. During the SPF, Alternative 1, Phase 1 would maintain a minimum of 1.4 ft of freeboard while Phase 2 would maintain a minimum of 0.5 ft of freeboard, indicating flooding would not occur under Alternative 1 during the SPF. The modeled project design assumes open culverts without gates; however, the proposed culverts include adjustable gates (e.g., SRT gates or slide/flap gates). As part of Phase 2, the gates could be adjusted if lower water levels and additional freeboard are desired or for added safety and design redundancy. Mitigation Measure WQ-1a-i, the MAMP (Appendix F11), would ensure water levels in South and Southeast Area B would be monitored. Monitoring would be used to determine operation of the culverts to maintain or reduce flood risk.

The new culvert from the Freshwater Marsh to Southeast Area B also could reduce stormwater capacity in the system. As described in Section 3.9.2.2, *Environmental Setting*, the Freshwater Marsh holds up to the 1-year storm event under existing conditions before spilling into Southeast Area B. Alternative 1 would change the outflow structures of the Freshwater Marsh so that freshwater would flow into Southeast Area B more frequently. This would increase the volume of water in Southeast Area B. However, the increase in volume would be small compared to the total volume entering Southeast Area B, and the berms would be able to accommodate the extra water.

Indirect Impacts

During restoration activities there would be no indirect impacts to flooding on- or off-site because of the relatively ~~short term~~ short-term nature of the work and the transition to the beneficial flooding effects as described above in the direct impact analysis.

Post-restoration in Phase 1, Alternative 1 would have reconnected Ballona Creek to the floodplain in Area A and North Area B and built levees along Area A and Culver Boulevard. New culverts from Ballona Creek to

Southeast Area B would be installed to allow higher tides back behind Culver Boulevard. In Phase 2, the levee to West Area B would be breached and lowered, allowing full tidal connection to the area. Increasing water levels in Area A, and North and West Area B could increase the risk of flooding with sea-level rise. Additionally, the increased tidal flow behind Culver Boulevard due to the new, enlarged culverts could increase flooding with sea-level rise. However, as discussed below, an element of the proposed restoration is the adjustment or addition of flap gates to the culverts over time, which would reduce flow behind Culver Boulevard.

As described in Section 3.9.5, *Methodology*, hydraulic modeling evaluated flood levels in the creek with sea-level rise as well as the operation of the proposed culverts and tide levels in South and Southeast Area B. Modeling was conducted for both existing and Alternative 1 conditions under Phase 1 and Phase 2.

Flooding From Ballona Creek

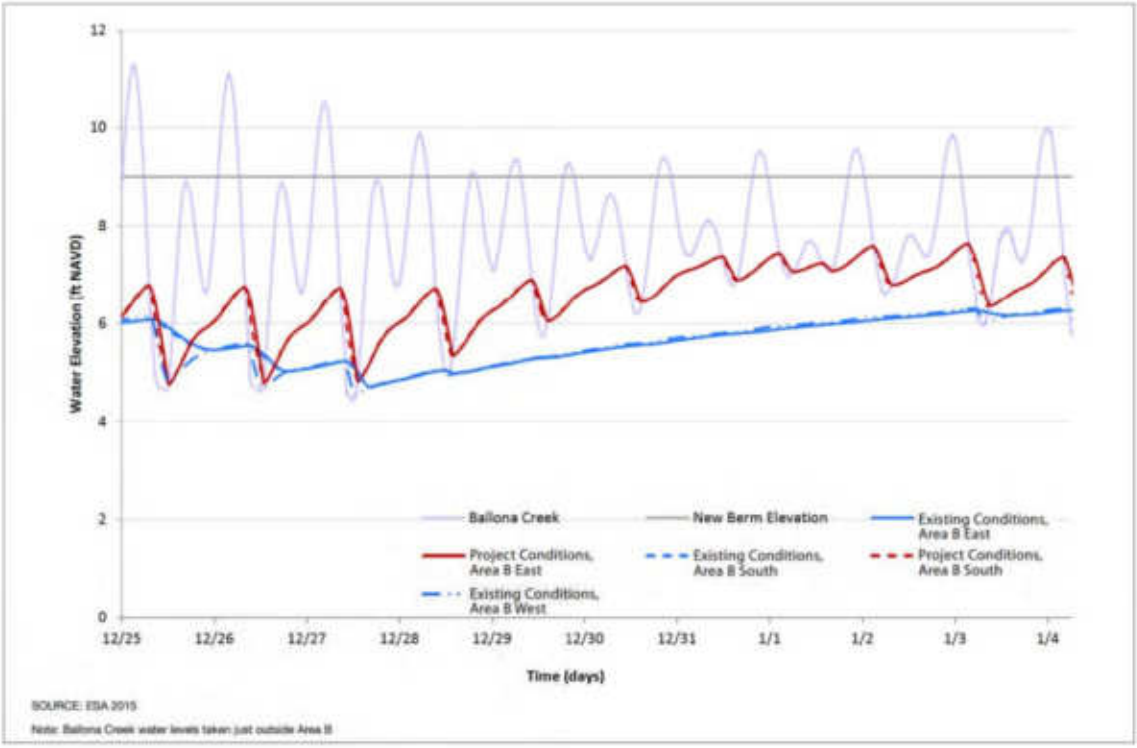
As discussed above for Direct Impacts, flood levels within the creek upstream of the site would actually be reduced under Alternative 1. This would provide additional capacity in the creek for water level increases due to sea-level rise and bed aggradation. Within ~~and downstream of~~ the site, Alternative 1 would increase the levee heights, which ~~also~~ would also ~~provide~~ support additional capacity. Downstream of the site, the model showed water levels under Alternative 1 would be lower or the same as existing (baseline) conditions. Model runs with sea-level rise showed that water levels for ~~both~~ existing ~~and Alternative 1~~ conditions would ~~increase up to Centinela Boulevard. However,~~ overtop the channel banks/levees upstream of the ~~site water~~ Lincoln Boulevard Bridge. Water levels under Alternative 1 would remain below ~~existing conditions water levels~~ the channel banks/levees at this location, indicating that there would be ~~no increase~~ a decrease in flooding due to Alternative 1. Additionally, the model shows that the 100-year event coupled with 59 inches of sea-level rise would still leave 5 feet of freeboard to the crest of the levees within the site. Since the levee height is designed to match or exceed the existing level of flood ~~protection~~ risk management, and water levels upstream of the site are expected to decrease under Alternative 1, Alternative 1 would ~~not~~ maintain or increase flood ~~risk due to~~ protection with sea-level rise in the creek.

Flooding South of Culver Boulevard

Behind Culver Boulevard under Alternative 1, the larger culverts would allow more flow to enter South and Southeast Area B and raise tide levels during typical tides. With sea-level rise, these increased water levels could cause flooding. Under existing conditions, 59 inches of sea-level rise would mean that MLLW would be more than 2 feet above the current SRT gates closing elevation. This would mean that the water level in all of the

managed areas would continually increase, due to the leakage in the SRT gates, except during lower low tides when the water can drain out (Figure 3.9-13, *Typical Tides with Sea-Level Rise*). Under Alternative 1 conditions, water levels would show more of a tidal signal than under existing conditions because the increased capacity of the culverts would allow more drainage. Mitigation Measure WQ-1a-i, the MAMP (Appendix F11), would ensure that water levels in South and Southeast Area B would be monitored. Monitoring would be used to determine operation of the culverts ~~in order to~~to maintain or reduce flood risk. The culverts in Alternative 1 would include adjustable gates. Over time, ~~flap~~ culvert gates would be ~~installed~~adjusted on the culverts as part of Alternative 1 to limit the flow into South and Southeast Area B. Initial modeling indicated that ~~adding~~adjusting the gates to add a flap gate every 25 years would maintain the current level of flood ~~protection~~risk management, but monitoring through the MAMP would determine the exact timing that flap gates would be ~~added~~ adjusted. The berms and flap gates would ~~ensure~~be designed and managed so that Alternative 1 would not increase the flood risk with sea-level rise.

Figure 3.9-13 Typical Tides with Sea-Level Rise



During storm events, as discussed above, the larger culverts would allow more flow to West Area B for stormwater storage, and the new berm would maintain the current level of flood ~~protection.~~ risk management. With 59 inches of sea-level rise and No Project (see Section 3.9.6.4 of the 2017 Draft EIS/EIR, *Alternative 4: No Federal Action/No Project Alternative*), modeling showed that during the ~~design~~ approximately 100-year storm~~,~~ (46,000 cfs), there would be less than 0.1 feet of freeboard to low point in Culver Boulevard. Because Alternative 1 would build a berm, freeboard would increase to slightly less than 1 foot of freeboard. Alternative 1 would, therefore, decrease the flood risk behind Culver Boulevard with sea-level rise for storms equal to or less than the 100-year storm compared to existing conditions.

If the SPF occurred with 59 inches of sea-level rise, modeling results (Appendix F9 and Appendix F12) show Culver Boulevard would likely flood under existing conditions. Because the proposed culverts in Alternative 1 would include adjustable gates (e.g., SRT gates of slide/flap gates), the gates could be closed to prevent water from the creek entering South and Southeast Area B. In Alternative 1 Phase 1, the existing SRT gate would continue to leak, and Culver Boulevard would likely flood from West Area B as under existing conditions. In Alternative 1, Phase 2, with less or no additional water from the creek, the water levels in South and Southeast Area B would be primarily influenced by the stormwater runoff from the Freshwater Marsh and Westchester Bluffs, similar to existing conditions. With the proposed berms, Alternative 1, Phase 2 would have more freeboard than under existing conditions. Mitigation Measure WQ-1a-i, the MAMP (Appendix F11), would ensure that sea-level rise would be monitored. Monitoring would be used to determine operation of the culverts in order to maintain or reduce flood risk.

Mitigation Measure

Mitigation Measure 1-WQ-4: Implement Mitigation Measure WQ-1a-i, Monitoring and Adaptive Management Plan (MAMP).

Mitigation Measure 1-WQ-4b: During future design phases associated with acquiring the 408 permit, CDFW shall ensure that project implementation will not increase water levels downstream of the Project Site compared to existing conditions.

Level of Significance after Mitigation

Implementation of Mitigation Measure WQ-1a-i and 1-WQ-4b would reduce Impact 1-WQ-4 to less than significant.

1-WQ-5: Alternative 1 would not result in inundation by a seiche or tsunami. (Less than Significant Impact)

Direct Impacts

Alternative 1 would not directly result in inundation by tsunami or seiche. Tsunamis are open sea waves caused by an underwater earthquake, landslide, or volcanic eruption, while seiches are seismically-induced waves in an enclosed or semi-enclosed body of water such as a lake, reservoir, or harbor. The restoration and post-restoration activities proposed in Alternative 1 would have no impact on earthquakes, landslides, volcanic eruptions, or other potential triggers for tsunamis or seiches and so would not increase potential risk associated related inundation. Therefore, Alternative 1 would result in no direct impact during or following restoration relating to inundation.

Indirect Impacts

Alternative 1 would excavate Area A and North Area B and would reconnect Ballona Creek to its historic floodplain. This analysis considers whether the proposed removal of the levees along the Ballona Creek channel could exacerbate the effects of tsunamis by increasing flooding and whether the lowering of Area A would create an area that under flood conditions could be subject to a seiche. An adverse indirect impact would result if the waves associated with a tsunami or seiche overtopped the levees and resulted in flooding outside the Ballona Reserve.

As discussed in Section 3.9.2.2, *Environmental Setting*, tsunamis are infrequent events that have not substantially impacted Ballona Creek in the past due to the protection of the bay's coastline (Appendix F7). Additionally, as discussed above, the Project design includes levees that are higher than the existing levees along the creek. This would provide improved flood ~~protection~~risk management at the site in the case of a tsunami.

Seiches are also rare events that have not impacted Santa Monica Bay in the past. By lowering Area A, Alternative 1 would be creating a large basin that could potentially experience a seiche and overtop levees to cause flooding. However, for a seiche to occur, Area A would have to be filled with water, which would only occur during a large, infrequent storm event (e.g., 100-year event). It would be extremely unlikely that a large storm event would occur at the same time as a large earthquake induces a seiche. Additionally, the Alternative 1 design includes levees that have 5 to 8 feet of freeboard during the ~~design~~ roughly 100-year event~~,~~ (46,000 cfs), so it is unlikely that a seiche would be large enough to overtop the levees and cause flooding. For these reasons, Alternative 1 would have a

less-than-significant impact during or following restoration relating to inundation from tsunami or seiche.

TABLE 3.9-11
ALTERNATIVE 1 IMPACTS SUMMARY

Considerations	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would Alternative 1:				
WQ-1: Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements; otherwise substantially degrade water (or sediment) quality; or create or contribute runoff water, which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?				
a) The excavation and grading associated with restoration proposed under Alternative 1 would expose and release contaminated sediments resulting in water quality impacts in Ballona Creek. See Impact 1-WQ-1a.	☐	☒	☐	☐
b) Under Alternative 1, contaminated water and sediment from the watershed could be transported into the restored marsh resulting in areas of accumulated contaminated sediments and potential exceedance of water quality limits set forth by the Ballona Creek TMDL. See Impact 1-WQ-1b.	☐	☒	☐	☐
c) Under Alternative 1, water quality degradation could occur at Los Angeles (LA-2) or Newport Bay (LA-3) ocean disposal sites due to placement of excavated Project site sediments. See Impact 1-WQ-1c.	☐	☒	☐	☐

TABLE 3.9-11
ALTERNATIVE 1 IMPACTS SUMMARY

Considerations	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
WQ-2: Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)? See Impact 1-WQ-2.	☐	☐	☒	☐
WQ-3: Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?				
a) The realignment and restoration of Ballona Creek proposed under Alternative 1 would result in post-restoration erosion that could result in localized and downstream siltation. See Impact 1-WQ-3a.	☐	☒	☐	☐
b) Alternative 1's proposed connection of Ballona Creek to the marsh would result in post-restoration erosion that could result in loss of habitat and/or levee destabilization. See Impact 1-WQ-3b.	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) Alternative 1 could alter the capacity or characteristics of the existing storm drainage system such that there would be a reduction in available drainage capacity. See Impact 1-WQ-3c.	☐	☐	☒	☐
WQ-4: Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site, or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff? See Impact 1-WQ-4.	☐	☒	☐	☐
WQ-5: Result in inundation by seiche or tsunami? See Impact 1-WQ-5.	☐	☐	☒	☐

3.9.6.2 Alternative 2: Restored Partial Sinuous Creek

[As described and analyzed in the 2020 Final EIR, the design and hydraulic response of Alternative 2 is substantially the same as Phase 1 of Alternative 1. See, e.g., Appendix F8 from the 2020 Final EIR, which includes modeling results that show that flood water levels would be the same in Alternative 2 as Phase 1 of Alternative 1. The updated modeling provided in Appendix F12 shows that Phase 1 of Alternative 1 (and therefore Alternative 2) would not increase the flood risk on- or off-site as compared to baseline conditions. For this reason, this REIR proposes no changes that result in a change to the analysis or conclusions described in Section 3.9.6.2 of the 2020 Final EIR other than the addition of a mitigation measure requiring CDFW to ensure project implementation will not increase water levels downstream of the project site.]

2-WQ-4: Alternative 2's proposed realignment and restoration of Ballona Creek would not significantly increase the risk of flooding. (Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated)

Mitigation Measure

> **Mitigation Measure 2-WQ-4:** Implement Mitigation Measure 1-WQ-1a-i, Monitoring and Adaptive Management Plan (MAMP)
>
> **Mitigation Measure 2-WQ-4b**: During future design phases associated with acquiring a 408 permit, CDFW shall ensure that project implementation will not increase water levels downstream of the Project Site compared to existing conditions.

Level of Significance after Mitigation

> Implementation of Mitigation Measure WQ-1a-i and 2-WQ-4b would reduce this impact to less than significant

3.9.6.3 Alternative 3: Levee Culverts and Oxbow

[Channel geometry for Alternative 3 is identical to existing (baseline) conditions except that it includes an open connection between Ballona Creek and Area A via culverts through the Ballona Creek levee. As a result of the culvert connection, the water level in Area A will be in equilibrium with the Ballona Creek water level under steady-state conditions. Therefore, steady-state hydraulic modeling results for existing conditions reflect the same conditions that will exist under Alternative 3 (See 2020 Final EIR Appendix F8) and is more conservative (i.e., would result in higher water levels) than unsteady modeling. For an unsteady model, the culverts would allow floodplain storage in Area A, reducing water levels in

the channel and providing a flood management benefit. For this reason, this REIR does not change the text under Section 3.9.6.3 of the 2020 Final EIR.]

3.9.6.4 Alternative 4: No Federal Action/No Project Alternative

[This REIR proposes not change in the text under Section 3.9.6.4 of the 2020 Final EIR.]

3.9.7 Cumulative Impacts

[This REIR proposes no changes to impact conclusions for the Project (Alternative 1), or for Alternatives 2, 3, or 4. Therefore, the REIR proposes no change to the incremental contributions of the project or alternatives to cumulative impacts, and no change to the analysis, conclusions, or recommended mitigation measures identified in Section 3.9.7 of the 2020 Final EIR and no changes to the text under Section 3.9.7 of the 2020 Final EIR.]

3.9.8 References

[This REIR proposes to supplement the list of materials referenced in Section 3.9.8 of the 2020 Final EIR as set forth below.]

California Coastal Commission (CCC), 2018. *Interpretive Guidelines for Addressing Sea Level Rise in Local Coastal Programs and Coastal Development Permits.* July 2018

CCC, 2020. *Staff Report: Regular Calendar*. CDP Application No. 5-18-0554. July 24, 2018.

Dudek, 2022. *Groundwater Sustainability Plan for the Santa Monica Groundwater Subbasin*. January 2022. Prepared for Santa Monica Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, 2022. *Global and Regional Sea Level Rise Scenarios for the United States.* March 1, 2022

Ocean Protection Council (OPC), 2018. *State of California Sea-Level Rise Guidance 2018 Update*. March 14, 2018.

OPC, 2024. California Sea Level Rise Guidance: 2024 Science and Policy Update. 2024.

Santa Monica Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency, 2022. *Santa Monica Basin Groundwater Sustainability Plan*. January 2022.

United States Army Corps of Engineers, 1979. *Hydrology for Feasibility Report Ballona Creek Channel and Sawtelle-Westwood Channel, California Los Angeles County Drainage Area.* February 1979.

Western Regional Climate Center, 2016. *Los Angeles International Airport, California (045114)*. June 9, 2016.

APPENDIX F12



BALLONA WETLANDS RESTORATION PROJECT

Hydrology and Hydraulics Report Addendum 2

JANUARY 2026

HYDROLOGY AND HYDRAULICS REPORT ADDENDUM 2

Table of Contents

Contents

Executive Summary **1**

Section 1. Previous Work and Background **3**

1.1 Introduction 3

1.2 Previous Model (ESA PWA 2013) 3

Section 2. Flood Modeling Approach for 68,000 cfs **7**

2.1 Steady-State Versus Unsteady Modeling 7

2.2 USACE Guidance 9

Section 3. Hydraulic Modeling **11**

3.1 Steady State Model 11

3.2 Unsteady State Truncated Model 16

3.3 Conclusions 24

Section 4. Sediment Transport Analysis **26**

4.1 Model Geometry 26

4.2 Boundary Conditions 26

4.3 Sediment Parameters 27

4.4 Results 27

Section 5. Area B Modeling **31**

5.1 Model Geometry 31

5.2 Boundary Conditions 31

5.3 Results 31

5.4 Conclusions 33

Appendix A. Hydraulic Model Run Catalog **35**

References **36**

List of Figures

Figure 1 Ballona Creek Hydrograph for the Standard Project Flood 5
Figure 2 68,000 cfs Standard Project Flood, Steady-State Model 13
Figure 3 68,000 cfs Standard Project Flood with Sea-Level Rise and Bed Aggradation, Steady-State Model..... 14
Figure 4 68,000 cfs Standard Project Flood, Unsteady Flow Model..... 21
Figure 5 68,000 cfs Standard Project Flood with Sea-Level Rise and Bed Aggradation, Unsteady Flow Model..... 22
Figure 6 Existing and Project Conditions Sediment Transport Results – Standard Project Flow..... 28
Figure 7 Standard Project Flood Model Results for Area B..... 32

List of Tables

Table 1 Levee Freeboard (Feet) with 68,000 cfs..... 20
Table 2 Levee Freeboard (Feet) with 68,000 cfs, Sea-Level Rise, and Bed Aggradation 23
Table 3 Sediment Transport Model Run Catalog..... 26
Table 4 Area B Water Level Results Summary 33

Appendices

A. Hydraulic Model Run Catalog 31

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report is a second addendum to the Ballona Wetlands Restoration Preliminary Hydrology and Hydraulics Report (H&H Report, ESA PWA 2013) and the Ballona Wetlands Restoration Preliminary Hydrology and Hydraulics Report Addendum (ESA 2015a). These prior reports were prepared to support the preliminary restoration design for the Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project (Project) and the Ballona Wetlands Restoration Final Environmental Impact Report (ESA 2020). This second addendum reevaluates the prior hydraulic and sediment transport analyses using the U.S Army Corps of Engineer's Standard Project Flood (SPF) creek discharge estimate of 68,000 cfs, which is higher than the 46,000 cfs creek discharge analyzed in the prior reports. The 68,000 cfs discharge is more extreme than the 500-year discharge, so the SPF has a less than 1 in 500 annual chance of occurrence (i.e., less than 0.2% annual chance of occurrence).

Two flood modeling approaches were considered for the hydraulic analysis. The prior steady-state one-dimensional (1-D) HEC-RAS hydraulic model was first re-run with the 68,000 cfs SPF. This steady-state modeling analysis conservatively and unrealistically assumes that the peak discharge is continuous, when realistically, the Ballona Creek peak discharge only occurs for a few hours. In contrast, the second modeling approach used flows in a hydrograph scaled to the 68,000 cfs SPF peak which exceed the 100-year discharge (44,270 cfs) for only about 1 hour. The steady-state model assumes the continuous peak discharge completely fills the Project's (Alternative 1) restored wetland floodplain basin and does not consider dynamics due to time-varying conditions. In reality, the time and volume of stormwater filling that the Project's restored wetland floodplain basin would be limited by the relatively short duration of the peak discharge. Furthermore, as the Project's restored wetland floodplain basin fills over time, the wetland floodplain basin is expected to provide temporary storage of storm flows, thereby potentially reducing the peak discharge rate downstream of the Project. The steady-state model does not account for these potential Project benefits of increased floodplain storage and reduced peak discharge rate downstream. While the steady-state model is reasonable for lower flows at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve, at 68,000 cfs the deficiencies discussed in this report produce unrealistic results for this large of an event and as a result do not inform the decision-making process in any meaningful way.

As a result, a second modeling methodology using a storm hydrograph scaled up to 68,000 cfs in an unsteady-state model was developed to more accurately model hydrologic conditions, analyze how the Project would change water levels with 68,000 cfs, and better inform the decision-making process. By presenting more realistic hydrologic conditions, the model would be more informative and useful as compared to a steady-state model. For this model, the

original 1-D model was truncated downstream of Centinela Blvd. to avoid the upstream instabilities incurred by the Centinela Blvd. bridge (see Section 3.2.1 for further details).

The unsteady model results for both phases of the Project with 68,000 cfs showed that the Project's proposed levees (which would be higher than the existing levees) and wetland floodplain restoration would result in increased freeboard above the peak flood level compared to existing conditions, thereby providing a flood management benefit. Model results also show that the Project would reduce water levels and provide a flood management benefit upstream and downstream of the Project for both phases of the Project compared to existing conditions. With 59 inches of sea-level rise and bed aggradation, the model shows the Project would lower water levels upstream of the site, providing a potential flood reduction benefit. Within the site, model results show that the Project's proposed levees would contain the 68,000 cfs flow and increase the height of the levees above the peak flood level, whereas in existing conditions the existing levees would be overtopped. The results indicate that with 59 inches of sea-level rise and bed aggradation, the Project has the potential to maintain or reduce the existing level of flood management throughout the modeled reach.

Sediment transport modeling for the updated design event was also performed to compare erosion and deposition patterns between the Project and existing conditions and to inform the next phase of project design development. Model results show bed change is comparable between existing and proposed conditions. Upstream erosion at Culver Blvd is balanced by deposition through the rest of the downstream channel.

In conclusion, the Project would benefit flood management compared to existing conditions under an extreme flood event of 68,000 cfs, which has less than a 0.2% annual chance of occurrence. Bed change remains comparable between existing and proposed conditions.

SECTION 1
Previous Work and Background

1.1 Introduction

The Preliminary Hydrology and Hydraulics Report (H&H Report, ESA PWA 2013) and the Ballona Wetlands Restoration Preliminary Hydrology and Hydraulics Report Addendum (ESA 2015a), to which this report is a second addendum, summarizes the results of preliminary hydrologic, hydraulic, hydrodynamic, sediment transport, and geomorphic analyses that were used to inform the development of the preliminary restoration design for the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve (Ballona Wetlands). The Preliminary Design Report (PDR, ESA 2016) describes the proposed Project (Alternative 1) conditions that were analyzed for the report in more detail.

The purpose of the H&H Report was to evaluate the preliminary Project design relative to current flood management and sediment transport conditions and inform the development of the preliminary design. For the H&H Report, ESA PWA (now ESA) reviewed prior studies to identify appropriate design flows for use in the hydraulic analysis.

The hydraulic analyses at that time were based on modeling of the 100-year storm (44,270 cfs [USACE, 2010b]) and the original design discharge. The original design discharge was determined to be 46,000 cfs based on United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) guidance provided to the Project in 2012. The USACE later updated their guidance to indicate that a Standard Project Flood (SPF) of 68,000 cfs based on "future conditions" and "unrestricted" channel flow (USACE 1978) should be used for the Project. "Future conditions" refers to the Corps' estimate of anticipated future development in the watershed, referred to as the "ultimate condition" (USACE 1978). "Unrestricted flow" refers to conditions where all flows are conveyed downstream without overflow. The Los Angeles Superior Court issued a ruling dated May 2023 and stated that the California Department of Fish and Wildlife should use the 68,000 cfs SPF in its analysis. As a result, this addendum reevaluates the prior hydraulic and sediment transport analyses using a SPF of 68,000 cfs.

1.2 Previous Model (ESA PWA 2013)

1.2.1 Hydrology and Peak Flows

The USACE conducted a feasibility study for Ballona Creek ecosystem restoration in 2010. As part of this study, a HEC-HMS rainfall-runoff model was developed to estimate discharge hydrographs for multiple runoff events (i.e., 2-, 5-, 10-, 25-, 50-,

100-, 200- and 500-year events) (USACE 2010b). It is worth noting that the 68,000 cfs SPF evaluated in this addendum is 19% greater than a 500-year event (i.e., an event with a 0.2% annual chance of occurrence[1]), which is 57,185[2] cfs for Ballona Creek (USACE 2010b). As a result, the 68,000 cfs SPF is a very extreme event with an exceptionally low likelihood of occurrence annually (i.e., less than 0.2% annual chance of occurrence).

As part of the HEC-HMS model, the USACE (2010b) produced a hydrograph[3] for Ballona Creek. Figure 1 shows the Ballona Creek hydrograph scaled for the 68,000 cfs SPF (i.e., the peak was adjusted to reach 68,000 cfs). As shown in the figure, the hydrograph is "flashy," meaning water levels increase rapidly and recede quickly as well. For example, water levels are higher than the 2-year storm (16,980 cfs with a 50% annual chance of occurrence) for only 5 hours before the water level recedes.

1.2.2 Model Geometry

The previous model set-up is described in full in the H&H Report (ESA PWA 2013). The model extent included the Ballona Creek channel from the Pacific Ocean to the streamflow gage approximately 500 feet upstream of Sawtelle Boulevard, the Centinela Channel from Ballona Creek to Margaret Avenue, and the Sepulveda Channel from Ballona Creek to Braddock Drive (Figure 2 of the H&H Report). The model structures included bridges and overpasses at: Sawtelle Blvd, I-405, Inglewood Blvd, S Centinela Ave, CA-90, Lincoln Blvd, Culver Blvd, and Pacific Ave. Topographic data used within the model extents for the Ballona Creek system were a combination of as-built structure data from the USACE model and a digital terrain model (DTM) constructed by PSOMAS (2013) for existing conditions. All elevations were vertically referenced to NAVD88.

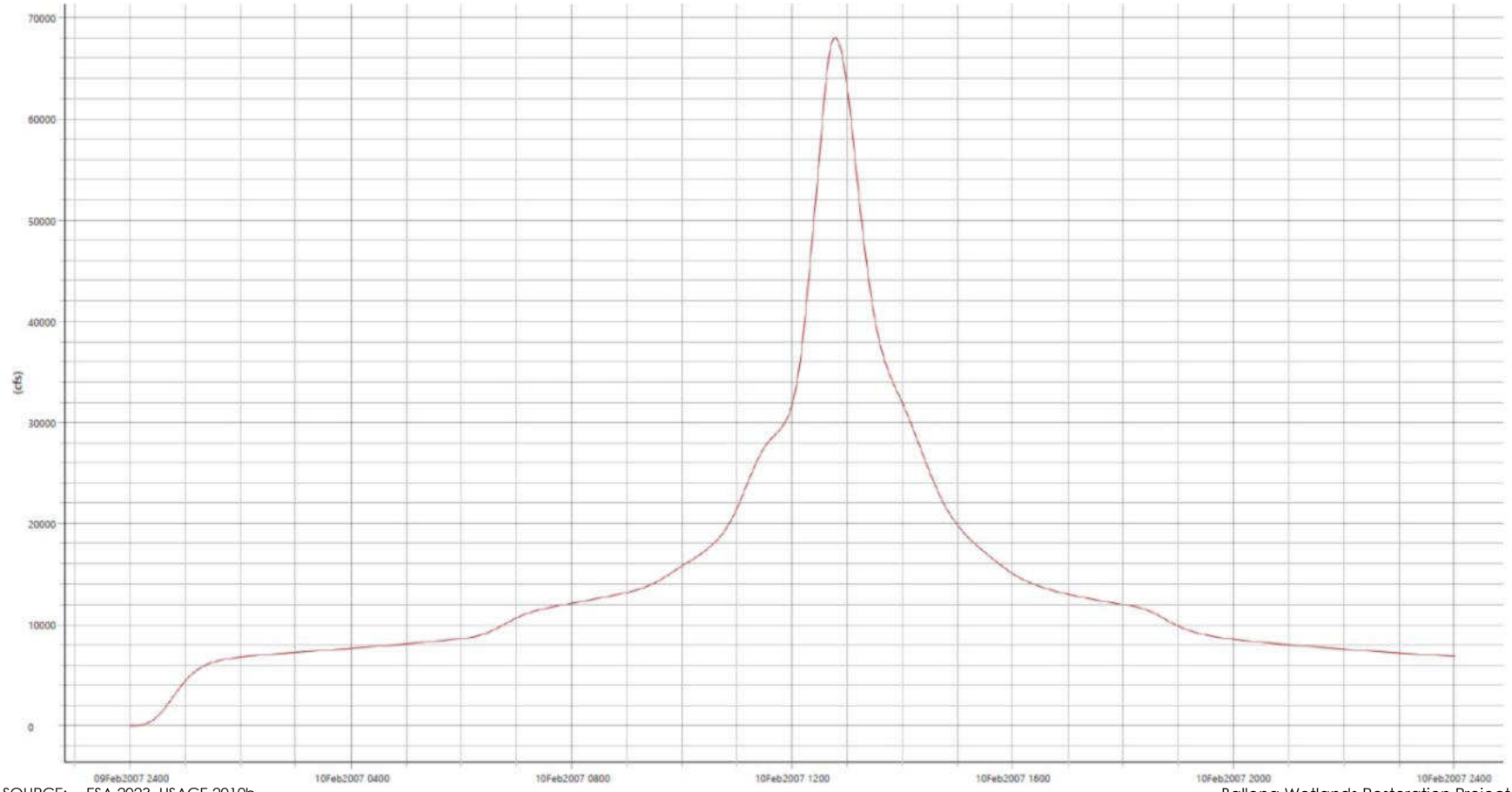
The Project conditions model covered the same extents as the existing conditions model, but incorporated changes to reflect the Project design (Figure 3 of the H&H Report). These changes included:

> **Project, Phase 1 –** would restore connectivity of Ballona Creek with the floodplain by removing the existing levees, lowering the grade in Area A and North Area B, and creating a sinuous channel. New earthen levees would be built around the northern perimeter of Area A and along the north side of

[1] A 0.2% annual chance of occurrence is equivalent to a 1 in 500 chance of occurrence within any given year.

[2] Calculated by multiplying the original design discharge of 46,000 cfs by the ratio of the 500-year (40,900 cfs) to 100-year (32,900 cfs) flows from Table 4.1 of USACE (2010b).

[3] A hydrograph is a graphical representation of the flow of water in a creek or river over time. It typically depicts the relationship between time and streamflow (discharge) following a rainfall event.



SOURCE: ESA 2023, USACE 2010b

Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project

Figure 1
Ballona Creek Hydrograph for the 68,000 cfs Standard Project Flood

Culver Boulevard in North Area B to the junction of Culver Boulevard and Jefferson Boulevard, and then connect to the existing West Area B levee.

Project, Phase 2 – would remove the levee along the north side of West Area B and build a new levee to the south of West Area B and east of the dune habitat in the west.

ESA PWA previously developed a surface representing the proposed Project using AutoCAD with the existing conditions DTM as a base. Additional information on model set-up and prior modeling can be found in the H&H Report (ESA PWA 2013) and prior addendums (ESA PWA 2014 and ESA 2015a).

For the areas south of Culver Blvd, a separate model was developed. The model extent includes the Ballona Creek channel from the Pacific Ocean to just downstream of Centinela Creek. Additionally, the model includes West Area B, South Area B, and Southeast Area B, all modeled as storage areas with a stage-storage curve developed for each area from the topography. For the Phase 1 Project conditions model runs, the stage-storage curves that were used for existing conditions were adjusted to account for the tidal channel grading in South and Southeast Area B. For the Phase 2 Project conditions model runs, West Area B was included in the Ballona Creek channel cross-sections and eliminated as a storage area.

Ten culverts were modeled to represent connections between the storage areas and Ballona Creek under existing and Project conditions. Table 1 in ESA 2015b summarizes how each connection was represented in the model geometry. As described in the Area B Managed Wetlands Preliminary Design (ESA 2015b), modeling was conducted to calibrate the SRT gates operation. The calibration results showed that the SRT gates closing down to a 0.2 ft opening at a rate of 0.2 ft/min when Ballona Creek water levels reach 2.2 ft NAVD88 best achieved modeled water levels similar to existing levels in the marsh. Once channel water levels drop below 2.2 ft NAVD88 in the model, the gates re-open.

SECTION 2
Flood Modeling Approach for 68,000 cfs

The natural environment is a complex set of interacting systems, and variabilities within each system often add to that complexity (i.e. predicting the weather for a city versus for a city block). As a result, we often rely on models to predict or simulate what may occur in the natural environment to help inform decisions that could affect the natural environment. Regarding hydrologic modeling (i.e. modeling to predict what a river may do), there is no single best model. Rivers, and often even segments of a river, vary from each other in different ways. Some variability could include a river's shape and size (narrow and straight, sinuous, braided, etc.), what feeds the river (runoff from rainfall, tributaries, etc.), the river's terminus (tributary to other river, ocean and tidal influence, endorheic basin, etc.), and the river channel's composition (bedrock, silt, clay, etc.). Additionally, characteristics of a river are often dynamic and change over time (e.g. greater flow during winter due to rain, new layer of sediment on river channel deposited after a storm, shift in river course causing bank erosion or channel overtopping, development upstream changes how runoff enters a river, etc.). Accordingly, there exist a variety of different types of hydrologic models, as well as methods to adjust those models. This variety of modeling is due, in part, to the fact that each model has its limitations and, one model (or set of adjustments to a model) as a tool to simulate and predict, may be better situated for a particular set of circumstances than another model. USACE Guidance and current standards and practices within the engineering profession were used to help identify the most appropriate models for the Project.

2.1 Steady-State Versus Unsteady Modeling

A HEC-RAS model simulation can be run as a steady-state or unsteady simulation by adjusting the boundary condition settings. Boundary conditions are applied to the model to simulate the water conditions at the upstream and downstream ends of the model domain and to provide a starting place for computations. For the Ballona Wetlands model, the upstream boundary condition is the creek flow while the downstream boundary condition is the tidal water level. In a steady-state model, the boundary conditions are represented by a single value (e.g., peak storm discharge flow rate, high tide level). In an unsteady model, the boundary conditions are represented by a time series (e.g., an entire storm hydrograph with varying discharge over time, varying tide cycle(s)).

Steady-state modeling is a conservative method that assumes water continuously flows into the site at a single specified rate; it assumes flow does not change with time and that storage in the conveying flow area has a negligible

effect on flows and water surface elevations. As a result, steady-state modeling for the Ballona Wetlands model assumes a continuous flow of 68,000 cfs, that the Project's expanded floodplain is completely filled by the flow without any limitation due to the duration of the peak flow, and that filling of the Project's expanded floodplain does not attenuate or reduce the flow rate downstream of the Project. The steady-state modeling therefore provides conservatively high results for flood water levels. In contrast to steady-state modeling, unsteady modeling uses a hydrograph with flows that change over time, which more closely represents the potential flow conditions and volume in the model (as shown in Figure 1). Unsteady flow is a more physically realistic representation of modeled flow and tide dynamics.

The previous 1-D model (ESA PWA 2013) was run in steady state. Steady-state modeling was previously used because it is the most conservative method. However, when 68,000 cfs is run through the steady state model, the model results show substantial overtopping upstream of Centinela Blvd under existing conditions (i.e., without the Project). Because this is a 1-D model of the channel, HEC-RAS assumes all flow continues downstream and does not account for the water that would spill out of the channel upstream of Centinela Blvd. Other bridge crossings further upstream would also likely cause backwater and overtopping. The USACE found overtopping from near Fairfax Street to the area near Jefferson Street and at the confluence of Sepulveda Channel and Ballona Creek as part of their hydraulic study for Ballona Creek (USACE, 2010b). As part of their study, the USACE estimated that capacity at Centinela is 53,100 cfs. The steady-state model with 68,000 cfs therefore overestimates the amount of water that would be conveyed to the Project site by approximately 14,900 cfs.

Additionally, because the model is steady state, it assumes 68,000 cfs flows into the site continuously, which is unrealistic because the peak discharge is expected to last for only a short period. For example, flows in the hydrograph (i.e. unsteady state) scaled to the SPF peak of 68,000 cfs exceed the 100-year discharge (44,270 cfs) for only about 1 hour (see figure 1). In contrast, the steady-state model assumes the continuous peak discharge of 68,000 cfs completely fills the Project's restored wetland floodplain basin and does not consider dynamics due to time-varying conditions. In reality, the time and volume of stormwater filling of the Project's restored wetland floodplain basin would be limited by the relatively short duration of the peak discharge. Furthermore, as discussed in the following section, unsteady model results show that as the Project's restored wetland floodplain fills over time, it provides temporary storage of storm flows and reduces the water levels downstream of the Project. The steady-state model does not account for the increased floodplain storage and reduced water levels downstream. Running the model with an unsteady flow does account for these processes and is therefore more realistic and informative for evaluating the extreme 68,000 cfs SPF. Results for both the steady-state model and the more realistic unsteady model are presented in Section 3.

2.2 USACE Guidance

Section 14 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 and codified in 33 U.S.C. Section 408 (commonly referred to as "Section 408") authorizes the Secretary of the Army, on the recommendation of the Chief of Engineers of the USACE, to grant permission for the alteration of a USACE civil works project if the Secretary determines that the activity will not be injurious to the public interest and will not impair the usefulness of the project. Because the Ballona Creek flood control channel is a USACE-authorized flood risk management project, a Section 408 permit would be required to realign the levees and reconnect the channel to the floodplain. The Section 408 permit application would include all project plans and review the proposed hydrologic changes for the Chief of Engineer's consideration on whether these changes would ultimately impair the usefulness of the original project or not.

In USACE's 2018 Policy and Procedural Guidance for Processing Requests to Alter US Army Corps of Engineers Civil Works Projects Pursuant to 33 USC 408 (EC 1165-2-220), the document states:

- "Pre-approved software for analyses can be used, which include HECHMS (Ref. H-2.c), HEC-RAS (Ref. H-2.d), HEC-ResSim (Ref. H-2.e), HEC-FDA (Ref. H-2.f) and HEC-WAT (Ref. H-2.g)."
- "Methods for performing the H&H system analysis are flexible. One possible approach is described here, and follows the procedures outlined in EM 1110-2-1619 (Ref. H-2b)"
- "Care must be exercised and results scrutinized to judge if changes in computed elevations are logically related to the changes in the geometry, or if changes seen in the model results are artifacts of computational precision limits or model instabilities."

While the document expired in 2020, it is still referenced as the current guidance on the USACE website as of September 2026. (https://www.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Section408/).

USACE's 1996 Engineering and Design Risk-Based Analysis for Flood Damage Reduction Studies (EM 110-2-1619) also states: "While the majority of water surface profile analyses are within the capabilities of such programs as HEC-2 (USACE 1985), there is need, at times, for more complex analysis. For streams that have rapidly varying flows, or are subject to tides, an unsteady flow analysis may be needed."

Given the USACE guidance's flexible approach to modeling, along with the specific statement that an unsteady model may be needed, it is clear that USACE guidance does not require use of a steady-state model. Based on this

guidance and discussions with USACE staff, ESA selected an unsteady modeling approach for the 68,000 cfs SPF because an unsteady modeling approach is more realistic, and as a result, informative, in that it:

- Appropriately accounts for potential floodplain storage and peak flood discharge within the restored wetlands, and
- Better represents Ballona Creek's rapidly varying flow for the 68,000 cfs SPF.

Results for the steady-state model of the 68,000 cfs – which does not account for the Project's increase in floodplain storage or Ballona Creek's rapidly varying flow – are included in the following section for completeness and comparison to the unsteady model results. Nevertheless, neither model accounts for overtopping upstream of Centinela Blvd (i.e. upstream of the Project Site), which would occur under existing and Project conditions. Therefore, this analysis is a conservative assumption that assumes all of the 68,000 cfs makes it to the Project site.

SECTION 3
Hydraulic Modeling

3.1 Steady State Model

This section describes the results for the original steady-state model (ESA PWA 2013) run with a boundary condition of 68,000 cfs. As described in Section 2 above, the steady-state model does not accurately simulate such an extreme event because it assumes the peak discharge is continuous. In contrast, as shown in the storm hydrograph (see Figure 1), the peak discharge lasts for only a few hours (i.e. for approximately two hours flow is above 30,000 cfs, and within those two hours, flow is above 50,000 cfs for approximately one hour). For completeness and to document the model development process, the results of the steady-state model for 68,000 cfs are discussed below. As discussed in Section 2, an unsteady model based on the hydrograph is more realistic, informative, and appropriate for this extreme event. An unsteady model was therefore developed and run as discussed in Section 3.2.

3.1.1 Model Geometry

No changes were made to the ESA PWA 2013 model geometry.

3.1.2 Boundary Conditions

The 68,000 cfs SPF was evaluated under steady-state conditions with two different tailwater conditions: 1) the tidal boundary condition at a steady 7.63 ft NAVD88 (representing an extreme tide) and 2) 7.63 ft NAVD88 plus 59 inches of sea-level rise with bed aggradation. The Existing Conditions channel geometry was modified to represent bed aggradation equal to 59 inches of sea-level rise at the channel mouth and tapering off to zero at the upstream limit of tidal influence (approximately Culver Blvd). This scenario is considered conservative for bed aggradation, since it could only occur if ample sediment supply were available to allow the channel to aggrade. See ESA PWA 2013 for further details on the development of these tailwater and bed aggradation conditions. While the bed aggradation increases water levels, it does not result in a linear increase (i.e., the 59-inch increase in bed aggradation does not result in a 59-inch increase in water level) since the bed aggradation represents a relatively small portion of the overall flow area in the cross-section.

Appendix A provides a run catalog that summarizes the model scenarios.

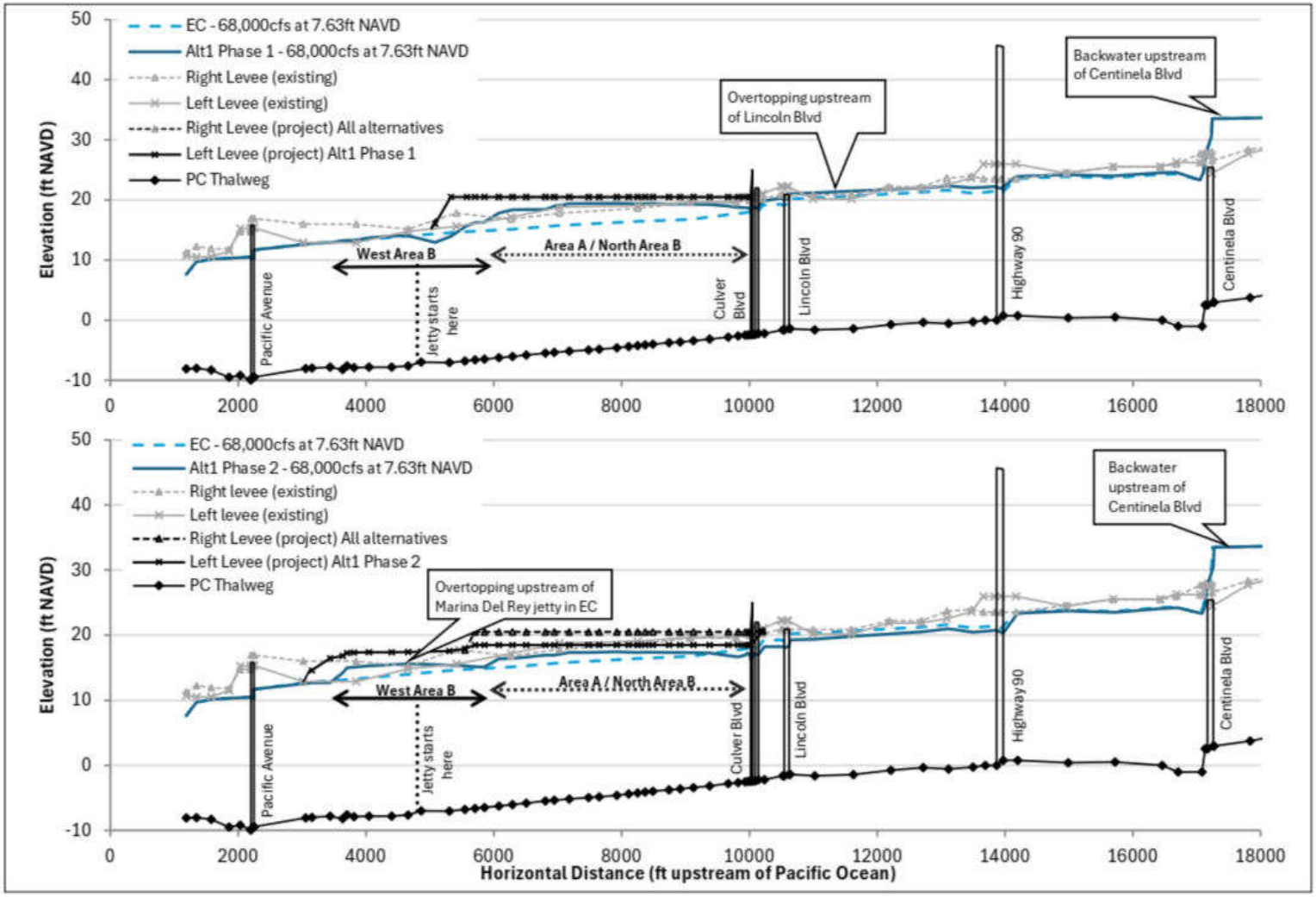
3.1.3 Results

Water level profiles for the steady-state model results are presented in the following figures:

- Figure 2 (top panel) – 68,000 cfs for Existing Conditions and Phase 1 Project Conditions.
- Figure 2 (bottom panel) – 68,000 cfs for Existing Conditions and Phase 2 Project Conditions.
- Figure 3 (top panel) – 68,000 cfs with sea level rise and bed aggradation for Existing Conditions and Phase 1 Project Conditions.
- Figure 3 (bottom panel) – 68,000 cfs with sea level rise and bed aggradation for Existing Conditions and Phase 2 Project Conditions.

In all four scenarios (including existing conditions), the steady-state model results show that water levels are higher than the Centinela Blvd bridge and the levees/channel banks upstream of the bridge. The model does not allow channel bank/levee overtopping and therefore produces an unrealistic backwater effect at Centinela bridge where the water level is approximately 8 ft higher than the bridge and the channel banks/levees upstream of the bridge (see Figure 2). In reality, this condition would cause water to overtop the channel banks/levees and flood adjacent areas, and the peak discharge downstream would be less than 68,000 cfs due to the overtopping and "loss" of water from the channel. The steady-state model also assumes 68,000 cfs flows into the site indefinitely, however based on the hydrograph (Figure 1) the flow is likely only above 46,000 cfs for about an hour. With a steady-state run, flow remains the same throughout the simulation time (i.e. 68,000 cfs), when in reality, the hydrograph has varying flows over time (i.e. flow varies from 0-68,000 cfs over 24 hours, and within those 24 hours, flows are 30,000 cfs – 68,000 cfs for approximately two hours). As a result, the overall volume of water in the system is much higher than would actually occur during a storm. A comparison of the cumulative flow volume for a steady and unsteady hydrograph shows the steady-state assumption produces 370% more volume[4] than the unsteady hydrograph, which is based on actual storm patterns and physical runoff processes. Additionally, the steady-state model does not account for storage effects on flows and water levels. The Project is designed to increase flood storage by relocating the levees away from the existing channel allowing the creek to expand into part of the historic floodplain, which would attenuate flow and lower overall water levels. Thus, while the results of the steady-state model show the potential for the Project to increase water levels and cause overtopping of levees, these results are not realistic due to the model not allowing channel bank/levee overtopping upstream, simulating a continuous flow, and not accounting for increased flood storage. The steady-state model

[4] The 370% was determined by calculating the volume of water under the hydrograph in Figure 1 and dividing that into the volume for a constant 68,000 cfs.

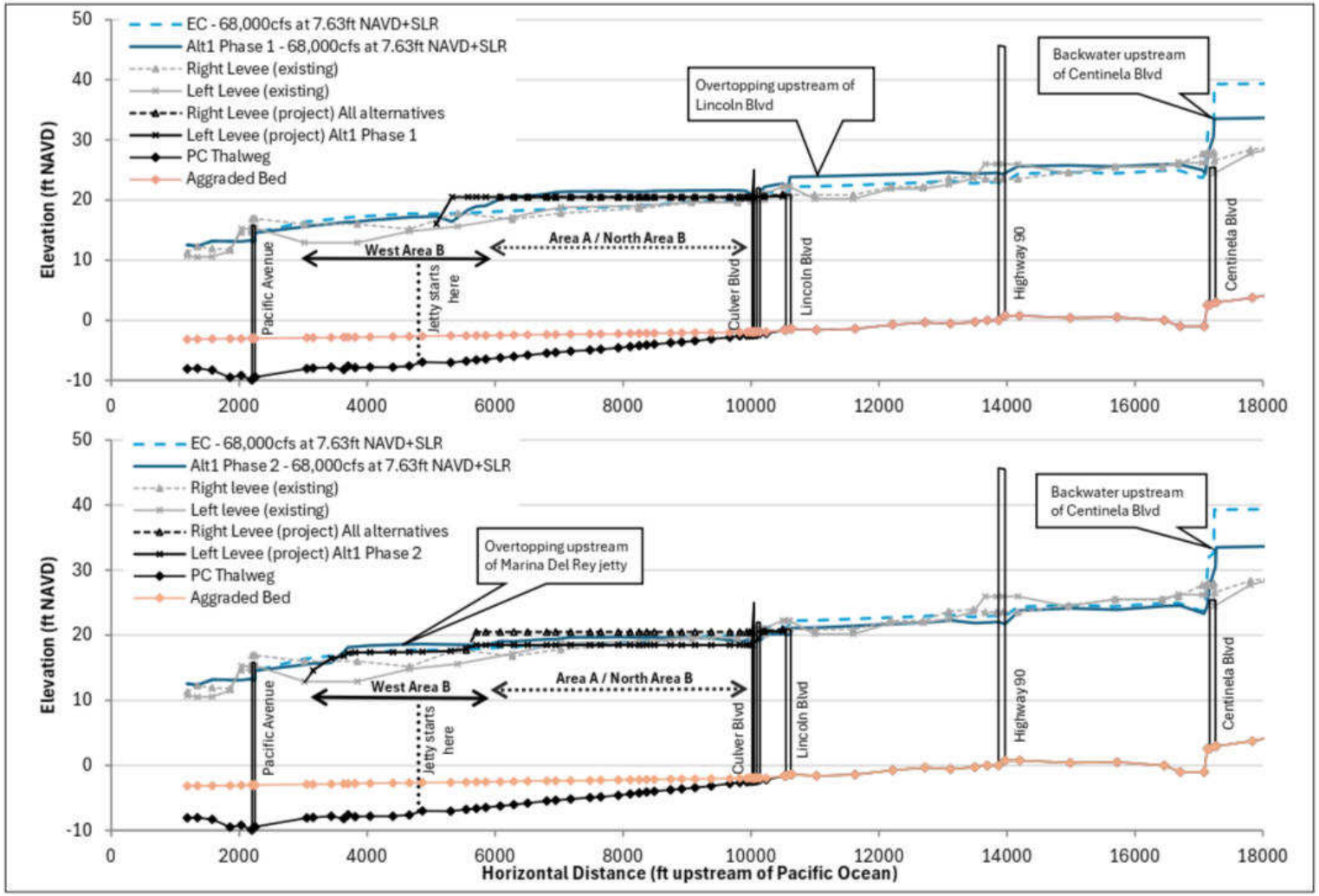


Note: Because the model is steady state, it assumes 68,000 cfs flows into the site continuously, which is unrealistic. The model therefore overestimates the amount of water that would be conveyed to the Project site. The model also does not account for the Project's increase in floodplain storage.
EC = Existing Conditions, PC = Proposed Conditions

Ballona Wetland Restoration. D120367

Figure 2

68,000 cfs Standard Project Flood Steady State Model



Note: Because the model is steady state, it assumes 68,000 cfs flows into the site continuously, which is unrealistic. The model therefore overestimates the amount of water that would be conveyed to the Project site. The model also does not account for the Project's increase in floodplain storage.
EC = Existing Conditions, PC = Proposed Conditions

Ballona Wetland Restoration. D120367

Figure 3

68,000 cfs Standard Project Flood with Sea Level Rise and Bed Aggradation Steady State Model

results discussion below is included for completeness and to document why the unsteady model is more appropriate for analyzing and understanding the potential effects of the Project.

In Figure 2 (top panel)[5], the steady-state model results show the Phase 1 Project would increase water levels compared to existing conditions upstream of the Project site. For existing conditions, the steady-state model shows that water levels are slightly higher than the channel banks/levees upstream of Lincoln Blvd, indicating the potential for some overtopping in existing conditions. For Phase 1 Project conditions, the steady-state model shows the Phase 1 Project increases water levels upstream of Lincoln Blvd, indicating the potential to increase overtopping relative to existing conditions. However, as discussed above and in Section 2, the steady-state model does not realistically model flooding upstream of Centinela Blvd. and models an unrealistic continuous flow of 68,000 cfs, which minimizes the benefits of the increased floodplain storage in the Project's restored wetland basin downstream. Consequently, the steady-state model yields artificially high water levels in the channel. For Phase 2 Project conditions, the model results show that the Project reduces water levels upstream of the Project such that water levels are below the channel bank/levees, indicating the potential to reduce overtopping relative to existing conditions.

Within the Project site, Figure 2 shows that the Project levees would contain the 68,000 cfs flow for both Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the Project. The steady-state modeling indicates that the Marina Del Rey jetty would be overtopped with Phase 2 of the Project, but as discussed above the water levels are unrealistic due to the model not allowing channel bank/levee overtopping upstream, simulating a continuous flow, and not accounting for increased floodplain storage with the Project.

Figure 3 shows the steady-state model with 59 inches (4.9 ft) of sea-level rise and bed aggradation, for 68,000 cfs (Figure 3). These results are also unrealistic due to the steady-state model's limitations discussed above. Upstream of the Project, the steady-state model results show that water levels are higher than the channel banks/levees in both existing conditions and for Phase 1 Project conditions, with higher water levels in Phase 1 than in existing conditions. In Area A and North Area B, the steady-state model results show that Phase 1 Project water levels are higher than existing conditions and overtop the proposed Project levees, which again is an unrealistic result due to the model not allowing channel bank/levee overtopping upstream, simulating a continuous flow, and not accounting for increased floodplain storage. Downstream of Area A and North Area B, the steady-state model results show that water levels are higher than the West Area B levee and Marina Del Rey jetty in both existing conditions and for Phase 1 Project conditions, with lower water levels in Phase 1 than

[5] In the top panel the right and left levees are at the same elevation; with Phase 2 the left project levee drops 2 feet.

existing conditions. The steady-state model shows that Phase 2 Project would reduce water levels upstream, increase water levels in Area A/North Area B and West Area B to above the proposed North Area B and West Area B levee heights due to the model not allowing channel bank/levee overtopping upstream, simulating a continuous flow, and not accounting for increased floodplain storage.

3.1.4 Summary of Steady-State Model Limitations

Overall, the steady-state model overestimates water levels during the 68,000 cfs scenario. As discussed in Section 2, because the model assumes all flow continues down the channel and none is lost to overtopping, the model is overestimating the amount of water that would enter the Project site from Ballona Creek. This dynamic was highlighted by the USACE in their ecosystem study hydraulic modeling report (USACE, 2010b).

In steady-state, the model assumes 68,000 cfs flows into the site indefinitely, however the flow is likely only above 46,000 cfs for about an hour per the hydrograph (Figure 1). With a steady-state run, flow remains the same throughout the simulation time, when in reality, a hydrograph has varying flows over time. As a result, the overall volume of water in the system is much higher (by approximately 370% for this event) than would actually occur during a storm.

Additionally, steady-state simulations do not account for storage effects; the Project is designed to increase flood storage which would attenuate flow and lower overall water levels. However, the steady state model does not simulate this process accurately.

Last, a 68,000 cfs SPF represents a highly unlikely hydrologic event. A 500-year event is modeled as having a 57,185 cfs flow; meaning each year there is an approximately 0.2% chance that the flow would reach 57,185 cfs. With the modeled flow being more than 10,800 cfs greater than the 500-year event, the likelihood of 68,000 cfs occurring is much lower than 0.2%.

For these reasons, the steady-state model is too conservative and unrealistic for such an extreme flow event to be a helpful, informative model, so an unsteady model was developed to simulate Project water levels more realistically (see Section 3.2).

3.2 Unsteady State Model Based on the Hydrograph

ESA developed an unsteady model to more accurately simulate flows and provide more realistic information for decisionmakers. ESA truncated the unsteady model to downstream of Centinela Blvd to avoid the instabilities caused by the bridge with unsteady modelling.

3.2.1 Model Geometry

Because this is a 1-D model, HEC RAS applies vertical walls at the edges of the cross-sections, which in this case forces containment of flows that would otherwise overtop upstream of Centinela Blvd. As a result, the model allows an unrealistic backwater upstream of Centinela Blvd bridge (see figures in Section 3.1). This backwater causes instability when running the model with an unsteady hydrograph, so the model extent was truncated to downstream of Highway 90 with the 68,000 cfs added at this location to avoid the instabilities caused by the Centinela Blvd bridge. This is a conservative approach because it assumes none of the flow overtops or leaves the channel upstream of the Project and that the entire 68,000 cfs flow enters the Project site. This approach also does not account for the potential attenuation and reduction of the flow rate at the Project site due to the backwater at Centinela bridge.

3.2.2 Boundary Conditions

The upstream boundary condition at Ballona Creek was modified to use an unsteady flow hydrograph scaled up to the SPF (68,000 cfs). The downstream boundary condition was kept at a constant water level of 7.63 ft NAVD88 (representing an extreme high tide). This is a conservative assumption because the joint probability of the extreme 68,000 cfs SPF discharge (less than 0.2% annual chance) occurring at the same time as an extreme high tide is less than the probability of the SPF occurring during a lower tide level (i.e., because extreme discharge events are not necessarily correlated with astronomical high tides, and high tides only occur during a portion of any given day).

3.2.3 Results

Water level profiles for the unsteady model results are presented in the following figures:

- Figure 4 (top panel) – 68,000 cfs for Existing conditions and Phase 1 Project Conditions.
- Figure 4 (bottom panel) – 68,000 cfs for Existing conditions and Phase 2 Project Conditions.
- Figure 5 (top panel) – 68,000 cfs with sea level rise and bed aggradation for Existing Conditions and Phase 1 Project Conditions.
- Figure 5 (bottom panel) – 68,000 cfs with sea level rise and bed aggradation for Existing Conditions and Phase 2 Project Conditions.

Table 1 tabulates the freeboard, which is the height of the channel bank/levee above the modeled water level in the channel. Reach average, minimum, and maximum freeboard is tabulated for existing conditions, Phase 1 Project conditions, and Phase 2 Project conditions by reach (i.e., upstream of the Project/Lincoln Blvd., in Area A/North Area B, in West Area B, and downstream of

the Project). Negative freeboard modeled for existing conditions upstream of the Project indicates modeled water levels are higher than the channel bank/levee and there is a potential for overtopping and flooding in existing conditions. Model results show that both Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the Project would increase freeboard upstream of the Project compared to existing freeboard, indicating the potential for the Project to reduce existing upstream overtopping and flooding. Modeled increases in the minimum freeboard are noted in parentheses in Table 1. Model results show that both Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the Project increase the minimum freeboard compared to existing conditions in all reaches, indicating the potential for the Project to improve flood management.

Figures 4 and 5 show the unsteady model results for 68,000 cfs. The existing conditions model results (Figure 4) show that water levels are 0.3 ft above the channel banks/levees, indicating the potential for overtopping and flooding just upstream of Lincoln Blvd. in existing conditions. Project conditions model results for both Phase 1 (Figure 4 top panel) and Phase 2 (Figure 4 bottom panel) show that the Project reduces water levels upstream of Lincoln Blvd to below the channel banks/levees with 0.2 feet of freeboard for Phase 1 and 0.5 ft of freeboard for Phase 2. The unsteady model results indicate that the Project has the potential benefit of reducing flooding upstream of Lincoln Blvd.

Within Area A and North Area B for Phase 1 Project conditions (Figure 4 top panel), the unsteady model results show that Phase 1 increases water levels above existing conditions in a portion of the Project Site by up to 0.6 feet, however the Project levees are higher than existing and as a result freeboard would be increased with the Project as compared to existing conditions.[6] The Phase 1 Project would increase the height of the levees by more than the modeled increase in water levels. The Phase 1 Project would therefore increase the minimum freeboard by 2.3 ft compared to existing conditions. Within West Area B and downstream of the Project, the unsteady model results show that Phase 1 reduces water levels below existing conditions due to floodplain storage in Area A/North Area B, which attenuates or reduces the peak discharge rate downstream. For Phase 2 Project conditions (Figure 4 bottom panel), the model results show water levels are lower than existing conditions throughout the model extent. These unsteady model results indicate that the Project has the potential benefit of improving flood management throughout the model extent.

Figure 5 and Table 2 show the model results and modeled freeboard, respectively, with 59 inches of sea-level rise and bed aggradation. Under

[6] Note that the increase in water levels in the unsteady model results for Phase 1 in Area A/North Area B (Figure 4 top panel) is significantly less than the increase in water levels in the steady-state model results (Figure 2 top panel). This is because the unsteady model uses a time-varying hydrograph and accounts for floodplain storage, whereas the steady-state model uses a continuous flow and does not account for floodplain storage.

"existing conditions" (i.e., future conditions without the Project), the model shows 68,000 cfs would result in overtopping upstream of Lincoln Blvd (-1.26 ft freeboard), into Area A (-0.83 ft freeboard), into West Area B (-3.23 ft freeboard), at the Breakwater at Marina Del Rey Apartments (-2.14 ft freeboard), over the Marina Del Rey jetty (-2.48 ft freeboard), downstream of the site near the Laguna Del Rey Apartments (-1.26 ft freeboard), and the southern jetty onto the beach (-2.31 ft freeboard).

Upstream of the Project with 59 inches of sea-level rise and bed aggradation, Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the Project would lower water levels to the level of the channel banks/levees or below the channel banks/levees, indicating the potential of the Project to reduce upstream flooding. Within Area A and North Area B, the water levels would be contained by the new levees and freeboard would be increased in both Phase 1 and Phase 2, indicating the potential of the Project to reduce flooding in this reach.

TABLE 1
LEVEE FREEBOARD (FEET) WITH 68,000 CFS

	Reach Average Freeboard	Maximum Freeboard	Minimum Freeboard
Upstream of Project / Culver Blvd. (RS 10092 to 13689)			
Existing Conditions[1]	1.6	3.2	-0.3
Alt 1, Phase 1[2]	2.9	5.9	0.2 (+0.5 compared to existing)
Alt 1, Phase 2[2]	3.0	5.6	0.5 (+0.8 compared to existing)
Area A/North Area B (RS 5707 to 10019)			
Existing Conditions[1]	2.6	3.3	2.0
Alt 1, Phase 1[2]	4.8	6.4	4.3 (+2.3 compared to existing)
Alt 1, Phase 2[2]	4.3	5.6	3.9 (+1.8 compared to existing)
West Area B (RS 3016 to 5546)			
Existing Conditions[1]	0.8	1.2	0.3
Alt 1, Phase 1[2]	2.8	5.4	1.5 (+1.2 compared to existing)
Alt 1, Phase 2[2]	3.1	4.6	1.7 (+1.4 compared to existing)
Downstream of Project (RS 0 to 2823)			
Existing Conditions[1]	4.4	8.7	1.1
Alt 1, Phase 1[2]	4.8	9.2	1.5 (+0.4 compared to existing)
Alt 1, Phase 2[2]	4.9	9.3	1.6 (+0.4 compared to existing)

NOTES:

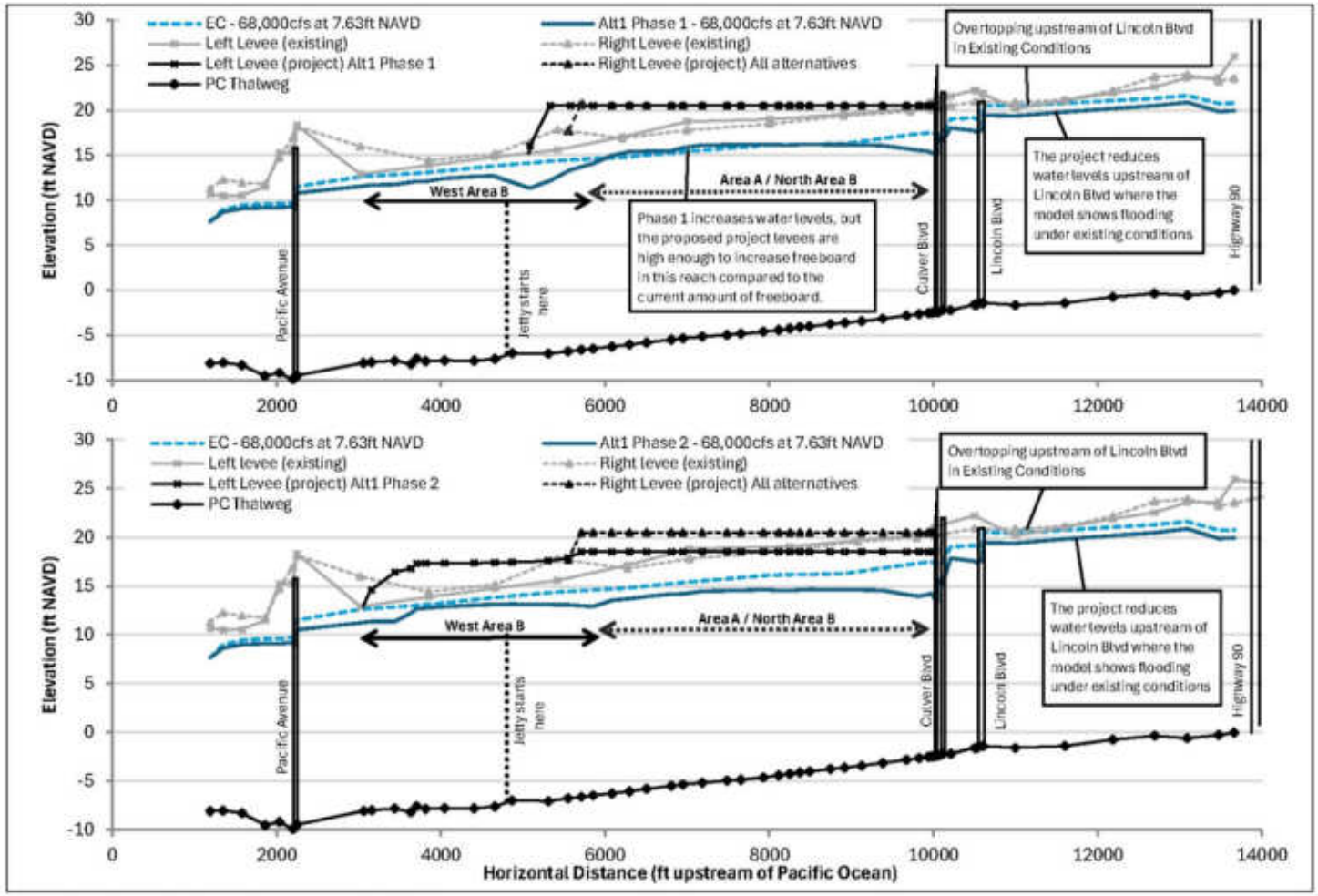
[1] Freeboard based on existing levee elevations. The lower freeboard provided by either of the levees is used.

[2] Freeboard based on Project levee elevations. The lower freeboard provided by either of the levees is used.

Numbers in the table are rounded.

SOURCE: ESA, 2023

Upstream of the Project with 59 inches of sea-level rise and bed aggradation, Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the Project would lower water levels to the level of the channel banks/levees or below the channel banks/levees, indicating the potential of the Project to reduce upstream flooding. Within Area A and North Area B, the water levels would be contained by the new levees and freeboard would be increased in both Phase 1 and Phase 2, indicating the potential of the Project to reduce flooding in this reach.

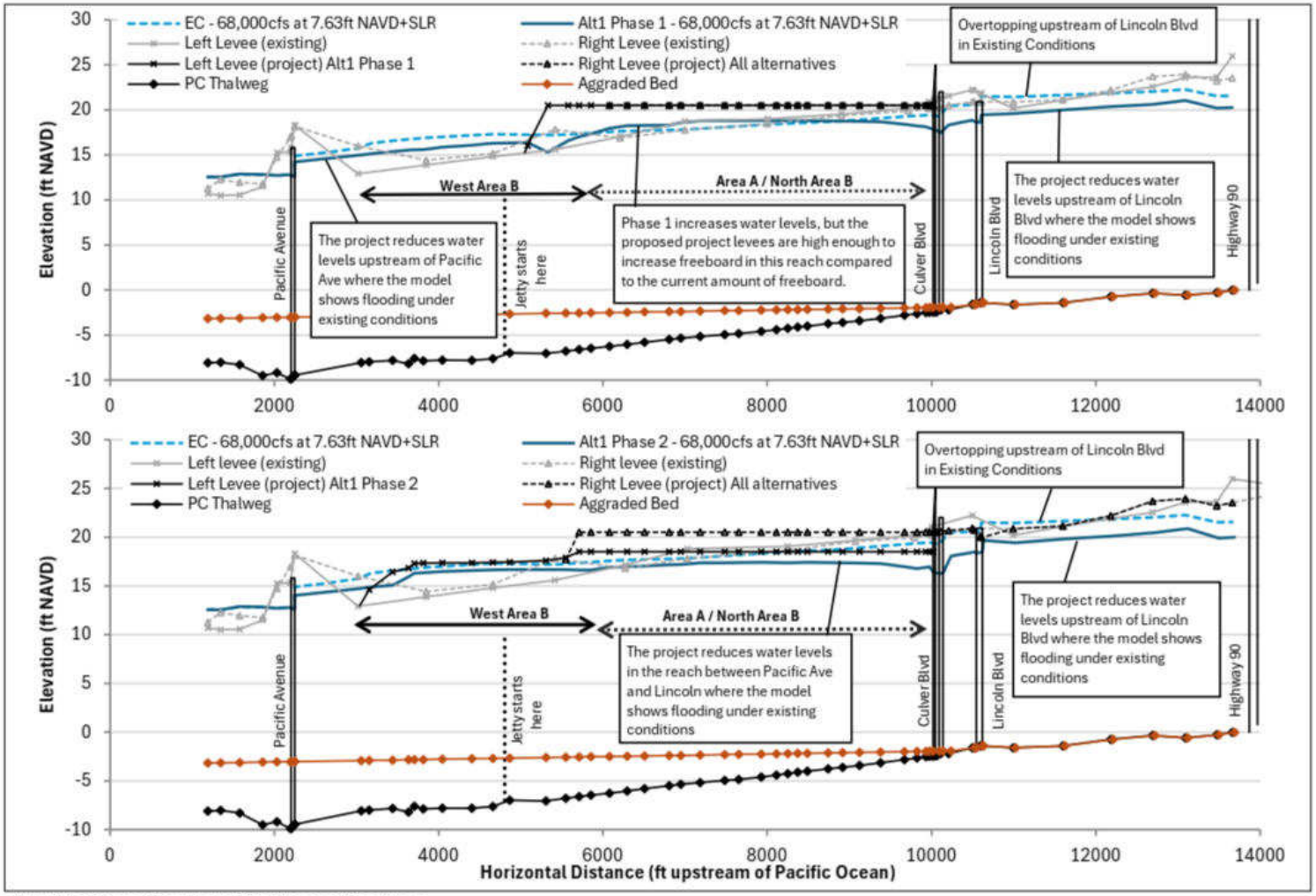


Note: EC = Existing Conditions, PC = Proposed Conditions

Ballona Wetland Restoration. D120367

Figure 4

68,000 cfs Standard Project Flood Unsteady Flow Model



Note: EC = Existing Conditions, PC = Proposed Conditions

Ballona Wetland Restoration. D120367

Figure 5

68,000 cfs Standard Project Flood with Sea Level Rise and Bed Aggradation
Unsteady Flow Model

TABLE 2
LEVEE FREEBOARD (FEET) WITH 68,000 CFS, SEA-LEVEL RISE, AND BED AGGRADATION

	Reach Average Freeboard	Maximum Freeboard	Minimum Freeboard on Left Levee	Minimum Freeboard on Right Levee
Upstream of Project (RS 10092 to 13689)				
Existing Conditions[1]	0.90	4.39	-1.26	-0.61
Alt 1, Phase 1[2]	2.37	5.69	0.59 (+1.85 compared to existing)	0.02 (+0.63 compared to existing)
Alt 1, Phase 2[2]	2.76	5.94	0.79 (+2.05 compared to existing)	0.36 (+0.98 compared to existing)
Area A/North Area B (RS 5707 to 10019)				
Existing Conditions[1]	0.52	1.62	-0.49	-0.83
Alt 1, Phase 1[2]	2.04	3.48	1.67 (+2.16 compared to existing)	1.67 (+2.50 compared to existing)
Alt 1, Phase 2[2]	2.37	4.09	1.08 (+1.57 compared to existing)	3.08 (+3.91 compared to existing)
West Area B (RS 3016 to 5546)				
Existing Conditions[1]	-1.98	0.63	-3.23	-2.48
Alt 1, Phase 1[2]	0.02	5.19	-1.97 (+1.26 compared to existing)	-1.38 (+1.10 compared to existing)
Alt 1, Phase 2[2]	0.23	1.37	-0.77 (+2.47 compared to existing)	-1.83 (+0.65 compared to existing)
Downstream of Project (RS 0 to 2823)				
Existing Conditions[1]	1.32	5.65	-2.31	-1.26
Alt 1, Phase 1[2]	1.50	5.62	-2.33 (-0.02 compared to existing)[7]	-1.26 (no change compared to existing)
Alt 1, Phase 2[2]	1.52	5.62	-2.34 (-0.04 compared to existing)	-1.26 (no change compared to existing)

NOTES:
[1] Freeboard based on existing levee elevations.
[2] Freeboard based on Project levee elevations.
SOURCE: ESA, 2023

[7] Any change of less than 0.1 foot is not considered significant. The levee footprint would not change - increase in height could be accomplished simply by slightly increasing the slope of the levees.

In West Area B with 59 inches of sea-level rise and bed aggradation, both Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the Project would lower water levels compared to existing conditions, indicating the potential benefit of the Project to reduce flooding from the channel through West Area B. In Phase 1 (Figure 5 top panel), modeled water levels are above both the existing West Area B levee (i.e., left levee in Figure 5) and the channel bank and jetty on the north side of the channel (i.e. right levee). However, because of the Project's floodplain storage in Area A/North Area B and the resulting attenuation or reduction in the downstream peak discharge rate, the water level with the Project would be lower compared to the water level under existing conditions. In Phase 2, the modeled water levels are below the proposed West Area B levee, which would be higher than the existing West Area B levee. (However, overtopping would occur where the new levee transitions to the existing levee by sloping down to meet the existing levee.) The model results indicate that lower water levels with the Project and a higher proposed Phase 2 West Area B levee would reduce flooding with 59 inches of sea-level rise and bed aggradation compared to existing conditions.

Downstream of the Project with 59 inches of sea-level rise and bed aggradation, both Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the Project reduce water levels between West Area B and the Pacific Ave. bridge, indicating the potential benefit of the Project to reduce downstream flooding compared to existing conditions. Downstream of the Pacific Ave. bridge, model results show that both Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the Project do not change existing water levels.

It is important to note that 59 inches of sea-level rise is not expected to occur until the next century. For this Intermediate scenario, 59 inches of sea-level rise is expected to occur in 2130. Thus, the 59 inches of sea-level rise modeled has a very low chance of occurrence in this century. Additionally, as discussed in Section 1.2.1, the 68,000 cfs SPF is more extreme than a 500-year event, so it has less than a 0.2% chance of occurring annually.

3.3 Conclusions

As discussed in Section 2, the previous 1-D model (ESA PWA 2013) was run in steady-state to assess flood water levels with the 68,000 cfs SPF. However, when 68,000 cfs is run through the steady state model, the model results show overtopping upstream of Centinela Blvd under existing conditions (i.e., without the Project). Because this is a 1-D model, HEC-RAS assumes all flow continues downstream and does not account for the water that would spill out of the channel upstream of Centinela Blvd. Additionally, because the model is steady state, it assumes 68,000 cfs flows into the site continuously, which is unrealistic. Nor does the model account for the Project's increase in floodplain storage. The model therefore overestimates the amount of water that would be conveyed to the Project site.

As a result, a, more realistic unsteady-state model based on the hydrograph was developed to analyze how the Project would change water levels under a 68,000 cfs flow. The model results showed that the Project would reduce water levels and provide a flood reduction benefit upstream and downstream of the site for both phases of the Project compared to existing conditions. Within the Project site, the model results showed that the higher proposed levees would increase freeboard. Model results show that the Project would lower water levels within the site, except that Phase 1 would slightly increase water levels compared to existing conditions; however, the proposed levees would increase the average and minimum freeboard in the Project site. These results indicate that the Project has the potential to maintain or increase the existing level of flood management throughout the modeled reach.

With 59 inches of sea-level rise and bed aggradation, the model shows the Project would lower water levels upstream of the site, providing a potential flood reduction benefit. Within the site, model results show the water levels would be contained by the proposed levees and freeboard along the proposed levees would be increased. The results indicate that with 59 inches of sea-level rise and bed aggradation, the Project has the potential to maintain or increase the existing level of flood management throughout the modeled reach.

SECTION 4
Sediment Transport Analysis

A sediment transport analysis was conducted to evaluate potential effects of the proposed Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project on sediment transport within the Project area and adjacent reaches of the channel. The previous sediment transport modeling conducted for the EIR is described in the H&H Report (ESA PWA, 2013) and Addendum 1: Sediment Transport Analysis (ESA PWA, 2014).

Unsteady state sediment transport modeling for the 68,000 cfs SPF was performed to compare erosion and deposition patterns between the Project and existing conditions[8]. The results of the sediment transport modeling will be used to inform the next phase of Project design development, including design refinement for scour protection features.

4.1 Model Geometry

No changes were made to the ESA PWA 2014 model geometry. The model was run in HEC-RAS version 6.2.

4.2 Boundary Conditions

The 68,000 cfs SPF was evaluated with tidal boundary condition at 7.63 ft NAVD88. See ESA PWA 2014 for further details on the development of this tailwater condition. Table 3 provides a sediment transport modeling run catalog that summarizes the model scenarios.

TABLE 3
SEDIMENT TRANSPORT MODEL RUN CATALOG

Scenario	Flow Rate (Q)	Downstream Boundary
Existing Conditions	68,000 cfs	7.63 ft NAVD88
Phase 2 Project Conditions	68,000 cfs	7.63 ft NAVD88

SOURCE: ESA, 2023

[8] Figures 3 and 5 represent a very conservative aggradation where bed levels slope from -3.17 feet at Station 1,187 to -1.96 feet at Station 10,019, while Figure 6 shows the actual simulated aggradation from the sediment transport model. Thus, the assumed aggradation in Figures 3 and 5 vastly overestimate what aggradation would actually happen.

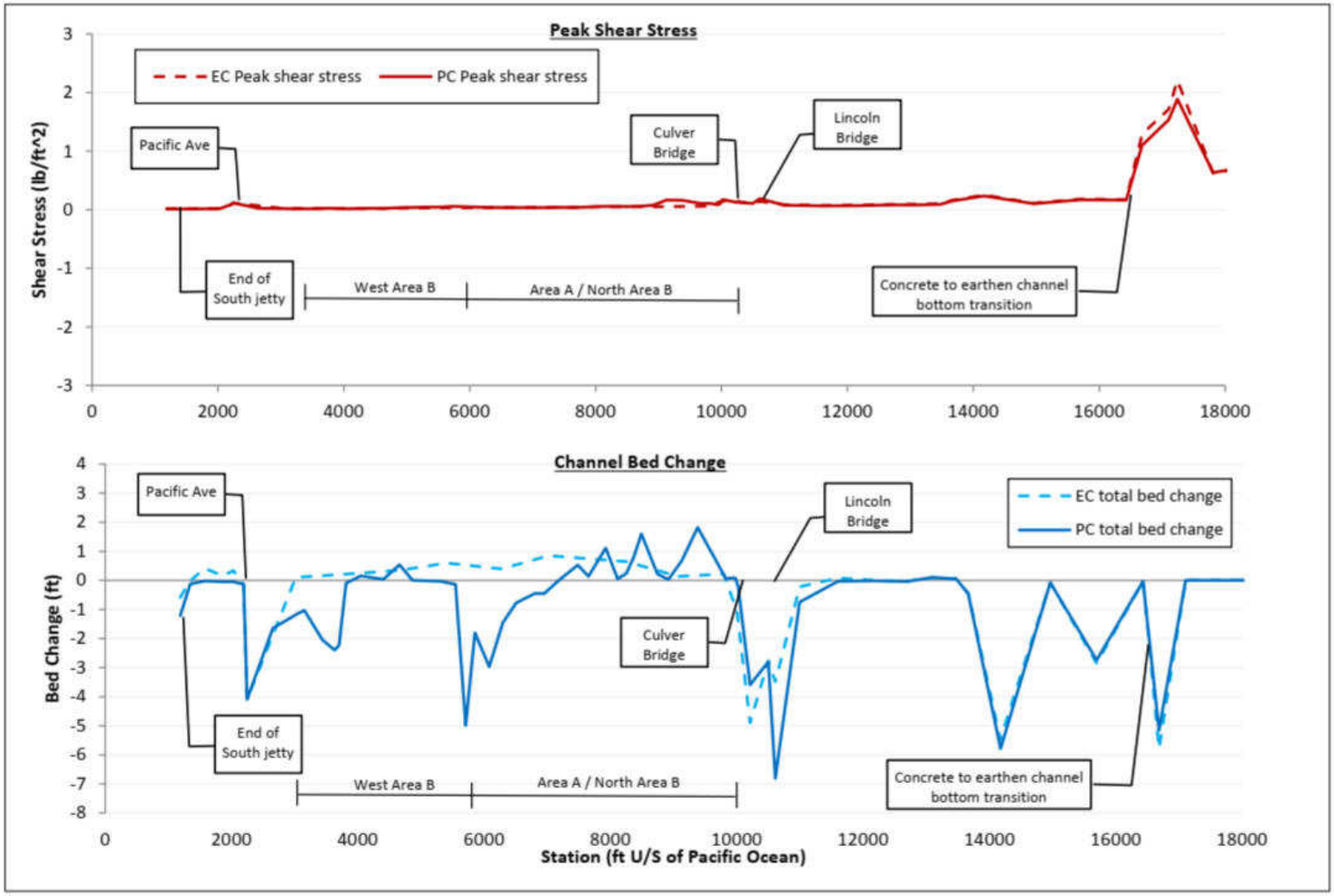
4.3 Sediment Parameters

The key parameters that govern sediment transport are the transport function, the grain size distribution of the bed material (bed gradation), sediment load, and gradation of the sediment load. As part of the sediment transport addendum to the H&H report (ESA PWA, 2014), a sensitivity analysis was conducted to identify the appropriate parameters for each of these components. The parameters applied include:

- **Bed gradation –** Sediment samples collected by the USACE and later by ESA PWA were used to define bed gradation. The grain size distribution (GSD) in the samples was adjusted to calibrate the model to observed sediment dynamics. An average of the samples collected plus one standard deviation was found to best approximate the observed sediment dynamics in the reach.
- **Transport function** – The Yang transport function was derived using sediment and physical data similar to Ballona Creek and was found to be the most appropriate function for simulating sediment transport in this system. The standard defaults were used for sorting and deposition: the Exner 5 three-layer bed mixing algorithm (Brunner, 2002), and the Rubey (1933) fall velocity equation, respectively.
- **Sediment load –** Measured suspended sediment data collected by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works and the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project organization was used to define a rating curve relating flow to incoming sediment. Bedload was accounted for by adding 10% to the suspended load following other similar studies (Inman and Jenkins, 1999. Brownlie and Taylor, 1981. Turowski et. al., 2010).
- **Sediment load gradation –** ESA used the Bedload Assessment in Gravel-bedded Streams (BAGS) program developed for the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) to estimate the composition of the incoming load.

4.4 Results

Plots comparing shear stress at peak flow and the total change in bed elevation for existing and Project conditions for the 68,000 cfs event with 7.63 ft NAVD88 tailwater conditions are shown in **Figure 6**. Results for the 68,000 cfs event show similar patterns to the results for the 46,000 cfs event, but result in more erosion in both existing and project conditions. For the channel reach approximately 1,000 ft upstream of the Lincoln Blvd Bridge (station 11,500), bed change is comparable between existing and Project conditions. This channel reach, which contains the transition from concrete to soft bottom channel, exhibits significant erosion in localized areas. This agrees with historic sediment transport dynamics in this reach which has been generally erosive.



NOTE: Bed change results for existing and project conditions are the same upstream of station 16,500; EC = Existing Conditions, PC = Proposed Conditions

Ballona Wetlands. D120367

Figure 6

Existing and project conditions sediment transport results - Standard Project Flow at MTL and 7.63 ft NAVD

For the channel reach from the Culver Blvd. bridge to just upstream of the Lincoln Blvd. bridge, the channel undergoes erosion for existing and Project conditions; however, under Project conditions, the expansion into the restored area induces additional erosion. The difference in modeled water elevations between the channelized creek upstream of the site and the expanded floodplain within the site causes a slope in the water surface that increases velocities near the Lincoln Boulevard Bridge. Higher velocities cause an increase in shear stress at the channel bottom resulting in increased erosion. The Project would include an armored sill across the channel from the Culver Blvd. to the Lincoln Blvd. bridges. This feature of the proposed design would limit excessive erosion caused by the flow acceleration at the entrance to the site.

The Project conditions model shows some of the material that is eroded at the upstream bridges is deposited downstream in Area A and North Area B. This minor deposition (less than two feet) is not expected to have an impact on flood levels (see deposition analysis in ESA 2015a). The sediment transport modeling indicates that the ESA (2015a) modeled two feet of deposition is a conservative assumption, since the maximum aggradation shown in the sediment transport modeling was two feet. ESA (2015a) modeled 2 and 4 feet of sediment deposition and for both scenarios determined that they both maintain positive freeboard. As a result, sedimentation will not have an effect on flooding. Because this model showed a maximum of 2 feet of sedimentation, there will not be an increase in flood risk.

Modeling results of Project conditions also show erosion just upstream of West Area B and just before the downstream end of West Area B (**Figure 6**). When flood waters are funneled back into the channel by the peninsula and salt pan berm on the east side of West Area B, the water speeds up to pass through the constriction, increasing shear stresses and causing erosion. Additionally, the modeling shows the flood waters expand into West Area B and then are funneled back into the flood control channel downstream, creating higher velocities and shear stresses that may result in erosion. However, some erosion is expected in natural systems. The Project would include armoring[9] of the proposed levees at the two locations where flood waters are funneled back into the channel. This feature of the proposed design would limit the potential for excessive erosion or failure of the proposed levees at these locations.

At Pacific Ave., both the existing and Project conditions show similar amounts of erosion during the SPF, which indicates that the Project is not likely to increase the potential for scour at the Pacific Ave. bridge. The previous modeling (ESA PWA 2013 and ESA 2015a) showed less than 1 foot of erosion at this bridge for flows up to 46,000 cfs for both existing and Project conditions, indicating that

[9] The size of the rock might need to increase if the modeling at 68,000 cfs shows higher shear stresses than the modeling at 46,000 cfs, but the type and amount of armoring would not change.

substantial erosion at the Pacific Ave. bridge is likely limited to storms greater than the 100-year event.

It is important to note that the Yang Equation employed in HEC-RAS is applicable for "live bed" rivers having unconfined sand/gravel to the maximum depths of computed scour. However, Ballona Creek likely has cohesive estuarine muds at some depth below the sand bed. The rate of scour in cohesive muds is far less than the rate of scour in live bed rivers and as such, the estimates of scour using the Yang Equation in HEC-RAS should be considered as conservatively high.

It is also important to note that smaller storm events and long-term tidal/coastal processes (such as those driving bed aggradation) would likely contribute material to the areas of erosion after a large storm event and flatten areas of deposition over time.

SECTION 5
Area B Modeling

ESA 2015b included a separate hydrodynamic modeling assessment of Area B wetland areas where water levels are managed by culverts. This section includes updated modeling using the 68,000 cfs SPF in Ballona Creek.

5.1 Model Geometry

No changes were made to the ESA 2015b model geometry.

5.2 Boundary Conditions

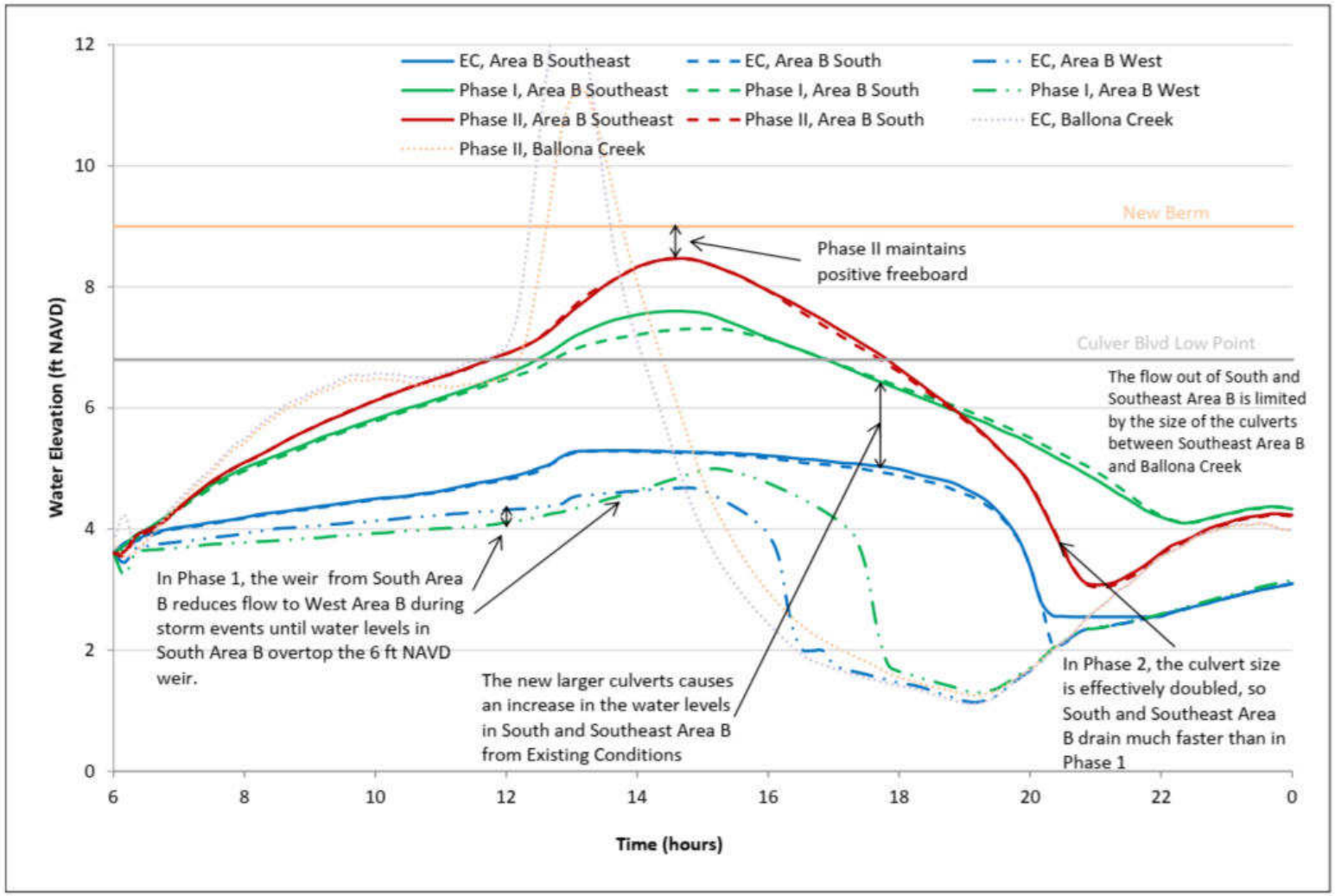
The 68,000 cfs SPF was evaluated under unsteady conditions with a spring high tide downstream boundary condition. See ESA 2015b for further details on the development of this tailwater condition.

5.3 Results

During the SPF under existing conditions, the maximum water level in South and Southeast Area B reaches 5.3 ft NAVD88 according to model results (Figure 7). This results in 1.5 ft of freeboard to the low point in Culver Boulevard (6.8 ft NAVD88).

In Phase 1 of the Project, model results show that the water levels in West Area B are initially lower than under existing conditions because the weir from South to West Area B limits flow. Once the water levels in South Area B overtop the weir (6 ft NAVD88), the water levels in West Area B increase and peak at 5.0 ft NAVD88. The weir also limits drainage from South and Southeast Area B. This is reflected in the model results, which show it takes longer (by approximately 2 hours) to drain these areas under Phase 1 than under existing conditions. Model results show peak water levels in South and Southeast Area B increase to 7.3 and 7.6 ft NAVD88 respectively under Phase 1 conditions. However, with the new perimeter berm (9 ft NAVD88), 1.4 ft of freeboard is maintained (Table 4).

In Phase 2, West Area B would be reconnected to Ballona Creek. Model results show that the water levels in South and Southeast Area B would increase to 8.5 ft NAVD88 in both areas, which is higher than in Phase 1. The second culvert connection through West Area B allows water to move more quickly into (and out of) the site, so modeled water levels are higher even before the storm peak passes but drain more quickly afterwards. The model results show that the new berm would still provide 0.5 ft of freeboard (Table 4).



Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project

Figure 7
Standard Project Flood Model Results

Note: Ballona Creek water levels taken just outside Area B

These results demonstrate that flooding is not expected to occur under the Project during the SPF. The modeled project design assumes open culverts with open gates; however, the proposed culverts include adjustable gates (e.g., SRT gates or slide/flap gates). As part of Phase 2, the gates could be adjusted if lower water levels and additional freeboard are desired or for added safety and design redundancy.

TABLE 4
AREA B WATER LEVEL RESULTS AND FREEBOARD SUMMARY WITH 68,000 CFS SPF

	Area B	Existing Conditions (EC)	Project, Phase 1	Project, Phase 2
Peak Water Level (ft NAVD88)	West	4.7	5.0	-
	South	5.3	7.3	8.5
	Southeast	5.3	7.6	8.5
Freeboard[1]		1.5	1.4	0.5

1. South and Southeast Area B freeboard is to Culver Blvd low point (6.8 ft NAVD88) for Existing Conditions and to the new berm (9.0 ft NAVD88) for Phase 1 and 2. The decrease in freeboard for proposed versus existing conditions would be eliminated by adjusting the gates.

5.4 Conclusions

Previous modeling in ESA 2015b showed that the proposed berms in South and Southeast Area B would provide a flood protection benefit during the 46,000 cfs storm event (greater than a 100-year storm). While the Project increases water levels, freeboard is also increased for storms up to 46,000 cfs. The modeling results for the 68,000 cfs SPF show that Phase 1 would increase the minimum freeboard from 1.4 (under existing conditions) to 1.5, while Phase 2 would increase the minimum freeboard from 0.5 (under existing conditions) to 1.7. The proposed Project culverts include adjustable gates (e.g., SRT gates or slide/flap gates) that could be adjusted if lower water levels and additional freeboard are desired or for added safety and design redundancy.

Note that in previous modeling (ESA 2015b) for existing conditions with 46,000 cfs and 59-inch increase of sea-level rise, model results showed only 0.1 ft of freeboard at the low point of Culver Boulevard. For existing conditions with the 68,000 cfs SPF and 59 inches of sea-level rise, model results would likely show flooding of Culver Boulevard due to increased leakage through the SRT gate with the SPF. This would also likely be the case for Phase 1 of the Project because Phase 1 would not add a berm on the north side of Culver Boulevard. Thus, Phase 1 would likely have no effect on flooding of Culver Boulevard with the SPF and 59 inches of sea-level rise.

For Phase 2 of the Project, previous modeling with 46,000 cfs and 59 inches of sea-level rise shows that the proposed South Area B berm would provide 0.3 ft of freeboard (ESA 2015b)[10]. This modeling assumed a culvert gate was partially opened to allow inflow into South and Southeast Area B. In contrast to the 46,000 cfs modeling, the culvert gates could be adjusted or closed to decrease or block inflow into South Area B under the 68,000 cfs scenario. If culvert gates are adjusted to reduce or block the inflow that was modeled with 46,000 cfs, the proposed berm would increase the 0.3 ft freeboard identified in the previously modeling of 46,000 cfs and therefore provide freeboard with the 68,000 cfs SPF (i.e., because previous modeling results with 46,000 cfs and inflow show the proposed berm provides freeboard, therefore blocking inflow will provide additional freeboard at the berms). Phase 2 of the Project is therefore expected to improve flood management with the SPF and 59 inches of sea-level rise. Both phases of the Project therefore have the potential to maintain (Phase 1) or improve (Phase 2) flood management for Culver Boulevard with sea-level rise. Closing the gates in the HEC-RAS model by 0.1 feet resulted in 2.06 feet of freeboard at 68,000 cfs. Since partially closing the gates maintains freeboard, there is no change in flood risk.

[10] There is more freeboard with 68,000 cfs when there was only 0.3 feet of freeboard with 46,000 cfs because 46,000 cfs is steady state and 68,000 cfs is unsteady flow. By unsteady flow taking storage into account, the amount of freeboard increases even with a higher inflow.

APPENDIX A.
Hydraulic Model Run Catalog

Table A summarizes the scenarios run for each hydraulic model.

TABLE A
HYDRAULIC MODEL RUN CATALOG

Model Approach	Model Geometry	Scenario	Flow Rate (Q)	Downstream Boundary	Bed Aggradation
Steady State	Full Model	Existing Conditions	68,000 cfs	7.63 ft NAVD88	-
		Project, Phase 1	68,000 cfs	7.63 ft NAVD88	-
		Project, Phase 2	68,000 cfs	7.63 ft NAVD88	-
		Existing Conditions with SLR + Aggradation	68,000 cfs	7.63 ft NAVD88 + SLR	Yes
		Project, Phase 1 with SLR + Aggradation	68,000 cfs	7.63 ft NAVD88 + SLR	Yes
		Project, Phase 2 with SLR + Aggradation	68,000 cfs	7.63 ft NAVD88 + SLR	Yes
Unsteady	Truncated Model	Existing Conditions	68,000 cfs	7.63 ft NAVD88	-
		Project, Phase 1	68,000 cfs	7.63 ft NAVD88	-
		Project, Phase 2	68,000 cfs	7.63 ft NAVD88	-
		Existing Conditions with SLR + Aggradation	68,000 cfs	7.63 ft NAVD88 + SLR	Yes
		Project, Phase 1 with SLR + Aggradation	68,000 cfs	7.63 ft NAVD88 + SLR	Yes
		Project, Phase 2 with SLR + Aggradation	68,000 cfs	7.63 ft NAVD88 + SLR	Yes

REFERENCES

Brownlie and Taylor, 1981. Sediment Management for Southern California Mountains, Coastal Plains and Shoreline. Part C: Coastal Sediment Delivery by Major Rivers in Southern California. EQL Report No. 17-C. Environmental Quality Laboratory. California Institute of Technology.

California Coastal Commission (CCC), 2018. California Coastal Commission Sea Level Rise Policy Guidance, Interpretive Guidelines for Addressing Sea Level Rise in Local Coastal Programs and Coastal Development Permits. Draft Science Update – July 2018.

California Natural Resources Agency and Ocean Protection Council (OPC), 2018. State of California Sea-Level Rise Guidance, 2018 Update.

ESA PWA, 2013: Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project Preliminary Hydrology and Hydraulics Report, May 8, 2013.

ESA PWA, 2014: Draft Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project Preliminary Design Report, Addendum 1. Sediment Transport Analysis, Memorandum, revised April 21, 2014.

ESA, 2015a: Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project – Preliminary Hydrology and Hydraulics Report, Addendum, updated November 5, 2015.

ESA, 2015b: Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project – Area B Managed Wetlands Preliminary Design, Memorandum, updated November 6, 2015

ESA, 2016: Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project – Preliminary Design Report, July 15, 2016.

ESA, 2020: Ballona Wetlands Restoration Final Environmental Impact Report.

Inman and Jenkins, 1999. Climate Change and the Episodicity of Sediment Flux of Small California Rivers. Journal of Geology 107(3):251-270, 1999.

OPC, 2024. Draft: State of California Sea Level Rise Guidance: 2024 Science and Policy Update. January 2024.

Turowski et al, 2010. The partitioning of the total sediment load of a river into suspended load and bedload: a review of empirical data. Sedimentology (2010) 57, 1126–1146

USACE, 1979. Hydrology for Feasibility Report, Ballona Creek Channel and Sawtelle-Westwood Channel, California, Los Angeles County Drainage Area. February 1979

USACE, 1994. Engineer Manual 1110-2-1601. Hydraulic Design of Flood Control Channels.

USACE, 1996. Engineering and Design Risk-Based Analysis for Flood Damage Reduction Studies (EM 110-2-1619).

USACE, 1999. Operation, Maintenance, Repair, Replacement, and Rehabilitation Manual. Los Angeles County Drainage Area, California. Los Angeles District, Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles CA.

USACE, 2003. Ballona Creek Sediment Control Management Plan. Final Draft F4 Documentation. Hydrology and Hydraulics Analysis for Sediment Basin. US Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles District.

USACE, 2010a, Ballona Creek Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study, Hydraulic Appendix (Present Conditions/Without Project). U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, South Pacific Division, Los Angeles District.

USACE, 2010b. Ballona Creek Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study. Hydrologic Appendix (Present Conditions/Without Project). U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, South Pacific Division, Los Angeles District.

USACE, 2010c. HEC-RAS River Analysis System. Hydraulic Reference Manual. Version 4.1.

USACE, 2011. Sea-Level Change Considerations for Civil Works Programs, EC 1165-2-212. October 1, 2011.

USACE, 2018. Policy and Procedural Guidance for Processing Requests to Alter US Army Corps of Engineers Civil Works Projects Pursuant to 33 USC 408 (EC 1165-2-220).

USACE, 2020. Modeler Application Guidance for Steady vs Unsteady, and 1D vs 2D vs 3D Hydraulic Modeling, TD-41. August 2020.

APPENDIX K



BALLONA WETLANDS RESTORATION PROJECT

Revised EIR Scoping Report

FEBRUARY 2024

BALLONA WETLANDS RESTORATION PROJECT REVISED EIR SCOPING REPORT

Table of Contents

1. Introduction 1

2. Scoping For The REIR 1

3. Description of the Project 2
Project Summary 2
Project Site 3

4. Tribal Cultural Resources Consultation 3

5. Scoping 4
Notices 4
Public Scoping Meeting 4
Scoping Comments 5

Exhibits

A. Notices A-1
B. Scoping Meeting Presentation and Transcript B-1
C. Scoping Input Received C-1

List of Tables

Table 1 Parties Submitting Input During the Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project Revised EIR Scoping Process 6

REVISED EIR SCOPING REPORT

Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project

1. Introduction

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) certified an environmental impact report for the Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project (Project, State Clearinghouse No. 2012071090) on December 30, 2020 (2020 Final EIR) pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA, Public Resources Code §21000 et seq.) and the regulations implementing CEQA (CEQA Guidelines, 14 Cal. Code Regs. §15000 et seq.). CDFW is the lead agency for the purposes of CEQA.

In a May 17, 2023, decision in related cases, the Los Angeles County Superior Court determined the 2020 Final EIR inadequate based on two issues. In all other respects, the court upheld the 2020 Final EIR. CDFW currently is preparing a revised environmental impact report (REIR) to address the two issues identified by the court. The two issues to be addressed in the REIR are:

1. Disclosure and analysis of 68,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) as the "flood control design parameter," and
2. Commitment of CDFW to specific performance criteria to the extent they provide CDFW with authority to modify restoration goals without any supplemental environmental review.

All other portions of the 2020 Final EIR, as affirmed by the court, remain valid and are outside the focus of the REIR as a matter of law.

2. Scoping For The REIR

Scoping is the process of early consultation with affected agencies and the public as part of the EIR process. Scoping can be "helpful to agencies in identifying the range of actions, alternatives, mitigation measures, and significant effects to be analyzed in depth in an EIR and in eliminating from detailed study issues found not to be important" (CEQA Guidelines §15083(a)). Scoping can be an effective way to bring together and consider the concerns of affected State, regional, and local agencies, and other interested stakeholders (CEQA Guidelines §15083(b)). Scoping is not conducted to resolve differences concerning the merits of a project or to anticipate the ultimate decision on a proposal. Rather, the purpose of

scoping is to determine the scope of information and analysis to be included in an EIR and, in this way, to ensure that an appropriately comprehensive and focused EIR will be prepared that provides an informed basis for decision-making.

CEQA Guidelines Section 15234(d) defines the scope of what a lead agency must consider in the event of a remand.[1] Consistent with Section 15234(d), CDFW will focus the scope of the REIR in reliance on the principles of *res judicata.*[2] As a result, comments not within the scope of CEQA and this EIR will not be addressed through the current CEQA process for the Project.

For example, CDFW received several scoping comments about the environmental analysis being conducted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Such analysis under NEPA is outside the focus of the REIR which is intended to comply with CEQA. As explained in Section 1.2 of the 2020 Final EIR, the Corps and CDFW cooperatively prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR) as a joint environmental analysis to evaluate the environmental impacts of the Project. The agencies then elected to prepare stand-alone final environmental analyses pursuant to NEPA and CEQA, respectively. The court's May 17, 2023, decision resolves questions of CEQA compliance; no NEPA claims were raised or resolved in the decision. Accordingly, compliance with NEPA is outside the focus of the REIR.

This scoping report provides an overview of the input CDFW received during the scoping period for the REIR. This report is intended for use by CDFW in preparing the REIR as formal documentation of initial input received regarding the analysis in the REIR. It also provides access for other agencies and stakeholders to comments received by the lead agency during the scoping period.

3. Description of the Project

Project Summary

Seeking to restore degraded wetland habitat and functions within the Ballona Reserve, CDFW is proposing a large-scale effort to restore, enhance, and establish native coastal wetland and upland habitats on approximately 566 acres within the Ballona Reserve; these efforts would require incidental work on adjacent property.

1 *Remand* means "send back." Here, the Los Angeles County Superior Court sent the EIR back to CDFW with directions to address the two identified issues.

2 *Res judicata* is Latin. It means "the thing has been decided," or that the court has resolved the matter and it is not subject to re-litigation. Here, except for the two issues specially called out by the court, all other portions of the 2020 Final EIR are settled, remain valid, and are outside the focus of the REIR.

The Los Angeles County Flood Control District (collectively, LACFCD) owns and operates the Ballona Creek channel and levee system, which are features of the Los Angeles County Drainage Area (LACDA) project authorized by Congress in 1990. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), in cooperation with the LACFCD, constructed the Ballona Creek channel and levees within the Ballona Reserve as part of the LACDA project.

The LACFCD and the Corps have jurisdiction over the Ballona Creek channel and levee system within the project site. As a result, authorization from the Corps under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and Sections 10 and 14 of the Rivers and Harbors Act would be needed to carry out the Project. Corps approval also would be required to modify the Operation, Maintenance, Repair, Replacement and Rehabilitation Manual (OMRR&R) to reflect any approved changes to existing LACDA project infrastructure within the project site.

To implement the project, CDFW is working with the LACFCD to modify LACDA project features (e.g., the Ballona Creek channel and levee system) within the Ballona Reserve. The three main components of the Project are restoring wetlands and wetland functions within the Ballona Reserve; restoring and improving public access to the Ballona Reserve; and maintaining existing levels of flood risk management provided by the Ballona Creek channel and levee system.

Project Site

The Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve (Ballona Reserve) is located in Southern California, south of Marina del Rey and east of Playa del Rey. It extends roughly from the Marina Freeway (State Route [SR] 90) to the east, the Westchester bluffs to the south, Playa del Rey to the west, and Fiji Way to the north.

CDFW manages and maintains primary ownership of the Ballona Reserve, with a smaller interest owned by the California State Lands Commission. The LACFCD owns and operates the Ballona Creek channel and levee system, which are features of the Federally-authorized LACDA project.

4. Tribal Cultural Resources Consultation

Assembly Bill 52 (AB 52, Gatto 2014) added Public Resources Code Section 21080.3.1 and Section 21080.3.2 to CEQA. These sections require consultation with the California Native American tribes traditionally and culturally affiliated with an area about their expertise concerning their tribal cultural resources. CDFW communicated with California Native American tribes by email and certified mail dated October 26, 2023, to provide notification and an invitation to consult pursuant to AB 52 in connection with the REIR process. CDFW received no formal requests for AB 52 consultation within the 30-day response

period, i.e., on or before November 29, 2023.[3] As of January 19, 2024 (the close of the extended scoping period), no formal requests for AB 52 consultation have been received. Although the period to request AB 52 consultation as part of the REIR process has closed, CDFW welcomes and invites participation by California Native American tribes and tribal members as part of the CEQA process for the Project.

5. Scoping

Notices

On October 24, 2023, CDFW published and distributed a Notice of Preparation (NOP) to advise interested state, regional, local, and potentially affected federal agencies, as well as the public, that an REIR would be prepared for the Project. The NOP was sent to a mailing list that included California Native American tribes, governmental agencies, the owners of property located within 1 mile of the Project site, and other stakeholders.

The NOP and a notice of completion (NOC) of the NOP were uploaded for posting by the Governor's Office of Planning and Research, State Clearinghouse. The NOP also was posted with the Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk and on the CDFW's website at: https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Regions/5/Ballona-EIR. The NOP solicited comments on the scope and content of the REIR, provided information about the public scoping meeting, and identified a 30-day scoping period to conclude on November 7, 2023. CDFW later extended the scoping period at the request of interested parties. The extended scoping period closed January 19, 2024.

Exhibit A, *Notices*, contains a signed copy of the NOP (Exhibit A1), the NOC (Exhibit A2), notice of the extension of scoping (Exhibit A3), CDFW's listserv email (Exhibit A4) and website posting (Exhibit A5), and proof of posting on the State Clearinghouse website (Exhibit A6) and with the Los Angeles County Clerk (Exhibit A7).

Public Scoping Meeting

CDFW conducted a virtual public scoping meeting on Tuesday, November 7, 2023, beginning at 6:00 p.m. The meeting began with a presentation that described the various roles in the CEQA process for the Project, identified the purpose of the meeting, provided an overview of the Project, described the CEQA process timeline for the Project, and invited public input. **Exhibit B**, *Scoping*

[3] For scheduling purposes, CDFW assumes that emails were received the same day they were sent, and that certified mail was received within 3 days of sending.

Meeting Presentation and Transcript, contains copies of the presentation (Exhibit B1) and a transcript of the meeting (Exhibit B2).

Scoping Comments

CDFW received scoping input between October 25, 2023, and January 19, 2024. Late-received input provided to CDFW between January 19 and January 29, 2024, also is documented in this Scoping Report and will be considered as part of the CEQA process for the Project. **Table 1** lists the agencies, organizations and individuals who provided scoping input. Where one interested party submitted input on multiple dates, all communications from the person are grouped together in chronological order from first received to last.

CDFW received 176 letters or emails in response to the NOP for the Project, has reviewed, and will consider the full text of each communication received in preparing the REIR regardless of whether it was provided by a trustee agency, responsible agency, Native American Tribes, or interested member of the public. The summaries of environmental issues provided below are for ease in review by other agencies and members of the public. A copy of each letter received is provided in **Exhibit C**, *Scoping Input Received*.

TABLE 1
PARTIES SUBMITTING INPUT DURING THE BALLONA WETLANDS RESTORATION PROJECT REVISED EIR SCOPING PROCESS

Name	Agency/ Organization/ Affiliation	Date	Notes
Agencies			
Marcela Benevides-Aguilar	Los Angeles County Public Works	10/31/2023	CDFW acknowledges receipt of information provided about the Corps' 1999 Operation, Maintenance, Repair, Replacement, and Rehabilitation Manual and the LACDA project. Except to the extent CDFW's disclosure and analysis of 68,000 cfs as the flood control design parameter and commitment to specified performance criteria may result in a change to the physical conditions evaluated in the 2020 Final EIR, this information is outside the scope of the court's direction on remand.
Charlina Everfield	California Department of Conservation, Geologic Energy Management Division	12/8/2023	The Project site's location within or near the Playa del Rey oil field was considered in the 2020 Final EIR. Except to the extent CDFW's disclosure and analysis of 68,000 cfs as the flood control design parameter and commitment to specified performance criteria may result in a change to the physical conditions evaluated in the 2020 Final EIR, comments related to wells in this location are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand.
John Garn	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Carlsbad Fish and Wildlife Office, Palm Springs Fish and Wildlife Office	1/19/2024	See Draft REIR Chapter 3, *Hydrology and Water Quality*, regarding sea level rise and the current levee design. Comments submitted as part of the CEQA process for the 2020 Final EIR were considered in the context of that process and have continuing relevance to the extent they bear on issues within the scope of the court's direction on remand. Comments about habitat fragmentation and biological resources more generally, alternatives, and the Corps' NEPA process are outside the scope of this REIR.
Andrew Green	Native American Heritage Commission	10/26/2023	Potential impacts on cultural resources and tribal cultural resources were analyzed in the 2020 Final EIR. Except to the extent CDFW's disclosure and analysis of 68,000 cfs as the flood control design parameter and commitment to specified performance criteria may result in a change to the physical conditions evaluated in the 2020 Final EIR, comments about cultural resources and tribal cultural resources are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand and are not subject to reconsideration at this stage of the CEQA process. Nonetheless, as summarized in Section 4, above, CDFW did invite consultation with California Native American tribes pursuant to AB 52. The requirements of Senate Bill 18 (SB 18) are not relevant to the Project, which does not involve the adoption or amendment of a general plan or a specific plan, or the designation of open space.

Name	Agency/ Organization/ Affiliation	Date	Notes
Organizations and Individuals			
Ulka Agarwal, M.D.		1/19/2024	See Draft REIR Chapter 1, *Introduction*, regarding changed circumstances. See Draft REIR Chapter 3, *Hydrology and Water Quality*, regarding flood risk, sea level rise, and a water budget for the Project site. CDFW acknowledges opposition to the project and its historical context. Comments regarding compliance with NEPA are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. Except to the extent CDFW's disclosure and analysis of 68,000 cfs as the flood control design parameter and commitment to specified performance criteria may result in a change to the physical conditions evaluated in the 2020 Final EIR, comments about compliance with federal laws, biological resources, baseline conditions, and alternatives also are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. CDFW has reviewed the Defend Ballona Wetlands input entitled "Alternative #4 – the Gentle Alternative for the Ballona Wetlands, A 20-Point Plan" in response to this input.
Patricia Allinson		1/19/2024	See Draft REIR Chapter 3, *Hydrology and Water Quality*, regarding flood risk. CDFW acknowledges receipt of the January 31, 2021, letter and the considerations it expressed about the project. CDFW also acknowledges receipt of this copy of the Corps' February 2, 2018, comment letter (Letter AF-1), which was considered in the 2020 Final EIR. Except to the extent CDFW's disclosure and analysis of 68,000 cfs as the flood control design parameter and commitment to specified performance criteria may result in a change to the physical conditions evaluated in the 2020 Final EIR, comments regarding project goals, SoCal Gas company facilities, fire and emergency response considerations, project impacts on housing, reconsideration of alternatives, and the adequacy of responses to comments provided in the 2020 Final EIR are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand.
S. Andregg		1/18/2024	See Draft REIR Chapter 1, *Introduction*, regarding changed circumstances. See Draft REIR Chapter 3, *Hydrology and Water Quality*, regarding flood risk, sea level rise, and a water budget for the Project site. Comments regarding compliance with NEPA are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. Except to the extent CDFW's disclosure and analysis of 68,000 cfs as the flood control design parameter and commitment to specified performance criteria may result in a change to the physical conditions evaluated in the 2020 Final EIR, comments about compliance with other federal laws, biological resources, and baseline conditions also are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. CDFW has reviewed the Defend Ballona Wetlands input entitled "Alternative #4 – the Gentle Alternative for the Ballona Wetlands, A 20-Point Plan." However, except to the extent CDFW's disclosure and analysis of 68,000 cfs as the flood control design parameter and commitment to specified performance criteria may result in a change to the physical conditions evaluated in the 2020 Final EIR, reconsideration of alternatives also is outside the scope of the court's direction on remand.

Name	Agency/ Organization/ Affiliation	Date	Notes
Ariana		11/7/2023	CDFW acknowledges receipt of comments made during the November 7, 2023, public scoping meeting, including the stated opposition to the Project. CDFW has reviewed the Defend Ballona Wetlands input entitled "Alternative #4 – the Gentle Alternative for the Ballona Wetlands, A 20-Point Plan." Except to the extent CDFW's disclosure and analysis of 68,000 cfs as the flood control design parameter and commitment to specified performance criteria may result in a change to the physical conditions evaluated in the 2020 Final EIR, reconsideration of alternatives is outside the scope of the court's direction on remand.
Corey K. Barnes		1/19/2024	See Draft REIR Chapter 3, *Hydrology and Water Quality*, regarding flood risk. Comments regarding compliance with NEPA are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. Except to the extent CDFW's disclosure and analysis of 68,000 cfs as the flood control design parameter and commitment to specified performance criteria may result in a change to the physical conditions evaluated in the 2020 Final EIR, comments about compliance with other federal laws also are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand.
Craig Barry		11/7/2023	CDFW acknowledges receipt of comments made during the November 7, 2023, public scoping meeting.
Steven Bass		1/18/2024	See Draft REIR Chapter 3, *Hydrology and Water Quality*, regarding flood risk and sea level rise. CDFW acknowledges opposition to the project and its historical context. Comments regarding compliance with NEPA are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. Except to the extent CDFW's disclosure and analysis of 68,000 cfs as the flood control design parameter and commitment to specified performance criteria may result in a change to the physical conditions evaluated in the 2020 Final EIR, comments about compliance with other federal laws, biological resources, and baseline conditions also are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. CDFW has reviewed the Defend Ballona Wetlands input entitled "Alternative #4 – the Gentle Alternative for the Ballona Wetlands, A 20-Point Plan." Similarly, reconsideration of alternatives also is outside the scope of the REIR.
Catherine Hensley Beauchamp		1/18/2024	See Draft REIR Chapter 1, *Introduction*, regarding changed conditions. See Draft REIR Chapter 3, *Hydrology and Water Quality*, regarding flood risk, sea level rise, and the water budget. CDFW acknowledges opposition to the project. Comments regarding compliance with NEPA are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. Except to the extent CDFW's disclosure and analysis of 68,000 cfs as the flood control design parameter and commitment to specified performance criteria may result in a change to the physical conditions evaluated in the 2020 Final EIR, comments about compliance with other federal laws, biological resources, and baseline conditions also are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. CDFW has reviewed the Defend Ballona Wetlands input entitled "Alternative #4 – the Gentle Alternative for the Ballona Wetlands, A 20-Point Plan." Similarly, reconsideration of alternatives also is outside the scope of the REIR.
Abbie Bernstein		1/18/2024	See Draft REIR Chapter 1, *Introduction*, regarding changed circumstances. CDFW acknowledges the stated opposition to the project. Except to the extent CDFW's disclosure and analysis of 68,000 cfs as the flood control design parameter and commitment to specified performance criteria may result in a change to the physical conditions evaluated in the 2020 Final EIR, comments regarding baseline conditions within the Ballona Reserve are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand.

Name	Agency/ Organization/ Affiliation	Date	Notes
Charlton H. Bonham, Director	California Department of Fish and Wildlife	11/15/2023	CDFW acknowledges receipt of this response from the Director to correspondence from The Honorable Ted W. Lieu, United States House of Representatives. Confirming the communication in the letter, see Section 2, above, confirming that the scoping period was extended to January 19, 2024.
Christina Borello		1/18/2024	See Draft REIR Chapter 1, *Introduction*, regarding changed circumstances. See Draft REIR Chapter 3, *Hydrology and Water Quality*, regarding flood risk, sea level rise, and the water budget. CDFW acknowledges the stated opposition to the project and has reviewed the talking points presented in the letter. Comments regarding compliance with NEPA are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. Except to the extent CDFW's disclosure and analysis of 68,000 cfs as the flood control design parameter and commitment to specified performance criteria may result in a change to the physical conditions evaluated in the 2020 Final EIR, comments about compliance with other federal laws, biological resources, and baseline conditions also are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. CDFW has reviewed the Defend Ballona Wetlands input entitled "Alternative #4 – the Gentle Alternative for the Ballona Wetlands, A 20-Point Plan." Except to the extent CDFW's disclosure and analysis of 68,000 cfs as the flood control design parameter and commitment to specified performance criteria may result in a change to the physical conditions evaluated in the 2020 Final EIR, reconsideration of alternatives also is outside the scope of the REIR.
Theresa Brady		11/7/2023 1/19/2024	CDFW acknowledges receipt of comments made during the November 7, 2023, public scoping meeting, Including the indicated alignment with the views of other participants. Except to the extent CDFW's disclosure and analysis of 68,000 cfs as the flood control design parameter and commitment to specified performance criteria may result in a change to the physical conditions evaluated in the 2020 Final EIR, comments regarding biological resources, including migratory birds and butterflies, are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand.
Tiffany Brunelli		11/7/2023	CDFW acknowledges receipt of comments made during the November 7, 2023, public scoping meeting, including the stated opposition to the Project.
Deborah Burkhart		1/18/2024	See Draft REIR Chapter 1, *Introduction*, regarding changed circumstances. See Draft REIR Chapter 3, *Hydrology and Water Quality*, regarding flood risk, sea level rise, and the water budget. CDFW acknowledges the stated opposition to the project and has reviewed the talking points presented in the letter. Comments regarding compliance with NEPA are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. Except to the extent CDFW's disclosure and analysis of 68,000 cfs as the flood control design parameter and commitment to specified performance criteria may result in a change to the physical conditions evaluated in the 2020 Final EIR, comments about compliance with other federal laws, biological resources, and baseline conditions also are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. CDFW has reviewed the Defend Ballona Wetlands input entitled "Alternative #4 – the Gentle Alternative for the Ballona Wetlands, A 20-Point Plan." Except to the extent CDFW's disclosure and analysis of 68,000 cfs as the flood control design parameter and commitment to specified performance criteria may result in a change to the physical conditions evaluated in the 2020 Final EIR, reconsideration of alternatives also is outside the scope of the REIR.
Annie Burman		11/7/2023	CDFW acknowledges receipt of comments made during the November 7, 2023, public scoping meeting, Including the stated opposition to the Project.

Name	Agency/ Organization/ Affiliation	Date	Notes
Elizabeth Campos Layne	Del Rey Residents Association	11/2/2023	As disclosed in Section 2, above, the scoping period was extended to January 19, 2024. The Association's February 5, 2018, comments regarding the flood control design parameter for the Project were considered in the 2020 Final EIR and will be reconsidered with this input regarding same as part of the REIR process.
Hans Carlton	Villa Imperia	11/18/2023	CDFW will provide notice of any additional meetings regarding the REIR process in accordance with CEQA. No other meetings have been scheduled at this time.
Matt Ceran		2/5/2024	CDFW acknowledges the opposition to the project.
Donna Clark		1/19/2024	See Draft REIR Chapter 1, *Introduction*, regarding changed conditions. See Draft REIR Chapter 3, *Hydrology and Water Quality*, regarding flood risk and the water budget. CDFW acknowledges opposition to the project. Comments regarding compliance with NEPA are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. Except to the extent CDFW's disclosure and analysis of 68,000 cfs as the flood control design parameter and commitment to specified performance criteria may result in a change to the physical conditions evaluated in the 2020 Final EIR, comments about compliance with other federal laws, biological resources, and baseline conditions also are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand.
Maggie Coulter		1/18/2024	CDFW acknowledges opposition to the project and has reviewed the Defend Ballona Wetlands input entitled "Alternative #4 – the Gentle Alternative for the Ballona Wetlands, A 20-Point Plan." However, except to the extent CDFW's disclosure and analysis of 68,000 cfs as the flood control design parameter and commitment to specified performance criteria may result in a change to the physical conditions evaluated in the 2020 Final EIR, reconsideration of alternatives, including the Alternative 4 proposed in the suggested 20 points, is outside the scope of the court's direction on remand.
Joan Cuadra		1/18/2024	See Draft REIR Chapter 1, *Introduction*, regarding changed conditions. See Draft REIR Chapter 3, *Hydrology and Water Quality*, regarding flood risk, sea level rise, and the water budget. CDFW acknowledges opposition to the project. Comments regarding compliance with NEPA are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. Except to the extent CDFW's disclosure and analysis of 68,000 cfs as the flood control design parameter and commitment to specified performance criteria may result in a change to the physical conditions evaluated in the 2020 Final EIR, comments about compliance with other federal laws, biological resources, and baseline conditions also are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. CDFW has reviewed the Defend Ballona Wetlands input entitled "Alternative #4 – the Gentle Alternative for the Ballona Wetlands, A 20-Point Plan." Similarly, reconsideration of alternatives also is outside the scope of the REIR.

Name	Agency/ Organization/ Affiliation	Date	Notes
Susanne Cumming		11/7/2023 1/17/2024	CDFW acknowledges receipt of comments made during the November 7, 2023, public scoping meeting. See Draft REIR Chapter 1, *Introduction*, regarding changed conditions. See Draft REIR Chapter 3, *Hydrology and Water Quality*, regarding flood risk, sea level rise, and the water budget. CDFW acknowledges opposition to the project. Comments regarding compliance with NEPA are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. Except to the extent CDFW's disclosure and analysis of 68,000 cfs as the flood control design parameter and commitment to specified performance criteria may result in a change to the physical conditions evaluated in the 2020 Final EIR, comments about compliance with other federal laws, biological resources, and baseline conditions also are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. CDFW has reviewed the Defend Ballona Wetlands input entitled "Alternative #4 – the Gentle Alternative for the Ballona Wetlands, A 20-Point Plan." Similarly, reconsideration of alternatives also is outside the scope of the REIR.
Dana		1/25/24	CDFW acknowledges opposition to the project. Except to the extent CDFW's disclosure and analysis of 68,000 cfs as the flood control design parameter and commitment to specified performance criteria may result in a change to the physical conditions evaluated in the 2020 Final EIR, impacts to biological resources are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand.
Foffis Defoffis		1/18/2024	See Draft REIR Chapter 1, *Introduction*, regarding changed conditions. See Draft REIR Chapter 3, *Hydrology and Water Quality*, regarding flood risk, sea level rise, and the water budget. CDFW acknowledges opposition to the project. Comments regarding compliance with NEPA are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. Except to the extent CDFW's disclosure and analysis of 68,000 cfs as the flood control design parameter and commitment to specified performance criteria may result in a change to the physical conditions evaluated in the 2020 Final EIR, comments about compliance with other federal laws, biological resources, and baseline conditions also are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. DFW has reviewed the Defend Ballona Wetlands input entitled "Alternative #4 – the Gentle Alternative for the Ballona Wetlands, A 20-Point Plan." Similarly, reconsideration of alternatives also is outside the scope of the REIR.
John Davis		1/18/2024	See Draft REIR Chapter 3, *Hydrology and Water Quality*, regarding groundwater. CDFW acknowledges receipt of this copy of the Porter Cologne Water Quality Control Act (effective January 1, 2002). CDFW considered this State law in the 2020 Final EIR. CDFW also acknowledges receipt of the Department of Water Resources' *Statement of Findings regarding the Approval of the Coastal Plain of Los Angeles – Santa Monica Subbasin* (approved October 26, 2023).
Kim Delgado		11/7/2023	CDFW acknowledges receipt of comments made during the November 7, 2023, public scoping meeting, Including the indicated opposition to the Project.
Ellen Dent		11/7/2023	CDFW acknowledges receipt of comments made during the November 7, 2023, public scoping meeting. CDFW has reviewed the Defend Ballona Wetlands input entitled "Alternative #4 – the Gentle Alternative for the Ballona Wetlands, A 20-Point Plan." Except to the extent CDFW's disclosure and analysis of 68,000 cfs as the flood control design parameter and commitment to specified performance criteria may result in a change to the physical conditions evaluated in the 2020 Final EIR, reconsideration of alternatives is outside the scope of the REIR.

Name	Agency/ Organization/ Affiliation	Date	Notes
Dinah		1/18/2024	See Draft REIR Chapter 1, *Introduction*, regarding changed conditions. See Draft REIR Chapter 3, *Hydrology and Water Quality*, regarding flood risk, sea level rise, and the water budget. CDFW acknowledges opposition to the project. Comments regarding compliance with NEPA are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. Except to the extent CDFW's disclosure and analysis of 68,000 cfs as the flood control design parameter and commitment to specified performance criteria may result in a change to the physical conditions evaluated in the 2020 Final EIR, comments about compliance with other federal laws, biological resources, and baseline conditions also are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. CDFW has reviewed the Defend Ballona Wetlands input entitled "Alternative #4 – the Gentle Alternative for the Ballona Wetlands, A 20-Point Plan." Similarly, reconsideration of alternatives also is outside the scope of the REIR.
Jennice Dobroszczyk		1/18/2024	CDFW acknowledges the stated opposition to the project.
DRC		1/18/2024	See Draft REIR Chapter 1, *Introduction*, regarding changed conditions. See Draft REIR Chapter 3, *Hydrology and Water Quality*, regarding flood risk, sea level rise, and the water budget. CDFW acknowledges opposition to the project. Comments regarding compliance with NEPA are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. Except to the extent CDFW's disclosure and analysis of 68,000 cfs as the flood control design parameter and commitment to specified performance criteria may result in a change to the physical conditions evaluated in the 2020 Final EIR, comments about compliance with other federal laws, biological resources and habitats, earthmoving, and baseline conditions also are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. CDFW has reviewed the Defend Ballona Wetlands input entitled "Alternative #4 – the Gentle Alternative for the Ballona Wetlands, A 20-Point Plan." Similarly, reconsideration of alternatives also is outside the scope of the REIR.
Anna Drummond		1/21/2024	See Draft REIR Chapter 1, *Introduction*, regarding changed conditions. See Draft REIR Chapter 3, *Hydrology and Water Quality*, regarding flood risk, sea level rise, and the water budget. Comments regarding compliance with NEPA are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. Except to the extent CDFW's disclosure and analysis of 68,000 cfs as the flood control design parameter and commitment to specified performance criteria may result in a change to the physical conditions evaluated in the 2020 Final EIR, comments about compliance with other federal laws, biological resources, and baseline conditions also are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. CDFW has reviewed the Defend Ballona Wetlands input entitled "Alternative #4 – the Gentle Alternative for the Ballona Wetlands, A 20-Point Plan." Similarly, reconsideration of alternatives also is outside the scope of the REIR.
Don Dudan		1/18/2024	See Draft REIR Chapter 1, *Introduction*, regarding changed conditions. See Draft REIR Chapter 3, *Hydrology and Water Quality*, regarding flood risk, sea level rise, and the water budget. CDFW acknowledges opposition to the project. Except to the extent CDFW's disclosure and analysis of 68,000 cfs as the flood control design parameter and commitment to specified performance criteria may result in a change to the physical conditions evaluated in the 2020 Final EIR, comments regarding biological resources and habitats and baseline conditions are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand.

Name	Agency/ Organization/ Affiliation	Date	Notes
Dr. Nicolas Duonn (Nickie Duong)		1/18/24 1/28/24 1/24/2024	See Draft REIR Chapter 1, *Introduction*, regarding changed conditions. See Draft REIR Chapter 3, *Hydrology and Water Quality*, regarding flood risk, sea level rise, and the water budget. CDFW acknowledges opposition to the project. Comments regarding compliance with NEPA are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. Except to the extent CDFW's disclosure and analysis of 68,000 cfs as the flood control design parameter and commitment to specified performance criteria may result in a change to the physical conditions evaluated in the 2020 Final EIR, comments about compliance with other federal laws, biological resources, and baseline conditions also are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. CDFW has reviewed the Defend Ballona Wetlands input entitled "Alternative #4 – the Gentle Alternative for the Ballona Wetlands, A 20-Point Plan." Similarly, reconsideration of alternatives also is outside the scope of the REIR.
DW		1/18/2024	See Draft REIR Chapter 1, *Introduction*, regarding changed conditions. See Draft REIR Chapter 3, *Hydrology and Water Quality*, regarding flood risk, sea level rise, and the water budget. Comments regarding compliance with NEPA are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. Except to the extent CDFW's disclosure and analysis of 68,000 cfs as the flood control design parameter and commitment to specified performance criteria may result in a change to the physical conditions evaluated in the 2020 Final EIR, comments about compliance with other federal laws, biological resources, and baseline conditions also are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. CDFW has reviewed the Defend Ballona Wetlands input entitled "Alternative #4 – the Gentle Alternative for the Ballona Wetlands, A 20-Point Plan." Similarly, reconsideration of alternatives also is outside the scope of the REIR.
Mike Evans		1/19/2024	See Draft REIR Chapter 1, *Introduction*, regarding changed conditions. See Draft REIR Chapter 3, *Hydrology and Water Quality*, regarding flood risk, sea level rise, and the water budget. CDFW acknowledges the stated opposition. Comments regarding compliance with NEPA are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. Except to the extent CDFW's disclosure and analysis of 68,000 cfs as the flood control design parameter and commitment to specified performance criteria may result in a change to the physical conditions evaluated in the 2020 Final EIR, comments about compliance with other federal laws, biological resources, and baseline conditions also are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand.
Dora Fahim, President	Los Angeles Alliance for Animals	11/7/2023	CDFW acknowledges receipt of comments made during the November 7, 2023, public scoping meeting. Except to the extent CDFW's disclosure and analysis of 68,000 cfs as the flood control design parameter and commitment to specified performance criteria may result in a change to the physical conditions evaluated in the 2020 Final EIR, comments about biological resources are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand.
Miriam Faugno		1/18/2024	See Draft REIR Chapter 1, *Introduction*, regarding changed conditions. Comments regarding compliance with NEPA are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. Except to the extent CDFW's disclosure and analysis of 68,000 cfs as the flood control design parameter and commitment to specified performance criteria may result in a change to the physical conditions evaluated in the 2020 Final EIR, comments about compliance with other federal laws, biological resources, and baseline conditions also are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand.

Name	Agency/ Organization/ Affiliation	Date	Notes
Douglas Fay		1/19/2024	As disclosed in Section 2, above, the scoping period was extended to January 19, 2024. See Draft REIR Chapter 3, *Hydrology and Water Quality*, regarding flood risk and sea level rise. The stated difference of opinion regarding the appropriateness of a 100-year flood event model based on the commenter's YouTube news consumption is acknowledged. However, in this regard, CDFW elects to rely on the best professional judgement and substantial evidence in the record provided by other contributors to the EIR. See Draft REIR Chapter 2, *Project Description*, regarding clarification of CDFW's commitment to supplemental environmental review under the circumstances identified by the Court. Comments regarding the Ballona Reserve as the historical homeland of the Tongva Ancestral Tribal Nation, past activities within the Project area, baseline conditions (including baseline levels of pollution and details of the trash interceptor), and disagreement about CDFW's goals for the Project are outside the scope of the REIR. The Court found the 2020 Final EIR to be inadequate regarding two issues and, in all other respects, upheld the 2020 Final EIR. The concerns expressed in this letter regarding the adequacy of the 2020 Final EIR's responses to comments (including comments submitted as part of the 2020 Final EIR process by Douglas Fay) are outside the scope of the two issues identified by the Court. CDFW acknowledges receipt of this copy of the June 21, 1995, *Proposed Ballona Wetlands Restoration Plan (Draft)*.
Deborah Filipelli		1/18/2024	See Draft REIR Chapter 1, *Introduction*, regarding changed conditions. See Draft REIR Chapter 3, *Hydrology and Water Quality*, regarding flood risk, sea level rise, and the water budget. Comments regarding compliance with NEPA are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. Except to the extent CDFW's disclosure and analysis of 68,000 cfs as the flood control design parameter and commitment to specified performance criteria may result in a change to the physical conditions evaluated in the 2020 Final EIR, comments about compliance with other federal laws, biological resources, and baseline conditions also are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. CDFW has reviewed the Defend Ballona Wetlands input entitled "Alternative #4 – the Gentle Alternative for the Ballona Wetlands, A 20-Point Plan." Similarly, reconsideration of alternatives also is outside the scope of the REIR.
Natalie Ford		11/7/2023 1/18/2024	CDFW acknowledges receipt of comments made during the November 7, 2023, public scoping meeting, including the stated opposition to the Project.
Teri Forester		1/20/2024	See Draft REIR Chapter 1, *Introduction*, regarding changed conditions. See Draft REIR Chapter 3, *Hydrology and Water Quality*, regarding flood risk, sea level rise, and the water budget. Except to the extent CDFW's disclosure and analysis of 68,000 cfs as the flood control design parameter and commitment to specified performance criteria may result in a change to the physical conditions evaluated in the 2020 Final EIR, comments regarding compliance with federal laws, biological resources, and baseline conditions are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand.
Michael Fujimori		11/7/2023	CDFW acknowledges receipt of comments made during the November 7, 2023, public scoping meeting, including the commenter's stated opposition to the Project. CDFW has reviewed the Defend Ballona Wetlands input entitled "Alternative #4 – the Gentle Alternative for the Ballona Wetlands, A 20-Point Plan." Similarly, reconsideration of alternatives is outside the scope of the REIR.

Name	Agency/ Organization/ Affiliation	Date	Notes
Querido Galdo		1/18/2024	See Draft REIR Chapter 1, *Introduction*, regarding changed conditions. See Draft REIR Chapter 3, *Hydrology and Water Quality*, regarding flood risk, sea level rise, and the water budget. Comments regarding compliance with NEPA are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. Except to the extent CDFW's disclosure and analysis of 68,000 cfs as the flood control design parameter and commitment to specified performance criteria may result in a change to the physical conditions evaluated in the 2020 Final EIR, comments about compliance with other federal laws, biological resources, and baseline conditions also are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. CDFW has reviewed the Defend Ballona Wetlands input entitled "Alternative #4 – the Gentle Alternative for the Ballona Wetlands, A 20-Point Plan." Similarly, reconsideration of alternatives also is outside the scope of the REIR.
Avalon Garland		11/7/2023	CDFW acknowledges receipt of comments made during the November 7, 2023, public scoping meeting.
Jackson Garland		11/7/2023	CDFW acknowledges receipt of comments made during the November 7, 2023, public scoping meeting, Including the stated opposition to the Project.
Paloma Glass		1/18/2024	See Draft REIR Chapter 1, *Introduction*, regarding changed conditions. See Draft REIR Chapter 3, *Hydrology and Water Quality*, regarding flood risk, sea level rise, and the water budget. Comments regarding compliance with NEPA are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. Except to the extent CDFW's disclosure and analysis of 68,000 cfs as the flood control design parameter and commitment to specified performance criteria may result in a change to the physical conditions evaluated in the 2020 Final EIR, comments about compliance with other federal laws, biological resources, and baseline conditions also are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. CDFW has reviewed the Defend Ballona Wetlands input entitled "Alternative #4 – the Gentle Alternative for the Ballona Wetlands, A 20-Point Plan." Similarly, reconsideration of alternatives also is outside the scope of the REIR.
Marlene Goodman		1/21/2024	See Draft REIR Chapter 1, *Introduction*, regarding changed conditions. See Draft REIR Chapter 3, *Hydrology and Water Quality*, regarding flood risk, sea level rise, and the water budget. Comments regarding compliance with NEPA are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. Except to the extent CDFW's disclosure and analysis of 68,000 cfs as the flood control design parameter and commitment to specified performance criteria may result in a change to the physical conditions evaluated in the 2020 Final EIR, comments about compliance with other federal laws, biological resources, and baseline conditions also are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand.
Loise Gray		11/24/2023	CDFW acknowledges receipt of this letter, which raises considerations that are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand.

Name	Agency/ Organization/ Affiliation	Date	Notes
Debi Griepsma		1/18/2024	See Draft REIR Chapter 1, *Introduction*, regarding changed conditions. See Draft REIR Chapter 3, *Hydrology and Water Quality*, regarding flood risk, sea level rise, and the water budget. Comments regarding compliance with NEPA are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. Except to the extent CDFW's disclosure and analysis of 68,000 cfs as the flood control design parameter and commitment to specified performance criteria may result in a change to the physical conditions evaluated in the 2020 Final EIR, comments about compliance with other federal laws, biological resources, and baseline conditions also are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand.
Margot Griswold	Los Angeles Audubon Society	10/31/2023 (undated)	As disclosed in Section 2, above, the scoping period was extended to January 19, 2024. See Draft REIR Chapter 1, *Introduction*, regarding new information. See Draft REIR Chapter 3, *Hydrology and Water Quality*, regarding the groundwater and the surface water connection within the Ballona Reserve; sea level rise; any freshwater drainage from Areas A, B, and C; and the 68,000 cfs flood control standard. Comments regarding compliance with NEPA are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. Except to the extent CDFW's disclosure and analysis of 68,000 cfs as the flood control design parameter and commitment to specified performance criteria may result in a change to the physical conditions evaluated in the 2020 Final EIR, comments regarding historical ecology, the rationale for designation of the area as the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve, CDFW's compliance with land management planning requirements and application for Wildlife Conservation Board funding, biological resources and revisiting the cumulative effects analysis are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand.
Heather Guillen		1/19/2024	See Draft REIR Chapter 3, *Hydrology and Water Quality*, regarding flood risk.
Khin Khin Gyi		11/7/2023	CDFW acknowledges receipt of comments made during the November 7, 2023, public scoping meeting, including the stated opposition to the Project.
Sue Hall		1/18/2024	See Draft REIR Chapter 1, *Introduction*, regarding changed conditions. See Draft REIR Chapter 3, *Hydrology and Water Quality*, regarding flood risk, sea level rise, and the water budget. Comments regarding compliance with NEPA are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. Except to the extent CDFW's disclosure and analysis of 68,000 cfs as the flood control design parameter and commitment to specified performance criteria may result in a change to the physical conditions evaluated in the 2020 Final EIR, comments about compliance with other federal laws, biological resources, and baseline conditions also are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand.

Name	Agency/ Organization/ Affiliation	Date	Notes
Marcia Hanscom	Coalition to Defend Ballona Wetlands Ballona Wetlands Institute	11/7/2023 1/19/2024	CDFW acknowledges receipt of comments made during the November 7, 2023, public scoping meeting. As disclosed in Section 2, above, the scoping period was extended to January 19, 2024. See Draft REIR Chapter 1, *Introduction*, regarding changed conditions. See Draft REIR Chapter 3, *Hydrology and Water Quality*, regarding flood risk, sea level rise, and a water budget for the project site. CDFW acknowledges disagreement about the scope of the REIR. Comments regarding compliance with NEPA are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. Except to the extent CDFW's disclosure and analysis of 68,000 cfs as the flood control design parameter and commitment to specified performance criteria may result in a change to the physical conditions evaluated in the 2020 Final EIR, comments about compliance with other federal laws, biological resources, the dates of studies documenting baseline conditions, and cultural resources also are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. Further, CDFW has reviewed the Defend Ballona Wetlands input entitled "Alternative #4 – the Gentle Alternative for the Ballona Wetlands, A 20-Point Plan." Similarly, reconsideration of alternatives also is outside the scope of the REIR.
Cindy Hardin		11/7/2023	CDFW acknowledges receipt of comments made during the November 7, 2023, public scoping meeting. See Draft REIR Chapter 3, *Hydrology and Water Quality*, regarding water resources within the Ballona Reserve.
Bartley Harnack		1/19/2024	See Draft REIR Chapter 1, *Introduction*, regarding changed conditions. See Draft REIR Chapter 3, *Hydrology and Water Quality*, regarding flood risk, sea level rise, and a water budget for the project site. Except to the extent CDFW's disclosure and analysis of 68,000 cfs as the flood control design parameter and commitment to specified performance criteria may result in a change to the physical conditions evaluated in the 2020 Final EIR, comments regarding biological resources and baseline conditions are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand.
Shirley Harris		1/18/2024	See Draft REIR Chapter 3, *Hydrology and Water Quality*, regarding the water budget.
Galen Hazelhofer		1/19/2024	See Draft REIR Chapter 1, *Introduction*, regarding changed conditions. See Draft REIR Chapter 3, *Hydrology and Water Quality*, regarding flood risk, sea level rise, and the water budget. Comments regarding compliance with NEPA are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. Except to the extent CDFW's disclosure and analysis of 68,000 cfs as the flood control design parameter and commitment to specified performance criteria may result in a change to the physical conditions evaluated in the 2020 Final EIR, comments about compliance with other federal laws, biological resources, and baseline conditions also are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. CDFW has reviewed the Defend Ballona Wetlands input entitled "Alternative #4 – the Gentle Alternative for the Ballona Wetlands, A 20-Point Plan." Similarly, reconsideration of alternatives also is outside the scope of the REIR.

Name	Agency/ Organization/ Affiliation	Date	Notes
Laura Herndon		1/19/2024	See Draft REIR Chapter 1, *Introduction*, regarding changed conditions. See Draft REIR Chapter 3, *Hydrology and Water Quality*, the water budget. CDFW has reviewed the Defend Ballona Wetlands input entitled "Alternative #4 – the Gentle Alternative for the Ballona Wetlands, A 20-Point Plan." However, except to the extent CDFW's disclosure and analysis of 68,000 cfs as the flood control design parameter and commitment to specified performance criteria may result in a change to the physical conditions evaluated in the 2020 Final EIR, reconsideration of alternatives also is outside the scope of the court's direction on remand.
Scott Hill		1/18/2024	See Draft REIR Chapter 3, *Hydrology and Water Quality*, regarding flood risk and sea level rise. CDFW acknowledges opposition to the project and its historical context. Comments regarding compliance with NEPA are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. Except to the extent CDFW's disclosure and analysis of 68,000 cfs as the flood control design parameter and commitment to specified performance criteria may result in a change to the physical conditions evaluated in the 2020 Final EIR, comments about compliance with other federal laws, biological resources, and baseline conditions also are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. CDFW has reviewed the Defend Ballona Wetlands input entitled "Alternative #4 – the Gentle Alternative for the Ballona Wetlands, A 20-Point Plan." Similarly, reconsideration of alternatives also is outside the scope of the REIR.
Jim Hines	Sierra Club	11/1/2023	As disclosed in Section 2, above, the scoping period was extended to January 19, 2024. CDFW acknowledges not only the quotation of the sentence about biological resources, but also the importance of the Project site to avian and other species. However, impacts to biological resources are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand except to the extent CDFW's disclosure and analysis of 68,000 cfs as the flood control design parameter and commitment to specified performance criteria may result in a change to the physical conditions evaluated in the 2020 Final EIR.
Sam Hirsch		1/20/2024	CDFW has reviewed the Defend Ballona Wetlands input entitled "Alternative #4 – the Gentle Alternative for the Ballona Wetlands, A 20-Point Plan." Except to the extent CDFW's disclosure and analysis of 68,000 cfs as the flood control design parameter and commitment to specified performance criteria may result in a change to the physical conditions evaluated in the 2020 Final EIR, reconsideration of alternatives is outside the scope of the court's direction on remand.
Lynn Hoang		1/18/2024	See Draft REIR Chapter 1, *Introduction*, regarding changed conditions. See Draft REIR Chapter 3, *Hydrology and Water Quality*, regarding the water budget.
Jeff Hoffman and Mick Devudein		11/7/2023	CDFW acknowledges receipt of comments made during the November 7, 2023, public scoping meeting. Except to the extent CDFW's disclosure and analysis of 68,000 cfs as the flood control design parameter and commitment to specified performance criteria may result in a change to the physical conditions evaluated in the 2020 Final EIR, comments about biological resources are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand.
Beth Holden-Garland		11/7/2023	CDFW acknowledges receipt of comments made during the November 7, 2023, public scoping meeting. Except to the extent CDFW's disclosure and analysis of 68,000 cfs as the flood control design parameter and commitment to specified performance criteria may result in a change to the physical conditions evaluated in the 2020 Final EIR, comments about biological and cultural resources are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand.

Name	Agency/ Organization/ Affiliation	Date	Notes
Deanna Horton		1/19/2024	See Draft REIR Chapter 1, *Introduction*, regarding changed conditions. See Draft REIR Chapter 3, *Hydrology and Water Quality*, regarding flood risk, sea level rise, and the water budget. Comments regarding compliance with NEPA are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. Except to the extent CDFW's disclosure and analysis of 68,000 cfs as the flood control design parameter and commitment to specified performance criteria may result in a change to the physical conditions evaluated in the 2020 Final EIR, comments about compliance with other federal laws, biological resources, and baseline conditions also are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand.
Diane Huffine		1/18/2024	See Draft REIR Chapter 1, *Introduction*, regarding changed conditions. See Draft REIR Chapter 3, *Hydrology and Water Quality*, regarding flood risk, sea level rise, and the water budget. Comments regarding compliance with NEPA are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. Except to the extent CDFW's disclosure and analysis of 68,000 cfs as the flood control design parameter and commitment to specified performance criteria may result in a change to the physical conditions evaluated in the 2020 Final EIR, comments about compliance with other federal laws, biological resources, and baseline conditions also are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. CDFW has reviewed the Defend Ballona Wetlands input entitled "Alternative #4 – the Gentle Alternative for the Ballona Wetlands, A 20-Point Plan." Similarly, reconsideration of alternatives also is outside the scope of the REIR.
Ted Hume family and the Murphy family		1/19/2024	See Draft REIR Chapter 1, *Introduction*, regarding changed conditions. See Draft REIR Chapter 3, *Hydrology and Water Quality*, regarding flood risk, sea level rise, and the water budget. CDFW acknowledges opposition to the project. Comments regarding compliance with NEPA are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. Except to the extent CDFW's disclosure and analysis of 68,000 cfs as the flood control design parameter and commitment to specified performance criteria may result in a change to the physical conditions evaluated in the 2020 Final EIR, comments about compliance with other federal laws, biological resources, and baseline conditions also are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. CDFW has reviewed the Defend Ballona Wetlands input entitled "Alternative #4 – the Gentle Alternative for the Ballona Wetlands, A 20-Point Plan." Similarly, reconsideration of alternatives also is outside the scope of the REIR.
Karen Humphreys		1/20/2024	See Draft REIR Chapter 1, *Introduction*, regarding changed conditions. See Draft REIR Chapter 3, *Hydrology and Water Quality*, regarding the water budget.
Shannon Hunter		1/18/2024	See Draft REIR Chapter 1, *Introduction*, regarding changed conditions. See Draft REIR Chapter 3, *Hydrology and Water Quality*, regarding flood risk. Comments regarding compliance with NEPA are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. Except to the extent CDFW's disclosure and analysis of 68,000 cfs as the flood control design parameter and commitment to specified performance criteria may result in a change to the physical conditions evaluated in the 2020 Final EIR, comments about compliance with other federal laws, biological resources, and baseline conditions also are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand.

Name	Agency/ Organization/ Affiliation	Date	Notes
David Jallo		1/18/2024	CDFW acknowledges the stated opposition to the project. Comments regarding biological resources and the reconsideration of alternatives are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand except to the extent CDFW's disclosure and analysis of 68,000 cfs as the flood control design parameter and commitment to specified performance criteria may result in a change to the physical conditions evaluated in the 2020 Final EIR.
Steve Johnson		1/19/2024	CDFW acknowledges receipt of this input. However, the comments made are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand.
Kathleen Kastner M.S.		1/18/2024	CDFW acknowledges the stated opposition to the project. Comments regarding biological resources are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand except to the extent CDFW's disclosure and analysis of 68,000 cfs as the flood control design parameter and commitment to specified performance criteria may result in a change to the physical conditions evaluated in the 2020 Final EIR.
David Kay		11/7/2023	CDFW acknowledges receipt of comments made during the November 7, 2023, public scoping meeting, Including the stated support for the Project.
Cynthia Kimura		1/18/2024	See Draft REIR Chapter 1, *Introduction*, regarding changed conditions. See Draft REIR Chapter 3, *Hydrology and Water Quality*, regarding sea level rise and the water budget. CDFW acknowledges the stated opposition to the project. Comments regarding biological resources and the reconsideration of alternatives are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand except to the extent CDFW's disclosure and analysis of 68,000 cfs as the flood control design parameter and commitment to specified performance criteria may result in a change to the physical conditions evaluated in the 2020 Final EIR.
Kathy Knight	Ballona Ecosystem Education Project	11/7/2023	CDFW acknowledges receipt of comments made during the November 7, 2023, public scoping meeting. See Draft REIR Chapter 3, *Hydrology and Water Quality*, regarding water resources within the Project site.
Dr. Elsa Knutson (Nic D)		1/18/2024	See Draft REIR Chapter 1, *Introduction*, regarding changed conditions. See Draft REIR Chapter 3, *Hydrology and Water Quality*, regarding flood risk, sea level rise, and the water budget. Comments regarding compliance with NEPA are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. Except to the extent CDFW's disclosure and analysis of 68,000 cfs as the flood control design parameter and commitment to specified performance criteria may result in a change to the physical conditions evaluated in the 2020 Final EIR, comments about compliance with other federal laws, biological resources, and baseline conditions also are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. CDFW has reviewed the Defend Ballona Wetlands input entitled "Alternative #4 – the Gentle Alternative for the Ballona Wetlands, A 20-Point Plan." Similarly, reconsideration of alternatives also is outside the scope of the REIR.

Name	Agency/ Organization/ Affiliation	Date	Notes
Evan Jane Kriss		1/18/2024	See Draft REIR Chapter 1, *Introduction*, regarding changed conditions. See Draft REIR Chapter 3, *Hydrology and Water Quality*, regarding flood risk, sea level rise, and the water budget. Comments regarding compliance with NEPA are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. Except to the extent CDFW's disclosure and analysis of 68,000 cfs as the flood control design parameter and commitment to specified performance criteria may result in a change to the physical conditions evaluated in the 2020 Final EIR, comments about compliance with other federal laws, biological resources, and baseline conditions also are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. CDFW has reviewed the Defend Ballona Wetlands input entitled "Alternative #4 – the Gentle Alternative for the Ballona Wetlands, A 20-Point Plan." Similarly, reconsideration of alternatives also is outside the scope of the REIR.
Christina Ku		1/16/2024	See Draft REIR Chapter 3, *Hydrology and Water Quality*, regarding flood risk and sea level rise.
Matthew J. Kubala		1/18/2024	See Draft REIR Chapter 1, *Introduction*, regarding changed conditions. See Draft REIR Chapter 3, *Hydrology and Water Quality*, regarding flood risk, sea level rise, and the water budget. Comments regarding compliance with NEPA are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. Except to the extent CDFW's disclosure and analysis of 68,000 cfs as the flood control design parameter and commitment to specified performance criteria may result in a change to the physical conditions evaluated in the 2020 Final EIR, comments about compliance with other federal laws, biological resources, and baseline conditions also are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. CDFW has reviewed the Defend Ballona Wetlands input entitled "Alternative #4 – the Gentle Alternative for the Ballona Wetlands, A 20-Point Plan." Similarly, reconsideration of alternatives also is outside the scope of the REIR.
Karen La Cava		1/19/2024	See Draft REIR Chapter 1, *Introduction*, regarding changed conditions. See Draft REIR Chapter 3, *Hydrology and Water Quality*, regarding flood risk, sea level rise, and the water budget. Comments regarding compliance with NEPA are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. Except to the extent CDFW's disclosure and analysis of 68,000 cfs as the flood control design parameter and commitment to specified performance criteria may result in a change to the physical conditions evaluated in the 2020 Final EIR, comments about compliance with other federal laws, biological resources, and baseline conditions also are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. CDFW has reviewed the Defend Ballona Wetlands input entitled "Alternative #4 – the Gentle Alternative for the Ballona Wetlands, A 20-Point Plan." Similarly, reconsideration of alternatives also is outside the scope of the REIR.
Nancy Lamb		1/16/2024	CDFW acknowledges the stated opposition to the project. Comments provided are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand.

Name	Agency/ Organization/ Affiliation	Date	Notes
Walter Lamb	Ballona Wetlands Land Trust	10/27/2023 11/7/2023 1/16/2024 1/17/2024 1/18/2024	CDFW acknowledges receipt of comments made during the November 7, 2023, public scoping meeting including from this commenter. See Draft REIR Chapter 1, *Introduction*, regarding new information. See Draft REIR Chapter 3, *Hydrology and Water Quality*, regarding flood conveyance and freeboard as well as sea level rise and total maximum daily loads (TMDLs). Comments regarding compliance with NEPA are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. Comments provided regarding the timing and amount of CDFW's funding requests or choice in environmental consulting support; the correctness of legal interpretations of *res judicata* and the court's May 2024 decision; compliance with the Coastal Act, Clean Water Act, and other laws and regulations; impacts to biological resources (including regarding invasive vegetation); baseline conditions; range of alternatives; projects and assumptions considered in the 2020 Final EIR's cumulative effects analysis; earthwork soil volumes; invasive vegetation; the color key or scheme used in REIR figures; greenhouse gas emissions calculations; public access; and the schedule for abandonment of SoCalGas wells from within the Ballona Reserve also are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand except to the extent CDFW's disclosure and analysis of 68,000 cfs as the flood control design parameter and commitment to specified performance criteria may result in a change to the physical conditions evaluated in the 2020 Final EIR. Documentation of the scoping meeting is provided via the transcript included in Draft REIR Appendix B2.
Marisa Landsberg		1/19/2024	See Draft REIR Chapter 1, *Introduction*, regarding changed conditions. See Draft REIR Chapter 3, *Hydrology and Water Quality*, regarding flood risk, sea level rise, and the water budget. Comments regarding compliance with NEPA are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. Except to the extent CDFW's disclosure and analysis of 68,000 cfs as the flood control design parameter and commitment to specified performance criteria may result in a change to the physical conditions evaluated in the 2020 Final EIR, comments about compliance with other federal laws, biological resources, and baseline conditions also are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand.
Samantha Lau		11/7/2023	CDFW acknowledges receipt of comments made during the November 7, 2023, public scoping meeting, including the stated opposition to the Project.
Jeanette Leinweber		1/19/2024	See Draft REIR Chapter 1, *Introduction*, regarding changed conditions. See Draft REIR Chapter 3, *Hydrology and Water Quality*, regarding flood risk, sea level rise, and the water budget. CDFW acknowledges opposition to the project. Comments regarding compliance with NEPA are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. Except to the extent CDFW's disclosure and analysis of 68,000 cfs as the flood control design parameter and commitment to specified performance criteria may result in a change to the physical conditions evaluated in the 2020 Final EIR, comments about compliance with other federal laws, biological resources, and baseline conditions also are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. CDFW has reviewed the Defend Ballona Wetlands input entitled "Alternative #4 – the Gentle Alternative for the Ballona Wetlands, A 20-Point Plan." Similarly, reconsideration of alternatives also is outside the scope of the REIR.

Name	Agency/ Organization/ Affiliation	Date	Notes
Lisa Levinson	In Defense of Animals	11/7/2023	CDFW acknowledges receipt of comments made during the November 7, 2023, public scoping meeting. See Draft REIR Chapter 3, *Hydrology and Water Quality*, regarding flood risk. Except to the extent CDFW's disclosure and analysis of 68,000 cfs as the flood control design parameter and commitment to specified performance criteria may result in a change to the physical conditions evaluated in the 2020 Final EIR, comments about biological resources are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand.
Lacey Levitt, Ph.D.		1/20/2024	See Draft REIR Chapter 1, *Introduction*, regarding changed conditions. See Draft REIR Chapter 3, *Hydrology and Water Quality*, regarding flood risk, sea level rise, and the water budget. Comments regarding compliance with NEPA are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. Except to the extent CDFW's disclosure and analysis of 68,000 cfs as the flood control design parameter and commitment to specified performance criteria may result in a change to the physical conditions evaluated in the 2020 Final EIR, comments about compliance with other federal laws, biological resources, and baseline conditions also are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand.
Anita Liao		1/19/2024	See Draft REIR Chapter 1, *Introduction*, regarding changed conditions. See Draft REIR Chapter 3, *Hydrology and Water Quality*, regarding flood risk. CDFW acknowledges opposition to the project. Comments regarding compliance with NEPA are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. Except to the extent CDFW's disclosure and analysis of 68,000 cfs as the flood control design parameter and commitment to specified performance criteria may result in a change to the physical conditions evaluated in the 2020 Final EIR, comments about compliance with other federal laws, biological resources, and baseline conditions also are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand.
Hillary Liband		1/19/2024	See Draft REIR Chapter 1, *Introduction*, regarding changed conditions. See Draft REIR Chapter 3, *Hydrology and Water Quality*, regarding flood risk. CDFW acknowledges the stated opposition. Except to the extent CDFW's disclosure and analysis of 68,000 cfs as the flood control design parameter and commitment to specified performance criteria may result in a change to the physical conditions evaluated in the 2020 Final EIR, comments about biological resources and baseline conditions are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. CDFW has reviewed the Defend Ballona Wetlands input entitled "Alternative #4 – the Gentle Alternative for the Ballona Wetlands, A 20-Point Plan." Similarly, reconsideration of alternatives also is outside the scope of the REIR.
Debra Lichstein		1/18/2024	See Draft REIR Chapter 1, *Introduction*, regarding changed conditions. See Draft REIR Chapter 3, *Hydrology and Water Quality*, regarding flood risk, sea level rise, and the water budget. CDFW acknowledges opposition to the project. Comments regarding compliance with NEPA are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. Except to the extent CDFW's disclosure and analysis of 68,000 cfs as the flood control design parameter and commitment to specified performance criteria may result in a change to the physical conditions evaluated in the 2020 Final EIR, comments about compliance with other federal laws, biological resources, and baseline conditions also are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. CDFW has reviewed the Defend Ballona Wetlands input entitled "Alternative #4 – the Gentle Alternative for the Ballona Wetlands, A 20-Point Plan." Similarly, reconsideration of alternatives also is outside the scope of the REIR.

Name	Agency/ Organization/ Affiliation	Date	Notes
Danielle Light		1/19/2024	See Draft REIR Chapter 1, *Introduction*, regarding changed conditions. Comments regarding biological resources are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand except to the extent CDFW's disclosure and analysis of 68,000 cfs as the flood control design parameter and commitment to specified performance criteria may result in a change to the physical conditions evaluated in the 2020 Final EIR.
Andrea Leon-Grossmann		11/7/2023	CDFW acknowledges receipt of comments made during the November 7, 2023, public scoping meeting, including the stated opposition to the Project and concerns about the SoCalGas wells, which are outside the scope of the REIR except to the extent CDFW's disclosure and analysis of 68,000 cfs as the flood control design parameter and commitment to specified performance criteria may result in a change to the physical conditions evaluated in the 2020 Final EIR.
Adolfo Lopez (Irene)		1/18/2024	CDFW acknowledges opposition to the project. Comments regarding biological resources are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand except to the extent CDFW's disclosure and analysis of 68,000 cfs as the flood control design parameter and commitment to specified performance criteria may result in a change to the physical conditions evaluated in the 2020 Final EIR.
Rachel M. Loui		1/19/2024	See Draft REIR Chapter 1, *Introduction*, regarding changed conditions. See Draft REIR Chapter 3, *Hydrology and Water Quality*, regarding flood risk, sea level rise, and the water budget. CDFW acknowledges opposition to the project and alignment of views with other commenters. Comments regarding compliance with NEPA are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. Except to the extent CDFW's disclosure and analysis of 68,000 cfs as the flood control design parameter and commitment to specified performance criteria may result in a change to the physical conditions evaluated in the 2020 Final EIR, comments about compliance with other federal laws, biological resources, and baseline conditions also are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. CDFW has reviewed the Defend Ballona Wetlands input entitled "Alternative #4 – the Gentle Alternative for the Ballona Wetlands, A 20-Point Plan." Similarly, reconsideration of alternatives also is outside the scope of the REIR.
Jodi Lozano		1/18/2024	CDFW acknowledges opposition to the project. Comments regarding biological resources and requests to update baseline conditions are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand except to the extent CDFW's disclosure and analysis of 68,000 cfs as the flood control design parameter and commitment to specified performance criteria may result in a change to the physical conditions evaluated in the 2020 Final EIR.
Renee Marinkovich		11/7/2023	CDFW acknowledges receipt of comments made during the November 7, 2023, public scoping meeting.

Name	Agency/ Organization/ Affiliation	Date	Notes
Riccardo Masci		1/18/2024	See Section 2, above, which explains that the scope of issues to be addressed in the REIR is limited to what is needed to address the court's direction on remand. See Draft REIR Chapter 1, *Introduction*, regarding changed conditions. See Draft REIR Chapter 3, *Hydrology and Water Quality*, regarding flood risk, sea level rise, and the water budget. Comments regarding compliance with NEPA are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. Except to the extent CDFW's disclosure and analysis of 68,000 cfs as the flood control design parameter and commitment to specified performance criteria may result in a change to the physical conditions evaluated in the 2020 Final EIR, comments about compliance with other federal laws, biological resources, and baseline conditions also are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. CDFW has reviewed the Defend Ballona Wetlands input entitled "Alternative #4 – the Gentle Alternative for the Ballona Wetlands, A 20-Point Plan." Similarly, reconsideration of alternatives also is outside the scope of the REIR.
Carolyn Matini		1/18/2024	See Draft REIR Chapter 1, *Introduction*, regarding changed conditions. See Draft REIR Chapter 3, *Hydrology and Water Quality*, regarding flood risk, sea level rise, and the water budget. CDFW acknowledges opposition to the project. Comments regarding compliance with NEPA are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. Except to the extent CDFW's disclosure and analysis of 68,000 cfs as the flood control design parameter and commitment to specified performance criteria may result in a change to the physical conditions evaluated in the 2020 Final EIR, comments about compliance with other federal laws, biological resources, and baseline conditions also are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. CDFW has reviewed the Defend Ballona Wetlands input entitled "Alternative #4 – the Gentle Alternative for the Ballona Wetlands, A 20-Point Plan." Similarly, reconsideration of alternatives also is outside the scope of the REIR.
Gracie Mayorga		1/19/2024	CDFW acknowledges the stated opposition.
Robert McCombs		1/18/2024	See Draft REIR Chapter 1, *Introduction*, regarding changed conditions. See Draft REIR Chapter 3, *Hydrology and Water Quality*, regarding flood risk, sea level rise, and the water budget. Comments regarding compliance with NEPA are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. Except to the extent CDFW's disclosure and analysis of 68,000 cfs as the flood control design parameter and commitment to specified performance criteria may result in a change to the physical conditions evaluated in the 2020 Final EIR, comments about compliance with other federal laws, biological resources, and baseline conditions also are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. CDFW has reviewed the Defend Ballona Wetlands input entitled "Alternative #4 – the Gentle Alternative for the Ballona Wetlands, A 20-Point Plan." Similarly, reconsideration of alternatives also is outside the scope of the REIR.

Name	Agency/ Organization/ Affiliation	Date	Notes
Aidan McCraw		1/18/2024	See Draft REIR Chapter 1, *Introduction*, regarding changed conditions. See Draft REIR Chapter 3, *Hydrology and Water Quality*, regarding flood risk, sea level rise, and the water budget. Comments regarding compliance with NEPA are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. Except to the extent CDFW's disclosure and analysis of 68,000 cfs as the flood control design parameter and commitment to specified performance criteria may result in a change to the physical conditions evaluated in the 2020 Final EIR, comments about compliance with other federal laws, biological resources, and baseline conditions also are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. CDFW has reviewed the Defend Ballona Wetlands input entitled "Alternative #4 – the Gentle Alternative for the Ballona Wetlands, A 20-Point Plan." Similarly, reconsideration of alternatives also is outside the scope of the REIR.
Susan McCutchan		1/18/2024	See Draft REIR Chapter 1, *Introduction*, regarding changed conditions. See Draft REIR Chapter 3, *Hydrology and Water Quality*, regarding flood risk, sea level rise, and the water budget. CDFW acknowledges opposition to the project. Comments regarding compliance with NEPA are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. Except to the extent CDFW's disclosure and analysis of 68,000 cfs as the flood control design parameter and commitment to specified performance criteria may result in a change to the physical conditions evaluated in the 2020 Final EIR, comments about compliance with other federal laws, biological resources, and baseline conditions also are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. CDFW has reviewed the Defend Ballona Wetlands input entitled "Alternative #4 – the Gentle Alternative for the Ballona Wetlands, A 20-Point Plan." Similarly, reconsideration of alternatives also is outside the scope of the REIR.
Ron McGill		1/18/2024	See Draft REIR Chapter 3, *Hydrology and Water Quality*, regarding flood risk. CDFW acknowledges opposition to the project. Comments regarding compliance with NEPA are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. Except to the extent CDFW's disclosure and analysis of 68,000 cfs as the flood control design parameter and commitment to specified performance criteria may result in a change to the physical conditions evaluated in the 2020 Final EIR, comments about compliance with other federal laws, biological resources, and baseline conditions also are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand.

Name	Agency/ Organization/ Affiliation	Date	Notes
Tom McMahon		10/29/2023 10/30/2023 11/03/2023 11/4/2023 11/5/2023 11/8/2023 11/9/2023 11/10/2023 11/13/2023 11/14/2023 11/21/23 11/22/2023 11/25/2023 11/26/2023	See Draft REIR Chapter 3, *Hydrology and Water Quality*, regarding flood control design parameters and sea level rise. CDFW acknowledges receipt of the copy provided of the Corps' October 1, 2011, Circular No. 1165-2-212, *Sea Level Change Considerations for Civil Works Programs*, which expired in September 2013. Except to the extent CDFW's disclosure and analysis of 68,000 cfs as the flood control design parameter and commitment to specified performance criteria may result in a change to the physical conditions evaluated in the 2020 Final EIR, comments regarding the trash interceptor and the adequacy of the 2020 Final EIR regarding the interception of trash collection and removal are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. Similarly, comments regarding the record of earthquakes in the LA Basin between 1815-1825, CDFW's application for a Wildlife Conservation Board grant and the City of Los Angeles' 2016 designation of Culver Boulevard as a scenic highway also are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. CDFW appreciates the excavation initiation and completion details from 1935-1940 that were provided based on documentation from the Corps. These and other corrections are included in and will be considered as part of the record for the Ballona Reserve.
Analise McNeill		1/19/2024	See Draft REIR Chapter 1, *Introduction*, regarding changed conditions. See Draft REIR Chapter 3, *Hydrology and Water Quality*, regarding flood risk, sea level rise, and the water budget. Comments regarding compliance with NEPA are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. Except to the extent CDFW's disclosure and analysis of 68,000 cfs as the flood control design parameter and commitment to specified performance criteria may result in a change to the physical conditions evaluated in the 2020 Final EIR, comments about compliance with other federal laws, biological resources, and baseline conditions also are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. CDFW has reviewed the Defend Ballona Wetlands input entitled "Alternative #4 – the Gentle Alternative for the Ballona Wetlands, A 20-Point Plan." Similarly, reconsideration of alternatives also is outside the scope of the REIR.
Patricia McPherson	Grassroots Coalition	11/4/2023 1/19/2024	As disclosed in Section 2, above, the scoping period was extended to January 19, 2024. See Draft REIR Chapter 1, *Introduction*, regarding new information, including regulatory updates. See Draft REIR Chapter 3, *Hydrology and Water Quality*, regarding groundwater and freshwater resources. CDFW acknowledges the stated alignment with comments provided by John Davis. Comments regarding the 2005 goals for the Ballona Reserve, CDFW's land management planning, biological resources, baseline conditions, and restoration efforts at other sites are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. Input previously provided in the context of the CEQA process for the 2020 Final EIR is included in the administrative record for the project; however, without additional detail, it is not clear how those comments are intended to inform the current CEQA scoping process.

Name	Agency/ Organization/ Affiliation	Date	Notes
Adrienne Metter		1/18/2024	See Draft REIR Chapter 1, *Introduction*, regarding changed conditions. See Draft REIR Chapter 3, *Hydrology and Water Quality*, regarding flood risk, sea level rise, and the water budget. CDFW acknowledges opposition to the project and alignment with comments provided by others. Comments regarding compliance with NEPA are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. Except to the extent CDFW's disclosure and analysis of 68,000 cfs as the flood control design parameter and commitment to specified performance criteria may result in a change to the physical conditions evaluated in the 2020 Final EIR, comments about compliance with other federal laws, biological resources, and baseline conditions also are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. CDFW has reviewed the Defend Ballona Wetlands input entitled "Alternative #4 – the Gentle Alternative for the Ballona Wetlands, A 20-Point Plan." Similarly, reconsideration of alternatives also is outside the scope of the REIR.
Catherine Milovina		1/18/2024	See Draft REIR Chapter 3, *Hydrology and Water Quality*, regarding sea level rise.
Rebecca Mink		11/7/2023	CDFW acknowledges receipt of comments made during the November 7, 2023, public scoping meeting, Including the stated opposition to the Project.
Andrea Morgan-Chun		1/16/24	See Draft REIR Chapter 1, *Introduction*, regarding changed conditions. See Draft REIR Chapter 3, *Hydrology and Water Quality*, regarding flood risk, sea level rise, and the water budget. CDFW acknowledges opposition to the project. Comments regarding compliance with NEPA are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. Except to the extent CDFW's disclosure and analysis of 68,000 cfs as the flood control design parameter and commitment to specified performance criteria may result in a change to the physical conditions evaluated in the 2020 Final EIR, comments about compliance with other federal laws, biological resources, and baseline conditions also are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. CDFW has reviewed the Defend Ballona Wetlands input entitled "Alternative #4 – the Gentle Alternative for the Ballona Wetlands, A 20-Point Plan." Similarly, reconsideration of alternatives also is outside the scope of the REIR.
Caroline Mouzaya		11/7/2023	CDFW acknowledges receipt of comments made during the November 7, 2023, public scoping meeting, including the stated opposition to the Project.
Jill Mulato		1/19/2024	Except to the extent CDFW's disclosure and analysis of 68,000 cfs as the flood control design parameter and commitment to specified performance criteria may result in a change to the physical conditions evaluated in the 2020 Final EIR comments regarding biological resources and baseline conditions are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand.
Valerie Nemeth		1/18/2024	Comments regarding compliance with NEPA and other federal laws are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand.
Julie Obeid		1/19/2024	See Draft REIR Chapter 1, *Introduction*, regarding changed conditions. See Draft REIR Chapter 3, *Hydrology and Water Quality*, regarding flood risk, sea level rise, and the water budget. Comments regarding compliance with NEPA are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. Except to the extent CDFW's disclosure and analysis of 68,000 cfs as the flood control design parameter and commitment to specified performance criteria may result in a change to the physical conditions evaluated in the 2020 Final EIR, comments about compliance with other federal laws, biological resources, and baseline conditions also are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand.

Name	Agency/ Organization/ Affiliation	Date	Notes
Kim O'Bryan		1/19/2024	See Draft REIR Chapter 1, *Introduction*, regarding changed conditions. See Draft REIR Chapter 3, *Hydrology and Water Quality*, regarding flood risk, sea level rise, and the water budget. Comments regarding compliance with NEPA are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. Except to the extent CDFW's disclosure and analysis of 68,000 cfs as the flood control design parameter and commitment to specified performance criteria may result in a change to the physical conditions evaluated in the 2020 Final EIR, comments about compliance with other federal laws, biological resources, and baseline conditions also are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. CDFW has reviewed the Defend Ballona Wetlands input entitled "Alternative #4 – the Gentle Alternative for the Ballona Wetlands, A 20-Point Plan." Similarly, reconsideration of alternatives also is outside the scope of the REIR.
John Oda		1/18/2024	See Draft REIR Chapter 1, *Introduction*, regarding changed conditions. See Draft REIR Chapter 3, *Hydrology and Water Quality*, regarding flood risk, sea level rise, and the water budget. Comments regarding compliance with NEPA are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. Except to the extent CDFW's disclosure and analysis of 68,000 cfs as the flood control design parameter and commitment to specified performance criteria may result in a change to the physical conditions evaluated in the 2020 Final EIR, comments about compliance with other federal laws, biological resources, and baseline conditions also are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. CDFW has reviewed the Defend Ballona Wetlands input entitled "Alternative #4 – the Gentle Alternative for the Ballona Wetlands, A 20-Point Plan." Similarly, reconsideration of alternatives also is outside the scope of the REIR.
Jeri Opalk		1/19/2024	See Draft REIR Chapter 1, *Introduction*, regarding changed conditions. See Draft REIR Chapter 3, *Hydrology and Water Quality*, regarding flood risk, sea level rise, and the water budget. Comments regarding compliance with NEPA are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. Except to the extent CDFW's disclosure and analysis of 68,000 cfs as the flood control design parameter and commitment to specified performance criteria may result in a change to the physical conditions evaluated in the 2020 Final EIR, comments about compliance with other federal laws, biological resources, and baseline conditions also are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. CDFW has reviewed the Defend Ballona Wetlands input entitled "Alternative #4 – the Gentle Alternative for the Ballona Wetlands, A 20-Point Plan." Similarly, reconsideration of alternatives also is outside the scope of the REIR.
Kristy Pace		1/18/2024	See Draft REIR Chapter 1, *Introduction*, regarding changed conditions. Comments regarding biological resources and baseline conditions are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand except to the extent CDFW's disclosure and analysis of 68,000 cfs as the flood control design parameter and commitment to specified performance criteria may result in a change to the physical conditions evaluated in the 2020 Final EIR. CDFW has reviewed the Defend Ballona Wetlands input entitled "Alternative #4 – the Gentle Alternative for the Ballona Wetlands, A 20-Point Plan." Similarly, reconsideration of alternatives also is outside the scope of the court's direction on remand.

Name	Agency/ Organization/ Affiliation	Date	Notes
Pam		1/18/2024	See Draft REIR Chapter 1, *Introduction*, regarding changed conditions. See Draft REIR Chapter 3, *Hydrology and Water Quality*, regarding flood risk, sea level rise, and the water budget. Comments regarding compliance with NEPA are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. Except to the extent CDFW's disclosure and analysis of 68,000 cfs as the flood control design parameter and commitment to specified performance criteria may result in a change to the physical conditions evaluated in the 2020 Final EIR, comments about compliance with other federal laws, biological resources, and baseline conditions also are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. CDFW has reviewed the Defend Ballona Wetlands input entitled "Alternative #4 – the Gentle Alternative for the Ballona Wetlands, A 20-Point Plan." Similarly, reconsideration of alternatives also is outside the scope of the REIR.
Nancy Pearlman	Ecology Center of Southern California	1/17/2024	See Draft REIR Chapter 1, *Introduction*, regarding changed conditions. See Draft REIR Chapter 3, *Hydrology and Water Quality*, regarding flood risk, sea level rise, and the water budget. Comments regarding compliance with NEPA are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. Except to the extent CDFW's disclosure and analysis of 68,000 cfs as the flood control design parameter and commitment to specified performance criteria may result in a change to the physical conditions evaluated in the 2020 Final EIR, comments about compliance with other federal laws, biological resources, and baseline conditions also are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. CDFW has reviewed the Defend Ballona Wetlands input entitled "Alternative #4 – the Gentle Alternative for the Ballona Wetlands, A 20-Point Plan." Similarly, reconsideration of alternatives also is outside the scope of the REIR.
Katherine Pease, PhD Scott Culbertson Benjamin Harris Craig W. Cadwallader	Heal the Bay Friends of Ballona Wetlands Los Angeles Waterkeeper Surfrider Foundation S. Bay Chapter	1/19/2024	CDFW acknowledges this strong support of the larger restoration project, encouragement to limit the REIR to the two issues identified in the NOP, and the request consider any recommendations or outcomes of tribal engagement.
Aubrey Perry		1/21/2024	See Draft REIR Chapter 1, *Introduction*, regarding changed conditions. See Draft REIR Chapter 3, *Hydrology and Water Quality*, regarding flood risk, sea level rise, and the water budget. Comments regarding compliance with NEPA are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. Except to the extent CDFW's disclosure and analysis of 68,000 cfs as the flood control design parameter and commitment to specified performance criteria may result in a change to the physical conditions evaluated in the 2020 Final EIR, comments about compliance with other federal laws, biological resources, and baseline conditions also are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. CDFW has reviewed the Defend Ballona Wetlands input entitled "Alternative #4 – the Gentle Alternative for the Ballona Wetlands, A 20-Point Plan." Similarly, reconsideration of alternatives also is outside the scope of the REIR.
Nuri Benet Pierce		1/19/2024	See Draft REIR Chapter 3, *Hydrology and Water Quality*, regarding flood risk. Comments regarding biological resources are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand except to the extent CDFW's disclosure and analysis of 68,000 cfs as the flood control design parameter and commitment to specified performance criteria may result in a change to the physical conditions evaluated in the 2020 Final EIR.

Name	Agency/ Organization/ Affiliation	Date	Notes
POD App		1/18/2024	See Draft REIR Chapter 1, *Introduction*, regarding changed conditions. See Draft REIR Chapter 3, *Hydrology and Water Quality*, regarding flood risk, sea level rise, and the water budget. Comments regarding compliance with NEPA are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. Except to the extent CDFW's disclosure and analysis of 68,000 cfs as the flood control design parameter and commitment to specified performance criteria may result in a change to the physical conditions evaluated in the 2020 Final EIR, comments about compliance with other federal laws, biological resources, and baseline conditions also are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. CDFW has reviewed the Defend Ballona Wetlands input entitled "Alternative #4 – the Gentle Alternative for the Ballona Wetlands, A 20-Point Plan." Similalrly, reconsideration of alternatives also is outside the scope of the REIR.
Lydia Ponce		11/7/2023	CDFW acknowledges receipt of comments made during the November 7, 2023, public scoping meeting. Except to the extent CDFW's disclosure and analysis of 68,000 cfs as the flood control design parameter and commitment to specified performance criteria may result in a change to the physical conditions evaluated in the 2020 Final EIR, comments about the EIR's consideration of tribal cultural resources are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand.
Matthew Priebe		1/19/2024	See Draft REIR Chapter 1, *Introduction*, regarding changed conditions. CDFW acknowledges the stated opposition to the project.
Kennon B. Raines		1/19/2024	See Draft REIR Chapter 1, *Introduction*, regarding changed conditions. See Draft REIR Chapter 3, *Hydrology and Water Quality*, regarding sea level rise and the water budget. Comments regarding biological resources and baseline conditions are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand except to the extent CDFW's disclosure and analysis of 68,000 cfs as the flood control design parameter and commitment to specified performance criteria may result in a change to the physical conditions evaluated in the 2020 Final EIR.
Rique Ramirez		1/19/2024	Comments regarding the formation of an Indigenous Tribal Council are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. CDFW acknowledges the stated alignment of views with other commenters.
Janet Rhodes		1/18/2024	See Draft REIR Chapter 1, *Introduction*, regarding changed conditions. See Draft REIR Chapter 3, *Hydrology and Water Quality*, regarding flood risk, sea level rise, and the water budget. CDFW acknowledges opposition to the project. Comments regarding compliance with NEPA are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. Except to the extent CDFW's disclosure and analysis of 68,000 cfs as the flood control design parameter and commitment to specified performance criteria may result in a change to the physical conditions evaluated in the 2020 Final EIR, comments about compliance with other federal laws, biological resources, and baseline conditions also are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. CDFW has reviewed the Defend Ballona Wetlands input entitled "Alternative #4 – the Gentle Alternative for the Ballona Wetlands, A 20-Point Plan." Similarly, reconsideration of alternatives also is outside the scope of the REIR.

Name	Agency/ Organization/ Affiliation	Date	Notes
Lonna Richmond		1/18/2024	See Draft REIR Chapter 1, *Introduction*, regarding changed conditions. See Draft REIR Chapter 3, *Hydrology and Water Quality*, regarding flood risk, sea level rise, and the water budget. Comments regarding compliance with NEPA are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. Except to the extent CDFW's disclosure and analysis of 68,000 cfs as the flood control design parameter and commitment to specified performance criteria may result in a change to the physical conditions evaluated in the 2020 Final EIR, comments about compliance with other federal laws, biological resources, and baseline conditions also are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. CDFW has reviewed the Defend Ballona Wetlands input entitled "Alternative #4 – the Gentle Alternative for the Ballona Wetlands, A 20-Point Plan." Similarly, reconsideration of alternatives also is outside the scope of the REIR.
Ellen Riegelhuth		1/18/2024	See Draft REIR Chapter 1, *Introduction*, regarding changed conditions. See Draft REIR Chapter 3, *Hydrology and Water Quality*, regarding flood risk, sea level rise, and the water budget. Comments regarding compliance with NEPA are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. Except to the extent CDFW's disclosure and analysis of 68,000 cfs as the flood control design parameter and commitment to specified performance criteria may result in a change to the physical conditions evaluated in the 2020 Final EIR, comments about compliance with other federal laws, biological resources, and baseline conditions also are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. CDFW has reviewed the Defend Ballona Wetlands input entitled "Alternative #4 – the Gentle Alternative for the Ballona Wetlands, A 20-Point Plan." Similarly, reconsideration of alternatives also is outside the scope of the REIR.
Nicholas Rocha		10/25/2023	CDFW acknowledges that November 7 is Election Day; however, this does not preclude effective participation in the scoping process for the REIR.
Wendy-Sue Rosen	Protect Ballona Wetlands.	11/7/2023 11/22/2023	CDFW acknowledges receipt of comments made during the November 7, 2023, public scoping meeting. See Draft REIR Chapter 3, *Hydrology and Water Quality*, regarding sea level rise. As requested, the two email addresses have been added to the electronic distribution list for future notices relating to the project.
Matt Rossell		1/18/2024	See Draft REIR Chapter 1, *Introduction*, regarding changed conditions. See Draft REIR Chapter 3, *Hydrology and Water Quality*, regarding flood risk, sea level rise, and the water budget. CDFW acknowledges opposition to the project. Comments regarding compliance with NEPA are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. Except to the extent CDFW's disclosure and analysis of 68,000 cfs as the flood control design parameter and commitment to specified performance criteria may result in a change to the physical conditions evaluated in the 2020 Final EIR, comments about compliance with other federal laws, biological resources, and baseline conditions also are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. CDFW has reviewed the Defend Ballona Wetlands input entitled "Alternative #4 – the Gentle Alternative for the Ballona Wetlands, A 20-Point Plan." Similarly, reconsideration of alternatives also is outside the scope of the REIR.

Name	Agency/ Organization/ Affiliation	Date	Notes
Karen Rubio		1/18/2024	See Draft REIR Chapter 1, *Introduction*, regarding changed conditions. See Draft REIR Chapter 3, *Hydrology and Water Quality*, regarding sea level rise and the water budget. CDFW acknowledges opposition to the project. Comments regarding biological resources and baseline conditions are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand except to the extent CDFW's disclosure and analysis of 68,000 cfs as the flood control design parameter and commitment to specified performance criteria may result in a change to the physical conditions evaluated in the 2020 Final EIR. CDFW has reviewed the Defend Ballona Wetlands input entitled "Alternative #4 – the Gentle Alternative for the Ballona Wetlands, A 20-Point Plan." Similarly, reconsideration of alternatives also is outside the scope of the court's direction on remand.
Rene Ruston	START Rescue	1/19/2024	See Draft REIR Chapter 1, *Introduction*, regarding changed conditions. See Draft REIR Chapter 3, *Hydrology and Water Quality*, regarding flood risk, sea level rise, and the water budget. CDFW acknowledges the stated opposition to the project. Comments regarding biological resources, baseline conditions, and compliance with NEPA and other federal laws, are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand except to the extent CDFW's disclosure and analysis of 68,000 cfs as the flood control design parameter and commitment to specified performance criteria may result in a change to the physical conditions evaluated in the 2020 Final EIR.
Julia (Julie) Sanford		1/18/2024	See Draft REIR Chapter 1, *Introduction*, regarding changed conditions. See Draft REIR Chapter 3, *Hydrology and Water Quality*, regarding flood risk, sea level rise, and the water budget. Comments regarding compliance with NEPA are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. Except to the extent CDFW's disclosure and analysis of 68,000 cfs as the flood control design parameter and commitment to specified performance criteria may result in a change to the physical conditions evaluated in the 2020 Final EIR, comments about compliance with other federal laws, biological resources, and baseline conditions also are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. CDFW has reviewed the Defend Ballona Wetlands input entitled "Alternative #4 – the Gentle Alternative for the Ballona Wetlands, A 20-Point Plan." Similarly, reconsideration of alternatives also is outside the scope of the REIR.
Marc Scapa		1/18/2024	See Draft REIR Chapter 3, *Hydrology and Water Quality*, regarding flood risk. Comments regarding compliance with NEPA are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. Comments regarding compliance with other federal laws also are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand except to the extent CDFW's disclosure and analysis of 68,000 cfs as the flood control design parameter and commitment to specified performance criteria may result in a change to the physical conditions evaluated in the 2020 Final EIR.
Sarah Segal		11/7/2023	CDFW acknowledges receipt of comments made during the November 7, 2023, public scoping meeting, Including the stated opposition to the Project. Except to the extent CDFW's disclosure and analysis of 68,000 cfs as the flood control design parameter and commitment to specified performance criteria may result in a change to the physical conditions evaluated in the 2020 Final EIR, comments about biological resources are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand.
Anthony Shale		11/7/2023	CDFW acknowledges receipt of comments made during the November 7, 2023, public scoping meeting, Including the stated opposition to the Project.
Sid Shapiro		1/19/2024	CDFW acknowledges this statement of opposition to the project. However, the comments provided are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand.

Name	Agency/ Organization/ Affiliation	Date	Notes
Nancy Sidebotham		1/18/2024	See Draft REIR Chapter 1, *Introduction*, regarding changed conditions. See Draft REIR Chapter 3, *Hydrology and Water Quality*, regarding flood risk, sea level rise, and the water budget. Comments regarding compliance with NEPA are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. Except to the extent CDFW's disclosure and analysis of 68,000 cfs as the flood control design parameter and commitment to specified performance criteria may result in a change to the physical conditions evaluated in the 2020 Final EIR, comments about compliance with other federal laws, biological resources, and baseline conditions also are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. CDFW has reviewed the Defend Ballona Wetlands input entitled "Alternative #4 – the Gentle Alternative for the Ballona Wetlands, A 20-Point Plan." Similarly, reconsideration of alternatives also is outside the scope of the REIR.
Sean Silva	Office of Councilwoman Traci Park	11/1/2023	As disclosed in Section 2, above, the scoping period was extended to January 19, 2024.
Sandra Skolnik		1/18/2024	See Draft REIR Chapter 1, *Introduction*, regarding changed conditions. See Draft REIR Chapter 3, *Hydrology and Water Quality*, regarding flood risk, sea level rise, and the water budget. Comments regarding compliance with NEPA are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. Except to the extent CDFW's disclosure and analysis of 68,000 cfs as the flood control design parameter and commitment to specified performance criteria may result in a change to the physical conditions evaluated in the 2020 Final EIR, comments about compliance with other federal laws, biological resources, and baseline conditions also are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. CDFW has reviewed the Defend Ballona Wetlands input entitled "Alternative #4 – the Gentle Alternative for the Ballona Wetlands, A 20-Point Plan." Similarly, reconsideration of alternatives also is outside the scope of the REIR.
Leslie Smith		1/18/2024	See Draft REIR Chapter 1, *Introduction*, regarding changed conditions. See Draft REIR Chapter 3, *Hydrology and Water Quality*, regarding flood risk, sea level rise, and the water budget. CDFW acknowledges opposition to the project. Comments regarding compliance with NEPA are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. Except to the extent CDFW's disclosure and analysis of 68,000 cfs as the flood control design parameter and commitment to specified performance criteria may result in a change to the physical conditions evaluated in the 2020 Final EIR, comments about compliance with other federal laws, biological resources, and baseline conditions also are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. CDFW has reviewed the Defend Ballona Wetlands input entitled "Alternative #4 – the Gentle Alternative for the Ballona Wetlands, A 20-Point Plan." Similarly, reconsideration of alternatives also is outside the scope of the REIR.
Lorraine Sola		11/7/2023	CDFW acknowledges receipt of comments made during the November 7, 2023, public scoping meeting, including the stated opposition to the Project.

Name	Agency/ Organization/ Affiliation	Date	Notes
Karin Joy Spruill		1/19/2024	See Draft REIR Chapter 1, *Introduction*, regarding changed conditions. See Draft REIR Chapter 3, *Hydrology and Water Quality*, regarding flood risk, sea level rise, and the water budget. Comments regarding compliance with NEPA are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. Except to the extent CDFW's disclosure and analysis of 68,000 cfs as the flood control design parameter and commitment to specified performance criteria may result in a change to the physical conditions evaluated in the 2020 Final EIR, comments about compliance with other federal laws, biological resources, and baseline conditions also are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. CDFW has reviewed the details of a Gentle Alternative advanced by other commenters; similarly, reconsideration of alternatives also is outside the scope of the REIR.
Jasmine Stodel		1/18/2024	See Draft REIR Chapter 1, *Introduction*, regarding changed conditions. See Draft REIR Chapter 3, *Hydrology and Water Quality*, regarding flood risk, sea level rise, and the water budget. CDFW acknowledges opposition to the project. Comments regarding compliance with NEPA are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. Except to the extent CDFW's disclosure and analysis of 68,000 cfs as the flood control design parameter and commitment to specified performance criteria may result in a change to the physical conditions evaluated in the 2020 Final EIR, comments about compliance with other federal laws, biological resources, and baseline conditions also are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. CDFW has reviewed the Defend Ballona Wetlands input entitled "Alternative #4 – the Gentle Alternative for the Ballona Wetlands, A 20-Point Plan." Similarly, reconsideration of alternatives also is outside the scope of the REIR.
SuperFox		1/18/2024	See Draft REIR Chapter 1, *Introduction*, regarding changed conditions. See Draft REIR Chapter 3, *Hydrology and Water Quality*, regarding flood risk, sea level rise, and the water budget. CDFW acknowledges opposition to the project. Comments regarding compliance with NEPA are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. Except to the extent CDFW's disclosure and analysis of 68,000 cfs as the flood control design parameter and commitment to specified performance criteria may result in a change to the physical conditions evaluated in the 2020 Final EIR, comments about compliance with other federal laws, biological resources, and baseline conditions also are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. CDFW has reviewed the Defend Ballona Wetlands input entitled "Alternative #4 – the Gentle Alternative for the Ballona Wetlands, A 20-Point Plan." Similarly, reconsideration of alternatives also is outside the scope of the REIR.
Gabrielle Swanberg		1/18/2024	See Draft REIR Chapter 1, *Introduction*, regarding changed conditions. See Draft REIR Chapter 3, *Hydrology and Water Quality*, regarding flood risk, sea level rise, and the water budget. CDFW acknowledges opposition to the project. Comments regarding compliance with NEPA are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. Except to the extent CDFW's disclosure and analysis of 68,000 cfs as the flood control design parameter and commitment to specified performance criteria may result in a change to the physical conditions evaluated in the 2020 Final EIR, comments about compliance with other federal laws, biological resources, and baseline conditions also are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. CDFW has reviewed the Defend Ballona Wetlands input entitled "Alternative #4 – the Gentle Alternative for the Ballona Wetlands, A 20-Point Plan." Similarly, reconsideration of alternatives also is outside the scope of the REIR.

Name	Agency/ Organization/ Affiliation	Date	Notes
Tameka		1/18/2024	See Draft REIR Chapter 1, *Introduction*, regarding changed conditions. See Draft REIR Chapter 3, *Hydrology and Water Quality*, regarding flood risk, sea level rise, and the water budget. CDFW acknowledges opposition to the project. Comments regarding compliance with NEPA are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. Except to the extent CDFW's disclosure and analysis of 68,000 cfs as the flood control design parameter and commitment to specified performance criteria may result in a change to the physical conditions evaluated in the 2020 Final EIR, comments about compliance with other federal laws, biological resources, and baseline conditions also are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. CDFW has reviewed the Defend Ballona Wetlands input entitled "Alternative #4 – the Gentle Alternative for the Ballona Wetlands, A 20-Point Plan." Similarly, reconsideration of alternatives also is outside the scope of the REIR.
Heidi Taylor, Ph.D		1/18/2024	See Draft REIR Chapter 1, *Introduction*, regarding changed conditions. See Draft REIR Chapter 3, *Hydrology and Water Quality*, regarding flood risk, sea level rise, and the water budget. Comments regarding compliance with NEPA are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. Except to the extent CDFW's disclosure and analysis of 68,000 cfs as the flood control design parameter and commitment to specified performance criteria may result in a change to the physical conditions evaluated in the 2020 Final EIR, comments about compliance with other federal laws, biological resources, and baseline conditions also are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. CDFW has reviewed the Defend Ballona Wetlands input entitled "Alternative #4 – the Gentle Alternative for the Ballona Wetlands, A 20-Point Plan." Similarly, reconsideration of alternatives also is outside the scope of the REIR.
John P. Teevan III		1/19/2024	See Draft REIR Chapter 1, *Introduction*, regarding changed conditions. See Draft REIR Chapter 3, *Hydrology and Water Quality*, regarding flood risk, sea level rise, and the water budget. Comments regarding compliance with NEPA are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. Except to the extent CDFW's disclosure and analysis of 68,000 cfs as the flood control design parameter and commitment to specified performance criteria may result in a change to the physical conditions evaluated in the 2020 Final EIR, comments about compliance with other federal laws, biological resources, and baseline conditions also are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. CDFW has reviewed the Defend Ballona Wetlands input entitled "Alternative #4 – the Gentle Alternative for the Ballona Wetlands, A 20-Point Plan." Similarly, reconsideration of alternatives also is outside the scope of the REIR.
Anita Thomason		1/19/2024	CDFW acknowledges the statement in favor of preservation of the wetlands. However, the comments provided are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand.

Name	Agency/ Organization/ Affiliation	Date	Notes
Sabrina Thompson		1/18/2024	See Draft REIR Chapter 1, *Introduction*, regarding changed conditions. See Draft REIR Chapter 3, *Hydrology and Water Quality*, regarding flood risk and sea level rise. CDFW acknowledges receipt of photographs attributed to Marcia Hanscom and Jonathan Coffin as well as the stated opposition. Comments regarding compliance with NEPA are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. Except to the extent CDFW's disclosure and analysis of 68,000 cfs as the flood control design parameter and commitment to specified performance criteria may result in a change to the physical conditions evaluated in the 2020 Final EIR, comments about compliance with other federal laws, biological resources, and baseline conditions also are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. CDFW has reviewed the Defend Ballona Wetlands input entitled "Alternative #4 – the Gentle Alternative for the Ballona Wetlands, A 20-Point Plan." Similarly, reconsideration of alternatives also is outside the scope of the REIR.
Sharon Torrisi		1/18/2024	Comments regarding compliance with NEPA are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. Comments regarding compliance with other federal laws, biological resources, and baseline conditions also are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand except to the extent CDFW's disclosure and analysis of 68,000 cfs as the flood control design parameter and commitment to specified performance criteria may result in a change to the physical conditions evaluated in the 2020 Final EIR.
Mary Beth Trautwein		11/7/2023	CDFW acknowledges receipt of comments made during the November 7, 2023, public scoping meeting. See Draft REIR Chapter 1, *Introduction*, regarding changed conditions. See Draft REIR Chapter 3, *Hydrology and Water Quality*, regarding flood risk and sea level rise. CDFW acknowledges the stated opposition to disruption of the areas that would be affected by sequences 1 and 2.
Stacey Travis		1/19/2024	See Draft REIR Chapter 1, *Introduction*, regarding changed conditions. See Draft REIR Chapter 3, *Hydrology and Water Quality*, regarding flood risk and sea level rise. CDFW acknowledges the stated opposition. Comments regarding biological resources are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand except to the extent CDFW's disclosure and analysis of 68,000 cfs as the flood control design parameter and commitment to specified performance criteria may result in a change to the physical conditions evaluated in the 2020 Final EIR.
Carol Treacy		1/18/2024	Comments regarding compliance with NEPA are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. Comments regarding compliance with other federal laws also are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand except to the extent CDFW's disclosure and analysis of 68,000 cfs as the flood control design parameter and commitment to specified performance criteria may result in a change to the physical conditions evaluated in the 2020 Final EIR.
Dr. Will Tuttle		1/19/2024	CDFW acknowledges the stated opposition and has reviewed the 20-point Gentle Alternative advanced by others. However, except to the extent CDFW's disclosure and analysis of 68,000 cfs as the flood control design parameter and commitment to specified performance criteria may result in a change to the physical conditions evaluated in the 2020 Final EIR, reconsideration of alternatives is outside the scope of the court's direction on remand.
Georja Umano		11/7/2023	CDFW acknowledges receipt of comments made during the November 7, 2023, public scoping meeting, Including the stated opposition to the Project.

Name	Agency/ Organization/ Affiliation	Date	Notes
Robert Jan 'Roy' van de Hoek	Ballona Wetlands Institute	11/7/2023 1/19/2024	CDFW acknowledges receipt of comments made during the November 7, 2023, public scoping meeting. See Draft REIR Chapter 1, *Introduction*, regarding changed conditions. See Draft REIR Chapter 3, *Hydrology and Water Quality*, regarding flood risk. Comments regarding compliance with NEPA are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. Except to the extent CDFW's disclosure and analysis of 68,000 cfs as the flood control design parameter and commitment to specified performance criteria may result in a change to the physical conditions evaluated in the 2020 Final EIR, comments about compliance with other federal laws, requests to reconvene stakeholder group meetings, project funding, biological resources, baseline conditions, and public access also are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. CDFW has reviewed the Defend Ballona Wetlands input entitled "Alternative #4 – the Gentle Alternative for the Ballona Wetlands, A 20-Point Plan." Similarly, reconsideration of alternatives also is outside the scope of the REIR.
Jane Velez-Mitchell		11/7/2023 11/22/2023 1/16/2024	CDFW acknowledges receipt of comments made during the November 7, 2023, public scoping meeting. See Draft REIR Chapter 1, *Introduction*, regarding changed conditions. See Draft REIR Chapter 3, *Hydrology and Water Quality*, regarding flood risk and sea level rise. CDFW acknowledges the stated opposition. Comments regarding biological resources and baseline conditions are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand Except to the extent CDFW's disclosure and analysis of 68,000 cfs as the flood control design parameter and commitment to specified performance criteria may result in a change to the physical conditions evaluated in the 2020 Final EIR. CDFW has reviewed the Defend Ballona Wetlands input entitled "Alternative #4 – the Gentle Alternative for the Ballona Wetlands, A 20-Point Plan." Similarly, reconsideration of alternatives also is outside the scope of the court's direction on remand.
E. Wagner		1/18/2024	See Draft REIR Chapter 1, *Introduction*, regarding changed conditions. See Draft REIR Chapter 3, *Hydrology and Water Quality*, regarding flood risk, sea level rise, and the water budget. CDFW acknowledges opposition to the project. Comments regarding compliance with NEPA are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. Except to the extent CDFW's disclosure and analysis of 68,000 cfs as the flood control design parameter and commitment to specified performance criteria may result in a change to the physical conditions evaluated in the 2020 Final EIR, comments about compliance with other federal laws, biological resources, and baseline conditions also are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. CDFW has reviewed the Defend Ballona Wetlands input entitled "Alternative #4 – the Gentle Alternative for the Ballona Wetlands, A 20-Point Plan." Similarly, reconsideration of alternatives also is outside the scope of the REIR.
Debbie Wall		11/23/2023	CDFW acknowledges the stated preference for minimal disruption to existing conditions.

Name	Agency/ Organization/ Affiliation	Date	Notes
Alexandra Ward		1/18/2024	See Draft REIR Chapter 1, *Introduction*, regarding changed conditions. See Draft REIR Chapter 3, *Hydrology and Water Quality*, regarding flood risk, sea level rise, and the water budget. Comments regarding compliance with NEPA are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. Except to the extent CDFW's disclosure and analysis of 68,000 cfs as the flood control design parameter and commitment to specified performance criteria may result in a change to the physical conditions evaluated in the 2020 Final EIR, comments about compliance with other federal laws, biological resources, and baseline conditions also are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. CDFW has reviewed the Defend Ballona Wetlands input entitled "Alternative #4 – the Gentle Alternative for the Ballona Wetlands, A 20-Point Plan." Similarly, reconsideration of alternatives also is outside the scope of the REIR.
Betty Winholtz		1/18/2024	See Draft REIR Chapter 1, *Introduction*, regarding changed conditions. See Draft REIR Chapter 3, *Hydrology and Water Quality*, regarding flood risk, sea level rise, and the water budget. CDFW acknowledges stated concerns regarding biological resources. Comments regarding compliance with NEPA are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. Except to the extent CDFW's disclosure and analysis of 68,000 cfs as the flood control design parameter and commitment to specified performance criteria may result in a change to the physical conditions evaluated in the 2020 Final EIR, comments about compliance with other federal laws, biological resources, and baseline conditions also are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. CDFW has reviewed the Defend Ballona Wetlands input entitled "Alternative #4 – the Gentle Alternative for the Ballona Wetlands, A 20-Point Plan." Similarly, reconsideration of alternatives also is outside the scope of the REIR.
Kristin Womack		1/18/2024	See Draft REIR Chapter 1, *Introduction*, regarding changed conditions. See Draft REIR Chapter 3, *Hydrology and Water Quality*, regarding flood risk, sea level rise, and the water budget. CDFW acknowledges opposition to the project. Comments regarding compliance with NEPA are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. Except to the extent CDFW's disclosure and analysis of 68,000 cfs as the flood control design parameter and commitment to specified performance criteria may result in a change to the physical conditions evaluated in the 2020 Final EIR, comments about compliance with other federal laws, biological resources, and baseline conditions also are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. CDFW has reviewed the Defend Ballona Wetlands input entitled "Alternative #4 – the Gentle Alternative for the Ballona Wetlands, A 20-Point Plan." Similarly, reconsideration of alternatives also is outside the scope of the REIR.
Sohan Noah Youngelson		1/19/2024	See Draft REIR Chapter 1, *Introduction*, regarding changed conditions. See Draft REIR Chapter 3, *Hydrology and Water Quality*, regarding flood risk, sea level rise, and the water budget. Comments regarding compliance with NEPA are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. Except to the extent CDFW's disclosure and analysis of 68,000 cfs as the flood control design parameter and commitment to specified performance criteria may result in a change to the physical conditions evaluated in the 2020 Final EIR, comments about compliance with other federal laws, biological resources, and baseline conditions also are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. CDFW has reviewed the Defend Ballona Wetlands input entitled "Alternative #4 – the Gentle Alternative for the Ballona Wetlands, A 20-Point Plan." Similarly, reconsideration of alternatives also is outside the scope of the REIR.

Name	Agency/ Organization/ Affiliation	Date	Notes
Brad and Wendy Zacuto		1/18/2024	See Draft REIR Chapter 1, *Introduction*, regarding changed conditions. See Draft REIR Chapter 3, *Hydrology and Water Quality*, regarding flood risk, sea level rise, and the water budget. Comments regarding compliance with NEPA are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. Except to the extent CDFW's disclosure and analysis of 68,000 cfs as the flood control design parameter and commitment to specified performance criteria may result in a change to the physical conditions evaluated in the 2020 Final EIR, comments about compliance with other federal laws, biological resources, and baseline conditions also are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. CDFW has reviewed the Defend Ballona Wetlands input entitled "Alternative #4 – the Gentle Alternative for the Ballona Wetlands, A 20-Point Plan." Similarly, reconsideration of alternatives also is outside the scope of the REIR.
Charlene D. Zanella		1/19/2024	See Draft REIR Chapter 1, *Introduction*, regarding changed conditions. See Draft REIR Chapter 3, *Hydrology and Water Quality*, regarding flood risk, sea level rise, and the water budget. Comments regarding compliance with NEPA are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. Except to the extent CDFW's disclosure and analysis of 68,000 cfs as the flood control design parameter and commitment to specified performance criteria may result in a change to the physical conditions evaluated in the 2020 Final EIR, comments about compliance with other federal laws, biological resources, and baseline conditions also are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. CDFW has reviewed the Defend Ballona Wetlands input entitled "Alternative #4 – the Gentle Alternative for the Ballona Wetlands, A 20-Point Plan." Similarly, reconsideration of alternatives also is outside the scope of the REIR.
Molly Zbojniewicz		1/18/2024	See Draft REIR Chapter 1, *Introduction*, regarding changed conditions. See Draft REIR Chapter 3, *Hydrology and Water Quality*, regarding flood risk, sea level rise, and the water budget. CDFW acknowledges opposition to the project. Comments regarding compliance with NEPA are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. Except to the extent CDFW's disclosure and analysis of 68,000 cfs as the flood control design parameter and commitment to specified performance criteria may result in a change to the physical conditions evaluated in the 2020 Final EIR, comments about compliance with other federal laws, biological resources, and baseline conditions also are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. CDFW has reviewed the Defend Ballona Wetlands input entitled "Alternative #4 – the Gentle Alternative for the Ballona Wetlands, A 20-Point Plan." Similarly, reconsideration of alternatives also is outside the scope of the REIR.
Zoey Zimmerman, M.F.A.		1/18/2024	See Draft REIR Chapter 1, *Introduction*, regarding changed conditions. See Draft REIR Chapter 3, *Hydrology and Water Quality*, regarding flood risk, sea level rise, and the water budget. CDFW acknowledges opposition to the project. Comments regarding compliance with NEPA are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. Except to the extent CDFW's disclosure and analysis of 68,000 cfs as the flood control design parameter and commitment to specified performance criteria may result in a change to the physical conditions evaluated in the 2020 Final EIR, comments about compliance with other federal laws, biological resources, and baseline conditions also are outside the scope of the court's direction on remand. CDFW has reviewed the Defend Ballona Wetlands input entitled "Alternative #4 – the Gentle Alternative for the Ballona Wetlands, A 20-Point Plan." Similarly, reconsideration of alternatives also is outside the scope of the REIR.

Exhibit A

Notices

DocuSign Envelope ID: 6B118EE9-5BE6-47D2-A60D-2C30A4F826FC

Notice of Completion & Environmental Document Transmittal

Mail to: State Clearinghouse, P.O. Box 3044, Sacramento, CA 95812-3044 (916) 445-0613
For Hand Delivery/Street Address: 1400 Tenth Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

SCH # 2012071090

Project Title: Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project

Lead Agency: California Dept of Fish and Wildlife | Contact Person: Richard C. Brody

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1653 | Phone: (310) 455-3243

City: Topanga | Zip: 90290 | County: Los Angeles

Project Location: County: Los Angeles | City/Nearest Community: Marina del Rey

Cross Streets: Hwy 1 & Fiji Way | Zip Code: 90292

Longitude/Latitude (degrees, minutes and seconds): 33 ° 58 ′ 33.82 ″ N / 118 ° 26 ′ 20.20 ″ W Total Acres: 600

Assessor's Parcel No.: | Section: | Twp.: | Range: | Base:

Within 2 Miles: State Hwy #: 1 & 90 | Waterways: Ballona Creek, Santa Monica Bay

Airports: Los Angeles Int'l | Railways: | Schools: Multiple

Document Type:

CEQA: ☒ NOP ☐ Early Cons ☐ Neg Dec ☐ Mit Neg Dec ☐ Draft EIR ☐ Supplement/Subsequent EIR (Prior SCH No.) ☐ Other:

NEPA: ☐ NOI ☐ EA ☐ Draft EIS ☐ FONSI

Other: ☐ Joint Document ☐ Final Document ☐ Other:

Local Action Type:

☐ General Plan Update ☐ General Plan Amendment ☐ General Plan Element ☐ Community Plan
☐ Specific Plan ☐ Master Plan ☐ Planned Unit Development ☐ Site Plan
☐ Rezone ☐ Prezone ☐ Use Permit ☐ Land Division (Subdivision, etc.)
☐ Annexation ☐ Redevelopment ☒ Coastal Permit ☒ Other: Restoration

Development Type:

☐ Residential: Units Acres
☐ Office: Sq.ft. Acres Employees
☐ Commercial: Sq.ft. Acres Employees
☐ Industrial: Sq.ft. Acres Employees
☐ Educational:
☐ Recreational:
☐ Water Facilities: Type MGD
☐ Transportation: Type
☐ Mining: Mineral
☐ Power: Type MW
☐ Waste Treatment: Type MGD
☐ Hazardous Waste: Type
☒ Other: Wetland restoration

Project Issues Discussed in Document:

☐ Aesthetic/Visual ☐ Agricultural Land ☐ Air Quality ☐ Archeological/Historical ☐ Biological Resources ☐ Coastal Zone ☐ Drainage/Absorption ☐ Economic/Jobs
☐ Fiscal ☒ Flood Plain/Flooding ☐ Forest Land/Fire Hazard ☐ Geologic/Seismic ☐ Minerals ☐ Noise ☐ Population/Housing Balance ☐ Public Services/Facilities
☐ Recreation/Parks ☐ Schools/Universities ☐ Septic Systems ☐ Sewer Capacity ☐ Soil Erosion/Compaction/Grading ☐ Solid Waste ☐ Toxic/Hazardous ☐ Traffic/Circulation
☐ Vegetation ☐ Water Quality ☐ Water Supply/Groundwater ☐ Wetland/Riparian ☐ Growth Inducement ☐ Land Use ☐ Cumulative Effects ☒ Other: Issues identified by LA County Sup. Ct

Present Land Use/Zoning/General Plan Designation:

Ecological reserve

Project Description: *(please use a separate page if necessary)*

The Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve is located in Southern California, south of Marina del Rey and east of Playa del Rey. It extends roughly from the Marina Freeway (State Route 90) to the east, the Westchester bluffs to the south, Playa del Rey to the west, and Fiji Way to the north. The project site is held by the State of California (by CDFW and the State Lands Commission). The site is bisected by and includes a channelized span of Ballona Creek. The Los Angeles County Department of Public Works–Flood Control District (collectively, LACFCD) owns and operates the Ballona Creek channel and levee system, which are features of the Los Angeles County Drainage Area (LACDA) project authorized by Congress in 1990. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, in cooperation with the LACFCD, constructed the Ballona Creek channel and levees within the Ballona Reserve as part of the LACDA project. Seeking to restore degraded wetland habitat and functions within the Ballona Reserve, CDFW is proposing a large-scale effort to restore, enhance, and establish native coastal wetland and upland habitats on approximately 566 acres within the Ballona Reserve; these efforts would require incidental work on adjacent property.

Note: The State Clearinghouse will assign identification numbers for all new projects. If a SCH number already exists for a project (e.g. Notice of Preparation or previous draft document) please fill in.

DocuSign Envelope ID: 6B118EE9-5BE6-47D2-A60D-2C30A4F826FC

Reviewing Agencies Checklist

Lead Agencies may recommend State Clearinghouse distribution by marking agencies below with and "**X**".
If you have already sent your document to the agency please denote that with an "**S**".

____	Air Resources Board	____	Office of Historic Preservation
____	Boating & Waterways, Department of	____	Office of Public School Construction
____	California Emergency Management Agency	____	Parks & Recreation, Department of
____	California Highway Patrol	____	Pesticide Regulation, Department of
S	Caltrans District # 7	____	Public Utilities Commission
____	Caltrans Division of Aeronautics	S	Regional WQCB # 4
____	Caltrans Planning	S	Resources Agency
____	Central Valley Flood Protection Board	____	Resources Recycling and Recovery, Department of
____	Coachella Valley Mtns. Conservancy	____	S.F. Bay Conservation & Development Comm.
S	Coastal Commission	S	San Gabriel & Lower L.A. Rivers & Mtns. Conservancy
____	Colorado River Board	____	San Joaquin River Conservancy
____	Conservation, Department of	S	Santa Monica Mtns. Conservancy
____	Corrections, Department of	S	State Lands Commission
____	Delta Protection Commission	____	SWRCB: Clean Water Grants
____	Education, Department of	____	SWRCB: Water Quality
____	Energy Commission	____	SWRCB: Water Rights
____	Fish & Game Region # ____	____	Tahoe Regional Planning Agency
____	Food & Agriculture, Department of	____	Toxic Substances Control, Department of
____	Forestry and Fire Protection, Department of	____	Water Resources, Department of
____	General Services, Department of		
____	Health Services, Department of	____	Other: ____
____	Housing & Community Development	____	Other: ____
X	Native American Heritage Commission		

Local Public Review Period (to be filled in by lead agency)

Starting Date October 25, 2023 Ending Date November 27, 2023

Lead Agency (Complete if applicable):

Consulting Firm: Environmental Science Associates
Address: 575 Market Street, Suite 3700
City/State/Zip: San Francisco, CA 94105
Contact: J Scott
Phone: (415) 896-5900

Applicant: CDFW South Coast Region (Region 5)
Address: 3883 Ruffin Road
City/State/Zip: San Diego, CA 92123
Phone: (858) 467-4201

Signature of Lead Agency Representative: DocuSigned by: B6E58CFE24724F5... **Date:** 10/24/23

Erinn Wilson-Olgin, Regional Manager

Authority cited: Section 21083, Public Resources Code. Reference: Section 21161, Public Resources Code.

DocuSign Envelope ID: A7180527-59C8-4EAD-8A2E-26ECAF4D942D

NOTICE OF PREPARATION
REVISED ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

October 24, 2023

TO: Interested Agencies and Parties List

FROM: Richard C. Brody, Land Manager, Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve

SUBJECT: Notice of Preparation of a Revised Environmental Impact Report for the Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) hereby notifies interested agencies and parties of its intent to prepare a revised environmental impact report (REIR) for the Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project (State Clearinghouse No. 2012071090) that responds to the peremptory writs of mandate issued by the Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, in the following related cases: *Ballona Wetlands Land Trust v. California Department of Fish and Wildlife*, Case No. 21STCP00242; *Defend Ballona Wetlands et al. v. California Department of Fish and Wildlife*, Case No. 21STCP00240; *Grassroots Coalition, et al. v. California Department of Fish and Wildlife*, Case No. 21STCV03657; and *Protect Ballona Wetlands v. California Department of Fish and Wildlife*, Case No. 21STCP00237. In its May 17, 2023, decision, the court considered several issues raised in the lawsuits against the Final EIR that CDFW had prepared pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the regulations implementing CEQA (the CEQA Guidelines) and had certified for the project on December 30, 2020 (the 2020 Final EIR). The court determined the 2020 Final EIR inadequate based on the two issues noted below, in all other respects the court upheld the 2020 Final EIR.

CEQA Guidelines Section 15234(d) defines the scope of what a Lead Agency must consider in the event of a remand. Consistent with Section 15234(d), the scope of the REIR will be limited by the principles of *res judicata* and will not expand the scope of analysis on remand beyond the specific issues identified in the court's decision. All other portions of the 2020 Final EIR, as affirmed by the court, remain valid and are outside the focus of the REIR.

The two issues to be addressed in the REIR are:

1. Disclosure and analysis of 68,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) as the "flood control design parameter," and

2. Commitment of CDFW to specific performance criteria to the extent they provide CDFW with authority to modify restoration goals without any supplemental environmental review.

CDFW manages and maintains primary ownership of the Ballona Reserve, with a smaller interest owned by the California State Lands Commission. Under State law, CDFW is the public agency that has principal responsibility for carrying out or approving the project, and so is the

DocuSign Envelope ID: A7180527-59C8-4EAD-8A2E-26ECAF4D942D

Lead Agency for purposes of CEQA. As the CEQA lead agency, CDFW is seeking agency and public comments on the focused scope of the REIR during a **30-day period between Wednesday, October 25, 2023, and 5 PM Monday, November 27, 2023**.

Project Location: The Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve (Ballona Reserve) is located in Southern California, south of Marina del Rey and east of Playa del Rey. It extends roughly from the Marina Freeway (State Route [SR] 90) to the east, the Westchester bluffs to the south, Playa del Rey to the west, and Fiji Way to the north. See Figure 1 and Figure 2.

Project Summary: Seeking to restore degraded wetland habitat and functions within the Ballona Reserve, CDFW is proposing a large-scale effort to restore, enhance, and establish native coastal wetland and upland habitats on approximately 566 acres within the Ballona Reserve; these efforts would require incidental work on adjacent property.

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Works–Flood Control District (collectively, LACFCD) owns and operates the Ballona Creek channel and levee system, which are features of the Los Angeles County Drainage Area (LACDA) project authorized by Congress in 1990. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), in cooperation with the LACFCD, constructed the Ballona Creek channel and levees within the Ballona Reserve as part of the LACDA project.

The LACFCD and the Corps have jurisdiction over the Ballona Creek channel and levee system within the project site. As a result, authorization from the Corps under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and Sections 10 and 14 of the Rivers and Harbors Act would be needed to carry out the Project. Corps approval also would be required to modify the Operation, Maintenance, Repair, Replacement and Rehabilitation Manual (OMRR&R) to reflect any approved changes to existing LACDA project infrastructure within the project site.

To implement the project, CDFW is working with the LACFCD to modify LACDA project features (e.g., the Ballona Creek channel and levee system) within the Ballona Reserve. The three main components of the Project are restoring wetlands and wetland functions within the Ballona Reserve; restoring and improving public access to the Ballona Reserve; and maintaining existing levels of flood risk management provided by the Ballona Creek channel and levee system.

Additional details about the project and the environmental review process are available on CDFW's website for the project: https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Regions/5/Ballona-EIR.

Potential Environmental Effects: The 2020 Final EIR concluded that the project would result in no significant and unavoidable impacts. It also concluded that, without mitigation, impacts to the following resources would have the potential to be significant: aesthetics; air quality; biological resources; cultural resources; energy conservation; geology, seismicity, and soils, hazards and hazards materials; hydrology and water quality; noise; transportation and traffic; and environmental justice.

DocuSign Envelope ID: A7180527-59C8-4EAD-8A2E-26ECAF4D942D

Agency and Public Review Period: CDFW is soliciting the views of responsible, trustee, and other interested agencies as well as from members of the public as to the scope and content of the environmental information to be included in the REIR for the project. The 30-day period to provide input as to the scope of the REIR is from **October 25, 2023 to 5 PM on November 27, 2023**. Responses are requested at the earliest possible date. Submittal of input is voluntary. Address and other details provided will be made part of the public record. Please send your written input to either of the following addresses:

By email: BWERcomments@wildlife.ca.gov

By mail: Attn: Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project
California Department of Fish & Wildlife
c/o ESA (jas)
575 Market Street, Suite 3700
San Francisco, CA 94105

Public Scoping Meeting: Consistent with the CEQA and Section 15083(c) of the CEQA Guidelines, CDFW will conduct a virtual public scoping meeting to solicit public and agency comments (oral and/or written) on the proposed scope and content of the REIR. The scoping meeting will be held online on:

Date: Tuesday, November 7, 2023

Start Time: 6:00 PM

End Time: 7:30 PM or earlier if all who wish to speak have had an opportunity to do so.

Join Meeting: https://bit.ly/ballonascopingmtg
Webinar ID: 834 5297 1153
Passcode: 091611
Telephone number: (888) 788-0099 US Toll Free

If you have any questions regarding the meeting, please contact Richard C. Brody (Richard.Brody@wildlife.ca.gov).

Date: 10/24/2023

Signature: DocuSigned by: Erinn Wilson-Olgin
B6E58CFE24724F5...

Title: Regional Manager, South Coast Region

Telephone: (858) 467-4210

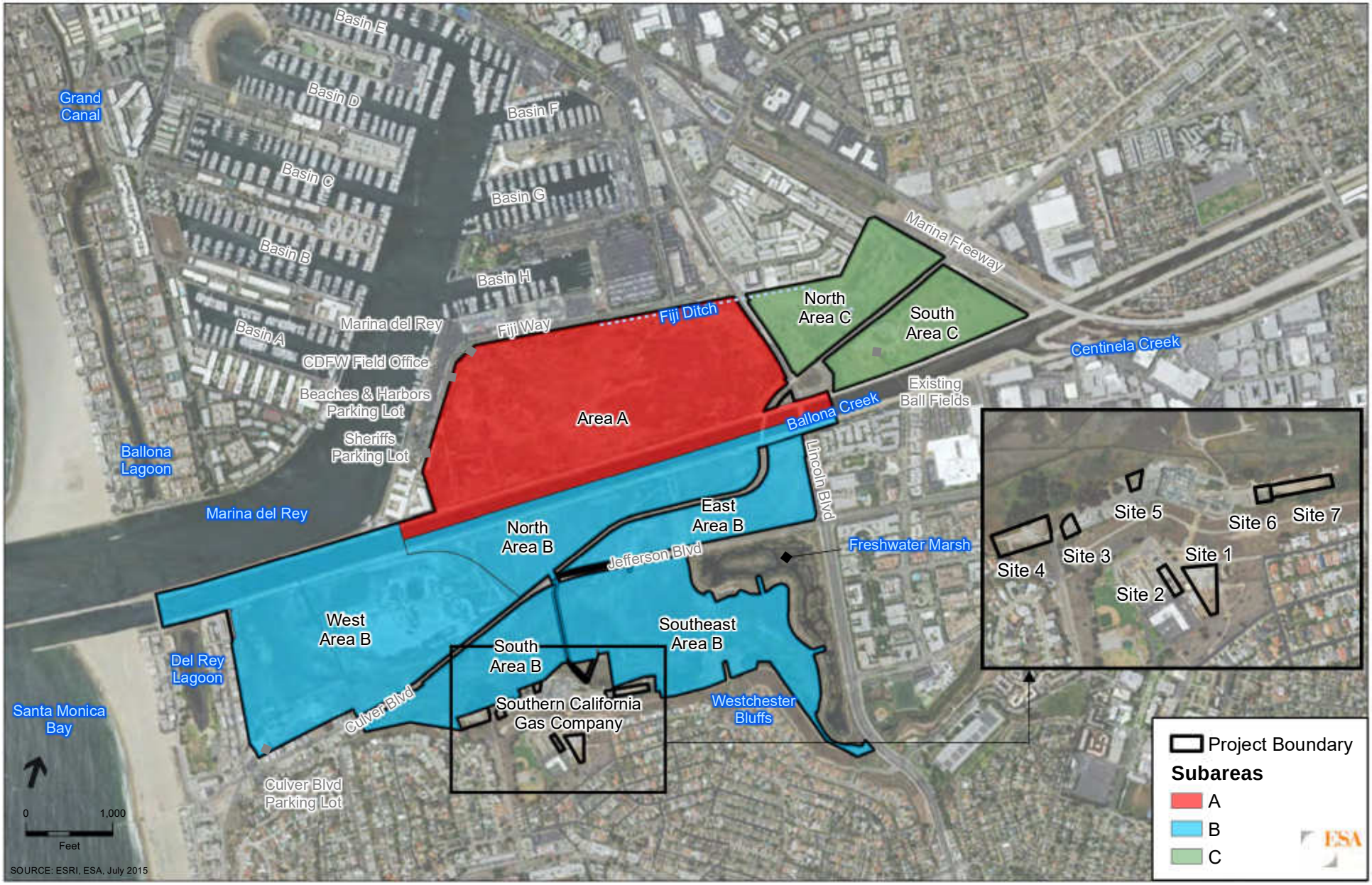
DocuSign Envelope ID: A7180527-59C8-4EAD-8A2E-26ECAF4D942D



Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project

Figure 1
Regional Location

DocuSign Envelope ID: A7180527-59C8-4EAD-8A2E-26ECAF4D942D



Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project

Figure 2
Project Site

DocuSign Envelope ID: 2637112F-7576-4CCE-9793-6EB322713674

NOTICE OF PREPARATION
REVISED ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

EXTENSION OF SCOPING PERIOD

November 21, 2023

TO: Interested Agencies and Parties List

FROM: Richard C. Brody, Land Manager, Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve

SUBJECT: Notice of Preparation of a Revised Environmental Impact Report for the Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project: Extension of Scoping Period

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) hereby notifies interested agencies and parties of its intent to prepare a revised environmental impact report (REIR) for the Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project (State Clearinghouse No. 2012071090) that responds to the peremptory writs of mandate issued by the Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, in the following related cases: *Ballona Wetlands Land Trust v. California Department of Fish and Wildlife*, Case No. 21STCP00242; *Defend Ballona Wetlands et al. v. California Department of Fish and Wildlife*, Case No. 21STCP00240; *Grassroots Coalition, et al. v. California Department of Fish and Wildlife*, Case No. 21STCV03657; and *Protect Ballona Wetlands v. California Department of Fish and Wildlife*, Case No. 21STCP00237. In its May 17, 2023, decision, the court considered several issues raised in the lawsuits against the Final EIR that CDFW had prepared pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the regulations implementing CEQA (the CEQA Guidelines) and had certified for the project on December 30, 2020 (the 2020 Final EIR). The court determined the 2020 Final EIR inadequate based on the two issues noted below, in all other respects the court upheld the 2020 Final EIR.

CEQA Guidelines Section 15234(d) defines the scope of what a Lead Agency must consider in the event of a remand. Consistent with Section 15234(d), the scope of the REIR will be limited by the principles of *res judicata* and will not expand the scope of analysis on remand beyond the specific issues identified in the court's decision. All other portions of the 2020 Final EIR, as affirmed by the court, remain valid and are outside the focus of the REIR.

The two issues to be addressed in the REIR are:

1. Disclosure and analysis of 68,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) as the "flood control design parameter," and

2. Commitment of CDFW to specific performance criteria to the extent they provide CDFW with authority to modify restoration goals without any supplemental environmental review.

CDFW manages and maintains primary ownership of the Ballona Reserve, with a smaller interest owned by the California State Lands Commission. Under State law, CDFW is the public agency that has principal responsibility for carrying out or approving the project, and so is the

DocuSign Envelope ID: 2637112F-7576-4CCE-9793-6EB322713674

Lead Agency for purposes of CEQA. As the CEQA lead agency, CDFW is seeking agency and public comments on the focused scope of the REIR during the **86-day period between Wednesday, October 25, 2023, and 5 PM Friday, January 19, 2024**.

Project Location: The Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve (Ballona Reserve) is located in Southern California, south of Marina del Rey and east of Playa del Rey. It extends roughly from the Marina Freeway (State Route [SR] 90) to the east, the Westchester bluffs to the south, Playa del Rey to the west, and Fiji Way to the north. See Figure 1 and Figure 2.

Project Summary: Seeking to restore degraded wetland habitat and functions within the Ballona Reserve, CDFW is proposing a large-scale effort to restore, enhance, and establish native coastal wetland and upland habitats on approximately 566 acres within the Ballona Reserve; these efforts would require incidental work on adjacent property.

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Works–Flood Control District (collectively, LACFCD) owns and operates the Ballona Creek channel and levee system, which are features of the Los Angeles County Drainage Area (LACDA) project authorized by Congress in 1990. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), in cooperation with the LACFCD, constructed the Ballona Creek channel and levees within the Ballona Reserve as part of the LACDA project.

The LACFCD and the Corps have jurisdiction over the Ballona Creek channel and levee system within the project site. As a result, authorization from the Corps under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and Sections 10 and 14 of the Rivers and Harbors Act would be needed to carry out the Project. Corps approval also would be required to modify the Operation, Maintenance, Repair, Replacement and Rehabilitation Manual (OMRR&R) to reflect any approved changes to existing LACDA project infrastructure within the project site.

To implement the project, CDFW is working with the LACFCD to modify LACDA project features (e.g., the Ballona Creek channel and levee system) within the Ballona Reserve. The three main components of the Project are restoring wetlands and wetland functions within the Ballona Reserve; restoring and improving public access to the Ballona Reserve; and maintaining existing levels of flood risk management provided by the Ballona Creek channel and levee system.

Additional details about the project and the environmental review process are available on CDFW's website for the project: https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Regions/5/Ballona-EIR.

Potential Environmental Effects: The 2020 Final EIR concluded that the project would result in no significant and unavoidable impacts. It also concluded that, without mitigation, impacts to the following resources would have the potential to be significant: aesthetics; air quality; biological resources; cultural resources; energy conservation; geology, seismicity, and soils, hazards and hazards materials; hydrology and water quality; noise; transportation and traffic; and environmental justice.

DocuSign Envelope ID: 2637112F-7576-4CCE-9793-6EB322713674

Agency and Public Review Period: CDFW is soliciting the views of responsible, trustee, and other interested agencies as well as from members of the public as to the scope and content of the environmental information to be included in the REIR for the project. The 86-day period to provide input as to the scope of the REIR is from **October 25, 2023 to 5 PM on January 19, 2024**. Responses are requested at the earliest possible date. Submittal of input is voluntary. Address and other details provided will be made part of the public record. Please send your written input to either of the following addresses:

By email: BWERcomments@wildlife.ca.gov

By mail: Attn: Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project
California Department of Fish & Wildlife
c/o ESA (jas)
575 Market Street, Suite 3700
San Francisco, CA 94105

Public Scoping Meeting: Consistent with the CEQA and Section 15083(c) of the CEQA Guidelines, CDFW conducted a virtual public scoping meeting to solicit public and agency comments (oral and/or written) on the proposed scope and content of the REIR. The scoping meeting was held online on:

Date: Tuesday, November 7, 2023

Start Time: 6:00 PM

End Time: 7:30 PM

Join Meeting: https://bit.ly/ballonascopingmtg
Webinar ID: 834 5297 1153
Passcode: 091611
Telephone number: (888) 788-0099 US Toll Free

If you have any questions regarding the meeting, please contact Richard C. Brody (Richard.Brody@wildlife.ca.gov).

Date: 11/22/2023

Signature: DocuSigned by: B8E58CFE24724F5...

Title: Erinn Wilson-Olgin, Regional Manager

Telephone: 858-467-4210

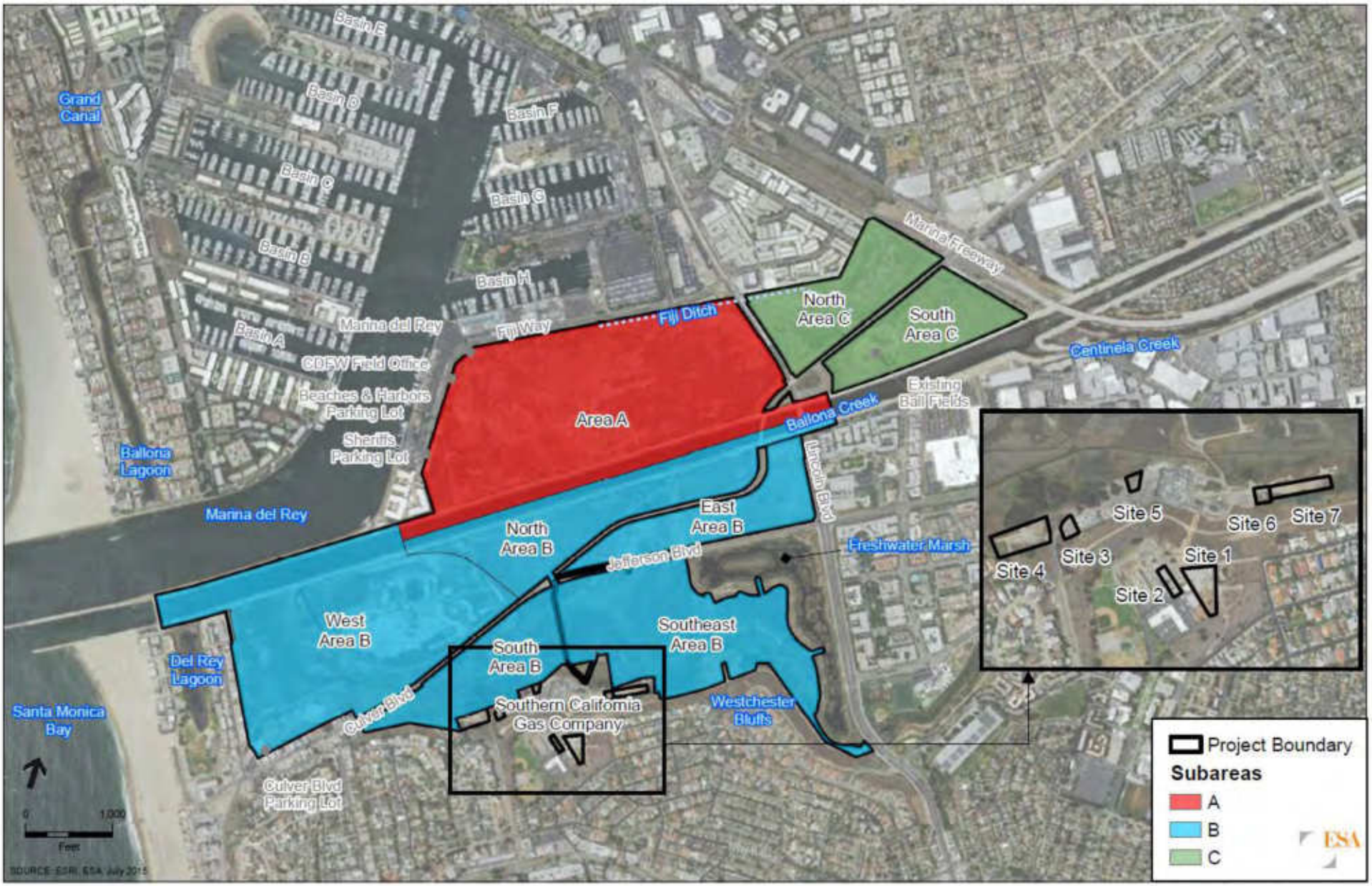
DocuSign Envelope ID: 2637112F-7576-4CCE-9793-6EB322713674



Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project

Figure 1
Regional Location

DocuSign Envelope ID: 2637112F-7576-4CCE-9793-6EB322713674



Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project

Figure 2
Project Site

Exhibit B

Scoping Meeting Presentation and Transcript

Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project Revised EIR

Public Scoping Meeting | Tuesday, November 7, 2023

agenda

ROLES

PURPOSE OF THIS MEETING

PROJECT OVERVIEW

CEQA PROCESS TIMELINE

PUBLIC INPUT

roles

California Department of Fish & Wildlife

- CEQA Lead Agency

Environmental Science Associates

- Environmental consultant to CDFW

Tribes

Responsible and Trustee Agencies

Members of the Public



purpose of the meeting

For us to hear from you about the
scope and content of the proposed revised EIR.
Your input is invited.

project overview

Seeking to restore degraded wetland habitat and functions within the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve, CDFW has proposed a large-scale effort to restore, enhance, and establish native coastal wetland and upland habitats on approximately 566 acres within the Ballona Reserve. These efforts would require incidental work on adjacent property.



project site

The Ballona Reserve is located in Southern California, south of Marina del Rey and east of Playa del Rey. It extends roughly from the Marina Freeway (SR 90) to the east, the Westchester bluffs to the south, Playa del Rey to the west, and Fiji Way to the north.

CDFW manages and maintains primary ownership of the Ballona Reserve, with a smaller interest owned by the California State Lands Commission.

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Works– Flood Control District owns and operates the Ballona Creek channel and levee system that bisects the Ballona Reserve.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, in cooperation with the County, constructed the Ballona Creek channel and levees within the Ballona Reserve and has continuing permitting authority over these features.



timeline

2003 - 2014
land purchase with
intent to restore &
pre-CEQA data gathering

2014 - 2020
CEQA Scoping
Draft EIS/EIR
EIR certification

MAY 2023
superior court decision

OCT. – NOV. 2023
scoping for Revised EIR

2024
Revised EIR process

direction from the court, next steps

MAY 2023 DECISION

* upheld the 2020 EIR on all but two issues
* voided the project approval
* suspended project activities that affect the environment pending compliance with CEQA
* ordered CDFW to take specific action to bring the EIR into compliance with CEQA

NEXT STEPS

CEQA Guidelines §15234(d): "As to those portions of an environmental document that a court finds to comply with CEQA, additional environmental review shall only be required by the court consistent with principles of *res judicata*. In general, the agency need not expand the scope of analysis on remand beyond that specified by the court."

two specific areas of focus

1. FLOOD CONTROL DESIGN PARAMETERS
   - Disclose and analyze 68,000 cubic feet per second as the "flood control design parameter"
2. PERFORMANCE CRITERIA
   - Commit CDFW to specific performance criteria to the extent they provide CDFW with authority to modify restoration goals without any supplemental environmental review

public participation opportunities

1. Participate during today's meeting.
2. Submit written scoping input before 5 p.m. November 27, 2023
3. Keep an eye on the project website: https://wildlife.ca.gov/Regions/5/Ballona-EIR
4. Provide comments on the Revised Draft EIR when it is issued (release date to be determined)

participating in scoping

Via the Zoom platform during this meeting:
- click the Raise Hand icon to be called on
- submit comment in Q&A box

By telephone during this meeting:
- dial *9 to request to speak

By email: BWERcomments@wildlife.ca.gov

By mail:

Attn: Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project
California Department of Fish & Wildlife
c/o ESA (jas)
575 Market Street, Suite 3700
San Francisco, CA 94105



thank you

CDFW

BWERcomments@wildlife.ca.gov

https://wildlife.ca.gov/Regions/5/Ballona-EIR

Transcript
Public Scoping Meeting
Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project Revised EIR
November 7, 2023

Brody | CDFW: Greetings. Everyone who's joined us thus far. We're going to give it a couple minutes to let other attendees get in place.

Janna Scott | ESA: Shall we begin.

Brody | CDFW: Yes, I was going to say the same thing.

Janna Scott | ESA: maybe feel free to begin at your convenience then, Brody, thank you.

Brody | CDFW: Well, good evening everyone taking time out of their evening to join us. My name is Richard Brody. I'm with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the land manager of the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve and a part of the Wetland Restoration Project team.

Also joining the panel this evening from the department is Rich Burg, Environmental Program Manager, and also part of the Restoration Project team.

Thank you for participating in this evening's public scoping meeting for the Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project Revised EIR.

This meeting is being recorded, so the information presented will be available to those who are not able to join this evening and so that we will have an accurate record of any comments received during this meeting.

California Department of Fish and Wildlife is preparing a revised environmental impact report for the Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project that responds to a decision of the Los Angeles County Superior Court that was issued earlier this year - a decision that resolves litigation about the Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project EIR that CDFW certified in December 2020 pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act, also known as CEQA, and the regulations implementing CEQA, which are called the CEQA guidelines.

With the exception of 2 issues, the court upheld the validity of the final EIR. Regarding the 2 issues, the court ordered CDFW to prepare a revised EIR that addresses them.

We are here this evening to invite your input on the scope and content of the revised EIR, that, consistent with the direction of the court, will focus on these 2 issues. More about them in a moment. Next slide, please.

Is this the next slide? Okay.

Over the next 10 to 12 minutes or so, we'd like to go over roles, and the purpose of this meeting, providing an overview of the project and the

CEQA timeline to date and then get to the heart of the meeting: Our request for your input as to the limited scope and content of the proposed revised EIR.

Any comment made in this meeting, including written comments, will be part of the public record. Next slide, please.

CDFW is the lead agency for the revised EIR because it is the public agency that has the principal responsibility for approving and carrying out the Wetland Restoration project.

ESA is an environmental consultant to CDFW.

Focused outreach to the California American, the California native American tribes, with ancestral lineage in and around the Ballona wetlands, has been in progress since May 2022. And as a result of these outreach efforts, engagement with numerous tribes and tribal communities that have historical and cultural affinity for the site will continue throughout the revised EIR process.

Responsible agencies: Under CEQA, public agencies other than the lead agency that have discretionary approval authority over the project are called responsible agencies. For this project, responsible agencies include but are not limited to the State Water Resource Control Board, California Coastal Commission and South Coast Air Quality Management District.

Trustee agencies also under CEQA. State agencies that have jurisdiction by law over natural resources affected by the project that are held in trust for the people of the State of California are trustee agencies for this project. The California State Lands Commission is a trustee agency.

Last, and certainly not least, members of the public are important contributors to the CEQA process.

Next slide please.

CDFW manages and maintains primary ownership of the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve with a smaller interest owned by the California State Lands Commission as a CEQA lead Agency, CDFW is seeking agency and public input on the focus scope of the Revised EIR, during a 30 day period between October 25 and 5 Pm. November 27 2023.

As part of the scoping process, the purpose of this meeting is for us to hear from you. Your questions and input about the limited scope and content of the revised EIR are welcome and invited.

Following the close of the scoping process, CDFW will consider the input received and prepare the revised EIR in light of that input.

We will not be responding to comments or questions this evening.

And now we'll pass it over to Janna Scott from Environmental Science Associates to provide a project overview purpose of the Revised EIR timeline and opportunities for comment.

Thank you. Next slide, please.

You're muted.

Janna Scott | ESA: Thank you.

Seeking to restore degraded wetland habitat and functions within the Ballona Wetlands ecological Reserve, . CDFW has proposed a large scale effort to restore, enhance, and establish native coastal wetland and upland habitats on approximately 566 acres within the Ballona reserve. These efforts would require incidental work on adjacent property.

The Ballona Reserve is located in Southern California, south of Marina del Rey, east of Playa del Rey. It extends roughly from the Marina Freeway to the east, the Winchester Bluffs to the south, Playa del Rey to the west, and Fiji way to the north.

CDFW manages and maintains primary ownership of the Ballona Reserve with a smaller interest owned by the California State Lands Commission. The Los Angeles County Department of Public Works Flood Control district owns and operates the Ballona Creek Channel and levee system that bisects the Ballona Reserve. The US. Army Corps of Engineers in cooperation with the County, constructed the Ballona Creek Channel and levees within the Ballona Reserve, and has continuing permitting authority over these features.

This slide shows the timeline progression from initiation of the project concept in 2003, through the 2020 EIR process, litigation, and the current scoping process for the Revised EIR. We anticipate publication of a revised draft EIR, in 2024 and a final EIR thereafter.

The Superior Court's May 2023 decision did 4 things, including order CDFW to take specific action to correct the EIR for compliance with CEQA. CEQA Guidelines Section 15234 directs what happens next in situations like this. Subsection d) says as to those portions of an environmental document that a court finds to comply with CEQA, additional environmental review shall only be required by the court consistent with the principles of res judicata. In general, the agency need not expand the scope of analysis on remand beyond that specified by the court.

Res judicata is Latin. It means the thing has been decided, or the court has resolved the matter, and that it's not subject to continuing litigation. Consistent with CEQA guidelines section 15234, the scope of the revised EIR will be limited by the principles of res judicata and will not address anything other than the 2 specific issues identified by the court for additional attention.

All other portions of the 2020 EIR, as affirmed by the court, remain valid and are outside the focus of the Revised EIR .

The 2 issues to be addressed in the Revised EIR are flood control, design parameters and performance criteria. More specifically, the revised EIR will disclose and analyze, analyze 68,000 cubic feet per second as the flood control design parameter and will commit CDFW to specific performance criteria to the extent they provide CDFW with authority to modify restoration goals without supplemental environmental review.

There are several opportunities to participate in this CEQA Process. You can participate during today's meeting. You can submit written scoping input before 5 PM on November 27. You can keep an eye on the project website, and you can provide comments on the revised draft, EIR, once it's issued.

To participate specifically in this evening's scoping meeting, you can raise your hand to speak, using the icon on the Zoom platform, you can provide written input in the Q&A box, or you can send an email to the address shown here. Written comments are encouraged. At this point, I'd like to turn it over to Stephen, who will be facilitating receipt of oral comments.

Before I do, however, a quick reminder: The purpose of this evening's meeting is for us to receive your input. We will not be providing responses to comments or questions this evening, but instead will consider the input that you provide.

Thank you. Steven?

Steven Johnson | ESA: Alright. Thanks, Janna . Now we're moving into the comment portion of the meeting today. I kind of want to reiterate how to participate.

If you would like to speak, please use the raise hand, icon, which can be found at the bottom of your zoom window. If you're joining by phone, you can raise your hand by pressing Star 9. We will call on and unmute people in the order that we receive requests.

Written input can be provided at any time during the meeting by using the Q&A box. If you would like your name to be associated with input provided in the Q&A box, please include your name before and report. Excuse me before pressing send or enter.

Input provided in the Q&A box will be directed to our Zoom Meeting facilitator, and will be provided to preparers of the revised EIR in the form of a list. Although this input will not be visible to participants during the meeting, it will be available to the public as part of a scoping report that will be prepared after the scoping period closes, and that will be included as an appendix to the Revised EIR.

Following the meeting you could submit written scoping, written, scoping input by email or by directing it to the address shown in the notice that included the details of this evening's meeting.

The addresses are also included in the notice of preparation that is available from the State Clearinghouse and at the LA County clerk's office, and on the project website.

Many of you may also have received the NOP in the mail because you were on the distribution list for the 2020 EIR.

And so with that we will start the comment portion with our first hand raised.

And it looks like we have somebody dialing in by phone. The last 3 digits are 916. If you're dialing in by phone, to unmute, you can press Star 6, and you should be able to unmute now.

Yes.

Michael Fujimori: Yeah. Hello. Can you hear me?

Steven | ESA: Yes, we can.

Michael Fujimori: Okay, thank you. My name is Michael Fujimori. I'm vehemently opposed to the plans by this agency to scope parts of the Bio wetlands which would destroy native habitat and wildlife. It is vitally important for the last coastal wetlands in Los Angeles to remain a safe haven for the over 1,700 species of wildlife that have been there for centuries and not to be tampered with. Instead, I'm urging that the 20 points cancel restoration plans be implemented instead, which has improved and update conditions at the wetlands without harming any of the wildlife that is there now. It is a well thought up plan which would ensure that the Wetlands will be here for future generations to appreciate. The plan is outlined in detail at defendballonawetlands.org. Please take the time to read it. It's in the best interest for everyone involved. Thank you so much.

Steven | ESA: Thank you for your comment.

The next person we have is also by phone. With the last 3 digits 981, It's your turn to provide your comment.

Dora Fahim: Hi! Can you hear me?

Steven | ESA: we can.

Dora Fahim: Hello, okay, excellent. My name is Dora Fahim, founder and president of Los Angeles Alliance for animals. The Ballona Wetlands Ecologic Reserve is relied on by at least 7 species that are so imperiled that they are either on the State or Federal endangered species list. There are also dozens of species on the California list of species of special concern. Bulldozing and demolishing habitat, home shelter, and nesting sites and food sources for these species would contribute to the extinction that are happening all over the planet, here in California. We know better. CDFW is the main promoter of the scam restoration that would bulldoze the last remaining habitat for up to 1 million animals from 1,700 species, including threatened and endangered species. So we say,

enough with this fake restoration that is a mass killing of wildlife for absolutely no reason except it would help the gas company with their underground storage facility deep beneath the wetlands. They want to dig it up to upgrade the piping. That's the real reason. So we urge you to move forward with compassion and stop this extinction of wildlife. Thank you for your time.

Steven | ESA: Thank you for your comment.

The next person we have is Ariana. Please provide your comment.

Ariana: Hi, can you hear me?

Okay, great I'm also calling in to oppose bulldozing the Ballona wetlands, and somebody else had already mentioned that there is a more gentle way. A 20 point plan at defendBallonawetlands.org. This is super dangerous, of course, for the animals and for the wildlife, which is most important in my opinion, but also there is an aging gas storage facility that's almost 80 years old, and a life expectancy is 50 years old. So that's about 30 years over so super dangerous. If we're bulldozing and shaking the ground. And all of this, it's it's a huge risk for a gas leak. So I just urge you guys to reconsider and choose kindness. Thank you.

Steven | ESA: Thank you for your comment.

The next person we have is Jane.

Jane Velez-Mitchell: Hello! Can you hear me?

All right. Well to say, the judge agreed with all but 2 of the issues is kind of like saying other than that, Mrs. Lincoln, how was the play? Okay, this ruling. 67. Page. Thoughtful ruling was a complete repudiation of your plan. And this is not a revised EIR this EIR was thrown out by the judge, as the Los Angeles Times reported. It brought this phony restoration to a screeching halt. Now you talk about. Oh, you've gotta deal with the flood control problems, the errors that you made. Well, you always knew there were errors. That's why the US Army Corps of Engineers failed to rubber stamp this misguided plan, but apparently you only really started to care when the judge threw out this plan and said, Hey, you've got the potential here of flooding people who live in the area, including me. So to me, that shows you really don't care. You don't care about the animals. You don't care about the people who live nearby. What do you care about? What is your real motivation? Could it be that the fossil fuel industry has a big problem with their giant underground gas storage facility that is crumbling. and they need the bulldozers to get in there and dig up those pipes so they don't have another Aliso Canyon style blowout. But the answer is to shut down that gas facility which is something the Los Angeles City Council actually recommended. Why are you fighting so hard to represent the interests of the fossil fuel industry when people around here have been begging, begging you with news conferences and protests, to dropkick this awful plan that would wipe out up to a million animals, from little insects and and butterflies, to egrets and cormorants and foxes. You're the California Department of Fish

and Wildlife. You're supposed to care about animals, not want to exterminate them. We are begging you, and please don't hide behind the bipoc community, which has held news conferences, saying, Don't do this and claim you're doing this in our name. Don't hide behind the indigenous community that is vehemently opposed to you bulldozing their sacred land. Greenwashing is now a concept that is understood by the public. Maybe when you first created this, we didn't know about greenwashing, but we know now this is the worst example of greenwashing I've ever seen. It will be taught in schools something not to do. Thank you.

Steven | ESA: thank you for your comment.

Looks like the next person is Andrea or Andrea.

Andrea Leon-Grossmann she/her/ella - Vote Solar: Hi, yeah, Andrea Leon Grossman, a resident of West LA. Can you hear me?

Steven | ESA: I can. Yes, go ahead and provide your comment.

Andrea Leon-Grossmann: Yes, I am strongly opposed to the current bulldozing fake restoration. Any scoping plan must include Federal Law review and also include endangered species, cultural, indigenous concerns. And also that means that you need consultation and consent from other local tribes and proper flood risk plus sea level rise concerns. We also need transparency. The scoping plan must include details about SoCal gas operations and how it relates to this plan. The risk is not just for gas leaks, but a gas blowout. There's 34 wells that can explode like Aliso Canyon. SoCal Gas calls it an upgrade, but what it really is, is an expansion of what to potentially include hydrogen and or ammonia is stored at this place. As a Mexican immigrant, I'm very very concerned about this plan. A lot of these emissions will be blowing into bipoc communities into Inglewood and other South LA locations. A lot of these excavations and emissions will blow into those communities, and I think we've had enough when it comes to sacrifice zone. So I am urging you to reject this plan and go back to the drawing board. Thank you.

Steven | ESA: Thank you for your comment.

Next up we have Walter Lamb.

Walter Lamb: Good evening. Thank you for the opportunity to speak. Walter Lamb, representing the Ballona Land Trust. We're going to submit detailed scoping comments. I think the most relevant point I guess, to make tonight is that you're kicking off this new process, you know, having been, you know, received a negative ruling from the judge, from a court trial court. And it looks to us like you're making some of the same mistakes. And I don't think you know, regardless of people who like the project, or don't like the project. Nobody should be nobody should want for this whole process to go to give me another 3 million dollars on top of the 12 plus million that's already gone into the planning process since 2004, and get all the way to the end of it, and then have the judge say, well, you you were too narrow, and you discouraged scoping comments based on res judicata. So res Judicata doesn't cover new circumstances, new facts. And there's going to be a lot of new stuff. We've already seen

a lot of new documents, right design of sequences, one and 2. The whole concept of sequences 1 and 2, which was not litigated because it that didn't come out till after the last EIR was certified. I think there's piecemealing issues. There's pre approval issues. Let's stress test what you think you're doing because it looks like you're gonna spend another 3 million dollars, another 2 to 3 years, and wind up in the exact same spot, which is a legally and ecologically deficient EIR. So let's not do that. Thanks very much.

Steven | ESA: Thank you for your comment.

Up next we have Lisa Levinson.

Lisa Levinson: Hi, there! Thank you so much. Can you hear me?

Steven | ESA: I can.

Lisa Levinson: Wonderful. So I'm the campaign's director for In Defense of Animals, which is an international animal protection nonprofit, with 250,000 supporters worldwide, and 25,000 in California. Over a thousand of them just sent letters urging the Wildlife Conservation Board to defer or deny approval of nearly 3 million. To proceed with the industrial habitat alteration of Ballona wetlands which would kill thousands of animals who rely or reside on this habitat as part of the environmental review, please complete a new baseline survey of all wildlife since the last surveys are more than a decade old. Currently members of 8 endangered species and members of more than 20 species on California's special concern list rely on habitat at Ballona Wetlands. Some of the Federal endangered species include California least tern, coastal California gnat catcher, and the El Segundo blue butterfly. And the California endangered species include Belding’s Savannah sparrow. Least Bell’s vireo, the light and the light footed Ridgeway's rail. Also please provide a comprehensive assessment of what species and habitats for those species will be harmed by the removal of the Ballona Creek estuary levees which relate to the front flood risk issues. The court referred to in its judgment this past summer. Thank you for listening.

Steven | ESA: Thank you for your comment.

Up next we have Beth Holden Garland.

Beth Holden-Garland: Hi, and thank you for everyone being here tonight. I've been following this for a number of years. We've lived in Marina del Rey and the area. And I've watched. You know wildlife flourish there. knowing that there's a lot of endangered species there, a lot of, you know, bird life and migratory birds that go there as well as you know. Yeah. Endangered species species like the El Segundo blue. But having some Indian ancestry in my background, and my my my on my father's side of the family. I've always been sensitive to the tongue of the tribe there, and I know counsel. You know the congresswoman, Maxine Waters said. There's, you know, there's people buried out there. There was an LA Times article in 2004 about how many bodies were uncovered during the Playa Vista excavation and you know I don't think there's any sensitivity to what they, their plans are to dig potentially more bodies out of that

area. And not only is it, you know, desecrating nature and wildlife? It's thriving there. But history. And when I read this article they said, the remains of artifacts. Weren't, you know, a part of the Playa Vista thing. But the removal of skeleton remains were very key, and a lot of people quit during that excavation thing to dig a cemetery out is not right to do, because those people were put at rest, and they should be left at rest. So I just wanted you to be mindful of that element of this of this project and undergoing it. It's just not right. Period. Thank you.

Steven | ESA: Thank you for your comment.

Up next we have Ellen Dent. Ellen, please provide your comment.

Ellen Dent- Plant Based Treaty: Hi, my name's Ellen Dent. Like you said, and I am a bipoc member, the Bipoc community. I am a mother of a daughter that has been to by on a wetland several times, and we love it just the way it is with all of it's 1,700 different species there untouched nature. For her to be able to see, and that's what I would like her to see in the future. I mean, we already have Disneyland. She doesn't need some other place that is bulldozed and destroyed. We need to. We. We need to conserve nature for our children to be able to grow up and see how beautiful it is on its own. So I am recommending the gentle restoration project that doesn't kill a million animals there that my daughter could enjoy seeing their descendants as she grows. So that's my comment. Please do not bulldoze Ballona Wetlands. Bulldozing Ballona Wetlands is a fake restoration project. Thank you.

Steven | ESA: Thank you for your comment.

Up next we have an email address. The first portion of it is coming.

You should be unmuted. We're not able to hear you. I'm not sure if it's a technical issue.

Suzanne Cumming: Hello! Hello! Can you hear me?

Steven | ESA: We can.

Suzanne Cumming: Can you hear me? Okay, yes, I can hear you. I've always heard you. Thanks. My name is Suzanne Cumming. I'm a lawyer, and I'm a member of Defend Bayona Wetlands. Thanks for giving making sure that I that I can speak today. That's kind of you. And thanks for the opportunity to especially to speak to you today, because you are charged with the protection of our California and federal endangered species and all the wildlife that is so special to the state you and everyone involved need to find out what species of birds and animals live in the Ballona wetlands. Now. This is not a res judicata issue, because this has changed circumstances. It's so important to do a new baseline survey. The last one was over 10 years ago. Isn't this part of your charge to find out the species that are living there now before anything is done. To this wetland. There are documented at least 5 species that are on the Federal endangered species list. Other speakers have listed them. I just urge you to do a new baseline survey, to find out exactly the animals and the birds and all the wildlife that lives there. Now, thank you so much.

Steven | ESA: Thank you for your comment

Up next we have Khin Khin Gyi.

Khin Khin Gyi: hello! Can you hear me? Okay, thank you. My name is Dr. Khin Khin Gyi, and I, am a I'm president of the Citizens Coalition for a Safe Community and Chair of the Environmental Committee of the Americans. Democratic action. I'm opposed to bulldozing the Ballona wetlands because we need a safeguard against floods. As you know, we had a pretty vigorous and robust rainy season last winter, and we're still recovering from it. It totally turned the tides end tables on the drought drought that we're having so we need a safeguard against floods. Number 2. We need the Ballona wetlands as they were perfected by Mother Nature in its current form and function without any bulldozing and we need to preserve the rights of nature. Protect flora and fauna. And number 3, if you were to bulldoze the Ballona wetlands, you are dealing with a takings concept because, these. There's been natural gas emissions. Naturally, and those that are man-made. So basically, there are takings issues that are emanating from these from the bulldozing perspective. And there are also indigenous cultural concerns. So please respect the flora, flora, and fauna as they exist. Thank you so much.

Steven | ESA: Thank you for your comment.

Up next we have Robert Roy van de Hoek. I hope I'm pronouncing that correctly. You should be able to unmute yourself.

Janna Scott | ESA: Steven, we're at 1:29 instead of 1:30.

Steven | ESA: Sorry. Let me push that back. Thank you, Robert, it's your turn. If you should be able to unmute.

There we go.

Again. We're unable to hear you, Robert.

Alright, Robert, I'm gonna put you back on mute, and we'll try again in just a moment.

The next person we have is Lydia Ponce

Lydia Ponce: I am calling in from Sagna the unseated territory of the Tongva people and I want you to share your screen and show us where you're gonna check the box to say that you spoke with the community, that you had public engagement because all of this is a ruse, and it's a farce, and it's just perfunctory in its making, because these processes do not show. And I'm sorry I was late, just not hearing the indigenous engagement that you had meaningful tribal consultation and consent in regards to your proposed plan. Here the best restoration is to leave it alone, and my dog agrees. The best restoration is to leave it alone. Millions of dollars is spent. Voluntary hours are spent. Nature has a way of fixing and healing herself without man's hands and machinery. We need to rematriate the land. We, as society of native nations, believe that the eagle and the condor prophecy has led us to this path, continued

destruction. We need to get on the path of healing, and we have an opportunity right here. Not only would you all be a hero 7 generations would know your name. I'm gonna say that if you haven't met with the Tongva people then it's it's a big error. And your your project, however proposed, is going to be dead in the water. No pun intended. It's just gonna be dead in the water, because everything calls for tribal consultation and consent, and that land right there does have burial remains when they built those Godforsaken com condominiums across the street they threw, started to throw away the remains that they found the construction company. So don't do it. And have a conversation with all of us on the phone, and we'll meet with you to make this right. Thank you.

Steven | ESA: Thank you for your comment.

Robert. I'm gonna try and unmute you again and see if you're able to provide your comment.

Robert Roy van de Hoek: Hello! Hello! Can you hear me? Okay.

Steven | ESA: We can.

Robert Roy van de Hoek: Okay. My name is Robert Roy van de Hoek and I'm a wildlife biologist, environmental scientist, cultural resources manager or archaeologist and just checking in real quickly. Can you still hear me? Okay.

Steven | ESA: It's… we can hear you, but it's a little little choppy, but we can understand what you're saying.

Robert Roy van de Hoek: Okay, great under performance criteria. By the way, I'm opposed to this project. I think that no action alternative is what needs to be chosen. Under the No action alternative. It allows you to continue with activities you're doing today in terms of maintenance and management, and it allows you to have endangered species and common native species coming back to Ballona at the pace that that nature is determining. Couple of examples are the Yellow Crown night Heron. That's Mexican fiddler, crab. Tiger beetle. And there are many more examples. At least those are federally endangered. The first 3 I mentioned are not endangered, but endangered species depend on unendangered native species. So it's a food chain, food web kind of situation in ecology. There the levees need to be preserved in place and not removed. The yellow Crown night heron, and Mexican fiddler crab, and other species of native crab. Shore crab are the prey of the yellow crown night heron, which is making a comeback, and has recovered to the Ballona Wetlands, as have the the crabs, and they depend on the rocks and the habitat of the levee. And the Least Bell’s vireo hunts for insects. So along the levy performance criteria are not valid, and I was a plaintiff in the lawsuit as a scientist, and your EIR does need for you to start all over again, not a revised one, and to have recovery plans. Thank you.

Steven | ESA: Thank you for your comment.

Up next we have Rebecca Mink.

Rebecca Mink: I'm unmuted now. Can you hear me? Awesome. So I've been. My name's Rebecca Mink, and I am absolutely opposed to the unnecessary restoration. And I really believe that these are being done with ulterior motives. I have been a resident, my entire life of this area. I have had boats. and I paddle 3 days a week. And I also volunteer for the International Bird Rescue, as well as my 2 companies, that I run as a CEO and co-founder and founder. So while I'm very busy doing all this. One of the one of the best things within this area is that there's so much wildlife, and you can go anywhere in LA, and it's been bulldozed, just as you're trying to do here, and it has been turned into something different. I have friends that come from the other side of town, and they come here and they say, What is this? It's an amazing place where we have wild animals. And we have wild habitat and aquatic birds, and life living as it naturally is. One of the things that's most important to me is the aquatic birds, and that is because I work with the aquatic bird rescue, and we have launched some rehabilitation in this area and seen how awesome it is that this area has not been developed, and that it is an awesome option that we have to allow animals to get back into the habitat and really have a safe place to do that. I really believe that we should abolish this project, and we should leave natural nature the way it is in one of the only spots left in Los Angeles. That is like a natural sanctuary. It needs no help. It needs no help with flooding. It needs no help with actually making the animals a better environment. And I would challenge you to tell us more about why you're justifying this for the animals, because I don't feel any of the wildlife in this area is getting any benefit at all from this Restoration project. So please know that I oppose this. I believe this should be abolished project, and I believe that Los Angeles should have one of its only left places there, and very natural along the coastline. And leave this project as is, and needing no restoration at all. Thank you.

Steven | ESA: Thank you for your comment.

Up next we have Caroline.

Caroline Mouzaya: Can you hear me?

Steven | ESA: We can.

Caroline Mouzaya: Hi! I am Caroline, and I'm an engineer in Marina del Rey, and I live right next to the wetlands, and I love seeing the animals and the plants and the other living organisms on a daily basis, and I see the way in which this oasis enriches the community within and around it. It's one of the only places of refuge refuge left for nature in Southern California and I understand the destructive implications of this project, and I am not in favor of it. Please do not bulldoze the Ballona wetlands. It will destroy the community permanently in ways that we won't be able to rectify and reverse. And I am in favor of doing nothing. Thank you.

Steven | ESA: Thank you for your comment.

Up next, we have Craig.

Craig Barry: Yeah. Yeah. Good evening, Craig Barry. You can hear me?

Steven | ESA: We can.

Craig: Okay, yeah. Yeah. So this proposed EIR is not a restoration. It's a destruction of the Ballona wetlands. And it it seems to me that it would only profit SoCal Gas and some big contractors that would help with this destruction. That yes, SoCal Gas wants to use our public funds and taxpayer money to fund a project that would not, that would definitely not restore the wetlands, but instead cover up its leaky oil wells and dilapidated, dilapidated infrastructure by using money from the public and the great payers without thinking about the environmental impact of a project of this magnitude. The only restoration needed to protect the wetlands is the complete closure of the SoCal Gas facility to stop all gas and oil well pumping and eliminate the lethal underground methane storage which is a health, environmental and safety concern for all the residents of Westchester, Playa del Rey, Playa Vista, Venice Beach, Marina del Rey, del Rey, and Culver City. Yeah, please. I oppose this project any destruction. And yeah, let's leave it. Leave it like it is like everybody's been saying, it's beautiful out there. I love it. I go down there all the time. Lived here my whole life. Thank you.

Steven | ESA: Thank you for your comment.

Up next we have Jackson Garland.

Jackson? You should be off mute.

Jackson Garland: Oh, can you hear me now?

Steven | ESA: It's a little faint, but we can hear you.

Jackson Garland: Hi, Rich! Janna! And Brody with no last name. Really happy to meet here with you guys tonight, and I'm kind of disappointed you can't always see me. But I'm here to like, oppose this restoration project. I believe that you know the Ballona Wetlands that houses its vernal pools, which is supposed to be California's pride. Will probably be tampered with, and it's changing the nature of ecosystem. And it's it's such an ambitious large project and I don't feel that there should be like any sense or any reason why any member of our community should oppose this project. I know the nature of tonight is supposed to be, you know, achieving some sort of consensus among like what's going on. It's just these plans are just very unclear, and there's still like extreme skepticism. So I really think it just seems to be better education just on this project in general. Yeah, I mean, I've lived there for years. It's unknown. It's I've been fighting this situation since I was like 16. And it's not like I don't know. It's not ideal. Alright. Well, thank you for your time.

Steven | ESA: Thank you for your comment.

Up next we have Cindy Hardin. Please provide your comment.

Cindy Hardin: Hi, thank you for taking the time to organize this meeting. Can you hear me?

Steven | ESA: We can.

Cindy Hardin: Okay. Fantastic. The rainy season of last year 2022, 23 serve to remind us of the abundant fresh water that is still on Ballona and beneath the ground water. It's been historically this was a perched wetland, primarily fresh water towards, especially towards the east end. And I would like fish and wildlife and all involved to step away from their focus on alternative 1. In spite of the idea that this there's going to be a revised EIR. Everything I see still, including the page that was at the beginning of this webinar showed alternative 1. I worry about the intrusion of salt water into the ground water. You were off by almost 40% on the flow of the creek. If levees are not down, that's a lot of water, and we know at the west end of the creek. It's primarily saline in addition. During what I hope is a complete reworking on this plan, I push for interim stewardship castor bean mustard. You name it. It's all over right now, because it's been left to go. Thank you.

Steven | ESA: Thank you for your comment.

Up next we have. Marcia Hanscom. Please to read your comment.

Marcia Hanscom: Can you hear me yet?

Steven | ESA: We can.

Marcia Hanscom: Okay. Great. Marcia Hanscom. I'm a community organizer with the Coalition to Defend Ballona Wetlands, and also with Ballona Wetlands Institute. And you know, I just wanna say I'm celebrating today, because 20 years ago we managed to acquire this land for the public, and for 20 years we haven't had any condos or any bulldozers out there. So here's the thing. At the time, 20 years ago, when I went to the Wildlife Conservation Board to say, Yes, please give us the money for this, I was on the Sierra Club, National Board of directors, and I know now what Ansel Adams, one of my predecessors on the board, said. I know it deep in my heart. Unfortunately, it is horrifying that we have to fight our own government to save the environment. And that's what it's felt like. And yet Judge Chalfant just gave you an out. He did not say. You have to stick with this plan, he said. If CDFW decides to proceed with this plan, then you should do this, whatever it is you're doing right now. But what what you're doing really needs to include the really good fish and wildlife biologists you have, Mr. Berg. I know you have some amazing biologists that are experts at things like alkali, mallow and alkali. Well, I mean, we've got all kinds of rare plant populations out there. We've got lovely species that your biologists need to do a better job at when you do this, EIR so and please include the E, the Federal government, because you've left out in 2012 when you did scoping. It was a combined EIS/EIR. And now it looks like you're evading the Federal review, and that's a problem. I mean, we have section 106, of the Historic Preservation Act, which deals with cultural resources. We have the endangered Species Act. We have the River and Harbors Act. All of those things need to be part of this. You can't evade the Federal laws, and you know, maybe we have to go to Federal Court. I hate to think we do so. I hope you include all of that in this in the scoping for this, and and also give us a little more time. You're including the week of

Thanksgiving. I mean, 90 days is really what we need. Not 30 days. Thank you.

Steven | ESA: Thank you for your comment.

Just a reminder to folks to try to stay within the minute and 30 seconds. We still have a good amount of people left, and another reminder that if folks have additional comments they can provide them into the Q&A.

Up next we have Sam. Sam, go ahead and provide your comment.

Sam: Hi, can you hear me?

Steven | ESA: We can.

Sam: Okay. Great Hi. My name is Samantha Lau, and I am a resident in the LA Area. I'm a climate activist and a water advocate. Thank you for hosting this public hearing, and I agree with every single caller before me. I'm strongly against the project. To bulldoze the Ballona Wetlands. it will be devastating for the existing species their habitat and the surrounding ecosystem. This project seems more like something pushed by fossil fuel and gas company. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife should protect wildlife, not protect big oil and gas. Please do not bulldoze the wetlands, it will decimate thousands of species of plants, insects, and animals. This will kill a million innocent animals and their homes. Please leave the wetlands alone. Thank you.

Steven | ESA: Thank you for your comment.

Up next we have Wendy Rosen. Wendy, go ahead and provide your comment.

Wendy Rosen: Good evening. I'm here to night representing protect Ballona Wetlands. I was one of the petitioners in the lawsuit that recently was responsible for pushing the EIR decertifying the EIR. And why we're here. I was very surprised during the court, hearing that the Attorney General said that if this project goes forward they will stop the water from draining. And I wondered, why are we draining water out of Ballona Wetlands now, while we're claiming, while your guys are claiming that it's a dead and dying ecosystem. In the meantime, what we've seen in the last 17 years, while this project has been pending is not at all a dead and dying ecosystem, but a thriving wetland, with with very rare and protected species actually coming back on to the site. So we're wondering why is the water being drained. So one of the things we'd like to see is the water stock being drained, and some analysis of what it will be like if the water's not drained off the site. We've seen endangered species come back, and, as somebody said earlier, let Nature heal herself. That's what we're seeing, without almost any kind of intrusion. Although we need some really good managed some good management plans. And, as somebody else said, some really good biologists to take a look at this, and maybe take out some of the invasive species by hand. We certainly do not need bulldozers. Science is not stagnant, it's dynamic, and yet the proponents have for 17 to 20 years stuck by the same science. And so what I just say in closing is climate change is happening. Impacts are much worse than anybody thought. Sea level rise is much worse than anybody thought. Let's

basically start over and do some real studies. And look at what science is like now, with some real good, unstale hypotheses, and take care of the wetlands. Give some simple management and some tender, loving care, and let them heal themselves. Thank you.

Steven | ESA: Thank you for your comment.

Up next we have David Kay. Please provide your comment.

David Kay: Can you hear me? Thank you CDFW and ESA for your service to the State of California. This is a robust project that I and many people support. I am a resident of Playa del Vista. I am the former manager over the San Dieguito Wetlands Restoration between Del Mar and Solana Beach - an eerie twin of the Ballona project. I support the Department's proposal to limit the scope of the Revised EIR to those areas which the judge prescribed. All other areas the judge rejected. In baseball scores, it's about a point 7 6 batting average for the opponents. So the judge, in a backhanded way, endorsed this project and allowed it to go forward, and we endorse that. We endorse the removal of 3 million cubic yards of dirt dump during Marina del Rey and interstate 90 construction. We endorse the repurposing of that soil for building new vegetated berms and levees to control floods. Removing about 1,500 feet of the obsolete concrete Ballona Creek Channel. And it's a good project it yet a went to school on the lessons learned by over 200 projects funded by the State through the Coastal Conservancy over the last 40 years. Go forward and do well, thank you.

Steven | ESA: Thank you for your comment.

Up next we have Kathy Knight.

Kathy Knight, can you hear me? Okay?

Kathy Knight: Yeah, I'm with the Ballona Ecosystem Education project. And we've been volunteering for the past 30 years to protect this land. We've destroyed over 95%. Of the coastal wetlands here in California, and this is a treasure, and it's a mostly fresh water wetland, which makes it even more important. So we are strongly opposed to bulldozing it and changing into a saltwater bay. And when we bring, if you bring salt water into this area, you are going to… When when you bring the salt water in, you are going to potentially pollute some fresh water. Aquifers and we we do not. We should not be polluting fresh water aquifers. We need to protect our drinking water very much. And it's a registered sacred site of the Tongva people. Have you heard from someone today and so Onna. And these people have been living here for 10,000 years. We need, we need to respect. You know what a treasure this place has been! And so I I'm we are very opposed to the proposal. And, we ask that you're not that you not bulldoze it, and you do the slow, careful restoration. Thank you.

Steven | ESA: Thank you for your comment.

Up next we have Lorraine Sola.

Lorraine Sola: Can you hear me?

Steven | ESA: We can.

Lorraine Sola: Okay. Hi, yeah. Hi, I live in Westchester, and I've lived here for most of my life. And I love it. And I'm I'm opposed to the 90. And this is just another thing that we have to fight. So I'm against it because of the the in the Indians. I'm part Indian, so I respect just anybody doesn't matter if they're ending or not like digging up graves is not a nice thing. It's a it's a bad look so. I I'm opposed to it. I, well, I love animals… like everybody knows Lorraine knows I love animals. So why would we do this? It sounds like. And I'm just now learning about it because I was more about the 90. But we just, we we just we really don't need that. Leave the animals alone like, leave the graves alone. It just. It doesn't make sense like seriously. And it just you know, I just… I, everybody, everything. Everybody said, especially the listen, the engineers and the environmentalists, those are the people that know, and they're against it. So that's right. There is what that's the that's the takeaway. So I got to say listen to the professional people. And and if this is about money, I'm just so disgusted.

Steven | ESA: thank you for your comment.

Up next we have Mick. Mick? Go ahead and unmute yourself and provide your comment.

Mick’s iPad: Hi there! This is actually Jeff Hoffman and Mick devudein. We live on the Venice canals, and we move there because we enjoy living among all the species that thrive in both Ballona right now, while the majestic birds herons, the cormorants, I mean, that's that's why we're living there, and we'd hate to see that destroyed. And as we know, California is the fourth largest economy in the world, and what we do is replicated by other states and countries and entities. So we in Los Angeles really need to step up and save this last remaining wetlands. Keep it here for the wildlife. We oppose the Restoration project, and are in favor of of gentle restoration, or, like others, have said, Let it be. Please don't bulldoze Ballona and displace so many of these birds and other species that they enrich our community. They are the animal residents of our area, and they deserve a voice. Thank you.

Steven | ESA: Thank you for your comment.

Up next we have Georja.

Please unmute yourself and provide your comment.

Georja Umano: Hello! Can you hear me now? Oh, Hi! I'm Georjia Umano, and I'm a member of the Audubon Sierra Club, and in defensive animals, and I also am a Co Founder of a charity in Africa called the Elephant Matriarch Project, and the purpose of that project is to educate young under educated people, about wildlife and about saving the wildlife that's around them. And I think that we have kind of the same problem going on here, where we're not educated enough to realize the importance and the value and the beauty of wildlife, and that we have to use that as a priority in our own lives. And this the the lack of this is making our own lives much less vibrant, less wonderful, and the whole world same

thing. And the whole world needs these animals. So please do not destroy animals in the in the Ballona Wetlands. Thank you.

Steven | ESA: Thank you for your comment.

Up next we have Terry Brady. Please unmute and provide your comment.

Terrie Brady: Hi, can you hear me?

Steven | ESA: We can.

Hi, thanks for taking comments today. I agree with Lydia Ponce and Marcia Hanscom, and many of the others who spoke about the need to protect endangered species to not remove soil that is existing habitat for endangered species, and to respect the the rights of the Tongva people. And that's that's my main comment. So I oppose this project as it is, I think that the… that the the the existing conditions of the existing plants, are primarily suitable to wildlife and bulldozing would not just remove the old soil, as somebody said, but it would remove all of the plants and animals that are living in that soil… The the soil they're saying is going to be removed is, is been there for decades, and new native plants have have established themselves in that field. So and I'm sure you're aware of that as the fish and wildlife service. So just please protect the existing wildlife and protect the and and respect the rights of indigenous people. The Tongva. Thank you.

Steven | ESA: Thank you for your comment.

Up next we have Mary Beth. Please unmute and provide your comment.

Mary Beth Trautwein: Hi, I'm just here as a regular person that lives in Venice, California. I've lived here for many years. Today I was fortunate enough to be on a lunchtime webinar with an indigenous person from our area, and it was very moving. I support voices like Lydia Ponce and those that speak for the animals. This project should not be piecemealed. Climate change is advancing rapidly. and we need to listen. Please revive. Listen to what the scoping is of this project and do not evade Federal laws. Thank you very much. I think that we really need to seriously consider the voices that have been attending meetings like these for many, many years, and in some case decades. So thank you for your time everybody.

Steven | ESA: thank you for your comment.

Next we have Teresa. Please unmute and provide your comment.

Theresa: Oh, oh. No, I'm not Friday, and I'm I already spoke. Thanks.

Steven | ESA: Up next we have Natalie Ford.

Natalie Ford: Hi, there! Can you hear me?

Steven | ESA: We can.

Natalie Ford: Hi! Thank you for letting us speak. My name's Natalie Ford. I've been a resident of LA for 30 years. My father was one of the first environmental biologists to teach at Berkeley, UC Berkeley. I wish he were alive today because he would be furious over this conversation and the threat of bulldozing all of these innocent animals over gas money greed. I am not a biologist. I'm not a professor. I'm a citizen animal rights activist, and I can't tell you how disparaging it is that we're even having to have this conversation. It's it makes me so passionate and and honestly very upset. If you listen to all of these experts, all of these people that are taking their time to call you and beg you to please reconsider this bulldozing, this fake renovation project that's really just about gas company making money, bulldozing innocent animals out of their homes and doing it for something that you know gas is on its way out. We're we're we're you're killing animals for money, for for greed. Please, please, please have a heart. Do the right thing. Do not bulldoze these animals homes do not do. Don't, don't make us fight for this year after year after year, for something that's so obviously wrong to choose the right path and do the right thing. And please do not bulldoze this land. Thank you.

Janna Scott | ESA: Steven. You're on mute.

Steven | ESA: Sorry. Up next we have Lou.

Lou: Yes, good evening. Thank you for having a meeting where we can raise our voices. Yes, please. Do not even consider bulldozing the wetlands. It's unbelievable to think that one over 1,000 species are thriving and something is designed to destroy them makes no sense whatsoever. I appreciate the 30 years people have been fighting for this through wonderful photography of Jonathan Coffin on Facebook. You can see all the species that exist there doing quite well. If it needs any help, it could be done by volunteers under a guided supervision. Other than that, leave the Ballona wetlands Ws they are. Thank you.

Steven | ESA: Thank you for your comment.

Up next we have Kim Delgado. Please unmute and provide your comment.

Kim Delgado: Hi! Thank you so much for letting me speak, and everyone else. I am a longtime resident of Culver City. I don't know if that counts. It's down the Street obviously. Been here since 1986, and me and my family and friends. We have gone down Jefferson for many, many years, and we've seen all the stuff that happens has happened to the area, you know, saw the whole playa vista built up. Then down on Washington. We saw the Oxford lagoon, which was. you know, totally torn down and revamped. We've seen so much destruction. And you know, let's just leave this this spot alone. I know. Of course there's all the animals. I agree with it all the people that have talked about not disturbing the animals. But I know a lot of you could care less about the animals. So that's not what you're concerned about. So even if you're not talking about the animals, leave the environment as is. We've destroyed so many things. We've changed, so many things change always has to happen. But sometimes we can just reserve us, you know, a small spot, and that's what we should do with this. Leave it alone. Okay. You probably don't call it bulldozing,

as I've heard a lot of people mentioned bulldozing. But you know, basically you're gonna tear it down. Call it what you want. You're gonna tear down. You're gonna break it up. You're gonna ruin it. You're gonna change it. Let's leave it alone. Please thank you.

Steven | ESA: Thank you for your comment.

Up next we have Anthony. Go ahead and unmute, and please provide your comment.

Anthony should be able to unmute. There we go.

Anthony Shale: Hi! Just brief comment I lived in Los Angeles native Californian. I just oppose the so-called restoration and I think that the other speakers have said a lot already, so I'll just set up. I'll just be brief and say I oppose the restoration. Thank you.

Steven | ESA: Thank you for your comment.

Up next we have Tiffany. Go ahead and unmute and provide your comment.

Tiffany Brunelli: Yes, I'm my name's Tiffany Brunelli, and I'm opposed to the bulldozing the Ballona Wetlands. I've spent some time down there along the bike path and it's nice and relaxing and it's gonna and it will kill a million… 1 million animals in their habitat. And it appears that fish and wildlife are doing the bidding of the fossil fuel and gas companies for big dollars just doesn't seem necessary, or a good idea for the environment or the species down in the wetlands. Thank you.

Steven | ESA: Thank you for your comment.

Up next we have Renee. Renee, go ahead and unmute and provide your comment.

Renee Marinkovich | L.A. Westside: Certainly. Thank you for the opportunity I speak threefold. First, I as an animal, compassionate advocate. Secondly, as a homeowner, just up the bluffs in Playa del Rey, and, thirdly, as a representative of homeowners, as a real estate agent, and a metaphor occurs to me that emphasizes all that everyone has said before on behalf of the animals and the land, the wetlands. It is not a fixer upper, it is not a scraper in real estate terms. It is not to be demolished and somehow rebuilt by our own intelligence and design. As many people have echoed. It is healing now in any efforts, i.e., gentle restoration is what we can do injustice to support, that is justice, so as both a homeowner who greatly appreciates walking and being in the wetlands, I can also attest to the wealth for all of the homeowners and those who desire to live here, and of course, most importantly, for the animals. I believe nature is wiser than we are, and the… the metaphor of bulldozing as a tear down property is completely inappropriate here it is healing. So I am definitely opposed to this harsh a destruction project. Thank you for the opportunity.

Steven | ESA: Thank you for your comment.

Looks like we don't have any hands raised at the moment. If folks… Looks like we got a couple of hands up. Up next we have Avalon.

Avalon Garland: No one has supported this project who is in attendance for public comment tonight. Yeah, that's it.

Steven | ESA: Thank you for your comment.

It looks like we have a phone number. Last digits are 779.

Annie Burman: Hello! Can you hear me?

Steven | ESA: We can.

Annie Burman: Yes, Hi, thank you for having this meeting. My name is Annie Burman. I am with Los Angeles for Animals. I had been coming to the Ballona Wetlands to protest. For years I have never met one person, one resident, who has said that they agree with this, but bulldozing everybody was really upheld and frustrated as they heard that this has been going on for years. This restoration, but which is bulldozing, is a plan by the gas company, and many times we were threatened to be arrested and harassed. This is bullying of environment, of animals and humans. If we really care to do anything right. Please stop this bulldozing plan, as the court has already decided, and as many infinite residents, and everyone here had asked and begged and pleaded to stop this bulldozing and do the gentle restoration we are asking you to kindly protect our environment by protecting all the millions of animals that are the healers of Mother Nature, Mother Earth, ecological system and environment. We are not in tuned with Mother Earth. The closest ones are the natives, and they are pleading to stop this nonsense. We are begging you to stop and back off bulldozing. And in addition to that, please do not do not remove the levees. The flood issues. See number one and 2 dredging historical wetland slouts. Why would you do that? The soils at the original elevation is a habitat for millions of animals that are healing the environment when we leave them alone. They actually are healing, not destroying. We are the only ones who put price, greed, selfishness, and our ego, and we keep destroying and killing and hunting. Every animal knows their purpose in the blueprint of Mother Earth to heal our planet, our ecosystem. We are the only animals that are confused, and it is time for us to start using our compassion as our guiding light. This is the only way to go. Please stop the bulldozing, and have maybe Robert ven de Hoek and Marcia Hanscom, who'd been putting their hearts and souls and sweat in this project for years, years and years and years. Who could be your guiding light to do what's right. Please do not bulldoze and hear all of our cry, and begging and pleading as taxpayers as residents. This is our request. Thank you.

Steven | ESA: Thank you for your comment.

It looks like we have 2 comments left, and then we will… I'll hand it back over to Brodie for final comments.

Rex? Please provide your comment.

Rex, you should be able to unmute.

Brody | CDFW: Let's go to Lorraine. Oh, there's Rex unmuted.

Steven | ESA: Rex, please provide your comment.

We're running out of time, and we want to give others a chance. Let's see if we can squeeze Lorraine in. Lorraine, please provide your comment.

Lorraine Sola: I am here. Thank you. So sorry. You know what I wanted to thank everybody that joined and and and who… the people that put this together. It's because it seems like every day we have something that we need to comment on. And I really feel like our area (Westchester, Marina del Rey, and del rey) like we're like targeted for like up housing this. This isn't that. But the thing I wanted to just circle back around on is like the people that spoke today. They're intelligent. They are engineers, environmentalists. I applaud them. And do you know. Leave it alone, like, I don't even know why we're thinking about who's pushing? This is this, it's another money crap. But with that said cause I saw something from Governor Newsom a couple of months ago about drilling and drilling oil. And like this, this is not like drilling. I'm just another term. I can't think of right now, because I'm so passionate. He's so against it. He doesn't want it. So why are we doing it in our area which is so freaking dangerous? It's it's dangerous. And it's dangerous, like we. We're not drill. He doesn't want to drill. Why are we drilling? That's what I wanna know. And why are you putting the residents in that area which is not too far from me. Why are we doing this? So whoever did the presentation? I'm sorry I kinda couldn't get online. But you guys, you got it like the residents of West LA, we are uniting. And we're strong. So you guys need to like, step up and like. Ddo your due diligence, cause we're we're not Nimby's, and we're not. We're not. We're very smart. Just put it that way enough, said I'm very passionate, because I just I can't do a a meeting every night like to like protect my neighborhood. It's kind of getting ridiculous. So you know. I stand with Marcia and all the people, the environmentalists and the engineers that know their stuff. So whoever is like promoting this like, you know, when I say, sit tight and that it's gonna be a bumpy ride because we are taking you to task. End of story done.

Steven | ESA: Thank you for your comment.

Brody | CDFW: We can run a couple of minutes long if if this panel agrees, we can take JK. And Sarah because they've got their hands up. But please keep it within the time period allotted. and then I think we're gonna cut it off.

Steven | ESA: Sounds good. The next person is JK.

J K: Hi. Is Jake up?

Steven | ESA: Yes, sorry.

J K: So obviously I'm… I mean restoration. When you completely kill everything off to redo something is just the incorrect use of the term. I

think we've all established that. But I'm not sold on why, the gas company needs to do anything at all. I mean, natural gas is being prohibited in all new construction, unless you're a commercial kitchen. Use of gas is going down. The gas company is trying to scratch out some other source of income if they don't feel like they justified the long term, or even the short term need for their proposed project, and other than how it might benefit anyone else who's not a part of the gas company. So I think we should also focus on the lack of need, and they need to justify themselves and be more transparent, which they're completely not. So I could thank you.

Brody | CDFW: Thank you, JK. So Sarah Siegel will be our last speaker.

Steven | ESA: Sarah should be able to unmute and please provide your comment.

Sarah Segal: Hello! Can you hear me?

Steven | ESA: We can.

Sarah Segal: Okay, Hi, I live in the neighborhood, and I live over by Ballona Wetlands, and it's just so happens that I pet sit for a client that bought a million dollar condo overlooking Ballona Wetlands and she just started to find out about what's going on with this. You know, bulldozing Ballona. So I'd ask you guys please to reconsider this bulldozing the Ballona Wetlands because doesn't make any sense. It's gonna cause a traffic nightmare over 10 years of a traffic nightmare. Can you imagine any more traffic in the in Los Angeles. We already have a terrible traffic area over on Lincoln Road right now, by Bali, I mean, like, it doesn't make any sense. And the other thing is that all these species? I think it's like over 2,100 species of birds and all sorts of beautiful animals. Because this is the last wetlands, of course, in LA County. Where are they gonna go? Where are they gonna go? You want them just to all die. I mean, we're already killing the planet. What do you want them to go over the home depot parking lot? The whole thing is just so crazy. It's just about the gas company drilling. We all know what it is. Nobody wants this except for the people that want to make money, so follow the money. But go to. You know, if you want to know about what's really going on, go to defend Ballona Wetlands. There’s a great website Defend Ballona wetlands, because that's what's you'll find out what's really going on. But please don't bulldoze Ballona and keep LA beautiful. And we don't need any more traffic. Okay, thank you.

Brody | CDFW: Thank you, Sarah.

So that concludes public comment.

Kathy, I see you have your hand up, but you already spoke. I want to encourage everyone that has more to say or did not get a comment tonight to on your screen. There, there's an email address to submit your comment by November 27. Close of business that day. Or you can mail in a hard copy to the address on your screen. It's been up for quite a while. Hopefully, everyone who needs it been able to write it down. And, yeah, I just really really appreciate taking people taking time out of their

evening to be heard. And this was recorded so it will all get, you know, heard and part of the administrative record. With that I don't have anything more to say unless anybody here would like to have any final words.

Not seeing any.

Have a great evening, and we'll talk soon.

Thank you.

Exhibit C

Scoping Input Received

From:	Scott Sforest
To:	Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Subject:	(CDFW) - Opposed letter for development of the Ballona Wetlands.
Sent:	1/18/2024 7:30:52 PM

You don't often get email from scottsforest1@yahoo.com. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

Dear CDFW

I am Defending Ballona Wetlands as it and everything that lives in and around this rich habitat cannot speak for itself.

I started objecting Ballona wetlands construction projects since the 1970's, when Sierra Club stepped in and made a trade to save part of it but much of the land was destroyed and developed. Then later, after much of the development huge Eucalyptus trees were cut down, which many birds lived and nested in including the endangered blue heron, hawks and eagles and 3 species of tree owls. There were no large native trees in the wetlands area where these magnetic birds could live and the solution was to plant native trees before the Eucalyptus trees were cut down. Of course they were small 6-foot tree sapling, not larger boxed trees they would take at least 30to40 years to mature. The large non-native trees were cut down and the new tree saplings mostly died as they were planted incorrectly, not cared for, not replaced and to this day, you can't even see where most of them were planted.

Our wetlands are feeding & breeding grounds to not to just the animals that live or migrate to the Ballona wetlands but also to the pacific ocean and all sea life that lives or migrates in and around it. That includes but is not limited to fish, shellfish, other aquatic animals and human beings, that all depend on its nutrients and food sources, that are generated by this prized eco system.

You cannot restore perfection even though humans keep trying. Bull dozing any part of the Ballona wetlands is not a restoration project but instead genocide to all life forms that live in and around it. CDFW seems to be looking at development as a good thing and the history of Ballona wetland, the animals, the cleansing that happens to water in and around wetlands, the fish that feed animals and people, peoples happiness from seeing and or enjoying one of our last open coastal wetlands, that contains 1000's of species of flora and fauna. .

We use a wealth of natural products from wetlands, including fish and shellfish and also medicines are derived from wetland soils and plants. Many of the nation's fishing and shell fishing industries harvest wetland-dependent species. As stated, wetlands provide habitat for thousands of species of aquatic and terrestrial plants and animals. Wetlands are valuable for flood protection, water quality improvement, shoreline erosion control, natural products, recreation, and aesthetics.

I believe that the wetlands should be left alone. It functions as it should and have for 1000's of years.
If any kind of changes are made the proposed EIR should include everything written above and also include an accurate flood risk analysis done in accordance with what the US Army Corps of Engineers and LA County Flood Control experts as stated during several years in those environmental audit reviews. Using a different flood risk calculation impacts the entire EIR and must be accurately assessed and communicated both to the public and to relevant, concerned agencies. The scope of a new Environmental Impact Report must include a separate Environmental Impact Statement since the overall project still contemplates demolishing the Ballona Creek levees, removing the sides of the river, triggering multiple federal laws that must be followed. The scope of this review cannot sidestep the federal laws that CDFW must follow. The EIR and EIS statement must include a new biological survey for the endangered species that live in this wetland habitat but are not shared in their entirety, that need the habitat of the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve to survive. A new, updated, and accurate biological baseline survey must be undertaken as part of this review! Furthermore the new EIR must include a new, updated sea level rise study and the relation of updated sea level rise calculations to the proposed project that will happen do to high tides, storm surges and climate change.

Please include a serious consideration of the twenty points in this proposed gentle restoration plan already shared. Please do the right thing here morally, for the future of the wetland, the animals and people that love it, just the way it is or with as little change - restoration as possible. The choice you make now will forever affect the life and beauty of these majestic wetlands and of our great city.

Sincerely,

Scott Hill
4th Generation Los Angeles County Resident

From:	Tom McMahon
To:	Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Cc:	Hyperion
Subject:	"CDFW REIR Scoping Comments, Earthquakes, Tom McMahon 2023-11-20 02.pdf"
Attachments:	1821 Magnitude 6.3, 34.5500000, -119.8500000 to Paseo de Las Carretas 2560 02.pdf;CDFW REIR Scoping Comments, Earthquakes, Tom McMahon 2023-11-20 02.pdf;
Sent:	11/21/2023 8:23:00 PM

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

California Department of Fish & Wildlife
575 Market Street, Suite 3700
San Francisco, CA 94105
Attn: Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project

Dear CDFW BWRP et. al. -

CDFW Website: "Frequently Asked Questions- What was here before BWER?"

Please see attached REIR Scoping Comments document:

"CDFW REIR Scoping Comments, Earthquakes, Tom McMahon 2023-11-20 02.pdf"

Thank you and best regards.

Sincerely,

Tom McMahon, Engineer
8207 Delgany Avenue
Playa del Rey, CA 90293
+1-310-717-7208

Additional collateral materials, references, and documents:

"Internet Archive: CDFW REIR Scoping Comments, Earthquakes, Tom Mc Mahon 2023 11 20 02 : Tom McMahon : Free Download"

https://archive.org/details/cdfw-reir-scoping-comments-earthquakes-tom-mc-mahon-2023-11-20-02

From:	Tom McMahon
To:	Burg, Richard@Wildlife; Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR;
Cc:	Hyperion
Subject:	"REIR Comments, BFCC Channelization, Tom McMahon, 2023-11-09"
Attachments:	REIR Comments, BFCC Channelization, Tom McMahon, 2023-11-09 03.pdf;USACE FILE NO. 95_085 BALLONA CREEK COMPLETION OF WORK JULY 1937 copy.pdf;USACE FILE NO. 95_085 BALLONA CREEK COMPLETION OF WORK JULY 1937 copy.jpg;
Sent:	11/10/2023 11:11:32 AM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from tlm@pn-junction.net. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

Dear Richard, Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project –

As per our conversation of Nov 09, 2023. Recommended REIR Corrigenda.

Please see attached:

“REIR Comments, BFCC Channelization, Tom McMahon, 2023-11-09.pdf”
“USACE FILE NO. 95_085 BALLONA CREEK COMPLETION OF WORK JULY 1937 copy.jpg”
“USACE FILE NO. 95_085 BALLONA CREEK COMPLETION OF WORK JULY 1937 copy.pdf”

Thank you and best regards,

Tom McMahon, Engineer
8207 Delgany Avenue
Playa del Rey, CA 90293
+1-310-717-7208

From:	Tom McMahon
To:	Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Cc:	Hyperion
Subject:	"REIR Scoping Comments, Scenic Highway, Tom McMahon 2023-11-14 03.pdf"
Attachments:	REIR Scoping Comments, Scenic Highway, Tom McMahon 2023-11-14 03.pdf
Sent:	11/14/2023 6:13:19 AM

You don't often get email from tlm@pn-junction.net. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

California Department of Fish & Wildlife
575 Market Street, Suite 3700
San Francisco, CA 94105
Attn: Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project

Dear CDFW BWRP et. al. -

Please see attached REIR Scoping Comments:

“REIR Scoping Comments, Scenic Highway, Tom McMahon 2023-11-14 03.pdf”

Regarding - Culver Boulevard, City of Los Angeles Designated Scenic Highway - Ballona Wetlands

The 2020 Final EIR’s 2015 Traffic Study predated the advent of “Culver Boulevard, Designated Scenic Highway” bisecting Area B of the Reserve.

Given that Sequences 1 and 2 specifically involve work in this area, including a fence-topped berm for a segment of Culver Blvd. (Scenic Hwy), the scope and content of the REIR must include the existence of a Scenic Highway, and funding should be postponed until this issue is added.

Thank you and best regards.

Sincerely,

Tom McMahon, Engineer
8207 Delgany Avenue
Playa del Rey, CA 90293
+1-310-717-7208

From:	Tom McMahon
To:	Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Cc:	'Hyperion'
Subject:	"REIR Scoping Comments, SLR & Project Q, Tom McMahon 2023-11-25 01.pdf"
Attachments:	REIR NASA-JPL Interagency SLR Task Force, Santa Monica 2023-09-26 02.xlsx;REIR Scoping Comments, SLR & Project Q, Tom McMahon 2023-11-25 02.pdf;REIR USACE EC_1165-2-212 -Final_10_Nov_2011.pdf;REIR Ballona_Appendix F-551 CFS & SLR 01.pdf;REIR NASA-JPL Interagency SLR Task Force, Santa Monica 2023-09-26 Sheet Two.pdf;
Sent:	11/26/2023 10:48:41 AM

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

California Department of Fish & Wildlife
575 Market Street, Suite 3700
San Francisco, CA 94105
Attn: Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project

Dear CDFW BWRP et. al. –

Subject - Scoping comment in the form of a question. Project Q and Sea Level Rise.

Please see the attached REIR Scoping Comments Documents:

“REIR Scoping Comments, SLR & Project Q, Tom McMahon 2023-11-25 01.pdf”
“REIR USACE EC_1165-2-212 -Final_10_Nov_2011.pdf”
“REIR Ballona_Appendix F-551 CFS & SLR 01.pdf”
“REIR NASA-JPL Interagency SLR Task Force, Santa Monica 2023-09-26 Sheet Two.pdf”
“REIR NASA-JPL Interagency SLR Task Force, Santa Monica 2023-09-26 02.xlsx”

Thank you and best regards.

Sincerely,

Tom McMahon, Engineer
8207 Delgany Avenue
Playa del Rey, CA 90293
+1-310-717-7208

From:	Tom McMahon
To:	Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Cc:	Hyperion
Subject:	"REIR Scoping Comments, Trash Interception, Tom McMahon, 2023-10-29.pdf"
Attachments:	REIR Scoping Comments, Trash Interception, Tom McMahon, 2023-10-29.pdf
Sent:	10/30/2023 7:50:49 PM

You don't often get email from tlm@pn-junction.net. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

California Department of Fish & Wildlife
575 Market Street, Suite 3700
San Francisco, CA 94105
Attn: Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project

Dear CDFW BWRP et. al. -

Please see attached REIR Scoping Comments:

"REIR Scoping Comments, Trash Interception, Tom McMahon, 2023-10-29.pdf"

Thank you and best regards. Sincerely,

Tom McMahon, Engineer
8207 Delgany Avenue
Playa del Rey, CA 90293
+1-310-717-7208
Hyperion@PN-Junction.Net

From:	Garn, John C
To:	Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Cc:	Roberts, Carol; Kershek, Lauren; Medak, Christine; York, Kelley T
Subject:	Comments on the Notice of Preparation of a Revised Environmental Impact Report for the Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project, Los Angeles County, California
Date:	Friday, January 19, 2024 6:09:50 AM
Attachments:	20240118_2024-0035133-CEQA-LA_Comments for NOP for REIR Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project.pdf

You don't often get email from john_garn@fws.gov. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

Good morning,

I hope this finds you healthy.

Please see attached.

Please note - some Firewall or email security settings will strip the digital signature from the letter. Please review the attachment and if the digital signature is not intact, contact me for an alternate method of transmittal through the secure FWS fileshare program.

A hard copy letter will not follow.

Sincerely,
John

John Garn
Administrative Assistant
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Carlsbad Fish and Wildlife Office
Palm Springs Fish and Wildlife Office
2177 Salk Avenue, Suite 250
Carlsbad, California 92008
760.431.9440

United States Department of the Interior
U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Ecological Services
Carlsbad Fish and Wildlife Office
2177 Salk Avenue, Suite 250
Carlsbad, California 92008

In Reply Refer to:
2024-0035133-CEQA-LA

January 18, 2024
Sent Electronically

Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
c/o ESA (jas)
575 Market Street, Suite 3700
San Francisco, California 94105

Attention: Richard C. Brody, Land Manager, Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve

Subject: Comments on the Notice of Preparation of a Revised Environmental Impact Report for the Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project, Los Angeles County, California

Dear Richard Brody:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has reviewed the Notice of Preparation (NOP) of a Revised Environmental Impact Report (REIR), dated October 24, 2023, for the Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project in Los Angeles County, California. The comments provided in this letter are based on information provided in the NOP, the project's Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR; ESA 2017), Final EIR (ESA 2019), and our knowledge of sensitive and declining species and habitats.

The primary concern and mandate of the Service is the protection of public fish and wildlife resources and their habitats. The Service has legal responsibility for the welfare of migratory birds, anadromous fish, and endangered animals and plants occurring in the United States. The Service is also responsible for administering the Federal Endangered Species Act of 1973 (Act), as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), including habitat conservation plans (HCP) developed under section 10(a)(l) of the Act.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project involves restoration of about 566 acres within the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's (CDFW) Ballona Ecological Reserve, which is located south of Marina Del Rey and east of Playa del Rey. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) and CDFW completed the Draft EIS/EIR in 2017, and CDFW certified the Final EIR in 2020. The three main components of the project as stated in the Final EIR include restoring wetlands and wetland functions within the Ballona Ecological Reserve, restoring and improving public access, and maintaining existing levels of flood risk management provided by the Ballona Creek and levee system. As summarized in the NOP, the REIR is being prepared in response to the May 17, 2023, determination by the Superior Court of California, County of

Los Angeles, in four related cases. The NOP states that the two issues to be addressed in the REIR are:

1. Disclosure and analysis of 68,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) as the "flood control design parameter," and

2. The commitment of CDFW to specific performance criteria to the extent they provide CDFW with authority to modify restoration goals without any supplemental environmental review.

SERVICE COMMENTS

We offer the following comments on the NOP to assist CDFW in avoiding and minimizing the project's potential impacts and maximize potential benefits to sensitive resources:

1. We understand that the REIR is intended to address a limited scope of the overall project related to the flood control design parameters and performance criteria. However, we would like to reiterate our previous comments on the project's Draft EIS/EIR (17/0465, dated February 2, 2018). These comments encouraged further evaluation of removing or modifying the existing roadway infrastructure within the wetland to reduce fragmentation of the wetlands, improve wildlife movement, minimize degradation from human activity and noise, and reduce wildlife mortality from vehicle collisions. Our previous comments also expressed concern regarding the project's placement of flood control levees and increased recreation infrastructure, which would result in further fragmentation and disturbance. The Draft EIS/EIR and Final EIR state that any alternatives that involve relocation or alteration of the roadways in the project area have been eliminated from further consideration because one of the CEQA objectives of the project is to avoid impacts to existing and planned roadways and utilities. We continue to recommend that CDFW consider alternatives that include relocation/removal of roadways; however, where relocation/removal is not feasible, we strongly encourage CDFW to consider modifications to the roadways, including construction of bridges rather than culverts where tidal channels cross under roads to enhance opportunities for wildlife movement across the wetlands. We also recommend including wildlife fencing along roadways to minimize vehicle collisions and encourage birds to fly above vehicle traffic.

2. The Corps has not finalized the project's EIS or issued a Record of Decision under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Because a significant aspect of the full project involves structural changes to the Ballona Creek levees, which would require Corps permits under the Clean Water Act and Rivers and Harbors Act, we are concerned that it could become necessary to redesign aspects of the project during the Corps' permitting process. Therefore, we recommend against proceeding with construction of any project phases prior to further analysis by the Corps to ensure that the final design of the project is not hindered by any phases that have already been constructed.

3. We encourage CDFW to reconsider the project design with greater focus on planning for sea level rise. The current design using flood control levees to protect existing roadways will likely result in much of the planned intertidal and marsh habitat transitioning to subtidal and mudflat with limited adjacent marsh habitat within the next century. Many southern California saltmarshes are surrounded by dense urban development and infrastructure, which allows no room for marsh migration. Ballona provides an opportunity to plan for sea level rise in a thoughtful way that creates appropriate topography and space for marsh migration. For this reason, we recommend that CDFW provide further consideration to removal or modification of the existing infrastructure to allow for design of a broader estuary system that is not fragmented by upland berms.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the NOP. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Lauren Kershek[1] or Christine Medak.[2]

Sincerely,

for Jonathan D. Snyder
Assistant Field Supervisor
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

LITERATURE CITED

[ESA] Environmental Science Associates. 2017. Draft Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report, State Clearinghouse No. 2012071090. Prepared for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. September.

[ESA] Environmental Science Associates. 2019. Final Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project Environmental Impact Report, State Clearinghouse No. 2012071090. Prepared for the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, South Coast Region (Region 5). December.

[1] Lauren_Kershek@fws.gov.
[2] Christine_Medak@fws.gov.

From:	lynn hoang
To:	Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Subject:	Badlona
Sent:	1/18/2024 9:42:19 PM

You don't often get email from spacecadetnova_2000@yahoo.com. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

Please do not bulldoze Badlona

-
- Since the last Scoping (2012) and Draft EIR (2017) were completed for essentially the same project, the water budget for this area has changed in part due to time passing since the Coastal Commission ordered illegal drains to be capped, significant changes in rainy weather patterns, and changes in management of the adjacent Playa Vista detention basin/"freshwater marsh." A new, revised water budget for fresh and brackish water must be undertaken and be compared to the habitats relied on by species of special concern, endangered species, and the biodiversity of the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve.
- In January of 2022, the State opened up a new public trail between Fiji Way and the bicycle path of the north creek levee - four mornings each week. This changed circumstance requires an assessment of the public access situation at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve, and a new, updated study that takes this access opening into account should be required as part of the news EIR review.

Thank you,

Lynn Hoang

From:	Jane Velez-Mitchell
To:	Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Subject:	Ballona REIR Scoping Comment
Sent:	11/22/2023 11:22:37 AM

[You don't often get email from janejvm58@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a California homeowner and taxpayer and would like to express my extreme opposition to the CDFW's extremely flawed and unnecessary plan to bulldoze LA's Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve. As Judge Chalfant ruled in tossing out the EIR, the plan is deeply flawed and presents flood risks and also fails to take into consideration that it would obliterate the homes of 1,700 species of wildlife INCLUDING threatened and endangered species at time when we are in the midst of the 6th mass extinction and wildlife should be coddled and nurtured not attacked with bulldozers.

This is the worst example of greenwashing I have ever seen. The idea that you are going to "restore" what nature has been restoring for many decades now by bulldozing it for a decade is beyond absurd. It is positively Orwellian double speak. The motives are greed and capitulation to the fossil fuel industry which wants to upgrade its crumbling gas storage facility under the wetlands. The real story has come out and there is no pushing it back in the bottle.

I see the wildlife every day. The science being used is SO outdated. CDFW is afraid to update its science because they know it will show the wetlands are THRIVING. I see the cormorants, egrets, pelicans and many other species every single day on my walks. How dare the government try to use my tax dollars to destroy the very thing that makes this area priceless.

DO NOT BULLDOZE THE BALLONA WETLANDS. DO NOT LET CDFW, for whatever backroom reasons it has elected to push this destructive plan, GET AWAY WITH THIS. EVERYBODY opposes it, the neighbors, the BIPOC community which has held a news conference to denounce the plan, the Indigenous community that begs them to stop in public hearings. CDFW does not want to listen but they MUST.

Sincerely,

Jane Velez-Mitchell

From:	Jane Velez-Mitchell
To:	Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Subject:	Ballona REIR Scoping Comment
Sent:	11/22/2023 10:37:19 PM

You don't often get email from janevelezmitchell@yahoo.com. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing as a homeowner who lives in Marina del Rey to beg you NOT to bulldoze the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve.

The claims that the wetlands are dead and dying are FALSE! I photograph the wildlife daily. I see dozens of egrets, pelicans, cormorants, butterflies, rare birds, furry mammals like skunks, etc.

Bulldozing their home, ie. the one square mile that is the reserve, would devastate these wildlife populations at a time when we are in the midst of the 6th mass extinction. Why on earth would the California Dept of Fish and Wildlife wage a bulldozing war for 10 years on fragile wildlife?

The answer is... the fossil fuel industry that wants to fix its crumbling gas infrastructure deep underneath the wetlands. Shut it down. That's the answer. CDFW and these other agencies should not be working for the gas company. So why, one must ask, is CDFW acting like they work for the gas company? Someone should investigate.

Not only that, the agency is draining fresh water out of the wetlands? That is so awful. Also, CDFW claims it wants to give communities more public space but keeps the wetlands mostly locked up.

Do not approve more money for this greenwashing boondoggle. This is a travesty. Judge Chalfant ruled against it and invalidated the EIR. Listen to the people. Everyone is outraged over this Orweillian scam "restoration."

Sincerely,

Jane Velez-Mitchell
Marina del Rey

From:	douglaspfay@aol.com
To:	Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Subject:	Ballona REIR Scoping Comment
Attachments:	BWER Draft EIR-S letter by Douglas Fay Feb 5-2018.pdf;BWRP Draft 1995.pdf;
Sent:	1/19/2024 3:47:03 PM

You don't often get email from douglaspfay@aol.com. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

To CDFW and Interested Parties, January 19, 2024

As a member of the public who's family has participated in this process for four generations, I want to thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the BWER Draft Revised EIR and for extending the scoping period from Nov. 27, 2023 to Friday, January 19, 2024.

I also want to acknowledge that the BWER are the historical home lands of the indigenous Tongva Ancestral Tribal Nation. It was an honor to know John Tommy Rosas (JT), who passionately defended, educated others on history and significant faults of the preferred alternative, and provided better paths to healing the lands he was deeply connected to. The BWER is the land of his ancestors, which is why he registered it as a Sacred Site. Why would anyone attempt to dishonor his wishes, especially after desecrating burial grounds during Playa Vista (PV) development? These Social Justice concerns have not adequately been addressed.

My grandfather Rimmon Loraine Fay who lived in Venice, CA, hunted for food for his family in the adjacent Ballona Wetlands from the 1920s thru the 1940s. He and others formed the Ocean Fish Protective Association in 1949 when the Santa Monica Bay (SMB) fishery showed signs of collapse.
My legendary ocean lifeguard, marine scientist, educator and activist father Dr. Rimmon C. Fay (Rim) was known for starting lectures by stating that historical records show that the Ballona Wetlands area of the SMB provided sustenance for an indigenous population of 10,000 people year round. Will the proposed restoration and enhancement meet or exceed the established historic baseline?

My children have visited the BWER and are currently active with Team Marine at their high school. When we were standing at the viewing platform at the BWER approximately a decade ago, I noticed plastic in bird excrement on the hand rail and wondered, are the human impacts that are compromising wildlife health being adequately addressed prior to or concurrently with the proposed project? If not, it will fail to meet the public's expectations.

I believe that:

"The Notice of Preparation for the Revised Environmental Impact Report for the Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project (State Clearinghouse No. 2012071090) can be viewed at the project website and is reattached here. This project will enhance and establish native coastal wetlands and upland habitat on 566 of the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve's (BWER) 577 acres south of Marina del Rey and east of Playa del Rey, restoring ecological function to currently degraded wetlands and providing a critical buffer against the effects of sea level rise."

Is a false and misleading statement. Are you attempting to providing what appears to be a critical buffer against the effects of sea level rise for PV?
The preferred alternative significantly increases sea water into the BWER, which is not a restoration or enhancement, it is a threat and a risk according to the US EPA.
On June 15, 2022, the US EPA "about coastal wetlands" page poses the question, "What are the threats to the coastal wetlands?" The reply is, "coastal wetlands may be at risk of being converted to open water."

I read an article that covered the paraphrased summary of the petitions. In the article it states that Judge Chalfant's ruling noted that in the Final EIR, "CDFW's responses to public comments were dismissive, conclusory, evasive, confusing or otherwise nonresponsive."

I agree with this statement. My public comments have not been adequately responded to as required. The REIR does not adequately address this significant concern. Many of the concerns my father made during this process have not been adequately addressed. Based on Judge Chalfant's ruling and the fact that CEQA requires a response to every question made during the EIR process, I believe that Brody's request: "Purpose of Meeting according to their mailed brochure is to solicit public and agency comments (oral and/or written) on the proposed scope and content of the REIR for the Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project." should not be limited to the two issues in the REIR notice which are:
1. Disclosure and analysis of 68,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) as the "flood control design parameter," and
2. Commitment of CDFW to specific performance criteria to the extent they provide CDFW with authority to modify restoration goals without any supplemental environmental review.
Regarding these two specific concerns, I don't believe 68,000 cubic feet per second as the flood control design parameter is sufficient or achievable without causing significant harm and liability.

Having watched countless hours of "The Rage of the Earth" global weather event news on YouTube, it is abundantly understood that the 100 year flood event model is insufficient due to current weather patterns that are producing historic and too often catastrophic flooding events, especially in coastal areas. "A months worth of rain in 3 hours" and "unprecedented rainfall" are becoming commonplace in regions similar to our location. It would be an act of gross negligence to remove the Ballona Creek concrete levees and to alter/inhibit the straight outflow of this channelized Los Angeles basin urban tributary. Below is a current notification that states:

Upcoming AdaptLA Workshop: Legal Dimensions of Managed Retreat

Join us at the first AdaptLA Meeting of 2024! The **free, in-person workshop** on the legal dimensions of managed retreat in California will take place on **Thursday, January 18, 2024.** Funded by the National Sea Grant Law Center and hosted by USC Sea Grant, this workshop will feature research from Robin Craig, Ph.D., J.D. (USC Gould School of Law). This event's goals are to build capacity of coastal communities to assess potential adaptation strategies from a legal perspective, gauge current legal challenges faced in coastal adaptation, and provide opportunities for practitioners to exchange and share their own experiences.

I attended an AdaptLA in-person workshop last fall and asked Dr. Craig if significant inland weather events that ultimately impact coastal communities are factored into adaptation strategies. Her reply was, "no". She ended the workshop by stating something to the affect that if you want to know how great the risks are, liability insurance coverage is the indicator, not government agencies. I thought that the CEQA was created to provide protections from harm?
The potential harm to the Playa del Rey community is significant. Unprecedented rainfall is what we need to prepare for. It's only a matter of time before a record breaking rainfall event strikes. If it coincides with record breaking high tides and winds it would be catastrophic for the local community. Have the legal dimensions of approving and developing CDFW's preferred project been adequately analyzed? If the project does cause unjust harm, will taxpayers be responsible for financial restitution? Is the general public aware of this? NOAA needs to include tributaries when considering coastal strategies. The BWER planning must include a comprehensive regional discussion that is inclusive of the history and general public. The history must include biological data past and present, and changes to the landscape both at the BWER and adjacent areas.

The second issue:
" 2. Commitment of CDFW to specific performance criteria to the extent they provide CDFW with authority to modify restoration goals without any supplemental environmental review."
is completely unacceptable. There is no limitation to project modification if CDFW is given authority to modify restoration goals without any supplemental environmental review.
Is it acceptable or common practice to allow "carte blanche" policy language into a purported restoration project requiring an EIR through CEQA?
Is it acceptable or common practice to allow "carte blanche" policy language into a purported restoration project requiring consistency with the Coastal Act and California Coastal Commission approval?
Under Brody's management, CDFW has failed to meet the public's anticipated minimum performance criteria at the BWER. Is there currently an adopted specific performance criteria for the BWER? It should have been created when the land was purchased and adhered to.
Where can the specific performance criteria for the proposed project be found? Is it inclusive of all of the concerns raised by myself? Inclusive of concerns raised by others?
At this time, I think it is appropriate to include the 39 page Ballona Wetlands Restoration Plan Draft dated June 21, 1995 (See the attached .pdf hereafter refenced as 1995 Draft). Was the information in the 1995 Draft incorporated into the 2020 EIR/EIS? Is the 1995 Draft available for public viewing at the CDFW website? If not, why? Although there valuable detailed information in this 1995 Draft, it states, "This presentation is limited to one option, that of unrestricted full tidal exchange." (page -1-) Mid-tidal and freshwater alternatives were not included as options. John Tommy Rosas did a presentation that can be found on YouTube and the Grassroots Coalition webpage that this area was predominantly a freshwater wetland. Dr. Travis Longcore did a presentation on open and closure dynamics of coastal estuaries that also confirms the Ballona Wetlands was predominantly fresh water. Restoration ecologist Dr. Margot Griswold is another respected expert who has stated the proposed full tidal restoration alternative is not a restoration. It never was full tidal in recorded history. Brackish when the positive charge of fresh water breached coastal dunes allowing ocean water to enter? Yes. The first recorded year round full tidal activity occurred when USACE created the Ballona Creek levees and channel less than 100 years ago. This is just one aspect of the 1995 Draft that has never been publicly discussed or debated. Roadway elevation will be required is mentioned on page -5-, yet it is absent from the preferred alternative. Why?
Although the 1995 Draft was submitted before the BWER was purchased, much of the restoration and management principles apply today. A significant amount of marine species listed would thrive in the adjacent full tidal Marina del Rey Harbor if the accumulating sediment was managed and removed. John Tommy Rosas and I were working on a draft sediment management proposal. Tragically, he passed away and efforts stalled. I have submitted this viable alternative several times to be considered. Not only is it irresponsible for the County of Los Angeles that is responsible for managing Marina del Rey to neglect maintaining the sediment which primarily comes from in water boat hull cleaning, the marina was created by developing on historical Ballona Wetlands. They County collects monthly fees from boat owners. The Board of Supervisors has a moral obligation to provide equity and inclusion for wildlife, or do they? Is CDFW required to include this restoration alternative?
Given that changes have occurred since the 1995 Draft was submitted and that there is significant value to its contents then and now, it is imperative that it is the starting point for proposing current restoration

alternatives.
Public workshops need to be held that provide an unbiased educational perspective as well as sufficient Q&A sessions, debate, and input. Although I have experienced this approach in Monterey County, CA during one of their General Plan Updates, it has never sufficiently happened in the over 10 years that I have participated in the BWER restoration planning process.
A key factor of the 1995 Draft that is not being adequately addressed in the current EIR/EIS process is pollution. Clean oxygenated water that is free of synthetic chemicals, urban pathogens, litter, untreated sewage, and other harmful elements is required before modifications to an ecological reserve that expose the ecology to a potential increased level of harm. In other words, upstream as well as downstream water quality improvements must be performed prior to project implementation. The Danish 007 Interceptor that has been placed at the Pacific Ocean side of the BWER in the Ballona Creek Channel confirms that a significant amount of litter is currently not being captured upstream. Tragically, the Interceptor does not capture an acceptable amount of litter. I spend approximately 100 days a year boating on the Santa Monica Bay and it is impossible not to see trash on the ocean's surface every time. There is an abundance that is unsustainable. It wasn't nearly this bad when I was a child in the 1960s. The County of Los Angeles is failing to manage the harmful debris entering the adjacent Marina del Rey Harbor. Although I've commented on this concern several times officials are reluctant to engage in conversation or implement suggested viable solutions.
I'm not a professional photographer. The following 2 photos were taken recently by myself from the Culver Blvd onramp of the 90 Freeway facing across the BWER towards LMU. Visible along the banks of the Centinela Creek is a section of a homeless encampment and associated debris, which are perilously perched at the top of the concrete embankment. The encampment stretched inland for approximately 1 mile and was estimated at 200 persons. All of the types of waste: human feces, urine, drug paraphernalia, and accumulated items to a varying degree are entering the Ballona Creek Channel upstream of the BWER. This is not only a Federal Clean Water Act violation that government officials are not adequately acting upon, it violates what must be done prior to undertaking a restoration that would expose the wildlife of the BWER to increased harmful conditions.





At this time, I would like to share very important perspectives published in the Los Angeles Times December 25, 1994:

Santa Monica Bay Restoration Plan

December 25, 1994

* We were surprised to read state Sen. Tom Hayden's assertion in "Sacrificing the Bay for Little Gain" (Commentary, Dec. 13) that there is dissension among environmental groups over the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Project's action plan. While different environmental groups may have different strategies, we stand united in the pursuit of our ultimate goal: a cleaner and healthier Santa Monica Bay.

Certainly the plan alone will not clean up our ocean. Under the National Estuary Program, the process required consensus among dischargers, regulators, agencies and environmentalists in the development of a plan to restore our bay.

Yes, we want to strengthen the plan and to make sure that all its voluntary measures are implemented. But we also acknowledge the plan's achievements.

But we must do more. We must strengthen the permits issued to dischargers into the bay, including the upcoming municipal storm-water permit. We must strengthen enforcement by the regional board, which has totally neglected this key responsibility. We must continue to bring citizen actions to enforce the law.

MARK GOLD, Executive Director

Heal the Bay

GAIL RUDERMAN FEUER

Senior Attorney

Natural Resources Defense Council

LISA WEIL, Policy Director

American Oceans Campaign

TERRY TAMMINEN

The Santa Monica BayKeeper

*

The restoration plan is an ambitious blueprint to guide the cleanup of Santa Monica Bay. Jointly funded by the State of California and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the plan was drafted over the last five years by the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Project--a coalition of environmentalists, scientists, government, business and the public committed to restoring and protecting Santa Monica Bay. The plan takes on some of the most critical problems now facing the bay, including storm water and urban runoff pollution and public-health risks associated with swimming near storm drain outlets and eating bay seafood.

Some, such as state Sen. Tom Hayden, would argue that inviting polluters to the table is wrong. But experience has taught us that including all players in the decision-making process makes everyone part of the solution. No one party had "veto power," as Hayden claims. Rather, the goal was to educate and to build consensus. Over and above meeting very specific federal Clean Water Act requirements regarding project membership, the project members believe that involving all stakeholders in a cooperative effort is the most effective way to restore and protect the bay.

The bay restoration plan is exceedingly good public policy for the 1990s. It is not the program of any one group. It was endorsed by city councils throughout the Santa Monica Bay area, and most recently received broad bipartisan support from the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors.

As chairman of the state Senate Committee on Natural Resources, Hayden (who is a member of the project and whose staff assisted in developing the plan) is in a position to help fund and implement this landmark cleanup effort.

CATHERINE TYRRELL, Director

Santa Monica Bay Restoration Project

*

Hayden criticizes the restoration plan principally on the basis of administrative considerations as inadequate and unenforceable. There is also a technical basis for criticism of this plan.

The plan is nominally based upon a purported technical report, "The Status of the Bay, 1993." This report is laden with errors, inflated with redundancies and flawed by omissions. It cannot stand as a reliable foundation for a restoration plan. Restoration suggests that something is to be restored to some level of abundance. There is no determination of what is missing from the Santa Monica Bay even though many species once found here are now absent. There is no mention of those species of marine organisms, e.g., abalone, which are now so reduced in local abundance that they can no longer sustain themselves as local populations.

There is no plan for the restoration of the fisheries potential of the Ballona Wetlands, contrary to reports in this paper nor any discussion of the vital importance of restoration of this habitat as a part of the Pacific Flyway along which millions of birds fly on an annual basis.

State and federal laws require the "maintenance, enhancement and restoration of coastal resources" to ensure the sustainability of the ecosystem of the Santa Monica Bay.

The proposed plan is a document in political science, not a technical document appropriate to deal with the problems of the Santa Monica Bay.

RIMMON C. FAY

Venice

Fay is a marine biologist and was a member of the California Coastal Commission from 1973 to 1979.

While the majority that supported and signed on to 2 of the 3 commentaries above regarding the direction of the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Plan that included the Ballona Wetlands, my marine scientist father Dr. Rimmon C. Fay clearly identified significant problems with it and ultimately called it political science. This social justice, equity and inclusion controversy is just as valid today as it was then. Although it resonates with the paraphrased summary of Judge Chalfant's ruling, it would be helpful to know if he knows how long the controversy has been taking place?
The 1995 Draft mentions the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Project, which which State Assemblyman Tom Hayden authored. In 2002, The Santa Monica Bay Restoration Project became the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission (SMBRC) through SB1381 which was authored by Sheila Kuehl. Currently, the SMBRC is considering to amend their mission statement and remove all refence to the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Project and Tom Hayden. This action goes against everything social justice, equity and inclusion stands for. It is the political science approach to restoration that Dr. Fay warned about decades ago.

While I support the efforts of the groups Ballona Wetlands Trust, Protect Ballona Wetlands, Defend Ballona Wetlands, and Grassroots Coalition, I wasn't part of the litigation challenging the CDFW preferred BWER restoration alternative that I opposed for many valid reasons. I don't believe the 2020 Final EIR conclusion are justified.
The last paragraph of the Notice of Preparation of the REIR dated October 24, 2023 states:
"Potential Environmental Effects: The 2020 Final EIR concluded that the project would result in no significant and unavoidable impacts. It also concluded that, without mitigation, impacts to the following resources would have the potential to be significant: aesthetics; air quality; biological resources; cultural resources; energy conservation; geology, seismicity, and soils, hazards and hazards materials; hydrology and water quality; noise; transportation and traffic; and environmental justice."

What stands out as glaringly false is that you state, "that the project would result in no significant and unavoidable impacts....environmental justice." Apparently the person that made this judgement call doesn't have a clear understanding of the differences between political science and environmental science. One respects the needs of politicians and the other the needs of all other living organisms to thrive.

I am resubmitting my Draft BWER EIR/EIS letter date February 5, 2018 (attached pdf) that had many important questions that were not sufficiently replied to. At that time I proposed an Environmentally Superior Alternative that included 18 reasonable alternatives to what CDFW was proposing. Your response was inadequate. Why?

Environmental Justice includes equity and inclusion not just for humans and their pets, it must include wildlife, be comprehensive, and be inclusive for all.
I've watched several 2024 Presidential Candidate Robert F. Kennedy Jr. posts on YouTube. He is also a leading environmental lawyer who often talks about agency capture, a term for when government servants become beholden to interests other than the general public and wildlife. After over a decade of participation or should I say attempted participation, I believe that the CDFW staff that are overseeing the welfare of the BWER and adjacent areas are captured. If they weren't, letters of concern would be made to their superiors and appear as guest commentary in local news outlets. Am I missing something regarding this concern?

It is also important to note that US Congressman Ted Lieu is working on consideration to have the BWER brought into the National Parks system. Is this current action addressed in the REIR? The BWER is a State Ecological Reserve and should never be considered to becoming a National Park. Environmentalist friends that I have consulted on this concern suggest that a National Wildlife Refuge designation may be appropriate. I'm not aware of this discussion being held in a public forum, are you?
If the Santa Monica Bay was designated as a Marine Sanctuary, which was intended when the SMBRP was created, establishing the Ballona Wetlands as a National Wildlife Refuge would probably make sense.
CEQA requires the impacts of future projects to be included. If CDFW is successful at developing the controversial purported restoration of the BWER that would include greater public access within the ecological reserve, would that trigger the availability to create higher residential development density locally? I don't believe this has been adequately addressed.

I look forward to CDFW reconsidering their controversial actions, for them to manage the BWER as responsible stewards would, and honor and respect the wishes of the people who have poured their hearts and souls into protecting the remaining wildlife of the historical Ballona Wetlands.

Please reply that you have received and read this correspondence.

Respectfully submitted,

Douglas Fay
644 Ashland Ave Apt A
Santa Monica, CA 90405
email: douglaspfay@aol.com
cell: 424-229-4084

From:	Debbie
To:	Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Subject:	Ballona REIR Scoping Comment
Sent:	11/23/2023 6:33:31 PM

You don't often get email from borealbushdog@hotmail.com. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

Our poor, poor planet is much too close to her tipping point for us to be enacting polices that will only serve to push her over the edge. We must preserve whatever precious little pristine wilderness remaining and re-wild much of that stolen from the wild animal nations. This includes the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve on the Los Angeles coast. I am opposed to the proposed bulldozing of this biodiverse and ecologically sensitive area. Any "restoration" should be organic, wholistic and cause a minimum of disruption to the animals who call the Ballona Wetlands their home.

Debbie Wall & The Gang of Fur
Winnipeg, Manitoba Canada

From:	Jane Velez-Mitchell
To:	Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Subject:	Ballona REIR Scoping Comment
Sent:	11/22/2023 10:37:19 PM

You don't often get email from janevelezmitchell@yahoo.com. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing as a homeowner who lives in Marina del Rey to beg you NOT to bulldoze the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve.

The claims that the wetlands are dead and dying are FALSE! I photograph the wildlife daily. I see dozens of egrets, pelicans, cormorants, butterflies, rare birds, furry mammals like skunks, etc.

Bulldozing their home, ie. the one square mile that is the reserve, would devastate these wildlife populations at a time when we are in the midst of the 6th mass extinction. Why on earth would the California Dept of Fish and Wildlife wage a bulldozing war for 10 years on fragile wildlife?

The answer is... the fossil fuel industry that wants to fix its crumbling gas infrastructure deep underneath the wetlands. Shut it down. That's the answer. CDFW and these other agencies should not be working for the gas company. So why, one must ask, is CDFW acting like they work for the gas company? Someone should investigate.

Not only that, the agency is draining fresh water out of the wetlands? That is so awful. Also, CDFW claims it wants to give communities more public space but keeps the wetlands mostly locked up.

Do not approve more money for this greenwashing boondoggle. This is a travesty. Judge Chalfant ruled against it and invalidated the EIR. Listen to the people. Everyone is outraged over this Orweillian scam "restoration."

Sincerely,

Jane Velez-Mitchell
Marina del Rey

From:	Matthew Ceran
To:	Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Subject:	Ballona REIR Scoping Comment
Sent:	2/5/2024 11:47:55 AM

You don't often get email from matthewceran@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

Hello,

I wanted to voice my sincere opposition to the plan to 'restore' the rare and special Ballona Wetlands in Playa Del Rey. As a homeowner in Playa Del Rey and Earth Systems major at Stanford University, one of the most magical things about the area is the rare birds that visit and the various species living there that all of LA enjoys. It provides clean air and water to locals as well. The plan to bulldoze and build multistory parking structures, miles of trails and still allow natural gas operations is not even close to a 'restoration'. If your real aim is restoration, you would remove these elements and in a more sensitive manor in piecemeal form *improve* the ecology, not bulldoze it, permanently harming wildlife. It is egotistical and foolish to think the animals will be better off with these elements still in play (multistory parking, miles of new trails, and continued natural gas storage and extraction). Please reconsider and create a plan that is far more sensitive to current ecology and does not invite the entire city to pursue the wetland as a recreation area. It should be preserved not made into a playground. This is a rare and special place all enjoy.

Thank You,
Matt Ceran
Playa Del Rey homeowner

From:	Theresa Brady
To:	Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Cc:	Theresa Brady
Subject:	Ballona REIR Scoping Comment
Sent:	1/19/2024 7:59:19 PM

You don't often get email from terriebrady@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

ballona Wetlands Restoration Project
California Department of Fish & Wildlife
c/o ESA (jas)
575 Market Street, Suite 3700
San Francisco, CA 94105

I understand this to be the scoping of the Revised EIR. in that vein, i wish to ask for consideration of the protection of migratory birds and butterflies which use the wetlands and the surrounding plants and habitat periodically during the migration cycle. specifically the monarch butterfly and kite are known to be frequent visitors. the permanent endangered species should also be protected. by this i mean that all their habitat and forage should be avoided. their nests and rooks should be protected, and efforts to avoid disturbance by noise and dust should be the utmost. thank you. theresa brady 15750 arroyo drive 129 moorpark ca 93021

From:	Louise Gray
To:	Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Subject:	BALLONA REIR SCOPING DEMAND
Sent:	11/24/2023 3:29:25 PM

You don't often get email from louisegray1@yahoo.com. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

Who do you work for?

Gas and oil and other greed driven interests or for the people?

You MUST help us not corporations!

You MUST PROTECT threatened and ENDANGERED species.

You MUST NOT harm Los Angeles' LAST COASTAL WETLANDS!!!

Who do you work for?
We The People or greedy politicians and corporations who only destroy our environment.

PROTECT the BALLONA WETLANDS ECOLOGICAL RESERVE!!

Sincerely,
Ms. Gray & Family

From:	Matthew Priebe
To:	Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Subject:	Ballona Wetlands
Sent:	1/19/2024 11:44:48 AM

You don't often get email from spotblackie@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

Greetings.

I am wishing to give my input on the proposed management plan for the Ballona Wetlands. I have visited this place several times and know the area well. It is my opinion that not enough research has been done to justify the bulldozing plan currently proposed. There is too much diversity and complexity to solve by rampant and gross management plans that don't take into account the new information learned in recent years.

Please reject the destructive plan now proposed and do more serious research that will show that this is not the correct action needed. If you move forward now, the animals that live there will suffer and die needlessly and nothing useful will be gained. As a California citizen, I would greatly be angered to have this special place wrecked.



Matthew Priebe

Website:
www.ask-the-animals.com

YouTube Channel:
Ask the Animals Productions

"Those which we call monsters are not so with God."
Montaigne,
Essays

"A bird in the hand is certainty, but the bird in the bush may sing."

From:	Matthew Priebe
To:	Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Subject:	Ballona Wetlands
Sent:	1/19/2024 11:44:48 AM

You don't often get email from spotblackie@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

Greetings.

I am wishing to give my input on the proposed management plan for the Ballona Wetlands. I have visited this place several times and know the area well. It is my opinion that not enough research has been done to justify the bulldozing plan currently proposed. There is too much diversity and complexity to solve by rampant and gross management plans that don't take into account the new information learned in recent years.

Please reject the destructive plan now proposed and do more serious research that will show that this is not the correct action needed. If you move forward now, the animals that live there will suffer and die needlessly and nothing useful will be gained. As a California citizen, I would greatly be angered to have this special place wrecked.



Matthew Priebe

Website:
www.ask-the-animals.com

YouTube Channel:
Ask the Animals Productions

"Those which we call monsters are not so with God."
Montaigne,
Essays

"A bird in the hand is certainty, but the bird in the bush may sing."

From:	Rique
To:	Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Subject:	Ballona Wetlands
Sent:	1/19/2024 1:32:21 PM

You don't often get email from riqueramirez1984@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

1st Proposition - Form an Indigenous Tribal Council for Ballona – consisting of elders of the indigenous people for the LA coast, which would guide protection decisions for the land and which would be given access for historical lifeways activities, such as gathering for prayers and other spiritual/religious/sacred ceremonies, and gathering plants for medicinal and basketry purposes.

This would only make sense and be the ethical thing to do. Please consider this, as well as the other proposals listed in the gentle restoration plan offered by In Defense of Animals.

--
Gratefully,
Rique Ramirez
They/Them pronouns

From:	Sid Shapiro
To:	Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Subject:	ballona wetlands
Sent:	1/19/2024 1:28:58 PM

You don't often get email from sidcat@earthlink.net. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

Please do not destroy this wetland; this means leave it alone How many plants and animals will you kill with this needless exercise.

Sid Shapiro, CPA
9815 Carroll Canyon Rd, Ste 204
San Diego, CA 92131
(858) 566-1640
(858) 536-9670 fax

PLEASE NOTE – WE HAVE MOVED. OUR NEW ADDRESS IS 9815 CARROLL CANYON RD, STE 204, SAN DIEGO, CA 92131

This e-mail (including any attachments) is for the sole use of the intended recipient and may contain confidential information which may be protected by legal privilege. Such information is solely for the intended recipient, and any use by any other party is not authorized. If you are not the intended recipient, be aware that any disclosure, copying, distribution or use of this message (including any attachments) is prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient, please immediately notify the sender either by reply e-mail or by telephone, 858-566-1640 and destroy this e-mail (including any attachments) and any copies. Thank you. It is the responsibility of the recipient to ensure that this e-mail and any attachments is virus free.

From:	Deanna Horton
To:	Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Subject:	Ballona Wetlands
Sent:	1/19/2024 1:00:52 PM

You don't often get email from dlh@dmsgs.com. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

To whom this may Concern:

In this version of the Environmental Impact Report, CDFW must include an accurate flood risk analysis of the entire proposed project. Revising the flood risk standards to what the Superior Court ruled in its judgment last summer must be done in accordance with what the US Army Corps of Engineers and LA County Flood Control experts stated during several years of the environmental review process. Using a different flood risk calculation impacts the entire EIR and must be accurately assessed and communicated both to the public and to relevant, concerned agencies.

The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a separate EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) since the overall project still contemplates demolishing the Ballona Creek levees, removing the sides of the river, triggering multiple federal laws that must be followed. The scope of this review cannot sidestep the federal laws that CDFW must follow.

The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new biological survey. The last one was completed approximately 10 years ago, and since then at least two endangered species have returned to nest at the Ballona Valley, both relying on habitat in the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve - including habitat in the Sequence #1 & #2 areas contemplated as starting locations for the proposed project. More species have returned to rely on the habitat at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve. A new, updated, and accurate biological baseline survey must be undertaken as part of this review.

The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new, updated sea level rise study and the relation of updated sea level rise calculations to the proposed project. Sea level rise predictions from 2012, when the last Scoping for an EIR was undertaken, were less robust than needed and the removal or demolishing of the Ballona Creek/River levees, combined with higher than anticipated sea level rise conditions, require an entirely new analysis of the situation.

Since the last Scoping (2012) and Draft EIR (2017) were completed for essentially the same project, the water budget for this area has changed in part due to time passing since the Coastal Commission ordered illegal drains to be capped, significant changes in rainy weather patterns, and changes in management of the adjacent Playa Vista detention basin/"freshwater marsh." A new, revised water budget for fresh and brackish water must be undertaken and be compared to the habitats relied on by species of special concern, endangered species, and the biodiversity of the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve.

In January of 2022, the State opened up a new public trail between Fiji Way and the bicycle path of the north creek levee - four mornings each week. This changed circumstance requires an assessment of the public access situation at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve, and a new, updated study that takes this access opening into account should be required as part of the news EIR review.

Sincerely,

Deanna Horotn
Tucson, AZ

From:	Dr. Will Tuttle
To:	Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Subject:	Ballona Wetlands
Sent:	1/19/2024 7:50:06 AM

You don't often get email from willtuttle@earthlink.net. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

To the CA Dept of Fish & Wildlife -

I'm writing to urge you to STOP your plan to bulldoze the Ballona Wetlands.

As you undoubtedly are aware, a twenty-point gentle restoration plan was devised and published here:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1vQ6mSbdMwPnIuU1ga6xyzE9DE2Fe69Ri/view?emci=ced6fad6-65b6-ee11-bea1-0022482237da&emdi=136abe5b-6ab6-ee11-bea1-0022482237da&ceid=11204314&google_abuse=GOOGLE_ABUSE_EXEMPTION%3DID%3D6beb23b6fddd0133:TM%3D1705679348:C%3Dr:IP%3D12.34.225.194-:S%3DyOrDtqC10E0uL7aOYU1Mkeo%3B+path%3D/%3B+domain%3Dgoogle.com%3B+expires%3DFri,+19-Jan-2024+18:49:08+GMT

Please include a serious consideration of the twenty points in this proposed gentle restoration.

This is urgent -

Dr. Will Tuttle
Author, The World Peace Diet

From:	Kim O
To:	Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Subject:	Ballona Wetlands
Sent:	1/19/2024 7:49:25 AM

You don't often get email from kimo62@sbcglobal.net. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

- In this version of the Environmental Impact Report, CDFW must include an accurate flood risk analysis of the entire proposed project. Revising the flood risk standards to what the Superior Court ruled in its judgment last summer must be done in accordance with what the US Army Corps of Engineers and LA County Flood Control experts stated during several years of the environmental review process. Using a different flood risk calculation impacts the entire EIR and must be accurately assessed and communicated both to the public and to relevant, concerned agencies.
- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a separate EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) since the overall project still contemplates demolishing the Ballona Creek levees, removing the sides of the river, triggering multiple federal laws that must be followed. The scope of this review cannot sidestep the federal laws that CDFW must follow.
- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new biological survey. The last one was completed approximately 10 years ago, and since then at least two endangered species have returned to nest at the Ballona Valley, both relying on habitat in the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve - including habitat in the Sequence #1 & #2 areas contemplated as starting locations for the proposed project. More species have returned to rely on the habitat at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve. A new, updated, and accurate biological baseline survey must be undertaken as part of this review.
- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new, updated sea level rise study and the relation of updated sea level rise calculations to the proposed project. Sea level rise predictions from 2012, when the last Scoping for an EIR was undertaken, were less robust than needed and the removal or demolishing of the Ballona Creek/River levees, combined with higher than anticipated sea level rise conditions, require an entirely new analysis of the situation.
- Since the last Scoping (2012) and Draft EIR (2017) were completed for essentially the same project, the water budget for this area has changed in part due to time passing since the Coastal Commission ordered illegal drains to be capped, significant changes in rainy weather patterns, and changes in management of the adjacent Playa Vista detention basin/"freshwater marsh." A new, revised water budget for fresh and brackish water must be undertaken and be compared to the habitats relied on by species of special concern, endangered species, and the biodiversity of the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve.
- In January of 2022, the State opened up a new public trail between Fiji Way and the bicycle path of the north creek levee - four mornings each week. This changed circumstance requires an assessment of the public access situation at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve, and a new, updated study that takes this access opening into account should be required as part of the news EIR review.
- A twenty-point gentle restoration plan was devised and published here. Please include a serious consideration of the twenty points in this proposed gentle restoration.

Sincerely,

Kim O'Bryan

From:	Corey Barnes
To:	Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Subject:	Ballona Wetlands
Sent:	1/19/2024 4:46:07 AM

You don't often get email from cjkbarnes@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

- Stop this phony restoration project!
-
- In this version of the Environmental Impact Report, CDFW must include an accurate flood risk analysis of the entire proposed project. Revising the flood risk standards to what the Superior Court ruled in its judgment last summer must be done in accordance with what the US Army Corps of Engineers and LA County Flood Control experts stated during several years of the environmental review process. Using a different flood risk calculation impacts the entire EIR and must be accurately assessed and communicated both to the public and to relevant, concerned agencies.
- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a separate EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) since the overall project still contemplates demolishing the Ballona Creek levees, removing the sides of the river, triggering multiple federal laws that must be followed. The scope of this review cannot sidestep the federal laws that CDFW must follow.

Corey K. Barnes

From:	dlocksleyburkhart@yahoo.com
To:	Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Subject:	Ballona Wetlands
Sent:	1/18/2024 8:26:26 PM

You don't often get email from dlocksleyburkhart@yahoo.com. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

Hello,

We have been fighting to preserve the wetlands since the 70's. Please consider the following:

Please send your email to: BWERcomments@wildlife.ca.gov

Talking Points:

- In this version of the Environmental Impact Report, CDFW must include an accurate flood risk analysis of the entire proposed project. Revising the flood risk standards to what the Superior Court ruled in its judgment last summer must be done in accordance with what the US Army Corps of Engineers and LA County Flood Control experts stated during several years of the environmental review process. Using a different flood risk calculation impacts the entire EIR and must be accurately assessed and communicated both to the public and to relevant, concerned agencies.
- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a separate EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) since the overall project still contemplates demolishing the Ballona Creek levees, removing the sides of the river, triggering multiple federal laws that must be followed. The scope of this review cannot sidestep the federal laws that CDFW must follow.
- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new biological survey. The last one was completed approximately 10 years ago, and since then at least two endangered species have returned to nest at the Ballona Valley, both relying on habitat in the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve - including habitat in the Sequence #1 & #2 areas contemplated as starting locations for the proposed project. More species have returned to rely on the habitat at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve. A new, updated, and accurate biological baseline survey must be undertaken as part of this review.
- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new, updated sea level rise study and the relation of updated sea level rise calculations to the proposed project. Sea level rise predictions from 2012, when the last Scoping for an EIR was undertaken, were less robust than needed and the removal or demolishing of the Ballona Creek/River levees, combined with higher than anticipated sea level rise conditions, require an entirely new analysis of the situation.
- Since the last Scoping (2012) and Draft EIR (2017) were completed for essentially the same project, the water budget for this area has changed in part due to time passing since the Coastal Commission ordered illegal drains to be capped, significant changes in rainy weather patterns, and changes in management of the adjacent Playa Vista detention basin/"freshwater marsh." A new, revised water budget for fresh and brackish water must be undertaken and be compared to the habitats relied on by species of special concern, endangered species, and the biodiversity of the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve.
- In January of 2022, the State opened up a new public trail between Fiji Way and the bicycle path of the north creek levee - four mornings each week. This changed circumstance requires an assessment of the public access situation at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve, and a new, updated study that takes this access opening into account should be required as part of the news EIR review.

- A twenty-point gentle restoration plan was devised and published here. Please include a serious consideration of the twenty points in this proposed gentle restoration.

Thank you,

Deborah Burkhart

From:	Querido Galdo
To:	Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Subject:	Ballona Wetlands
Sent:	1/18/2024 8:06:17 PM

You don't often get email from querido@queridomundo.com. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed plan for Ballona Wetlands.

I fundamentally disagree with the proposed approach, which does more damage than good. Ballona Wetlands is prime habitat for 1,700 species of plants and animals, a large number of who will lose their home and their life if the proposed plan to bulldoze Ballona is enacted.

Below are key points in response to the proposal:

- In this version of the Environmental Impact Report (EIR), CDFW must include an accurate flood risk analysis of the entire proposed project. Revising the flood risk standards to what the Superior Court ruled in its judgment last summer must be done in accordance with what the US Army Corps of Engineers and LA County Flood Control experts stated during several years of the environmental review process. Using a different flood risk calculation impacts the entire EIR and must be accurately assessed and communicated both to the public and to relevant, concerned agencies.
- **The scope of this EIR must include a separate Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) since the overall project still contemplates demolishing the Ballona Creek levees, removing the sides of the river, triggering multiple federal laws that must be followed. The scope of this review cannot sidestep the federal laws that CDFW must follow.**
- The scope of this EIR must also include a new biological survey. The last one was completed approximately 10 years ago, and since then at least two endangered species have returned to nest at the Ballona Valley, both relying on habitat in the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve - including habitat in the Sequence #1 & #2 areas contemplated as starting locations for the proposed project. More species have returned to rely on the habitat at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve--which is a wonderful development and speaks volumes about why this environment must not be so radically disturbed as the current proposal outlines. A new, updated, and accurate biological baseline survey must be undertaken as part of this review.
- The scope of this EIR must also include a new, updated sea level rise study and the relation of updated sea level rise calculations to the proposed project. Sea level rise predictions from 2012, when the last Scoping for an EIR was undertaken, were less robust than needed and the removal or demolishing of the Ballona Creek/River levees, combined with higher than anticipated sea level rise conditions, require an entirely new analysis of the situation.
- Since the last Scoping (2012) and Draft EIR (2017) were completed for essentially the same project, the water budget for this area has changed in part due to time passing since the Coastal Commission ordered illegal drains to be capped, significant changes in rainy weather patterns, and changes in management of the adjacent Playa Vista detention basin/"freshwater marsh." A new, revised water budget for fresh and brackish water must be undertaken and be compared to the habitats relied on by species of special concern, endangered species, and the biodiversity of the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve.
- Lastly, in January of 2022 the State opened a new public trail between Fiji Way and the bicycle path of the north creek levee—four mornings each week. This changed circumstance requires an assessment of the public access situation at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve, and a new, updated study that takes this access opening into account should be required as part of the news EIR review.

As a gentler alternative that is more supportive of the abundant animal and plant life found in this unique ecosystem, please consider this twenty-point gentle restoration.

Thank you again for this opportunity.

al my best,

Tito Galdo

From:	betty winholtz
To:	Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Subject:	ballona wetlands
Sent:	1/18/2024 8:05:05 PM

You don't often get email from winholtz@sbcglobal.net. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

Dear Fish and Wildlife:

Revising the flood risk standards what the Superior Court ruled in its judgment last summer must be done in accordance with what the US Army Corps of Engineers and LA County Flood Control experts stated during several years of the environmental review process. Using a different flood risk calculation impacts the entire EIR and must be accurately assessed and communicated both to the public and to relevant, concerned agencies.

Since the overall project is considering demolishing the Ballona Creek levees, removing the sides of the river, and triggering multiple federal laws that must be followed, then the scope of the EIR must have a separate EIS.

Since more species have returned to rely on the habitat at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve, a new, updated, and accurate biological baseline survey must be undertaken as part of this review. The last survey is 10 years old.

Similarly regarding sea level rise, the last scoping study is over 10 years old, and must be redone.

Also, a new, revised water budget for fresh and brackish water must be undertaken and be compared to the habitats relied on by species of special concern, endangered species, and the biodiversity of the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve. Like the others studies, the 2012 scoping and the 2017 draft EIR are dated.

In January 2022, the State opened up a new public trail between Fiji Way and the bicycle path of the north creek levee - four mornings each week. This changed circumstance requires an assessment of the public access situation at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve, and a new, updated study that takes this access opening into account should be required as part of the new EIR review.

Please consider the 20 points in this study:
A twenty-point gentle restoration plan was devised and published here.

Sincerely,
Betty Winholtz

From:	leeseve
To:	Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Subject:	Ballona Wetlands
Sent:	1/18/2024 6:54:54 PM

You don't often get email from leeseve@aol.com. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

In this version of the Environmental Impact Report, CDFW must include an accurate flood risk analysis of the entire proposed project. Revising the flood risk standards to what the Superior Court ruled in its judgment last summer must be done in accordance with what the US Army Corps of Engineers and LA County Flood Control experts stated during several years of the environmental review process. Using a different flood risk calculation impacts the entire EIR and must be accurately assessed and communicated both to the public and to relevant, concerned agencies.

The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a separate EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) since the overall project still contemplates demolishing the Ballona Creek levees, removing the sides of the river, triggering multiple federal laws that must be followed. The scope of this review cannot sidestep the federal laws that CDFW must follow.

The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new biological survey. The last one was completed approximately 10 years ago, and since then at least two endangered species have returned to nest at the Ballona Valley, both relying on habitat in the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve - including habitat in the Sequence #1 & #2 areas contemplated as starting locations for the proposed project. More species have returned to rely on the habitat at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve. A new, updated, and accurate biological baseline survey must be undertaken as part of this review.

The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new, updated sea level rise study and the relation of updated sea level rise calculations to the proposed project. Sea level rise predictions from 2012, when the last Scoping for an EIR was undertaken, were less robust than needed and the removal or demolishing of the Ballona Creek/River levees, combined with higher than anticipated sea level rise conditions, require an entirely new analysis of the situation.

Since the last Scoping (2012) and Draft EIR (2017) were completed for essentially the same project, the water budget for this area has changed in part due to time passing since the Coastal Commission ordered illegal drains to be capped, significant changes in rainy weather patterns, and changes in management of the adjacent Playa Vista detention basin/"freshwater marsh." A new, revised water budget for fresh and brackish water must be undertaken and be compared to the habitats relied on by species of special concern, endangered species, and the biodiversity of the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve.

In January of 2022, the State opened up a new public trail between Fiji Way and the bicycle path of the north creek levee - four mornings each week. This changed circumstance requires an assessment of the public access situation at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve, and a new, updated study that takes this access opening into account should be required as part of the news EIR review.

A twenty-point gentle restoration plan was devised and published. Please include a serious consideration of the twenty points in this proposed gentle restoration.

Thank you.
E Wagner
528 Encino Drive
Aptos, CA 95003

From:	Pam
To:	Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Subject:	Ballona Wetlands
Sent:	1/18/2024 6:49:32 PM

You don't often get email from pamislucky@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

- In this version of the Environmental Impact Report, CDFW must include an accurate flood risk analysis of the entire proposed project. Revising the flood risk standards to what the Superior Court ruled in its judgment last summer must be done in accordance with what the US Army Corps of Engineers and LA County Flood Control experts stated during several years of the environmental review process. Using a different flood risk calculation impacts the entire EIR and must be accurately assessed and communicated both to the public and to relevant, concerned agencies.
- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a separate EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) since the overall project still contemplates demolishing the Ballona Creek levees, removing the sides of the river, triggering multiple federal laws that must be followed. The scope of this review cannot sidestep the federal laws that CDFW must follow.
- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new biological survey. The last one was completed approximately 10 years ago, and since then at least two endangered species have returned to nest at the Ballona Valley, both relying on habitat in the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve - including habitat in the Sequence #1 & #2 areas contemplated as starting locations for the proposed project. More species have returned to rely on the habitat at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve. A new, updated, and accurate biological baseline survey must be undertaken as part of this review.
- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new, updated sea level rise study and the relation of updated sea level rise calculations to the proposed project. Sea level rise predictions from 2012, when the last Scoping for an EIR was undertaken, were less robust than needed and the removal or demolishing of the Ballona Creek/River levees, combined with higher than anticipated sea level rise conditions, require an entirely new analysis of the situation.
- Since the last Scoping (2012) and Draft EIR (2017) were completed for essentially the same project, the water budget for this area has changed in part due to time passing since the Coastal Commission ordered illegal drains to be capped, significant changes in rainy weather patterns, and changes in management of the adjacent Playa Vista detention basin/"freshwater marsh." A new, revised water budget for fresh and brackish water must be undertaken and be compared to the habitats relied on by species of special concern, endangered species, and the biodiversity of the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve.
- In January of 2022, the State opened up a new public trail between Fiji Way and the bicycle path of the north creek levee - four mornings each week. This changed circumstance requires an assessment of the public access situation at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve, and a new, updated study that takes this access opening into account should be required as part of the news EIR review.
- A twenty-point gentle restoration plan was devised and published here. Please include a serious consideration of the twenty points in this proposed gentle restoration.

SAVE 100 PLUS ANIMALS A YEAR
SAVE YOUR PLANET
SAVE YOUR HEALTH
GO VEGAN
START HERE


IF YOU THINK IT'S WRONG TO HURT ANIMALS
THEN YOU ALREADY BELIEVE IN GOING VEGAN.

From:	Joan Cuadra
To:	Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Subject:	Ballona wetlands
Sent:	1/18/2024 6:24:37 PM

You don't often get email from joanwc@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

I grew up in Westchester and we would bike to the wetlands and sneak in without our parents permission. We loved all the nature there .
I am opposed to what is happening there.

- In this version of the Environmental Impact Report, CDFW must include an accurate flood risk analysis of the entire proposed project. Revising the flood risk standards to what the Superior Court ruled in its judgment last summer must be done in accordance with what the US Army Corps of Engineers and LA County Flood Control experts stated during several years of the environmental review process. Using a different flood risk calculation impacts the entire EIR and must be accurately assessed and communicated both to the public and to relevant, concerned agencies.
- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a separate EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) since the overall project still contemplates demolishing the Ballona Creek levees, removing the sides of the river, triggering multiple federal laws that must be followed. The scope of this review cannot sidestep the federal laws that CDFW must follow.
- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new biological survey. The last one was completed approximately 10 years ago, and since then at least two endangered species have returned to nest at the Ballona Valley, both relying on habitat in the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve - including habitat in the Sequence #1 & #2 areas contemplated as starting locations for the proposed project. More species have returned to rely on the habitat at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve. A new, updated, and accurate biological baseline survey must be undertaken as part of this review.
- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new, updated sea level rise study and the relation of updated sea level rise calculations to the proposed project. Sea level rise predictions from 2012, when the last Scoping for an EIR was undertaken, were less robust than needed and the removal or demolishing of the Ballona Creek/River levees, combined with higher than anticipated sea level rise conditions, require an entirely new analysis of the situation.
- Since the last Scoping (2012) and Draft EIR (2017) were completed for essentially the same project, the water budget for this area has changed in part due to time passing since the Coastal Commission ordered illegal drains to be capped, significant changes in rainy weather patterns, and changes in management of the adjacent Playa Vista detention basin/"freshwater marsh." A new, revised water budget for fresh and brackish water must be undertaken and be compared to the habitats relied on by species of special concern, endangered species, and the biodiversity of the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve.
- In January of 2022, the State opened up a new public trail between Fiji Way and the bicycle path of the north creek levee - four mornings each week. This changed circumstance requires an assessment of the public access situation at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve, and a new, updated study that takes this access opening into account should be required as part of the news EIR review.
- A twenty-point gentle restoration plan was devised and published here. Please include a serious consideration of the twenty points in this proposed gentle restoration.

Every innocent wild animal who resides at Ballona Wetlands will lose their home and their life if the phony "restoration" plan to bulldoze their habitat moves forward

Joan cuadra

Sent from my iPad

From:	satvet@aol.com
To:	Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Subject:	Ballona Wetlands
Sent:	1/18/2024 6:04:01 PM

You don't often get email from satvet@aol.com. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

- **The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a separate EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) since the overall project still contemplates demolishing the Ballona Creek levees, removing the sides of the river, triggering multiple federal laws that must be followed. The scope of this review cannot sidestep the federal laws that CDFW must follow.**

- **The (EIR) must also include a new biological survey. The last one was completed approximately 10 years ago, and since then at least two endangered species have returned to nest at the Ballona Valley, both relying on habitat in the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve - including habitat in the Sequence #1 & #2 areas contemplated as starting locations for the proposed project. More species have returned to rely on the habitat at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve. A new, updated, and accurate biological baseline survey must be undertaken as part of this review.**

Instead of "restoring" the Ballona Wetlands, funds can be used to clean up polluted waters, beautify low income neighborhoods by planting trees and building green spaces and protecting the ocean from industrial waste discharge.

Stop playing games and protect nature without demolishing it.

Sharon Torrisi
Hermosa Beach, CA

From:	Kathleen Kastner
To:	Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Subject:	Ballona Wetlands
Sent:	1/18/2024 6:03:59 PM

You don't often get email from kathleenmkastner@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

I am writing to ask you to PLEASE preserve the Ballona Wetlands in it's current state, which is a prime habitat for 1,700 species of plants and animals.

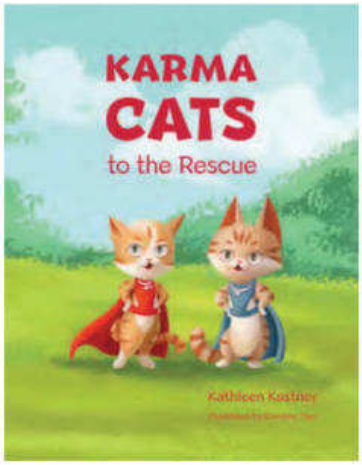
Please don't bulldoze the area.

Thank you for caring.

For the animals and Mother Earth,
Kathleen Kastner

Encinitas, CA

Kathleen Kastner M.S.
Author of Karma Cats to the Rescue
kathleenkastner.com | Instagram



From:	sandra skolnik
To:	Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Subject:	Ballona Wetlands
Sent:	1/18/2024 5:50:27 PM

You don't often get email from skolniks@pacbell.net. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

Please consider the following. Thank you.
Sandra Skolnik

- In this version of the Environmental Impact Report, CDFW must include an accurate flood risk analysis of the entire proposed project. Revising the flood risk standards to what the Superior Court ruled in its judgment last summer must be done in accordance with what the US Army Corps of Engineers and LA County Flood Control experts stated during several years of the environmental review process. Using a different flood risk calculation impacts the entire EIR and must be accurately assessed and communicated both to the public and to relevant, concerned agencies.
- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a separate EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) since the overall project still contemplates demolishing the Ballona Creek levees, removing the sides of the river, triggering multiple federal laws that must be followed. The scope of this review cannot sidestep the federal laws that CDFW must follow.
- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new biological survey. The last one was completed approximately 10 years ago, and since then at least two endangered species have returned to nest at the Ballona Valley, both relying on habitat in the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve - including habitat in the Sequence #1 & #2 areas contemplated as starting locations for the proposed project. More species have returned to rely on the habitat at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve. A new, updated, and accurate biological baseline survey must be undertaken as part of this review.
- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new, updated sea level rise study and the relation of updated sea level rise calculations to the proposed project. Sea level rise predictions from 2012, when the last Scoping for an EIR was undertaken, were less robust than needed and the removal or demolishing of the Ballona Creek/River levees, combined with higher than anticipated sea level rise conditions, require an entirely new analysis of the situation.
- Since the last Scoping (2012) and Draft EIR (2017) were completed for essentially the same project, the water budget for this area has changed in part due to time passing since the Coastal Commission ordered illegal drains to be capped, significant changes in rainy weather patterns, and changes in management of the adjacent Playa Vista detention basin/"freshwater marsh." A new, revised water budget for fresh and brackish water must be undertaken and be compared to the habitats relied on by species of special concern, endangered species, and the biodiversity of the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve.
- In January of 2022, the State opened up a new public trail between Fiji Way and the bicycle path of the north creek levee - four mornings each week. This changed circumstance requires an assessment of the public access situation at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve, and a new, updated study that takes this access opening into account should be required as part of the news EIR review.
- A twenty-point gentle restoration plan was devised and published here. Please include a serious consideration of the twenty points in this proposed gentle restoration.

Sent from AT&T Yahoo Mail for iPhone

From:	Kristy Pace
To:	Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Subject:	Ballona Wetlands
Sent:	1/18/2024 5:42:59 PM

You don't often get email from kvpsummer@yahoo.com. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

So much must be done before anything begins in the Ballona Wetlands!

For me the rights of all species who live in this incredible ecosystem is paramount. We must protect ALL species there, especially those on the Endangered Species List and those in danger of joining that list. This isn;t just about people! We must begin to know this as a society.

The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new biological survey. The last one was completed approximately 10 years ago, and since then at least two endangered species have returned to nest at the Ballona Valley, both relying on habitat in the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve - including habitat in the Sequence #1 & #2 areas contemplated as starting locations for the proposed project. More species have returned to rely on the habitat at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve. A new, updated, and accurate biological baseline survey must be undertaken as part of this review.

If you aren't going to stop it for the plants, animals, soil and water that live in Ballona, please consider this plan....

- A twenty-point gentle restoration plan was devised and published here. Please include a serious consideration of the twenty points in this proposed gentle restoration.

We are better than this and the EIR must be completed properly and any restoration done with all beings in mind and heart. Gently....NO bulldozers.

Be well,

Kristy Pace

****

"There is no insulating layer of air between the human and the outside world. Any human who moves causes ripples in the ambient world in the same way a fish does when it moves in the water."
– **Keith Johnstone**

From:	Evan Jane Kriss
To:	Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Subject:	Ballona Wetlands
Sent:	1/18/2024 6:34:03 PM

You don't often get email from samesamejane@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

To the CDFW:

- In this version of the Environmental Impact Report, CDFW must include an accurate flood risk analysis of the entire proposed project. Revising the flood risk standards to what the Superior Court ruled in its judgment last summer must be done in accordance with what the US Army Corps of Engineers and LA County Flood Control experts stated during several years of the environmental review process. Using a different flood risk calculation impacts the entire EIR and must be accurately assessed and communicated both to the public and to relevant, concerned agencies.
- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a separate EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) since the overall project still contemplates demolishing the Ballona Creek levees, removing the sides of the river, triggering multiple federal laws that must be followed. The scope of this review cannot sidestep the federal laws that CDFW must follow.
- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new biological survey. The last one was completed approximately 10 years ago, and since then at least two endangered species have returned to nest at the Ballona Valley, both relying on habitat in the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve - including habitat in the Sequence #1 & #2 areas contemplated as starting locations for the proposed project. More species have returned to rely on the habitat at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve. A new, updated, and accurate biological baseline survey must be undertaken as part of this review.
- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new, updated sea level rise study and the relation of updated sea level rise calculations to the proposed project. Sea level rise predictions from 2012, when the last Scoping for an EIR was undertaken, were less robust than needed and the removal or demolishing of the Ballona Creek/River levees, combined with higher than anticipated sea level rise conditions, require an entirely new analysis of the situation.
- Since the last Scoping (2012) and Draft EIR (2017) were completed for essentially the same project, the water budget for this area has changed in part due to time passing since the Coastal Commission ordered illegal drains to be capped, significant changes in rainy weather patterns, and changes in management of the adjacent Playa Vista detention basin/"freshwater marsh." A new, revised water budget for fresh and brackish water must be undertaken and be compared to the habitats relied on by species of special concern, endangered species, and the biodiversity of the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve.
- In January of 2022, the State opened up a new public trail between Fiji Way and the bicycle path of the north creek levee - four mornings each week. This changed circumstance requires an assessment of the public access situation at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve, and a new, updated study that takes this access opening into account should be required as part of the news EIR review.
- A twenty-point gentle restoration plan was devised and published here. Please include a serious consideration of the twenty points in this proposed gentle restoration.

Sincerely,

Evan Jane Kriss
26 Cloud View Road

Sausalito CA 94965

From:	z zim
To:	Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Subject:	Ballona Wetlands Bulldozing
Sent:	1/18/2024 10:31:52 AM

You don't often get email from zzimmerman130@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

Hello,

Regarding your plans to bulldoze the Ballona Wetlands:

CDFW must include in this re-do of the Environmental Impact Report an accurate flood risk analysis of the entire proposed project. Revising the flood risk standards to what the Superior Court ruled in its judgment last summer must be done in accordance with what the US Army Corps of Engineers and LA County Flood Control experts stated during several years of the environmental review process. **How this change in using a different flood risk calculation impacts the entire EIR and its original assumptions must be accurately assessed** and communicated to the public and to relevant, concerned agencies.

The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) **must include a separate EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) since the overall project still contemplates demolishing the Ballona Creek levees, removing the sides of the rive**r, triggering multiple federal laws that must be followed. The scope of this review cannot sidestep the federal laws that CDFW must follow.

The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) **must include a new biological survey.** The last one was completed approximately 10 years ago, and since then, at least two endangered species have returned to nest at the Ballona Valley, both relying on habitat in the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve - including habitat in the Sequence #1 & #2 areas contemplated as starting locations for the proposed project. There are also additional species that have returned to rely on the habitat at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve. A new, updated and accurate biological baseline survey must be undertaken as part of this review.

The scope of this EIR must include a new, updated sea level rise study and the relation of updated sea level rise calculations to the proposed project. Sea level rise predictions from 2012, when the last Scoping for an EIR was undertaken, have proven to be less robust than they ought to have been, and the removal or demolishing of the Ballona Creek/River levees, combined with higher than anticipated sea level rise conditions require an entirely new analysis of the situation.

Since the last Scoping (2012) and Draft EIR (2017) were completed for essentially the same project, **the water budget for this area has changed,** in part due to time passing since the Coastal Commission ordered illegal drains to be capped, significant changes in rainy weather patterns, and changes in management of the adjacent Playa Vista detention basin/"freshwater marsh." **A new, revised water budget for fresh and brackish water must be undertaken and be compared to the habitats relied on by species of special concern, endangered species and the biodiversity of the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve.**

In January, 2022, the State opened up a new public trail between Fiji Way and the bicycle path of the north creek levee - four mornings each week. **This changed circumstance requires an assessment of the public access situation at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve, and a new, updated study** that takes this access opening into account should be required as part of the news EIR review.

A 20 pt. gentle restoration plan was devised and is now published on the website, *defendballonawetlands.org*. That plan has never been considered by CDFW as part of its future plans for the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve. Please include a serious consideration of the 20 points in this proposed gentle restoration.

Sincerely,
Zoey Zimmerman, M.F.A.

From:	Jill Mulato
To:	Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Subject:	Ballona Wetlands concern
Sent:	1/19/2024 1:49:19 PM

You don't often get email from jillmulato@cox.net. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new biological survey. The last one was completed approximately 10 years ago, and since then at least two endangered species have returned to nest at the Ballona Valley, both relying on habitat in the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve - including habitat in the Sequence #1 & #2 areas contemplated as starting locations for the proposed project. More species have returned to rely on the habitat at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve. A new, updated, and accurate biological baseline survey must be undertaken as part of this review.

Thank you,
Jill Mulato

From:	Julie Obeid
To:	Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Subject:	Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve
Sent:	1/19/2024 4:42:14 PM

You don't often get email from jaobeid@icloud.com. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

- In this version of the Environmental Impact Report, CDFW must include an accurate flood risk analysis of the entire proposed project. Revising the flood risk standards to what the Superior Court ruled in its judgment last summer must be done in accordance with what the US Army Corps of Engineers and LA County Flood Control experts stated during several years of the environmental review process. Using a different flood risk calculation impacts the entire EIR and must be accurately assessed and communicated both to the public and to relevant, concerned agencies.
- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a separate EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) since the overall project still contemplates demolishing the Ballona Creek levees, removing the sides of the river, triggering multiple federal laws that must be followed. The scope of this review cannot sidestep the federal laws that CDFW must follow.
- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new biological survey. The last one was completed approximately 10 years ago, and since then at least two endangered species have returned to nest at the Ballona Valley, both relying on habitat in the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve - including habitat in the Sequence #1 & #2 areas contemplated as starting locations for the proposed project. More species have returned to rely on the habitat at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve. A new, updated, and accurate biological baseline survey must be undertaken as part of this review.
- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new, updated sea level rise study and the relation of updated sea level rise calculations to the proposed project. Sea level rise predictions from 2012, when the last Scoping for an EIR was undertaken, were less robust than needed and the removal or demolishing of the Ballona Creek/River levees, combined with higher than anticipated sea level rise conditions, require an entirely new analysis of the situation.
- Since the last Scoping (2012) and Draft EIR (2017) were completed for essentially the same project, the water budget for this area has changed in part due to time passing since the Coastal Commission ordered illegal drains to be capped, significant changes in rainy weather patterns, and changes in management of the adjacent Playa Vista detention basin/"freshwater marsh." A new, revised water budget for fresh and brackish water must be undertaken and be compared to the habitats relied on by species of special concern, endangered species, and the biodiversity of the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve.
- In January of 2022, the State opened up a new public trail between Fiji Way and the bicycle path of the north creek levee - four mornings each week. This changed circumstance requires an assessment of the public access situation at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve, and a new, updated study that takes this access opening into account should be required as part of the news EIR review.

Thank you!
Julie
Sent from my iPhone

From:	Julie Obeid
To:	Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Subject:	Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve
Sent:	1/19/2024 4:44:00 PM

You don't often get email from jaobeid@icloud.com. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

- In this version of the Environmental Impact Report, CDFW must include an accurate flood risk analysis of the entire proposed project. Revising the flood risk standards to what the Superior Court ruled in its judgment last summer must be done in accordance with what the US Army Corps of Engineers and LA County Flood Control experts stated during several years of the environmental review process. Using a different flood risk calculation impacts the entire EIR and must be accurately assessed and communicated both to the public and to relevant, concerned agencies.
- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a separate EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) since the overall project still contemplates demolishing the Ballona Creek levees, removing the sides of the river, triggering multiple federal laws that must be followed. The scope of this review cannot sidestep the federal laws that CDFW must follow.
- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new biological survey. The last one was completed approximately 10 years ago, and since then at least two endangered species have returned to nest at the Ballona Valley, both relying on habitat in the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve - including habitat in the Sequence #1 & #2 areas contemplated as starting locations for the proposed project. More species have returned to rely on the habitat at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve. A new, updated, and accurate biological baseline survey must be undertaken as part of this review.
- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new, updated sea level rise study and the relation of updated sea level rise calculations to the proposed project. Sea level rise predictions from 2012, when the last Scoping for an EIR was undertaken, were less robust than needed and the removal or demolishing of the Ballona Creek/River levees, combined with higher than anticipated sea level rise conditions, require an entirely new analysis of the situation.
- Since the last Scoping (2012) and Draft EIR (2017) were completed for essentially the same project, the water budget for this area has changed in part due to time passing since the Coastal Commission ordered illegal drains to be capped, significant changes in rainy weather patterns, and changes in management of the adjacent Playa Vista detention basin/"freshwater marsh." A new, revised water budget for fresh and brackish water must be undertaken and be compared to the habitats relied on by species of special concern, endangered species, and the biodiversity of the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve.
- In January of 2022, the State opened up a new public trail between Fiji Way and the bicycle path of the north creek levee - four mornings each week. This changed circumstance requires an assessment of the public access situation at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve, and a new, updated study that takes this access opening into account should be required as part of the news EIR review.

Thank you!
Julie
Sent from my iPhone

From:	Julie Obeid
To:	Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Subject:	Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve
Sent:	1/19/2024 4:42:14 PM

You don't often get email from jaobeid@icloud.com. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

- In this version of the Environmental Impact Report, CDFW must include an accurate flood risk analysis of the entire proposed project. Revising the flood risk standards to what the Superior Court ruled in its judgment last summer must be done in accordance with what the US Army Corps of Engineers and LA County Flood Control experts stated during several years of the environmental review process. Using a different flood risk calculation impacts the entire EIR and must be accurately assessed and communicated both to the public and to relevant, concerned agencies.
- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a separate EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) since the overall project still contemplates demolishing the Ballona Creek levees, removing the sides of the river, triggering multiple federal laws that must be followed. The scope of this review cannot sidestep the federal laws that CDFW must follow.
- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new biological survey. The last one was completed approximately 10 years ago, and since then at least two endangered species have returned to nest at the Ballona Valley, both relying on habitat in the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve - including habitat in the Sequence #1 & #2 areas contemplated as starting locations for the proposed project. More species have returned to rely on the habitat at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve. A new, updated, and accurate biological baseline survey must be undertaken as part of this review.
- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new, updated sea level rise study and the relation of updated sea level rise calculations to the proposed project. Sea level rise predictions from 2012, when the last Scoping for an EIR was undertaken, were less robust than needed and the removal or demolishing of the Ballona Creek/River levees, combined with higher than anticipated sea level rise conditions, require an entirely new analysis of the situation.
- Since the last Scoping (2012) and Draft EIR (2017) were completed for essentially the same project, the water budget for this area has changed in part due to time passing since the Coastal Commission ordered illegal drains to be capped, significant changes in rainy weather patterns, and changes in management of the adjacent Playa Vista detention basin/"freshwater marsh." A new, revised water budget for fresh and brackish water must be undertaken and be compared to the habitats relied on by species of special concern, endangered species, and the biodiversity of the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve.
- In January of 2022, the State opened up a new public trail between Fiji Way and the bicycle path of the north creek levee - four mornings each week. This changed circumstance requires an assessment of the public access situation at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve, and a new, updated study that takes this access opening into account should be required as part of the news EIR review.

Thank you!
Julie
Sent from my iPhone

From:	Julie Obeid
To:	Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Subject:	Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve
Sent:	1/19/2024 4:44:00 PM

You don't often get email from jaobeid@icloud.com. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

- In this version of the Environmental Impact Report, CDFW must include an accurate flood risk analysis of the entire proposed project. Revising the flood risk standards to what the Superior Court ruled in its judgment last summer must be done in accordance with what the US Army Corps of Engineers and LA County Flood Control experts stated during several years of the environmental review process. Using a different flood risk calculation impacts the entire EIR and must be accurately assessed and communicated both to the public and to relevant, concerned agencies.
- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a separate EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) since the overall project still contemplates demolishing the Ballona Creek levees, removing the sides of the river, triggering multiple federal laws that must be followed. The scope of this review cannot sidestep the federal laws that CDFW must follow.
- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new biological survey. The last one was completed approximately 10 years ago, and since then at least two endangered species have returned to nest at the Ballona Valley, both relying on habitat in the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve - including habitat in the Sequence #1 & #2 areas contemplated as starting locations for the proposed project. More species have returned to rely on the habitat at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve. A new, updated, and accurate biological baseline survey must be undertaken as part of this review.
- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new, updated sea level rise study and the relation of updated sea level rise calculations to the proposed project. Sea level rise predictions from 2012, when the last Scoping for an EIR was undertaken, were less robust than needed and the removal or demolishing of the Ballona Creek/River levees, combined with higher than anticipated sea level rise conditions, require an entirely new analysis of the situation.
- Since the last Scoping (2012) and Draft EIR (2017) were completed for essentially the same project, the water budget for this area has changed in part due to time passing since the Coastal Commission ordered illegal drains to be capped, significant changes in rainy weather patterns, and changes in management of the adjacent Playa Vista detention basin/"freshwater marsh." A new, revised water budget for fresh and brackish water must be undertaken and be compared to the habitats relied on by species of special concern, endangered species, and the biodiversity of the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve.
- In January of 2022, the State opened up a new public trail between Fiji Way and the bicycle path of the north creek levee - four mornings each week. This changed circumstance requires an assessment of the public access situation at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve, and a new, updated study that takes this access opening into account should be required as part of the news EIR review.

Thank you!
Julie
Sent from my iPhone

From:	Jeanette Leinweber
To:	Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Subject:	Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve (BWER)
Sent:	1/19/2024 2:12:24 AM

You don't often get email from leinweberjf@aol.com. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

I'd appreciate to have you taking a moment of your time to ask for the stop of the destructive plan to bulldoze the Ballona Wetlands and considering conservation measures as followed:

In this version of the Environmental Impact Report, CDFW should include an accurate flood risk analysis of the entire proposed project. Revising the flood risk standards to what the Superior Court ruled in its judgment last summer must be done in accordance with what the US Army Corps of Engineers and LA County Flood Control experts stated during several years of the environmental review process. Using a different flood risk calculation impacts the entire EIR and must be accurately assessed and communicated both to the public and to relevant, concerned agencies.

The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a separate EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) since the overall project still contemplates demolishing the Ballona Creek levees, removing the sides of the river, triggering multiple federal laws that must be followed. The scope of this review cannot sidestep the federal laws that CDFW must follow.

The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new biological survey. The last one was completed approximately 10 years ago, and since then at least two endangered species have returned to nest at the Ballona Valley, both relying on habitat in the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve - including habitat in the Sequence #1 & #2 areas contemplated as starting locations for the proposed project. More species have returned to rely on the habitat at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve. A new, updated, and accurate biological baseline survey must be undertaken as part of this review.

The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new, updated sea level rise study and the relation of updated sea level rise calculations to the proposed project. Sea level rise predictions from 2012, when the last Scoping for an EIR was undertaken, were less robust than needed and the removal or demolishing of the Ballona Creek/River levees, combined with higher than anticipated sea level rise conditions, require an entirely new analysis of the situation.

Since the last Scoping (2012) and Draft EIR (2017) were completed for essentially the same project, the water budget for this area has changed in part due to time passing since the Coastal Commission ordered illegal drains to be capped, significant changes in rainy weather patterns, and changes in management of the adjacent Playa Vista detention basin/"freshwater marsh." A new, revised water budget for fresh and brackish water must be undertaken and be compared to the habitats relied on by species of special concern, endangered species, and the biodiversity of the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve.

In January of 2022, the State opened up a new public trail between Fiji Way and the bicycle path of the north creek levee - four mornings each week. This changed circumstance requires an assessment of the public access situation at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve, and a new, updated study that takes this access opening into account should be required as part of the news EIR review.

A twenty-point gentle restoration plan was devised and published here.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1vQ6mSbdMwPnIuU1ga6xyzE9DE2Fe69Ri/view?emci=ced6fad6-65b6-ee11-bea1-0022482237da&emdi=136abe5b-6ab6-ee11-bea1-0022482237da&ceid=11200487

Please include a serious consideration of the twenty points in this proposed gentle restoration.

I appreciate your help to preserve the Ballona Wetlands, which is prime habitat for 1,700 species of plants and animals.

Thank you very much,

Jeanette Leinweber

From:	Lonna Richmond
To:	Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Subject:	Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve
Sent:	1/18/2024 6:16:59 PM

You don't often get email from lonnajean@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include:

1) a separate EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) since the overall project still contemplates demolishing the Ballona Creek levees, removing the sides of the river, triggering multiple federal laws that must be followed.

2) a new biological survey. The last one was completed approximately 10 years ago, and since then at least two endangered species have returned to nest at the Ballona Valley, both relying on habitat in the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve - including habitat in the Sequence #1 & #2 areas contemplated as starting locations for the proposed project. Because more species have returned, a new, updated, and accurate biological baseline survey must be undertaken as part of this review.

3) a new, updated sea level rise study will change the relation of updated calculations to the proposed project. The last predictions from 2012, when the last Scoping for an EIR was undertaken, were less robust than needed and the removal or demolishing of the Ballona Creek/River levees, combined with higher than anticipated sea level rise conditions, require an entirely new analysis of the situation.

4) a new, revised water budget for fresh and brackish water must be undertaken and be compared to the habitats relied on by species of special concern, endangered species, and the biodiversity of the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve. The last scoping was 2012 and the last EIR was 2017 - alot has changed since that time.

5) In January of 2022, the State opened up a new public trail between Fiji Way and the bicycle path of the north creek levee - the changed circumstance of this requires an assessment of the public access situation at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve, and a new, updated study that takes this access opening into account should be required as part of the new EIR review.

In conclusion, I mention Alternative #4, the 20 point plan put forth by the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve that are things that can be done without and EIS or EIR with the primary guiding principle being: no intrusive activities by mechanical means.
Please consider Alt. #4.

thank you.

--

From:	Robert van de Hoek
To:	Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR; erinn.wilson-olgin@wildlife.gov;
Subject:	Ballona Wetlands EIR Scoping Comments - January 19, 2024
Attachments:	Scoping comments Jan 2024_Ballona Institute (1).pdf
Sent:	1/19/2024 4:36:23 PM

[You don't often get email from robertvandehoek@yahoo.com. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

Hello All at CDFW,

Please see attached pdf letter of my Ballona Wetlands EIR Scoping Comments due January 19, 2024.

Sincerely,
'Roy'
Robert Jan van de Hoek
Los Angeles, California.

From: Marlene Goodman
To: Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Subject: Ballona Wetlands Must Be Saved
Sent: 1/21/2024 6:18:58 PM

You don't often get email from gmarlene109@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

- In this version of the Environmental Impact Report, CDFW must include an accurate flood risk analysis of the entire proposed project. Revising the flood risk standards to what the Superior Court ruled in its judgment last summer must be done in accordance with what the US Army Corps of Engineers and LA County Flood Control experts stated during several years of the environmental review process. Using a different flood risk calculation impacts the entire EIR and must be accurately assessed and communicated both to the public and to relevant, concerned agencies.
- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a separate EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) since the overall project still contemplates demolishing the Ballona Creek levees, removing the sides of the river, triggering multiple federal laws that must be followed. The scope of this review cannot sidestep the federal laws that CDFW must follow.
- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new biological survey. The last one was completed approximately 10 years ago, and since then at least two endangered species have returned to nest at the Ballona Valley, both relying on habitat in the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve - including habitat in the Sequence #1 & #2 areas contemplated as starting locations for the proposed project. More species have returned to rely on the habitat at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve. A new, updated, and accurate biological baseline survey must be undertaken as part of this review.
- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new, updated sea level rise study and the relation of updated sea level rise calculations to the proposed project. Sea level rise predictions from 2012, when the last Scoping for an EIR was undertaken, were less robust than needed and the removal or demolishing of the Ballona Creek/River levees, combined with higher than anticipated sea level rise conditions, require an entirely new analysis of the situation.
- Since the last Scoping (2012) and Draft EIR (2017) were completed for essentially the same project, the water budget for this area has changed in part due to time passing since the Coastal Commission ordered illegal drains to be capped, significant changes in rainy weather patterns, and changes in management of the adjacent Playa Vista detention basin/"freshwater marsh." A new, revised water budget for fresh and brackish water must be undertaken and be compared to the habitats relied on by species of special concern, endangered species, and the biodiversity of the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve.
- In January of 2022, the State opened up a new public trail between Fiji Way and the bicycle path of the north creek levee - four mornings each week. This changed circumstance requires an assessment of the public access situation at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve, and a new, updated study that takes this access opening into account should be required as part of the news EIR review.
-
- **Marlene Goodman, 13226 Moorpark Street -Sherman Oaks-CA 91423 818-389-1924**
-

From: fellini
To: Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Subject: Ballona Wetlands project
Sent: 1/19/2024 10:48:49 AM

You don't often get email from fellini87@yahoo.com. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

To Whom it May Concern,

Please listen to those of us that live near Ballona and want to stop this destructive
'restoration'. I have sat through dozens of hours of zooms and webinars from all points of view on this restoration from those in favor and those opposed.

I feel I know this subject more than most and I am on the neighborhood council committees as a community member in Playa del Rey.

The current plan is going to devastate wildlife. As a member of Audubon I get weekly emails of rare near extinct birds spotted in Los Angeles and almost all of them are in Ballona.

Why would we support such a disruptive process and chase away the wildlife we have and the wildlife that happens upon our area?

The current EIR is not adequate or up to date. We now have entry points to the wetlands which were not in place when the last EIR was completed. The sea level control and flood protections need to redone in a new EIR.

There can be no rush on something this crucial it needs to be done carefully and correctly.

Please rethink this approach as it is the most draconian option available. This plan does not take into account the dated and inadequate approach to the EIR they are using.
We deserve and our wildlife deserves a non political approach to this issue and a thorough EIR. This plan will disrupt our area, wildlife and ecosystem for years!!

It cannot be done without the proper preparation.

In all the dozen of hours of meetings I have attended on this issue, a tiny percentage were in favor of this plan/option. This is not the option most of us in the area would choose and it is certainly not the one that has had the most up to date EIR. That piece of information will be coming out in the press should this plan go forward without doing the needed due diligence.

Best,

Stacey Travis

From:	Valerie Nemeth
To:	Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Subject:	Ballona Wetlands proposal
Sent:	1/18/2024 5:39:36 PM

You don't often get email from vanemeth@usa.net. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

Gentlepersons: With regards to the above project, please take into account that the (EIR) must include a separate EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) since the overall project still contemplates demolishing the Ballona Creek levees, removing the sides of the river, triggering multiple federal laws that must be followed. The scope of this review cannot sidestep the federal laws that CDFW must follow and protect the natural environment.

Thank you,
Valerie Nemeth

Valerie Ann Nemeth
Attorney at Law
191 Calle Magdalena, Suite 270
Encinitas, CA. 92024
Tel: 760-944-4130 (SD); 310-471-7648 (LA)
URL: WWW.ENTLAWYER.COM

NOTICE: The contents herein and any attachments may be privileged and confidential and are intended for the sole use of the recipient. Any unauthorized review, copying or distribution is strictly prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient, kindly contact the sender immediately and delete it and any attachments. Thank you for your cooperation.

From: hoarser_artless0c@icloud.com
To: Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Subject: Ballona wetlands proposed desecration
Sent: 1/18/2024 6:30:11 PM

You don't often get email from hoarser_artless0c@icloud.com. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.



- In this version of the Environmental Impact Report, CDFW must include an accurate flood risk analysis of the entire proposed project. Revising the flood risk standards to what the Superior Court ruled in its judgment last summer must be done in accordance with what the US Army Corps of Engineers and LA County Flood Control experts stated during several years of the environmental review process. Using a different flood risk calculation impacts the entire EIR and must be accurately assessed and communicated both to the public and to relevant, concerned agencies.
- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a separate EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) since the overall project still contemplates demolishing the Ballona Creek levees, removing the sides of the river, triggering multiple federal laws that must be followed. The scope of this review cannot sidestep the federal laws that CDFW must follow.
- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new biological survey. The last one was completed approximately 10

years ago, and since then at least two endangered species have returned to nest at the Ballona Valley, both relying on habitat in the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve - including habitat in the Sequence #1 & #2 areas contemplated as starting locations for the proposed project. More species have returned to rely on the habitat at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve. A new, updated, and accurate biological baseline survey must be undertaken as part of this review.

- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new, updated sea level rise study and the relation of updated sea level rise calculations to the proposed project. Sea level rise predictions from 2012, when the last Scoping for an EIR was undertaken, were less robust than needed and the removal or demolishing of the Ballona Creek/River levees, combined with higher than anticipated sea level rise conditions, require an entirely new analysis of the situation.
- Since the last Scoping (2012) and Draft EIR (2017) were completed for essentially the same project, the water budget for this area has changed in part due to time passing since the Coastal Commission ordered illegal drains to be capped, significant changes in rainy weather patterns, and changes in management of the adjacent Playa Vista detention basin/"freshwater marsh." A new, revised water budget for fresh and brackish water must be undertaken and be compared to the habitats relied on by species of special concern, endangered species, and the biodiversity of the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve.
- In January of 2022, the State opened up a new public trail between Fiji Way and the bicycle path of the north creek levee - four mornings each week. This changed circumstance requires an assessment of the public access situation at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve, and a new, updated study that takes this access opening into account should be required as part of the news EIR

review.

- A twenty-point gentle restoration plan was devised and published here. Please include a serious consideration of the twenty points in this proposed gentle restoration.



Sincerely,

Sabrina Thompson

1370 Estates Dr

El Dorado Hills CA 95762

916 933-7785

From:	Walter Lamb
To:	Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Cc:	Brody, Richard@Wildlife; JScott@esassoc.com; Ballona Wetlands;
Subject:	Ballona Wetlands REIR Scoping Comments
Attachments:	BWLT Scoping Comments for CDFW REIR re Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project - Submitted 01 18 2023.pdf
Sent:	1/18/2024 9:46:47 AM

You don't often get email from walter@ballona.org. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

Brody and Janna - the Land Trust's scoping comments for the Department's EIR revision process are attached. Please confirm receipt and let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you.

Walter Lamb
Ballona Wetlands Land Trust
310-384-1042

From:	Walter Lamb
To:	Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Cc:	Brody, Richard@Wildlife; JScott@esassoc.com; Ballona Wetlands;
Subject:	Ballona Wetlands REIR Scoping Comments
Attachments:	BWLT Scoping Comments for CDFW REIR re Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project - Submitted 01 18 2023.pdf
Sent:	1/18/2024 9:46:45 AM

You don't often get email from walter@ballona.org. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

Brody and Janna - the Land Trust's scoping comments for the Department's EIR revision process are attached. Please confirm receipt and let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you.

Walter Lamb
Ballona Wetlands Land Trust
310-384-1042

From:	Walter Lamb
To:	Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Cc:	Brody, Richard@Wildlife; JScott@esassoc.com; Ballona Wetlands;
Subject:	Ballona Wetlands REIR Scoping Comments
Attachments:	BWLT Scoping Comments for CDFW REIR re Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project - Submitted 01 18 2023.pdf
Sent:	1/18/2024 9:46:47 AM

You don't often get email from walter@ballona.org. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

Brody and Janna - the Land Trust's scoping comments for the Department's EIR revision process are attached. Please confirm receipt and let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you.

Walter Lamb
Ballona Wetlands Land Trust
310-384-1042

From:	MB Trautwein
To:	Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Subject:	Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project
Sent:	11/7/2023 7:43:17 PM

You don't often get email from mbtrautwein@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

Good Evening Brody,

There have been many changed circumstances since 2012 - when the first scoping was done for this project. Flood risk has definitely changed since 2012 due to the advance of climate change.

Sequences #1 & #2 are the habitat to many rare and protected species. Do not disrupt these areas!

I attended the 11/7, 6pm zoom meeting. How many people spoke at that meeting in support of the culture, flora and fauna of this area? Many! How many in support of the "project"? Just 1! And he, David Kay, is a fossil fuel industry mouthpiece.

thank you,

--

Mary Beth Trautwein

cell: 310-740-0253

From:	Wendy-Sue Rosen
To:	Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Cc:	preserveballonawetlands@gmail.com
Subject:	Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project Revised EIR Scoping Period Extension
Attachments:	BWER_REIR_NOP_2023.pdf
Sent:	11/22/2023 2:18:38 AM

You don't often get email from rosenfree@aol.com. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

The email below was forwarded to me, but I did not receive it independently, even though I testified at the Scoping Hearing. Please add rosenfree@aol.com and preserveballonawetlands@gmail.com to your email notification system. Please forward all alerts and notices to these two email addresses. Thank you, ~Wendy

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR** <BWERcomments@wildlife.ca.gov>
Date: Mon, Nov 20, 2023 at 7:26 AM
Subject: Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project Revised EIR Scoping Period Extension
To: Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR <BWERcomments@wildlife.ca.gov>

To whom it may concern,

CDFW understands the holiday season is upon us and will extend the Draft Revised EIR scoping period to 5:00 pm Friday, January 19.

The Notice of Preparation for the Revised Environmental Impact Report for the Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project (State Clearinghouse No. 2012071090) can be viewed at the project website and is reattached here. This project will enhance and establish native coastal wetlands and upland habitat on 566 of the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve's (BWER) 577 acres south of Marina del Rey and east of Playa del Rey, restoring ecological function to currently degraded wetlands and providing a critical buffer against the effects of sea level rise.

Please send scoping comments to:

- By email: BWERcomments@wildlife.ca.gov ("Ballona REIR Scoping Comment" in the subject line)
- By mail: Attn: Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project
  California Department of Fish & Wildlife
  c/o ESA (jas)
  575 Market Street, Suite 3700
  San Francisco, CA 94105
- CDFW has a dedicated webpage for this project which can be viewed here:
  https://wildlife.ca.gov/Regions/5/Ballona-EIR

California Department of Fish and Wildlife

South Coast Region



From:	CalGEMSouthern@DOC
To:	Brody, Richard@Wildlife
Cc:	Welty, Curtis@DOC; state.clearinghouse@opr.ca.gov; OLRA@DOC; Perez, Jan@DOC;
Subject:	Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project
Attachments:	SCH # 2012071090 NOP Ballona Wetlands.pdf
Sent:	12/8/2023 11:25:14 AM

You don't often get email from calgemsouthern@conservation.ca.gov. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

Dear Mr. Brody:
Attached is a copy of the California Geologic Energy Management Division response letter for the Notice of Preparation of a Draft EIR for the Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project located in Los Angeles County, California, SCH: NO. 2012071090.

Please contact Curtis Welty at (562) 637-4400 or email CalGEMSouthern@conservation.ca.gov if you have any questions.

Regards,

CalGEM Southern District

Charlina Everfield
Office Assistant
Geologic Energy Management Division

California Department of Conservation
3780 Kilroy Airport Way, Suite 400
Long Beach CA 90806
Main: (562) 637-4400
calgemsouthern@conservation.ca.gov

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: This communication with its contents may contain confidential and/or legally privileged information. It is solely for the use of the intended recipient(s). Unauthorized interception, review, use or disclosure is prohibited and may violate applicable laws including the Electronic Communications Privacy Act. If you are not the intended recipient, please contact the sender and destroy all copies of the communication.

From:	Ted Hume
To:	Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Subject:	Ballona Wetlands submission.
Sent:	1/19/2024 12:23:46 AM

You don't often get email from baseliner2010@hotmail.com. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

To whom it may concern,

These points summarise exactly what we think.
Please take them into account.

- In this version of the Environmental Impact Report, CDFW must include an accurate flood risk analysis of the entire proposed project. Revising the flood risk standards to what the Superior Court ruled in its judgment last summer must be done in accordance with what the US Army Corps of Engineers and LA County Flood Control experts stated during several years of the environmental review process. Using a different flood risk calculation impacts the entire EIR and must be accurately assessed and communicated both to the public and to relevant, concerned agencies.
- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a separate EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) since the overall project still contemplates demolishing the Ballona Creek levees, removing the sides of the river, triggering multiple federal laws that must be followed. The scope of this review cannot sidestep the federal laws that CDFW must follow.
- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new biological survey. The last one was completed approximately 10 years ago, and since then at least two endangered species have returned to nest at the Ballona Valley, both relying on habitat in the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve - including habitat in the Sequence #1 & #2 areas contemplated as starting locations for the proposed project. More species have returned to rely on the habitat at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve. A new, updated, and accurate biological baseline survey must be undertaken as part of this review.
- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new, updated sea level rise study and the relation of updated sea level rise calculations to the proposed project. Sea level rise predictions from 2012, when the last Scoping for an EIR was undertaken, were less robust than needed and the removal or demolishing of the Ballona Creek/River levees, combined with higher than anticipated sea level rise conditions, require an entirely new analysis of the situation.
- Since the last Scoping (2012) and Draft EIR (2017) were completed for essentially the same project, the water budget for this area has changed in part due to time passing since the Coastal Commission ordered illegal drains to be capped, significant changes in rainy weather patterns, and changes in management of the adjacent Playa Vista detention basin/"freshwater marsh." A new, revised water budget for fresh and brackish water must be undertaken and be compared to the habitats relied on by species of special concern, endangered species, and the biodiversity of the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve.
- In January of 2022, the State opened up a new public trail between Fiji Way and the bicycle path of the north creek levee - four mornings each week. This changed circumstance requires an assessment of the public access situation at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve, and a new, updated study that takes this access opening into account should be required as part of the news EIR review.
- A twenty-point gentle restoration plan was devised and published here. Please include a serious consideration of the twenty points in this proposed gentle restoration.

Sincerely,

The Hume and Murphy families.
Los Angeles.

From:	marisa landsberg
To:	Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Subject:	Ballona Wetlands
Sent:	1/19/2024 9:06:36 PM

You don't often get email from marisalandsberg@verizon.net. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

- In this version of the Environmental Impact Report, CDFW must include an accurate flood risk analysis of the entire proposed project. Revising the flood risk standards to what the Superior Court ruled in its judgment last summer must be done in accordance with what the US Army Corps of Engineers and LA County Flood Control experts stated during several years of the environmental review process. Using a different flood risk calculation impacts the entire EIR and must be accurately assessed and communicated both to the public and to relevant, concerned agencies.
- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a separate EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) since the overall project still contemplates demolishing the Ballona Creek levees, removing the sides of the river, triggering multiple federal laws that must be followed. The scope of this review cannot sidestep the federal laws that CDFW must follow.

- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new biological survey. The last one was completed approximately 10 years ago, and since then at least two endangered species have returned to nest at the Ballona Valley, both relying on habitat in the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve - including habitat in the Sequence #1 & #2 areas contemplated as starting locations for the proposed project. More species have returned to rely on the habitat at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve. A new, updated, and accurate biological baseline survey must be undertaken as part of this review.

- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new, updated sea level rise study and the relation of updated sea level rise calculations to the proposed project. Sea level rise predictions from 2012, when the last Scoping for an EIR was undertaken, were less robust than needed and the removal or demolishing of the Ballona Creek/River levees, combined with higher than anticipated sea level rise conditions, require an entirely new analysis of the situation.

- Since the last Scoping (2012) and Draft EIR (2017) were completed for essentially the same project, the water budget for this area has changed in part due to time passing since the Coastal Commission ordered illegal drains to be capped, significant changes in rainy weather patterns, and changes in management of the adjacent Playa Vista detention basin/"freshwater marsh." A new, revised water budget for fresh and brackish water must be undertaken and be compared to the habitats relied on by species of special concern, endangered species, and the biodiversity of the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve.

- In January of 2022, the State opened up a new public trail between Fiji Way and the bicycle path of the north creek levee - four mornings each week. This changed circumstance requires an assessment of the public access situation at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve, and a new, updated study that takes this access opening into account should be required as part of the news EIR review.

Thank you
Marisa Landsberg
Manhattan Beach resident

From:	Ulka Agarwal
To:	Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Subject:	Ballona Wetlands: STOP the plan to bulldoze
Sent:	1/19/2024 9:00:37 AM

You don't often get email from ulka.agarwal@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

Dear California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW):

I urge you to halt your current project at the Ballona Wetlands.

I appreciate the work you do every day on behalf of our precious plants and wildlife. However, I am concerned by CDWF's plan to bulldoze the Ballona Wetlands. This plan defies CDFW's Strategic Vision statement to "protect the public trust" and "preserve nature". This natural treasure - home to 1700 species of plants and animals - must be considered carefully. Please stop your current project and consider this alternative plan which *supports* CDFW's Strategic Vision:

- CDFW must include an accurate flood risk analysis of the entire proposed project. The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a separate EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) since the overall project still contemplates demolishing the Ballona Creek levees, removing the sides of the river, triggering multiple federal laws that must be followed. The scope of this review cannot sidestep the federal laws that CDFW must follow.
- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new biological survey. The last one was completed approximately 10 years ago, and since then at least two endangered species have returned to nest at the Ballona Valley, both relying on habitat in the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve - including habitat in the Sequence #1 & #2 areas contemplated as starting locations for the proposed project. More species have returned to rely on the habitat at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve. A new, updated, and accurate biological baseline survey must be undertaken as part of this review.
- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new, updated sea level rise study and the relation of updated sea level rise calculations to the proposed project. The last one was from 12 years ago and is no longer adequate.
- A new, revised water budget for fresh and brackish water must be undertaken and be compared to the habitats relied on by species of special concern, endangered species, and the biodiversity of the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve.
- In January of 2022, the State opened up a new public trail between Fiji Way and the bicycle path of the north creek levee - four mornings each week. This changed circumstance requires an assessment of the public access situation at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve, and a new, updated study that takes this access opening into account should be required as part of the news EIR review.
- Please include a serious consideration of the twenty points in this proposed gentle restoration. Plan here.

Please protect the public trust and protect our precious nature. The future of these wetlands are in your hands. I urge you to treat them with humanity and care.

Thank you for your kind consideration.

Ulka Agarwal, M.D.

Plant-Based Advocates

Campbell, CA

From:	H T Carlson
To:	Brody, Richard@Wildlife
Cc:	Gigi Wardlow
Subject:	Ballona
Sent:	11/8/2023 9:46:44 AM

[You don't often get email from htcarls@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

Richard,

We are homeowners who live in the neighborhood adjacent to the Ballona Wetlands. We were not made aware for the public hearing for the Ballona Wetlands project until late Monday by our HOA.

Will there be additional meetings related to this? If you could please send us all materials or information related to the ongoing dialogue.

Best,

Hans Carlson
Villa Imperia

Sent from my iPhone

From:	Steve Johnson
To:	Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Subject:	Bulldozing the wetlands
Sent:	1/19/2024 2:38:19 PM

[You don't often get email from sdwainj@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

Wouldn't it be cheaper and easier just to nuke all the wildlife and all wetlands?! Pushing a button only employs one person and feeds one family so I guess it's all about jobs! Jobs, jobs,jobs! They need to feed their family by destroying the environment and they need to feed their family by killing all the wildlife on the planet! That's a lot of jobs! It's all about humans! Fuck everything else!!!! Most humans rape and pillage the environment for money and LOVE treating the environment like the dictator Kim Jong-un treats his people. Just keep drilling for oil and making mote plastic and raping the environment and killing all the Wildlife! Let's turn planet Earth into planet SHIT hole. Your kids will love you for it. Greedy corporations, arrogant lobbyist and corrupt politicians are the root of all evil! What side are you on? USFWS Is total joke! The only thing they're protecting are their job! They give poachers basically a warning for poaching and then they go rape/destroy the environment themselves. The proofs in the pudding.USFWS are the ultimate poachers. I'm sure there's a small handful of good people in that corrupt Agency that are trying to do the right thing. Just not enough! We need an independent military to protect the environment before it's all destroyed by stupid humans It's always all about poor poor humans and their dumb jobs! Get a real job! Get a job that doesn't kill and pollute the only planet we have! Stop destroying mother nature for a damn paycheck! Your kids will love you for it!!

Sent from my iPhone

From: pat allinson
To: Brody, Richard@Wildlife; Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR;
Subject: BWER REIR 01 19 2024
Attachments: Allinson re Ballona FEIR.pdf;BW FEIR V1 AF1 plus.pdf;
Sent: 1/19/2024 3:56:08 PM

You don't often get email from pallinson@yahoo.com. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

To: BWERcomments@wildlife.ca.gov
Richard.Brody@wildlife.ca.gov

From: Patricia Allinson
Date: 01/19/24

Re: Proposed Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project REIR

Thank you for your letter dated October 24, 2023 regarding the Revised Environmental Impact Report (REIR) for the Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project.

The letter lists two issues to be addressed in the REIR (flood related and performance criteria), and mentions a third matter of interest (required approval/authorization from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps).

My Comments
I attach an earlier comment letter, emailed 1/31/21. These concerns remain.

I also attach Comment Letter AF-1, dated February 2, 2018, from the Department of the Interior / Corps. This letter details several concerns, including flood risk and the lack of clear objectives.

That letter's closing paragraph starts with:
"We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the DEIS and the Service is are [sic] available to continue to work with the Corps and CDFW to develop alternatives that will improve the quality of the site for biological resources over the long term."
That sentence is **not** an endorsement of the project.

I write to urge you to work with the Corps **prior** to issuing your final report.
And if that means developing a different alternative, please do that asap.
If the restoration plan can be improved, that's a good thing.

I believe the BWER deserves attention, resources, and preservation.
I believe the BWER deserves better than the currently proposed alternative.

Thank you.

From:	patriciamcpherson1@verizon.net
To:	Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Cc:	Margot Griswold; Walter Lamb; jeanette vosburg;
Subject:	CDFW NOP- Ballona Wetlands Scoping Comments
Sent:	1/19/2024 4:49:20 PM

You don't often get email from patriciamcpherson1@verizon.net. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.



Grassroots Coalition supports the comments provided by John Davis; The Ballona Wetlands Landtrust; Los Angeles Audubon.

1. Thousands of hours of investigative work have been forced upon Grassroots Coalition in order to papertrail the evolution of clandestine, degenerative CDFW actions and false representation of agency actions and contractor defects that have led to CDFW's current destructive actions and false representations made to the public, elected, and board members of every agency having anything to do with Ballona Wetlands, the Playa Vista development inclusive of the CDFW's 'board member' association with Playa Vista's Ballona Wetlands Conservancy. As a result, Grassroots Coalition (GC) requests that any/all previous documents supplied to and/or cited by GC for the previous BWER EIRs be included within whatever CDFW is calling their current 'Scoping' action today.

2. Include new information pertaining to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) and Ballona Wetlands as a Dept. of Water Resources(DWR) acknowledged Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem (GDE) and include honest, thorough evaluations to be performed per the SGMA GDE protocol of the SGMA branch of natural resources per CDFW in order to protect the fresh ground and surface waters of Ballona Wetlands and the southern portion of the Santa Monica Groundwater Basin. Such evaluation and comments need to be addressed with supportive documentation for any/all CDFW comments made, inclusive of supportive documents to back up CDFW Director Bonham's oral statements to agency board members. There needs to be a cessation of CDFW misleading and false representations and statements made to agency board members and personnel .

3. There is a need for Inclusion of information and honest address of the following information that was excluded from the now decertified FEIR including but not limited to:

a. The 2005 Purpose and Goals of Ballona's induction into the California Ecological Reserve System. Namely: Protection of Ballona's freshwater resources;
Ballona was inducted by the Regulatory body of Ca. natural resources, namely the Ca. Fish and Game Commission. The Fish and Game Commission approves codes and regulations that the Dept. of Fish and Wildlife is required to adhere. CDFW per Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve has not adhered to the Purpose and Goals assigned specifically to Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve and has not even included the T. 14 Section 630 Ballona specific Purpose and Goal language in its former DEIR or FEIR of Ballona Wetlands. CDFW (and SCC)failed to inform or alert that Ballona was inducted into the CA. Ecological Reserve system as a Title 14, Section 630 Terrestrial, NONMARINE Ecological Reserve.

Scoping needs to provide for evaluations for an alternative that informs all and protects the voluminous freshwater resources of Ballona Wetlands as written into its Title 14, Section 630 Purpose and Goal language as also affirmed by the Office of Administrative Law in 2005. Include alternatives for Ballona Wetland's actual restoration (as defined by restoration ecologists and not as a moving target of creation, conversion and indiscriminate landscaping) that provide real evaluation of the natural hydrology of Ballona Wetlands inclusive of its multiple freshwater aquifers and aquitard and its surface/groundwater interface in order to protect the natural freshwater resources of Ballona Wetlands and this southern portion of the Santa Monica Groundwater Basin from saltwater intrusion per Porter-Cologne; federal antidegradation laws, LARWQCB best management practices and anti waste laws, and SGMA.

4. Scoping needs to include evaluation of the actual volumes of fresh surface/ground water that is being diverted away from Ballona via the freshwater marsh system ; include also any/all ongoing pumping and diversion to sea and sanitation under npdes permits or without any permits ...such as is what is being drained and diverted out to sea via the old agricultural drainage ditches that syphon off the freshwater to the two drainage ditches that lead to the 2 manmade openings to Ballona Channel on the west end of Area B. Evaluate and provide accountability for the volumes of freshwater that are being drained and wasted to the sea via marina del rey in Area A. The drainage of freshwater from Area A has no permitting for such drainage. CDFW has failed to account for the permits for the 2 manmade openings in Area B to the Ballona Channel. Provide accountability for permits for these openings. Provide evaluation as to why these openings need to exist when freshwater both surface and groundwater dominate the ecology of Ballona, inclusive of the western portion of Area B. Provide actual hydrological studies of Ballona itself (as opposed to the surface flows of Ballona Channel from inland rain events and city runoff).

5. CDFW failed to perform the Section 1019 Land Management Plan that is required to be performed shortly after induction of an Ecological Reserve into the Ecological Reserve System of CA. Director Bonham acknowledged this during a Fish and Game Commission (the regulatory body of the natural resources division) Meeting in Oct. 2021. No Land Management Plan has yet been performed as required. And, as required for a Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem or any wetland/upland habitat complex ....an evaluation that includes hydrological evaluations of the surface/groundwater interface for the specific purpose of its protection and restoration from the ongoing CDFW unpermitted drainage and wasteful diversion drainages to sea and sanitation.

6. Include and adhere to the new Dept of Water Resources (2023) SGMA directives/recommendations to fill the numerous hydrology data gaps that exist per Ballona Wetlands and the area within which it resides- namely the southern portion of the Santa Monica Groundwater Basin.

7. FILL / SEDIMENT The Scoping needs to include actual historical data and exclude in any CDFW EIR, any vague narratives without substance as occurred in the FEIR. The historical data for any/all fill or sediment claims purported/ pronounced by CDFW or SCC(state coastal conservancy) need to have actual historical data sources to support claims made by CDFW or SCC. There needs to be a cessation of any/all CDFW and/or allowance by CDFW for the California Coastal Conservancy (SCC) to provide false and misleading information via hearsay and unsupported narratives.
Respond to the data provided by members of the public and quit the evasive, practices of nondisclosure and nonresponsiveness that is the current hallmark of CDFW.

8. Provide any/all actual data that CDFW relies upon to state that any/all freshwater dominated ecosystem alternative would require extensive and unsustainable construction tactics.
Thus far CDFW has provided only an unsubstantiated narrative as to why it has failed to perform any such alternative evaluation.

9. Include response to Chief Anthony Morales as he has delivered written queries to CDFW and SCC which have received no response. Respond to comments made by Chief Morales at the LARWQB in 2023 during this meeting that CDFW attended but failed to respond to Chief Morales' comments at the meeting or post meeting. Chief Morales noted that both CDFW and its partner the Coastal Conservancy had failed to be responsive to his written queries.

Please also inculcate a CDFW response to Tongva Ancestral Territorial Tribal Nation(TATTN) John Tommy Rosas.
CDFW has failed to be responsive to these knowledgeable native americans per Ballona Wetlands inclusive of its nature as a registered Sacred Site by John Tommy Rosas.

10. Consider and compare new information per Lessons Learned at Bolsa Chica
(Bolsa Chica Sustainability Report which draws a red flag warning as to the failure of the manmade opening to the ocean that has destroyed the targeted salt marsh vegetation by drowning it out in tidal saltwater, hence removing the targeted habitat (pickleweed) of the endangered Belding's Savannah Sparrow.) Include for consideration and comparative evaluation the salt ponds of Elkhorn Slough (Wildlife Conservation Board Lessons Learned) per the 2022/23 millions of dollars of grant funds approved to fix/ enhance the tidal caused eroding of berms at Elkhorn Slough in order to protect the salt ponds (which are similar in ecological activity for wildlife of Ballona) from saltwater innundation.

11. Per the Ballona FEIR Court Ruling : " Notify in writing all Responsible Agencies that have relied on the EIR to implement the project, that the EIR has been decertified."

The Groundwater Sustainability Agency(GSA) members at the recent Jan. GSPlan meeting for the Santa Monica Groundwater Basin , all relayed to the public and each other that none had knowledge that the CDFW Ballona FEIR had been decertified.
The Groundwater Sustainability Plan submitted by the GSAgency does acknowledge that it relied upon the FEIR information.

Even the County of LA representative, echoed at the meeting that the comments from the other members appeared to demonstrate that the CDFW FEIR was 'stayed' and had not been decertified.
CDFW, and specifically Director Bonham has repeatedly at meetings outside the FEIR process, relied upon his inaccurate narrative that the GSA's Plan supports that the CDFW plans of converting Ballona into a saltwater bay have already been determined by the GSA and multiple water agencies via evaluations of their own that the CDFW Plan will not negatively impact the Santa Monica Groundwater Basin aquifers. This is a false narrative as none of the agencies have performed evaluations to determine that the CDFW plan of bulldozing out Ballona to below sea level and digging out new deep saltwater channels as part of Sequence 1,2 will or will not have saltwater intrusion impacts upon the upper aquifer /aquitard and /or the Silverado aquifer. The aquifers are classified by LARWQCB as Drinking Water and Potential Drinking Water.

11. Grassroots Coalition requests that CDFW leadership and personnel attend a School for Honesty as part of any/all participation in anything related to Ballona Wetlands, Playa Vista and SoCalGas.

Patricia McPherson, Grassroots Coalition

From:	patriciamcpherson1@verizon.net
To:	Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Cc:	Margot Griswold; Walter Lamb; jeanette vosburg;
Subject:	CDFW NOP- Ballona Wetlands Scoping Comments
Sent:	1/19/2024 4:49:20 PM

You don't often get email from patriciamcpherson1@verizon.net. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.



Grassroots Coalition supports the comments provided by John Davis; The Ballona Wetlands Landtrust; Los Angeles Audubon.

1. Thousands of hours of investigative work have been forced upon Grassroots Coalition in order to papertrail the evolution of clandestine, degenerative CDFW actions and false representation of agency actions and contractor defects that have led to CDFW's current destructive actions and false representations made to the public, elected, and board members of every agency having anything to do with Ballona Wetlands, the Playa Vista development inclusive of the CDFW's 'board member' association with Playa Vista's Ballona Wetlands Conservancy. As a result, Grassroots Coalition (GC) requests that any/all previous documents supplied to and/or cited by GC for the previous BWER EIRs be included within whatever CDFW is calling their current 'Scoping' action today.

2. Include new information pertaining to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) and Ballona Wetlands as a Dept. of Water Resources(DWR) acknowledged Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem (GDE) and include honest, thorough evaluations to be performed per the SGMA GDE protocol of the SGMA branch of natural resources per CDFW in order to protect the fresh ground and surface waters of Ballona Wetlands and the southern portion of the Santa Monica Groundwater Basin. Such evaluation and comments need to be addressed with supportive documentation for any/all CDFW comments made, inclusive of supportive documents to back up CDFW Director Bonham's oral statements to agency board members. There needs to be a cessation of CDFW misleading and false representations and statements made to agency board members and personnel .

3. There is a need for Inclusion of information and honest address of the following information that was excluded from the now decertified FEIR including but not limited to:

a. The 2005 Purpose and Goals of Ballona's induction into the California Ecological Reserve System. Namely: Protection of Ballona's freshwater resources;
Ballona was inducted by the Regulatory body of Ca. natural resources, namely the Ca. Fish and Game Commission. The Fish and Game Commission approves codes and regulations that the Dept. of Fish and Wildlife is required to adhere. CDFW per Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve has not adhered to the Purpose and Goals assigned specifically to Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve and has not even included the T. 14 Section 630 Ballona specific Purpose and Goal language in its former DEIR or FEIR of Ballona Wetlands. CDFW (and SCC)failed to inform or alert that Ballona was inducted into the CA. Ecological Reserve system as a Title 14, Section 630 Terrestrial, NONMARINE Ecological Reserve.

Scoping needs to provide for evaluations for an alternative that informs all and protects the voluminous freshwater resources of Ballona Wetlands as written into its Title 14, Section 630 Purpose and Goal language as also affirmed by the Office of Administrative Law in 2005. Include alternatives for Ballona Wetland's actual restoration (as defined by restoration ecologists and not as a moving target of creation, conversion and indiscriminate landscaping) that provide real evaluation of the natural hydrology of Ballona Wetlands inclusive of its multiple freshwater aquifers and aquitard and its surface/groundwater interface in order to protect the natural freshwater resources of Ballona Wetlands and this southern portion of the Santa Monica Groundwater Basin from saltwater intrusion per Porter-Cologne; federal antidegradation laws, LARWQCB best management practices and anti waste laws, and SGMA.

4. Scoping needs to include evaluation of the actual volumes of fresh surface/ground water that is being diverted away from Ballona via the freshwater marsh system ; include also any/all ongoing pumping and diversion to sea and sanitation under npdes permits or without any permits ...such as is what is being drained and diverted out to sea via the old agricultural drainage ditches that syphon off the freshwater to the two drainage ditches that lead to the 2 manmade openings to Ballona Channel on the west end of Area B. Evaluate and provide accountability for the volumes of freshwater that are being drained and wasted to the sea via marina del rey in Area A. The drainage of freshwater from Area A has no permitting for such drainage. CDFW has failed to account for the permits for the 2 manmade openings in Area B to the Ballona Channel. Provide accountability for permits for these openings. Provide evaluation as to why these openings need to exist when freshwater both surface and groundwater dominate the ecology of Ballona, inclusive of the western portion of Area B. Provide actual hydrological studies of Ballona itself (as opposed to the surface flows of Ballona Channel from inland rain events and city runoff).

5. CDFW failed to perform the Section 1019 Land Management Plan that is required to be performed shortly after induction of an Ecological Reserve into the Ecological Reserve System of CA. Director Bonham acknowledged this during a Fish and Game Commission (the regulatory body of the natural resources division) Meeting in Oct. 2021. No Land Management Plan has yet been performed as required. And, as required for a Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem or any wetland/upland habitat complex ....an evaluation that includes hydrological evaluations of the surface/groundwater interface for the specific purpose of its protection and restoration from the ongoing CDFW unpermitted drainage and wasteful diversion drainages to sea and sanitation.

6. Include and adhere to the new Dept of Water Resources (2023) SGMA directives/recommendations to fill the numerous hydrology data gaps that exist per Ballona Wetlands and the area within which it resides- namely the southern portion of the Santa Monica Groundwater Basin.

7. FILL / SEDIMENT The Scoping needs to include actual historical data and exclude in any CDFW EIR, any vague narratives without substance as occurred in the FEIR. The historical data for any/all fill or sediment claims purported/ pronounced by CDFW or SCC(state coastal conservancy) need to have actual historical data sources to support claims made by CDFW or SCC. There needs to be a cessation of any/all CDFW and/or allowance by CDFW for the California Coastal Conservancy (SCC) to provide false and misleading information via hearsay and unsupported narratives.
Respond to the data provided by members of the public and quit the evasive, practices of nondisclosure and nonresponsiveness that is the current hallmark of CDFW.

8. Provide any/all actual data that CDFW relies upon to state that any/all freshwater dominated ecosystem alternative would require extensive and unsustainable construction tactics.
Thus far CDFW has provided only an unsubstantiated narrative as to why it has failed to perform any such alternative evaluation.

9. Include response to Chief Anthony Morales as he has delivered written queries to CDFW and SCC which have received no response. Respond to comments made by Chief Morales at the LARWQB in 2023 during this meeting that CDFW attended but failed to respond to Chief Morales' comments at the meeting or post meeting. Chief Morales noted that both CDFW and its partner the Coastal Conservancy had failed to be responsive to his written queries.

Please also inculcate a CDFW response to Tongva Ancestral Territorial Tribal Nation(TATTN) John Tommy Rosas.
CDFW has failed to be responsive to these knowledgeable native americans per Ballona Wetlands inclusive of its nature as a registered Sacred Site by John Tommy Rosas.

10. Consider and compare new information per Lessons Learned at Bolsa Chica
(Bolsa Chica Sustainability Report which draws a red flag warning as to the failure of the manmade opening to the ocean that has destroyed the targeted salt marsh vegetation by drowning it out in tidal saltwater, hence removing the targeted habitat (pickleweed) of the endangered Belding's Savannah Sparrow.) Include for consideration and comparative evaluation the salt ponds of Elkhorn Slough (Wildlife Conservation Board Lessons Learned) per the 2022/23 millions of dollars of grant funds approved to fix/ enhance the tidal caused eroding of berms at Elkhorn Slough in order to protect the salt ponds (which are similar in ecological activity for wildlife of Ballona) from saltwater innundation.

11. Per the Ballona FEIR Court Ruling : " Notify in writing all Responsible Agencies that have relied on the EIR to implement the project, that the EIR has been decertified."

The Groundwater Sustainability Agency(GSA) members at the recent Jan. GSPlan meeting for the Santa Monica Groundwater Basin , all relayed to the public and each other that none had knowledge that the CDFW Ballona FEIR had been decertified.
The Groundwater Sustainability Plan submitted by the GSAgency does acknowledge that it relied upon the FEIR information.

Even the County of LA representative, echoed at the meeting that the comments from the other members appeared to demonstrate that the CDFW FEIR was 'stayed' and had not been decertified.
CDFW, and specifically Director Bonham has repeatedly at meetings outside the FEIR process, relied upon his inaccurate narrative that the GSA's Plan supports that the CDFW plans of converting Ballona into a saltwater bay have already been determined by the GSA and multiple water agencies via evaluations of their own that the CDFW Plan will not negatively impact the Santa Monica Groundwater Basin aquifers. This is a false narrative as none of the agencies have performed evaluations to determine that the CDFW plan of bulldozing out Ballona to below sea level and digging out new deep saltwater channels as part of Sequence 1,2 will or will not have saltwater intrusion impacts upon the upper aquifer /aquitard and /or the Silverado aquifer. The aquifers are classified by LARWQCB as Drinking Water and Potential Drinking Water.

11. Grassroots Coalition requests that CDFW leadership and personnel attend a School for Honesty as part of any/all participation in anything related to Ballona Wetlands, Playa Vista and SoCalGas.

Patricia McPherson, Grassroots Coalition

From:	Matthew Kubala
To:	Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Subject:	CDFW Plan to Bulldoze Ballona Wetlands
Sent:	1/18/2024 7:12:13 PM

You don't often get email from matthewkubala2000@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

Please do not move forward with the plan to bulldoze the Ballona Wetlands. This environment needs to be preserved because it is a habitat that 1,700 species depend on for survival. There are multiple reasons why this project should not be allowed to proceed. In this version of the Environmental Impact Report, CDFW must include an accurate flood risk analysis of the entire proposed project. Revising the flood risk standards to what the Superior Court ruled in its judgment last summer must be done in accordance with what the US Army Corps of Engineers and LA County Flood Control experts stated during several years of the environmental review process. Using a different flood risk calculation impacts the entire EIR and must be accurately assessed and communicated both to the public and to relevant, concerned agencies. The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a separate EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) since the overall project still contemplates demolishing the Ballona Creek levees, removing the sides of the river, triggering multiple federal laws that must be followed. The scope of this review cannot sidestep the federal laws that CDFW must follow. The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must also include a new biological survey. The last one was completed approximately 10 years ago, and since then at least two endangered species have returned to nest at the Ballona Valley, both relying on habitat in the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve - including habitat in the Sequence #1 & #2 areas contemplated as starting locations for the proposed project. More species have returned to rely on the habitat at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve. A new, updated, and accurate biological baseline survey must be undertaken as part of this review. The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new, updated sea level rise study and the relation of updated sea level rise calculations to the proposed project. Sea level rise predictions from 2012, when the last Scoping for an EIR was undertaken, were less robust than needed and the removal or demolishing of the Ballona Creek/River levees, combined with higher than anticipated sea level rise conditions, require an entirely new analysis of the situation. Furthermore, since the last Scoping (2012) and Draft EIR (2017) were completed for essentially the same project, the water budget for this area has changed in part due to time passing since the Coastal Commission ordered illegal drains to be capped, significant changes in rainy weather patterns, and changes in management of the adjacent Playa Vista detention basin/"freshwater marsh." A new, revised water budget for fresh and brackish water must be undertaken and be compared to the habitats relied on by species of special concern, endangered species, and the biodiversity of the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve. Also, in January of 2022, the State opened up a new public trail between Fiji Way and the bicycle path of the north creek levee - four mornings each week. This changed circumstance requires an assessment of the public access situation at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve, and a new, updated study that takes this access opening into account should be required as part of the news EIR review. Finally, a different restoration plan, known as Alternative #4, has been created. It recommends such measures as establishing an Indigenous Tribal Council for managing Ballona, instituting animal recovery projects, and enhancing the trails of the Ballona Wetlands. I highly recommend implementing Alternative #4 for the protection of the Ballona Wetlands and the many organisms that reside within it.
Thank you,
MJ Kubala

From:	TLM
To:	Brody, Richard@Wildlife
Cc:	Hyperion@PN-Junction.Net
Subject:	CDFW REIR Comments, BFCC Channelization, Tom Mc Mahon, 2023 11 09 03 : Tom McMahon : Free Download, Borrow, and Streaming : Internet Archive
Sent:	11/13/2023 6:25:42 PM

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

https://archive.org/details/reir-comments-bfcc-channelization-tom-mc-mahon-2023-11-09-03

Hi Richard -

How do FEIR errors like this get corrected?

The problem we face is that your documents get quoted and cited for years to come.

- TLM

From:	Tom McMahon
To:	Brody, Richard@Wildlife
Cc:	Hyperion
Subject:	CDFW REIR Scoping Comments, Accelerating SLR, Tom Mc Mahon, 2023 11 03 Rev. 12 : Tom McMahon : Free Download, Borrow, and Streaming : Internet Archive
Sent:	11/8/2023 6:23:27 AM

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

Internet Archive:

https://archive.org/details/reir-scoping-comments-accelerating-slr-tom-mc-mahon-2023-11-03-rev.-12

Richard -

Again, very good Zoom call.

Analysis of the 68,000 cfs flood control design parameters directly interact with engineering analysis of the accelerating seal level rise issue (as does the whole EIR for that matter as is it riddled with 59" SLR assumptions). They are not mutually exclusive and cannot be separated. This is also true of REIR restoration goals and performance criteria.

Best regards,

- Tom

From:	Tom McMahon
To:	Brody, Richard@Wildlife
Cc:	Hyperion
Subject:	CDFW REIR Scoping Comments, Accelerating SLR, Tom Mc Mahon, 2023 11 03 Rev. 12 : Tom McMahon : Free Download, Borrow, and Streaming : Internet Archive
Sent:	11/8/2023 6:23:27 AM

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

Internet Archive:

https://archive.org/details/reir-scoping-comments-accelerating-slr-tom-mc-mahon-2023-11-03-rev.-12

Richard -

Again, very good Zoom call.

Analysis of the 68,000 cfs flood control design parameters directly interact with engineering analysis of the accelerating seal level rise issue (as does the whole EIR for that matter as is it riddled with 59" SLR assumptions). They are not mutually exclusive and cannot be separated. This is also true of REIR restoration goals and performance criteria.

Best regards,

- Tom

From:	Tom McMahon
To:	Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Cc:	Hyperion
Subject:	CDFW REIR Scoping Comments, Earthquakes, Tom Mc Mahon 2023 11 20 02 : Tom McMahon : Free Download, Borrow, and Streaming : Internet Archive
Sent:	11/22/2023 3:22:24 AM

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

https://archive.org/details/cdfw-reir-scoping-comments-earthquakes-tom-mc-mahon-2023-11-20-02

Documents downloadable (upper left and lower right menus).

From:	Tom McMahon
To:	Brody, Richard@Wildlife
Cc:	Hyperion
Subject:	CDFW REIR Scoping Comments, Trash Interception, Tom Mc Mahon, 2023 10 29 : Tom McMahon : Free Download, Borrow, and Streaming : Internet Archive
Sent:	11/8/2023 6:17:10 AM

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

https://archive.org/details/reir-scoping-comments-trash-interception-tom-mc-mahon-2023-10-29

Richard -

Very good Zoom call.

Analysis of the 68,000 cfs flood control design parameters directly interact with engineering analysis of the trash problem. They are not mutually exclusive and cannot be separated. This is also true of REIR restoration goals and performance criteria.

Best regards,

- Tom

From:	Tom McMahon
To:	Brody, Richard@Wildlife
Cc:	Hyperion
Subject:	CDFW REIR Scoping Comments, Trash Interception, Tom Mc Mahon, 2023 10 29 : Tom McMahon : Free Download, Borrow, and Streaming : Internet Archive
Sent:	11/8/2023 6:17:10 AM

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

https://archive.org/details/reir-scoping-comments-trash-interception-tom-mc-mahon-2023-10-29

Richard -

Very good Zoom call.

Analysis of the 68,000 cfs flood control design parameters directly interact with engineering analysis of the trash problem. They are not mutually exclusive and cannot be separated. This is also true of REIR restoration goals and performance criteria.

Best regards,

- Tom

From:	Katherine Pease
To:	Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Cc:	Ben Harris; Neysa Frechette; Scott Culbertson; Craig W. Cadwallader;
Subject:	Comment letter on the NOP of a REIR for the Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project
Attachments:	2024-1-19_NGOs to CDFW_NOP on REIR for Ballona Restoration.pdf
Sent:	1/19/2024 4:52:19 PM

You don't often get email from kpease@healthebay.org. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

Hello,

Please find attached a comment letter from Heal the Bay, Friends of Ballona Wetlands, Los Angeles Waterkeeper, and Surfrider Foundation South Bay Chapter on the Notice of Preparation of a Revised Environmental Impact Report for the Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project.

Thank you,

Katherine Pease

Heal the Bay

KATHERINE PEASE, PH.D. | DIRECTOR OF SCIENCE & POLICY
She/Her/Hers (What does this mean?)
Heal the Bay
1444 9th Street
Santa Monica, CA 90401
T: 310.451.1500 **x** 141 | **F:** 310.496.1902

From:	Analise McNeill
To:	Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Subject:	Comment on Bollana Wetlands
Sent:	1/19/2024 1:26:50 PM

You don't often get email from analisemcneill@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

Dear CDFW,

Thank you for taking the time to read my comment. Please do not bulldoze the Ballona Wetlands. These wetlands are home to 1,700 species of plants and animals.

Please consider the following:

- In this version of the Environmental Impact Report, CDFW must include an accurate flood risk analysis of the entire proposed project. Revising the flood risk standards to what the Superior Court ruled in its judgment last summer must be done in accordance with what the US Army Corps of Engineers and LA County Flood Control experts stated during several years of the environmental review process. Using a different flood risk calculation impacts the entire EIR and must be accurately assessed and communicated both to the public and to relevant, concerned agencies.
- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a separate EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) since the overall project still contemplates demolishing the Ballona Creek levees, removing the sides of the river, triggering multiple federal laws that must be followed. The scope of this review cannot sidestep the federal laws that CDFW must follow.

- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new biological survey. The last one was completed approximately 10 years ago, and since then at least two endangered species have returned to nest at the Ballona Valley, both relying on habitat in the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve - including habitat in the Sequence #1 & #2 areas contemplated as starting locations for the proposed project. More species have returned to rely on the habitat at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve. A new, updated, and accurate biological baseline survey must be undertaken as part of this review.

- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new, updated sea level rise study and the relation of updated sea level rise calculations to the proposed project. Sea level rise predictions from 2012, when the last Scoping for an EIR was undertaken, were less robust than needed and the removal or demolishing of the Ballona Creek/River levees, combined with higher than anticipated sea level rise conditions, require an entirely new analysis of the situation.

- Since the last Scoping (2012) and Draft EIR (2017) were completed for essentially the same project, the water budget for this area has changed in part due to time passing since the Coastal Commission ordered illegal drains to be capped, significant changes in rainy weather patterns, and changes in management of the adjacent Playa Vista detention basin/"freshwater marsh." A new, revised water budget for fresh and brackish water must be undertaken and be compared to the habitats relied on by species of special concern, endangered species, and the biodiversity of the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve.

- In January of 2022, the State opened up a new public trail between Fiji Way and the bicycle path of the north creek levee - four mornings each week. This changed circumstance requires an assessment of the public access situation at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve, and a new, updated study that takes this access opening

into account should be required as part of the news EIR review.

- A twenty-point gentle restoration plan was devised and published here. Please include a serious consideration of the twenty points in this proposed gentle restoration.

Thank you for your time,
Analise

--
Analise McNeill
"Do what you can, with what you have, where you are." -Theodore Roosevelt

From:	Miriam Faugno
To:	Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Subject:	Comments for EIR for Ballona
Sent:	1/18/2024 7:13:55 PM

You don't often get email from mfaugnos@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a separate EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) since the overall project still contemplates demolishing the Ballona Creek levees, removing the sides of the river, triggering multiple federal laws that must be followed. The scope of this review cannot sidestep the federal laws that CDFW must follow.
- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new biological survey. The last one was completed approximately 10 years ago, and since then at least two endangered species have returned to nest at the Ballona Valley, both relying on habitat in the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve - including habitat in the Sequence #1 & #2 areas contemplated as starting locations for the proposed project. More species have returned to rely on the habitat at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve. A new, updated, and accurate biological baseline survey must be undertaken as part of this review.

Miriam Faugno
Playa del Rey, CA
mfaugnos@gmail.com

From:	Miriam Faugno
To:	Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Subject:	Comments for EIR for Ballona
Sent:	1/18/2024 7:13:55 PM

You don't often get email from mfaugnos@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a separate EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) since the overall project still contemplates demolishing the Ballona Creek levees, removing the sides of the river, triggering multiple federal laws that must be followed. The scope of this review cannot sidestep the federal laws that CDFW must follow.
- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new biological survey. The last one was completed approximately 10 years ago, and since then at least two endangered species have returned to nest at the Ballona Valley, both relying on habitat in the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve - including habitat in the Sequence #1 & #2 areas contemplated as starting locations for the proposed project. More species have returned to rely on the habitat at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve. A new, updated, and accurate biological baseline survey must be undertaken as part of this review.

Miriam Faugno
Playa del Rey, CA
mfaugnos@gmail.com

From:	Garn, John C
To:	Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Cc:	Roberts, Carol; Kershek, Lauren; Medak, Christine; York, Kelley T;
Subject:	Comments on the Notice of Preparation of a Revised Environmental Impact Report for the Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project, Los Angeles County, California
Attachments:	20240118_2024-0035133-CEQA-LA_Comments for NOP for REIR Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project.pdf
Sent:	1/19/2024 6:09:50 AM

You don't often get email from john_garn@fws.gov. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

Good morning,

I hope this finds you healthy.

Please see attached.

Please note - some Firewall or email security settings will strip the digital signature from the letter. Please review the attachment and if the digital signature is not intact, contact me for an alternate method of transmittal through the secure FWS fileshare program.

A hard copy letter will not follow.

Sincerely,
John

John Garn
Administrative Assistant
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Carlsbad Fish and Wildlife Office
Palm Springs Fish and Wildlife Office
2177 Salk Avenue, Suite 250
Carlsbad, California 92008
760.431.9440

From:	Garn, John C
To:	Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Cc:	Roberts, Carol; Kershek, Lauren; Medak, Christine; York, Kelley T;
Subject:	Comments on the Notice of Preparation of a Revised Environmental Impact Report for the Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project, Los Angeles County, California
Attachments:	20240118_2024-0035133-CEQA-LA_Comments for NOP for REIR Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project.pdf
Sent:	1/19/2024 6:09:50 AM

You don't often get email from john_garn@fws.gov. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

Good morning,

I hope this finds you healthy.

Please see attached.

Please note - some Firewall or email security settings will strip the digital signature from the letter. Please review the attachment and if the digital signature is not intact, contact me for an alternate method of transmittal through the secure FWS fileshare program.

A hard copy letter will not follow.

Sincerely,
John

John Garn
Administrative Assistant
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Carlsbad Fish and Wildlife Office
Palm Springs Fish and Wildlife Office
2177 Salk Avenue, Suite 250
Carlsbad, California 92008
760.431.9440

From:	Ludovissy, Jennifer@Wildlife on behalf of Ludovissy, Jennifer@Wildlife
To:	Thomas, Kevin@Wildlife; Wilson-Olgin, Erinn@Wildlife; Burg, Richard@Wildlife; Dillingham, Tim@Wildlife; Takei, Kevin@Wildlife; Brody, Richard@Wildlife;
Cc:	Laoyan, Gem@Wildlife
Subject:	Copy of letter re: Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project
Attachments:	CDFW Response Ltr Hon Ted Lieu Ballona Wetlands.pdf
Sent:	12/13/2023 10:34:25 AM

Good Morning,

Please see attached copy for your records. A hard copy of this letter was mailed to Honorable Ted Lieu shortly after the date on the letter.

Thanks,
Jenny

JENNY LUDOVISSY | Associate Governmental Program Analyst
She/Her

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH and WILDLIFE

South Coast Region
Habitat Conservation Program
Monday – Friday | 7:30am – 4:00pm
(858) 716-7147

From:	Ludovissy, Jennifer@Wildlife
To:	Thomas, Kevin@Wildlife; Wilson-Olgin, Erinn@Wildlife; Burg, Richard@Wildlife; Dillingham, Tim@Wildlife; Takei, Kevin@Wildlife; Brody, Richard@Wildlife;
Cc:	Laoyan, Gem@Wildlife
Subject:	Copy of letter re: Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project
Attachments:	CDFW Response Ltr Hon Ted Lieu Ballona Wetlands.pdf
Sent:	12/13/2023 10:34:25 AM

Good Morning,

Please see attached copy for your records. A hard copy of this letter was mailed to Honorable Ted Lieu shortly after the date on the letter.

Thanks,
Jenny

JENNY LUDOVISSY | Associate Governmental Program Analyst
She/Her

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH and WILDLIFE

South Coast Region
Habitat Conservation Program
Monday – Friday | 7:30am – 4:00pm
(858) 716-7147

From:	Ludovissy, Jennifer@Wildlife
To:	Thomas, Kevin@Wildlife; Wilson-Olgin, Erinn@Wildlife; Burg, Richard@Wildlife; Dillingham, Tim@Wildlife; Takei, Kevin@Wildlife; Brody, Richard@Wildlife;
Subject:	Copy of response letter to Hon. Ted Lieu re: Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project
Attachments:	CDFW Response Ltr 11.15.23.pdf
Sent:	11/21/2023 8:36:16 AM

Hello,

Please see attached copy for your records. The hard copy of this letter has been sent via USPS mail today.

Thank you!
Jenny

JENNY LUDOVISSY | Associate Governmental Program Analyst
She/Her

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH and WILDLIFE

South Coast Region 5
Monday – Friday | 7:30am – 4:00pm
(858) 716-7147

From:	Wendy Zacuto
To:	Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Subject:	Crucial information about the Ballona Wetlands
Sent:	1/18/2024 11:21:45 AM

You don't often get email from wendy.zacuto@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

To :CA Department of Fish & Wildlife
Re: The proposed destructive plan for the La Ballona Wetlands

We are residents who have lived in proximity to the La Ballona Wetlands for over 60 years. We care a great deal about the flora and fauna who live in the wetlands, and ask that you re-examine your proposed task as it affects the wetlands and all who live in them. We implore you to accept **a 20 pt. gentle restoration plan that was devised and is now published on the website, *defendballonawetlands.org*. It is the best compromise to support our beautiful wetlands.**

We who care about the Ballona Wetlands understand that Department (CDFW) must include a re-do of the Environmental Impact Report and an accurate flood risk analysis of the entire proposed project. We implore that you consider the following in your plan:

Revising the flood risk standards to what the Superior Court ruled in its judgment last summer must be done in accordance with what the US Army Corps of Engineers and LA County Flood Control experts stated during several years of the environmental review process. **How this change in using a different flood risk calculation impacts the entire EIR and its original assumptions must be accurately assessed** and communicated to the public and to relevant, concerned agencies.

The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a separate EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) since the overall project still contemplates demolishing the Ballona Creek levees, removing the sides of the river, triggering multiple federal laws that must be followed. The scope of this review cannot sidestep the federal laws that CDFW must follow.

The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) **must include a new biological survey.** The last one was completed approximately 10 years ago, and since then, at least two endangered species have returned to nest at the Ballona Valley, both relying on habitat in the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve - including habitat in the Sequence #1 & #2 areas contemplated as starting locations for the proposed project. There are also additional species that have returned to rely on the habitat at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve. A new, updated and accurate biological baseline survey must be undertaken as part of this review.

The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new, updated sea level rise study and the relation of updated sea level rise calculations to the proposed project. Sea level rise predictions from 2012, when the last Scoping for an EIR was undertaken, have proven to be less robust than they ought to have been, and the removal or demolishing of the Ballona Creek/River levees, combined with higher than anticipated sea level rise conditions require an entirely new analysis of the situation.

• Since the last Scoping (2012) and Draft EIR (2017) were completed for essentially the same project, **the water budget for this area has changed,** in part due to time passing since the Coastal Commission ordered illegal drains to be capped, significant changes in rainy weather patterns, and changes in the management of the adjacent Playa Vista detention basin/"freshwater marsh." A new, revised water budget for fresh and brackish water must be undertaken and be compared to the habitats relied on by species of special concern, endangered species and the biodiversity of the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve.

• When the State opened up a new public trail between Fiji Way and the bicycle path of the north creek levee - four mornings each week--circumstance changed. The new bike path requires an assessment of the public access situation at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve, and a new, updated study that takes this access opening into account should be required as part of the news EIR review.

Last, but most importantly**,** a 20 pt. gentle restoration plan was devised and is now published on the website, *defendballonawetlands.org*. That plan has never been considered by CDFW as part of its future plans for the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve. **Please seriously consider the 20 points in this proposed gentle restoration**.

Our wetlands require your full attention to this matter.

Brad and Wendy Zacuto,
Residents of Playa Vista

,
--
Wendy Zacuto
Educational Consultant
Creating a safe and loving world ...
Writing from the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the Tongva/Gabrielino People. I acknowledge my role as a settler in this land on Turtle Island and I am very grateful. I recognize the ongoing harm and injustices of colonization and I commit to working toward safe, inclusive, just, equitable and healthy communities for all.

From: Debi Griepsma
To: Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Subject: Destructive plan to bulldoze the Ballona Wetlands
Sent: 1/18/2024 5:35:56 PM

You don't often get email from debiane3@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

- In this version of the Environmental Impact Report, CDFW must include an accurate flood risk analysis of the entire proposed project. Revising the flood risk standards to what the Superior Court ruled in its judgment last summer must be done in accordance with what the US Army Corps of Engineers and LA County Flood Control experts stated during several years of the environmental review process. Using a different flood risk calculation impacts the entire EIR and must be accurately assessed and communicated both to the public and to relevant, concerned agencies.
- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a separate EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) since the overall project still contemplates demolishing the Ballona Creek levees, removing the sides of the river, triggering multiple federal laws that must be followed. The scope of this review cannot sidestep the federal laws that CDFW must follow.
- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new biological survey. The last one was completed approximately 10 years ago, and since then at least two endangered species have returned to nest at the Ballona Valley, both relying on habitat in the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve - including habitat in the Sequence #1 & #2 areas contemplated as starting locations for the proposed project. More species have returned to rely on the habitat at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve. A new, updated, and accurate biological baseline survey must be undertaken as part of this review.
- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new, updated sea level rise study and the relation of updated sea level rise calculations to the proposed project. Sea level rise predictions from 2012, when the last Scoping for an EIR was undertaken, were less robust than needed and the removal or demolishing of the Ballona Creek/River levees, combined with higher than anticipated sea level rise conditions, require an entirely new analysis of the situation.
- Since the last Scoping (2012) and Draft EIR (2017) were completed for essentially the same project, the water budget for this area has changed in part due to time passing since the Coastal Commission ordered illegal drains to be capped, significant changes in rainy weather patterns, and changes in management of the adjacent Playa Vista detention basin/"freshwater marsh." A new, revised water budget for fresh and brackish water must be undertaken and be compared to the habitats relied on by species of special concern, endangered species, and the biodiversity of the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve.
- In January of 2022, the State opened up a new public trail between Fiji Way and the bicycle path of the north creek levee - four mornings each week. This changed circumstance requires an assessment of the public access situation at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve, and a new, updated study that takes this access opening into account should be required as part of the news EIR review.
-
- Thank you,
-
- Debi Griepsma
- Animal Welfare Advocate

From:	Christina Borello
To:	Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Subject:	Do not bulldoze Ballona Wetlands
Sent:	1/18/2024 7:14:37 PM

You don't often get email from sgborello@aol.com. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

I am writing to oppose the destructive plan to bulldoze the Ballona Wetlands, a prime habitat for 1,700 species of plants and animals.

Some "talking points" suggested by In Defense of Animals include, but are not limited to, the following:

- In this version of the Environmental Impact Report, CDFW must include an accurate flood risk analysis of the entire proposed project. Revising the flood risk standards to what the Superior Court ruled in its judgment last summer must be done in accordance with what the US Army Corps of Engineers and LA County Flood Control experts stated during several years of the environmental review process. Using a different flood risk calculation impacts the entire EIR and must be accurately assessed and communicated both to the public and to relevant, concerned agencies.
- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a separate EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) since the overall project still contemplates demolishing the Ballona Creek levees, removing the sides of the river, triggering multiple federal laws that must be followed. The scope of this review cannot sidestep the federal laws that CDFW must follow.
- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new biological survey. The last one was completed approximately 10 years ago, and since then at least two endangered species have returned to nest at the Ballona Valley, both relying on habitat in the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve - including habitat in the Sequence #1 & #2 areas contemplated as starting locations for the proposed project. More species have returned to rely on the habitat at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve. A new, updated, and accurate biological baseline survey must be undertaken as part of this review.
- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new, updated sea level rise study and the relation of updated sea level rise calculations to the proposed project. Sea level rise predictions from 2012, when the last Scoping for an EIR was undertaken, were less robust than needed and the removal or demolishing of the Ballona Creek/River levees, combined with higher than anticipated sea level rise conditions, require an entirely new analysis of the situation.
- Since the last Scoping (2012) and Draft EIR (2017) were completed for essentially the same project, the water budget for this area has changed in part due to time passing since the Coastal Commission ordered illegal drains to be capped, significant changes in rainy weather patterns, and changes in management of the adjacent Playa Vista detention basin/"freshwater marsh." A new, revised water budget for fresh and brackish water must be undertaken and be compared to the habitats relied on by species of special concern, endangered species, and the biodiversity of the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve.
- In January of 2022, the State opened up a new public trail between Fiji Way and the bicycle path of the north creek levee - four mornings each week. This changed circumstance requires an assessment of the public access situation at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve, and a new, updated study that takes this access opening into account should be required as part of the news EIR review.

- A twenty-point gentle restoration plan was devised and published here. Please include a serious consideration of the twenty points in this proposed gentle restoration.

Please reconsider your proposal and preserve instead of destroy the Ballona Wetlands. Thank you.

Sincerely,
C. Borello
San Jose, CA

From:	Maggie Coulter
To:	Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Subject:	Do not bulldoze the Ballona Wetlands
Sent:	1/18/2024 9:10:16 PM

You don't often get email from mcoulter@dcn.org. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

The Ballona Wetlands are prime habitat for 1,700 species of plants and animals.
They must not be bulldozed.
A twenty-point gentle restoration plan was devised and published here. Please include a serious consideration of the twenty points in this proposed gentle restoration.
Sincerely,
M. Coulter
Sacramento

From:	Lacey Levitt
To:	Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Subject:	Do not bulldoze the Ballona Wetlands
Sent:	1/20/2024 3:58:40 PM

You don't often get email from laceylevitt@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

As a Californian, I oppose the plan to bulldoze the Ballona Wetlands.
In this version of the Environmental Impact Report, CDFW must include an accurate flood risk analysis of the entire proposed project. Revising the flood risk standards to what the Superior Court ruled in its judgment last summer must be done in accordance with what the US Army Corps of Engineers and LA County Flood Control experts stated during several years of the environmental review process. Using a different flood risk calculation impacts the entire EIR and must be accurately assessed and communicated both to the public and to relevant, concerned agencies.
The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a separate EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) since the overall project still contemplates demolishing the Ballona Creek levees, removing the sides of the river, triggering multiple federal laws that must be followed. The scope of this review cannot sidestep the federal laws that CDFW must follow.
The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new biological survey. The last one was completed approximately 10 years ago, and since then at least two endangered species have returned to nest at the Ballona Valley, both relying on habitat in the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve - including habitat in the Sequence #1 & #2 areas contemplated as starting locations for the proposed project. More species have returned to rely on the habitat at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve. A new, updated, and accurate biological baseline survey must be undertaken as part of this review.
The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new, updated sea level rise study and the relation of updated sea level rise calculations to the proposed project. Sea level rise predictions from 2012, when the last Scoping for an EIR was undertaken, were less robust than needed and the removal or demolishing of the Ballona Creek/River levees, combined with higher than anticipated sea level rise conditions, require an entirely new analysis of the situation.
Since the last Scoping (2012) and Draft EIR (2017) were completed for essentially the same project, the water budget for this area has changed in part due to time passing since the Coastal Commission ordered illegal drains to be capped, significant changes in rainy weather patterns, and changes in management of the adjacent Playa Vista detention basin/"freshwater marsh." A new, revised water budget for fresh and brackish water must be undertaken and be compared to the habitats relied on by species of special concern, endangered species, and the biodiversity of the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve.
In January of 2022, the State opened up a new public trail between Fiji Way and the bicycle path of the north creek levee - four mornings each week. This changed circumstance requires an assessment of the public access situation at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve, and a new, updated study that takes this access opening into account should be required as part of the news EIR review.

Sincerely,

Lacey Levitt, Ph.D.

From: Heather G & Rob W
To: Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Subject: Don’t bulldoze wetlands
Sent: 1/19/2024 9:25:50 AM

You don't often get email from heatherbethguillen@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

- It’s clear this is a phony restoration project.
- In this version of the Environmental Impact Report, CDFW must include an accurate flood risk analysis of the entire proposed project. Revising the flood risk standards to what the Superior Court ruled in its judgment last summer must be done in accordance with what the US Army Corps of Engineers and LA County Flood Control experts stated during several years of the environmental review process. Using a different flood risk calculation impacts the entire EIR and must be accurately assessed and communicated both to the public and to relevant, concerned agencies.

Heather Guillen

From: Heather G & Rob W
To: Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Subject: Don’t bulldoze wetlands
Sent: 1/19/2024 9:25:50 AM

You don't often get email from heatherbethguillen@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

- It’s clear this is a phony restoration project.
- In this version of the Environmental Impact Report, CDFW must include an accurate flood risk analysis of the entire proposed project. Revising the flood risk standards to what the Superior Court ruled in its judgment last summer must be done in accordance with what the US Army Corps of Engineers and LA County Flood Control experts stated during several years of the environmental review process. Using a different flood risk calculation impacts the entire EIR and must be accurately assessed and communicated both to the public and to relevant, concerned agencies.

Heather Guillen

From: Leslie Smith
To: Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Subject: Don't BULLDOZE Ballona Wetlands
Sent: 1/18/2024 6:34:38 PM

You don't often get email from lplato.smith@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

- In this version of the Environmental Impact Report, CDFW must include an accurate flood risk analysis of the entire proposed project. Revising the flood risk standards to what the Superior Court ruled in its judgment last summer must be done in accordance with what the US Army Corps of Engineers and LA County Flood Control experts stated during several years of the environmental review process. Using a different flood risk calculation impacts the entire EIR and must be accurately assessed and communicated both to the public and to relevant, concerned agencies.
- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a separate EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) since the overall project still contemplates demolishing the Ballona Creek levees, removing the sides of the river, triggering multiple federal laws that must be followed. The scope of this review cannot sidestep the federal laws that CDFW must follow.

- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new biological survey. The last one was completed approximately 10 years ago, and since then at least two endangered species have returned to nest at the Ballona Valley, both relying on habitat in the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve - including habitat in the Sequence #1 & #2 areas contemplated as starting locations for the proposed project. More species have returned to rely on the habitat at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve. A new, updated, and accurate biological baseline survey must be undertaken as part of this review.

- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new, updated sea level rise study and the relation of updated sea level rise calculations to the proposed project. Sea level rise predictions from 2012, when the last Scoping for an EIR was undertaken, were less robust than needed and the removal or demolishing of the Ballona Creek/River levees, combined with higher than anticipated sea level rise conditions, require an entirely new analysis of the situation.

- Since the last Scoping (2012) and Draft EIR (2017) were completed for essentially the same project, the water budget for this area has changed in part due to time passing since the Coastal Commission ordered illegal drains to be capped, significant changes in rainy weather patterns, and changes in management of the adjacent Playa Vista detention basin/"freshwater marsh." A new, revised water budget for fresh and brackish water must be undertaken and be compared to the habitats relied on by species of special concern, endangered species, and the biodiversity of the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve.

- In January of 2022, the State opened up a new public trail between Fiji Way and the bicycle path of the north creek levee - four mornings each week. This changed circumstance requires an assessment of the public access situation at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve, and a new, updated study that takes this access opening into account should be required as part of the news EIR review.

- A twenty-point gentle restoration plan was devised and published here. Please include a serious consideration of the twenty points in this proposed gentle restoration.

From:	Ron McGill
To:	Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Subject:	Don't bulldoze Ballona!
Sent:	1/18/2024 5:40:51 PM

You don't often get email from ron.mcgill@compass.com. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

In this version of the Environmental Impact Report, CDFW must include an accurate flood risk analysis of the entire proposed project. Revising the flood risk standards to what the Superior Court ruled in its judgment last summer must be done in accordance with what the US Army Corps of Engineers and LA County Flood Control experts stated during several years of the environmental review process. Using a different flood risk calculation impacts the entire EIR and must be accurately assessed and communicated both to the public and to relevant, concerned agencies.

The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a separate EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) since the overall project still contemplates demolishing the Ballona Creek levees, removing the sides of the river, triggering multiple federal laws that must be followed. The scope of this review cannot sidestep the federal laws that CDFW must follow.

From:	Julie Sanford
To:	Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Subject:	Don't Bulldoze the Ballona Wetlands
Sent:	1/18/2024 8:12:49 PM

You don't often get email from jksanford@sbcglobal.net. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

I am writing to oppose the destructive plan to bulldoze the Ballona Wetlands.

- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new biological survey. The last one was completed approximately 10 years ago, and since then at least two endangered species have returned to nest at the Ballona Valley, both relying on habitat in the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve - including habitat in the Sequence #1 & #2 areas contemplated as starting locations for the proposed project. More species have returned to rely on the habitat at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve. A new, updated, and accurate biological baseline survey must be undertaken as part of this review.
- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new, updated sea level rise study and the relation of updated sea level rise calculations to the proposed project. Sea level rise predictions from 2012, when the last Scoping for an EIR was undertaken, were less robust than needed and the removal or demolishing of the Ballona Creek/River levees, combined with higher than anticipated sea level rise conditions, require an entirely new analysis of the situation.
- Since the last Scoping (2012) and Draft EIR (2017) were completed for essentially the same project, the water budget for this area has changed in part due to time passing since the Coastal Commission ordered illegal drains to be capped, significant changes in rainy weather patterns, and changes in management of the adjacent Playa Vista detention basin/"freshwater marsh." A new, revised water budget for fresh and brackish water must be undertaken and be compared to the habitats relied on by species of special concern, endangered species, and the biodiversity of the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve.
- In January of 2022, the State opened up a new public trail between Fiji Way and the bicycle path of the north creek levee - four mornings each week. This changed circumstance requires an assessment of the public access situation at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve, and a new, updated study that takes this access opening into account should be required as part of the news EIR review.
- A twenty-point gentle restoration plan was devised and published here. Please include a serious consideration of the twenty points in this proposed gentle restoration.

Thank you for your serious consideration. Every innocent wild animal who resides at Ballona Wetlands will lose their home and their life if this phony "restoration" plan to bulldoze their habitat moves forward. That would be a tragedy!

Julia (Julie) Sanford
http://www.juliasanfordactress.com
www.linktr.ee/juliasanford

From:	Gabrielle Swanberg
To:	Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Cc:	lisa@idausa.org
Subject:	EIR for Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve
Sent:	1/18/2024 10:03:00 PM

You don't often get email from g_swanberg@hotmail.com. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

- In this version of the Environmental Impact Report, CDFW must include an accurate flood risk analysis of the entire proposed project. Revising the flood risk standards to what the Superior Court ruled in its judgment last summer must be done in accordance with what the US Army Corps of Engineers and LA County Flood Control experts stated during several years of the environmental review process. Using a different flood risk calculation impacts the entire EIR and must be accurately assessed and communicated both to the public and to relevant, concerned agencies.
- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a separate EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) since the overall project still contemplates demolishing the Ballona Creek levees, removing the sides of the river, triggering multiple federal laws that must be followed. The scope of this review cannot sidestep the federal laws that CDFW must follow.
- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new biological survey. The last one was completed approximately 10 years ago, and since then at least two endangered species have returned to nest at the Ballona Valley, both relying on habitat in the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve - including habitat in the Sequence #1 & #2 areas contemplated as starting locations for the proposed project. More species have returned to rely on the habitat at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve. A new, updated, and accurate biological baseline survey must be undertaken as part of this review.
- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new, updated sea level rise study and the relation of updated sea level rise calculations to the proposed project. Sea level rise predictions from 2012, when the last Scoping for an EIR was undertaken, were less robust than needed and the removal or demolishing of the Ballona Creek/River levees, combined with higher than anticipated sea level rise conditions, require an entirely new analysis of the situation.
- Since the last Scoping (2012) and Draft EIR (2017) were completed for essentially the same project, the water budget for this area has changed in part due to time passing since the Coastal Commission ordered illegal drains to be capped, significant changes in rainy weather patterns, and changes in management of the adjacent Playa Vista detention basin/"freshwater marsh." A new, revised water budget for fresh and brackish water must be undertaken and be compared to the habitats relied on by species of special concern, endangered species, and the biodiversity of the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve.
- In January of 2022, the State opened up a new public trail between Fiji Way and the bicycle path of the north creek levee - four mornings each week. This changed circumstance requires an assessment of the public access situation at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve, and a new, updated study that takes this access opening into account should be required as part of the news EIR review.
- A twenty-point gentle restoration plan was devised and published here. Please include a serious consideration of the twenty points in this proposed gentle restoration.

Thank you, Gabrielle Swanberg, 1707 Marylyn Cir., Petaluma CA 94954

From: Anna Drummond
To: Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Subject: EIR
Sent: 1/21/2024 4:32:00 PM

You don't often get email from pal_95945@yahoo.com. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

- In this version of the Environmental Impact Report, CDFW must include an accurate flood risk analysis of the entire proposed project. Revising the flood risk standards to what the Superior Court ruled in its judgment last summer must be done in accordance with what the US Army Corps of Engineers and LA County Flood Control experts stated during several years of the environmental review process. Using a different flood risk calculation impacts the entire EIR and must be accurately assessed and communicated both to the public and to relevant, concerned agencies.
-
- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a separate EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) since the overall project still contemplates demolishing the Ballona Creek levees, removing the sides of the river, triggering multiple federal laws that must be followed. The scope of this review cannot sidestep the federal laws that CDFW must follow.
- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new biological survey. The last one was completed approximately 10 years ago, and since then at least two endangered species have returned to nest at the Ballona Valley, both relying on habitat in the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve - including habitat in the Sequence #1 & #2 areas contemplated as starting locations for the proposed project. More species have returned to rely on the habitat at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve. A new, updated, and accurate biological baseline survey must be undertaken as part of this review.
- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new, updated sea level rise study and the relation of updated sea level rise calculations to the proposed project. Sea level rise predictions from 2012, when the last Scoping for an EIR was undertaken, were less robust than needed and the removal or demolishing of the Ballona Creek/River levees, combined with higher than anticipated sea level rise conditions, require an entirely new analysis of the situation.
- Since the last Scoping (2012) and Draft EIR (2017) were completed for essentially the same project, the water budget for this area has changed in part due to time passing since the Coastal Commission ordered illegal drains to be capped, significant changes in rainy weather patterns, and changes in management of the adjacent Playa Vista detention basin/"freshwater marsh." A new, revised water budget for fresh and brackish water must be undertaken and be compared to the habitats relied on by species of special concern, endangered species, and the biodiversity of the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve.
- In January of 2022, the State opened up a new public trail between Fiji Way and the bicycle path of the north creek levee - four mornings each week. This changed circumstance requires an assessment of the public access situation at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve, and a new, updated study that takes this access opening into account should be required as part of the news EIR review.
- A twenty-point gentle restoration plan was devised and published here. Please include a serious consideration of the twenty points in this proposed gentle restoration.

From:	Aidan McCraw
To:	Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Subject:	Environmental Impact Report
Sent:	1/18/2024 8:21:31 PM

You don't often get email from mccrawaidan@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

In this version of the Environmental Impact Report, CDFW must include an accurate flood risk analysis of the entire proposed project. Revising the flood risk standards to what the Superior Court ruled in its judgment last summer must be done in accordance with what the US Army Corps of Engineers and LA County Flood Control experts stated during several years of the environmental review process. Using a different flood risk calculation impacts the entire EIR and must be accurately assessed and communicated both to the public and to relevant, concerned agencies.

The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a separate EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) since the overall project still contemplates demolishing the Ballona Creek levees, removing the sides of the river, triggering multiple federal laws that must be followed. The scope of this review cannot sidestep the federal laws that CDFW must follow.

The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new biological survey. The last one was completed approximately 10 years ago, and since then at least two endangered species have returned to nest at the Ballona Valley, both relying on habitat in the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve - including habitat in the Sequence #1 & #2 areas contemplated as starting locations for the proposed project. More species have returned to rely on the habitat at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve. A new, updated, and accurate biological baseline survey must be undertaken as part of this review.

The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new, updated sea level rise study and the relation of updated sea level rise calculations to the proposed project. Sea level rise predictions from 2012, when the last Scoping for an EIR was undertaken, were less robust than needed and the removal or demolishing of the Ballona Creek/River levees, combined with higher than anticipated sea level rise conditions, require an entirely new analysis of the situation.

Since the last Scoping (2012) and Draft EIR (2017) were completed for essentially the same project, the water budget for this area has changed in part due to time passing since the Coastal Commission ordered illegal drains to be capped, significant changes in rainy weather patterns, and changes in management of the adjacent Playa Vista detention basin/"freshwater marsh." A new, revised water budget for fresh and brackish water must be undertaken and be compared to the habitats relied on by species of special concern, endangered species, and the biodiversity of the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve.

In January of 2022, the State opened up a new public trail between Fiji Way and the bicycle path of the north creek levee - four mornings each week. This changed circumstance requires an assessment of the public access situation at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve, and a new, updated study that takes this access opening into account should be required as part of the news EIR review.

A twenty-point gentle restoration plan was devised and published here. Please include a serious consideration of the twenty points in this proposed gentle restoration.

From:	patriciamcpherson1@verizon.net
To:	Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Subject:	Extension of Deadline Request for NOP Comments for new EIR- Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve
Sent:	11/4/2023 2:54:35 PM

You don't often get email from patriciamcpherson1@verizon.net. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

Grassroots Coalition

To: Erinn Wilson-Olgin, Regional Manager, South Coast Region
Richard Brody, Land Manager, Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve

Re: Grassroots Coalition's Request for Extension of Comments for Notice of Preparation (NOP) for the Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project

Grassroots Coalition supports the LAAS request for extension below as Grassroots Coalition also believes that
an extension of the Notice of Preparation (NOP) comment period from 30 days to 75 days, would be helpful to facilitate focused public engagement and information clarifications from CDFW.

Sincerely,
Patricia McPherson, Grassroots Coalition

LAAS Expresses Concerns with Ballona Wetlands Project — Los Angeles Audubon Society (laaudubon.org)

Los Angeles Audubon Society
P.O. Box 931057
Los Angeles, California 90093-1057

October 31, 2023

Via Email (BWERcomments@wildlife.ca.gov)

TO: Erinn Wilson-Olgin, Regional Manager, South Coast Region.
Richard C. Brody, Land Manager, Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve

RE: Los Angeles Audubon Society Request for Extension of Comments for Notice of Preparation of a Revised Environmental Impact Report for the Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project

Los Angeles Audubon Society respectfully requests an extension of the Notice of Preparation (NOP) comment period from 30 days to 75 days, in the interest of public participation and transparency. As I am sure you are aware, the current 30-day comment period will end around Thanksgiving. It is a difficult time of year to respond to the NOP in a meaningful way. We are asking for 75 days as this would completely by-pass the holiday season.

Los Angeles Audubon Society thinks that this is a reasonable request given the judge's ruling on the previous FEIR concerning what CDFW did and did not adequately describe and analyze. We need to carefully go over the NOP to make sure we understand what CDFW is revising, and how the revisions fit with the judge's order. In the long run, a careful review at this stage of the preparation of a new and legal EIR will be to everyone's advantage.

Los Angeles Audubon Society has been a voice for birds and conservation in Los Angeles for over 110 years. Our mission is to promote the study and protection of birds, other wildlife, and their habitats throughout the diverse landscapes of the Los Angeles area. We have over 3,500 members and supporters, most of whom live in the County of Los Angeles. We also manage the oldest environmental education program at the Ballona Wetlands, serving mainly Title 1 schools, and twice monthly Open Wetlands to encourage public access within the Ballona Wetlands, with both programs implemented through our dedicated volunteer docents.

Again, in the interest of public participation, we request that you extend the comment period for the NOP.

Sincerely,



Margot Griswold, Ph.D.
Conservation and Education Committees
Los Angeles Audubon Society

From:	Bob McCombs
To:	Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Subject:	for your consideration
Sent:	1/18/2024 6:46:31 PM

You don't often get email from bobmcc@humboldt1.com. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

- In this version of the Environmental Impact Report, CDFW must include an accurate flood risk analysis of the entire proposed project. Revising the flood risk standards to what the Superior Court ruled in its judgment last summer must be done in accordance with what the US Army Corps of Engineers and LA County Flood Control experts stated during several years of the environmental review process. Using a different flood risk calculation impacts the entire EIR and must be accurately assessed and communicated both to the public and to relevant, concerned agencies.The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a separate EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) since the overall project still contemplates demolishing the Ballona Creek levees, removing the sides of the river, triggering multiple federal laws that must be followed. The scope of this review cannot sidestep the federal laws that CDFW must follow.

- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new biological survey. The last one was completed approximately 10 years ago, and since then at least two endangered species have returned to nest at the Ballona Valley, both relying on habitat in the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve - including habitat in the Sequence #1 & #2 areas contemplated as starting locations for the proposed project. More species have returned to rely on the habitat at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve. A new, updated, and accurate biological baseline survey must be undertaken as part of this review.

- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new, updated sea level rise study and the relation of updated sea level rise calculations to the proposed project. Sea level rise predictions from 2012, when the last Scoping for an EIR was undertaken, were less robust than needed and the removal or demolishing of the Ballona Creek/River levees, combined with higher than anticipated sea level rise conditions, require an entirely new analysis of the situation.

- Since the last Scoping (2012) and Draft EIR (2017) were completed for essentially the same project, the water budget for this area has changed in part due to time passing since the Coastal Commission ordered illegal drains to be capped, significant changes in rainy weather patterns, and changes in management of the adjacent Playa Vista detention basin/"freshwater marsh." A new, revised water budget for fresh and brackish water must be undertaken and be compared to the habitats relied on by species of special concern, endangered species, and the biodiversity of the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve.

- In January of 2022, the State opened up a new public trail between Fiji Way and the bicycle path of the north creek levee - four mornings each week. This changed circumstance requires an assessment of the public access situation at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve, and a new, updated study that takes this access opening into account should be required as part of the news EIR review.

- A twenty-point gentle restoration plan was devised and published here. Please include a serious consideration of the twenty points in this proposed gentle restoration.
-
- I can't say it better

Thank you for your consideration,
Robert McCombs
PO Box 4175
Arcata
95518
CA

--
Don't take life so serious, son. It ain't nohow permanent. ~ Pogo

From:	Wilson-Olgin, Erinn@Wildlife
To:	Burg, Richard@Wildlife; Takei, Kevin@Wildlife; Brody, Richard@Wildlife;
Subject:	FW: "REIR Comments, BFCC Channelization, Tom McMahon, 2023-11-09"
Attachments:	USACE FILE NO. 95_085 BALLONA CREEK COMPLETION OF WORK JULY 1937 copy.jpg;USACE FILE NO. 95_085 BALLONA CREEK COMPLETION OF WORK JULY 1937 copy.pdf;REIR Comments, BFCC Channelization, Tom McMahon, 2023-11-09 03.pdf;
Sent:	11/14/2023 8:32:35 AM

Erinn Wilson-Olgin
Regional Manager
South Coast Region
3030 Old Ranch Parkway, Suite 400
Seal Beach, CA 90740

From: Wildlife DIRECTOR <DIRECTOR@wildlife.ca.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, November 14, 2023 8:27 AM
To: Grover, Joshua@Wildlife <Joshua.Grover@wildlife.ca.gov>; Wilson-Olgin, Erinn@Wildlife <Erinn.Wilson-Olgin@wildlife.ca.gov>
Subject: FW: "REIR Comments, BFCC Channelization, Tom McMahon, 2023-11-09"

Good morning Josh and Erinn. This is FYI.

Stephanie Lo-Pickney
Administrative Assistant to:
Valerie Termini, Chief Deputy Director
CA Department of Fish & Wildlife
P.O. Box 944209
Sacramento, CA 94244-2090



From: Tom McMahon <TLM@PN-Junction.Net>
Sent: Friday, November 10, 2023 11:40 AM
To: Wildlife DIRECTOR <DIRECTOR@wildlife.ca.gov>
Cc: Hyperion <Hyperion@PN-Junction.Net>
Subject: FW: "REIR Comments, BFCC Channelization, Tom McMahon, 2023-11-09"

You don't often get email from tlm@pn-junction.net. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

Chuck – FYI.

Also uploaded here:

"CDFW REIR Comments, BFCC Channelization, Tom Mc Mahon, 2023 11 09 03 : Tom McMahon : Free Download, Borrow, and Streaming : Internet Archive"

https://archive.org/details/reir-comments-bfcc-channelization-tom-mc-mahon-2023-11-09-03

- TLM

From: Tom McMahon <TLM@PN-Junction.Net>
Sent: Friday, November 10, 2023 11:10 AM
To: Richard Burg <Richard.Burg@wildlife.ca.gov>; BWERcomments <BWERcomments@wildlife.ca.gov>
Cc: Hyperion <Hyperion@PN-Junction.Net>
Subject: "REIR Comments, BFCC Channelization, Tom McMahon, 2023-11-09"

Dear Richard, Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project –

As per our conversation of Nov 09, 2023. Recommended REIR Corrigenda.

Please see attached:

“REIR Comments, BFCC Channelization, Tom McMahon, 2023-11-09.pdf”
“USACE FILE NO. 95_085 BALLONA CREEK COMPLETION OF WORK JULY 1937 copy.jpg”
“USACE FILE NO. 95_085 BALLONA CREEK COMPLETION OF WORK JULY 1937 copy.pdf”

Thank you and best regards,

Tom McMahon, Engineer
8207 Delgany Avenue
Playa del Rey, CA 90293
+1-310-717-7208

From:	Wilson-Olgin, Erinn@Wildlife
To:	Burg, Richard@Wildlife; Brody, Richard@Wildlife; Takei, Kevin@Wildlife;
Subject:	FW: "REIR Scoping Comments, Trash Interception, Tom McMahon, 2023-10-29.pdf"
Attachments:	REIR Scoping Comments, Trash Interception, Tom McMahon, 2023-10-29.pdf
Sent:	11/1/2023 11:12:46 AM

Erinn Wilson-Olgin
Regional Manager
South Coast Region
3030 Old Ranch Parkway, Suite 400
Seal Beach, CA 90740

From: Wildlife DIRECTOR <DIRECTOR@wildlife.ca.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, October 31, 2023 4:35 PM
To: Wilson-Olgin, Erinn@Wildlife <Erinn.Wilson-Olgin@wildlife.ca.gov>
Subject: FW: "REIR Scoping Comments, Trash Interception, Tom McMahon, 2023-10-29.pdf"

Hi Erinn. Please see the email below and attachment above. Thank you.

Stephanie Lo-Pickney
Administrative Assistant to:
Valerie Termini, Chief Deputy Director
CA Department of Fish & Wildlife
P.O. Box 944209
Sacramento, CA 94244-2090



From: Tom McMahon <TLM@PN-Junction.Net>
Sent: Monday, October 30, 2023 8:05 PM
To: Wildlife DIRECTOR <DIRECTOR@wildlife.ca.gov>
Cc: Hyperion <Hyperion@PN-Junction.Net>
Subject: "REIR Scoping Comments, Trash Interception, Tom McMahon, 2023-10-29.pdf"

You don't often get email from tlm@pn-junction.net. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

Chuck Bonham
CDFW Headquarters
715 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814
Mailing: P.O. Box 944209
Sacramento, CA 94244-2090
https://wildlife.ca.gov/Contact
Director@wildlife.ca.gov
+1-(916) 445-0411

Dear Chuck -

Please see attached REIR Scoping Comments:

"REIR Scoping Comments, Trash Interception, Tom McMahon, 2023-10-29.pdf"

Thank you and best regards. Sincerely,

Tom McMahon, Engineer
8207 Delgany Avenue
Playa del Rey, CA 90293
+1-310-717-7208
Hyperion@PN-Junction.Net

From: Janna Scott
To: Takei, Kevin@Wildlife; Brody, Richard@Wildlife; Burg, Richard@Wildlife;
Subject: FW: "REIR Scoping Comments, Trash Interception, Tom McMahon, 2023-10-29.pdf"
Attachments: REIR Scoping Comments, Trash Interception, Tom McMahon, 2023-10-29.pdf
Sent: 10/31/2023 8:56:18 AM

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

Good morning,

My email address was not offered as a repository for public comments and yet somehow Mr. McMahon decided to send input here. Did the designated project email box also receive his message?

I am cautious about communications received outside the ordinary course of the CEQA process… I'm guessing we'll accept it, but if we do, would it be a curtesy or a necessity? Kevin, I would love your input in particular on this question. Thanks!

Janna Scott
ESA | Environmental Science Associates
408.660.4008 direct

From: Tom McMahon <TLM@PN-Junction.Net>
Sent: Monday, October 30, 2023 7:53 PM
To: Janna Scott <JScott@esassoc.com>
Cc: Hyperion <Hyperion@PN-Junction.Net>
Subject: "REIR Scoping Comments, Trash Interception, Tom McMahon, 2023-10-29.pdf"

Environmental Science Associates
Janna Scott, Director
575 Market Street, Suite 3700
San Francisco, CA 94105
+1-(415) 896-5900
jscott@esassoc.com

Dear Janna -

Please see attached REIR Scoping Comments:

"REIR Scoping Comments, Trash Interception, Tom McMahon, 2023-10-29.pdf"

Thank you and best regards. Sincerely,

Tom McMahon, Engineer
8207 Delgany Avenue
Playa del Rey, CA 90293
+1-310-717-7208
Hyperion@PN-Junction.Net

From:	Tom McMahon
To:	Brody, Richard@Wildlife
Cc:	Hyperion
Subject:	FW: "REIR Scoping Comments, Trash Interception, Tom McMahon, 2023-10-29.pdf"
Attachments:	REIR Scoping Comments, Trash Interception, Tom McMahon, 2023-10-29.pdf
Sent:	11/5/2023 5:47:33 AM

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

Hi Richard –

I wanted to make sure you received copies of my Scoping Comments directly.

This is the first of two.

- Tom

From: Tom McMahon <TLM@PN-Junction.Net>
Sent: Monday, October 30, 2023 7:50 PM
To: 'BWERcomments@wildlife.ca.gov' <BWERcomments@wildlife.ca.gov>
Cc: Hyperion (Hyperion@PN-Junction.Net) <Hyperion@PN-Junction.Net>
Subject: "REIR Scoping Comments, Trash Interception, Tom McMahon, 2023-10-29.pdf"

California Department of Fish & Wildlife
575 Market Street, Suite 3700
San Francisco, CA 94105
Attn: Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project

Dear CDFW BWRP et. al. -

Please see attached REIR Scoping Comments:

"REIR Scoping Comments, Trash Interception, Tom McMahon, 2023-10-29.pdf"

Thank you and best regards. Sincerely,

Tom McMahon, Engineer
8207 Delgany Avenue
Playa del Rey, CA 90293
+1-310-717-7208
Hyperion@PN-Junction.Net

From:	Wilson-Olgin, Erinn@Wildlife on behalf of Wilson-Olgin, Erinn@Wildlife
To:	Takei, Kevin@Wildlife; Burg, Richard@Wildlife; Brody, Richard@Wildlife;
Subject:	FW: Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project EIR Letter
Attachments:	SC CA Letter to CDFW re Scoping Extension.pdf
Sent:	11/1/2023 10:38:58 AM

Erinn Wilson-Olgin
Regional Manager
South Coast Region
3030 Old Ranch Parkway, Suite 400
Seal Beach, CA 90740

From: James Hines <jhcasitas@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 1, 2023 10:03 AM
To: Wilson-Olgin, Erinn@Wildlife <Erinn.Wilson-Olgin@wildlife.ca.gov>
Cc: Wendy-Sue Rosen <rosenfree@aol.com>; Brandon Dawson <brandon.dawson@sierraclub.org>; sierramarciah@gmail.com
Subject: Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project EIR Letter

You don't often get email from jhcasitas@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

Good Morning Ms Wilson-Olgin:

Please find an attached PDF of our Sierra Club letter requesting additional time for public comment on the Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project EIR scoping period.

Thank you.

for the wetlands.

Jim Hines
Sierra Club California Wildlife Committee

From:	Wilson-Olgin, Erinn@Wildlife
To:	Takei, Kevin@Wildlife; Burg, Richard@Wildlife; Brody, Richard@Wildlife;
Subject:	FW: Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project EIR Letter
Attachments:	SC CA Letter to CDFW re Scoping Extension.pdf
Sent:	11/1/2023 10:38:58 AM

Erinn Wilson-Olgin
Regional Manager
South Coast Region
3030 Old Ranch Parkway, Suite 400
Seal Beach, CA 90740

From: James Hines <jhcasitas@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 1, 2023 10:03 AM
To: Wilson-Olgin, Erinn@Wildlife <Erinn.Wilson-Olgin@wildlife.ca.gov>
Cc: Wendy-Sue Rosen <rosenfree@aol.com>; Brandon Dawson <brandon.dawson@sierraclub.org>; sierramarciah@gmail.com
Subject: Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project EIR Letter

You don't often get email from jhcasitas@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

Good Morning Ms Wilson-Olgin:

Please find an attached PDF of our Sierra Club letter requesting additional time for public comment on the Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project EIR scoping period.

Thank you.

for the wetlands.

Jim Hines
Sierra Club California Wildlife Committee

From:	Takei, Kevin@Wildlife on behalf of Takei, Kevin@Wildlife
To:	Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Subject:	FW: Los Angeles Audubon Society Request for Extension of NOP Comment Period
Attachments:	NOP Extension Request_LAAS.pdf
Sent:	11/1/2023 11:05:58 AM

-----Original Message-----
From: Margot Griswold <margotgriswold198@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 31, 2023 9:39 PM
To: Wilson-Olgin, Erinn@Wildlife <Erinn.Wilson-Olgin@wildlife.ca.gov>
Subject: Los Angeles Audubon Society Request for Extension of NOP Comment Period

[You don't often get email from margotgriswold198@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

From:	Marcela Benavides
To:	Brody, Richard@Wildlife
Cc:	Mark Beltran
Subject:	FW: Notice of Intent to Prepare a Revised EIR for the Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project
Attachments:	BWER_REIR_NOP_2023.pdf;Ballona Excerpts from USACE O&M Manual (1999).pdf;
Sent:	10/31/2023 11:15:56 AM

Follow Up Flag:	Follow up
Flag Status:	Completed

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

Hi Brody,

As discussed a little bit ago, attached are a few pages from the Corps' 1999 Operation, Maintenance, Repair, Replacement, and Rehabilitation Manual that reference the initiation of the LACDA project under the 1935 Emergency Relief Appropriation Act and construction of Ballona Creek Channel in the 1930s. Thought this would be helpful as you read through the 4th paragraph of the second page of the notice once again, in particular with respect to the reference to the 1990 LACDA project.

We have a webpage that talks about the 1990 LACDA Project - https://pw.lacounty.gov/wmd/watershed/LA/LACDA_Drainage.cfm.

Marcela Benavides-Aguilar, M.S.
Senior Civil Engineer
Los Angeles County Public Works
(626) 458-4372

From: Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR <BWERcomments@wildlife.ca.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, October 25, 2023 10:13 AM
To: Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR <BWERcomments@wildlife.ca.gov>
Subject: Notice of Intent to Prepare a Revised EIR for the Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project

CAUTION: External Email. Proceed Responsibly.

To: Interested Parties

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) is providing the attached notice to interested agencies and parties of its intent to prepare a Revised Environmental Impact Report (REIR) for the Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project (State Clearinghouse No. 2012071090).

The notice provides:

- Information about the project and the environmental review process under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA),
- A summary of the issues to be addressed in the REIR and a request for input as to those issues,
- The start and end dates of a 30-day period to provide scoping input about the issues to be addressed in the REIR (October 25, 2023 to 5 PM on November 27, 2023)
- An email address (BWERcomments@wildlife.ca.gov) and physical address to provide written input, and
- Other relevant information.

CDFW will host a virtual public scoping meeting about the project. Details are as follows:

- Date: Tuesday, November 7, 2023
- Start Time: 6:00 PM
- End Time: 7:30 PM or earlier if all who wish to speak have had an opportunity to do so.
- Join Meeting: https://bit.ly/ballonascopingmtg
  Webinar ID: 834 5297 1153
  Passcode: 091611
  Telephone number: (888) 788-0099 US Toll Free

If you have any questions regarding the meeting, please contact Richard C. Brody (Richard.Brody@wildlife.ca.gov).

Opting out of email updates: You are receiving this message because you previously expressed interest in receiving emails about the environmental review process for the Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project. If you would no longer like to receive emails like this one, please reply with the word "unsubscribe" in the subject line.

South Coast Region
California Department of Fish and Wildlife


CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF
FISH and WILDLIFE

From:	Tom McMahon
To:	Brody, Richard@Wildlife
Cc:	Hyperion
Subject:	FW: REIR Scoping Comments, Accelerating SLR, Tom McMahon, 2023-11-03
Attachments:	NASA-JPL Interagency SLR Task Force, National Tech Report, Santa Monica 2023-09-26 02.xlsx;NASA-JPL Interagency SLR Task Force, National Tech Report, Santa Monica 2023-09-26 Sheet Two.pdf;REIR Scoping Comments, Accelerating SLR, Tom McMahon, 2023-11-03 Rev. 12.pdf;
Sent:	11/5/2023 5:47:52 AM

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

Hi Richard –

I wanted to make sure you received copies of my Scoping Comments directly.

This is the second of two.

- Tom

From: Tom McMahon <TLM@PN-Junction.Net>
Sent: Friday, November 3, 2023 6:57 AM
To: BWERcomments@wildlife.ca.gov
Cc: Hyperion <Hyperion@PN-Junction.Net>
Subject: REIR Scoping Comments, Accelerating SLR, Tom McMahon, 2023-11-03

California Department of Fish & Wildlife
575 Market Street, Suite 3700
San Francisco, CA 94105
Attn: Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project

Dear CDFW, BWRP et. al. -

Please see attached REIR Scoping Comments and collateral data:

“REIR Scoping Comments, Accelerating SLR, Tom McMahon, 2023-11-03 Rev. 12.pdf”
“NASA-JPL Interagency SLR Task Force, National Tech Report, Santa Monica 2023-09-26 02.xlsx”
“NASA-JPL Interagency SLR Task Force, National Tech Report, Santa Monica 2023-09-26 Sheet Two.pdf”

Thank you and best regards. Sincerely,

Tom McMahon, Engineer
8207 Delgany Avenue
Playa del Rey, CA 90293
+1-310-717-7208
Hyperion@PN-Junction.Net

From:	Walter Lamb
To:	Wilson-Olgin, Erinn@Wildlife; Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR;
Cc:	Burg, Richard@Wildlife; Brody, Richard@Wildlife;
Subject:	Fwd: Agency Scoping for Ballona Wetlands Revised EIR
Sent:	10/27/2023 4:57:00 PM

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

Good afternoon, Erinn. I wanted to share these preliminary comments in response to the Department's Notice of Preparation of a Revised EIR with you and your team. As noted below to the various agencies, the wording of the NOP is problematic. The Department should be seeking broad scoping comments that could help the Department produce the most ecologically sound analysis without regard for what the Department may believe are limitations to future legal challenges. We are confident that the Revised EIR will be required to disclose and analyze extensive new information that was not available, at least to the public, at the time the original EIR was certified. Scoping comments relating to that anticipated new information are not only legally appropriate but also important to the CEQA process. I think you should clarify this for the various permitting and consulting agencies. We also think it is problematic that CDFW is seeking a set amount of funding prior to receiving and considering all scoping comments. It suggests that CDFW has already limited the scope and that the comment window, which ends 12 days after CDWF hopes to be allocated more funding, is a mere formality.

Our organization will be providing detailed scoping comments prior to the November 27th deadline, but I wanted to convey this preliminary information now.

Thanks.

Walter Lamb
Ballona Wetlands Land Trust
310-384-1042

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Walter Lamb** <walter@ballona.org>
Date: Fri, Oct 27, 2023 at 4:44 PM
Subject: Agency Scoping for Ballona Wetlands Revised EIR
To: <bryant.chesney@noaa.gov>, <jonathan_snyder@fws.gov>, <mandy.revell@coastal.ca.gov>, <jenny.newman@waterboards.ca.gov>, <prijatel.jean@epa.gov>, <wendy.hall@slc.ca.gov>, <aaron.O.Allen@usace.army.mil>

All,

It was nice to see some of you yesterday in Costa Mesa / Bolsa Chica. Regardless of what any entity or individual thinks about the Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project, none of us should want to see another several years and another $2.8 million spent only to realize after-the-fact that repeated errors lead to repeated delays and cost overruns in the planning process. CDFW's Notice of Preparation is worded in a way that downplays the significance of the scoping process by suggesting that anything unrelated to flood control or commitment to project performance criteria is out of scope. This language is unfortunate because it creates the perception from the outset that CDFW is suppressing feedback from responsible and trustee agencies (as does their request to receive funding for a specific scope of work before the completion of the scoping period). While our organization and others will submit detailed scoping comments, CDFW would give more weight to agency comments. The lack of agency comments is likely to have the opposite effect that CDFW may be hoping for.

CDFW's NOP cites "the principles of *res judicata*" but interprets those principles overly narrowly. Issues that relate to new facts or new circumstances are not barred by *res judicata* if those new facts and circumstances are material. There will presumably be quite a lot of new information disclosed in the revised EIR, given several years of new staff recommendations, contracts, design documents, etc. More importantly, even if *res judicata* did provide the sort of blanket immunity that CDFW suggests in its NOP, the CEQA scoping process is not intended to be constrained to legal issues, but is rather supposed to raise any environmental impacts that can reasonably be foreseen. CDFW should be encouraging, not discouraging, broad agency feedback up front, in order to identify and avoid potential setbacks down the road.

With that in mind, I would respectfully suggest that the most pressing issue requiring agency scoping feedback is sea level rise. Sea level rise is not concerned with *res judicata* and it didn't pause while CDFW sorts out its EIR. The first two maps of anticipated habitat expected to occur under the project as a result of sea level rise no longer have any informational value because they depict a completed project sometime prior to 2030 and at 2030, and neither of those circumstances are now possible. Likewise, all of the discussion of habitat acreage, including discussion of various wildlife species that depend on those various habitats, is based on the first map of pre-2030 habitat (pg 271 of EIR). It is not enough for CDFW to have published a timeline for just the commencement of two construction sequences. CDFW will need to publish a timeline for completion of later sequences that remove the levees, and will have to provide new

maps and acreages, in order for the document to have any informational value under CEQA. *Res judicata* is not a good answer to the very real concern that phase II of the project, if implemented after 2030, would immediately inundate and alter existing habitat for endangered Belding's Savannah Sparrow. This concern is based on new facts and circumstances (i.e. project timing).

Federal permitting and consulting agencies may wish to inquire with CDFW why they are ignoring both CEQA and NEPA guidance by issuing a stand-alone EIR document. This is presumably designed to allow CDFW to more quickly implement a smaller set of construction sequences for which they believe fewer permits are needed. In fact, record evidence strongly suggests that CDFW has effectively abandoned those construction sequences that require the permits that have been elusive to CDFW. We believe that any permits granted for just a segment of the full project will be legally indefensible. It would seemingly be more prudent to "stress test" whether these permits can be issued up front, rather than after additional time and money has been expended.

There are many other issues for which we believe new information and circumstances will require new disclosure and analysis. This includes public access, land use compatibility determinations (subsequent to a recent court ruling), new design components not analyzed in the EIR, etc. This is an opportunity for agencies to generally encourage CDFW to err on the side of producing a legally and ecologically defensible analysis, which would also make the permitting and consulting process easier down the road.

Thank you for considering this request for your agencies to submit scoping comments. I am always happy to discuss these issues further via email or telephone. A happy weekend to all.

Walter Lamb
Ballona Wetlands Land Trust
310-384-1042

From:	Walter Lamb
To:	Wilson-Olgin, Erinn@Wildlife; Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR;
Cc:	Burg, Richard@Wildlife; Brody, Richard@Wildlife;
Subject:	Fwd: Agency Scoping for Ballona Wetlands Revised EIR
Sent:	10/27/2023 4:57:00 PM

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

Good afternoon, Erinn. I wanted to share these preliminary comments in response to the Department's Notice of Preparation of a Revised EIR with you and your team. As noted below to the various agencies, the wording of the NOP is problematic. The Department should be seeking broad scoping comments that could help the Department produce the most ecologically sound analysis without regard for what the Department may believe are limitations to future legal challenges. We are confident that the Revised EIR will be required to disclose and analyze extensive new information that was not available, at least to the public, at the time the original EIR was certified. Scoping comments relating to that anticipated new information are not only legally appropriate but also important to the CEQA process. I think you should clarify this for the various permitting and consulting agencies. We also think it is problematic that CDFW is seeking a set amount of funding prior to receiving and considering all scoping comments. It suggests that CDFW has already limited the scope and that the comment window, which ends 12 days after CDWF hopes to be allocated more funding, is a mere formality.

Our organization will be providing detailed scoping comments prior to the November 27th deadline, but I wanted to convey this preliminary information now.

Thanks.

Walter Lamb
Ballona Wetlands Land Trust
310-384-1042

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Walter Lamb** <walter@ballona.org>
Date: Fri, Oct 27, 2023 at 4:44 PM
Subject: Agency Scoping for Ballona Wetlands Revised EIR
To: <bryant.chesney@noaa.gov>, <jonathan_snyder@fws.gov>, <mandy.revell@coastal.ca.gov>, <jenny.newman@waterboards.ca.gov>, <prijatel.jean@epa.gov>, <wendy.hall@slc.ca.gov>, <aaron.O.Allen@usace.army.mil>

All,

It was nice to see some of you yesterday in Costa Mesa / Bolsa Chica. Regardless of what any entity or individual thinks about the Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project, none of us should want to see another several years and another $2.8 million spent only to realize after-the-fact that repeated errors lead to repeated delays and cost overruns in the planning process. CDFW's Notice of Preparation is worded in a way that downplays the significance of the scoping process by suggesting that anything unrelated to flood control or commitment to project performance criteria is out of scope. This language is unfortunate because it creates the perception from the outset that CDFW is suppressing feedback from responsible and trustee agencies (as does their request to receive funding for a specific scope of work before the completion of the scoping period). While our organization and others will submit detailed scoping comments, CDFW would give more weight to agency comments. The lack of agency comments is likely to have the opposite effect that CDFW may be hoping for.

CDFW's NOP cites "the principles of *res judicata*" but interprets those principles overly narrowly. Issues that relate to new facts or new circumstances are not barred by *res judicata* if those new facts and circumstances are material. There will presumably be quite a lot of new information disclosed in the revised EIR, given several years of new staff recommendations, contracts, design documents, etc. More importantly, even if *res judicata* did provide the sort of blanket immunity that CDFW suggests in its NOP, the CEQA scoping process is not intended to be constrained to legal issues, but is rather supposed to raise any environmental impacts that can reasonably be foreseen. CDFW should be encouraging, not discouraging, broad agency feedback up front, in order to identify and avoid potential setbacks down the road.

With that in mind, I would respectfully suggest that the most pressing issue requiring agency scoping feedback is sea level rise. Sea level rise is not concerned with *res judicata* and it didn't pause while CDFW sorts out its EIR. The first two maps of anticipated habitat expected to occur under the project as a result of sea level rise no longer have any informational value because they depict a completed project sometime prior to 2030 and at 2030, and neither of those circumstances are now possible. Likewise, all of the discussion of habitat acreage, including discussion of various wildlife species that depend on those various habitats, is based on the first map of pre-2030 habitat (pg 271 of EIR). It is not enough for CDFW to have published a timeline for just the commencement of two construction sequences. CDFW will need to publish a timeline for completion of later sequences that remove the levees, and will have to provide new

maps and acreages, in order for the document to have any informational value under CEQA. *Res judicata* is not a good answer to the very real concern that phase II of the project, if implemented after 2030, would immediately inundate and alter existing habitat for endangered Belding's Savannah Sparrow. This concern is based on new facts and circumstances (i.e. project timing).

Federal permitting and consulting agencies may wish to inquire with CDFW why they are ignoring both CEQA and NEPA guidance by issuing a stand-alone EIR document. This is presumably designed to allow CDFW to more quickly implement a smaller set of construction sequences for which they believe fewer permits are needed. In fact, record evidence strongly suggests that CDFW has effectively abandoned those construction sequences that require the permits that have been elusive to CDFW. We believe that any permits granted for just a segment of the full project will be legally indefensible. It would seemingly be more prudent to "stress test" whether these permits can be issued up front, rather than after additional time and money has been expended.

There are many other issues for which we believe new information and circumstances will require new disclosure and analysis. This includes public access, land use compatibility determinations (subsequent to a recent court ruling), new design components not analyzed in the EIR, etc. This is an opportunity for agencies to generally encourage CDFW to err on the side of producing a legally and ecologically defensible analysis, which would also make the permitting and consulting process easier down the road.

Thank you for considering this request for your agencies to submit scoping comments. I am always happy to discuss these issues further via email or telephone. A happy weekend to all.

Walter Lamb
Ballona Wetlands Land Trust
310-384-1042

From:	Walter Lamb
To:	Wilson-Olgin, Erinn@Wildlife; Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR;
Cc:	Burg, Richard@Wildlife; Brody, Richard@Wildlife;
Subject:	Fwd: Agency Scoping for Ballona Wetlands Revised EIR
Sent:	10/27/2023 4:57:01 PM

You don't often get email from walter@ballona.org. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

Good afternoon, Erinn. I wanted to share these preliminary comments in response to the Department's Notice of Preparation of a Revised EIR with you and your team. As noted below to the various agencies, the wording of the NOP is problematic. The Department should be seeking broad scoping comments that could help the Department produce the most ecologically sound analysis without regard for what the Department may believe are limitations to future legal challenges. We are confident that the Revised EIR will be required to disclose and analyze extensive new information that was not available, at least to the public, at the time the original EIR was certified. Scoping comments relating to that anticipated new information are not only legally appropriate but also important to the CEQA process. I think you should clarify this for the various permitting and consulting agencies. We also think it is problematic that CDFW is seeking a set amount of funding prior to receiving and considering all scoping comments. It suggests that CDFW has already limited the scope and that the comment window, which ends 12 days after CDWF hopes to be allocated more funding, is a mere formality.

Our organization will be providing detailed scoping comments prior to the November 27th deadline, but I wanted to convey this preliminary information now.

Thanks.

Walter Lamb
Ballona Wetlands Land Trust
310-384-1042

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Walter Lamb** <walter@ballona.org>
Date: Fri, Oct 27, 2023 at 4:44 PM
Subject: Agency Scoping for Ballona Wetlands Revised EIR
To: <bryant.chesney@noaa.gov>, <jonathan_snyder@fws.gov>, <mandy.revell@coastal.ca.gov>, <jenny.newman@waterboards.ca.gov>, <prijatel.jean@epa.gov>, <wendy.hall@slc.ca.gov>, <aaron.O.Allen@usace.army.mil>

All,

It was nice to see some of you yesterday in Costa Mesa / Bolsa Chica. Regardless of what any entity or individual thinks about the Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project, none of us should want to see another several years and another $2.8 million spent only to realize after-the-fact that repeated errors lead to repeated delays and cost overruns in the planning process. CDFW's Notice of Preparation is worded in a way that downplays the significance of the scoping process by suggesting that anything unrelated to flood control or commitment to project performance criteria is out of scope. This language is unfortunate because it creates the perception from the outset that CDFW is suppressing feedback from responsible and trustee agencies (as does their request to receive funding for a specific scope of work before the completion of the scoping period). While our organization and others will submit detailed scoping comments, CDFW would give more weight to agency comments. The lack of agency comments is likely to have the opposite effect that CDFW may be hoping for.

CDFW's NOP cites "the principles of *res judicata*" but interprets those principles overly narrowly. Issues that relate to new facts or new circumstances are not barred by *res judicata* if those new facts and circumstances are material. There will presumably be quite a lot of new information disclosed in the revised EIR, given several years of new staff recommendations, contracts, design documents, etc. More importantly, even if *res judicata* did provide the sort of blanket immunity that CDFW suggests in its NOP, the CEQA scoping process is not intended to be constrained to legal issues, but is rather supposed to raise any environmental impacts that can reasonably be foreseen. CDFW should be encouraging, not discouraging, broad agency feedback up front, in order to identify and avoid potential setbacks down the road.

With that in mind, I would respectfully suggest that the most pressing issue requiring agency scoping feedback is sea level rise. Sea level rise is not concerned with *res judicata* and it didn't pause while CDFW sorts out its EIR. The first two maps of anticipated habitat expected to occur under the project as a result of sea level rise no longer have any informational value because they depict a completed project sometime prior to 2030 and at 2030, and neither of those circumstances are now possible. Likewise, all of the discussion of habitat acreage, including discussion of various wildlife species that depend on those various habitats, is based on the first map of pre-2030 habitat (pg 271 of EIR). It is

not enough for CDFW to have published a timeline for just the commencement of two construction sequences. CDFW will need to publish a timeline for completion of later sequences that remove the levees, and will have to provide new maps and acreages, in order for the document to have any informational value under CEQA. *Res judicata* is not a good answer to the very real concern that phase II of the project, if implemented after 2030, would immediately inundate and alter existing habitat for endangered Belding's Savannah Sparrow. This concern is based on new facts and circumstances (i.e. project timing).

Federal permitting and consulting agencies may wish to inquire with CDFW why they are ignoring both CEQA and NEPA guidance by issuing a stand-alone EIR document. This is presumably designed to allow CDFW to more quickly implement a smaller set of construction sequences for which they believe fewer permits are needed. In fact, record evidence strongly suggests that CDFW has effectively abandoned those construction sequences that require the permits that have been elusive to CDFW. We believe that any permits granted for just a segment of the full project will be legally indefensible. It would seemingly be more prudent to "stress test" whether these permits can be issued up front, rather than after additional time and money has been expended.

There are many other issues for which we believe new information and circumstances will require new disclosure and analysis. This includes public access, land use compatibility determinations (subsequent to a recent court ruling), new design components not analyzed in the EIR, etc. This is an opportunity for agencies to generally encourage CDFW to err on the side of producing a legally and ecologically defensible analysis, which would also make the permitting and consulting process easier down the road.

Thank you for considering this request for your agencies to submit scoping comments. I am always happy to discuss these issues further via email or telephone. A happy weekend to all.

Walter Lamb
Ballona Wetlands Land Trust
310-384-1042

From:	patriciamcpherson1@verizon.net
To:	Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Cc:	JOHN DAVIS
Subject:	Grassroots Coalition Support for and request for inclusion as Scoping Issues-- COMMENTS JOHN DAVIS BWER
Attachments:	COMMENTS JOHN DAVIS BW REVISION.pdf
Sent:	1/19/2024 10:48:23 AM

You don't often get email from patriciamcpherson1@verizon.net. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.



GRASSROOTS COALITION requests that the following issues cited by Mr. John Davis per BWER, located within the southern portion of the Santa Monica Groundwater Basin,
be evaluated / included in the SCOPING address of issues that need to be included in the CDFW EIR preparation. Mr. Davis has asked why these issues have not been addressed by CDFW; Grassroots Coalition requests these issues be included for evaluation in the BWER EIR. The issues included by Mr. Davis for evaluation also include new information, processes, requirements (ie Sustainable Groundwater Management Act and Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem-BWER) that were not part of the informational process of the now decertified FEIR for BWER.

Thank you,
Patricia McPherson, Grassroots Coalition

----- Forwarded Message -----
From: jd johnanthonydavis.com <jd@johnanthonydavis.com>
To: BWERcomments@wildlife.ca.gov <bwercomments@wildlife.ca.gov>
Cc: "Patricia McPherson' <patriciamcpherson1@verizon.net>; MARGOT Griswold <mgriswold@landiq.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 18, 2024 at 04:51:53 PM PST
Subject: COMMENTS JOHN DAVIS BWER

Please find my comments for the BWER Revision Attached.

John Davis

From: Gracie Mayorga
To: Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Subject: I OPPOSE destructive plan to bulldoze the Ballona Wetlands.
Sent: 1/19/2024 3:38:51 PM

You don't often get email from graciegmayorga@hotmail.com. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

I oppose the destructive plan to bulldoze the Ballona Wetlands.

Gracie Mayorga

From:	Molly Zbojniewicz
To:	Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Subject:	I oppose the CDFW's destructive plan to bulldoze the Ballon's Wetlands.
Sent:	1/18/2024 9:21:14 PM

You don't often get email from molly.z@phoenixcm.net. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

Dear Sirs,

- In this new version of the Environmental Impact Report, CDFW must include an accurate flood risk analysis of the entire proposed project. Revising the flood risk standards to what the Superior Court ruled in its judgment last summer must be done in accordance with what the US Army Corps of Engineers and LA County Flood Control experts stated during several years of the environmental review process. Using a different flood risk calculation impacts the entire EIR and must be accurately assessed and communicated both to the public and to relevant, concerned agencies.
- The scope of this new Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a separate EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) since the overall project still contemplates demolishing the Ballona Creek levees, removing the sides of the river, triggering multiple federal laws that must be followed. The scope of this review cannot sidestep the federal laws that CDFW must follow.
- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new biological survey. The last one was completed approximately 10 years ago, and since then at least two endangered species have returned to nest at the Ballona Valley, both relying on habitat in the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve - including habitat in the Sequence #1 & #2 areas contemplated as starting locations for the proposed project. More species have returned to rely on the habitat at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve. A new, updated, and accurate biological baseline survey must be undertaken as part of this review.
- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new, updated sea level rise study and the relation of updated sea level rise calculations to the proposed project. Sea level rise predictions from 2012, when the last Scoping for an EIR was undertaken, were less robust than needed and the removal or demolishing of the Ballona Creek/River levees, combined with higher than anticipated sea level rise conditions, require an entirely new analysis of the situation.
- Since the last Scoping (2012) and Draft EIR (2017) were completed for essentially the same project, the water budget for this area has changed in part due to time passing since the Coastal Commission ordered illegal drains to be capped, significant changes in rainy weather patterns, and changes in management of the adjacent Playa Vista detention basin/"freshwater marsh." A new, revised water budget for fresh and brackish water must be undertaken and be compared to the habitats relied on by species of special concern, endangered species, and the biodiversity of the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve.
- In January of 2022, the State opened up a new public trail between Fiji Way and the bicycle path of the north creek levee - four mornings each week. This changed circumstance requires an assessment of the public access situation at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve, and a new, updated study that takes this access opening into account should be required as part of the news EIR review.
- A twenty-point gentle restoration plan was devised and published here. Please include a serious consideration of the twenty points in this proposed gentle restoration.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Molly Zbojniewicz
PHOENIX CONSTRUCTION & MANAGEMENT I 515 S. Flower Street, Suite 1270 I Los Angeles, CA I 90071
M: 213.435.1812 I O: 310.414.1800 I www. Phoenixcm.net

From:	Mike Evans
To:	Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Subject:	I oppose the destructive plan to bulldoze the Ballona Wetland
Sent:	1/19/2024 11:06:53 AM

You don't often get email from lammascot@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

- Dear Sir/Madam,
-
- In this version of the Environmental Impact Report, CDFW must include an accurate flood risk analysis of the entire proposed project. Revising the flood risk standards to what the Superior Court ruled in its judgment last summer must be done in accordance with what the US Army Corps of Engineers and LA County Flood Control experts stated during several years of the environmental review process. Using a different flood risk calculation impacts the entire EIR and must be accurately assessed and communicated both to the public and to relevant, concerned agencies.
- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a separate EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) since the overall project still contemplates demolishing the Ballona Creek levees, removing the sides of the river, triggering multiple federal laws that must be followed. The scope of this review cannot sidestep the federal laws that CDFW must follow.

- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new biological survey. The last one was completed approximately 10 years ago, and since then at least two endangered species have returned to nest at the Ballona Valley, both relying on habitat in the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve - including habitat in the Sequence #1 & #2 areas contemplated as starting locations for the proposed project. More species have returned to rely on the habitat at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve. A new, updated, and accurate biological baseline survey must be undertaken as part of this review.

- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new, updated sea level rise study and the relation of updated sea level rise calculations to the proposed project. Sea level rise predictions from 2012, when the last Scoping for an EIR was undertaken, were less robust than needed and the removal or demolishing of the Ballona Creek/River levees, combined with higher than anticipated sea level rise conditions, require an entirely new analysis of the situation.

- Since the last Scoping (2012) and Draft EIR (2017) were completed for essentially the same project, the water budget for this area has changed in part due to time passing since the Coastal Commission ordered illegal drains to be capped, significant changes in rainy weather patterns, and changes in management of the adjacent Playa Vista detention basin/"freshwater marsh." A new, revised water budget for fresh and brackish water must be undertaken and be compared to the habitats relied on by species of special concern, endangered species, and the biodiversity of the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve.

- In January of 2022, the State opened up a new public trail between Fiji Way and the bicycle path of the north creek levee - four mornings each week. This changed circumstance requires an assessment of the public access situation at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve, and a new, updated study that takes this access opening into account should be required as part of the news EIR review.

Every innocent wild animal who resides at Ballona Wetlands will lose their home and their life if the phony 'restoration' plan to bulldoze their habitat moves forward.

Yours sincerely,
Mike Evans.

From: Adrienne Metter
To: Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Subject: I oppose the destructive plan to bulldoze the Ballona Wetlands!
Sent: 1/18/2024 5:40:42 PM

You don't often get email from adriennekligman@verizon.net. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.



- In this version of the Environmental Impact Report, CDFW must include an accurate flood risk analysis of the entire proposed project. Revising the flood risk standards to what the Superior Court ruled in its judgment last summer must be done in accordance with what the US Army Corps of Engineers and LA County Flood Control experts stated during several years of the environmental review process. Using a different flood risk calculation impacts the entire EIR and must be accurately assessed and communicated both to the public and to relevant, concerned agencies.

- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a separate EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) since the overall project still contemplates demolishing the Ballona Creek levees, removing the sides of the river, triggering multiple federal laws that must be followed. The scope of this review cannot sidestep the federal laws that CDFW must follow.

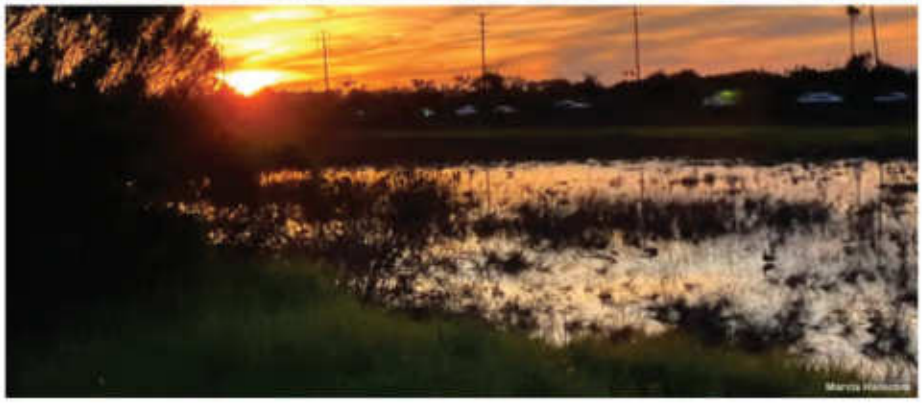
- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new biological survey. The last one was completed approximately 10 years ago, and since then at least two endangered species have returned to nest at the Ballona Valley, both relying on habitat in the

Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve - including habitat in the Sequence #1 & #2 areas contemplated as starting locations for the proposed project. More species have returned to rely on the habitat at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve. A new, updated, and accurate biological baseline survey must be undertaken as part of this review.

- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new, updated sea level rise study and the relation of updated sea level rise calculations to the proposed project. Sea level rise predictions from 2012, when the last Scoping for an EIR was undertaken, were less robust than needed and the removal or demolishing of the Ballona Creek/River levees, combined with higher than anticipated sea level rise conditions, require an entirely new analysis of the situation.
- Since the last Scoping (2012) and Draft EIR (2017) were completed for essentially the same project, the water budget for this area has changed in part due to time passing since the Coastal Commission ordered illegal drains to be capped, significant changes in rainy weather patterns, and changes in management of the adjacent Playa Vista detention basin/"freshwater marsh." A new, revised water budget for fresh and brackish water must be undertaken and be compared to the habitats relied on by species of special concern, endangered species, and the biodiversity of the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve.
- In January of 2022, the State opened up a new public trail between Fiji Way and the bicycle path of the north creek levee - four mornings each week. This changed circumstance requires an assessment of the public access situation at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve, and a new, updated study that takes this access opening into account should be required as part of the news EIR review.
- A twenty-point gentle restoration plan was devised and published here. Please include a serious consideration of the twenty points in this proposed gentle restoration.







From:	Catherine Hensley
To:	Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Subject:	I oppose the destructive plan to bulldoze the Ballona Wetlands!
Sent:	1/18/2024 6:08:46 PM

You don't often get email from clhediting@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

Hi,

I'm writing to oppose the destructive plan to bulldoze the Ballona Wetlands. In this version of the Environmental Impact Report, CDFW must include an accurate flood risk analysis of the entire proposed project. Revising the flood risk standards to what the Superior Court ruled in its judgment last summer must be done in accordance with what the US Army Corps of Engineers and LA County Flood Control experts stated during several years of the environmental review process. Using a different flood risk calculation impacts the entire EIR and must be accurately assessed and communicated both to the public and to relevant, concerned agencies.

The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a separate EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) since the overall project still contemplates demolishing the Ballona Creek levees, removing the sides of the river, triggering multiple federal laws that must be followed. The scope of this review cannot sidestep the federal laws that CDFW must follow.

The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new biological survey. The last one was completed approximately 10 years ago, and since then at least two endangered species have returned to nest at the Ballona Valley, both relying on habitat in the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve - including habitat in the Sequence #1 & #2 areas contemplated as starting locations for the proposed project. More species have returned to rely on the habitat at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve. A new, updated, and accurate biological baseline survey must be undertaken as part of this review.

The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new, updated sea level rise study and the relation of updated sea level rise calculations to the proposed project. Sea level rise predictions from 2012, when the last Scoping for an EIR was undertaken, were less robust than needed and the removal or demolishing of the Ballona Creek/River levees, combined with higher than anticipated sea level rise conditions, require an entirely new analysis of the situation.

Since the last Scoping (2012) and Draft EIR (2017) were completed for essentially the same project, the water budget for this area has changed in part due to time passing since the Coastal Commission ordered illegal drains to be capped, significant changes in rainy weather patterns, and changes in management of the adjacent Playa Vista detention basin/"freshwater marsh." A new, revised water budget for fresh and brackish water must be undertaken and be compared to the habitats relied on by species of special concern, endangered species, and the biodiversity of the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve.

In January of 2022, the State opened up a new public trail between Fiji Way and the bicycle path of the north creek levee - four mornings each week. This changed circumstance requires an assessment of the public access situation at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve, and a new, updated study that takes this access opening into account should be required as part of the news EIR review.

A twenty-point gentle restoration plan was devised and published here. Please include a serious consideration of the twenty points in this proposed gentle restoration!

Sincerely,

Catherine Beauchamp

From:	justdebra18@aol.com
To:	Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Subject:	I oppose the destructive plan to bulldoze the Ballona Wetlands
Sent:	1/18/2024 6:53:34 PM

You don't often get email from justdebra18@aol.com. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

Dear California Department of Fish and Wildlife,

I oppose the current proposed destructive plan in place to bulldoze the Ballona Wetlands for the following reasons:

- In this version of the Environmental Impact Report, CDFW must include an accurate flood risk analysis of the entire proposed project. Revising the flood risk standards to what the Superior Court ruled in its judgment last summer must be done in accordance with what the US Army Corps of Engineers and LA County Flood Control experts stated during several years of the environmental review process. Using a different flood risk calculation impacts the entire EIR and must be accurately assessed and communicated both to the public and to relevant, concerned agencies.
- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a separate EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) since the overall project still contemplates demolishing the Ballona Creek levees, removing the sides of the river, triggering multiple federal laws that must be followed. The scope of this review cannot sidestep the federal laws that CDFW must follow.
- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new biological survey. The last one was completed approximately 10 years ago, and since then at least two endangered species have returned to nest at the Ballona Valley, both relying on habitat in the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve - including habitat in the Sequence #1 & #2 areas contemplated as starting locations for the proposed project. More species have returned to rely on the habitat at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve. A new, updated, and accurate biological baseline survey must be undertaken as part of this review.
- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new, updated sea level rise study and the relation of updated sea level rise calculations to the proposed project. Sea level rise predictions from 2012, when the last Scoping for an EIR was undertaken, were less robust than needed and the removal or demolishing of the Ballona Creek/River levees, combined with higher than anticipated sea level rise conditions, require an entirely new analysis of the situation.
- Since the last Scoping (2012) and Draft EIR (2017) were completed for essentially the same project, the water budget for this area has changed in part due to time passing since the Coastal Commission ordered illegal drains to be capped, significant changes in rainy weather patterns, and changes in management of the adjacent Playa Vista detention basin/"freshwater marsh." A new, revised water budget for fresh and brackish water must be undertaken and be compared to the habitats relied on by species of special concern, endangered species, and the biodiversity of the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve.
- In January of 2022, the State opened up a new public trail between Fiji Way and the bicycle path of the north creek levee - four mornings each week. This changed circumstance requires an assessment of the public access situation at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve, and a new, updated study that takes this access opening into account should be required as part of the news EIR review.

Instead, please include a serious consideration of the twenty points in this **proposed gentle restoration**....

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1vQ6mSbdMwPnIuU1ga6xyzE9DE2Fe69Ri/view?emci=ced6fad6-65b6-ee11-bea1-0022482237da&emdi=136abe5b-6ab6-ee11-bea1-0022482237da&ceid=28282687

With appreciation,
Debra Lichstein

From:	Laura Herndon
To:	Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Subject:	I oppose your destructive plan to bulldoze the Ballona Wetlands
Sent:	1/19/2024 9:31:19 AM

You don't often get email from herndonlaura0@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

Since the last Scoping (2012) and Draft EIR (2017) were completed for essentially the same project, the water budget for this area has changed in part due to time passing since the Coastal Commission ordered illegal drains to be capped, significant changes in rainy weather patterns, and changes in management of the adjacent Playa Vista detention basin/"freshwater marsh." A new, revised water budget for fresh and brackish water must be undertaken and be compared to the habitats relied on by species of special concern, endangered species, and the biodiversity of the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve.

- A twenty-point gentle restoration plan was devised and published. Please include a serious consideration of the twenty points in this proposed gentle restoration.

Thank you,

Laura Herndon

From:	Tom McMahon
To:	Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Cc:	Hyperion
Subject:	Internet Archive: Traffic Study For The Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve Restoration Project DEIR Ballona Appendix H : Tom McMahon : Free Download, Borrow, and Streaming
Sent:	11/14/2023 6:50:06 AM

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

https://archive.org/details/traffic-study-for-the-ballona-wetlands-ecological-reserve-restoration-project-de

Dear CDFW, BWRP et. al. -

Traffic in Los Angeles has been increasing exponentially since Appendix H was published. West side and CD11 population and urbanization have increased dramatically. Appendix H's shelf date (sell by date) is long past expired, and work hasn't even begun yet.

The advent of the 2023 REIR gives CDFW the opportunity to conduct a forward-looking study with new data, providing the State of California, Los Angeles City and County departments, and CD11 (west side) stakeholders the ability to understand and comment on the impact of current and future Ballona Wetlands Restoration plans and construction.

Thank you and best regards,

Tom McMahon, Engineer
8207 Delgany Avenue
Playa del Rey, CA 90293
+1-310-717-7208
Hyperion@PN-Junction.Net

~~

Ref: "Traffic Study For The Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve Restoration Project DEIR", Ballona_Appendix H.pdf", September 2015.

https://archive.org/details/traffic-study-for-the-ballona-wetlands-ecological-reserve-restoration-project-de

From:	Anita Thomason
To:	Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Subject:	La Ballona Wetlands
Sent:	1/19/2024 10:31:39 AM

You don't often get email from ixelles@sbcglobal.net. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

To whom it may concern,

I live in Culver City. One of the loveliest areas near here is the La Ballona Wetlands. Please do whatever is necessary to preserve the Wetlands. In an area so congested with traffic, an area where there are many homes (and schools), we need some beautiful open spaces, spaces that are home to wildlife and plants.

Anita Thomason

From:	Anita Liao
To:	Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Subject:	Leave the Ballona Wetlands alone
Sent:	1/19/2024 12:47:51 PM

You don't often get email from anitaliao@yahoo.com. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

Hi,

I'm emailing to express my strong opposition against your destructive plan to bulldoze the Ballona Wetlands where thousands of species call home.

In this version of the Environmental Impact Report, CDFW must include an accurate flood risk analysis of the entire proposed project. Revising the flood risk standards to what the Superior Court ruled in its judgment last summer must be done in accordance with what the US Army Corps of Engineers and LA County Flood Control experts stated during several years of the environmental review process. Using a different flood risk calculation impacts the entire EIR and must be accurately assessed and communicated both to the public and to relevant, concerned agencies.

The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a separate EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) since the overall project still contemplates demolishing the Ballona Creek levees, removing the sides of the river, triggering multiple federal laws that must be followed. The scope of this review cannot sidestep the federal laws that CDFW must follow.

The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new biological survey. The last one was completed approximately 10 years ago, and since then at least two endangered species have returned to nest at the Ballona Valley, both relying on habitat in the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve - including habitat in the Sequence #1 & #2 areas contemplated as starting locations for the proposed project. More species have returned to rely on the habitat at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve. A new, updated, and accurate biological baseline survey must be undertaken as part of this review.

Please do the right thing. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Anita

From:	Laoyan, Gem@Wildlife on behalf of Laoyan, Gem@Wildlife
To:	Thomas, Kevin@Wildlife; Wilson-Olgin, Erinn@Wildlife; Burg, Richard@Wildlife; Dillingham, Tim@Wildlife; Takei, Kevin@Wildlife; Brody, Richard@Wildlife;
Subject:	Letter to Congressman Ted Lieu
Attachments:	PDF Response Ltr_11.15.23 REV1.pdf
Sent:	12/13/2023 10:36:18 AM

Good afternoon, I have been informed that the electronic copies may not have been distributed regarding the response letter to Representative Ted Lieu. Please see attached for your records, the original was mailed to the Representative on 11/21/23. Thanks so much!

Gem Laoyan
Assistant to the Director
Charlton H. Bonham
California Department of Fish & Wildlife
(916) 653-7667

From:	JENNICE DOBROSZCZYK
To:	Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Subject:	No Bulldozers
Sent:	1/18/2024 7:47:28 PM

[You don't often get email from jennice90245@outlook.com. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

LEAVE BALLONA ALONE -A !!!
Be kind to all animals

From: POD App
To: Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Subject: no to plan to bulldoze the Ballona Wetlands
Sent: 1/18/2024 11:13:40 PM

You don't often get email from rmapodapp@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

In this version of the Environmental Impact Report, CDFW must include an accurate flood risk analysis of the entire proposed project. Revising the flood risk standards to what the Superior Court ruled in its judgment last summer must be done in accordance with what the US Army Corps of Engineers and LA County Flood Control experts stated during several years of the environmental review process. Using a different flood risk calculation impacts the entire EIR and must be accurately assessed and communicated both to the public and to relevant, concerned agencies.
The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a separate EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) since the overall project still contemplates demolishing the Ballona Creek levees, removing the sides of the river, triggering multiple federal laws that must be followed. The scope of this review cannot sidestep the federal laws that CDFW must follow.

The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new biological survey. The last one was completed approximately 10 years ago, and since then at least two endangered species have returned to nest at the Ballona Valley, both relying on habitat in the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve - including habitat in the Sequence #1 & #2 areas contemplated as starting locations for the proposed project. More species have returned to rely on the habitat at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve. A new, updated, and accurate biological baseline survey must be undertaken as part of this review.

The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new, updated sea level rise study and the relation of updated sea level rise calculations to the proposed project. Sea level rise predictions from 2012, when the last Scoping for an EIR was undertaken, were less robust than needed and the removal or demolishing of the Ballona Creek/River levees, combined with higher than anticipated sea level rise conditions, require an entirely new analysis of the situation.

Since the last Scoping (2012) and Draft EIR (2017) were completed for essentially the same project, the water budget for this area has changed in part due to time passing since the Coastal Commission ordered illegal drains to be capped, significant changes in rainy weather patterns, and changes in management of the adjacent Playa Vista detention basin/"freshwater marsh." A new, revised water budget for fresh and brackish water must be undertaken and be compared to the habitats relied on by species of special concern, endangered species, and the biodiversity of the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve.

In January of 2022, the State opened up a new public trail between Fiji Way and the bicycle path of the north creek levee - four mornings each week. This changed circumstance requires an assessment of the public access situation at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve, and a new, updated study that takes this access opening into account should be required as part of the news EIR review.

A twenty-point gentle restoration plan was devised and published here. Please include a serious consideration of the twenty points in this proposed gentle restoration.

From: foffis defoffis
To: Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Subject: no to plan to bulldoze the Ballona Wetlands
Sent: 1/18/2024 11:13:14 PM

You don't often get email from foxannunci@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

In this version of the Environmental Impact Report, CDFW must include an accurate flood risk analysis of the entire proposed project. Revising the flood risk standards to what the Superior Court ruled in its judgment last summer must be done in accordance with what the US Army Corps of Engineers and LA County Flood Control experts stated during several years of the environmental review process. Using a different flood risk calculation impacts the entire EIR and must be accurately assessed and communicated both to the public and to relevant, concerned agencies.
The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a separate EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) since the overall project still contemplates demolishing the Ballona Creek levees, removing the sides of the river, triggering multiple federal laws that must be followed. The scope of this review cannot sidestep the federal laws that CDFW must follow.

The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new biological survey. The last one was completed approximately 10 years ago, and since then at least two endangered species have returned to nest at the Ballona Valley, both relying on habitat in the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve - including habitat in the Sequence #1 & #2 areas contemplated as starting locations for the proposed project. More species have returned to rely on the habitat at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve. A new, updated, and accurate biological baseline survey must be undertaken as part of this review.

The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new, updated sea level rise study and the relation of updated sea level rise calculations to the proposed project. Sea level rise predictions from 2012, when the last Scoping for an EIR was undertaken, were less robust than needed and the removal or demolishing of the Ballona Creek/River levees, combined with higher than anticipated sea level rise conditions, require an entirely new analysis of the situation.

Since the last Scoping (2012) and Draft EIR (2017) were completed for essentially the same project, the water budget for this area has changed in part due to time passing since the Coastal Commission ordered illegal drains to be capped, significant changes in rainy weather patterns, and changes in management of the adjacent Playa Vista detention basin/"freshwater marsh." A new, revised water budget for fresh and brackish water must be undertaken and be compared to the habitats relied on by species of special concern, endangered species, and the biodiversity of the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve.

In January of 2022, the State opened up a new public trail between Fiji Way and the bicycle path of the north creek levee - four mornings each week. This changed circumstance requires an assessment of the public access situation at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve, and a new, updated study that takes this access opening into account should be required as part of the news EIR review.

A twenty-point gentle restoration plan was devised and published here. Please include a serious consideration of the twenty points in this proposed gentle restoration.

From:	SuperFox
To:	Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Subject:	no to plan to bulldoze the Ballona Wetlands
Sent:	1/18/2024 11:12:45 PM

You don't often get email from foffux@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

In this version of the Environmental Impact Report, CDFW must include an accurate flood risk analysis of the entire proposed project. Revising the flood risk standards to what the Superior Court ruled in its judgment last summer must be done in accordance with what the US Army Corps of Engineers and LA County Flood Control experts stated during several years of the environmental review process. Using a different flood risk calculation impacts the entire EIR and must be accurately assessed and communicated both to the public and to relevant, concerned agencies.
The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a separate EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) since the overall project still contemplates demolishing the Ballona Creek levees, removing the sides of the river, triggering multiple federal laws that must be followed. The scope of this review cannot sidestep the federal laws that CDFW must follow.

The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new biological survey. The last one was completed approximately 10 years ago, and since then at least two endangered species have returned to nest at the Ballona Valley, both relying on habitat in the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve - including habitat in the Sequence #1 & #2 areas contemplated as starting locations for the proposed project. More species have returned to rely on the habitat at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve. A new, updated, and accurate biological baseline survey must be undertaken as part of this review.

The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new, updated sea level rise study and the relation of updated sea level rise calculations to the proposed project. Sea level rise predictions from 2012, when the last Scoping for an EIR was undertaken, were less robust than needed and the removal or demolishing of the Ballona Creek/River levees, combined with higher than anticipated sea level rise conditions, require an entirely new analysis of the situation.

Since the last Scoping (2012) and Draft EIR (2017) were completed for essentially the same project, the water budget for this area has changed in part due to time passing since the Coastal Commission ordered illegal drains to be capped, significant changes in rainy weather patterns, and changes in management of the adjacent Playa Vista detention basin/"freshwater marsh." A new, revised water budget for fresh and brackish water must be undertaken and be compared to the habitats relied on by species of special concern, endangered species, and the biodiversity of the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve.

In January of 2022, the State opened up a new public trail between Fiji Way and the bicycle path of the north creek levee - four mornings each week. This changed circumstance requires an assessment of the public access situation at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve, and a new, updated study that takes this access opening into account should be required as part of the news EIR review.

A twenty-point gentle restoration plan was devised and published here. Please include a serious consideration of the twenty points in this proposed gentle restoration.

From:	Riccardo Masci
To:	Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Subject:	no to plan to bulldoze the Ballona Wetlands
Sent:	1/18/2024 11:14:08 PM

You don't often get email from masci.riccardo@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

In this version of the Environmental Impact Report, CDFW must include an accurate flood risk analysis of the entire proposed project. Revising the flood risk standards to what the Superior Court ruled in its judgment last summer must be done in accordance with what the US Army Corps of Engineers and LA County Flood Control experts stated during several years of the environmental review process. Using a different flood risk calculation impacts the entire EIR and must be accurately assessed and communicated both to the public and to relevant, concerned agencies.
The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a separate EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) since the overall project still contemplates demolishing the Ballona Creek levees, removing the sides of the river, triggering multiple federal laws that must be followed. The scope of this review cannot sidestep the federal laws that CDFW must follow.

The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new biological survey. The last one was completed approximately 10 years ago, and since then at least two endangered species have returned to nest at the Ballona Valley, both relying on habitat in the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve - including habitat in the Sequence #1 & #2 areas contemplated as starting locations for the proposed project. More species have returned to rely on the habitat at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve. A new, updated, and accurate biological baseline survey must be undertaken as part of this review.

The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new, updated sea level rise study and the relation of updated sea level rise calculations to the proposed project. Sea level rise predictions from 2012, when the last Scoping for an EIR was undertaken, were less robust than needed and the removal or demolishing of the Ballona Creek/River levees, combined with higher than anticipated sea level rise conditions, require an entirely new analysis of the situation.

Since the last Scoping (2012) and Draft EIR (2017) were completed for essentially the same project, the water budget for this area has changed in part due to time passing since the Coastal Commission ordered illegal drains to be capped, significant changes in rainy weather patterns, and changes in management of the adjacent Playa Vista detention basin/"freshwater marsh." A new, revised water budget for fresh and brackish water must be undertaken and be compared to the habitats relied on by species of special concern, endangered species, and the biodiversity of the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve.

In January of 2022, the State opened up a new public trail between Fiji Way and the bicycle path of the north creek levee - four mornings each week. This changed circumstance requires an assessment of the public access situation at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve, and a new, updated study that takes this access opening into account should be required as part of the news EIR review.

A twenty-point gentle restoration plan was devised and published here. Please include a serious consideration of the twenty points in this proposed gentle restoration.

From:	David Jallo
To:	Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Subject:	Oppose Ballona Wetland Project
Sent:	1/18/2024 7:30:02 PM

You don't often get email from dgjallo@yahoo.com. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

I am writing to express my opposition to your Department's plan to radically modify this wetland. Many native animals now occupy that land and will be killed by this proposed action. I enjoyed many hikes in this area. Hearing chorus frogs, seeing raccoons and waterfowl have made it enjoyable. I ask that you stop this project and look at more conservative actions that don't wipe out existing resources.

David Jallo
28536 Cruthers Creek Road
Pearblossom, CA 93553
Dgjallo@yahoo.com

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone

From:	Jasmine Stodel
To:	Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Subject:	Oppose destructive plan to bulldoze the Ballona Wetlands
Sent:	1/18/2024 5:41:55 PM

You don't often get email from jstodel@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

To Whom It May Concern:

I oppose the destructive plan to bulldoze the Ballona Wetlands.

In this version of the Environmental Impact Report, CDFW must include an accurate flood risk analysis of the entire proposed project. Revising the flood risk standards to what the Superior Court ruled in its judgment last summer must be done in accordance with what the US Army Corps of Engineers and LA County Flood Control experts stated during several years of the environmental review process. Using a different flood risk calculation impacts the entire EIR and must be accurately assessed and communicated both to the public and to relevant, concerned agencies.

The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a separate EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) since the overall project still contemplates demolishing the Ballona Creek levees, removing the sides of the river, triggering multiple federal laws that must be followed. The scope of this review cannot sidestep the federal laws that CDFW must follow.

The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new biological survey. The last one was completed approximately 10 years ago, and since then at least two endangered species have returned to nest at the Ballona Valley, both relying on habitat in the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve - including habitat in the Sequence #1 & #2 areas contemplated as starting locations for the proposed project. More species have returned to rely on the habitat at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve. A new, updated, and accurate biological baseline survey must be undertaken as part of this review.

The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new, updated sea level rise study and the relation of updated sea level rise calculations to the proposed project. Sea level rise predictions from 2012, when the last Scoping for an EIR was undertaken, were less robust than needed and the removal or demolishing of the Ballona Creek/River levees, combined with higher than anticipated sea level rise conditions, require an entirely new analysis of the situation.

Since the last Scoping (2012) and Draft EIR (2017) were completed for essentially the same project, the water budget for this area has changed in part due to time passing since the Coastal Commission ordered illegal drains to be capped, significant changes in rainy weather patterns, and changes in management of the adjacent Playa Vista detention basin/"freshwater marsh." A new, revised water budget for fresh and brackish water must be undertaken and be compared to the habitats relied on by species of special concern, endangered species, and the biodiversity of the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve.

In January of 2022, the State opened up a new public trail between Fiji Way and the bicycle path of the north creek levee - four mornings each week. This changed circumstance requires an assessment of the public access situation at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve, and a new, updated study that takes this access opening into account should be required as part of the news EIR review.

A twenty-point gentle restoration plan was devised and published here. Please include a serious consideration of the twenty points in this proposed gentle
restoration. https://drive.google.com/file/d/1vQ6mSbdMwPnIuU1ga6xyzE9DE2Fe69Ri/view?emci=ced6fad6-65b6-ee11-bea1-0022482237da&emdi=136abe5b-6ab6-ee11-bea1-0022482237da&ceid=11250295

Thank you.

Jasmine

JASMINE STODEL
DIRECTOR/
PRODUCER
M: (917) 805-5530
www.JASMINESTODEL.com

The information contained in this electronic e-mail and any accompanying attachment(s) is intended only for the use of the intended recipient and may be confidential and/or privileged. If any reader of this communication is not the intended

recipient, unauthorized use, disclosure or copying is strictly prohibited, and may be unlawful. If you have received this communication in error, please immediately notify the sender (Jasmine Stodel - Cat Fight Productions) by return email, and delete the original message and all copies from your system. Thank you.

From:	Catherine Milovina
To:	Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Subject:	Oppose plan to bulldoze wetlands
Sent:	1/18/2024 9:27:09 PM

You don't often get email from cathrugg@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

Hello,

The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new, updated sea level rise study and the relation of updated sea level rise calculations to the proposed project. Sea level rise predictions from 2012, when the last Scoping for an EIR was undertaken, were less robust than needed and the removal or demolishing of the Ballona Creek/River levees, combined with higher than anticipated sea level rise conditions, require an entirely new analysis of the situation.

Catherine Milovina

ent from my iPhone

From:	S. Andregg
To:	Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Subject:	Oppose the bulldozing of the Ballona Wetlands - PLEASE
Sent:	1/18/2024 8:22:42 PM

You don't often get email from missandregg@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

Hello,

I'm writing to urge you to oppose the destructive bulldozing of the Ballona Wetlands, which is prime habitat for 1700 species of plants and animals.

I urge you to oppose the bulldozing based on these points:

- In this version of the Environmental Impact Report, CDFW must include an accurate flood risk analysis of the entire proposed project. Revising the flood risk standards to what the Superior Court ruled in its judgment last summer must be done in accordance with what the US Army Corps of Engineers and LA County Flood Control experts stated during several years of the environmental review process. Using a different flood risk calculation impacts the entire EIR and must be accurately assessed and communicated both to the public and to relevant, concerned agencies.

- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a separate EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) since the overall project still contemplates demolishing the Ballona Creek levees, removing the sides of the river, triggering multiple federal laws that must be followed. The scope of this review cannot sidestep the federal laws that CDFW must follow.

- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new biological survey. The last one was completed approximately 10 years ago, and since then at least two endangered species have returned to nest at the Ballona Valley, both relying on habitat in the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve - including habitat in the Sequence #1 & #2 areas contemplated as starting locations for the proposed project. More species have returned to rely on the habitat at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve. A new, updated, and accurate biological baseline survey must be undertaken as part of this review.

- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new, updated sea level rise study and the relation of updated sea level rise calculations to the proposed project. Sea level rise predictions from 2012, when the last Scoping for an EIR was undertaken, were less robust than needed and the removal or demolishing of the Ballona Creek/River levees, combined with higher than anticipated sea level rise conditions, require an entirely new analysis of the situation.

- Since the last Scoping (2012) and Draft EIR (2017) were completed for essentially the same project, the water budget for this area has changed in part due to time passing since the Coastal Commission ordered illegal drains to be capped, significant changes in rainy weather patterns, and changes in management of the adjacent Playa Vista detention basin/"freshwater marsh." A new, revised water budget for fresh and brackish water must be undertaken and be compared to the habitats relied on by species of special concern, endangered species, and the biodiversity of the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve.

- In January of 2022, the State opened up a new public trail between Fiji Way and the bicycle path of the north creek levee - four mornings each week. This changed circumstance requires an assessment of the public access situation at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve, and a new, updated study that takes this access opening into account should be required as part of the news EIR review.

- A twenty-point gentle restoration plan was devised and published here. Please include a serious consideration of the twenty points in this proposed gentle restoration.

Many thanks for your time,
S. Andregg

From:	C Kimura
To:	Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Subject:	Oppose the Destruction of the Ballona Wetlands
Sent:	1/18/2024 7:10:41 PM

You don't often get email from jnk7777@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

California Department of Fish and Wildlife,

I am writing to express my concerns regarding the Ballona Wetlands. I am in opposition to the destruction of this area where 1,700 species of plants and animals currently live.

I am an educator who has taken interest in the Ballona Wetlands. My students studied the area and felt so strongly in conserving this area that they raised funds to help.

The last Environmental Impact Report (EIR) was conducted about 10 years ago. Since that time, things have changed. Please consider the following changes that have occurred:

1. There has been a return of at least (2) endangered species. They rely on the diverse habitat that is unique to the Ballona Wetlands. A new biological baseline needs to be conducted to make an informed decision.

2. The rise in sea levels since the 2012 study needs to be accounted for. The demolition of the Ballona Wetlands could have an impact that was unaccounted for in the former EIR.

3. The Coastal Commission ordered illegal darins to be capped and weather patterns have changed due to increase in rain. A new water budget for both fresh and brackish (combination of salt and fresh water) needs to be accounted for. Endangered species and biodiversity count on this.

I strongly urge you to take these points into consideration and oppose the destruction of the Ballona Wetlands. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Kimura

From:	Shannon
To:	Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Subject:	Oppose the plan to bulldoze the Ballona Wetlands
Sent:	1/18/2024 6:17:04 PM

You don't often get email from shannonhunter11@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

To California Department of Fish and Wildlife:

This version of the Environmental Impact Report (EIA) for the Ballona Wetlands project states that CDFW must include an accurate flood risk analysis of the entire proposed project. Revising the flood risk standards to what the Superior Court ruled in its judgment in the summer 2023 *must* be done per what the US Army Corps of Engineers and LA County Flood Control experts stated during several years of the environmental review process. Using a different flood risk calculation impacts the entire EIR and must be accurately assessed and communicated both to the public and to relevant, concerned agencies.

The scope of this EIR must include a separate EIS due to the overall project still contemplating demolishing the Ballona Creek levees and removing the sides of the river, triggering multiple federal laws that must be followed. The scope of this review cannot sidestep the federal laws that CDFW must follow.

It must also include a new biological survey. The last one was completed nearly 10 years ago, and since that was done, at least two endangered species have returned to nest at the Ballona Valley, both relying on habitat in the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve - including habitat in the Sequence #1 & #2 areas contemplated as starting locations for the proposed project. More species have returned to rely on the habitat at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve. A new, updated, and accurate biological baseline survey must be undertaken as part of this review.

Among these reasons, there are many others to consider when doing another EIR.

Sincerely,

Shannon Hunter
Redding, CA

From:	marc scapa
To:	Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Subject:	oppose the plan to bulldoze the ballona wetlands.
Sent:	1/18/2024 6:05:02 PM

You don't often get email from scapaman23@yahoo.com. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

in this version of the Enviromental impact report , CDFW must include an accurate flood risk analysis of the entire proposed project . the scope of this environmental report (EIR) must include a separate EIS (environmental impact statement) since the overall project contemplates demolishing the Ballona creek levees, removing the sides of the river, trigging multiple federal laws that must be followed. the scope of this review cannot side step the federal laws that CDFW must follow. all wild life have rights. thank you for understanding .marc scapa.

From: Janet Rhodes
To: Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Subject: Opposed the destructive plan to bulldoze the Ballona Wetlands
Sent: 1/18/2024 7:53:40 PM

You don't often get email from janetrhodes1@msn.com. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

Dear Officials,

In this version of the Environmental Impact Report, CDFW must include an accurate flood risk analysis of the entire proposed project. Revising the flood risk standards to what the Superior Court ruled in its judgment last summer must be done in accordance with what the US Army Corps of Engineers and LA County Flood Control experts stated during several years of the environmental review process. Using a different flood risk calculation impacts the entire EIR and must be accurately assessed and communicated both to the public and to relevant, concerned agencies.

The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a separate EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) since the overall project still contemplates demolishing the Ballona Creek levees, removing the sides of the river, triggering multiple federal laws that must be followed. The scope of this review cannot sidestep the federal laws that CDFW must follow.

The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new biological survey. The last one was completed approximately 10 years ago, and since then at least two endangered species have returned to nest at the Ballona Valley, both relying on habitat in the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve - including habitat in the Sequence #1 & #2 areas contemplated as starting locations for the proposed project. More species have returned to rely on the

habitat at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve. A new, updated, and accurate biological baseline survey must be undertaken as part of this review.

The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new, updated sea level rise study and the relation of updated sea level rise calculations to the proposed project. Sea level rise predictions from 2012, when the last Scoping for an EIR was undertaken, were less robust than needed and the removal or demolishing of the Ballona Creek/River levees, combined with higher than anticipated sea level rise conditions, require an entirely new analysis of the situation.

Since the last Scoping (2012) and Draft EIR (2017) were completed for essentially the same project, the water budget for this area has changed in part due to time passing since the Coastal Commission ordered illegal drains to be capped, significant changes in rainy weather patterns, and changes in management of the adjacent Playa Vista detention basin/"freshwater marsh." A new, revised water budget for fresh and brackish water must be undertaken and be compared to the habitats relied on by species of special concern, endangered species, and the biodiversity of the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve.

In January of 2022, the State opened up a new public trail between Fiji Way and the bicycle path of the north creek levee - four mornings each week. This changed circumstance requires an assessment of the public access situation at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve, and a new, updated study that takes this access opening into account should be required as part of the news EIR review.

A twenty-point gentle restoration plan was devised and published here. Please include a serious consideration of the twenty points in this proposed gentle restoration.

Thanks for your attention to this important issue.

Janet Rhodes

Sent from my T-Mobile 5G Device
Get Outlook for Android

From:	Shirley Harris
To:	Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Subject:	Opposing CDFW's current plan to bulldoze the Ballona Wetlands.
Sent:	1/18/2024 5:52:20 PM

You don't often get email from sharris66@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

Since the last Scoping (2012) and Draft EIR (2017) were completed for essentially the same project, the water budget for this area has changed in part due to time passing since the Coastal Commission ordered illegal drains to be capped, significant changes in rainy weather patterns, and changes in management of the adjacent Playa Vista detention basin/"freshwater marsh." A new, revised water budget for fresh and brackish water must be undertaken and be compared to the habitats relied on by species of special concern, endangered species, and the biodiversity of the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve.

Sincerely,

Shirley Harris
Willits, CA 95490

From:	B Dass
To:	Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Subject:	Opposing the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)'s destructive plan to bulldoze the Ballona Wetlands
Sent:	1/20/2024 1:39:52 AM

[You don't often get email from bndass@yahoo.com. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

Dear CDFW:

CDFW must include an accurate flood risk analysis of the entire proposed project. Revising the flood risk standards to what the Superior Court ruled in its judgment last summer must be done in accordance with what the US Army Corps of Engineers and LA County Flood Control experts stated during several years of the environmental review process. Using a different flood risk calculation impacts the entire EIR and must be accurately assessed and communicated both to the public and to relevant, concerned agencies.

The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a separate EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) since the overall project still contemplates demolishing the Ballona Creek levees, removing the sides of the river, triggering multiple federal laws that must be followed. The scope of this review cannot sidestep the federal laws that CDFW must follow.

The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new biological survey. The last one was completed approximately 10 years ago, and since then at least two endangered species have returned to nest at the Ballona Valley, both relying on habitat in the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve - including habitat in the Sequence #1 & #2 areas contemplated as starting locations for the proposed project. More species have returned to rely on the habitat at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve. A new, updated, and accurate biological baseline survey must be undertaken as part of this review.

The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new, updated sea level rise study and the relation of updated sea level rise calculations to the proposed project. Sea level rise predictions from 2012, when the last Scoping for an EIR was undertaken, were less robust than needed and the removal or demolishing of the Ballona Creek/River levees, combined with higher than anticipated sea level rise conditions, require an entirely new analysis of the situation.

Since the last Scoping (2012) and Draft EIR (2017) were completed for essentially the same project, the water budget for this area has changed in part due to time passing since the Coastal Commission ordered illegal drains to be capped, significant changes in rainy weather patterns, and changes in management of the adjacent Playa Vista detention basin/"freshwater marsh." A new, revised water budget for fresh and brackish water must be undertaken and be compared to the habitats relied on by species of special concern, endangered species, and the biodiversity of the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve.

In January of 2022, the State opened up a new public trail between Fiji Way and the bicycle path of the north creek levee - four mornings each week. This changed circumstance requires an assessment of the public access situation at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve, and a new, updated study that takes this access opening into account should be required as part of the news EIR review.

The Gentle Alternative for the Ballona Wetlands, A 20-Point Plan featuring Mindful Public Access, Respecting, Honoring & Protecting Native Soils; Indigenous Life-ways & Rare Plant Populations; and Imperiled & Treasured Wildlife

Following is a List of Actions that can be taken on the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve WITHOUT an EIR* or EIS, and with minimal effort to obtain Coastal Development Permits (CDPs) or Exemptions from the CA Coastal Commission. The primary guiding principle is: no intrusive activities by mechanical means.

1. Form an Indigenous Tribal Council for Ballona – consisting of elders of the indigenous people for the LA coast, which would guide protection decisions for the land and which would be given access for historical lifeways activities, such as gathering for prayers and other spiritual/religious/sacred ceremonies, and gathering plants for medicinal and basketry purposes.

2. Open the Fiji Way public access trail that has already been improved, with thousands of dollars spent on amenities like bike racks, new gates, signage and sitting benches.

3. Improve and open walking trails on city-owned Cabora Dr. (with minimal improvements – such as directional & educational signage including apps/audio guides for sophisticated learning that informs the visitor of the history of the landscape and the flora & fauna that currently flourishes at Ballona.)

4. Fund and supervise a docent training program so docents are available for public interaction and instruction at newly-opened walking trails. Fund, create & distribute maps at Fisherman's Village, in Del Rey and Playa del Rey, explaining to the public where entrance and parking locations exist for the BWER.

5. In cooperation with L.A. County, open the Ballona Creek South Levee for WALKING ONLY – with docents opening the gate from sunrise to sunset – and instructing people to stay on the trail; no running. No dogs (2 species of endangered birds are present in this area.)

6. While there are already 1,700 species present at Ballona, including some endangered & threatened, work with US Fish & Wildlife Service and CA Dept of Fish & Wildlife (CDFW) to form recovery teams to recover to this ecological reserve, the following species: Animals/Roadrunner, Jack Rabbit, California Quail, Horned Lizard, Garter Snake; Plants/Ballona Cinquefoil, Saltmarsh Bird's Beak – AND to determine the feasibility of additional species that would be compatible with those species currently relying on BWER.

7. Install one or two Bald Eagle nesting platforms along the south levee of Ballona Creek, and devise a program similar to the successful one at Catalina Island, where high school students feed the young eagles as they are growing up in a new nest, after being brought – as eggs – from San Francisco Zoo. Recover the Eagle to Ballona.

8. Recover the Southern Sea Otter to Ballona. Baby Otters are taken care of at Monterey Aquarium after being lost from mothers during storms. Governor Newsom and County Supervisors Hahn and Mitchell could help in releasing young Otters at Ballona.

9. Design and oversee a project to recover the Snow Goose and Sandhill Crane ~ using Ultra-Lites to teach the young bird migration ~ as documented in the popular film: “Fly Away Home.” This is a method that has been repeated by the US Fish & Wildlife Service for recovering and teaching migration to Swans and Cranes.
10. Form a plant assessment team that determines which plants once native to the areaare appropriate for re-introducing to the BWER (taking into account non-native plants and trees providing important habitat for native wildlife, such as non-native Eucalyptus trees providing roosting for imperiled Monarch Butterfly populations.) Then, carefully replant those natives deemed appropriate and monitor for impacts to wildlife and other important plant populations.

11. Establish a native plant and tree nursery for possible re-planting of species determined to be important in #10 above. Work with local schools to oversee this nursery. (Los Angeles Audubon Society runs a similar program for Baldwin Hills State Park nearby.)

12. Work with the LA County Public Works Dept. and US Army Corps of Engineers to consider placement of and construction of three overlook towers on the BallonaCreek levees – one each near Area C, Area A and Area B – providing views into and across the landscape of the BWER. Would be wheelchair & senior-citizen accessible.

13. Form a Stakeholders Group (SG) that includes representatives of organizations that have worked for Ballona’s protection, as well as neighborhood groups. CDFW and State Lands Commission (the two landowners) meets regularly with this stakeholders group to address management issues and concerns of members of the SG.

14. Lobby for and secure sufficient management funds for either state or federal rangers being present – and also adequate funds for maintenance, nature education, biological oversight and land management (which includes collaboration with other agencies).

15. Form a Trash & Beautification Team – Team members walk BWER perimeters and trails weekly, remove trash and report illegal dumping to city, county or CalTrans. Beautification would include planting native wildflowers along the road edges of the BWER.

16. Work with LA County Beaches & Harbors to remove shrubs along Fiji Way access to BWER, clear a walking trail for the public and line the area with native wildflowers that grow close to the ground and need minimal maintenance.

17. Work with Committee to Complete the Park to help acquire more land adjacent to the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve from willing sellers. Parcels include: Yerba Mansa Bluffs, Toes Beach Dunes, Egret Park, Villa Marina Tule Wetlands, Bird Island.

18. Form a committee to determine how to better use existing parking, shuttle service and entrances to BWER. (without constructing a three-story concrete parking lot on the Ecological Reserve.)19. Form a youth ranger program to support government rangers in teaching respect and sustainability principles to all who interact with the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve.

20. Advocate to utility companies to remove or underground power lines ~ which impede and impact bird flight. Minimize light impacts by removing lights from Fiji Way, Culver Blvd., Lincoln Blvd., and gas tank farm.

Thank you for your consideration
Jorge De Cecco
Ukiah, CA

From:	Paloma Glass
To:	Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Subject:	Opposing the destructive plan to bulldoze the Ballona Wetlands!
Sent:	1/18/2024 6:59:18 PM

You don't often get email from jpalomaglass@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

To whom it may concern,

- In this version of the Environmental Impact Report, CDFW must include an accurate flood risk analysis of the entire proposed project. Revising the flood risk standards to what the Superior Court ruled in its judgment last summer must be done in accordance with what the US Army Corps of Engineers and LA County Flood Control experts stated during several years of the environmental review process. Using a different flood risk calculation impacts the entire EIR and must be accurately assessed and communicated both to the public and to relevant, concerned agencies.
- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a separate EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) since the overall project still contemplates demolishing the Ballona Creek levees, removing the sides of the river, triggering multiple federal laws that must be followed. The scope of this review cannot sidestep the federal laws that CDFW must follow.
- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new biological survey. The last one was completed approximately 10 years ago, and since then at least two endangered species have returned to nest at the Ballona Valley, both relying on habitat in the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve - including habitat in the Sequence #1 & #2 areas contemplated as starting locations for the proposed project. More species have returned to rely on the habitat at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve. A new, updated, and accurate biological baseline survey must be undertaken as part of this review.
- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new, updated sea level rise study and the relation of updated sea level rise

calculations to the proposed project. Sea level rise predictions from 2012, when the last Scoping for an EIR was undertaken, were less robust than needed and the removal or demolishing of the Ballona Creek/River levees, combined with higher than anticipated sea level rise conditions, require an entirely new analysis of the situation.

- Since the last Scoping (2012) and Draft EIR (2017) were completed for essentially the same project, the water budget for this area has changed in part due to time passing since the Coastal Commission ordered illegal drains to be capped, significant changes in rainy weather patterns, and changes in management of the adjacent Playa Vista detention basin/"freshwater marsh." A new, revised water budget for fresh and brackish water must be undertaken and be compared to the habitats relied on by species of special concern, endangered species, and the biodiversity of the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve.
- In January of 2022, the State opened up a new public trail between Fiji Way and the bicycle path of the north creek levee - four mornings each week. This changed circumstance requires an assessment of the public access situation at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve, and a new, updated study that takes this access opening into account should be required as part of the news EIR review.
- A twenty-point gentle restoration plan was devised and published here. Please include a serious consideration of the twenty points in this proposed gentle restoration.

Sincerely,
J. Paloma Glass

Sent from my iPhone

From:	tricketts3@comcast.net
To:	Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Subject:	Opposition to Bulldozing of the Ballona Wetlands
Sent:	1/20/2024 11:53:29 AM

You don't often get email from tricketts3@comcast.net. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

I would like to provide my thoughts and concerns on the proposed Ballona Wetlands Project. I feel that what is needed at this point is a new and updated version of the Environmental Impact Report. This report must do the following:

- Take into account the overall project since it still contemplates demolishing the Ballona Creek levees, removing the sides of the river, triggering multiple federal laws that must be followed. The scope of this review cannot sidestep the federal laws that CDFW must follow.
- Include a new updated biological survey inclusive of the habitat areas contemplated as starting locations for the proposed project. The last one was completed approximately 10 years ago, and excludes impact to at least two endangered species that have returned to nest at the Ballona Valley and rely on habitat in the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve
- Include a new sea level rise study that addresses the impact of the updated sea level rise calculations on the proposed project. The removal or demolishing of the Ballona Creek/River levees, combined with higher than anticipated sea level rise conditions, require an entirely new analysis of the situation.
- Include an accurate flood risk analysis of the entire proposed project. Revising the flood risk standards must be done in accordance with what the US Army Corps of Engineers and LA County Flood Control experts stated during several years of the environmental review process.
- Include a new, revised water budget for fresh and brackish water in relation to the habitats relied on by species of special concern, endangered species, and the biodiversity of the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve.
- Include an assessment of the changed circumstance of the public access situation with the 2022 opening of the trail between Fiji Way and the bicycle path of the north creek levee.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Teri Forester

Citrus Heights, CA

From:	Susan McCutchan
To:	Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Subject:	Opposition to destructive plan to bulldoze the Ballona Wetlands
Sent:	1/18/2024 5:41:05 PM

You don't often get email from susan_mccutchan@yahoo.com. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my concerns and let you know that I oppose the plan to bulldoze the Ballona Wetlands for the following reasons:

- In this version of the Environmental Impact Report, CDFW must include an accurate flood risk analysis of the entire proposed project. Revising the flood risk standards to what the Superior Court ruled in its judgment last summer must be done in accordance with what the US Army Corps of Engineers and LA County Flood Control experts stated during several years of the environmental review process. Using a different flood risk calculation impacts the entire EIR and must be accurately assessed and communicated both to the public and to relevant, concerned agencies.
- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a separate EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) since the overall project still contemplates demolishing the Ballona Creek levees, removing the sides of the river, triggering multiple federal laws that must be followed. The scope of this review cannot sidestep the federal laws that CDFW must follow.
- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new biological survey. The last one was completed approximately 10 years ago, and since then at least two endangered species have returned to nest at the Ballona Valley, both relying on habitat in the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve - including habitat in the Sequence #1 & #2 areas contemplated as starting locations for the proposed project. More species have returned to rely on the habitat at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve. A new, updated, and accurate biological baseline survey must be undertaken as part of this review.
- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new, updated sea level rise study and the relation of updated sea level rise calculations to the proposed project. Sea level rise predictions from 2012, when the last Scoping for an EIR was undertaken, were less robust than needed and the removal or demolishing of the Ballona Creek/River levees, combined with higher than anticipated sea level rise conditions, require an entirely new analysis of the situation.
- Since the last Scoping (2012) and Draft EIR (2017) were completed for essentially the same project, the water budget for this area has changed in part due to time passing since the Coastal Commission ordered illegal drains to be capped, significant changes in rainy weather patterns, and changes in management of the adjacent Playa Vista detention basin/"freshwater marsh." A new, revised water budget for fresh and brackish water must be undertaken and be compared to the habitats relied on by species of special concern, endangered species, and the biodiversity of the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve.
- In January of 2022, the State opened up a new public trail between Fiji Way and the bicycle path of the north creek levee - four mornings each week. This changed circumstance requires an assessment of the public access situation at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve, and a new, updated study that takes this access opening into account should be required as part of the news EIR review.
- A twenty-point gentle restoration plan was devised and published here. Please include a serious consideration of the twenty points in this proposed plan.

Thank you for your consideration and being mindful of the delicate ecology of this area.

Sincerely,

Susan McCutchan
Oakland, CA

From: Tameka
To: Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Subject: Opposition to destructive plan to bulldoze the Ballona Wetlands
Sent: 1/18/2024 11:25:38 PM

You don't often get email from misstmurrain@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

- In this version of the Environmental Impact Report, CDFW must include an accurate flood risk analysis of the entire proposed project. Revising the flood risk standards to what the Superior Court ruled in its judgment last summer must be done in accordance with what the US Army Corps of Engineers and LA County Flood Control experts stated during several years of the environmental review process. Using a different flood risk calculation impacts the entire EIR and must be accurately assessed and communicated both to the public and to relevant, concerned agencies.
- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a separate EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) since the overall project still contemplates demolishing the Ballona Creek levees, removing the sides of the river, triggering multiple federal laws that must be followed. The scope of this review cannot sidestep the federal laws that CDFW must follow.
- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new biological survey. The last one was completed approximately 10 years ago, and since then at least two endangered species have returned to nest at the Ballona Valley, both relying on habitat in the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve - including habitat in the Sequence #1 & #2 areas contemplated as starting locations for the proposed project. More species have returned to rely on the habitat at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve. A new, updated, and accurate biological baseline survey must be undertaken as part of this review.
- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new, updated sea level rise study and the relation of updated sea level rise calculations to the proposed project. Sea level rise predictions from 2012, when the last Scoping for an EIR was undertaken, were less robust than needed and the removal or demolishing of the Ballona Creek/River levees, combined with higher than anticipated sea level rise conditions, require an entirely new analysis of the situation.
- Since the last Scoping (2012) and Draft EIR (2017) were completed for essentially the same project, the water budget for this area has changed in part due to time passing since the Coastal Commission ordered illegal drains to be capped, significant changes in rainy weather patterns, and changes in management of the adjacent Playa Vista detention basin/"freshwater marsh." A new, revised water budget for fresh and brackish water must be undertaken and be compared to the habitats relied on by species of special concern, endangered species, and the biodiversity of the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve.
- In January of 2022, the State opened up a new public trail between Fiji Way and the bicycle path of the north creek levee - four mornings each week. This changed circumstance requires an assessment of the public access situation at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve, and a new, updated study that takes this access opening into account should be required as part of the news EIR review.
- A twenty-point gentle restoration plan was devised and published here. Please include a serious consideration of the twenty points in this proposed gentle restoration.

From:	Deborah Filipelli
To:	Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Subject:	Opposition to the destructive plan to bulldoze the Ballona Wetlands
Sent:	1/18/2024 7:59:50 PM

You don't often get email from dfilipelli@mcn.org. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

The following represents my position in strong opposition to the destructive plan to bulldoze the Ballona Wetlands.

- In this version of the Environmental Impact Report, CDFW must include an accurate flood risk analysis of the entire proposed project. Revising the flood risk standards to what the Superior Court ruled in its judgment last summer must be done in accordance with what the US Army Corps of Engineers and LA County Flood Control experts stated during several years of the environmental review process. Using a different flood risk calculation impacts the entire EIR and must be accurately assessed and communicated both to the public and to relevant, concerned agencies.
- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a separate EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) since the overall project still contemplates demolishing the Ballona Creek levees, removing the sides of the river, triggering multiple federal laws that must be followed. The scope of this review cannot sidestep the federal laws that CDFW must follow.

- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new biological survey. The last one was completed approximately 10 years ago, and since then at least two endangered species have returned to nest at the Ballona Valley, both relying on habitat in the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve - including habitat in the Sequence #1 & #2 areas contemplated as starting locations for the proposed project. More species have returned to rely on the habitat at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve. A new, updated, and accurate biological baseline survey must be undertaken as part of this review.

- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new, updated sea level rise study and the relation of updated sea level rise calculations to the proposed project. Sea level rise predictions from 2012, when the last Scoping for an EIR was undertaken, were less robust than needed and the removal or demolishing of the Ballona Creek/River levees, combined with higher than anticipated sea level rise conditions, require an entirely new analysis of the situation.

- Since the last Scoping (2012) and Draft EIR (2017) were completed for essentially the same project, the water budget for this area has changed in part due to time passing since the Coastal Commission ordered illegal drains to be capped, significant changes in rainy weather patterns, and changes in management of the adjacent Playa Vista detention basin/"freshwater marsh." A new, revised water budget for fresh and brackish water must be undertaken and be compared to the habitats relied on by species of special concern, endangered species, and the biodiversity of the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve.

- In January of 2022, the State opened up a new public trail between Fiji Way and the bicycle path of the north creek levee - four mornings each week. This changed circumstance requires an assessment of the public access situation at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve, and a new, updated study that takes this access opening into account should be required as part of the news EIR review.

- A twenty-point gentle restoration plan was devised and published here. Please include a serious consideration of the twenty points in this proposed gentle restoration.

Deborah Filipelli, PhD

From:	John Teevan
To:	Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Subject:	Opposition to the destructive plan to bulldoze the Ballona Wetlands
Sent:	1/19/2024 8:03:30 PM

You don't often get email from jptrugger@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

In this version of the Environmental Impact Report, CDFW must include an accurate flood risk analysis of the entire proposed project. Revising the flood risk standards to what the Superior Court ruled in its judgment last summer must be done in accordance with what the US Army Corps of Engineers and LA County Flood Control experts stated during several years of the environmental review process. Using a different flood risk calculation impacts the entire EIR and must be accurately assessed and communicated both to the public and to relevant, concerned agencies.

The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a separate EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) since the overall project still contemplates demolishing the Ballona Creek levees, removing the sides of the river, triggering multiple federal laws that must be followed. The scope of this review cannot sidestep the federal laws that CDFW must follow.

The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new biological survey. The last one was completed approximately 10 years ago, and since then at least two endangered species have returned to nest at the Ballona Valley, both relying on habitat in the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve - including habitat in the Sequence #1 & #2 areas contemplated as starting locations for the proposed project. More species have returned to rely on the habitat at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve. A new, updated, and accurate biological baseline survey must be undertaken as part of this review.

The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new, updated sea level rise study and the relation of updated sea level rise calculations to the proposed project. Sea level rise predictions from 2012, when the last Scoping for an EIR was undertaken, were less robust than needed and the removal or demolishing of the Ballona Creek/River levees, combined with higher than anticipated sea level rise conditions, require an entirely new analysis of the situation.

Since the last Scoping (2012) and Draft EIR (2017) were completed for essentially the same project, the water budget for this area has changed in part due to time passing since the Coastal Commission ordered illegal drains to be capped, significant changes in rainy weather patterns, and changes in management of the adjacent Playa Vista detention basin/"freshwater marsh." A new, revised water budget for fresh and brackish water must be undertaken and be compared to the habitats relied on by species of special concern, endangered species, and the biodiversity of the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve.

In January of 2022, the State opened up a new public trail between Fiji Way and the bicycle path of the north creek levee - four mornings each week. This changed circumstance requires an assessment of the public access situation at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve, and a new, updated study that takes this access opening into account should be required as part of the news EIR review.

A twenty-point gentle restoration plan was devised and published here A twenty-point gentle restoration plan was devised and published here. (everyaction.com). Please include a serious consideration of the twenty points in this proposed gentle restoration.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,
--
John P Teevan III
805 Hawksview Place
Chula Vista, CA 91914
Home: (619) 830-6501
Mobile: (619) 948-9440

From: Sohan Noah Youngelson
To: Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Subject: Opposition to the destructive plan to bulldoze the Ballona Wetlands.
Sent: 1/19/2024 3:49:12 PM

You don't often get email from sohanmonk@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

To whom it may concern,

As a resident of LA, and living within a 15 minute drive of the Ballona Wetlands, I am writing to express my opposition to California Department of Fish and Wildlife destructive plan to bulldoze the Ballona Wetlands. As an alternative, listed below are points that comprise a far better strategy. These points have been compiled from years of work from local citizens and people knowledgeable of the Ballona Wetland ecology. This alternative strategy includes a new Environmental Impact Report, an accurate flood risk analysis and biological survey:

- In this version of the Environmental Impact Report, CDFW must include an accurate flood risk analysis of the entire proposed project. Revising the flood risk standards to what the Superior Court ruled in its judgment last summer must be done in accordance with what the US Army Corps of Engineers and LA County Flood Control experts stated during several years of the environmental review process. Using a different flood risk calculation impacts the entire EIR and must be accurately assessed and communicated both to the public and to relevant, concerned agencies.
- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a separate EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) since the overall project still contemplates demolishing the Ballona Creek levees, removing the sides of the river, triggering multiple federal laws that must be followed. The scope of this review cannot sidestep the federal laws that CDFW must follow.

- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new biological survey. The last one was completed approximately 10 years ago, and since then at least two endangered species have returned to nest at the Ballona Valley, both relying on habitat in the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve - including habitat in the Sequence #1 & #2 areas contemplated as starting locations for the proposed project. More species have returned to rely on the habitat at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve. A new, updated, and accurate biological baseline survey must be undertaken as part of this review.

- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new, updated sea level rise study and the relation of updated sea level rise calculations to the proposed project. Sea level rise predictions from 2012, when the last Scoping for an EIR was undertaken, were less robust than needed and the removal or demolishing of the Ballona Creek/River levees, combined with higher than anticipated sea level rise conditions, require an entirely new analysis of the situation.

- Since the last Scoping (2012) and Draft EIR (2017) were completed for essentially the same project, the water budget for this area has changed in part due to time passing since the Coastal Commission ordered illegal drains to be capped, significant changes in rainy weather patterns, and changes in management of the adjacent Playa Vista detention basin/"freshwater marsh." A new, revised water budget for fresh and brackish water must be undertaken and be compared to the habitats relied on by species of special concern, endangered species, and the biodiversity of the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve.

- In January of 2022, the State opened up a new public trail between Fiji Way and the bicycle path of the north creek levee - four mornings each week. This changed circumstance requires an assessment of the public access situation at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve, and a new, updated study that takes this access opening into account should be required as part of the news EIR review.

- A twenty-point gentle restoration plan was devised, please include a serious consideration of the twenty points in this proposed gentle restoration.

Thank you,

Noah Youngelson

From:	carolyn matini
To:	Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Subject:	Please DO NOT Bulldoze the Balona Wetlands
Sent:	1/18/2024 9:51:37 PM

You don't often get email from carolynmatini@yahoo.com. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

Hi,

I implore you to not destroy the Balona Wetlands! Please consider these points-

- In this version of the Environmental Impact Report, CDFW must include an accurate flood risk analysis of the entire proposed project. Revising the flood risk standards to what the Superior Court ruled in its judgment last summer must be done in accordance with what the US Army Corps of Engineers and LA County Flood Control experts stated during several years of the environmental review process. Using a different flood risk calculation impacts the entire EIR and must be accurately assessed and communicated both to the public and to relevant, concerned agencies.
- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a separate EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) since the overall project still contemplates demolishing the Ballona Creek levees, removing the sides of the river, triggering multiple federal laws that must be followed. The scope of this review cannot sidestep the federal laws that CDFW must follow.
- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new biological survey. The last one was completed approximately 10 years ago, and since then at least two endangered species have returned to nest at the Ballona Valley, both relying on habitat in the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve - including habitat in the Sequence #1 & #2 areas contemplated as starting locations for the proposed project. More species have returned to rely on the habitat at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve. A new, updated, and accurate biological baseline survey must be undertaken as part of this review.
- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new, updated sea level rise study and the relation of updated sea level rise calculations to the proposed project. Sea level rise predictions from 2012, when the last Scoping for an EIR was undertaken, were less robust than needed and the removal or demolishing of the Ballona Creek/River levees, combined with higher than anticipated sea level rise conditions, require an entirely new analysis of the situation.
- Since the last Scoping (2012) and Draft EIR (2017) were completed for essentially the same project, the water budget for this area has changed in part due to time passing since the Coastal Commission ordered illegal drains to be capped, significant changes in rainy weather patterns, and changes in management of the adjacent Playa Vista detention basin/"freshwater marsh." A new, revised water budget for fresh and brackish water must be undertaken and be compared to the habitats relied on by species of special concern, endangered species, and the biodiversity of the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve.
- In January of 2022, the State opened up a new public trail between Fiji Way and the bicycle path of the north creek levee - four mornings each week. This changed circumstance requires an assessment of the public access situation at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve, and a new, updated study that takes this access opening into account should be required as part of the news EIR review.
- A twenty-point gentle restoration plan was devised and published here. Please consider the twenty points in this proposed gentle restoration.

Best regards,
Carolyn Matini
619-379-5700
http://www.imdb.com/name/nm1712630/

From:	Abbie Bernstein
To:	Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Subject:	please do not remove/shrink the Ballona Wetlands
Sent:	1/18/2024 5:38:46 PM

You don't often get email from hedgebeast@aol.com. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

I am writing as a lifelong California resident to ask that you do not further diminish the Ballona Wetlands. The last environmental impact studies were conducted ten years ago. Since then, several endangered species have returned to the wetlands. Moreover, California has suffered enormous amounts of environmental degradation. What we have left should be preserved, not destroyed or diminished.

Sincerely,
Abbie Bernstein
90069

From: diane huffine
To: Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Subject: Please preserve the Ballona Wetlands!
Sent: 1/18/2024 7:14:08 PM

You don't often get email from dianehuffine@yahoo.com. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

- In this version of the Environmental Impact Report, CDFW must include an accurate flood risk analysis of the entire proposed project. Revising the flood risk standards to what the Superior Court ruled in its judgment last summer must be done in accordance with what the US Army Corps of Engineers and LA County Flood Control experts stated during several years of the environmental review process. Using a different flood risk calculation impacts the entire EIR and must be accurately assessed and communicated both to the public and to relevant, concerned agencies.
- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a separate EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) since the overall project still contemplates demolishing the Ballona Creek levees, removing the sides of the river, triggering multiple federal laws that must be followed. The scope of this review cannot sidestep the federal laws that CDFW must follow.
- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new biological survey. The last one was completed approximately 10 years ago, and since then at least two endangered species have returned to nest at the Ballona Valley, both relying on habitat in the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve - including habitat in the Sequence #1 & #2 areas contemplated as starting locations for the proposed project. More species have returned to rely on the habitat at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve. A new, updated, and accurate biological baseline survey must be undertaken as part of this review.
- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new, updated sea level rise study and the relation of updated sea level rise calculations to the proposed project. Sea level rise predictions from 2012, when the last Scoping for an EIR was undertaken, were less robust than needed and the removal or demolishing of the Ballona Creek/River levees, combined with higher than anticipated sea level rise conditions, require an entirely new analysis of the situation.
- Since the last Scoping (2012) and Draft EIR (2017) were completed for essentially the same project, the water budget for this area has changed in part due to time passing since the Coastal Commission ordered illegal drains to be capped, significant changes in rainy weather patterns, and changes in management of the adjacent Playa Vista detention basin/"freshwater marsh." A new, revised water budget for fresh and brackish water must be undertaken and be compared to the habitats relied on by species of special concern, endangered species, and the biodiversity of the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve.
- In January of 2022, the State opened up a new public trail between Fiji Way and the bicycle path of the north creek levee - four

mornings each week. This changed circumstance requires an assessment of the public access situation at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve, and a new, updated study that takes this access opening into account should be required as part of the news EIR review.

- A twenty-point gentle restoration plan was devised and published here. Please include a serious consideration of the twenty points in this proposed gentle restoration.

Sincerely,

Diane Huffine

From:	action@goairtight.com
To:	Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Subject:	Please preserve the Ballona Wetlands, stop the destructive plan to bulldoze it
Sent:	1/18/2024 7:13:22 PM

You don't often get email from action@goairtight.com. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

I oppose its destructive plan to bulldoze the Ballona Wetlands. Please preserve the Ballona Wetlands, — it is prime habitat for 1,700 species of plants and animals.

- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new biological survey. The last one was completed approximately 10 years ago, and since then at least two endangered species have returned to nest at the Ballona Valley, both relying on habitat in the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve - including habitat in the Sequence #1 & #2 areas contemplated as starting locations for the proposed project. More species have returned to rely on the habitat at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve. A new, updated, and accurate biological baseline survey must be undertaken as part of this review.

- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new, updated sea level rise study and the relation of updated sea level rise calculations to the proposed project. Sea level rise predictions from 2012, when the last Scoping for an EIR was undertaken, were less robust than needed and the removal or demolishing of the Ballona Creek/River levees, combined with higher than anticipated sea level rise conditions, require an entirely new analysis of the situation.

- Since the last Scoping (2012) and Draft EIR (2017) were completed for essentially the same project, the water budget for this area has changed in part due to time passing since the Coastal Commission ordered illegal drains to be capped, significant changes in rainy weather patterns, and changes in management of the adjacent Playa Vista detention basin/"freshwater marsh." A new, revised water budget for fresh and brackish water must be undertaken and be compared to the habitats relied on by species of special concern, endangered species, and the biodiversity of the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve.

Thank you,

—
Don Dudan
Walnut Creek, CA 94596



From:	Karen Humphreys
To:	Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Subject:	Please stop the destruction of the Ballona Wetlands
Sent:	1/20/2024 9:32:02 PM

You don't often get email from karen@humphreyscpa.com. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

To CDFW:

Please stop the destruction of the Ballona Wetlands. It is near where I live and I enjoy the wildlife and do not want to see them destroyed.

Since the last Scoping (2012) and Draft EIR (2017) were completed for essentially the same project, the water budget for this area has changed in part due to time passing since the Coastal Commission ordered illegal drains to be capped, significant changes in rainy weather patterns, and changes in management of the adjacent Playa Vista detention basin/"freshwater marsh." A new, revised water budget for fresh and brackish water must be undertaken and be compared to the habitats relied on by species of special concern, endangered species, and the biodiversity of the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve.

Thank you,
Karen Humphreys
Marina Del Rey
310-210-0701

From: Sue
To: Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Subject: PLEASE STOP THE DESTRUCTIVE PLANTO BULLDOPSE BALLONA WETLANDS
Sent: 1/18/2024 9:07:17 PM

You don't often get email from otterone77@aol.com. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

- In this version of the Environmental Impact Report, CDFW must include an accurate flood risk analysis of the entire proposed project. Revising the flood risk standards to what the Superior Court ruled in its judgment last summer must be done in accordance with what the US Army Corps of Engineers and LA County Flood Control experts stated during several years of the environmental review process. Using a different flood risk calculation impacts the entire EIR and must be accurately assessed and communicated both to the public and to relevant, concerned agencies.
- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a separate EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) since the overall project still contemplates demolishing the Ballona Creek levees, removing the sides of the river, triggering multiple federal laws that must be followed. The scope of this review cannot sidestep the federal laws that CDFW must follow.
- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new biological survey. The last one was completed approximately 10 years ago, and since then at least two endangered species have returned to nest at the Ballona Valley, both relying on habitat in the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve - including habitat in the Sequence #1 & #2 areas contemplated as starting locations for the proposed project. More species have returned to rely on the habitat at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve. A new, updated, and accurate biological baseline survey must be undertaken as part of this review.
- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new, updated sea level rise study and the relation of updated sea level rise calculations to the proposed project. Sea level rise predictions from 2012, when the last Scoping for an EIR was undertaken, were less robust than needed and the removal or demolishing of the Ballona Creek/River levees, combined with higher than anticipated sea level rise conditions, require an entirely new analysis of the situation.
- Since the last Scoping (2012) and Draft EIR (2017) were completed for essentially the same project, the water budget for this area has changed in part due to time passing since the Coastal Commission ordered illegal drains to be capped, significant changes in rainy weather patterns, and changes in management of the adjacent Playa Vista detention basin/"freshwater marsh." A new, revised water budget for fresh and brackish water must be undertaken and be compared to the habitats relied on by species of special concern, endangered species, and the biodiversity of the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve.
- In January of 2022, the State opened up a new public trail between Fiji Way and the bicycle path of the north creek levee - four mornings each week. This changed circumstance requires an assessment of the public access situation at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve, and a new, updated study that takes this access opening into account should be required as part of the news EIR review.
- Thank you
- Concerned Calif resident
- S Hall

From:	Natalie Ford
To:	Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Subject:	PLEASE STOP THE HAS COMPANY FROM DESTROYING THE BALOONA WETLANDS
Sent:	1/18/2024 8:20:39 PM

[You don't often get email from nfactingstudios@aol.com. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

Warm Regards,
Natalie Ford
https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?
url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.nataliefordactingstudios.com%2F&data=05%7C02%7CBWERcomments%40wildlife.ca.gov%7C246deb48ffe44950b0b7
08dc18a5fd39%7C4b633c25efbf40069f1507442ba7aa0b%7C0%7C0%7C638412348393708508%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4w
LjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=VXNcl%2FtJc92QwR9heuMY8iDlAv0%2
BRmHZ2uwV%2Fari8qQ%3D&reserved=0
310-428-1840

From:	Heidi Taylor
To:	Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Subject:	Please take into consideration
Sent:	1/18/2024 6:16:44 PM

You don't often get email from hmephd@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

- In this version of the Environmental Impact Report, CDFW must include an accurate flood risk analysis of the entire proposed project. Revising the flood risk standards to what the Superior Court ruled in its judgment last summer must be done in accordance with what the US Army Corps of Engineers and LA County Flood Control experts stated during several years of the environmental review process. Using a different flood risk calculation impacts the entire EIR and must be accurately assessed and communicated both to the public and to relevant, concerned agencies.
- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a separate EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) since the overall project still contemplates demolishing the Ballona Creek levees, removing the sides of the river, triggering multiple federal laws that must be followed. The scope of this review cannot sidestep the federal laws that CDFW must follow.
- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new biological survey. The last one was completed approximately 10 years ago, and since then at least two endangered species have returned to nest at the Ballona Valley, both relying on habitat in the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve - including habitat in the Sequence #1 & #2 areas contemplated as starting locations for the proposed project. More species have returned to rely on the habitat at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve. A new, updated, and accurate biological baseline survey must be undertaken as part of this review.
- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new, updated sea level rise study and the relation of updated sea level rise calculations to the proposed project. Sea level rise predictions from 2012, when the last Scoping for an EIR was undertaken, were less robust than needed and the removal or demolishing of the Ballona Creek/River levees, combined with higher than anticipated sea level rise conditions, require an entirely new analysis of the situation.
- Since the last Scoping (2012) and Draft EIR (2017) were completed for essentially the same project, the water budget for this area has changed in part due to time passing since the Coastal Commission ordered illegal drains to be capped, significant changes in rainy weather patterns, and changes in management of the adjacent Playa Vista detention basin/"freshwater marsh." A new, revised water budget for fresh and brackish water must be undertaken and be compared to the habitats relied on by species of special concern, endangered species, and the biodiversity of the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve.
- In January of 2022, the State opened up a new public trail between Fiji Way and the bicycle path of the north creek levee - four mornings each week. This changed circumstance requires an assessment of the public access situation at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve, and a new, updated study that takes this access opening into account should be required as part of the news EIR review.
- A twenty-point gentle restoration plan was devised and published here. Please include a serious consideration of the twenty points in this proposed gentle restoration.

--
Heidi Taylor, Ph.D.
1560-1 Newbury Rd., # 516
Newbury Park, Ca. 91320-3448
(805) 732-9446 Cell

(805) 498-8162 Fax
Dr.HeidiTaylor / Supervised Visitation / Ventura County (drtaylorsv.com)
Author: Tales of Awakening on Amazon

---CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE---
Please note that your email system may be insecure and with continued emails, you are accepting the inherent privacy risks. This message is for the sole use of the addressee(s) identified above, and is confidential, privileged, or otherwise protected from disclosure under applicable law. If the receiver of this message is not the intended recipient, or responsible for delivering the message to the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any use, reading, dissemination, distribution, copying or storage of this document is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please notify us immediately. Thank you.

hmephd@gmail.com
www.taylorsupervisedvisitation.com

From:	DRRA.President
To:	Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR; Ashley Lozada; Councimember.park@lacity.org; Jeff Khau;
Subject:	Preparation of Revised Environmental Impact Report (REIR) for the Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project
Attachments:	ltr re Ballona REIR 110223 fnl.pdf
Sent:	11/2/2023 9:13:19 AM

You don't often get email from delrey.president@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

good morning, please see attached letter. thank you and please confirm receipt.

elizabeth layne, president

Del Rey Residents Association
Since 1972

From:	Matt Rossell
To:	Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Subject:	Preserve Ballona Wetlands
Sent:	1/18/2024 7:23:19 PM

You don't often get email from mattrossell@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

Dear CDFW,

In this updated version of the Environmental Impact Report, it is imperative that CDFW conducts an accurate flood risk analysis for the entire proposed project. The flood risk standards should be revised in accordance with the judgment made by the Superior Court last summer, taking into consideration the input provided by the US Army Corps of Engineers and LA County Flood Control experts during the extensive environmental review process. Any alternative flood risk calculations would have a significant impact on the entire EIR and must be thoroughly assessed and effectively communicated to the public and relevant agencies.

Given that the overall project still involves the demolition of the Ballona Creek levees and the removal of the river's sides, which triggers multiple federal laws, the scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a separate Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). It is crucial to ensure compliance with the federal laws that CDFW is obligated to follow. Additionally, a new biological survey must be conducted as part of this EIR.

The previous survey was conducted approximately 10 years ago, and since then, at least two endangered species have returned to nest in the Ballona Valley, relying on the habitat provided by the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve, including the areas contemplated as starting locations for the proposed project. More species have also returned to rely on the reserve's habitat. Therefore, an updated and accurate biological baseline survey is necessary for this review.

Furthermore, the EIR should include a new and updated study on sea level rise and its implications for the proposed project. The sea level rise predictions from 2012, when the last EIR scoping was conducted, may not adequately reflect the current conditions. With the potential removal or demolition of the Ballona Creek/River levees and the possibility of higher-than-anticipated sea level rise, a comprehensive analysis of the situation is required.

Considering the changes that have occurred since the last scoping in 2012, such as the Coastal Commission's order to cap illegal drains, significant shifts in rainy weather patterns, and changes in the management of the adjacent Playa Vista detention basin/freshwater marsh, a revised water budget for fresh and brackish water must be undertaken. This revised budget should be compared to the habitats relied upon by species of special concern, endangered species, and the overall biodiversity of the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve.
Furthermore, the opening of a new public trail between Fiji Way and the bicycle path of the north creek levee in January 2022 necessitates an assessment of the public access situation at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve. An updated study should be conducted, taking into account this new access opening, and its findings should be incorporated into the EIR review.

Sincerely,

Matt Rossell

From:	rmloui
To:	Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Subject:	Preserve the Ballona Wetlands
Sent:	1/19/2024 3:25:54 PM

You don't often get email from rmloui@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

Hello,

I am writing in full support of the efforts to stop the bulldozing of the Ballona Wetlands. I am in full agreement with the group **Defend Ballona Wetlands**, who are fighting to have these wetlands remain untouched for the 1700 species of fauna and flora that call this place their home.

As **Defend Ballona Wetlands** have pointed out:

- In this version of the Environmental Impact Report, CDFW must include an accurate flood risk analysis of the entire proposed project. Revising the flood risk standards to what the Superior Court ruled in its judgment last summer must be done in accordance with what the US Army Corps of Engineers and LA County Flood Control experts stated during several years of the environmental review process. Using a different flood risk calculation impacts the entire EIR and must be accurately assessed and communicated both to the public and to relevant, concerned agencies.

- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a separate EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) since the overall project still contemplates demolishing the Ballona Creek levees, removing the sides of the river, triggering multiple federal laws that must be followed. The scope of this review cannot sidestep the federal laws that CDFW must follow.

- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new biological survey. The last one was completed approximately 10 years ago, and since then at least two endangered species have returned to nest at the Ballona Valley, both relying on habitat in the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve - including habitat in the Sequence #1 & #2 areas contemplated as starting locations for the proposed project. More species have returned to rely on the habitat at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve. A new, updated, and accurate biological baseline survey must be undertaken as part of this review.

- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new, updated sea level rise study and the relation of updated sea level rise calculations to the proposed project. Sea level rise predictions from 2012, when the last Scoping for an EIR was undertaken, were less robust than needed and the removal or demolishing of the Ballona Creek/River levees, combined with higher than anticipated sea level rise conditions, require an entirely new analysis of the situation.

- Since the last Scoping (2012) and Draft EIR (2017) were completed for essentially the same project, the water budget for this area has changed in part due to time passing since the Coastal Commission ordered illegal drains to be capped, significant changes in rainy weather patterns, and changes in management of the adjacent Playa Vista detention basin/"freshwater marsh." A new, revised water budget for fresh and brackish water must be undertaken and be compared to the habitats relied on by species of special concern, endangered species, and the biodiversity of the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve.

- In January of 2022, the State opened up a new public trail between Fiji Way and the bicycle path of the north creek levee - four mornings each week. This changed circumstance requires an assessment of the public access situation at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve, and a new, updated study that takes this access opening into account should be required as part of the news EIR review.

- A twenty-point gentle restoration plan was devised and published here. Please include a serious consideration of the twenty points in this proposed gentle restoration.

Nature is fully capable of taking care of itself and there should not be action taken to "restore" the area. Over 1700 species are flourishing and healthy and should be left as is to live their lives undisturbed. Humans have taken so much natural land from so many animals and plants all over the world. We should be mindful of what still remains and make every effort to protect and preserve this natural beauty.

Please do not move forward with the proposed "restoration" project. Leave Ballona Wetlands as is, untouched.

Thank you,
Rachel

From:	DONNA CLARK
To:	Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Subject:	Preserve the Ballona Wetlands
Sent:	1/19/2024 3:04:15 PM

You don't often get email from key4skip@sbcglobal.net. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

I oppose the destructive plan to bulldoze the Ballona Wetlands for the following reasons.

- CDFW must include an accurate flood risk analysis of the entire proposed project. Revising the flood risk standards to what the Superior Court ruled in its judgment last summer must be done in accordance with what the US Army Corps of Engineers and LA County Flood Control experts stated during several years of the environmental review process. Using a different flood risk calculation impacts the entire EIR and must be accurately assessed and communicated both to the public and to relevant, concerned agencies.
- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a separate EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) since the overall project still contemplates demolishing the Ballona Creek levees, removing the sides of the river, triggering multiple federal laws that must be followed. The scope of this review cannot sidestep the federal laws that CDFW must follow.
- Since the last Scoping (2012) and Draft EIR (2017) were completed for essentially the same project, the water budget for this area has changed in part due to time passing since the Coastal Commission ordered illegal drains to be capped, significant changes in rainy weather patterns, and changes in management of the adjacent Playa Vista detention basin/"freshwater marsh." A new, revised water budget for fresh and brackish water must be undertaken and be compared to the habitats relied on by species of special concern, endangered species, and the biodiversity of the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve.
- In January of 2022, the State opened up a new public trail between Fiji Way and the bicycle path of the north creek levee - four mornings each week. This changed circumstance requires an assessment of the public access situation at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve, and a new, updated study that takes this access opening into account should be required as part of the news EIR review.

Thank you.

Donna Clark
2220 Westmont Dr.
Alhambra, CA 91803

From:	Jeri Opalk
To:	Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Subject:	Preserve the Ballona Wetlands
Sent:	1/19/2024 2:06:24 PM

You don't often get email from jopalk@sbcglobal.net. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

Hello -

Please rethink your plans to bulldoze this wetlands area. It is vital that we protect the animals that rely on these wetlands. Please also consider the following:

- In this version of the Environmental Impact Report, CDFW must include an accurate flood risk analysis of the entire proposed project. Revising the flood risk standards to what the Superior Court ruled in its judgment last summer must be done in accordance with what the US Army Corps of Engineers and LA County Flood Control experts stated during several years of the environmental review process. Using a different flood risk calculation impacts the entire EIR and must be accurately assessed and communicated both to the public and to relevant, concerned agencies.
- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a separate EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) since the overall project still contemplates demolishing the Ballona Creek levees, removing the sides of the river, triggering multiple federal laws that must be followed. The scope of this review cannot sidestep the federal laws that CDFW must follow.
- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new biological survey. The last one was completed approximately 10 years ago, and since then at least two endangered species have returned to nest at the Ballona Valley, both relying on habitat in the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve - including habitat in the Sequence #1 & #2 areas contemplated as starting locations for the proposed project. More species have returned to rely on the habitat at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve. A new, updated, and accurate biological baseline survey must be undertaken as part of this review.
- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new, updated sea level rise study and the relation of updated sea level rise calculations to the proposed project. Sea level rise predictions from 2012, when the last Scoping for an EIR was undertaken, were less robust than needed and the removal or demolishing of the Ballona Creek/River levees, combined with higher than anticipated sea level rise conditions, require an entirely new analysis of the situation.
- Since the last Scoping (2012) and Draft EIR (2017) were completed for essentially the same project, the water budget for this area has changed in part due to time passing since the Coastal Commission ordered illegal drains to be capped, significant changes in rainy weather patterns, and changes in management of the adjacent Playa Vista detention basin/"freshwater marsh." A new, revised water budget for fresh and brackish water must be undertaken and be compared to the habitats relied on by species of special concern, endangered species, and the biodiversity of the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve.
- In January of 2022, the State opened up a new public trail between Fiji Way and the bicycle path of the north creek levee - four mornings each week. This changed circumstance requires an assessment of the public access situation at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve, and a new, updated study that takes this access opening into account should be required as part of the news EIR review.
- A twenty-point gentle restoration plan was devised and published here. Please include a serious consideration of the twenty points in this proposed gentle restoration.

Thank you for your consideration.
Sincerely,

Jeri Opalk
San Jose, CA

From:	Galen Hazelhofer
To:	Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Subject:	Preserve the Ballona Wetlands
Sent:	1/19/2024 11:20:17 AM

You don't often get email from galen1artist@yahoo.com. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

- In this version of the Environmental Impact Report, CDFW must include an accurate flood risk analysis of the entire proposed project. Revising the flood risk standards to what the Superior Court ruled in its judgment last summer must be done in accordance with what the US Army Corps of Engineers and LA County Flood Control experts stated during several years of the environmental review process. Using a different flood risk calculation impacts the entire EIR and must be accurately assessed and communicated both to the public and to relevant, concerned agencies.
- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a separate EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) since the overall project still contemplates demolishing the Ballona Creek levees, removing the sides of the river, triggering multiple federal laws that must be followed. The scope of this review cannot sidestep the federal laws that CDFW must follow.
- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new biological survey. The last one was completed approximately 10 years ago, and since then at least two endangered species have returned to nest at the Ballona Valley, both relying on habitat in the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve - including habitat in the Sequence #1 & #2 areas contemplated as starting locations for the proposed project. More species have returned to rely on the habitat at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve. A new, updated, and accurate biological baseline survey must be undertaken as part of this review.
- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new, updated sea level rise study and the relation of updated sea level rise calculations to the proposed project. Sea level rise predictions from 2012, when the last Scoping for an EIR was undertaken, were less robust than needed and the removal or demolishing of the Ballona Creek/River levees, combined with higher than anticipated sea level rise conditions, require an entirely new analysis of the situation.
- Since the last Scoping (2012) and Draft EIR (2017) were completed for essentially the same project, the water budget for this area has changed in part due to time passing since the Coastal Commission ordered illegal drains to be capped, significant changes in rainy weather patterns, and changes in management of the adjacent Playa Vista detention basin/"freshwater marsh." A new, revised water budget for fresh and brackish water must be undertaken and be compared to the habitats relied on by species of special concern, endangered species, and the biodiversity of the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve.
- In January of 2022, the State opened up a new public trail between Fiji Way and the bicycle path of the north creek levee - four mornings each week. This changed circumstance requires an assessment of the public access situation at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve, and a new, updated study that takes this access opening into account should be required as part of the news EIR review.
- A twenty-point gentle restoration plan was devised and published here. Please include a serious consideration of the twenty points in this proposed gentle restoration.

Ms. Galen Hazelhofer

http://fineartamerica.com/profiles/galen-hazelhofer.html

https://galen1artist.wixsite.com/galen/animal-pet-portraits

"The time will come when men such as I will look upon the murder of animals as they now look on the murder of men." Leonardo da Vinci

From: Dinah
To: Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Subject: Preserve the Ballona Wetlands
Sent: 1/18/2024 11:37:38 PM

You don't often get email from dinahchandy@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

- In this version of the Environmental Impact Report, CDFW must include an accurate flood risk analysis of the entire proposed project. Revising the flood risk standards to what the Superior Court ruled in its judgment last summer must be done in accordance with what the US Army Corps of Engineers and LA County Flood Control experts stated during several years of the environmental review process. Using a different flood risk calculation impacts the entire EIR and must be accurately assessed and communicated both to the public and to relevant, concerned agencies.
- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a separate EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) since the overall project still contemplates demolishing the Ballona Creek levees, removing the sides of the river, triggering multiple federal laws that must be followed. The scope of this review cannot sidestep the federal laws that CDFW must follow.
- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new biological survey. The last one was completed approximately 10 years ago, and since then at least two endangered species have returned to nest at the Ballona Valley, both relying on habitat in the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve - including habitat in the Sequence #1 & #2 areas contemplated as starting locations for the proposed project. More species have returned to rely on the habitat at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve. A new, updated, and accurate biological baseline survey must be undertaken as part of this review.
- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new, updated sea level rise study and the relation of updated sea level rise calculations to the proposed project. Sea level rise predictions from 2012, when the last Scoping for an EIR was undertaken, were less robust than needed and the removal or demolishing of the Ballona Creek/River levees, combined with higher than anticipated sea level rise conditions, require an entirely new analysis of the situation.
- Since the last Scoping (2012) and Draft EIR (2017) were completed for essentially the same project, the water budget for this area has changed in part due to time passing since the Coastal Commission ordered illegal drains to be capped, significant changes in rainy weather patterns, and changes in management of the adjacent Playa Vista detention basin/"freshwater marsh." A new, revised water budget for fresh and brackish water must be undertaken and be compared to the habitats relied on by species of special concern, endangered species, and the biodiversity of the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve.
- In January of 2022, the State opened up a new public trail between Fiji Way and the bicycle path of the north creek levee - four mornings each week. This changed circumstance requires an assessment of the public access situation at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve, and a new, updated study that takes this access opening into account should be required as part of the news EIR review.
- A twenty-point gentle restoration plan was devised and published here. Please include a serious consideration of the twenty points in this proposed gentle restoration.

From:	Carol Treacy
To:	Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Subject:	Preserve the Ballona Wetlands
Sent:	1/18/2024 6:02:38 PM

You don't often get email from ctreacy@sbcglobal.net. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

Please do not destroy these wetlands!

The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a separate EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) since the overall project still contemplates demolishing the Ballona Creek levees, removing the sides of the river, triggering multiple federal laws that must be followed. The scope of this review cannot sidestep the federal laws that CDFW must follow.

Sincerely,

Carol Treacy

From:	Delight
To:	Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Subject:	Preserve the Ballona Wetlands!
Sent:	1/19/2024 4:19:19 PM

You don't often get email from rxbreathe@yahoo.com. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

I am writing concerned about the proposed bulldozing of Ballona Wetlands, which is prime habitat for 1,700 species of plants and animals.

In January of 2022, the State opened up a new public trail between Fiji Way and the bicycle path of the north creek levee - four mornings each week. This changed circumstance requires an assessment of the public access situation at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve, and a new, updated study that takes this access opening into account should be required as part of the news EIR review and to protect the thousands of plants and animals that live there from being destroyed.

Please do whatever is in your power to project this beautiful area and it's vast and the diverse species that live there.

Sincerely,
Danielle Light

From: Aubrey Perry
To: Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Subject: Preserve the Ballona Wetlands
Sent: 1/21/2024 10:14:20 AM

You don't often get email from starbree22@yahoo.com. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

- In this version of the Environmental Impact Report, CDFW must include an accurate flood risk analysis of the entire proposed project. Revising the flood risk standards to what the Superior Court ruled in its judgment last summer must be done in accordance with what the US Army Corps of Engineers and LA County Flood Control experts stated during several years of the environmental review process. Using a different flood risk calculation impacts the entire EIR and must be accurately assessed and communicated both to the public and to relevant, concerned agencies.
- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a separate EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) since the overall project still contemplates demolishing the Ballona Creek levees, removing the sides of the river, triggering multiple federal laws that must be followed. The scope of this review cannot sidestep the federal laws that CDFW must follow.
- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new biological survey. The last one was completed approximately 10 years ago, and since then at least two endangered species have returned to nest at the Ballona Valley, both relying on habitat in the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve - including habitat in the Sequence #1 & #2 areas contemplated as starting locations for the proposed project. More species have returned to rely on the habitat at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve. A new, updated, and accurate biological baseline survey must be undertaken as part of this review.
- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new, updated sea level rise study and the relation of updated sea level rise calculations to the proposed project. Sea level rise predictions from 2012, when the last Scoping for an EIR was undertaken, were less robust than needed and the removal or demolishing of the Ballona Creek/River levees, combined with higher than anticipated sea level rise conditions, require an entirely new analysis of the situation.
- Since the last Scoping (2012) and Draft EIR (2017) were completed for essentially the same project, the water budget for this area has changed in part due to time passing since the Coastal Commission ordered illegal drains to be capped, significant changes in rainy weather patterns, and changes in management of the adjacent Playa Vista detention basin/"freshwater marsh." A new, revised water budget for fresh and brackish water must be undertaken and be compared to the habitats relied on by species of special concern, endangered species, and the biodiversity of the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve.
- In January of 2022, the State opened up a new public trail between Fiji Way and the bicycle path of the north creek levee - four mornings each week. This changed circumstance requires an assessment of the public access situation at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve, and a new, updated study that takes this access opening into account should be required as part of the news EIR review.
- A twenty-point gentle restoration plan was devised and published here. Please include a serious consideration of the twenty points in this proposed gentle restoration.

From:	Ellen Riegelhuth
To:	Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Subject:	Protect species living in the Ballona Wetlands
Sent:	1/18/2024 7:46:03 PM

You don't often get email from eriegelhuth@yahoo.com. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

Please consider all of the following points, in order to save the many species that live in the Ballona Wetlands:

- In this version of the Environmental Impact Report, CDFW must include an accurate flood risk analysis of the entire proposed project. Revising the flood risk standards to what the Superior Court ruled in its judgment last summer must be done in accordance with what the US Army Corps of Engineers and LA County Flood Control experts stated during several years of the environmental review process. Using a different flood risk calculation impacts the entire EIR and must be accurately assessed and communicated both to the public and to relevant, concerned agencies.
- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a separate EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) since the overall project still contemplates demolishing the Ballona Creek levees, removing the sides of the river, triggering multiple federal laws that must be followed. The scope of this review cannot sidestep the federal laws that CDFW must follow.
- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new biological survey. The last one was completed approximately 10 years ago, and since then at least two endangered species have returned to nest at the Ballona Valley, both relying on habitat in the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve - including habitat in the Sequence #1 & #2 areas contemplated as starting locations for the proposed project. More species have returned to rely on the habitat at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve. A new, updated, and accurate biological baseline survey must be undertaken as part of this review.
- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new, updated sea level rise study and the relation of updated sea level rise calculations to the proposed project. Sea level rise predictions from 2012, when the last Scoping for an EIR was undertaken, were less robust than needed and the removal or demolishing of the Ballona Creek/River levees, combined with higher than anticipated sea level rise conditions, require an entirely new analysis of the situation.
- Since the last Scoping (2012) and Draft EIR (2017) were completed for essentially the same project, the water budget for this area has changed in part due to time passing since the Coastal Commission ordered illegal drains to be capped, significant changes in rainy weather patterns, and changes in management of the adjacent Playa Vista detention basin/"freshwater marsh." A new, revised water budget for fresh and brackish water must be undertaken and be compared to the habitats relied on by species of special concern, endangered species, and the biodiversity of the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve.
- In January of 2022, the State opened up a new public trail between Fiji Way and the bicycle path of the north creek levee - four mornings each week. This changed circumstance requires an assessment of the public access situation at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve, and a new, updated study that takes this access opening into account should be required as part of the news EIR review.
- A twenty-point gentle restoration plan was devised and published here. Please include a serious consideration of the twenty points in this proposed gentle restoration.

Thank you for your time, and consideration. We must put the species first, that live at Ballona.

Best Regards,

Ellen Riegelhuth

Sent from my iPhone

From:	Kennon Raines
To:	Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Subject:	Public Comment on Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve Environmental Impact Report
Sent:	1/19/2024 12:38:42 AM

You don't often get email from kbraines728@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new biological survey. The last one was completed approximately 10 years ago and since then at least two endangered species have returned to nest at the Ballona Valley. Both species rely on habitat in the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve - most notably in the Sequence #1 & #2 areas being considered as starting locations for the proposed project. Therefore an updated and accurate biological baseline survey must be undertaken as part of this review.

This Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must also include an updated sea level rise study relative to the proposed project. Sea level rise predictions from 2012, when the last Scoping for an EIR was undertaken, were less robust than needed. The removal or demolishing the Ballona Creek/River levees, combined with higher than anticipated sea level rise conditions require an entirely new analysis of the situation.

Since the last Scoping (2012) and Draft EIR (2017) were completed the water budget for this area has changed. This was due in part to the lapse of time since the Coastal Commission ordered illegal drains to be capped. Additionally, there have been significant changes in rainy weather patterns, and changes in management of the adjacent Playa Vista detention basin/"freshwater marsh." A revised water budget for fresh and brackish water must be undertaken and be compared to the habitats relied on by species of special concern, endangered species, and the biodiversity of the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve.

In January of 2022, the State opened up a new public trail between Fiji Way and the bicycle path of the north creek levee - four mornings each week. This changed circumstance requires an assessment of public access to the wetlands and should be required as part of the new EIR review. It is imperative that every effort be made to protect the wetlands for the sake of all species dependent upon them.

Respectfully,
Ms. Kennon B. Raines
34 year resident of Southern California

From: Nickie.Duong@infineon.com
To: Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Subject: PUBLIC COMMENTS
Sent: 1/18/2024 6:13:13 PM

You don't often get email from nickie.duong@infineon.com. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

Dear Officials,

I write to submit my comments to the Ballona Wetlands as follows:

- In this version of the Environmental Impact Report, CDFW must include an accurate flood risk analysis of the entire proposed project. Revising the flood risk standards to what the Superior Court ruled in its judgment last summer must be done in accordance with what the US Army Corps of Engineers and LA County Flood Control experts stated during several years of the environmental review process. Using a different flood risk calculation impacts the entire EIR and must be accurately assessed and communicated both to the public and to relevant, concerned agencies.

- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a separate EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) since the overall project still contemplates demolishing the Ballona Creek levees, removing the sides of the river, triggering multiple federal laws that must be followed. The scope of this review cannot sidestep the federal laws that CDFW must follow.

- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new biological survey. The last one was completed approximately 10 years ago, and since then at least two endangered species have returned to nest at the Ballona Valley, both relying on habitat in the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve - including habitat in the Sequence #1 & #2 areas contemplated as starting locations for the proposed project. More species have returned to rely on the habitat at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve. A new, updated, and accurate biological baseline survey must be undertaken as part of this review.

- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new, updated sea level rise study and the relation of updated sea level rise calculations to the proposed project. Sea level rise predictions from 2012, when the last Scoping for an EIR was undertaken, were less robust than needed and the removal or demolishing of the Ballona Creek/River levees, combined with higher than anticipated sea level rise conditions, require an entirely new analysis of the situation.

- Since the last Scoping (2012) and Draft EIR (2017) were completed for essentially the same project, the water budget for this area has changed in part due to time passing since the Coastal Commission ordered illegal drains to be capped, significant changes in rainy weather patterns, and changes in management of the adjacent Playa Vista detention basin/"freshwater marsh." A new, revised water budget for fresh and brackish water must be undertaken and be compared to the habitats relied on by species of special concern, endangered species, and the biodiversity of the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve.

- In January of 2022, the State opened up a new public trail between Fiji Way and the bicycle path of the north creek levee - four mornings each week. This changed circumstance requires an assessment of the public access situation at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve, and a new, updated study that takes this access opening into account should be required as part of the news EIR review.

A twenty-point gentle restoration plan was devised and published here. Please include a serious consideration of the twenty points in this proposed gentle restoration.

Kind regards,

Dr. Nicolas Duonn

From: Nickie.Duong@infineon.com
To: Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Subject: PUBLIC COMMENTS - Protect Ballona Wetlands
Sent: 1/19/2024 1:32:34 PM

You don't often get email from nickie.duong@infineon.com. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

Dear Officials,

I write to submit my comments to the Ballona Wetlands as follows:

- In this version of the Environmental Impact Report, CDFW must include an accurate flood risk analysis of the entire proposed project. Revising the flood risk standards to what the Superior Court ruled in its judgment last summer must be done in accordance with what the US Army Corps of Engineers and LA County Flood Control experts stated during several years of the environmental review process. Using a different flood risk calculation impacts the entire EIR and must be accurately assessed and communicated both to the public and to relevant, concerned agencies.
- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a separate EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) since the overall project still contemplates demolishing the Ballona Creek levees, removing the sides of the river, triggering multiple federal laws that must be followed. The scope of this review cannot sidestep the federal laws that CDFW must follow.
- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new biological survey. The last one was completed approximately 10 years ago, and since then at least two endangered species have returned to nest at the Ballona Valley, both relying on habitat in the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve - including habitat in the Sequence #1 & #2 areas contemplated as starting locations for the proposed project. More species have returned to rely on the habitat at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve. A new, updated, and accurate biological baseline survey must be undertaken as part of this review.
- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new, updated sea level rise study and the relation of updated sea level rise calculations to the proposed project. Sea level rise predictions from 2012, when the last Scoping for an EIR was undertaken, were less robust than needed and the removal or demolishing of the Ballona Creek/River levees, combined with higher than anticipated sea level rise conditions, require an entirely new analysis of the situation.
- Since the last Scoping (2012) and Draft EIR (2017) were completed for essentially the same project, the water budget for this area has changed in part due to time passing since the Coastal Commission ordered illegal drains to be capped, significant changes in rainy weather patterns, and changes in management of the adjacent Playa Vista detention basin/"freshwater marsh." A new, revised water budget for fresh and brackish water must be undertaken and be compared to the habitats relied on by species of special concern, endangered species, and the biodiversity of the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve.
- In January of 2022, the State opened up a new public trail between Fiji Way and the bicycle path of the north creek levee - four mornings each week. This changed circumstance requires an assessment of the public access situation at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve, and a new, updated study that takes this access opening into account should be required as part of the news EIR review.

A twenty-point gentle restoration plan was devised and published here. Please include a serious consideration of the twenty points in this proposed gentle restoration.

Kind regards,
Dr. Nicolas Duonn

From: Nickie.Duong@infineon.com
To: Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Subject: PUBLIC COMMENTS - Protect Ballona Wetlands
Sent: 1/22/2024 11:35:35 AM

You don't often get email from nickie.duong@infineon.com. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

Dear Officials,

I write to submit my comments to the Ballona Wetlands as follows:

- In this version of the Environmental Impact Report, CDFW must include an accurate flood risk analysis of the entire proposed project. Revising the flood risk standards to what the Superior Court ruled in its judgment last summer must be done in accordance with what the US Army Corps of Engineers and LA County Flood Control experts stated during several years of the environmental review process. Using a different flood risk calculation impacts the entire EIR and must be accurately assessed and communicated both to the public and to relevant, concerned agencies.
- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a separate EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) since the overall project still contemplates demolishing the Ballona Creek levees, removing the sides of the river, triggering multiple federal laws that must be followed. The scope of this review cannot sidestep the federal laws that CDFW must follow.
- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new biological survey. The last one was completed approximately 10 years ago, and since then at least two endangered species have returned to nest at the Ballona Valley, both relying on habitat in the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve - including habitat in the Sequence #1 & #2 areas contemplated as starting locations for the proposed project. More species have returned to rely on the habitat at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve. A new, updated, and accurate biological baseline survey must be undertaken as part of this review.
- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new, updated sea level rise study and the relation of updated sea level rise calculations to the proposed project. Sea level rise predictions from 2012, when the last Scoping for an EIR was undertaken, were less robust than needed and the removal or demolishing of the Ballona Creek/River levees, combined with higher than anticipated sea level rise conditions, require an entirely new analysis of the situation.
- Since the last Scoping (2012) and Draft EIR (2017) were completed for essentially the same project, the water budget for this area has changed in part due to time passing since the Coastal Commission ordered illegal drains to be capped, significant changes in rainy weather patterns, and changes in management of the adjacent Playa Vista detention basin/"freshwater marsh." A new, revised water budget for fresh and brackish water must be undertaken and be compared to the habitats relied on by species of special concern, endangered species, and the biodiversity of the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve.
- In January of 2022, the State opened up a new public trail between Fiji Way and the bicycle path of the north creek levee - four mornings each week. This changed circumstance requires an assessment of the public access situation at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve, and a new, updated study that takes this access opening into account should be required as part of the news EIR review.

A twenty-point gentle restoration plan was devised and published here. Please include a serious consideration of the twenty points in this proposed gentle restoration.

Kind regards,
Dr. Nicolas Duonn

From:	Nic D
To:	Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Subject:	Public Comments
Sent:	1/18/2024 6:29:16 PM

You don't often get email from snobunnie1992@yahoo.com. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

Please consider my public comments below:

- In this version of the Environmental Impact Report, CDFW must include an accurate flood risk analysis of the entire proposed project. Revising the flood risk standards to what the Superior Court ruled in its judgment last summer must be done in accordance with what the US Army Corps of Engineers and LA County Flood Control experts stated during several years of the environmental review process. Using a different flood risk calculation impacts the entire EIR and must be accurately assessed and communicated both to the public and to relevant, concerned agencies.
- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a separate EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) since the overall project still contemplates demolishing the Ballona Creek levees, removing the sides of the river, triggering multiple federal laws that must be followed. The scope of this review cannot sidestep the federal laws that CDFW must follow.
- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new biological survey. The last one was completed approximately 10 years ago, and since then at least two endangered species have returned to nest at the Ballona Valley, both relying on habitat in the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve - including habitat in the Sequence #1 & #2 areas contemplated as starting locations for the proposed project. More species have returned to rely on the habitat at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve. A new, updated, and accurate biological baseline survey must be undertaken as part of this review.
- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new, updated sea level rise study and the relation of updated sea level rise calculations to the proposed project. Sea level rise predictions from 2012, when the last Scoping for an EIR was undertaken, were less robust than needed and the removal or demolishing of the Ballona Creek/River levees, combined with higher than anticipated sea level rise conditions, require an entirely new analysis of the situation.
- Since the last Scoping (2012) and Draft EIR (2017) were completed for essentially the same project, the water budget for this area has changed in part due to time passing since the Coastal Commission ordered illegal drains to be capped, significant changes in rainy weather patterns, and changes in management of the adjacent Playa Vista detention basin/"freshwater marsh." A new, revised water budget for fresh and brackish water must be undertaken and be compared to the habitats relied on by species of special concern, endangered species, and the biodiversity of the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve.
- In January of 2022, the State opened up a new public trail between Fiji Way and the bicycle path of the north creek levee - four mornings each week. This changed circumstance requires an assessment of the public access situation at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve, and a new, updated study that takes this access opening into account should be required as part of the news EIR review.
- A twenty-point gentle restoration plan was devised and published here. Please include a serious consideration of the twenty points in this proposed gentle restoration

—Dr. Elsa Knutson

Sent from my iPhone

From:	Janna Scott
To:	Hyperion@PN-Junction.Net
Cc:	Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Subject:	RE: "REIR Scoping Comments, Scenic Highway, Tom McMahon 2023-11-14 03.pdf"
Sent:	11/14/2023 9:59:25 AM

You don't often get email from jscott@esassoc.com. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

Good morning,

As advised and acknowledged on November 3, 2024, my email inbox is not an authorized repository to accept public input on this project – messages sent there *are not included in CDFW's formal project file* and *are not made part of the public record*.

Please use either of the ways requested on the Notice of Preparation to ensure that the information you are providing is included in the record (for example, the correct email box to direct comments is cc'd above). Please do not separately email your input to me.

Thanks much,
Janna

Janna Scott
Director
ESA | **Environmental Science Associates**
408.660.4008 **direct**

From: Tom McMahon <TLM@PN-Junction.Net>
Sent: Tuesday, November 14, 2023 6:30 AM
To: Janna Scott <JScott@esassoc.com>
Cc: Hyperion <Hyperion@PN-Junction.Net>
Subject: "REIR Scoping Comments, Scenic Highway, Tom McMahon 2023-11-14 03.pdf"

Dear Janna -

Please see attached REIR Scoping Comments:

"REIR Scoping Comments, Scenic Highway, Tom McMahon 2023-11-14 03.pdf"

Regarding - Culver Boulevard, City of Los Angeles Designated Scenic Highway - Ballona Wetlands

The 2020 Final EIR's 2015 Traffic Study predated the advent of "Culver Boulevard, Designated Scenic Highway" bisecting Area B of the Reserve.

Given that Sequences 1 and 2 specifically involve work in this area, including a fence-topped berm for a segment of Culver Blvd. (Scenic Hwy), the scope and content of the REIR must include the existence of a Scenic Highway, and funding should be postponed until this issue is added.

Also uploaded here:

"CDFW REIR Scoping Comments, Scenic Highway, Tom Mc Mahon 2023 11 14 03 : Tom McMahon : Free Download, Borrow, and Streaming : Internet Archive"

https://archive.org/details/reir-scoping-comments-scenic-highway-tom-mc-mahon-2023-11-14-03

Thank you and best regards.

Sincerely,

Tom McMahon, Engineer
8207 Delgany Avenue
Playa del Rey, CA 90293
+1-310-717-7208

From:	Janna Scott
To:	Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Subject:	RE: Ballona Wetlands EIR
Sent:	1/18/2024 10:39:51 AM

You don't often get email from jscott@esassoc.com. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

Received. Thanks!

Janna Scott
Director
ESA | **Environmental Science Associates**
408.660.4008 **direct**

From: Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR <BWERcomments@wildlife.ca.gov>
Sent: Thursday, January 18, 2024 10:13 AM
To: Janna Scott <JScott@esassoc.com>
Subject: FW: Ballona Wetlands EIR

New comment. Another form email similar to ones we already received. Please confirm receipt

From: ecnp@aol.com <ecnp@aol.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 17, 2024 2:33 PM
To: Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR <BWERcomments@wildlife.ca.gov>
Subject: Ballona Wetlands EIR

You don't often get email from ecnp@aol.com. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

Please consider the following from the Ecology Center of Southern California.
Nancy Pearlman
Director

The Department (CDFW) must include in this re-do of the Environmental Impact Report an accurate flood risk analysis of the entire proposed project. Revising the flood risk standards to what the Superior Court ruled in its judgment last summer must be done in accordance with what the US Army Corps of Engineers and LA County Flood Control experts stated during several years of the environmental review process. **How this change in using a different flood risk calculation impacts the entire EIR and its original assumptions must be accurately assessed** and communicated to the public and to relevant, concerned agencies.

The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) **must include a separate EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) since the overall project still contemplates demolishing the Ballona Creek levees, removing the sides of the rive**r, triggering multiple federal laws that must be followed. The scope of this review cannot sidestep the federal laws that CDFW must follow.

The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) **must include a new biological survey.** The last one was completed approximately 10 years ago, and since then, at least two endangered species have returned to nest at the Ballona Valley, both relying on habitat in the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve - including habitat in the Sequence #1 & #2 areas contemplated as starting locations for the proposed project. There are also additional species that have returned to rely on the habitat at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve. A new, updated and accurate biological baseline survey must be undertaken as part of this review.

The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new, updated sea level rise study and the relation of updated sea level rise calculations to the proposed project. Sea level rise predictions from 2012, when the last Scoping for an EIR was undertaken, have proven to be less robust than they ought to have been, and the removal or demolishing of the Ballona Creek/River levees, combined with higher than anticipated sea level rise conditions require an entirely new analysis of the situation.

Since the last Scoping (2012) and Draft EIR (2017) were completed for essentially the same project, **the water budget for this area has changed,** in part due to time passing since the Coastal Commission ordered illegal drains to be capped, significant changes in rainy weather patterns, and changes in management of the adjacent Playa Vista detention basin/"freshwater marsh." **A new, revised water budget for fresh and brackish water must be undertaken and be compared to the habitats relied on by species of special concern, endangered species and the biodiversity of the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve.**

• In January, 2022, the State opened up a new public trail between Fiji Way and the bicycle path of the north creek levee - four mornings each week. **This changed circumstance requires an assessment of the public access situation at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve, and a new, updated study** that takes this access opening into account should be required as part of the news EIR review.

• A 20 pt. gentle restoration plan was devised and is now published on the website, *defendballonawetlands.org*. That plan has never been considered by CDFW as part of its future plans for the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve. Please include a serious consideration of the 20 points in this proposed gentle restoration.

From:	Brody, Richard@Wildlife
To:	Walter Lamb; Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR;
Cc:	JScott@esassoc.com; Ballona Wetlands;
Subject:	RE: Ballona Wetlands REIR Scoping Comments
Sent:	1/18/2024 10:10:11 AM

Recieved

From: Walter Lamb <walter@ballona.org>
Sent: Thursday, January 18, 2024 9:46 AM
To: Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR <BWERcomments@wildlife.ca.gov>
Cc: Brody, Richard@Wildlife <Richard.Brody@wildlife.ca.gov>; JScott@esassoc.com; Ballona Wetlands <landtrust@ballona.org>
Subject: Ballona Wetlands REIR Scoping Comments

You don't often get email from walter@ballona.org. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

Brody and Janna - the Land Trust's scoping comments for the Department's EIR revision process are attached. Please confirm receipt and let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you.

Walter Lamb
Ballona Wetlands Land Trust
310-384-1042

From:	Janna Scott
To:	Brody, Richard@Wildlife
Subject:	RE: Ballona Wetlands REIR Scoping Comments
Sent:	1/18/2024 10:39:07 AM

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

Hi Brody,

We received it as well. Thanks!

Janna Scott
Director
ESA | **Environmental Science Associates**
408.660.4008 **direct**

From: Brody, Richard@Wildlife <Richard.Brody@wildlife.ca.gov>
Sent: Thursday, January 18, 2024 10:10 AM
To: Walter Lamb <walter@ballona.org>; Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR <BWERcomments@wildlife.ca.gov>
Cc: Janna Scott <JScott@esassoc.com>; Ballona Wetlands <landtrust@ballona.org>
Subject: RE: Ballona Wetlands REIR Scoping Comments

Recieved

From: Walter Lamb <walter@ballona.org>
Sent: Thursday, January 18, 2024 9:46 AM
To: Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR <BWERcomments@wildlife.ca.gov>
Cc: Brody, Richard@Wildlife <Richard.Brody@wildlife.ca.gov>; JScott@esassoc.com; Ballona Wetlands <landtrust@ballona.org>
Subject: Ballona Wetlands REIR Scoping Comments

You don't often get email from walter@ballona.org. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

Brody and Janna - the Land Trust's scoping comments for the Department's EIR revision process are attached. Please confirm receipt and let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you.

Walter Lamb
Ballona Wetlands Land Trust
310-384-1042

From:	Janna Scott
To:	Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Subject:	RE: Ballona Wetlands: New EIR
Sent:	1/18/2024 10:39:21 AM

You don't often get email from jscott@esassoc.com. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

Received. Thanks!

Janna Scott
Director
ESA | **Environmental Science Associates**
408.660.4008 **direct**

From: Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR <BWERcomments@wildlife.ca.gov>
Sent: Thursday, January 18, 2024 10:13 AM
To: Janna Scott <JScott@esassoc.com>
Subject: FW: Ballona Wetlands: New EIR

New comment. This one looks like a form email similar to one we already received. Please confirm reciept

From: Susanne Cumming <cumming@earthlink.net>
Sent: Wednesday, January 17, 2024 9:35 PM
To: Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR <BWERcomments@wildlife.ca.gov>
Subject: Ballona Wetlands: New EIR

You don't often get email from cumming@earthlink.net. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

Happy New Year!

I am writing about my concerns for the Ballona Wetlands. Please address the following points in the new EIR that the court asked you to prepare:

• Yes, the Department (CDFW) must include in this re-do of the Environmental Impact Report an accurate flood risk analysis of the entire proposed project. Revising the flood risk standards to what the Superior Court ruled in its judgment last summer must be done in accordance with what the US Army Corps of Engineers and LA County Flood Control experts stated during several years of the environmental review process. **How this change in using a different flood risk calculation impacts the entire EIR and its original assumptions must be accurately accessed** and communicated to the public and to relevant, concerned agencies.

• The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) **must include a separate EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) since the overall project still contemplates demolishing the Ballona Creek levees, removing the sides of the rive**r, triggering multiple federal laws that must be followed. The scope of this review cannot sidestep the federal laws that CDFW must follow.

• The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) **must include a new biological survey.** The last one was completed approximately 10 years ago, and since then, at least two endangered species have returned to nest at the Ballona Valley, both relying on habitat in the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve - including habitat in the Sequence #1 & #2 areas contemplated as starting locations for the proposed project. There are also additional species that have returned to rely on the habitat at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve. A new, updated and accurate biological baseline survey must be undertaken as part of this review.

• **The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new, updated sea level rise study and the relation of updated sea level rise calculations to the proposed project.** Sea level rise predictions from 2012, when the last Scoping for an EIR was undertaken, have proven to be less robust than they

ought to have been, and the removal or demolishing of the Ballona Creek/River levees, combined with higher than anticipated sea level rise conditions require an entirely new analysis of the situation.

• Since the last Scoping (2012) and Draft EIR (2017) were completed for essentially the same project, **the water budget for this area has changed,** in part due to time passing since the Coastal Commission ordered illegal drains to be capped, significant changes in rainy weather patterns, and changes in management of the adjacent Playa Vista detention basin/"freshwater marsh." **A new, revised water budget for fresh and brackish water must be undertaken and be compared to the habitats relied on by species of special concern, endangered species and the biodiversity of the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve.**

• In January, 2022, the State opened up a new public trail between Fiji Way and the bicycle path of the north creek levee - four mornings each week. **This changed circumstance requires an assessment of the public access situation at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve, and a new, updated study** that takes this access opening into account should be required as part of the news EIR review.

• A 20 pt. gentle restoration plan was devised and is now published on the website, *defendballonawetlands.org.* That plan has never been considered by CDFW as part of its future plans for the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve. Please include a serious consideration of the 20 points in this proposed gentle restoration.

Thank you,
Susanne Cumming
Member, Defend Ballona Wetlands

Susanne L. Cumming, Esq.
CA State Bar #137426
CA RE #01901754
Cell/Text: (310)962-3341
cumming@earthlink.net

www.linkedin.com/in/susannecumming

From:	Sean Silva
To:	Brody, Richard@Wildlife
Subject:	RE: Comment Period Extension Request
Sent:	11/1/2023 5:53:34 PM

Follow Up Flag:	Follow up
Flag Status:	Flagged

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

Hi Brody,

Hope you're well.

Regarding the recent NOP for the REIR of the Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project, we request that the deadline for public comment be extended by sixty (60) days, for a total of ninety (90) days.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

All the best,
Sean

Sean Silva | Deputy,
Venice | Planning Liaison
Office of Councilwoman Traci Park
*
11th
District
WESTCHESTER:
7166 W. Manchester Ave, LA, CA 90045
(310) 568-8772
TEL
|

***PLEASE NOTE**:
E-mail correspondence with the Office of Councilwoman Traci Park may be subject to public disclosure under the California Public Records Act.
(including attachments)
*

From:	Sean Silva
To:	Brody, Richard@Wildlife
Subject:	RE: Comment Period Extension Request
Sent:	11/1/2023 5:53:34 PM

Follow Up Flag:	Follow up
Flag Status:	Flagged

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

Hi Brody,

Hope you're well.

Regarding the recent NOP for the REIR of the Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project, we request that the deadline for public comment be extended by sixty (60) days, for a total of ninety (90) days.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

All the best,
Sean

Sean Silva | Deputy,
Venice | Planning Liaison
Office of Councilwoman Traci Park
*
11th
District
WESTCHESTER:
7166 W. Manchester Ave, LA, CA 90045
(310) 568-8772
TEL
|

***PLEASE NOTE**:
E-mail correspondence with the Office of Councilwoman Traci Park may be subject to public disclosure under the California Public Records Act.
(including attachments)
*

From:	Aidan McCraw
To:	Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Subject:	Re: Environmental Impact Report
Sent:	1/18/2024 8:24:06 PM

You don't often get email from mccrawaidan@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

The hyperlink in my previous email did not work. Here is the link to the 20 point plan:
https://click.everyaction.com/k/77323521/450110432/-1267467540?utm_source=email&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=ballona-1-8&nvep=ew0KICAiVGVuYW50VXJpIjogIm5ncHZhbjovL3Zhbi9FQS9FQTAwNS8xLzgzODc4IiwNCiAgIkRpc3RyaWJ1dGlvblVuaXF1ZUlkIjogIjEzNmFiZTViLTZhYjYtZWUxMS1iZWExLTAwMjI0ODIyMzdkYSIsDQogICJFbWFpbEFkZHJlc3MiOiAibWNjcmF3YWlkYW5AZ21haWwuY29tIg0KfQ%3D%3D&hmac=8Wfg-j_jt5C-zynxIOab8ONH4vXef30R_9X8Y0HqCdA=&emci=ced6fad6-65b6-ee11-bea1-0022482237da&emdi=136abe5b-6ab6-ee11-bea1-0022482237da&ceid=28290928

On Thu, Jan 18, 2024, 8:21 PM Aidan McCraw <mccrawaidan@gmail.com> wrote:

> In this version of the Environmental Impact Report, CDFW must include an accurate flood risk analysis of the entire proposed project. Revising the flood risk standards to what the Superior Court ruled in its judgment last summer must be done in accordance with what the US Army Corps of Engineers and LA County Flood Control experts stated during several years of the environmental review process. Using a different flood risk calculation impacts the entire EIR and must be accurately assessed and communicated both to the public and to relevant, concerned agencies.
> The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a separate EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) since the overall project still contemplates demolishing the Ballona Creek levees, removing the sides of the river, triggering multiple federal laws that must be followed. The scope of this review cannot sidestep the federal laws that CDFW must follow.
> The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new biological survey. The last one was completed approximately 10 years ago, and since then at least two endangered species have returned to nest at the Ballona Valley, both relying on habitat in the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve - including habitat in the Sequence #1 & #2 areas contemplated as starting locations for the proposed project. More species have returned to rely on the habitat at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve. A new, updated, and accurate biological baseline survey must be undertaken as part of this review.
> The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new, updated sea level rise study and the relation of updated sea level rise calculations to the proposed project. Sea level rise predictions from 2012, when the last Scoping for an EIR was undertaken, were less robust than needed and the removal or demolishing of the Ballona Creek/River levees, combined with higher than anticipated sea level rise conditions, require an entirely new analysis of the situation.
> Since the last Scoping (2012) and Draft EIR (2017) were completed for essentially the same project, the water budget for this area has changed in part due to time passing since the Coastal Commission ordered illegal drains to be capped, significant changes in rainy weather patterns, and changes in management of the adjacent Playa Vista detention basin/"freshwater marsh." A new, revised water budget for fresh and brackish water must be undertaken and be compared to the habitats relied on by species of special concern, endangered species, and the biodiversity of the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve.
> In January of 2022, the State opened up a new public trail between Fiji Way and the bicycle path of the north creek levee - four mornings each week. This changed circumstance requires an assessment of the public access situation at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve, and a new, updated study that takes this access opening into account should be required as part of the news EIR review.
> A twenty-point gentle restoration plan was devised and published here. Please include a serious consideration of the twenty points in this proposed gentle restoration.

From:	NICHOLAS ROCHA
To:	Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Subject:	Re: Notice of Intent to Prepare a Revised EIR for the Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project
Attachments:	image001.png;image002.png;
Sent:	10/25/2023 6:28:57 PM

You don't often get email from nicrocha63@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

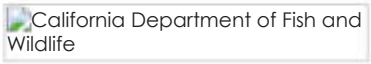
Nov. 7th is Election Day, also

On Wed, Oct 25, 2023, 10:13 AM Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR <BWERcomments@wildlife.ca.gov> wrote:

> To: Interested Parties
>
> The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) is providing the attached notice to interested agencies and parties of its intent to prepare a Revised Environmental Impact Report (REIR) for the Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project (State Clearinghouse No. 2012071090).
>
> The notice provides:
>
> - Information about the project and the environmental review process under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA),
> - A summary of the issues to be addressed in the REIR and a request for input as to those issues,
> - The start and end dates of a 30-day period to provide scoping input about the issues to be addressed in the REIR (October 25, 2023 to 5 PM on November 27, 2023)
> - An email address (BWERcomments@wildlife.ca.gov) and physical address to provide written input, and
> - Other relevant information.
>
> CDFW will host a virtual public scoping meeting about the project. Details are as follows:
>
> - Date: Tuesday, November 7, 2023
> - Start Time: 6:00 PM
> - End Time: 7:30 PM or earlier if all who wish to speak have had an opportunity to do so.
> - Join Meeting: https://bit.ly/ballonascopingmtg
>
> Webinar ID: 834 5297 1153
>
> Passcode: 091611
>
> Telephone number: (888) 788-0099 US Toll Free
>
> If you have any questions regarding the meeting, please contact Richard C. Brody (Richard.Brody@wildlife.ca.gov).
>
> *Opting out of email updates*: You are receiving this message because you previously expressed interest in receiving emails about the environmental review process for the Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project. If you would no longer like to receive emails like this one, please reply with the word “unsubscribe” in the subject line.

South Coast Region

California Department of Fish and Wildlife





From:	Janna Scott
To:	Hyperion@PN-Junction.Net
Cc:	Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Subject:	RE: REIR Scoping Comments, Accelerating SLR, Tom McMahon, 2023-11-03
Attachments:	REIR Scoping Comments, Accelerating SLR, Tom McMahon, 2023-11-03 Rev. 12.pdf;NASA-JPL Interagency SLR Task Force, National Tech Report, Santa Monica 2023-09-26 02.xlsx;NASA-JPL Interagency SLR Task Force, National Tech Report, Santa Monica 2023-09-26 Sheet Two.pdf;
Sent:	11/3/2023 8:28:50 AM

You don't often get email from jscott@esassoc.com. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

Good morning, Mr. McMahon.

I wanted to let you know that my email inbox is not an authorized repository to accept public input on this project – messages sent there *are not included in CDFW's formal project file* and *are not made part of the public record*. I have copied the correct email address on this reply so that no further action is required by you for the message sent this morning. However, for future messages, please submit your input in one of the ways requested on the Notice of Preparation, i.e.:

By email: BWERcomments@wildlife.ca.gov

By mail: Attn: Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project
California Department of Fish & Wildlife
c/o ESA (jas)
575 Market Street, Suite 3700
San Francisco, CA 94105

Thanks very much for participating in the process! We appreciate your input.

Best regards,
Janna Scott
ESA | Environmental Science Associates

From: Tom McMahon <TLM@PN-Junction.Net>
Sent: Friday, November 3, 2023 7:02 AM
To: Janna Scott <JScott@esassoc.com>
Cc: Hyperion <Hyperion@PN-Junction.Net>
Subject: FW: REIR Scoping Comments, Accelerating SLR, Tom McMahon, 2023-11-03

Dear Janna –

FYI, please see below and attached. Thank you and best regards,

- Tom McMahon

From: Tom McMahon <TLM@PN-Junction.Net>
Sent: Friday, November 3, 2023 6:57 AM
To: 'BWERcomments@wildlife.ca.gov' <BWERcomments@wildlife.ca.gov>
Cc: Hyperion (Hyperion@PN-Junction.Net) <Hyperion@PN-Junction.Net>
Subject: REIR Scoping Comments, Accelerating SLR, Tom McMahon, 2023-11-03

California Department of Fish & Wildlife
575 Market Street, Suite 3700
San Francisco, CA 94105
Attn: Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project

Dear CDFW, BWRP et. al. -

Please see attached REIR Scoping Comments and collateral data:

"REIR Scoping Comments, Accelerating SLR, Tom McMahon, 2023-11-03 Rev. 12.pdf"
"NASA-JPL Interagency SLR Task Force, National Tech Report, Santa Monica 2023-09-26 02.xlsx"
"NASA-JPL Interagency SLR Task Force, National Tech Report, Santa Monica 2023-09-26 Sheet Two.pdf"

Thank you and best regards. Sincerely,

Tom McMahon, Engineer
8207 Delgany Avenue
Playa del Rey, CA 90293
+1-310-717-7208
Hyperion@PN-Junction.Net

From:	Walter Lamb
To:	Brody, Richard@Wildlife
Cc:	JScott@esassoc.com; Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR; Takei, Kevin@Wildlife;
Subject:	Re: Video of 11/7 Scoping Meeting
Sent:	1/17/2024 1:05:14 PM

You don't often get email from walter@ballona.org. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

Good afternoon, Brody.

Kevin only told me that "CDFW did not have a video". That is why I asked ESA if they had a video, since they appeared to be managing the zoom session and since Janna apparently created the transcript. You are now telling me that "there is no video of the meeting", but that would also be true if the video was recorded but then later deleted. Participants who heard you say at the meeting that "this meeting is being recorded, so the information presented will be available to those who are not able to join this evening and so that we will have an accurate record of any comments received during this meeting" reasonably believed that a video recording was being made, since the information presented that night included visual information, since a video recording is consistent with CDFW's past practices, since Zoom's default mode is to record both audio and video, and since it is extremely difficult to use an audio file to find information after the fact. I requested a copy of the meeting video on November 13th and today, over two months later, is the first I have been told that there is indeed an audio recording.

I am requesting three things:

1) A copy of the audio recording.

2) A clarification of whether ESA recorded video of the meeting and later deleted that video, or whether the only recording made at the outset was of the meeting audio.

3) If the latter, clarification as to whether it was an accident that only audio was recorded or whether that was CDFW and ESA's intent?

I will also send the first request to Kevin in a separate email so that it gets records on CDFW's CPRA portal.

Thank you.

Walter Lamb
Ballona Wetlands Land Trust

On Wed, Jan 17, 2024 at 8:54 AM Brody, Richard@Wildlife <Richard.Brody@wildlife.ca.gov> wrote:

> Hi Walter,
>
> Please send emails like this to the Department instead of directly to Janna Scott or anyone else at ESA. I think Kevin may have told you this, but there is no video of the meeting. The meeting was recorded for audio and creating a transcript.
>
> Regards,
>
> Brody
>
> **R.C. Brody (he/him)**
>
> Land Manager, Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve
>
> California Department of Fish and Wildlife
>
> P.O. Box 1653 Topanga, CA 90290
>
> (o) 310-455-3243 **Chat/call in Teams**



From: Walter Lamb <walter@ballona.org>
Sent: Tuesday, January 16, 2024 5:04 PM
To: JScott@esassoc.com
Cc: Brody, Richard@Wildlife <Richard.Brody@wildlife.ca.gov>; Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR <BWERcomments@wildlife.ca.gov>
Subject: Video of 11/7 Scoping Meeting

You don't often get email from walter@ballona.org. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

Good afternoon, Janna. During the November 7th scoping meeting, the public was informed that the meeting was being recorded and would be available for members of the public to view. I've asked the CA Department of Fish and Wildlife for a copy and was told they don't have a copy. They did, however, provide a transcript. Although I subsequently asked them to request a copy of the video from ESA, I am reaching out to you directly to see if that might be an easier approach. Although ESA is not directly subject to the California Public Records Act, we believe the recording of the scoping meeting is nonetheless a public record. If you can provide a copy of the meeting directly, I think that would be the most efficient approach. Otherwise, I will continue to go through the Department.

Thank you.

Walter Lamb

Ballona Wetlands Land Trust

310-384-1042

From:	Jodi Lozano
To:	Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Subject:	Re: Wetlands preservation
Sent:	1/18/2024 8:29:22 PM

You don't often get email from missjodi68@hotmail.com. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

I am against this project for multiple reasons but the most important is because of those that can not speak up for themselves. There are at least two endangered species that have returned to nest at the Ballona Valley, both relying on habitat in the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve. For this reason, further up to date evaluations should be done. Please protect these wetlands. Thank you kindly!

Sincerely,

Jodi Lozano

Get Outlook for Android

From: Miriam Faugno
To: Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Subject: REIR for Ballona
Sent: 1/18/2024 7:13:40 PM

You don't often get email from mfaugnos@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a separate EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) since the overall project still contemplates demolishing the Ballona Creek levees, removing the sides of the river, triggering multiple federal laws that must be followed. The scope of this review cannot sidestep the federal laws that CDFW must follow.

- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new biological survey. The last one was completed approximately 10 years ago, and since then at least two endangered species have returned to nest at the Ballona Valley, both relying on habitat in the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve - including habitat in the Sequence #1 & #2 areas contemplated as starting locations for the proposed project. More species have returned to rely on the habitat at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve. A new, updated, and accurate biological baseline survey must be undertaken as part of this review.

M.Faugno
Playa del Rey, CA
mfaugnos@gmail.com

California Department of Fish & Wildlife
575 Market Street, Suite 3700
San Francisco, CA 94105
BWERcomments@wildlife.ca.gov

REIR Scoping Comments
Trash Interception
Tom McMahon
October 29, 2023

Attn: Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project -

April 5, 2022 Supervisor Holly Mitchell approved $6.65 Million for installation and a $350K annual Operation and Maintenance (O&M) Budget *[1]* for the 007 Trash Interceptor at the mouth of Ballona Creek, *500 Meters downstream* of *Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve [3]*.

Since its deployment October 2022: "The Los Angeles County Ballona Creek Trash Interceptor collected over 85 tons *[2]* of trash from the Ballona Creek, according to the latest data from L.A. County August 28, 2023".

However, the *Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve [3]* begins 500 meters *upstream* of the Ballona Creek Trash Interceptor *[2]*. In the 11-month period starting October 2022 over 85 tons of trash flowed through the channelized segment of the Ballona Flood Control Channel of the Reserve slated for modification in the 2020 Final EIR:

"Project would remove the existing concrete levees on a portion of the Ballona Creek channel and realign the creek into a meandering shape as it flows through the Reserve." "This would reconnect Ballona Creek with its reestablished floodplain within the Reserve, which would improve tidal flow and circulation into and within the wetlands." "Create a sinuous Ballona Creek channel with two primary meander-shaped bends," "Removal and replacement of existing levees with transitional zones to accommodate sea-level rise and introduce a meandering shape."

With the removal of concrete levees and the introduction of a meandering floodplain, a significant percentage of this 85-ton annual trash load will collect in the Reserve. The 2020 Final EIR included no trash mitigation, collection or removal strategy or operations budget thereof. The scope of the REIR must include such, and funding should be postponed until this issue is added to its scope and content.

Sincerely,

Tom McMahon, Engineer
8207 Delgany Avenue
Playa del Rey, CA 90293
+1-310-717-7208
Hyperion@PN-Junction.Net

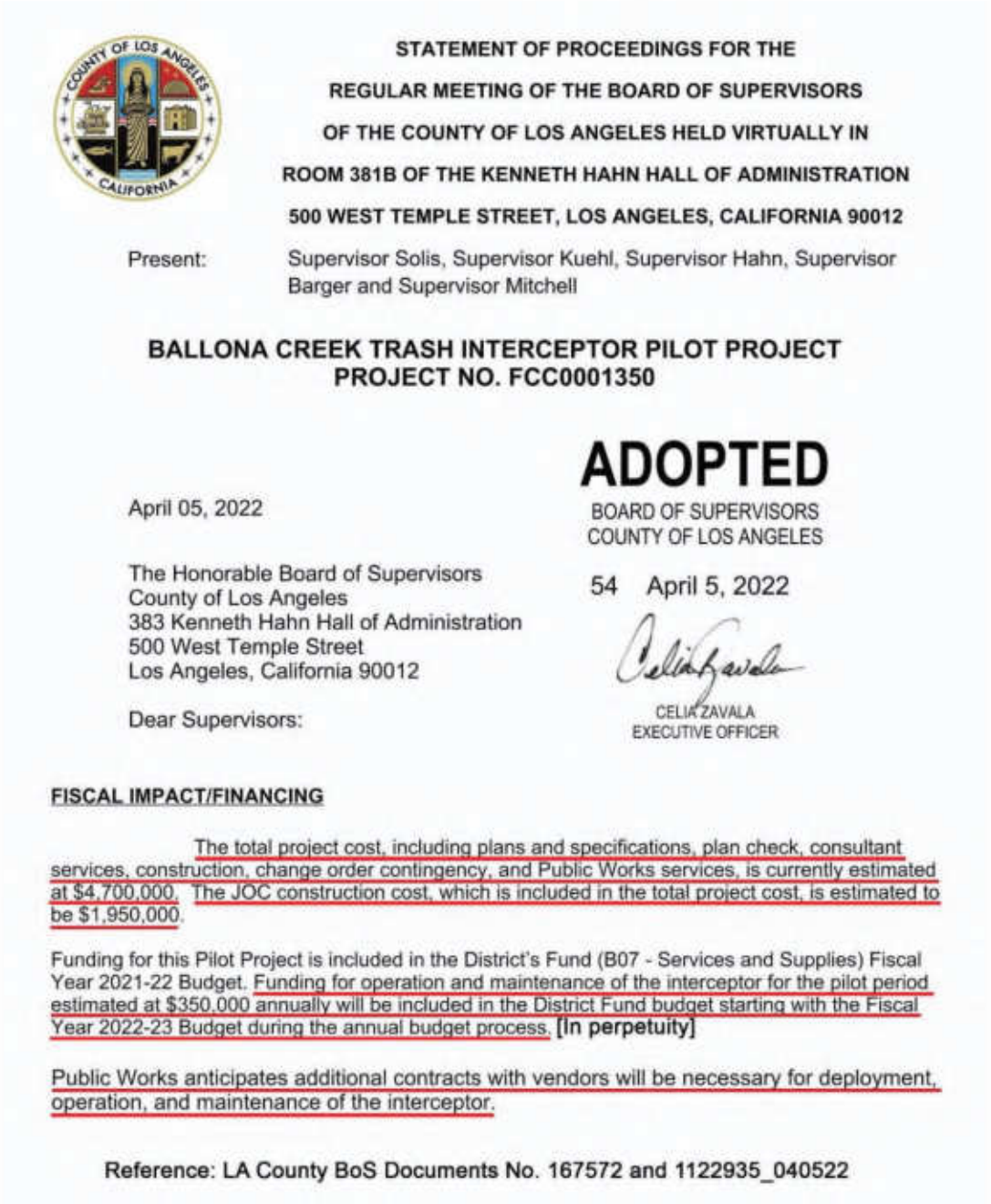
CC:

Wildlife Conservation Board
Jennifer Norris, Executive Director
P.O. Box 944209
Sacramento, CA 94244-2090
+1-(916) 445-8448
Jennifer.Norris@wildlife.ca.gov
WCBCorridors@wildlife.ca.gov

Environmental Science Associates
Janna Scott, Director
575 Market Street, Suite 3700
San Francisco, CA 94105
+1-(415) 896-5900
jscott@esassoc.com

CDFW Headquarters
Chuck Bonham
715 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814
Mailing: P.O. Box 944209
Sacramento, CA 94244-2090
https://wildlife.ca.gov/Contact
+1-(916) 445-0411

[1] - April 5, 2022 Supervisor Holly Mitchell approved $6.65 Million for installation and $350K annual Operation and Maintenance (O&M) Budget [1] for the 007 Trash Interceptor at the mouth of Ballona Creek (Cover Page).



STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OF THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES HELD VIRTUALLY IN
ROOM 381B OF THE KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012

Present: Supervisor Solis, Supervisor Kuehl, Supervisor Hahn, Supervisor Barger and Supervisor Mitchell

BALLONA CREEK TRASH INTERCEPTOR PILOT PROJECT
PROJECT NO. FCC0001350

ADOPTED
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
54 April 5, 2022
CELIA ZAVALA
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

April 05, 2022

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

The total project cost, including plans and specifications, plan check, consultant services, construction, change order contingency, and Public Works services, is currently estimated at $4,700,000. The JOC construction cost, which is included in the total project cost, is estimated to be $1,950,000.

Funding for this Pilot Project is included in the District's Fund (B07 - Services and Supplies) Fiscal Year 2021-22 Budget. Funding for operation and maintenance of the interceptor for the pilot period estimated at $350,000 annually will be included in the District Fund budget starting with the Fiscal Year 2022-23 Budget during the annual budget process. **[In perpetuity]**

Public Works anticipates additional contracts with vendors will be necessary for deployment, operation, and maintenance of the interceptor.

Reference: LA County BoS Documents No. 167572 and 1122935_040522

Reference: Ballona Creek Trash Interceptor Adopted and Approved (615 Pages)

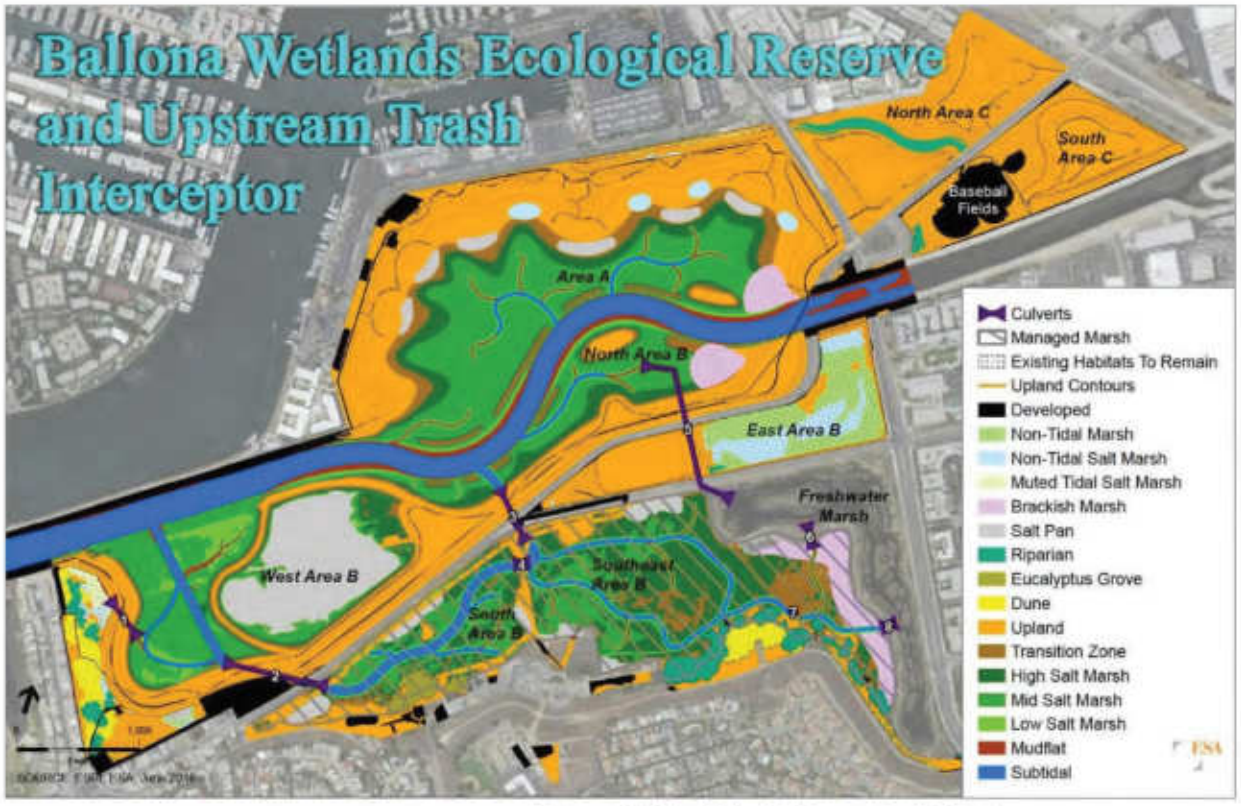
[2] “The Los Angeles County Ballona Creek Trash Interceptor collected over eighty-five tons of trash from the Ballona Creek, according to the latest data from L.A. County August 28, 2023"



In the 11-month period starting October 2022 over 85 tons of trash flowed through the channelized segment of the Ballona Flood Control Channel of the Reserve slated for modification in the 2020 Final EIR

Reference: Los Angeles County Ballona Creek Trash Interceptor

[3] Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve and Upstream Trash Interceptor (2020 Final EIR)



Summary: With the removal of concrete levees and the introduction of a meandering floodplain, a significant percentage of this 85-ton annual trash load will collect in the Reserve. The 2020 Final EIR included no trash mitigation, collection or removal strategy or operations budget thereof. The scope of the REIR must include such, and funding should be postponed until this issue is added to its scope and content.

From:	Tom McMahon
To:	Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Cc:	Hyperion
Subject:	REIR Scoping Comments, Accelerating SLR, Tom McMahon, 2023-11-03
Attachments:	REIR Scoping Comments, Accelerating SLR, Tom McMahon, 2023-11-03 Rev. 12.pdf;NASA-JPL Interagency SLR Task Force, National Tech Report, Santa Monica 2023-09-26 02.xlsx;NASA-JPL Interagency SLR Task Force, National Tech Report, Santa Monica 2023-09-26 Sheet Two.pdf;
Sent:	11/3/2023 6:58:13 AM

You don't often get email from tlm@pn-junction.net. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

California Department of Fish & Wildlife
575 Market Street, Suite 3700
San Francisco, CA 94105
Attn: Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project

Dear CDFW, BWRP et. al. -

Please see attached REIR Scoping Comments and collateral data:

“REIR Scoping Comments, Accelerating SLR, Tom McMahon, 2023-11-03 Rev. 12.pdf”
“NASA-JPL Interagency SLR Task Force, National Tech Report, Santa Monica 2023-09-26 02.xlsx”
“NASA-JPL Interagency SLR Task Force, National Tech Report, Santa Monica 2023-09-26 Sheet Two.pdf”

Thank you and best regards. Sincerely,

Tom McMahon, Engineer
8207 Delgany Avenue
Playa del Rey, CA 90293
+1-310-717-7208
Hyperion@PN-Junction.Net

From:	Margot Griswold
To:	Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Subject:	Request to Extend Scoping Comment Period
Attachments:	NOP Extension Request_LAAS.pdf
Sent:	10/31/2023 9:32:15 PM

You don't often get email from margotgriswold198@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.



Los Angeles Audubon Society
P.O. Box 931057
Los Angeles, California 90093-1057

Via Email (BWERcomments@wildlife.ca.gov)

DATE: October 31, 2023

TO: Erinn Wilson-Olgin, Regional Manager, South Coast Region.
Richard C. Brody, Land Manager, Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve

RE: Los Angeles Audubon Society Request for Extension of Comments for Notice of Preparation of a Revised Environmental Impact Report for the Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project

Los Angeles Audubon Society respectfully requests an extension of the Notice of Preparation (NOP) comment period from 30 days to 75 days, in the interest of public participation and transparency.

As I am sure you are aware, the current 30-day comment period will end around Thanksgiving. It is a difficult time of year to respond to the NOP in a meaningful way. We are asking for 75 days as this would completely by-pass the holiday season.

Los Angeles Audubon Society thinks that this is a reasonable request given the judge's ruling on the previous FEIR concerning what CDFW did and did not adequately describe and analyze. We need to carefully go over the NOP to make sure we understand what CDFW is revising, and how the revisions fit with the judge's order. In the long run, a careful review at this stage of the preparation of a new and legal EIR will be to everyone's advantage.

Los Angeles Audubon Society has been a voice for birds and conservation in Los Angeles for over 110 years. Our mission is to promote the study and protection of birds, other wildlife, and their habitats throughout the diverse landscapes of the Los Angeles area. We have over 3,500 members and supporters, most of whom live in the County of Los Angeles. We also manage the oldest environmental education program at the Ballona Wetlands, serving mainly Title 1 schools, and twice monthly Open Wetlands to encourage public access within the Ballona Wetlands, with both programs implemented through our dedicated volunteer docents.

Again, in the interest of public participation, we request that you extend the comment period for the NOP.

Sincerely,



Margot Griswold, Ph.D.
Conservation and Education Committees
Los Angeles Audubon Society

From:	Tom McMahon
To:	Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Cc:	'Hyperion'
Subject:	Resending: REIR Scoping Comments, Accelerating SLR, Tom McMahon, 2023-11-03
Attachments:	NASA-JPL Interagency SLR Task Force, National Tech Report, Santa Monica 2023-09-26 Sheet Two.pdf;REIR Scoping Comments, Accelerating SLR, Tom McMahon, 2023-11-03 Rev. 12.pdf;NASA-JPL Interagency SLR Task Force, National Tech Report, Santa Monica 2023-09-26 02.xlsx;
Sent:	11/4/2023 7:52:39 AM

You don't often get email from tlm@pn-junction.net. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

Dear CDFW –

I received confirmation of receipt of my first Scoping Comments EMail (Automatic reply: "REIR Scoping Comments, Trash Interception, Tom McMahon, 2023-10-29.pdf"), but did not receive receipt for this one (“REIR Scoping Comments, Accelerating SLR, Tom McMahon, 2023-11-03”)

I would appreciate confirmation of receipt.

Thank you and best regards,

- Tom McMahon

~~

California Department of Fish & Wildlife
575 Market Street, Suite 3700
San Francisco, CA 94105
Attn: Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project

Dear CDFW, BWRP et. al. -

Please see attached REIR Scoping Comments and collateral data:

“REIR Scoping Comments, Accelerating SLR, Tom McMahon, 2023-11-03 Rev. 12.pdf”
“NASA-JPL Interagency SLR Task Force, National Tech Report, Santa Monica 2023-09-26 02.xlsx”
“NASA-JPL Interagency SLR Task Force, National Tech Report, Santa Monica 2023-09-26 Sheet Two.pdf”

Thank you and best regards. Sincerely,

Tom McMahon, Engineer
8207 Delgany Avenue
Playa del Rey, CA 90293
+1-310-717-7208
Hyperion@PN-Junction.Net

From:	John ODA
To:	Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Subject:	Restoration plan
Sent:	1/18/2024 9:07:05 PM

You don't often get email from jandjoda@aol.com. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

- In this version of the Environmental Impact Report, CDFW must include an accurate flood risk analysis of the entire proposed project. Revising the flood risk standards to what the Superior Court ruled in its judgment last summer must be done in accordance with what the US Army Corps of Engineers and LA County Flood Control experts stated during several years of the environmental review process. Using a different flood risk calculation impacts the entire EIR and must be accurately assessed and communicated both to the public and to relevant, concerned agencies.
- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a separate EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) since the overall project still contemplates demolishing the Ballona Creek levees, removing the sides of the river, triggering multiple federal laws that must be followed. The scope of this review cannot sidestep the federal laws that CDFW must follow.
- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new biological survey. The last one was completed approximately 10 years ago, and since then at least two endangered species have returned to nest at the Ballona Valley, both relying on habitat in the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve - including habitat in the Sequence #1 & #2 areas contemplated as starting locations for the proposed project. More species have returned to rely on the habitat at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve. A new, updated, and accurate biological baseline survey must be undertaken as part of this review.
- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new, updated sea level rise study and the relation of updated sea level rise calculations to the proposed project. Sea level rise predictions from 2012, when the last Scoping for an EIR was undertaken, were less robust than needed and the removal or demolishing of the Ballona Creek/River levees, combined with higher than anticipated sea level rise conditions, require an entirely new analysis of the situation.
- Since the last Scoping (2012) and Draft EIR (2017) were completed for essentially the same project, the water budget for this area has changed in part due to time passing since the Coastal Commission ordered illegal drains to be capped, significant changes in rainy weather patterns, and changes in management of the adjacent Playa Vista detention basin/"freshwater marsh." A new, revised water budget for fresh and brackish water must be undertaken and be compared to the habitats relied on by species of special concern, endangered species, and the biodiversity of the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve.
- In January of 2022, the State opened up a new public trail between Fiji Way and the bicycle path of the north creek levee - four mornings each week. This changed circumstance requires an assessment of the public access situation at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve, and a new, updated study that takes this access opening into account should be required as part of the news EIR review.
- A twenty-point gentle restoration plan was devised and published here. Please include a serious consideration of the twenty points in this proposed gentle restoration.

Thank you very much, John Oda

From: DW
To: Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Subject: SAVE BALLONA WETLANDS
Sent: 1/18/2024 6:19:41 PM

You don't often get email from irbivor@cox.net. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

- In this version of the Environmental Impact Report, CDFW must include an accurate flood risk analysis of the entire proposed project. Revising the flood risk standards to what the Superior Court ruled in its judgment last summer must be done in accordance with what the US Army Corps of Engineers and LA County Flood Control experts stated during several years of the environmental review process. Using a different flood risk calculation impacts the entire EIR and must be accurately assessed and communicated both to the public and to relevant, concerned agencies.
- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a separate EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) since the overall project still contemplates demolishing the Ballona Creek levees, removing the sides of the river, triggering multiple federal laws that must be followed. The scope of this review cannot sidestep the federal laws that CDFW must follow.
- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new biological survey. The last one was completed approximately 10 years ago, and since then at least two endangered species have returned to nest at the Ballona Valley, both relying on habitat in the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve - including habitat in the Sequence #1 & #2 areas contemplated as starting locations for the proposed project. More species have returned to rely on the habitat at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve. A new, updated, and accurate biological baseline survey must be undertaken as part of this review.
- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new, updated sea level rise study and the relation of updated sea level rise calculations to the proposed project. Sea level rise predictions from 2012, when the last Scoping for an EIR was undertaken, were less robust than needed and the removal or demolishing of the Ballona Creek/River levees, combined with higher than anticipated sea level rise conditions, require an entirely new analysis of the situation.
- Since the last Scoping (2012) and Draft EIR (2017) were completed for essentially the same project, the water budget for this area has changed in part due to time passing since the Coastal Commission ordered illegal drains to be capped, significant changes in rainy weather patterns, and changes in management of the adjacent Playa Vista detention basin/"freshwater marsh." A new, revised water budget for fresh and brackish water must be undertaken and be compared to the habitats relied on by species of special concern, endangered species, and the biodiversity of the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve.
- In January of 2022, the State opened up a new public trail between Fiji Way and the bicycle path of the north creek levee - four mornings each week. This changed circumstance requires an assessment of the public access situation at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve, and a new, updated study that takes this access opening into account should be required as part of the news EIR review.
- A twenty-point gentle restoration plan was devised and published here. Please include a serious consideration of the twenty points in this proposed gentle restoration.

From: Charlene Zanella
To: Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Subject: Save Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve
Sent: 1/19/2024 10:12:49 AM

You don't often get email from cdzcat47@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

- to Whom it may concern: This report from IDA concerns me regarding your apparent decision regarding saving this important habitat. I ask you to reconsider and reevaluate. Thank you, Charlene D. Zanella

- In this version of the Environmental Impact Report, CDFW must include an accurate flood risk analysis of the entire proposed project. Revising the flood risk standards to what the Superior Court ruled in its judgment last summer must be done in accordance with what the US Army Corps of Engineers and LA County Flood Control experts stated during several years of the environmental review process. Using a different flood risk calculation impacts the entire EIR and must be accurately assessed and communicated both to the public and to relevant, concerned agencies.
- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a separate EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) since the overall project still contemplates demolishing the Ballona Creek levees, removing the sides of the river, triggering multiple federal laws that must be followed. The scope of this review cannot sidestep the federal laws that CDFW must follow.
- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new biological survey. The last one was completed approximately 10 years ago, and since then at least two endangered species have returned to nest at the Ballona Valley, both relying on habitat in the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve - including habitat in the Sequence #1 & #2 areas contemplated as starting locations for the proposed project.
- More species have returned to rely on the habitat at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve. A new, updated, and accurate biological baseline survey must be undertaken as part of this review.
- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new, updated sea level rise study and the relation of updated sea level rise calculations to the proposed project. Sea level rise predictions from 2012, when the last Scoping for an EIR was undertaken, were less robust than needed and the removal or demolishing of the Ballona Creek/River levees, combined with higher than anticipated sea level rise conditions, require an entirely new analysis of the situation.
- Since the last Scoping (2012) and Draft EIR (2017) were completed for essentially the same project, the water budget for this area has changed in part due to time passing since the Coastal Commission ordered illegal drains to be capped, significant changes in rainy weather patterns, and changes in management of the adjacent Playa Vista detention basin/"freshwater marsh." A new, revised water budget for fresh and brackish water must be undertaken and be compared to the habitats relied on by species of special concern, endangered species, and the biodiversity of the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve.
- In January of 2022, the State opened up a new public trail between Fiji Way and the bicycle path of the north creek levee - four mornings each week. This changed circumstance requires an assessment of the public access situation at the Ballona

Wetlands Ecological Reserve, and a new, updated study that takes this access opening into account should be required as part of the news EIR review.

- A twenty-point gentle restoration plan was devised and published here. Please include a serious consideration of the twenty points in this proposed gentle restoration.

From:	alexwdom@aol.com
To:	Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Subject:	Save Ballona Wetlands Ecosystem
Sent:	1/18/2024 6:36:04 PM

You don't often get email from alexwdom@aol.com. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

To the California Department of Fish and Wildlife:

I am writing today to urge you to withdraw the plans for what is being called the Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project.

I am extremely concerned about the sensitive and rare wildlife at the Ballona wetlands that would lose their habitat and would be outright killed by this 9 year construction project, which involved the excavation and moving around of 2.5 million cubic yards of soil. The higher salinity waters flooding the area would be equally damaging - a death sentence for much of the flora and fauna relying on Ballona now.

I support funding of maintenance, ranger presence, and a biologist on site who can work with the community on recovery efforts for plants and animals that currently are at Ballona or that were present historically - not a project that harms the existing flora and fauna.

I request the current state Final Environmental Impact Report and federal Environmental Impact Statement be rescinded and a genuine stakeholders group be formed so that those who know about and care about this fragile habitat can have their voices heard, included, and genuinely heeded in the management decisions of this state ecological reserve.
Additionally, the Environmental Impact Report, CDFW must include an accurate flood risk analysis of the entire proposed project. Revising the flood risk standards to what the Superior Court ruled in its judgment last summer must be done in accordance with what the US Army Corps of Engineers and LA County Flood Control experts stated during several years of the environmental review process. Using a different flood risk calculation impacts the entire EIR and must be accurately accessed and communicated both to the public and to relevant, concerned agencies.
he scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a separate EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) since the overall project still contemplates demolishing the Ballona Creek levees, removing the sides of the river, triggering multiple federal laws that must be followed. The scope of this review cannot sidestep the federal laws that CDFW must follow.

The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new biological survey. The last one was completed approximately 10 years ago, and since then at least two endangered species have returned to nest at the Ballona Valley, both relying on habitat in the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve - including habitat in the Sequence #1 & #2 areas contemplated as starting locations for the proposed project. More species have returned to rely on the habitat at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve. A new, updated, and accurate biological baseline survey must be undertaken as part of this review.

The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new, updated sea level rise study and the relation of updated sea level rise calculations to the proposed project. Sea level rise predictions from 2012, when the last Scoping for an EIR was undertaken, were less robust than needed and the removal or demolishing of the Ballona Creek/River levees, combined with higher than anticipated sea level rise conditions, require an entirely new analysis of the situation.

Since the last Scoping (2012) and Draft EIR (2017) were completed for essentially the same project, the water budget for this area has changed in part due to time passing since the Coastal Commission ordered illegal drains to be capped, significant changes in rainy weather patterns, and changes in management of the adjacent Playa Vista detention basin/"freshwater marsh." A new, revised water budget for fresh and brackish water must be undertaken and be compared to the habitats relied on by species of special concern, endangered species, and the biodiversity of the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve.

In January of 2022, the State opened up a new public trail between Fiji Way and the bicycle path of the north creek levee - four mornings each week. This changed circumstance requires an assessment of the public access situation at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve, and a new, updated study that takes this access opening into account should be required as part of the news EIR review.

A twenty-point gentle restoration plan was devised and published here. Please include a serious consideration of the twenty points in this proposed gentle restoration.
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1vQ6mSbdMwPnluU1ga6xyzE9DE2Fe69Ri/view?emci=ced6fad6-65b6-ee11-bea1-0022482237da&emdi=136abe5b-6ab6-ee11-bea1-0022482237da&ceid=28677024

Thank you,
Alexandra Ward

From:	DRC
To:	Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Subject:	Save Ballona Wetlands Ecosystem
Sent:	1/18/2024 6:50:47 PM

[You don't often get email from peacehappens@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

To the California Department of Fish and Wildlife:
I am writing today to urge you to withdraw the plans for what is being called the Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project.
I am extremely concerned about the sensitive and rare wildlife at the Ballona wetlands that would lose their habitat and would be outright killed by this 9 year construction project, which involved the excavation and moving around of 2.5 million cubic yards of soil. The higher salinity waters flooding the area would be equally damaging - a death sentence for much of the flora and fauna relying on Ballona now.
I support funding of maintenance, ranger presence, and a biologist on site who can work with the community on recovery efforts for plants and animals that currently are at Ballona or that were present historically - not a project that harms the existing flora and fauna.
I request the current state Final Environmental Impact Report and federal Environmental Impact Statement be rescinded and a genuine stakeholders group be formed so that those who know about and care about this fragile habitat can have their voices heard, included, and genuinely heeded in the management decisions of this state ecological reserve.
Additionally, the Environmental Impact Report, CDFW must include an accurate flood risk analysis of the entire proposed project. Revising the flood risk standards to what the Superior Court ruled in its judgment last summer must be done in accordance with what the US Army Corps of Engineers and LA County Flood Control experts stated during several years of the environmental review process. Using a different flood risk calculation impacts the entire EIR and must be accurately accessed and communicated both to the public and to relevant, concerned agencies.
he scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a separate EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) since the overall project still contemplates demolishing the Ballona Creek levees, removing the sides of the river, triggering multiple federal laws that must be followed. The scope of this review cannot sidestep the federal laws that CDFW must follow.
The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new biological survey. The last one was completed approximately 10 years ago, and since then at least two endangered species have returned to nest at the Ballona Valley, both relying on habitat in the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve - including habitat in the Sequence #1 & #2 areas contemplated as starting locations for the proposed project. More species have returned to rely on the habitat at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve. A new, updated, and accurate biological baseline survey must be undertaken as part of this review.
The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new, updated sea level rise study and the relation of updated sea level rise calculations to the proposed project. Sea level rise predictions from 2012, when the last Scoping for an EIR was undertaken, were less robust than needed and the removal or demolishing of the Ballona Creek/River levees, combined with higher than anticipated sea level rise conditions, require an entirely new analysis of the situation.
Since the last Scoping (2012) and Draft EIR (2017) were completed for essentially the same project, the water budget for this area has changed in part due to time passing since the Coastal Commission ordered illegal drains to be capped, significant changes in rainy weather patterns, and changes in management of the adjacent Playa Vista detention basin/"freshwater marsh." A new, revised water budget for fresh and brackish water must be undertaken and be compared to the habitats relied on by species of special concern, endangered species, and the biodiversity of the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve.
In January of 2022, the State opened up a new public trail between Fiji Way and the bicycle path of the north creek levee - four mornings each week. This changed circumstance requires an assessment of the public access situation at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve, and a new, updated study that takes this access opening into account should be required as part of the news EIR review.
A twenty-point gentle restoration plan was devised and published here. Please include a serious consideration of the twenty points in this proposed gentle restoration.
https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?
url=https%3A%2F%2Fdrive.google.com%2Ffile%2Fd%2F1vQ6mSbdMwPnIuU1ga6xyzE9DE2Fe69Ri%2Fview%3Femci%3Dc&data=05%7C02%7CBWERcomments%40wildlife.ca.gov%7Cf319288315a3412c5cc908dc18996d1b%7C4b633c25efbf40069f1507442ba7aa0b%7C0%7C1%7C638412294473406990%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C41000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=gtquIPJFbU8jt9ZJa88Kw2R1PKsgUCXRB%2BkPqT2ScaQ%3D&reserved=0
ed6fad6-65b6-ee11-bea1-0022482237da&emdi=136abe5b-6ab6-ee11-bea1-0022482237da&ceid=28677024

Thank you.

From:	Bart Harnack
To:	Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Subject:	Save The Ballona Wetlands
Sent:	1/19/2024 2:28:11 PM

[You don't often get email from bartnak@icloud.com. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

Revising the flood risk standards to what the Superior Court ruled in its judgment last summer must be done in accordance with what the US Army Corps of Engineers and LA County Flood Control experts stated during several years of the environmental review process. Using a different flood risk calculation impacts the entire EIR and must be accurately assessed and communicated both to the public and to relevant, concerned agencies. The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a separate EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) since the overall project still contemplates demolishing the Ballona Creek levees, removing the sides of the river, triggering multiple federal laws that must be followed. The scope of this review cannot sidestep the federal laws that CDFW must follow.

The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new biological survey. The last one was completed approximately 10 years ago, and since then at least two endangered species have returned to nest at the Ballona Valley, both relying on habitat in the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve - including habitat in the Sequence #1 & #2 areas contemplated as starting locations for the proposed project. More species have returned to rely on the habitat at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve. A new, updated, and accurate biological baseline survey must be undertaken as part of this review.

The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new, updated sea level rise study and the relation of updated sea level rise calculations to the proposed project. Sea level rise predictions from 2012, when the last Scoping for an EIR was undertaken, were less robust than needed and the removal or demolishing of the Ballona Creek/River levees, combined with higher than anticipated sea level rise conditions, require an entirely new analysis of the situation.

Since the last Scoping (2012) and Draft EIR (2017) were completed for essentially the same project, the water budget for this area has changed in part due to time passing since the Coastal Commission ordered illegal drains to be capped, significant changes in rainy weather patterns, and changes in management of the adjacent Playa Vista detention basin/"freshwater marsh." A new, revised water budget for fresh and brackish water must be undertaken and be compared to the habitats relied on by species of special concern, endangered species, and the biodiversity of the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve.

In January of 2022, the State opened up a new public trail between Fiji Way and the bicycle path of the north creek levee - four mornings each week. This changed circumstance requires an assessment of the public access situation at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve, and a new, updated study that takes this access opening into account should be required as part of the news EIR review.

Save the Ballona Wetlands!
Bartley Harnack

Sent from my iPad

Sent from my iPad

From:	Sam Hirsch
To:	Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Subject:	Save the Ballona Wetlands
Sent:	1/20/2024 8:31:32 AM

You don't often get email from sev4animals@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

https://click.everyaction.com/k/77323521/450110432/-1267467540?utm_source=email&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=ballona-1-8&nvep=ew0KICAiVGVuYW50VXJpIjogIm5ncHZhbjovL3Zhbi9FQS9FQTAwNS8xLzgzODc4IiwNCiAgIkRpc3RyaWJ1dGlvblVuaXF1ZUlkIjogIjEzNmFiZTViLTZhYjYtZWUxMS1iZWExLTAwMjI0ODIyMzdkYSIsDQogICJFbWFpbEFkZHJlc3MiOiAic2V2NGFuaW1hbHNAZ21haWwuY29tIg0KfQ%3D%3D&hmac=IUWAe_QaOW3comtIeJ2iqts9A3Moh6JdC-y2pPWaTlg=&emci=ced6fad6-65b6-ee11-bea1-00224822237da&emdi=136abe5b-6ab6-ee11-bea1-00224822237da&ceid=30196143

We urge you to follow the 20 point guide to preserve and enhance this essential eco space!

Thank you,

Concerned and compassionate citizens.

From: Karen La Cava
To: Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Subject: Saving the Ballona Wetlands points
Sent: 1/19/2024 4:49:40 PM

You don't often get email from kalacava@yahoo.com. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

To whom it may concern,

Protecting the wildlife & environment should be the #1 task at hand. We have too many endangered species that need to be protected. The only way to do tat is by not "Restoring the Ballona Wetlands" and bulldozing them for the main benefit of the gas company. This is a wildlife preserve, not a park for humans.

Here are some much needed points:

• The Department (CDFW) must include in this re-do of the Environmental Impact Report an accurate flood risk analysis of the entire proposed project. Revising the flood risk standards to what the Superior Court ruled in its judgment last summer must be done in accordance with what the US Army Corps of Engineers and LA County Flood Control experts stated during several years of the environmental review process. **How this change in using a different flood risk calculation impacts the entire EIR and its original assumptions must be accurately assessed** and communicated to the public and to relevant, concerned agencies.

• The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) **must include a separate EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) since the overall project still contemplates demolishing the Ballona Creek levees, removing the sides of the rive**r, triggering multiple federal laws that must be followed. The scope of this review cannot sidestep the federal laws that CDFW must follow.

• The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) **must include a new biological survey.** The last one was completed approximately 10 years ago, and since then, at least two endangered species have returned to nest at the Ballona Valley, both relying on habitat in the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve - including habitat in the Sequence #1 & #2 areas contemplated as starting locations for the proposed project. There are also additional species that have returned to rely on the habitat at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve. A new, updated and accurate biological baseline survey must be undertaken as part of this review.

• The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new, updated sea level rise study and the relation of updated sea level rise calculations to the proposed project. Sea level rise predictions from 2012, when the last Scoping for an EIR was undertaken, have proven to be less robust than they ought to have been, and the removal or demolishing of the Ballona Creek/River levees, combined with higher than anticipated sea level rise conditions require an entirely new analysis of the situation.

• Since the last Scoping (2012) and Draft EIR (2017) were completed for essentially the same project, **the water budget for this area has changed,** in part due to time passing since the Coastal Commission ordered illegal drains to be capped, significant changes in rainy weather patterns, and changes in management of the adjacent Playa Vista detention basin/"freshwater marsh." **A new, revised water budget for fresh and brackish water must be undertaken and be compared to the habitats relied on by species of special concern, endangered species and the biodiversity of the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve.**

• In January, 2022, the State opened up a new public trail between Fiji Way and the bicycle path of the north creek levee - four mornings each week. **This changed circumstance requires an assessment of the public access situation at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve, and a new, updated study** that takes this access opening into account should be required as part of the news EIR review.

• A 20 pt. gentle restoration plan was devised and is now published on the website, *defendballonawetlands.org*. That plan has never been considered by CDFW as part of its future plans for the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve. Please include a serious consideration of the 20 points in this proposed gentle restoration.

Thank you,

Karen La Cava

Karen La Cava
Coldwell Banker Realty
310.729.7742
kalacava@yahoo.com
karenlacava.com
calre01400873
invest in yourself...

November 1, 2023

Ms. Erinn Wilson-Olgin
Regional Manager, South Coast Region
California Department of Fish & Wildlife
erinn.wilson-olgin@wildlife.ca.gov

Dear Ms. Wilson-Olgin:

Sierra Club California submits this letter in response to the October 24, 2023 Notice of Preparation (NOP) of a Revised Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project to **request an extension of the Scoping period for a total of 90 days** (through the end of January 2024) for the reasons enumerated below.

The Scoping period (arguably the most important part of an environmental review) is a vital public process that must include community and environmental organizations and allow for the time they need to address the project with their boards and other decision-making bodies to ensure meaningful input into the range of environmental issues to be addressed.

The 90-day request for an extension of the Scoping period is also needed to accommodate agency representatives who often take extended vacation time during the holidays, which begins in mid-November, right before the current deadline for submission of comments. The expertise and knowledge of public interest groups, businesses and individuals and agencies which have additional regulatory authorities and interests over this land must be included in the scope of the review.

The Superior Court's ruling on the legal cases won by public interest groups this summer focused on clarifying California Department of Fish & Wildlife's (CDFW) responsibility to correct serious flaws in the now-decertified Environmental Impact Report and disclose and analyze specific performance standards for species and habitats to protect wildlife, and revise the incorrectly-applied flood risk standard. Judge Chalfant wrote in his decision, "The failure to do so [analyze the wildlife impacts to prey, foraging, and nesting areas under the higher standard] thwarts public review of the full scope of both flood control and biological impacts, rendering the FEIR defective."

Given the devastating floods we witnessed last winter in and around the historical wetland and floodplain areas of Watsonville and the Pajaro River[1] and the expectation that the unpredictable weather patterns will continue due to climate change,[2] CDFW must ensure all relevant agencies are afforded sufficient time to provide comments during scoping related to the correct flood risk standards being used, as ordered by the Court.

The Ballona Wetlands State Ecological Reserve, on the Los Angeles Coast, is important to the biodiversity and environmental integrity of California. It is the only State Ecological Reserve in Los

[1] Susanne Rust, Scenes of devastation along the Pajaro River: 'The water is still coming in. It's rising,' The Los Angeles Times, March 11, 2023, see: https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2023-03-11/la-me-pajaro-river-flooding
[2] Jeff Ranieri, Climate in Crisis: West Coast Sea Level Rising Faster Than Global Average, NBC Bay Area News, February 25, 2021, updated on February 25, 2021, see: https://www.nbcbayarea.com/news/local/climate-in-crisis/west-coast-sea-level-rising-faster-than-global-average/2478077/

Angeles County and is recognized as being an important area on the Pacific Flyway (see *Important Bird Areas of California*, Audubon, 2004, 2008).[3] Hundreds of bird species rely on this habitat; some are resident year-round, and many rely on this landscape and fragile coastal habitat as they migrate to and from numerous places in the Americas – from as far away as Brazil, Mexico, Canada, Idaho and the Arctic Circle.



The photo above and the two below show Ballona Wetlands habitat that would be altered as part of proposed Sequences 1 & 2

Many other wildlife species rely on this land, which is a primary reason Sierra Club has worked to protect and defend Ballona for decades.

CDFW has the awesome responsibility to protect and manage one of the most species-rich and biodiverse mosaic of habitats on the southern California coast - the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve, as well as the wildlife relying on its habitat. It is, therefore, crucial that the agency take its time to get it right after a decades-long initial environmental process ended in decertification.



Photo Credit: ***Jonathan Coffin***

Much time has passed since the last scoping began in 2012, and the wetlands have been recovering without artificial intervention, allowing for several rare and endangered species to return to

[3] Audubon California, Mapping California's Important Bird Areas, 2008, available at: https://ca.audubon.org/sites/default/files/documents/auduboncalifornia_gtr_iba_200812.pdf

Ballona.[4,5] As well, non-rare species like the Southern Pacific Rattlesnake and the Coyote have returned, and scientists suggest that endangered species like the Belding's Savannah Sparrow have benefitted from their return. But at the same time, sea level rise and other climate-related issues have worsened. All of these changed circumstances need to be reflected in the environmental document CDFW prepares.

Thank you for your consideration of our request to extend the Scoping period and for your commitment to protecting the wildlife of California.

For the Wildlife,

Jim Hines

James Hines
Team Leader, Sierra Club California Wildlife Team

cc: Brandon Dawson, Sierra Club CA Director
Wendy-Sue Rosen, Executive Committee, Sierra Club California
Marcia Hanscom, Sierra Club Ballona Wetlands Restoration Committee

[4] Federally listed endangered subspecies of Bell's Vireo, a singing Least Bell's Vireo in Area A of the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve, 2019, see: https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=2028770000585603
[5] Brenda Rees, Summer of the El Segundo Blues, SoCalWild, July 15, 2015, available at: http://www.socalwild.com/2015/07/summer-of-the-el-segundo-blues/1623/

From:	Margot Griswold
To:	Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Cc:	Wilson-Olgin, Erinn@Wildlife; Travis Longcore;
Subject:	Scoping Comments for Ballona Wetlands Revised EIR
Attachments:	LAAS NOP Comments.pdf
Sent:	1/19/2024 4:52:38 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from mgriswold@landiq.com. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

LOS ANGELES AUDUBON SOCIETY

P.O. Box 931057

Los Angeles, CA 90093-1057

California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Los Angeles, California 90093-1057Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project c/o ESA (jas)
575 Market Street, Suite 3700 San Francisco, CA 94105

Via email: BWERcomments@wildlife.ca.gov

Re: Scoping Comments for Revision of the Environmental Impact Report (REIR) for the Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project

Los Angeles Audubon Society has been a voice for birds and conservation in Los Angeles for over 110 years. Our mission is to promote the study and protection of birds, other wildlife, and their habitats throughout the diverse landscapes of the Los Angeles area. We have over 3,500 members and supporters, most of whom live in the County of Los Angeles.

Los Angeles Audubon Society is submitting comments on CDFW's Revised EIR process. CDFW has adopted an ideology focusing on daily connection, or full tidal coastal wetlands, as the most productive type of coastal wetland. Most of southern California's coastal wetlands were not historically and naturally open to full tidal conditions (Jacobs et al. 2011). The Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve is one of the last remaining wetlands that has not been engineered opened to allow full tidal conditions. Consequently, the Ballona Wetlands are important on a regional scale because the existing habitats are now some of the rarest based on recent science (Beller et al. 2014), including the large salt pan, pickleweed salt marsh and freshwater wetlands.

CDFW is pushing an ideological agenda that opposes not only the historical ecology of Ballona but the very reasons the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve was designated in 2005 by the California Fish & Game Commission, approved and registered with the purpose and goals defined in Title 14, Section 630 as a terrestrial coastal wetland to protect the salt marsh vegetation that the endangered Belding's Savannah Sparrow depend upon as well as freshwater marsh habitats. Nowhere in any of CDFW's documents is this designation discussed.

CDFW's project for the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve should be a restoration project. However, the project proposes to convert a historically seasonal freshwater coastal wetland into a full tidal wetland rather than manage and restore the fresh surface water and groundwater available within the Ballona Wetlands. Ecological Reserve.

Regarding the Revised EIR, CDFW has misinterpreted both the Court ruling issued in May 2023 as well as the requirements of various statutes, regulations, and case law to justify its impermissibly narrow scope for its EIR revision process. The current proposed narrow scope for the EIR revision is both ecologically and legally unsound. Los Angeles Audubon Society asks CDFW as a trustee agency to include all relevant science that has been ignored in the process to date and include analyses of changes in the project environment as well as relevant new information that is recently available.

CDFW must consider new information in its Revised EIR since publishing the original Draft EIR in September of 2017, or since certifying the Final EIR in December of 2020. This new information documented in numerous agency records that were only created or made public after certification of the original FEIR, especially considering groundwater and the surface water connection. Additionally, there are new NOAA projections for sea level rise that need to be used to update the Revised EIR in relation to timing of the project implementation and sequences impacts, loss of habitat, and timing of mitigation.

Los Angeles Audubon has commented on CDFW's project as it has wound its way through the environmental review process. Our comments on the Draft EIR/EIS should be incorporated into the scoping determination for this Revised EIR.

Additionally, Los Angeles Audubon Society has these brief comments in response to CDFW's scoping determination for the Revised EIR.

A new schedule and timing of the project is necessary for an adequate evaluation for the project in terms of impacts. Los Angeles Audubon Society requests that CDFW review and update all of following issues:

1. What is the timing of the Army Corps of Engineers' EIS for the entire 35 sequence proposed project which requires a federal 408 permit? CDFW's plans for moving ahead with Sequences 1 & 2 of the larger project, submitted to the Wildlife Conservation Board in support of its 2023 application for funding, appear to have redesigned these two sequences to avoid federally designated wetland areas. Please explain how this comports with the other sequences of the proposed project in the Draft EIR of 2017 and the Final EIR.

2. Additionally, the Court wrote in its ruling: "the FEIR does not analyze the wildlife impacts of flood control under the 68,000 cfs standard, including whether larger levees will be required and whether they will impact habitat and impacts to prey, foraging, and nesting areas. The failure to do so thwarts public review of the full scope of both flood control and biological impacts, rendering the FEIR defective." The Revised EIR must account for changes in the levee design as well as address the current regulations for levees by the Army Corps of Engineers relative to allowable wildlife, including vegetation type and height as well as animal burrows, and how these federal management requirements for levees might change mitigation timing and acreage for wildlife that currently forage in the wetlands and use areas of vegetation for nesting, such as the Belding's Savannah Sparrow in pickleweed.

3. The specific area of the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve indicated for Sequences 1 and 2 in the Revised EIR has never had tidal channels. This information has been acknowledged by the Ballona Wetlands Science Advisory Panel in notes from 2008 (administrative record from a responsible agency, the California Coastal Conservancy) and reiterated in scientific reports including Dark et. al 2010, and Jacobs et. al 2011, as well as comments by and various presentations by Most Likely Descendant John Tommy Rosas in the past. Los Angeles Audubon Society requests that you consider alternatives to dredging deep channels in areas of and adjacent to the most intact pickleweed saltmarsh habitat remaining at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve.

4. CDFW must compete a comprehensive Land Management Plan as required for all California State Ecological Reserves prior to determining the need and components of a restoration plan. Because there is no Land Management Plan, stakeholders have no idea on what basis CDFW manages the land and water of the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve. For example, there has never been any study of the effects of reducing between 50–63 percent of the surface water that historically flowed to the Ballona Wetlands directly into the site of Sequences 1 and 2 from the areas currently covered by the Playa Vista Development (see EIR Playa Vista 2003, Hydrology). Perhaps before dredging tidal channels into areas where none ever existed, a study should be undertaken to see if more freshwater released from the Freshwater Marsh detention basin might improve the native habitat at the site.

   Through various other stakeholders, we have learned that more freshwater currently is being released into southeast Area B than previously allowed. This is a new condition, and we would recommend including the fact in the current existing conditions of the Revised EIR. How was the determination to release more freshwater made in the absence of a Land Management Plan for the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve? How much water is allowed to flow from the Freshwater Marsh into the Ballona Wetlands?

5. Along similar lines of transparency of existing conditions and/or management, please include in the Revised EIR all instances of draining of fresh water from Areas A, B and C of the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve in the description for the current conditions and management. Please include results of previous actions of CDFW and Playa Vista development determined by the California Coastal Commission to be draining surface and groundwater from Area B on either side of Jefferson Blvd. from the time of installation of the Freshwater Marsh through 2017 when the drains were ordered sealed. Once the drains were sealed, has CDFW, as the land manager, documented any observations of surface hydrology and/or vegetation changes within the area of concern? In 2023, interested public stakeholders documented ponded freshwater draining from the wetlands in Area A and southeast Area B. How much water is drained away annually from the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve? How does CDFW, the land manager, determine when to drain fresh water from wetland areas within the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve since there is no Land Management Plan.

6. New information is available since the Draft EIR and Final EIR were completed in relation to groundwater. The Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) for the Santa Monica Sub Basin that includes the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve was completed and accepted by the department of Water Resources. Groundwater is important, and the 2014 State Groundwater Sustainability Act aims to protect groundwater not only for drinking water, but also environmental beneficial uses such as may occur at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve. But since there is no Land Management Plan that would have looked at the groundwater and surface water connections at the Ballona Wetlands, using CDFW's own protocol, we can only ask that such studies are included in the analysis of Revised EIR.

   The Santa Monica Sub Basin GSP identifies a major data gap in relation to its ability to model saltwater intrusion since there are no monitoring wells around Marina Del Rey and the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve that would allow such modelling (see Appendix F draft Santa Monica Sub Basin GSP 2022). The Department of Water Resources agreed that this data gap is important and made filling this gap a condition of acceptance of the GSP. Los Angeles Audubon Society brings this fact up because the FEIR failed to provide any evidence that saltwater intrusion will not occur from the project. This new information from the GSP requires CDFW to demonstrate that the proposed project will not cause saltwater intrusion into the shallow Bellflower Aquitard, and the Ballona and Silverado Aquifers. We might also add that the both the Bellflower Aquitard and the Ballona Aquifer currently are classified as potential drinking water and drinking water. Furthermore, the State Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act does not allow 'like' contamination to occur so even if there are currently slightly brackish conditions, CDFW is not allowed to contaminate the aquifers with saltwater.

CDFW must account for the potential of saltwater intrusion from not only the full proposed project lowering surface elevations to below current sea level but also dredging for the newly modified Sequences 1 and 2 of described for the Revised EIR.

7. CDFW must consider and analyze the current regional importance of the current habitats at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve, including the large expanse of salt pan/flat, pickleweed saltmarsh, and freshwater marsh. This analysis should be included in any cumulative analysis section as well as the site-specific analyses.

8. Speaking of regional important habitats, what is CDFW's current management protocol for protecting the salt pan/flat from tidal flooding from faulty and broken flap gates and tide gates in west Area B? Again, this information should be included in a Land Management Plan from which an assessment could be made for restoration of the wetlands. Protection of the salt pan for approximately 10 years is another important part of the FEIR that must be revised given the latest projections of sea level rise from the original project timeline presented in 2017. Based on current predictions, the salt pan may disappear almost immediately with implementation of the proposed project.

9. Based on comment 7 above, CDFW must include a description of the current population of Belding's Savannah Sparrow at Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve, as well as regional populations, and the health of their habitat.

10. The Revised EIR must describe increased pressure on Belding's Savannah Sparrow habitat locally from a new project timeline and the impacts of sea level rise as currently predicted, both locally and regionally. In terms of mitigation for loss of habitat for Belding's Savannah Sparrow, CDFW must review the current lack of success in establishing pickleweed marsh habitat at San Dieguito Lagoon, where revegetation of native habitats (a requirement for the Ballona Project to transition from Phase 1 to Phase 2 of the Final EIR selected alternative) has taken much longer than originally anticipated (see Coastal Commission meeting agendas 2023).

    Additionally, CDFW must consider the results other projects that have been implemented in historical closed coastal wetlands like the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve with respect to expectations for survival of the population of Belding's Savannah Sparrow at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve. For example, the pickleweed marsh habitat of this sparrow is drowning in tidal water at Bolsa Chica and alternatives for sustainability are being considered, most of which identify closing the engineered tidal opening (Anchor QEI 2021).

    Without such updated information, it will be impossible for regulatory and/or consultative agencies or public stakeholders to assess the environmental impacts the project would have on the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve by immediately exposing it to inundation when the levees are altered.

In conclusion, Los Angeles Audubon Society believes that CDFW must not commit to a project before the Revised EIR is completed. We attended a meeting of the Santa Monica Sub Basin GSA on January 17, 2024, and a GSA member described hearing a presentation by CDFW at a meeting of the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board in late 2023 that gave the impression that the EIR was not decertified but just 'needed a few updates' and CDFW was committed to starting Sequences 1 & 2. The fifth appellate court noted in Citizens for Ceres v. Superior Court of Stanislaus County (2013, 217 Cal.App.4th 889), "the lead agency, as an agency, cannot have any commitment to the project as proposed until after environmental review is complete." And yet, the Santa Monica Sub Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency at its January 17,2024 meeting believes the Ballona Wetlands project is merely on hold and CDFW is moving forward with Sequences 1 & 2 of the project. Additionally, CDFW's recent request to the Wildlife Conservation Board for funding for the final design and permitting of the Sequences 1 & 2 demonstrates that CDFW is moving ahead with their chosen project while at the same time initiating a CEQA analysis which apparently CDFW may not factor into its decision-making process.

CDFW should correct this impermissible pre-commitment to implementing Alternative 1 of their project, beginning with the modified initial sequences of that restoration alternative, at least by notifying all responsible agencies, including the Santa Monica Sub Basin GSA.

Sincerely,



Margot Griswold, Ph.D.
Los Angeles Audubon Board
Conservation and Education Committees

Literature Cited

Beller, E. E., S. Baumgarten, R. M. Grossinger, T. Longcore, E. D. Stein, S. Dark, and S. D. Dusterhoff. 2014. Northern San Diego County Lagoons Historical Ecology Investigation: Regional Patterns, Local Diversity, and Landscape Trajectories. SFEI Contribution No. 722. San Francisco Estuary Institute Aquatic Science Center, Richmond, California. Dark, S., E. D. Stein, D. Bram, J. Osuna, J.

Dark, S., E. D. Stein, D. Bram, J. Osuna, J. Monteferante, T. Longcore, R. Grossinger, and E. Beller. 2011. Historical Ecology of the Ballona Creek Watershed. Southern California Coastal Water Research Project, Technical Publication No. 671, Costa Mesa, California.

Dudek, 2022. Santa Monica Sub Basin Draft Groundwater Sustainability Plan. Prepared for the Santa Monica Sub Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency.

Jacobs, D., E. D. Stein, and T. Longcore. 2010. Classification of California Estuaries Based on Natural Closure Patterns: Templates for Restoration and Management. Southern California Coastal Water Research Project, Technical Publication No. 619a, Costa Mesa,

California.

From:	Marcia Hanscom
To:	Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR; Wilson-Olgin, Erinn@Wildlife;
Subject:	Scoping Comments for Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve "restoration" Project ("revised")
Attachments:	CDFW new CEQA Scoping_Defend BW.pdf
Sent:	1/19/2024 9:29:35 AM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from defendballonawetlands@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

Please see the attached comments submitted on behalf of Defend Ballona Wetlands.

~ Marcia Hanscom

From:	Marcia Hanscom
To:	Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR; Wilson-Olgin, Erinn@Wildlife;
Subject:	Scoping Comments for Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve "restoration" Project ("revised")
Attachments:	CDFW new CEQA Scoping_Defend BW.pdf
Sent:	1/19/2024 9:29:35 AM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from defendballonawetlands@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

Please see the attached comments submitted on behalf of Defend Ballona Wetlands.

~ Marcia Hanscom

From:	Karin Joy Spruill
To:	Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Subject:	Stop the phone "Restoration" plan
Sent:	1/19/2024 2:57:57 PM

You don't often get email from karinspruill@msn.com. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

Hello:

Every innocent wild animal who resides at Ballone Wetlands will lose their homes and their lives if the plan to bulldoze their habitat (under the phony guise of "restoration") is allowed to move forward. Please delay this project and instead implement a gentler restoration project, after proper Environmental impact studies have been carried out.

A new Environmental Impact Report must be devised and communicated to both the public and relevant agencies. It must include separate IES, since the over-all project still contemplates demolishing the Ballone Creek levees and removing the sides of the river which would trigger multiple federal laws that must be followed. The scope of this review cannot side-step the federal laws that CDFW must follow. Here are some suggestions for your new Environmental Impact Report.

1. Do an assessment of the public access situation at the Ballona Reserve
2. Make a new/revised water budget for fresh and brackish water and compare it to other habitats relied on by species of special concern, endangered species and *biodiversity* of the Ballona Wetlands
3. Include a new, updated sea level rise study
4. Do a new biological baseline survey, as the last one was done 10 years ago, and since then at least 2 endangered species have returned to nest in Ballona Valley
5. A new survey needs to be done which includes an accurate flood-risk analysis of the entire proposed project.

Please preserve the Ballona Wetlands, it is a prime habitat for 1,700 species of plants and animals.

Thank you for your time,

Sincerely, Karin Spruill

From:	Hillary Liband
To:	Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Subject:	Stop the plan to bulldoze the Ballona Wetlands
Sent:	1/19/2024 2:28:24 PM

You don't often get email from hillary@defendingallmothers.org. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

Dear California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW),

As a lifelong California resident, I am writing to **ask you to halt your current project at the Ballona Wetlands**. These wetlands are prime habitat for 1,700 species of plants and animals. In a time when humans have altered much of the landscape, **this area is a gem that must be handled carefully and thoughtfully**.

The current plan should be stopped for the following reasons:

- **CDFW must include an accurate flood risk analysis of the entire proposed project.** The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a separate EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) since the overall project still contemplates demolishing the Ballona Creek levees, removing the sides of the river, triggering multiple federal laws that must be followed. The scope of this review cannot sidestep the federal laws that CDFW must follow.
- **The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new biological survey.** The last one was completed approximately 10 years ago, and since then at least two endangered species have returned to nest at the Ballona Valley, both relying on habitat in the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve - including habitat in the Sequence #1 & #2 areas contemplated as starting locations for the proposed project. More species have returned to rely on the habitat at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve. A new, updated, and accurate biological baseline survey must be undertaken as part of this review.
- **The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new, updated sea level rise study and the relation of updated sea level rise calculations to the proposed project.** The last one was from 12 years ago and is no longer adequate.
- **A new, revised water budget for fresh and brackish water must be undertaken** and be compared to the habitats relied on by species of special concern, endangered species, and the biodiversity of the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve.
- In January of 2022, the State opened up a new public trail between Fiji Way and the bicycle path of the north creek levee - four mornings each week. This changed circumstance **requires an assessment of the public access situation at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve, and a new, updated study** that takes this access opening into account should be required as part of the news EIR review

I am asking you to **please stop your proposed plan and consider the more gentle alternative outlined above** and **here in more detail**.

Thank you for your time.

With Optimism,

Hillary Liband

San Ramon, CA

From:	Hillary Liband
To:	Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Subject:	Stop the plan to bulldoze the Ballona Wetlands
Sent:	1/19/2024 2:28:24 PM

You don't often get email from hillary@defendingallmothers.org. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

Dear California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW),

As a lifelong California resident, I am writing to **ask you to halt your current project at the Ballona Wetlands**. These wetlands are prime habitat for 1,700 species of plants and animals. In a time when humans have altered much of the landscape, **this area is a gem that must be handled carefully and thoughtfully**.

The current plan should be stopped for the following reasons:

- **CDFW must include an accurate flood risk analysis of the entire proposed project.** The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a separate EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) since the overall project still contemplates demolishing the Ballona Creek levees, removing the sides of the river, triggering multiple federal laws that must be followed. The scope of this review cannot sidestep the federal laws that CDFW must follow.
- **The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new biological survey.** The last one was completed approximately 10 years ago, and since then at least two endangered species have returned to nest at the Ballona Valley, both relying on habitat in the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve - including habitat in the Sequence #1 & #2 areas contemplated as starting locations for the proposed project. More species have returned to rely on the habitat at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve. A new, updated, and accurate biological baseline survey must be undertaken as part of this review.
- **The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new, updated sea level rise study and the relation of updated sea level rise calculations to the proposed project.** The last one was from 12 years ago and is no longer adequate.
- **A new, revised water budget for fresh and brackish water must be undertaken** and be compared to the habitats relied on by species of special concern, endangered species, and the biodiversity of the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve.
- In January of 2022, the State opened up a new public trail between Fiji Way and the bicycle path of the north creek levee - four mornings each week. This changed circumstance **requires an assessment of the public access situation at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve, and a new, updated study** that takes this access opening into account should be required as part of the news EIR review

I am asking you to **please stop your proposed plan and consider the more gentle alternative outlined above** and **here in more detail**.

Thank you for your time.

With Optimism,

Hillary Liband

San Ramon, CA

From:	karenr@phc.net
To:	Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Subject:	Stop the plan to bulldoze the Ballona Wetlands
Sent:	1/18/2024 5:48:11 PM

You don't often get email from karenr@phc.net. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

Dear California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW),

I am writing to ask you to halt your current project at the Ballona Wetlands. I discovered this beautiful natural area when I started visiting friends who had moved to Marina del Rey. These wetlands are truly a treasure to be preserved. The current plan should be stopped for the following reasons:

- CDFW must include an accurate flood risk analysis of the entire proposed project. The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a separate EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) since the overall project still contemplates demolishing the Ballona Creek levees, removing the sides of the river, triggering multiple federal laws that must be followed. The scope of this review cannot sidestep the federal laws that CDFW must follow.
- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new biological survey. The last one was completed approximately 10 years ago, and since then at least two endangered species have returned to nest at the Ballona Valley, both relying on habitat in the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve - including habitat in the Sequence #1 & #2 areas contemplated as starting locations for the proposed project. More species have returned to rely on the habitat at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve. A new, updated, and accurate biological baseline survey must be undertaken as part of this review.
- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new, updated sea level rise study and the relation of updated sea level rise calculations to the proposed project. The last one was from 12 years ago and is no longer adequate.
- A new, revised water budget for fresh and brackish water must be undertaken and be compared to the habitats relied on by species of special concern, endangered species, and the biodiversity of the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve.
- In January of 2022, the State opened up a new public trail between Fiji Way and the bicycle path of the north creek levee - four mornings each week. This changed circumstance requires an assessment of the public access situation at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve, and a new, updated study that takes this access opening into account should be required as part of the news EIR review.
- Please include a serious consideration of the twenty points in this proposed gentle restoration. Plan here.

Ballona Wetlands is prime habitat for 1,700 species of plants and animals. In a time when humans have altered much of the landscape, this area is a gem that must be handled carefully and thoughtfully. Please stop your proposed plan and consider the more gentle alternative outlined above.

Best regards,

Karen Rubio
Co-Founder, Plant-Based Advocates
408-605-2748

plant-based advocates

From:	Nancy Sidebotham
To:	Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Subject:	The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include
Sent:	1/18/2024 8:18:29 PM

You don't often get email from nannystu@sonic.net. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

- In this version of the Environmental Impact Report, CDFW must include an accurate flood risk analysis of the entire proposed project. Revising the flood risk standards to what the Superior Court ruled in its judgment last summer must be done in accordance with what the US Army Corps of Engineers and LA County Flood Control experts stated during several years of the environmental review process. Using a different flood risk calculation impacts the entire EIR and must be accurately assessed and communicated both to the public and to relevant, concerned agencies.
- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a separate EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) since the overall project still contemplates demolishing the Ballona Creek levees, removing the sides of the river, triggering multiple federal laws that must be followed. The scope of this review cannot sidestep the federal laws that CDFW must follow.

- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new biological survey. The last one was completed approximately 10 years ago, and since then at least two endangered species have returned to nest at the Ballona Valley, both relying on habitat in the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve - including habitat in the Sequence #1 & #2 areas contemplated as starting locations for the proposed project. More species have returned to rely on the habitat at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve. A new, updated, and accurate biological baseline survey must be undertaken as part of this review.

- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new, updated sea level rise study and the relation of updated sea level rise calculations to the proposed project. Sea level rise predictions from 2012, when the last Scoping for an EIR was undertaken, were less robust than needed and the removal or demolishing of the Ballona Creek/River levees, combined with higher than anticipated sea level rise conditions, require an entirely new analysis of the situation.

- Since the last Scoping (2012) and Draft EIR (2017) were completed for essentially the same project, the water budget for this area has changed in part due to time passing since the Coastal Commission ordered illegal drains to be capped, significant changes in rainy weather patterns, and changes in management of the adjacent Playa Vista detention basin/"freshwater marsh." A new, revised water budget for fresh and brackish water must be undertaken and be compared to the habitats relied on by species of special concern, endangered species, and the biodiversity of the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve.

- In January of 2022, the State opened up a new public trail between Fiji Way and the bicycle path of the north creek levee - four mornings each week. This changed circumstance requires an assessment of the public access situation at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve, and a new, updated study that takes this access opening into account should be required as part of the news EIR review.

- A twenty-point gentle restoration plan was devised and published here. Please include a serious consideration of the twenty points in this proposed gentle restoration.

Nancy Sidebotham

P.S. Every innocent wild animal who resides at Ballona Wetlands will lose their home and their life if the phony "restoration" plan to bulldoze their habitat moves forward. We need your ongoing support for the crucial funding needed to protect them in court! Please donate today.

--
Nancy Sidebotham
Tax Preparer
Chair Beat 29X NCPC
510 635-2678

From: Steven Bass
To: Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Sent: 1/18/2024 8:05:00 PM

You don't often get email from stevenbass.nw@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

As to the destructive plan to bulldoze the Ballona Wetlands. I have campaigned against this phony restoration project for many years

Dear CDFW

I am Defending Ballona Wetlands as it and everything that lives in and around this rich habitat cannot speak for itself.

I started objecting Ballona wetlands construction projects since the 1970's, when Sierra Club stepped in and made a trade to save part of it but much of the land was destroyed and developed. Then later, after much of the development huge Eucalyptus trees were cut down, which many birds lived and nested in including the endangered blue heron, hawks and eagles and 3 species of tree owls. There were no large native trees in the wetlands area where these magnetic birds could live and the solution was to plant native trees before the Eucalyptus trees were cut down. Of course they were small 6-foot tree sapling, not larger boxed trees they would take at least 30to40 years to mature. The large non-native trees were cut down and the new tree saplings mostly died as they were planted incorrectly, not cared for, not replaced and to this day, you can't even see where most of them were planted.

Our wetlands are feeding & breeding grounds to not to just the animals that live or migrate to the Ballona wetlands but also to the pacific ocean and all sea life that lives or migrates in and around it. That includes but is not limited to fish, shellfish, other aquatic animals and human beings, that all depend on its nutrients and food sources, that are generated by this prized eco system.

You cannot restore perfection even though humans keep trying. Bull dozing any part of the Ballona wetlands is not a restoration project but instead genocide to all life forms that live in and around it. CDFW seems to be looking at development as a good thing and the history of Ballona wetland, the animals, the cleansing that happens to water in and around wetlands, the fish that feed animals and people, peoples happiness from seeing and or enjoying one of our last open coastal wetlands, that contains 1000's of species of flora and fauna. .

We use a wealth of natural products from wetlands, including fish and shellfish and also medicines are derived from wetland soils and plants. Many of the nation's fishing and shell fishing industries harvest wetland-dependent species. As stated, wetlands provide habitat for thousands of species of aquatic and terrestrial plants and animals. Wetlands are valuable for flood protection, water quality improvement, shoreline erosion control, natural products, recreation, and aesthetics.

I believe that the wetlands should be left alone. It functions as it should and have for 1000's of years.
If any kind of changes are made the proposed EIR should include everything written above and also include an accurate flood risk analysis done in accordance with what the US Army Corps of Engineers and LA County Flood Control experts as stated during several years in those environmental audit reviews. Using a different flood risk calculation impacts the entire EIR and must be accurately assessed and communicated both to the public and to relevant, concerned agencies. The scope of a new Environmental Impact Report must include a separate Environmental Impact Statement since the overall project still contemplates demolishing the Ballona Creek levees, removing the sides of the river, triggering multiple federal laws that must be followed. The scope of this review cannot sidestep the federal laws that CDFW must follow. The EIR and EIS statement must include a new biological survey for the endangered species that live in this wetland habitat but are not shared in their entirety, that need the habitat of the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve to survive. A new, updated, and accurate biological baseline survey must be undertaken as part of this review! Furthermore the new EIR must include a new, updated sea level rise study and the relation of updated sea level rise calculations to the proposed project that will happen do to high tides, storm surges and climate change.

Please include a serious consideration of the twenty points in this proposed gentle restoration plan already shared. Please do the right thing here morally, for the future of the wetland, the animals and people that love it, just the way it is or with as little change - restoration as possible. The choice you make now will forever affect the life and beauty of these majestic wetlands and of our great city.

Sincerely,

Steven Bass
3rd Generation Los Angeles County Resident

From:	Nuri Benet Pierce
To:	Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Sent:	1/19/2024 11:13:32 AM

You don't often get email from nuribpierce@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

Thank you for reviewing my comments on the restoration of the Ballona Wetlands. I urge you to consider a new EIR if the one existent now is old. I have seen wetlands restoration gone wrong. Here is SAn Diego County when a lake here was supposedly going to be "improved".
When finished, the low lying areas were totally flooded and dabbler ducks and other birds actually lost their habitat. A badly done restoration is actually worse than no restoration at all.
Please prepare another EIR for possible flooding and water flows. These are vital for birds.
Thank you
Nuri Pierce

From:	Rene Ruston
To:	Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Subject:	We firmly OPPOSE the destructive plan to bulldoze the Ballona Wetlands.
Sent:	1/19/2024 9:42:11 AM

You don't often get email from rene@startrescue.org. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

As a native of California and on behalf of START Rescue (a Los Angeles based animal rescue organization with thousands of L.A. and California based supporters), we are alarmed by the devastating effects, bulldozing the Ballona Wetlands will have on wildlife, some of which are endangered. The proposed restoration project for Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve, is nonsensical and disturbingly off point. Frankly, to be quite direct, it is insulting to assume we would be so gullible as to quietly accept it. Every innocent wild animal who resides at Ballona Wetlands will lose their home and their life if this destructive plan (masquerading as "restoration") to bulldoze their habitat moves forward. It is equal in its outrageousness, to trophy hunters claiming to kill elephants to "save" them.

Since the last Scoping (2012) and Draft EIR (2017) were completed for essentially the same project, the water budget for this area has changed in part due to time passing since the Coastal Commission ordered illegal drains to be capped, significant changes in rainy weather patterns, and changes in management of the adjacent Playa Vista detention basin/"freshwater marsh." A new, revised water budget for fresh and brackish water must be undertaken and be compared to the habitats relied on by species of special concern, endangered species, and the biodiversity of the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve.

The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a NEW biological survey. The last one was completed approximately 10 years ago, and since then at least two endangered species have returned to nest at the Ballona Valley, both relying on habitat in the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve - including habitat in the Sequence #1 & #2 areas contemplated as starting locations for the proposed project. More species have returned to rely on the habitat at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve. A new, updated, and accurate biological baseline survey must be undertaken as part of this review.

CDFW must also include an accurate flood risk analysis of the entire proposed project. Revising the flood risk standards to what the Superior Court ruled in its judgment last summer must be done in accordance with what the US Army Corps of Engineers and LA County Flood Control experts stated during several years of the environmental review process. Using a different flood risk calculation impacts the entire EIR and must be accurately assessed and communicated both to the public and to relevant, concerned agencies.

Also to be included, is a separate EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) since the overall project still contemplates demolishing the Ballona Creek levees, removing the sides of the river, triggering multiple federal laws that must be followed. The scope of this review CANNOT circumvent the federal laws that CDFW must follow.

The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new, updated sea level rise study and the relation of updated sea level rise calculations to the proposed project. Sea level rise predictions from 2012, when the last Scoping for an EIR was undertaken, were less robust than needed and the removal or demolishing of the Ballona Creek/River levees, combined with higher than anticipated sea level rise conditions, require an entirely new analysis of the situation.

Rene Ruston
START RESCUE
rene@startrescue.org

From:	kristin womack
To:	Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Subject:	We must preserve the Ballona Wetlands, a prime habitat for 1,700 species of plants and animals!
Sent:	1/18/2024 8:04:30 PM

You don't often get email from kristinwomack@yahoo.com. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

- I strongly oppose the plan to bulldoze the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve!! In this version of the Environmental Impact Report, CDFW must include an accurate flood risk analysis of the entire proposed project. Revising the flood risk standards to what the Superior Court ruled in its judgment last summer must be done in accordance with what the US Army Corps of Engineers and LA County Flood Control experts stated during several years of the environmental review process. Using a different flood risk calculation impacts the entire EIR and must be accurately assessed and communicated both to the public and to relevant, concerned agencies.
- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a separate EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) since the overall project still contemplates demolishing the Ballona Creek levees, removing the sides of the river, triggering multiple federal laws that must be followed. The scope of this review cannot sidestep the federal laws that CDFW must follow.
- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new biological survey. The last one was completed approximately 10 years ago, and since then at least two endangered species have returned to nest at the Ballona Valley, both relying on habitat in the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve - including habitat in the Sequence #1 & #2 areas contemplated as starting locations for the proposed project. More species have returned to rely on the habitat at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve. A new, updated, and accurate biological baseline survey must be undertaken as part of this review.
- The scope of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must include a new, updated sea level rise study and the relation of updated sea level rise calculations to the proposed project. Sea level rise predictions from 2012, when the last Scoping for an EIR was undertaken, were less robust than needed and the removal or demolishing of the Ballona Creek/River levees, combined with higher than anticipated sea level rise conditions, require an entirely new analysis of the situation.
- Since the last Scoping (2012) and Draft EIR (2017) were completed for essentially the same project, the water budget for this area has changed in part due to time passing since the Coastal Commission ordered illegal drains to be capped, significant changes in rainy weather patterns, and changes in management of the adjacent Playa Vista detention basin/"freshwater marsh." A new, revised water budget for fresh and brackish water must be undertaken and be compared to the habitats relied on by species of special concern, endangered species, and the biodiversity of the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve.
- In January of 2022, the State opened up a new public trail between Fiji Way and the bicycle path of the north creek levee - four mornings each week. This changed circumstance requires an assessment of the public access situation at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve, and a new, updated study that takes this access opening into account should be required as part of the news EIR review

For your perusal:

Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve (BWER)

Alternative #4 – The Gentle Alternative for the Ballona Wetlands

A 20-Point Plan

Mindful Public Access, Respecting, Honoring & Protecting Native Soils;
Indigenous Life-ways & Rare Plant Populations; and Imperiled & Treasured Wildlife

Following is a List of Actions that can be taken on the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve WITHOUT an EIR* or EIS, and with minimal effort to obtain Coastal Development Permits (CDPs) or Exemptions from the CA Coastal Commission. The primary guiding principle is: no intrusive activities by mechanical means.

1. Form an Indigenous Tribal Council for Ballona – consisting of elders of the indigenous people for the LA coast, which would guide protection decisions for the land and which would be given access for historical lifeways activities, such as gathering for prayers and other spiritual/religious/sacred ceremonies, and gathering plants for medicinal and basketry purposes.
2. Open the Fiji Way public access trail that has already been improved, with thousands of dollars spent on amenities like bike racks, new gates, signage and sitting benches.
3. Improve and open walking trails on city-owned Cabora Dr. (with minimal improvements – such as directional & educational signage including apps/audio guides for sophisticated learning that informs the visitor of the history of the landscape and the flora & fauna that currently flourishes at Ballona.)
4. Fund and supervise a docent training program so docents are available for public interaction and instruction at newly-opened walking trails. Fund, create & distribute maps at Fisherman's Village, in Del Rey and Playa del Rey, explaining to the public where entrance and parking locations exist for the BWER.
5. In cooperation with L.A. County, open the Ballona Creek South Levee for WALKING ONLY – with docents opening the gate from sunrise to sunset – and instructing people to stay on the trail; no running. No dogs (2 species of endangered birds are present in this area.)
6. While there are already 1,700 species present at Ballona, including some endangered & threatened, work with US Fish & Wildlife Service and CA Dept of Fish & Wildlife (CDFW) to form recovery teams to recover to this ecological reserve, the following species: Animals/Roadrunner, Jack Rabbit, California Quail, Horned Lizard, Garter Snake; Plants/Ballona Cinquefoil, Saltmarsh Bird's Beak – AND to

determine the feasibility of additional species that would be compatible with those species currently relying on BWER.
7. Install one or two Bald Eagle nesting platforms along the south levee of Ballona Creek, and devise a program similar to the successful one at Catalina Island, where high school students feed the young eagles as they are growing up in a new nest, after being brought – as eggs – from San Francisco Zoo. Recover the Eagle to Ballona.
8. Recover the Southern Sea Otter to Ballona. Baby Otters are taken care of at Monterey Aquarium after being lost from mothers during storms. Governor Newsom and County Supervisors Hahn and Mitchell could help in releasing young Otters at Ballona.
9. Design and oversee a project to recover the Snow Goose and Sandhill Crane ~ using Ultra-Lites to teach the young bird migration ~ as documented in the popular film: "Fly Away Home." This is a method that has been repeated by the US Fish & Wildlife Service for recovering and teaching migration to Swans and Cranes.
10. Form a plant assessment team that determines which plants once native to the area are appropriate for re-introducing to the BWER (taking into account non-native plants and trees providing important habitat for native wildlife, such as non-native Eucalyptus trees providing roosting for imperiled Monarch Butterfly populations.) Then, carefully replant those natives deemed appropriate and monitor for impacts to wildlife and other important plant populations.
11. Establish a native plant and tree nursery for possible re-planting of species determined to be important in #10 above. Work with local schools to oversee this nursery. (Los Angeles Audubon Society runs a similar program for Baldwin Hills State Park nearby.)
12. Work with the LA County Public Works Dept. and US Army Corps of Engineers to consider placement of and construction of three overlook towers on the Ballona Creek levees – one each near Area C, Area A and Area B – providing views into and across the landscape of the BWER. Would be wheelchair & senior-citizen accessible.
13. Form a Stakeholders Group (SG) that includes representatives of organizations that have worked for Ballona's protection, as well as neighborhood groups. CDFW and State Lands Commission (the two landowners) meets regularly with this stakeholders group to address management issues and concerns of members of the SG.

14. Lobby for and secure sufficient management funds for either state or federal rangers being present – and also adequate funds for maintenance, nature education, biological oversight and land management (which includes collaboration with other agencies).
15. Form a Trash & Beautification Team – Team members walk BWER perimeters and trails weekly, remove trash and report illegal dumping to city, county or CalTrans. Beautification would include planting native wildflowers along the road edges of the BWER.
16. Work with LA County Beaches & Harbors to remove shrubs along Fiji Way access to BWER, clear a walking trail for the public and line the area with native wildflowers that grow close to the ground and need minimal maintenance.
17. Work with Committee to Complete the Park to help acquire more land adjacent to the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve from willing sellers. Parcels include: Yerba Mansa Bluffs, Toes Beach Dunes, Egret Park, Villa Marina Tule Wetlands, Bird Island.
18. Form a committee to determine how to better use existing parking, shuttle service and entrances to BWER. (without constructing a three-story concrete parking lot on the Ecological Reserve.)

19. Form a youth ranger program to support government rangers in teaching respect and sustainability principles to all who interact with the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve.
20. Advocate to utility companies to remove or underground power lines ~ which impede and impact bird flight. Minimize light impacts by removing lights from Fiji Way, Culver Blvd., Lincoln Blvd., and gas tank farm.

defendballonawetlands.org

*Noted that the EIR & EIS describe Alternative #4 as including no additional public access – and no other changes at Ballona - but that is a management decision by the CA Dept of Fish & Wildlife (CDFW), not a reflection of whether or not such access and other gentle, non-intrusive, mindful actions canbe undertaken without a full EIR or EIS process.

From:	adolfo lopez
To:	Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Subject:	Wetlands
Sent:	1/18/2024 5:45:58 PM

[You don't often get email from adolfolopez13@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

Hello, I'm shocked and appalled that you want to bulldoze the Ballona Wetlands! This is a phony restoration project! Please please immediately ban this idea and save our precious wildlife!! I would be most grateful and would appreciate a kind reply! Sincerely Irene!!
Sent from my iPhone

From: Carole Judd-Lamb
To: Wildlife Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve EIR
Subject:
Sent: 1/18/2024 11:23:25 PM

You don't often get email from carolejuddlamb@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

Please protect the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve and protect the animals. Do not allocate destructive bulldozers to destroy the wetlands and home to numerous species of wildlife. Natural environments are in danger everywhere and this is one of the places that needs your intervention and support
to allow natural areas to prosper and requires protection.

Carole

APPENDIX L



BALLONA WETLANDS RESTORATION PROJECT

Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program

State Clearinghouse No. 2012071090

MAY 2026

1.0 Introduction

In accordance with Section 15091(d) and Section 15097 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines, which require a public agency to adopt a program for reporting on or monitoring required changes or conditions of approval to substantially lessen significant environmental impacts, this Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP) is being adopted by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) for the Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project (Project) (State Clearinghouse No. 2012071090). To implement the Project, CDFW is working with the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works-Flood Control District (LACFCD) to modify Los Angeles County Drainage Area (LACDA) project features (including the Ballona Creek channel and levee system) within the Ballona Reserve.

This MMRP summarizes the mitigation commitments identified for the Project in the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) prepared for the Project by CDFW as the CEQA lead agency, as those commitments were modified by CDFW in the Final EIR. The MMRP serves as a self-contained general reference for the mitigation commitments adopted for the Project. Those commitments are fully enforceable with approval of the MMRP. This MMRP also summarizes Project Design Features that have been included as part of the Project as explained in the DEIR. The Project Design Features will be implemented as necessary components of the Project but are summarized in this MRRP to help track and verify their implementation.

The columns in the MMRP tables provide the following information:

a) **Mitigation Measure(s):** The action(s) that will be taken to reduce the impact to a less than significant level.

b) **Implementation, Monitoring, and Reporting Action:** The appropriate steps to implement and document compliance with the mitigation measures.

c) **Responsibility:** The agency or entity responsible for ensuring implementation of the mitigation measure. However, until the mitigation measures are completed, CDFW, as the CEQA lead agency, remains responsible for ensuring implementation of the mitigation measures occur in accordance with the Project (CEQA Guidelines §15097[a]).

d) **Monitoring Schedule:** The general schedule for conducting each monitoring task, either prior to restoration/construction, during restoration/construction, and/or after restoration.

2.0 General Monitoring Procedures

Mitigation Monitor

Many of the monitoring procedures will be conducted during the restoration phase of the Project. CDFW and the mitigation monitor are responsible for integrating the mitigation monitoring procedures into the restoration process and, insofar as the mitigation measures relate to modifications to the LACDA project facilities within the Ballona Reserve, with the LACFCD. To oversee the monitoring procedures and to ensure success, the mitigation monitor assigned to restoration activities must be on site during the activities that have the potential to create a significant environmental impact. The mitigation monitor is responsible for ensuring that all procedures specified in the MMRP are followed. Although many, if not most, of the mitigation measures in the MMRP are expected to be imposed as requirements of permits issued by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, to help ensure implementation of mitigation measures and project design features, CDFW will require compliance with such measures and features in any contracts related to further Project design as well as contracts related to implementation of the Project.

Restoration/Construction Personnel

A key feature contributing to the success of mitigation monitoring will be obtaining the full cooperation of restoration personnel and supervisors. Many of the mitigation measures require action on the part of the restoration supervisors or crews for successful implementation. To ensure success, the following actions, detailed in specific mitigation measures included in the MMRP, will be taken:

- Mitigation measures required as part of the Project as well as related procedures to be followed by companies hired to do the work will be written into contracts between CDFW and any contractors. Procedures to be followed by crews will be written into a separate agreement that all on-site personnel will be asked to sign, denoting agreement.
- One or more meetings will be held before the start of work to inform and train all on-site personnel about the requirements of the MMRP.
- A written summary of mitigation monitoring procedures will be provided to supervisors of on-site workers for all mitigation measures requiring their attention.

General Reporting Procedures

Site visits and specified monitoring procedures performed by other individuals will be reported to the mitigation monitor assigned to the restoration activities. A monitoring record form will be submitted to the mitigation monitor by the individual conducting the visit or procedure so that details of the visit can be recorded, and progress tracked by the mitigation monitor. A checklist will be developed and maintained by the mitigation monitor to track all procedures required for each mitigation measure and to ensure that the timing specified for the procedures is adhered to. The mitigation monitor will

note any problems that may occur and take appropriate action to rectify the problems. CDFW or the mitigation monitor shall prepare regular written reports of the Project, which shall include progress of Project implementation, resulting impacts, mitigation measures implemented, and all other noteworthy elements of the Project. These reports shall be required as long as mitigation measures are applicable.

Condition Effectiveness Review

In order to fulfill its statutory mandates to mitigate or avoid significant effects on the environment and to design a MMRP to ensure compliance during Project implementation (Pub. Res. Code §21081.6):

- CDFW may conduct a comprehensive review of conditions that are not effectively mitigating impacts at any time it deems appropriate; and
- If CDFW determines that any conditions are not adequately mitigating significant environmental impacts caused by the Project, or that recent proven technological advances could provide more effective mitigation, then CDFW may impose additional or different reasonable conditions to effectively mitigate these impacts.

TABLE 1
MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM FOR THE BALLONA WETLANDS RESTORATION PROJECT

Mitigation Measure	Implementation, Monitoring, and Reporting Action(s)	Responsibility	Monitoring Schedule			Approval/Completion Dates
			Before Restoration	During Restoration	Following Restoration	
Aesthetics						
Mitigation Measure AE-4a: *Construction Lighting*. Construction contractors shall ensure that all temporary construction lighting shall be designed and installed to be fully shielded (full cutoff) and to minimize glare and obtrusive light by limiting outdoor lighting that is misdirected, excessive, or unnecessary. Construction lighting shall be oriented away from nearby land use areas that are not being affected by construction.	During the restoration phase whenever work is to occur after dark that requires temporary construction lighting, monitor to confirm conditions at the start of work each night when such work is to occur to assure that the lighting complies with the specifics of the mitigation measure. Prepare and maintain monitoring log, retain in project file for 60 calendar days after the conclusion of restoration.	CDFW / Construction Contractor(s)		X	X	
Mitigation Measure AE-4b: *Lighting Plan.* Prior to implementing any changes to the existing parking areas, a lighting plan shall be developed and implemented that requires all exterior lighting to be directed downward and focused away from adjacent sensitive uses and habitats to encourage way-finding and provide security and safety for individuals walking to and from parking areas.	Prior to implementing any changes to the existing parking areas, develop an exterior lighting plan that complies with the specifics of the mitigation measure. Retain a copy of the plan in the permanent project file.	CDFW / Construction Contractor(s)	X			
Air Quality						
Mitigation Measure AQ-1: *Odor Management Plan.* In order to reduce odors from the decomposition of organic materials during excavation and stockpiling activities, contractors shall submit and implement, for and upon CDFW approval, an odor management plan to limit hydrogen sulfide levels to 10 parts per billion at the site perimeter. This concentration is below the state 1-hour standard of 30 parts per billion. The plan shall be reviewed and approved by the CDFW and include the following elements: a) Monitoring and recording of hydrogen sulfide at the perimeter of the Ballona Reserve to ensure	Prior to the initiation of excavation and stockpiling activities in Area A, prepare an odor management plan for CDFW approval that satisfies the requirements of the mitigation measure. Thereafter, weekly for the duration of excavation and stockpiling activities, confirm presence (or replace) signage at the designated entrances to the Ballona Reserve. Prepare and maintain monitoring log, retain in project file for 60 calendar days after the	CDFW / Contractor(s) conducting excavation or stockpiling	X	X	X	

Mitigation Measure	Implementation, Monitoring, and Reporting Action(s)	Responsibility	Monitoring Schedule			Approval/Completion Dates
			Before Restoration	During Restoration	Following Restoration	
compliance and implementation of the plan. Monitoring shall occur periodically during the days when fill in Area A is being removed. Monitoring shall occur along the perimeter with the closest off-site	conclusion of excavation and stockpiling activities.					
Air Quality (cont.)						
receptors in addition to the perimeter that is most directly downwind from the removal activities; b) Procurement and local storage of an oxidizer that can be applied in liquid form to treat stockpiles of sediment or particularly odorous excavation areas; however, the use of such an oxidizer shall be approved by the CDFW, in advance, to ensure that it would not be harmful to aquatic organisms or cause long-term adverse effects in the aquatic environment; and c) Posting of signage at entrances to the Ballona Reserve (including at the Fiji Way entrance to the CDFW trailer, the Culver Boulevard entrance to the baseball fields, and the West Culver Parking Lot) listing the contact information for odor complaints.						
Biological Resources						
Mitigation Measure BIO-1b-i: Special-Status Plants. Known special-status plant populations shall be flagged by a qualified biologist/botanist prior to the start of vegetation or ground-disturbing activities and shall be avoided to the extent feasible. Prior to any vegetation or ground disturbance, a qualified biologist/botanist shall conduct rare plant surveys at the appropriate time of year to determine whether special-status plant populations have established, expanded and/or migrated on-site. If new individuals or populations are identified during the	Prior to any vegetation or ground disturbance in each subarea of the Project Site where such work is to occur within the upcoming 12-month period, conduct rare plant surveys at the appropriate time of year to determine whether special-status plant populations have established, expanded and/or migrated on-site; flag them for avoidance in accordance with the mitigation measure.	CDFW/ Qualified Biologist/ Botanist		X X		

Mitigation Measure	Implementation, Monitoring, and Reporting Action(s)	Responsibility	Monitoring Schedule			Approval/Completion Dates
			Before Restoration	During Restoration	Following Restoration	
rare plant surveys, they shall be flagged for avoidance to the extent feasible. During site restoration, qualified biologists, or experienced contractors with supervision by a qualified biologist, shall re-establish impacted species in restored habitat on site at a minimum ratio of 1:1 (number of plants established: number of plants impacted). Perennial species such as woolly seablite shall be salvaged and transplanted wherever feasible. For both perennial and annual species, seed shall be collected prior to restoration during the appropriate time of year	Salvage and transplant, or collect seeds and propagate, and then re-establish vegetation in compliance with the mitigation measure, Monitor (and document the monitoring of) re-established plants in accordance with the Habitat Restoration and Monitoring Plan.			X	X	
(August/September for woolly seablite and May/June for Lewis' evening primrose). Seeds shall be propagated in a local nursery and incorporated into seed mixes for suitable habitat types (transition zone seed mix for woolly seablite and upland/dune seed mix for Lewis' evening primrose). Re-establishment and subsequent monitoring efforts for impacted special-status plant species shall be implemented as described in the Habitat Restoration and Monitoring Plan (Habitat Restoration and Monitoring Plan), and in accordance with appropriate local, state, and Federal policies or regulations. The Habitat Restoration and Monitoring Plan shall provide methodologies covering, but not limited to, collection of seeds or other propagules, storage of salvaged materials, locations of salvaging efforts, timing of salvaging efforts, monitoring of salvaged materials, success criteria, and remedial actions, and include the mitigation requirements described in this mitigation measure.						
Mitigation Measure BIO-1b-ii: *Biological Monitoring*. A qualified biologist(s) approved by USFWS and/or CDFW shall monitor restoration activities, such as ground and vegetation disturbance, for the duration of the Project to ensure that disturbance of habitat and special-status species within and	For the duration of the Project, monitor restoration activities to ensure that disturbance of habitat and special-status species within and adjacent to work areas is being avoided to the extent practicable.	CDFW / Qualified Biologist	X	X	X	

Mitigation Measure	Implementation, Monitoring, and Reporting Action(s)	Responsibility	Monitoring Schedule			Approval/Completion Dates
			Before Restoration	During Restoration	Following Restoration	
adjacent to work areas is being avoided to the extent practicable. Attempts shall be made by the biologist to salvage (either by trapping or other appropriate means) all native wildlife species of low mobility that may be killed or injured prior to and during Project-related vegetation or ground disturbances. A qualified biologist shall be assigned to each working construction crew, where multiple such crews are engaging in initial ground or vegetation disturbance and the crews are separated by such distances as to not enable a single assigned monitor to observe the separated initial disturbance areas sufficiently or simultaneously. Salvaged species should be relocated to adjacent suitable habitat not subject to site disturbances. Any relocation efforts would include assessment to determine areas with the Ballona Reserve that would be most appropriate to receive species. Any non-native flora or fauna can be abated by the biologist through any legal means available to CDFW. Additionally, ongoing monitoring and reporting shall occur for the duration of the restoration activity to ensure implementation of best management practices (BMPs).	Assign a qualified biologist to each working construction crew in accordance with the mitigation measure. Relocate salvaged species to adjacent suitable habitat not subject to site disturbances. Assess potential relocation areas within the Ballona Reserve to identify the most appropriate to receive species. Prior to Project-related vegetation or ground disturbances and for the duration of restoration, prepare, maintain, and retain in the project file, a log of biologist/crew assignments, trapping, salvage, and relocation efforts. Abate any non-native flora or fauna through any legal means.		X X X	X X X		
appropriate to receive species. Any non-native flora or fauna can be abated by the biologist through any legal means available to CDFW. Additionally, ongoing monitoring and reporting shall occur for the duration of the restoration activity to ensure implementation of best management practices (BMPs).	Abate any non-native flora or fauna through any legal means.		X	X	X	
Mitigation Measure BIO-1b-iii: *Noxious Weed Control Plan*. A Noxious Weed Control Plan shall be prepared by a qualified biologist for CDFW approval prior to the start of restoration. The plan shall ensure that noxious weeds do not spread or otherwise prevent the establishment of native vegetation by meeting or exceeding the applicable performance	Prior to the start of restoration, prepare for CDFW approval a Noxious Weed Control Plan that satisfies the requirements of this mitigation measure. Maintain a copy of the plan in the permanent Project file.	CDFW/ Qualified Biologist	X X	 X		

Mitigation Measure	Implementation, Monitoring, and Reporting Action(s)	Responsibility	Monitoring Schedule			Approval/Completion Dates
			Before Restoration	During Restoration	Following Restoration	
criteria in tables 2-12 through 2-20 based on canopy cover of native species and invasive species. The plan shall also be implemented during all restoration-related activities, and shall include, but not be limited to, the following: 1) control measures for selected invasive plant species on the site (potentially including herbicide use), 2) Project-specific procedure for handling noxious/invasive plants to prevent sprouting or regrowth, 3) Project-specific equipment cleaning procedures, and 4) Project-specific transportation of vegetation debris off site. The Noxious Weed Control Plan shall be reviewed during the WEAP training.	Review the plan during the WEAP training. Implement the plan during all restoration-related activities.			X		
Mitigation Measure BIO-1g-i: *Pre- and Post-restoration Survey for Special-status Lizards*. Prior to restoration in areas with suitable habitat for special status lizards a qualified biologist shall conduct focused legless lizard surveys. Any legless lizards or horned lizards captured shall be re-located to restored or preserved dune habitats. Relocation efforts would include assessments to determine areas within the Ballona Reserve that are most appropriate for this species. If legless lizard or coast horned lizard are relocated, then focused surveys shall occur yearly for a period of 5 years following restoration to monitor legless lizard or coast horned lizard populations, as applicable, within the dune habitats.	Prior to restoration in areas with suitable habitat for special status lizards, conduct focused legless lizard surveys. Assess areas within the Ballona Reserve to identify the most appropriate relocation areas. Relocate any captured legless lizards or horned lizards to restored or preserved dune habitats. Yearly for a period of 5 years following restoration, conduct focused surveys to monitor legless lizard or coast horned lizard populations, as applicable within the dune habitats.	CDFW/ Qualified Biologist	X	X X	X	
	If applicable, prepare (and maintain for a period of 5 years following restoration) a log documenting potential relocation site assessment, and focused survey and relocation efforts.			X	X	
Mitigation Measure BIO-1i-i: *Nesting Bird and Raptor Avoidance.* A qualified biologist shall recommend approved limits of disturbance, including construction staging areas and access routes, to	Recommend approved limits of disturbance, including construction staging areas and access routes, to minimize	CDFW/ Qualified Biologist	X			

Mitigation Measure	Implementation, Monitoring, and Reporting Action(s)	Responsibility	Monitoring Schedule			Approval/Completion Dates
			Before Restoration	During Restoration	Following Restoration	
minimize impacts to nesting habitat for birds and raptors. To ensure the avoidance of impacts to native nesting avian species, the following measures shall be implemented pursuant to the MBTA and California Fish and Game Code. and maintenance activities during operations within and adjacent to avian nesting habitat shall be limited to the non-breeding season (September 1 – December 31) to the extent feasible. If will occur during the avian nesting season (generally January 1 – August 31), a qualified biologist shall conduct pre-nesting avian surveys within five days of the initiation of to determine the presence or absence of active nests. If a lapse in work of 5 days or longer occurs, another survey shall be conducted prior to work being reinitiated. Surveys shall include any potential habitat, including trees, shrubs, and on the ground, or on nearby structures that might be impacted by or maintenance activities that may cause nest destruction or abandonment, such as vegetation or weed removal, earth work, and vector control actions. If active nests are observed, a no-disturbance buffer marked with exclusion fencing will be established and maintained until the qualified biologist determines that the nest has fledged or failed. Fence stakes designed with bolt holes shall be plugged with bolts or other materials to avoid entrapping birds. The initial no-disturbance buffer shall extend a minimum of 500 feet in all directions for raptors and listed passerines and 300 feet in all directions for all other native passerines. A reduced buffer may be implemented	impacts to nesting habitat for birds and raptors. Implement specified measures pursuant to the MBTA and California Fish and Game Code. Limit restoration-related activities that may cause nest destruction or abandonment such as vegetation/weed removal or earth work within and adjacent to avian nesting habitat to the non-breeding season (September 1 – December 31) to the extent feasible. If such activities will occur during the avian nesting season (generally January 1 – August 31), conduct pre-nesting avian surveys in accordance with the requirements of the mitigation measure. Mark a no-disturbance buffer(s) if/as called for in the mitigation measure. Prepare (and maintain for the duration of operations) a log documenting approved limits of disturbance, and the beginning and end dates of any maintenance activities that occur within the avian nesting season (generally January 1 – August 31). Maintain with the log copies of summaries of surveys conducted pursuant to this mitigation measure. Prepare a project area-specific Nesting Bird Management Plan for CDFW approval, in accordance with the requirements of the mitigation measure.		X X X X		X	
at the discretion of the biologist for non-listed passerines; however, for raptors and listed passerines, the biologist will obtain approval from either USFWS or CDFW prior to allowing work to commence within the 500-foot buffer.						

Mitigation Measure	Implementation, Monitoring, and Reporting Action(s)	Responsibility	Monitoring Schedule			Approval/Completion Dates
			Before Restoration	During Restoration	Following Restoration	
Prior to construction, a qualified biologist shall prepare a project area-specific Nesting Bird Management Plan for CDFW approval. The plan shall detail methodologies and definitions to enable a CDFW qualified biologist to monitor and implement nest-specific buffers based on topography, vegetation, species, and individual bird behavior. The plan shall be supported by a nest log, which tracks each nest and its outcome, and shall be submitted to CDFW at the end of each work week for the duration of the avian nesting season.						
1. Percent cover of pickleweed will approximate areas of West Area B, at a minimum of 60% cover. **2.** At least one nesting pair of Belding's savannah sparrow will be documented in Area A prior to implementation of work in West Area B. Due to rapid fluctuations in the population observed on-site, the high site fidelity observed, and avoidance of any impacts to the majority of habitat in Area B, one nesting pair will be indicative of the successful establishment of suitable habitat for the species.						
Mitigation Measure BIO-1j-i: *Coastal California Gnatcatcher Avoidance.* To avoid indirect impacts of restoration on breeding coastal California gnatcatcher, work activities within 500 feet of coastal scrub vegetation or other suitable habitat, shall be timed to avoid the breeding season (February 15 to August 30), especially when nests may be most active for this species (March 15 to June 30). If avoidance of work activities within the breeding season is demonstrated to be infeasible, a focused survey for coastal California gnatcatchers shall be conducted prior to initiation of work/staging activities to determine their presence or absence within suitable habitat 500 feet of work/staging limits. In accordance with the USFWS protocol for the coastal California gnatcatcher (USFWS 1997)	Before February 15 each year document presence of suitable habitat for Coastal California Gnatcatcher within areas where Project activities could occur during the breeding season (February 15 to August 30). Time work activities within 500 feet of coastal scrub vegetation or other suitable habitat for Coastal California Gnatcatcher to avoid the breeding season (February 15 to August 30), especially when nests may be most active for this species (March 15 to June 30). Conduct a focused survey for coastal California gnatcatchers in accordance with	CDFW / Qualified Biologist / Qualified Monitor	X X	X X		

Mitigation Measure	Implementation, Monitoring, and Reporting Action(s)	Responsibility	Monitoring Schedule			Approval/Completion Dates
			Before Restoration	During Restoration	Following Restoration	
focused surveys shall be conducted by a permitted biologist a minimum of: a) six (6) surveys at least on week apart between March 15-June 30; or b) nine (9) surveys conducted at least two weeks apart between July 1 to March 14. The results shall be submitted in a report to the Corps, USFWS, and CDFW prior to restoration. If occupied habitat and/or nesting individuals are determined to be present based on the focused survey, measures to avoid take of coastal California gnatcatchers and active nests, such as the creation of appropriate no-work buffers, shall be implemented prior to restoration activities in consultation with USFWS. Prior to restoration or post-restoration maintenance activities during the breeding season, a pre-restoration	the specific requirements of mitigation measure prior to initiation of work/staging activities if avoidance of work activities within the breeding season is demonstrated to be infeasible. Prior to restoration, submit the survey results in a report to the Corps, USFWS, and CDFW. Implement measures, if indicated by the mitigation measure, in consultation with USFWS. Prior to restoration or post-restoration maintenance activities during the breeding season, perform a pre-restoration clearance and			X X		
Biological Resources (cont.)						
clearance and nest survey shall be performed by a qualified biologist within 48 hours prior to work activities to determine the location of nests within 500 feet of work areas. A qualitied monitor shall also be on-site during project restoration in the breeding season to verify that there are no nesting activities. If a nest is detected, work shall halt within 500 feet of the nest, and the nest shall be monitored on a weekly basis by a qualified biologist familiar with coastal California gnatcatchers, until he/she determines the nest is no longer active or the young have fledged. Measures such as erecting a temporary barrier with stacked hay bales, plywood, or other appropriate material may be implemented to reduce the amount of work noise and motion in proximity to active nests and could allow for a reduced buffer in consultation with USFWS. Noise and/or motion barriers may not be required if sources from project restoration are located and maintained further from the avian receptor than existing public vehicle traffic sources and do not	nest survey as required by the mitigation measure. During project restoration in the breeding season, verify that there are no nesting activities or take steps in accordance with the mitigation measure.			X		

Mitigation Measure	Implementation, Monitoring, and Reporting Action(s)	Responsibility	Monitoring Schedule			Approval/Completion Dates
			Before Restoration	During Restoration	Following Restoration	
increase existing ambient levels (average or peak), as determined by the monitoring biologist with supporting sound measurements.						
Mitigation Measure BIO-1k: *Least Bell's Vireo Avoidance*. To avoid direct impacts of restoration on occupied habitat or potentially suitable habitat for least Bell's vireos, all willow riparian habitat shall be avoided. All aspects of Project design such as the establishment of tidal channels, and any associated habitat disturbance including vegetation trimming or removal, shall avoid all willow habitat in Southeast Area B. To avoid indirect impacts of restoration on nesting least Bell's vireos, work activities within 500 feet of riparian vegetation or other suitable habitat shall be timed to avoid the breeding season, especially when nests may be most active for this species (March 15 to August 1). If avoidance of work activities within this time period is not feasible, a focused survey for least Bell's vireos shall be conducted in the season prior to initiation of work activities to determine their presence or absence within suitable habitat 500 feet	During final project design and implementation, avoid all willow riparian habitat. During restoration, time any work activities within 500 feet of riparian vegetation or other suitable habitat for least Bell's vireos to avoid the breeding season, especially when nests may be most active for this species (March 15 to August 1). If between March 15 to August 1 the avoidance of work activities is not feasible, then in the season prior to initiation of work activities conduct a focused presence/ absence survey for least Bell's vireos that complies with the requirements of the mitigation measure. Prior to restoration, submit results in a report to the Corps, USFWS and CDFW and, if indicated by	CDFW/Qualified Biologist/Qualified Monitor	X X	X X		
Biological Resources (cont.)						
of work/staging limits. The focused survey shall consist of eight site visits conducted 10 days apart during the period of April 10 to July 31 in compliance with the USFWS protocol. The results shall be submitted in a report to the Corps, USFWS and CDFW prior to restoration. If occupied habitat and/or nesting individuals are determined to be present based on the focused survey, measures to avoid take of least Bell's vireos and active nests shall be implemented prior to restoration activities in consultation with CDFW and USFWS. Prior to restoration activities during the breeding season, a pre-restoration clearance and nest survey	the results take measures in consultation with CDFW and USFWS to avoid take of least Bell's vireos and active nests. Prior to restoration activities during the breeding season, perform a pre-restoration clearance and nest survey that complies with the requirements of the measure. Have a qualified monitor on-site during project restoration in the breeding season to verify that there are no nesting activities and take specified actions.		X X	X X		

Mitigation Measure	Implementation, Monitoring, and Reporting Action(s)	Responsibility	Monitoring Schedule			Approval/Completion Dates
			Before Restoration	During Restoration	Following Restoration	
shall be performed by a qualified biologist within 48 hours prior to work activities to determine the location of nests within 500 feet of work areas. A qualified monitor shall also be on-site during project restoration in the breeding season to verify that there are no nesting activities. If a nest is detected, the nest shall be monitored by a qualified biologist familiar with least Bell's vireos, until he/she determines the nest is no longer active or the young have fledged. Measures such as erecting a temporary barrier with stacked hay bales, plywood, or other appropriate material may be implemented to reduce the amount of work noise and motion in proximity to active nests and could allow for a reduced buffer in consultation with CDFW and USFWS. Noise and/or motion barriers may not be required if sources from project restoration are located and maintained further from the avian receptor than existing public vehicle traffic sources and do not increase existing ambient levels (average or peak), as determined by the monitoring biologist with supporting sound measurements.	Use the tidal channels in West Area B that are located near existing willow habitat as a reference for the tidal channel location, in addition to other project design and final engineering, to ensure persistence of existing willow habitat in Southeast Area B.		X	X		
	Post-restoration, monitor willow habitat in Southeast Area B in accordance with the Habitat Restoration and Monitoring Plan to ensure tidal habitats are not adversely affecting the survival or health of the willow thickets.				X	
	Document for the file any activities that occur between March 15 to August 1 within 500 feet of riparian vegetation or other suitable habitat for least Bell's vireos.			X		
	Maintain a copy of report(s), surveys and monitoring effort documentation prepared pursuant to the Habitat Restoration and Monitoring Plan in the permanent project file.			X	X	

Mitigation Measure	Implementation, Monitoring, and Reporting Action(s)	Responsibility	Monitoring Schedule			Approval/Completion Dates
			Before Restoration	During Restoration	Following Restoration	
Tidal channels in West Area B are located near existing willow habitat and the willows and cottonwood have persisted for many years with no indication of any negative effects. These tidal channels will be used as a reference for the tidal channel location, in addition to other project design and final engineering, to ensure persistence of existing willow habitat in Southeast Area B. Post-restoration, willow habitat in Southeast Area B shall be monitored to ensure tidal habitats are not adversely affecting the survival or health of the willow thickets. Monitoring requirements and adaptive management actions for least Bell's vireos and occupied/suitable habitat for this species during restoration and post- restoration shall be identified in the Habitat Restoration and Monitoring Plan.						
Mitigation Measure BIO-1*I*-i: *Burrowing Owl Surveys*. A qualified biologist shall conduct wintering/breeding protocol burrowing owl surveys in accordance with CDFW's 2012 Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation to determine whether or not owls are present within the Project site. If burrowing owls are detected, a Burrowing Owl Management Plan will be prepared and approved by CDFW prior to commencement of construction. The Burrowing Owl Management Plan will be based on CDFW's 2012 Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation and address owl specific minimization and avoidance measures, and measures to protect occupied habitat. The Burrowing Owl Management Plan will include mitigation for impacted occupied burrows at no less than a 3:1 ratio by installation of artificial burrows. Prior to construction, pre-construction surveys shall be conducted no more than 14 days prior to the commencement of work activities. A final survey prior to disturbance of a potential owl burrow shall be	Prior to construction, conduct wintering/breeding protocol burrowing owl surveys and, if detected, prepare a Burrowing Owl Management Plan that complies with the mitigation measure. Retain a copy of the plan in the project file for 60days after the completion of restoration. No more than 14 days prior to the commencement of construction activities, conduct pre-construction surveys. Within 24 hours before disturbance of a potential owl burrow, conduct a final survey and take steps that comply with the mitigation measure and/or the Burrowing Owl Management Plan as indicated. Within 24 hours of post-restoration activities involving ground or vegetation disturbance within suitable burrowing owl habitat, conduct a survey to check for signs of	CDFW / Qualified Biologist / Qualified Monitor	X X X	X X X	 X	

Mitigation Measure	Implementation, Monitoring, and Reporting Action(s)	Responsibility	Monitoring Schedule			Approval/Completion Dates
			Before Restoration	During Restoration	Following Restoration	
conducted within 24 hours of disturbance. Surveys shall be conducted throughout suitable habitat in the Ballona Reserve to detect wintering and breeding owls, if present. Destruction of	burrowing owl and take next steps as indicated.					
unoccupied wintering burrows is considered a temporary impact, and suitable wintering habitat shall be restored to pre-Project or better conditions in upland areas. If an occupied burrow is impacted by Project activities, mitigation for that impact shall be implemented in accordance with the Burrowing Owl Management Plan as mentioned in the prior paragraph. Within 24 hours of post-restoration activities involving ground or vegetation disturbance within suitable burrowing owl habitat, a qualified biologist shall conduct a survey to check for signs of burrowing owl. If breeding or wintering owls are detected, burrowing owls and active burrows shall be avoided and the protective buffers established in the Burrowing Owl Management Plan shall be implemented.	Document all survey(s) conducted pursuant to this measure and retain such documentation for 60 days after the completion of restoration.			X	X	
Mitigation Measure BIO-1*I*-ii: ***Burrowing Owl Habitat Maintenance***. During post-restoration phases, suitable breeding and wintering habitat for burrowing owl shall be maintained and detailed in the O&M Plan and Habitat Restoration and Monitoring Plan. Measures and actions to maintain suitable habitat for burrowing owl shall be in accordance with Mitigation Management Plan and Vegetation Management Goals identified in the Staff Report for Burrowing Owl Mitigation (CDFG 2012), and may include the following: 1. Manage vegetation height and density (especially in immediate proximity to burrows). Suitable vegetation structure varies across sites and vegetation types but should generally be at the average effective vegetation height of 4.7 cm and <13 cm average effective vegetation height.	During post-restoration phases, maintain suitable breeding and wintering habitat for burrowing owl in accordance with the Habitat Restoration and Monitoring Plan and Vegetation Management Goals identified in the Staff Report for Burrowing Owl Mitigation (CDFG 2012). Document efforts in accordance with the plan and the staff report in the permanent project file. For the duration of the Project, limit or prohibit lethal rodent control measures and ensure food availability for host burrowers through vegetation management.	CDFW / Qualified Biologist / Qualified Monitor		X	X	

Mitigation Measure	Implementation, Monitoring, and Reporting Action(s)	Responsibility	Monitoring Schedule			Approval/Completion Dates
			Before Restoration	During Restoration	Following Restoration	
2. Promote self-sustaining populations of host burrowers by limiting or prohibiting lethal rodent control measures and by ensuring food availability for host burrowers through vegetation management.						
Mitigation Measure BIO-1r: ***Bat Avoidance***. *Avoidance of Maternity Roosts.* Work within potential bat roosting habitat shall avoid the maternity roosting season (March 1 to July 31) to the extent feasible. If work must be conducted within the maternity roosting season, prior to the start of work within or near trees, bridges or other structures within the work area, a qualified bat biologist shall conduct a preconstruction survey to determine if bats are roosting within the Project work area. If bats are not roosting, no further mitigation is required. If bats are roosting, all maternity roosts shall be avoided and an appropriate no-disturbance buffer shall be established at the discretion of a qualified biologist, based on the sensitivity of the bat species. If work within the buffer is deemed necessary, a qualified biologist shall monitor work activities to ensure no disturbance to the roost(s).	Within the maternity roosting season (March 1 to July 31), avoid work within potential bat roosting habitat to the extent feasible. If work must be conducted within the maternity roosting season, prior to the start of work within or near trees, bridges or other structures within the work area, conduct a preconstruction survey to determine if bats are roosting in the work area. If bats are not roosting, no further mitigation is required. If bats are roosting, take next steps in compliance with the mitigation measure. Document survey results and retain them in the project file for 60 days after restoration is complete.	CDFW / Qualified Bat Biologist /Qualified Monitor	 X	 X		
For any palm tree scheduled to be removed as part of restoration, the following procedures shall be applied before the tree is removed: 1) Trees shall be removed outside of the maternity roosting season (prior to March 1 or after July 31); 2) Under the direction of a qualified bat biologist, select fronds would be removed prior to dusk to modify the structure of the tree the day before the tree is scheduled to be removed; and 3) Noise and vibrations (e.g., striking the base of the tree) shall be scheduled 15 minutes prior to removal of the palm tree, during daylight hours. *Exclusion Outside of Maternity Roosting Season.* If bats are determined by a qualified biologist to be roosting within or near bridges and other structures within the	Before any palm tree is removed as part of restoration, implement the actions specified in the measure. Document removals and timing for retention in the project file for 60 days after restoration is complete. *Exclusion Outside of Maternity Roosting Season.* Evict and exclude bats as indicated in the measure. Document timing and activities for retention in the project file for 60 days after restoration is complete. Identify and protect roosting bats. Survey habitat types in accordance with the measure. Identify foraging areas and specific flight routes to those foraging areas. All survey results, including field data sheets should be		 X X	 X X		

Mitigation Measure	Implementation, Monitoring, and Reporting Action(s)	Responsibility	Monitoring Schedule			Approval/Completion Dates
			Before Restoration	During Restoration	Following Restoration	
work area, bats shall be humanely evicted and excluded from those structures. The humane eviction/exclusion shall be conducted in the fall (September or October) preceding work activities that could affect roosting bats. Exclusion in	provided to and retained by CDFW in the project file for 60 days after restoration is complete.					
the fall is recommended to avoid impacts to hibernating bats or a maternity roost (typically April through August in southern California) when flightless young are present. To protect roosting bats, a combination of acoustic surveys of habitat around structures, structure inspection, and exit counts shall be used to survey the area that may be directly or indirectly impacted by the Project. As bats may utilize dense tree canopies, snags, or bridges over creeks/water, these habitat types should be specifically surveyed. Foraging areas should also be identified and specific flight routes to those foraging areas as well. Bats shall be identified to the most specific taxonomic level possible, and roosts shall be evaluated to determine their size and significance. Bat surveys shall include: 1) the exact location of all roosting sites (location shall be adequately described and drawn on a map); 2) the number of bats present at the time of visit (count or estimate); 3) each species of bat present shall be named (include how the species was identified); 4) the location, amount, distribution and age of all bat droppings shall be estimated, described and pinpointed on a map; 5) the type of roost; night roost (rest at night while out feeding) versus a day roost (maternity colony) must also be clearly stated; and 6) All survey results, including field data sheets should be provided to CDFW.	During installation of humane eviction/exclusion devices, inspect each crevice using flashlights or fiber optic scopes for the presence of day-roosting bats and take next steps as indicated in the measure. Conduct weekly inspections of exclusion devices while they are in place. Document results of inspections, the exact type of eviction device(s) installed, the installation and removal dates of all eviction and exclusion devices and include the documentation in the project file for 60 days after restoration is complete.		X X	X X		
During installation of humane eviction/exclusion devices, each crevice shall be inspected using flashlights or fiber optic scopes for the presence of						

Mitigation Measure	Implementation, Monitoring, and Reporting Action(s)	Responsibility	Monitoring Schedule			Approval/Completion Dates
			Before Restoration	During Restoration	Following Restoration	
day-roosting bats. At crevices where the absence of day-roosting bats is confirmed, the crevices immediately shall be sealed using materials such as foam backer rod or pipe insulation secured with adhesive to prevent bats from entering and using the crevices. At crevices where bats are visibly present or where absence cannot be confirmed, humane eviction devices shall be installed that would allow the bats to exit the crevice but prevent						
them from returning. The qualified biologist performing the humane eviction shall determine the exact type of eviction device to be installed and exclusionary device used. The eviction device shall remain in place for at least 14 days following installation to allow sufficient time for all the bats to vacate the crevice. After the exclusionary period, the eviction device shall be removed, and exclusion device installed. The exclusion device shall remain in place for the duration of work activities and shall be inspected weekly by a qualified biologist. All aspects of the humane eviction/exclusion of bats shall be supervised directly and monitored by a qualified biologist approved by CDFW. Following completion of activities that could impact roosting bats, the exclusion devices shall be removed by the contractor (under supervision of the qualified biologist) to allow bats to return to the roost crevices.						
Mitigation Measure BIO-3b: *Vector Management*. A Vector Control Plan shall be developed in consultation with the Los Angeles County West Vector & Vector-Borne Disease Control District to ensure that there are not increases in vector-spread disease associated with restoration activities. Integrated vector management, developed as part of the Vector Control Plan, shall combine ecological management, monitoring, and limited biological and chemical control to control vectors on-site. Nevertheless, the Vector Control Plan should include	Prior to implementation of restoration activities, develop and thereafter implement a Vector Control Plan (in consultation with the Los Angeles County West Vector & Vector-Borne Disease Control District) that satisfies the requirements of the mitigation measure. Retain a copy of the plan in the project file for 60 days after restoration is complete.	CDFW / Qualified Contractor	X	X	X	

Mitigation Measure	Implementation, Monitoring, and Reporting Action(s)	Responsibility	Monitoring Schedule			Approval/Completion Dates
			Before Restoration	During Restoration	Following Restoration	
the use of Bactimos PT or another insecticide that has BTI as an active ingredient. The Vector Control Plan also shall outline approved methods of control for other vectors, including rodents, without the use of rodenticides with the potential for secondary kill.						
Mitigation Measure BIO-9: *Crotch's Bumblebee.* Qualified biologist will conduct presence/absence surveys for the species prior to start of restoration activities. If a nest is located in an area that would be affected by restoration activities, CDFW will either create a buffer to avoid the nest or relocate the nest to a suitable area of the Ballona Reserve that would not be affected by restoration activities. Prior to any decision related to creating a buffer or relocating a nest, CDFW will consult, and rely on, the best available science at that time to inform the decision (including communicating with experts). Such updated science related to relocation could include, but not be limited to, information pertaining to delaying relocation as long as possible so that queens have a chance to emerge, relocating within their existing home range so nectar sources are familiar, relocating in the evening when bees are resting, and keeping the nest upright and level so not to spill nectar pots which are critical resources for the bees. If the bee is observed as contemplated in the paragraph above, monitoring for detection of Crotch's bumble bee post-restoration would occur as part of BIO-3 through vegetation monitoring, scheduled patrols, and other routine daily operational activities at Ballona Reserve. Depending on the monitoring results, CDFW will close and reroute public access, retain leaf litter, and augment habitat with pollinators as appropriate to ensure that take of the species is avoided.	Conduct presence/absence surveys for the species prior to start of restoration activities. If a nest is located, create a work buffer or relocate nest, as determined appropriate by biologist(s) at the time. If the bee is observed, monitoring for detection of Crotch's bumble bee post-restoration would occur as part of BIO-3 through vegetation monitoring, scheduled patrols, and other routine daily operational activities at Ballona Reserve. Depending on the monitoring results, CDFW will close and reroute public access, retain leaf litter, and augment habitat with pollinators as appropriate to ensure that take of the species is avoided.	CDFW / Qualified Biologist	X	X X		

Mitigation Measure	Implementation, Monitoring, and Reporting Action(s)	Responsibility	Monitoring Schedule			Approval/Completion Dates
			Before Restoration	During Restoration	Following Restoration	
Cultural Resources						
Mitigation Measure CR-1: *Archaeological Monitoring*. A Cultural Resources Monitoring Plan (CRMP) shall be developed and implemented for the Project. The CRMP also would be a component of a Historical Properties Treatment Plan (HPTP), per Section 106 of the NHPA, should the PA or MOA prepared for the project require an HPTP. A Secretary of the Interior Qualified archaeologist shall be retained to oversee preparation of the CRMP/HPTP, construction monitoring, and preparation of a final monitoring report. The qualified archaeologist shall develop the CRMP/HPTP based on Project design plans, the results of the archaeological and geoarchaeological studies prepared for the Project (Douglas et al. 2015; Lockwood 2015; Vader and Bever 2016), input from Native American representatives, and any other relevant information. The CRMP/HPTP shall provide measures for cultural resources construction worker sensitivity training; delineation of sensitive areas; archaeological and Native American monitoring; assessment and treatment of unanticipated discovery of archaeological resources and human remains; notification protocols; procedures for Native American coordination and input; weekly, monthly, and final reporting; and curation of cultural materials recovered during monitoring. The CRMP/HPTP shall be developed in coordination with CDFW, the Corps, and appropriate Native American representatives.	Prior to the initiation of on-site activities, retain a Secretary of the Interior-qualified archaeologist to oversee preparation of a Cultural Resources Monitoring Plan (CRMP) as a component of a Historical Properties Treatment Plan (HPTP), per Section 106 of the NHPA, should the PA or MOA prepared for the project require an HPTP; to oversee construction monitoring; and to prepare a final monitoring report. The CRMP/HPTP shall satisfy the requirements of the mitigation measure. Implement the CRMP/HPTP. Prepare and retain daily logs detailing the types of activities and soils observed, and any discoveries. Log any incident where the monitor halts and re-directs ground disturbing activities in the event of a discovery pending assessment, and the outcome of that assessment. CDFW to retain the CRMP/HPTP, logs and any reports in the permanent project file.	CDFW / Qualified Archaeologist / Qualified Monitor	X X X X	X X X	X	
The CRMP/HPTP shall specify the roles and responsibilities of involved parties, and also shall specify the location, duration and timing of monitoring, which minimally shall occur in areas of high or moderate sensitivity, and from the time of initial ground disturbance (which could include grading, vegetation removal, brush clearance, excavation, and other activities) until a depth at which the potential to encounter buried archaeological deposits is greatly reduced. These						

Mitigation Measure	Implementation, Monitoring, and Reporting Action(s)	Responsibility	Monitoring Schedule			Approval/Completion Dates
			Before Restoration	During Restoration	Following Restoration	
sensitive areas will include, minimally, archaeological sites CA-LAN-54 and CA-LAN-3784H (including a suitable buffer of at least 100 feet), and areas identified as highly sensitive in the geoarchaeological study. These areas shall be identified in maps to guide monitoring. The CRMP/HPTP shall						
Cultural Resources (cont.)						
outline procedures for determining when/where monitoring may be reduced or discontinued in consultation among CDFW, the Corps (in cases of an HPTP), qualified archaeologist, and appropriate Native American representatives. The CRMP/HPTP shall stipulate that archaeological monitoring shall be conducted by an archaeological monitor familiar with the types of resources that could be encountered and that the archaeological monitor shall keep daily logs detailing the types of activities and soils observed, and any discoveries. Monitors shall be empowered to halt and re-direct ground disturbing activities in the event of a discovery until it has been assessed for significance and treatment implemented, if necessary. The CRMP/HPTP shall state that avoidance or preservation in place shall be the preferred means of mitigating impacts to historical resources and unique archaeological resources but will provide procedures to follow should avoidance be infeasible (see Mitigation Measure CR-3).						

Mitigation Measure	Implementation, Monitoring, and Reporting Action(s)	Responsibility	Monitoring Schedule			Approval/Completion Dates
			Before Restoration	During Restoration	Following Restoration	
Mitigation Measure CR-2: *Native American Monitoring*. CDFW shall retain a Native American monitor who is traditionally and culturally affiliated with the Project site to carry out the monitoring as required by the CRMP/HPTP in CR-1. The monitor shall also be empowered to halt and re-direct work in the event of a discovery until it has been assessed for significance and treatment implemented, if necessary. The provisions of the Native American monitoring plan will be included in the CRMP/HPTP.	Retain a Native American monitor who is traditionally and culturally affiliated with the Project site to carry out monitoring in accordance with this mitigation measure. Include the provisions of the Native American monitoring plan in the CRMP/HPTP. CDFW to retain the CRMP/HPTP, with the provisions of the Native American monitoring plan included, in the permanent project file.	CDFW	X X X	 X	 X	
Mitigation Measure CR-3: *Treatment of Unanticipated Discoveries*. The CRMP/HPTP developed as part of Mitigation Measure CR-1 shall include protocols for the assessment and treatment of any unanticipated discoveries of archaeological resources during Project implementation, including procedures for assessing the significance of the resources according to the National Register and California Register. To accomplish this, the	Include in the CRMP/HPTP protocols for the assessment and treatment of any unanticipated discoveries of archaeological resources during Project implementation. Assure that such protocols satisfy the requirements of this mitigation measure.	CDFW / Qualified Archaeologist	X			
Cultural Resources (cont.)						
unanticipated discoveries component of the CRMP/HPTP will contain: 1. A research design to be used to guide the evaluation of cultural resources, including a regional cultural setting, appropriate regional research questions, and field methods for the testing and evaluation of cultural resources. 2. Prescribed actions to be taken in the event that unanticipated cultural resources are discovered during construction, or known resources are impacted in an unanticipated manner, consistent with Mitigation Measure CR-1, including (but not limited to): a. Notification procedures	CDFW to retain the CRMP/HPTP (with these protocols included, as well as related documentation, recovery plan(s), research and reports, in the permanent project file.		X	X	X	

Mitigation Measure	Implementation, Monitoring, and Reporting Action(s)	Responsibility	Monitoring Schedule			Approval/Completion Dates
			Before Restoration	During Restoration	Following Restoration	
b. Establishment of buffers for resources that will be avoided c. Documentation of resources on DPR forms d. Inspection of the resource(s) by a qualified archaeologist e. Evaluation of the resource for listing in the California Register and National Register, or as a unique archaeological resource under CEQA, and as a contributor to the BLAD f. Monitoring of construction in the vicinity of the resource per Mitigation Measures CR-1 and CR-2 3. Treatment protocols for significant cultural resources that cannot be avoided, to be developed in consultation with CDFW, the Corps, the SHPO and appropriate Native American representatives, shall include but not be limited to: a. Data recovery excavation, with preparation of an attendant data recovery plan b. Surface artifact collection c. Further site documentation, including photography, collection of oral histories, preparation of a						
Cultural Resources (cont.)						
scholarly work, or some form of public awareness or interpretation d. Special studies where sufficient data exists, including but not limited to radiocarbon dating, residue analysis, sourcing and other materials analysis e. Historical research, as appropriate, with the aim to target the recovery of important scientific or other data contained in the						

Mitigation Measure	Implementation, Monitoring, and Reporting Action(s)	Responsibility	Monitoring Schedule			Approval/Completion Dates
			Before Restoration	During Restoration	Following Restoration	
portion of the significant resource to be impacted by the project f. A report documenting the methods and results of the treatment of the resource						
Mitigation Measure CR-4: *Compliance with Secretary of Interior's Standards*. CDFW shall retain a Secretary of the Interior qualified architectural historian to ensure compliance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards regarding the re-use of the Pacific Electric Railroad Bridge Abutments. The architectural historian shall prepare a character-defining features memorandum that outlines the characteristics of the bridge that convey its significance and that must be retained. In addition, the architectural historian shall provide guidance on the types of bridge spans that would be consistent with the Standards. The architectural historian shall review and approve the preliminary and final bridge design plans to confirm that it conforms to the Standards. The architectural historian shall also monitor construction of the new bridge span to ensure that the Project does not inadvertently damage or alter the character-defining features of the bridge abutments. Further, post-restoration plans for maintenance and repair of the bridge will need to be developed with input from an architectural historian and in accordance with the Standards to ensure that post-restoration use of the bridge will not impact the resource.	Prior to undertaking any activities that may impact the Pacific Electric Railroad Bridge Abutments, retain a Secretary of the Interior qualified architectural historian to ensure compliance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards regarding the re-use of the abutments. Prepare the memorandum and provide the guidance, review and approval described in the measure. Provide confirmation of conformity, and monitor bridge construction. Prior to completion of bridge construction, develop post-restoration plans for maintenance and repair of the bridge. CDFW to retain the memorandum, documentation of the confirmation of conformity and a copy of post-restoration plans for maintenance and repair of the bridge in the permanent project file.	CDFW/ Secretary of the Interior qualified architectural historian	X X	X X X X	 X	

Mitigation Measure	Implementation, Monitoring, and Reporting Action(s)	Responsibility	Monitoring Schedule			Approval/Completion Dates
			Before Restoration	During Restoration	Following Restoration	
Cultural Resources (cont.)						
	Prior to the commencement of grading, prepare a Paleontological Resources Impact Mitigation Plan (PRIMP) that complies with the requirements of this measure. Contribute to any construction worker cultural resources sensitivity training. CDFW to retain a copy of the PRIMP and documentation of the content of any construction worker cultural resources sensitivity training in the permanent project file.	CDFW / Qualified Paleontologist / Qualified Monitor	X X X	 X X	 X	

Mitigation Measure	Implementation, Monitoring, and Reporting Action(s)	Responsibility	Monitoring Schedule			Approval/Completion Dates
			Before Restoration	During Restoration	Following Restoration	
Mitigation Measure CR-5: *Paleontological Resources Impact Mitigation Plan*. A Paleontological Resources Impact Mitigation Plan (PRIMP) shall be prepared prior to the start of restoration. The PRIMP shall be developed by a qualified paleontologist (defined as a paleontologist meeting the SVP Standards). The PRIMP shall identify areas where depth of excavation will extend into areas that are considered moderately to highly sensitive for paleontological resources, based on the final grading plans. Paleontological resource requirements shall be incorporated as a note on the grading plan cover sheet. The PRIMP shall include, but not be limited to: 1) During excavations in areas underlain by geologic units identified as having moderate to high paleontological sensitivity per the SVP guidelines and likely to contain paleontologic resources, a qualified vertebrate paleontologist, shall direct the paleontological monitoring. Areas of concern include all previously undisturbed paleontologically sensitive sediments of the fossiliferous San Pedro Sand (Qsp) and excavations beyond a depth of five feet into Quaternary alluvium (Qa). As shown in Table 3.5-1, Quaternary alluvium (Qa) underlies most areas of the project. San Pedro Sand (Qsp) underlies portions of South and Southeast Area B. Specific areas that will require monitoring will be developed in the PRMP based on the most current design plans. If no significant fossils are found, then, after an adequate amount of time, which the SVP (2010) considers to be 50% of the monitoring duration, the frequency of monitoring may be adjusted at the discretion of the qualified paleontologist. 2) Paleontological monitors shall be equipped to salvage fossils as unearthed to avoid construction delays, collect necessary						

Mitigation Measure	Implementation, Monitoring, and Reporting Action(s)	Responsibility	Monitoring Schedule			Approval/Completion Dates
			Before Restoration	During Restoration	Following Restoration	
paleontological data, and to remove samples of sediments likely to contain the remains of small fossil invertebrates and vertebrates. If it is determined by the qualified paleontologist that appropriate sediments are present that may yield						
Cultural Resources (cont.)						
significant microvertebrates, a test sample should be collected per the SVP (2010) guidelines. If scientifically significant microvertebrates are recovered from the test sample, the PRIMP shall direct the qualified paleontologist or paleontological monitor to collect and screen a standard sample per the SVP (2010) guidelines. Monitors shall be empowered to temporarily halt or divert equipment to allow removal of abundant or large specimens. 3) The PRIMP shall stipulate that the preparation of recovered specimens shall be conducted to a point of identification and permanent preservation, including washing of sediments to recover small invertebrates and vertebrates. Preparation and stabilization of all recovered fossils are essential in order to fully mitigate adverse impacts to the resources. 4) The PRIMP shall specify that the identification and curation of specimens into an established museum repository with permanent retrievable paleontologic storage. These procedures are also essential steps in effective paleontological mitigation and CEQA compliance. The paleontologist should have a written repository agreement in hand prior to the initiation of mitigation activities. Mitigation of adverse impacts to						

Mitigation Measure	Implementation, Monitoring, and Reporting Action(s)	Responsibility	Monitoring Schedule			Approval/Completion Dates
			Before Restoration	During Restoration	Following Restoration	
significant paleontologic resources is not complete until such curation into an established museum repository has been fully completed and documented. 5) The PRIMP shall detail the preparation of a report of findings with an appended itemized inventory of specimens. The report and inventory, when submitted to the appropriate Lead Agency along with confirmation of the curation of recovered specimens into an established, accredited museum repository, would signify completion of the PRIMP to mitigate impacts to paleontologic resources. Included in the report will be recommendations for post-restoration management protocols that might be necessary to						
Cultural Resources (cont.)						
reduce indirect impacts following project completion. These could include management requirements for restricting access to significant paleontological resources through a combination of law enforcement, protective enclosures, land access restrictions, or other means. The final PRIMP shall be submitted to and approved by the CDFW and the Corps prior to commencement of grading in the Ballona Reserve. The qualified paleontologist also shall contribute to any construction worker cultural resources sensitivity training, either in person or via a module provided to the qualified archaeologist.						
Mitigation Measure CR-6: *Discovery of Human Remains*. If human remains are encountered, the construction contractor shall immediately halt work in the vicinity (within 100 feet) of the find, notify CDFW and the Corps of the find, and unless CDFW decides to initiate contact, the construction contractor shall contact the Los Angeles County	If human remains are encountered, immediately halt work within 100 feet of the find, notify CDFW and the Corps of the find, and unless CDFW decides to initiate contact directly, contact the Los Angeles County Coroner and take next steps in accordance with the mitigation measure.	CDFW/ the Corps/ Construction Contractor		X		

Mitigation Measure	Implementation, Monitoring, and Reporting Action(s)	Responsibility	Monitoring Schedule			Approval/Completion Dates
			Before Restoration	During Restoration	Following Restoration	
Coroner in accordance with Public Resources Code Section 5097.98 and Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5. If the County Coroner determines that the remains are Native American, the NAHC will be notified in accordance with Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5(c), and Public Resources Code Section 5097.98 (as amended by AB 2641). The NAHC will designate a Most Likely Descendant (MLD) for the remains per Public Resources Code Section 5097.98. Until the CDFW has conferred with the MLD and determined an appropriate course of action for protection, avoidance, or removal and disposition of the remains, CDFW and the Corps shall ensure that the immediate vicinity where the discovery occurred is not disturbed by further activity, is adequately protected according to generally accepted cultural or archaeological standards or practices, and that further activities take into account the possibility of multiple burials.	If necessary, a Most Likely Descendant (MLD) for the remains shall be identified, CDFW will confer with the MLD and determine an appropriate course of action. Ensure that the area within 100 feet of the discovery is not disturbed by further activity, adequately protect the discovery, and in conducting further activities take into account the possibility of multiple burials. If needed, CDFW and/or qualified paleontologist to develop and maintain a log of discoveries pursuant to this measure and responsive actions taken. CDFW to retain the log in the permanent project file.			X X X	X		

Mitigation Measure	Implementation, Monitoring, and Reporting Action(s)	Responsibility	Monitoring Schedule			Approval/Completion Dates
			Before Restoration	During Restoration	Following Restoration	
Geology, Seismicity, and Soils						
Mitigation Measure GEO-1b: *Geotechnical Recommendations.* As a condition of approval, CDFW shall require that all the recommendations made in the July 1, 2013 Geotechnical Investigation Report for the Ballona Restoration Project by Group Delta Consultants, including revisions in response to Corps comments, are incorporated as part of Project designs. Recommendations that are applicable to earthwork, site preparation, levee design, and foundation design that were prepared for the project shall be incorporated in the Project. The final seismic considerations as well as recommendations for all other identified geotechnical hazards (including but not limited to expansive soils) for the site shall be in accordance with all current design requirements of the most recent California Building Code and any current Corps' standards. All recommendations and plans for all improvements proposed as part of the project shall be submitted to and approved of by the County and the Corps prior to the commencement of any groundbreaking activities.	Prior to the commencement of any groundbreaking activities, incorporate in final project designs all recommendations made by Group Delta Consultants in its July 1, 2013 Geotechnical Investigation Report for the Project. CDFW to retain a copy of the report, final project plans, and documentation of County and Corps approval in the permanent project file.	CDFW/ the Corps/ the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works-Flood Control District (collectively, "LACFCD")	X X	 X	 X	
Mitigation Measure GEO-1c: *Geotechnical Investigation and Report.* No Longer Necessary						

Mitigation Measure	Implementation, Monitoring, and Reporting Action(s)	Responsibility	Monitoring Schedule			Approval/Completion Dates
			Before Restoration	During Restoration	Following Restoration	
Geology, Seismicity, and Soils (cont.)						
Mitigation Measure GEO-4: *Corrosive Soil Testing.* Any native or other fill soils that contact concrete or metal foundation elements of structures constructed under the Project shall be tested for corrosivity. Those soils, as determined by laboratory analysis and reviewed by a California licensed geotechnical engineer, that exceed acceptable thresholds of corrosivity shall be managed in accordance with recommendations of a qualified geotechnical engineer or corrosion engineer. Engineering recommendations could include soil reconditioning through mixing with non-corrosive soils, replacement of the corrosive soils in the vicinity of the foundation, or corrosion reducing systems for exposed metal such as "sacrificial anodes." In addition, the contractor shall use Type II cement for all concrete and steel foundation work to further reduce the potential for degradation of concrete through corrosion.	Test native or other fill soils that could contact concrete or metal foundation elements of structures constructed under the Project for corrosivity and implement any resulting engineering. Use Type II cement for all concrete and steel foundation work to further reduce the potential for degradation of concrete through corrosion. CDFW to retain report or other documentation of the results of the corrosivity testing and documentation of use of Type II cement in the project file for 60 days after the completion of restoration,	CDFW/ Licensed Contractor	X X	X X X	 X	
Hydrology and Water Quality						
Mitigation Measure WQ-1a-i: *Monitoring and Adaptive Management Plan (MAMP).* A Monitoring and Adaptive Management Plan (MAMP) (Appendix F11 of the EIS/EIR) shall be prepared and implemented. The MAMP shall provide a framework for the assessment of the Project and watershed using the TMDL targets as assessment metrics. The MAMP shall use both Project monitoring, the sediment and water quality data gathered from the TMDL monitoring conducted by the Permittees (designated parties listed in the Ballona Creek and Ballona Creek Estuary TMDLs who are under a state-wide or LARWQCB NPDES MS4 Stormwater Permit), and monitoring conducted by the Corps in the Marina del Rey harbor entrance channel to determine if impairment conditions exist and provide protocols for any further measures to meet TMDLs and dredging requirements. The assessment of the	Prepare and, for the duration of the project implement, a Monitoring and Adaptive Management Plan (MAMP) that substantially conforms to the draft provided in Draft EIS/EIR Appendix F11 and satisfies the requirements of this mitigation measure. CDFW shall retain a copy of the MAMP and documentation of the results of water level and other monitoring efforts conducted pursuant thereto in the permanent project file. Coordinate with the Corps if/as indicated.	CDFW/ the Corps	X	X X X	X X X	

Mitigation Measure	Implementation, Monitoring, and Reporting Action(s)	Responsibility	Monitoring Schedule			Approval/Completion Dates
			Before Restoration	During Restoration	Following Restoration	
effectiveness of the Project features and watershed measures (conducted by the Permittees) shall be determined through comparisons to the Sediment Quality Objectives (SQOs) and fish tissue						

Mitigation Measure	Implementation, Monitoring, and Reporting Action(s)	Responsibility	Monitoring Schedule			Approval/Completion Dates
			Before Restoration	During Restoration	Following Restoration	
Hydrology and Water Quality (cont.)						
targets. If the SQO analysis indicated an impaired or likely impaired condition, then further source and delineation monitoring shall be conducted. Depending on the source of the impairment, reparative measures shall be implemented by the Permittees, or in cooperation with parties as outlined in the MAMP framework to reduce the impacts to sediment to below the SQOs and fish tissue targets. SQOs shall be the regulatory target used to protect against negative biological impacts and are considered the performance standard to identify negative impacts. In the event that sediment quality impairments are found to be a result of the project, the sediment shall be excavated and disposed of off-site or buried beneath uncontaminated material on-site. If sediment quality impairments in the Marina del Rey harbor entrance channel are found to be a result of the project, CDFW shall coordinate with the Corps to develop a mutually agreed upon course of action, which could include participating in reparative measures proportional to the amount of increased impairment due to the project. Additionally, the MAMP shall monitor and address any changes in sediment deposition in the entrance of Marina del Rey after project implementation is complete. The plan shall use bathymetric data collected by the Corps to determine if deposition has increased substantially after completion of the project. If substantial deposition is identified, CDFW shall coordinate with the Corps to develop a mutually agreed upon course of action, which could include participating in dredging proportional to the amount of increased deposition due to the project. Dredged material shall be disposed of back in the marsh by spraying a slurry of sediment in a thin layer across the marshplain or disposed of on- or off-site by other means in accordance with necessary permits or						

Mitigation Measure	Implementation, Monitoring, and Reporting Action(s)	Responsibility	Monitoring Schedule			Approval/Completion Dates
			Before Restoration	During Restoration	Following Restoration	
other approvals. The MAMP would ensure that any increases to deposition would be monitored and						

Mitigation Measure	Implementation, Monitoring, and Reporting Action(s)	Responsibility	Monitoring Schedule			Approval/Completion Dates
			Before Restoration	During Restoration	Following Restoration	
Hydrology and Water Quality (cont.)						
addressed in order to maintain boat access to the Marina consistent with historic dredging efforts. The MAMP would also monitor water levels in South and Southeast Area B to determine operation of the culverts in order to prevent flooding. Over time, flap gates would be installed on the culverts as part of Alternative 1 to limit the flow into South and Southeast Area B. Initial modeling indicated that adding a flap gate every 25 years would maintain the current level of flood protection, but the MAMP would ensure that water levels were monitored so that flap gates could be added as needed to maintain an acceptable level of flood risk.						
Mitigation Measure WQ-1a-ii: *Sampling and Analysis Plan (SAP)*. A SAP shall be prepared and implemented prior to commencement of restoration and construction activities to identify any levels of constituents that may have been missed in previous sampling efforts. The results of the sediment sampling shall determine which materials shall be used as wetland surfaces (highest quality), as wetland foundation, or buried in the uplands (lowest quality) in accordance with the ER-Ls and ER-Ms developed by Long et al. (1995). The SAP shall also include, without limitation:	Prior to commencement of restoration and construction activities, prepare and implement a SAP that includes the content and otherwise satisfies the requirements of this measure. During excavation, collect and label soil and groundwater samples from any excavations that encounter groundwater; analyze the samples in accordance with the requirements of this measure.	CDFW / Qualified Contractor(s)	X	X		
a) In addition to the sampling and analysis of soil as identified in the SAP, soil and groundwater samples shall also be collected from any excavations that encounter groundwater. The soil samples shall be collected at or just below the static water level to sample soil that may have been affected by contaminated groundwater migrating from offsite properties. Each soil sample shall be labeled with a unique sample identification number, placed into plastic bags in coolers with ice packs, along with the appropriate chain of custody	Transport any soil or groundwater material that cannot be reused on site (for any of the specified reasons) via a DTSC-licensed hazardous waste hauler for disposal at an offsite disposal facility licensed to receive the contaminated soil and groundwater. Consider alternative disposal options, such as onsite burial, for soil and groundwater found not to contain contaminates or having concentrations below the regulatory thresholds.		X	X	X	

Mitigation Measure	Implementation, Monitoring, and Reporting Action(s)	Responsibility	Monitoring Schedule			Approval/Completion Dates
			Before Restoration	During Restoration	Following Restoration	
documentation, and delivered to the analytical testing laboratory within the required testing method holding times.	CDFW to retain in the permanent project file a copy of the SAP and testing results; and to document and retain documentation (depending on the results) of on-site use or of transportation					
Hydrology and Water Quality (cont.)						
b) All soil samples collected for the analyses described below shall be collected into Teflon-lined metal or plastic tubes and sealed to minimize the loss of volatile compounds. The groundwater samples shall be collected into glass bottles with Teflon-lined lids and the appropriate preservatives to seal in and preserve volatile compounds, if any. Each sample shall be labeled with a unique sample identification number, placed into plastic bags in coolers with ice packs, along with the appropriate chain of custody documentation, and delivered to the analytical testing laboratory within the required testing method holding times. c) All soil and groundwater samples shall be analyzed for petroleum hydrocarbons using US EPA Test Method 8015 or equivalent, including a silica gel cleanup (USEPA Test Method 3630C or equivalent) to remove naturally occurring polar non-petroleum hydrocarbons that could interfere with the analyses. d) All soil and groundwater samples shall be analyzed for VOCs using USEPA Test Method 8260 or equivalent (at a minimum, the test methods shall be capable of detecting PCE). e) Following receipt of laboratory results of the chemical testing, soil or groundwater material that exceeds the reuse screening levels, CHHSLs, or PRGs and cannot be reused on site shall be transported by a DTSC-licensed hazardous waste hauler and disposed of at an offsite disposal facility licensed to receive the contaminated soil	and disposal activities (i.e., the dates, names and license information of approved haulers; and the delivery dates and destinations of the disposal facility(ies).					

Mitigation Measure	Implementation, Monitoring, and Reporting Action(s)	Responsibility	Monitoring Schedule			Approval/Completion Dates
			Before Restoration	During Restoration	Following Restoration	
and groundwater. Alternative disposal options, such as onsite burial, shall be considered for soil and groundwater found not to contain contaminates or having concentrations below the regulatory thresholds.						
Noise						
Mitigation Measure NOI-1-i: The construction contractor(s) shall locate stationary noise sources as far as possible from noise-sensitive uses, to the extent feasible, and ensure that they are muffled and enclosed within temporary sheds, incorporate insulation barriers, or other measures to the extent feasible.	Prior to initiating construction activities that require use of stationary noise sources, identify on a map the closest noise-sensitive receptors to the work area and locate the stationary noise sources as far from them as possible; ensure that stationary noise sources are muffled and enclosed within temporary sheds, incorporate insulation barriers, or other measures to the extent feasible. CDFW or its contractors to prepare (and retain in the project file for 60 days after the completion of restoration) maps and photographs documenting compliance with this mitigation measure.	CDFW/Construction Contractors	X X	X X	 X	
Mitigation Measure NOI-1-ii: All mobile off-road construction equipment operating at the Project site shall be equipped with properly operating mufflers.	Before operating mobile off-road construction equipment at the Project Site, equip the equipment with properly operating mufflers. CDFW or its contractor(s) to log each piece of mobile off-road construction equipment at first entry onto the Project site, note in the log the standard to be used for each type of equipment to determine "proper operation," and thereafter to document weekly for the duration that each piece continues in operation at the site that its muffler is operating properly. If improper operation is determined, CDFW or its contractor will cease use of the piece of equipment until the condition is rectified.	CDFW/Construction Contractors	X	X X	 X	

Mitigation Measure	Implementation, Monitoring, and Reporting Action(s)	Responsibility	Monitoring Schedule			Approval/Completion Dates
			Before Restoration	During Restoration	Following Restoration	
	CDFW to retain the log in the project file for 60 days after the completion of restoration.					
Noise (cont.)						
Mitigation Measure NOI-1-iii: Restoration-phase activities shall, to the extent feasible, be scheduled so as to avoid operating several pieces of heavy diesel-powered equipment simultaneously, which causes high noise levels.	For the duration of restoration, schedule activities so as to avoid operating multiple pieces of heavy diesel-powered equipment simultaneously, such that the noise level exceeds established standard at the property boundary. CDFW or its contractor(s) to log construction noise measurements once per day at the property boundary closest to the nearest noise-sensitive receptor to the project work, and to maintain and retain the log in the project file for 60 days after the completion of restoration.	CDFW/Construction Contractors		X X	 X	
Mitigation Measure NOI-1-iv: Temporary barriers such as plywood structures or flexible sound control curtains at least 8 feet in height shall be erected, to the extent feasible, around the perimeter of the active work area to minimize the amount of noise on the surrounding sensitive receptors during noise-generating restoration activities.	Prior to engaging in noise-generating restoration activities that, collectively, would generate noise in exceedance of established thresholds at the property boundary, erect temporary barriers that meet the requirements of this measure. CDFW, (or on the SoCalGas Property, the SoCalGas Company), or their contractor(s) to photograph or otherwise document the erection of temporary barriers and to document and log compliant noise measurements once per day at the property boundary closest to the nearest noise-sensitive receptor to the project work. The entity responsible for the monitoring shall maintain and retain the log in a project file for 30 days after the completion of the subject noise-generating restoration activities.	CDFW/ SoCalGas Company/ Contractors		X X X	 X	

Mitigation Measure	Implementation, Monitoring, and Reporting Action(s)	Responsibility	Monitoring Schedule			Approval/Completion Dates
			Before Restoration	During Restoration	Following Restoration	
Noise (cont.)						
Mitigation Measure NOI-1-v: Project-related noise levels at the property line of the multi-family residential buildings located west of Area A and north of West Area B in the County of Los Angeles shall undergo spot check monitoring with a sound level meter that meets the requirements identified in Chapter 12.08 (Noise Control) of the County of Los Angeles Municipal Code to ensure that noise levels from the Project's implementation activities would not exceed 80 dBA at multi-family residences during active work hours. Where noise levels exceeding 80 dBA are detected, the construction contractor must be notified immediately, and corrective actions must be implemented to reduce the noise levels to below 80 dBA. These corrective actions may include, but are not limited to, the erection of a noise barrier along the boundary of the Project site or the reduction in the amount of construction equipment operating concurrently to meet the County's noise standards for mobile equipment.	Conduct spot check monitoring during active work hours with a sound level meter that meets the requirements of this measure at the property line of the multi-family residential buildings located west of Area A and north of West Area B in the County of Los Angeles at least once per week during active restoration. CDFW to prepare and maintain a log of dates and measurements, and to retain it in the project file for 60 days after the completion of restoration.	CDFW / Construction Contractors		X X	X	
Mitigation Measure NOI-1-vi: All construction staging areas during site restoration activities shall be located to maximize the distance between staging areas and occupied residential structures.	During site restoration activities, locate all construction staging areas to maximize the distance between staging areas and occupied residential structures. To document compliance with this measure, indicate on a map the location of all staging areas (including start and end dates of the use of each area) relative to occupied residential structures. CDFW to retain the documentation in the project file for 60 days after the completion of restoration.	CDFW/Construction Contractors		X X	X	
Mitigation Measure NOI-1-vii: Two weeks prior to the commencement of restoration activities within Area A; North, East, Southeast, South, or West Area B; North or South Area C; or the SoCalGas Property, notification must be provided to all existing off-site residential uses located directly adjacent to the	Two weeks prior to the commencement of restoration activities within Area A; North, East, Southeast, South, or West Area B; North or South Area C; or the SoCalGas Property, provide notification to all existing off-site residential uses located directly adjacent to	CDFW / SoCal Gas / Construction Contractor	X			

Mitigation Measure	Implementation, Monitoring, and Reporting Action(s)	Responsibility	Monitoring Schedule			Approval/Completion Dates
			Before Restoration	During Restoration	Following Restoration	
active work area that discloses the general work schedule, including the various types of activities and equipment that would be occurring throughout the duration of the construction period.	the active work area that discloses the general work schedule, including the various types of activities and equipment to occur throughout the duration of the construction period.					
Noise (cont.)						
	CDFW to maintain a copy of the notification sent for each of the designated areas in the project file for 60 days after the completion of restoration.		X	X	X	
Mitigation Measure NOI-1-viii: Signs shall be posted at the Project site that include permitted workdays and hours, a contact number for the job site, and a contact number with the appropriate CDFW enforcement officers.	At least three days prior to the initiation of active restoration work, post signage identifying permitted workdays and hours, a contact number for the job site, and a contact number with the appropriate CDFW enforcement officers and stockpiling activities, confirm presence (or replace) signage. Thereafter, weekly for the duration of active restoration, confirm continue presence or replace the signage. CDFW or contractor(s) to prepare and maintain a log of monitoring and any replacement activities and will retain it in project file for 60 calendar days after the conclusion of restoration.	CDFW / SoCal Gas / Contractor(s)	X	 X	 X	
Mitigation Measure NOI-1-ix: All Project noise-generating activities occurring in Area A shall be limited to the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. from Monday through Saturday and prohibited on Sundays or holidays as permitted under the County of Los Angeles Municipal Code, and all Project noise-generating activities occurring in Areas B and C and on the SoCalGas Property shall be limited to the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. from Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 6 p.m. on any Saturday or national holiday, and prohibited on Sundays as permitted under the City of Los Angeles Municipal	Limit all project noise-generating activities occurring in Area A to the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. from Monday through Saturday. Prohibit project noise-generating activities on Sundays or holidays as permitted under the County of Los Angeles Municipal Code. Limit all project noise-generating activities occurring in Areas B and C and on the SoCalGas Property to the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. from Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 6 p.m. on any Saturday or national holiday, and prohibit them on	CDFW/ SoCalGas Company/ Contractors		X X		

Mitigation Measure	Implementation, Monitoring, and Reporting Action(s)	Responsibility	Monitoring Schedule			Approval/Completion Dates
			Before Restoration	During Restoration	Following Restoration	
Code, unless otherwise authorized or exempted under each of the respective municipal codes.	Sundays as permitted under the City of Los Angeles Municipal Code, unless otherwise authorized or exempted under each of the respective municipal codes.					
Noise (cont.)						
	To document compliance, CDFW (or the SoCalGas Company for work on the SoCalGas Property) or contractors shall log workday start and end times at least once every 7 days. CDFW (or the SoCalGas Company) shall retain a copy of the log in the project file for 60 days after the conclusion of project work within the Ballona Reserve or the SoCalGas Company Property, respectively.			X	X	
Mitigation Measure NOI-2: The operation of construction equipment at the Project site that generates high levels of vibration, such as large bulldozers, loaded trucks, and drill rigs, shall be prohibited within 100 feet of existing residential structures in both the County of Los Angeles and City of Los Angeles during restoration activities. Instead, small rubber-tired bulldozers, which generate vibration levels as low as 0.003 in/sec at 25 feet, shall be used within these areas during site preparation, grading, and excavation operations to ensure that vibration levels experienced at the off-site receptors would not be perceptible.	During site preparation, grading, and excavation activities, prohibit operation of construction equipment at the Project site that generates levels of vibration comparable to large bulldozers, loaded trucks, or drill rigs within 100 feet of existing residential structures in both the County of Los Angeles and City of Los Angeles. Instead, within these areas, document use of small rubber-tired bulldozers. To document compliance with this measure, CDFW or its contractor to mark and photograph the 100-foot area in each location, log start and end dates of work within the boundary, and sign the log attesting to compliance for each relevant workday. CDFW to retain the log and related documentation in the project file for 60 days after the conclusion of restoration.	CDFW/Construction Contractors		X X	X	
Transportation and Traffic						
Mitigation Measure TRANS-1a: Construction Traffic Management Plan. The construction contractor(s) shall prepare a construction traffic management plan for each phase of the Project at the time of final	At the time of final design, prior to commencement of onsite restoration activities, prepare a Construction Traffic	CDFW / Contractor(s)	X			

Mitigation Measure	Implementation, Monitoring, and Reporting Action(s)	Responsibility	Monitoring Schedule			Approval/Completion Dates
			Before Restoration	During Restoration	Following Restoration	
design, prior to commencement of construction. This Plan would address details related to haul routes, dust control, noise control and City and County regulations. The construction management plan ensures that the construction activities and workers follow the City regulations and provides	Management Plan that complies with the requirements in the mitigation measure. Coordinate with the local transit providers to enable temporary bus routes or bus stop relocations within work zones as necessary.			X		
Transportation and Traffic (cont.)						
details of activities planned on-site. The Plan shall be developed on the basis of detailed design plans for the approved project, and shall include, but not necessarily be limited to, the elements listed below: a) Develop circulation and detour plans to minimize impacts on local streets. Haul routes that minimize truck traffic on local roadways and residential streets shall be used. As necessary, warning lights, signage and/or flaggers shall be used to guide vehicles through the construction work areas. b) Control and monitor construction vehicle movements by enforcing standard construction specifications through periodic on-site inspections. c) Install traffic control devices where traffic conditions warrant, as specified in the applicable jurisdiction's standards (e.g., the California Manual of Uniform Traffic Controls for Construction and Maintenance Work Zones). d) Schedule truck trips outside of peak morning and evening commute hours to minimize adverse impacts on traffic flow (i.e., if agencies with jurisdiction over the affected roads identify highly congested roadway segments during their review of the encroachment permit applications). e) Post detour signs along affected roadways to notify motorists of alternative routes. f) Perform construction that crosses on street and off-street bikeways, sidewalks, and other	CDFW to retain a copy of the Construction Traffic Management Plan for each phase in the project file, together with email(s) or other documentation of outreach to local transit providers, in the project file for 60 days after the conclusion of restoration.		X	X	X	

Mitigation Measure	Implementation, Monitoring, and Reporting Action(s)	Responsibility	Monitoring Schedule			Approval/Completion Dates
			Before Restoration	During Restoration	Following Restoration	
walkways in a manner that allows for safe access for bicyclists and pedestrians. Alternatively, provide safe detours to reroute affected bicycle/pedestrian traffic. g) At least two weeks prior to construction, post signage along all potentially affected roadways, recreational trails, bicycle routes, and pedestrian pathways, to warn motorists, bicyclists, and pedestrians of construction activities. The signs shall include information regarding the nature of construction						
Transportation and Traffic (cont.)						
activities, duration, and detour routes. Signage shall be composed of or encased in weatherproof material and posted in conspicuous locations for the duration of the closure period. At the end of the closure period, the contractors shall retrieve all notice materials. h) Construction activities shall be scheduled to minimize impacts during heavy recreational use periods (e.g., weekends and holidays). i) Implement a public information program to notify motorists, bicyclists, nearby residents, and adjacent businesses of the impending construction activities (e.g., media coverage, email notices, websites, etc.). Notices of the location(s) and timing of road closures shall be published in local newspapers and on available websites to allow motorists to select alternative routes. j) Store all equipment and materials in designated contractor staging areas. k) Maintain alternate one-way traffic flow past the construction zones where possible. l) Install detour signs to direct traffic to alternative routes around the closed road segment if alternate one-way traffic flow cannot be maintained past the construction zone.						

Mitigation Measure	Implementation, Monitoring, and Reporting Action(s)	Responsibility	Monitoring Schedule			Approval/Completion Dates
			Before Restoration	During Restoration	Following Restoration	
m) Limit lane closures during peak hours. n) Restore roads and streets to normal operation by covering trenches with steel plates outside of normal work hours or when work is not in progress. o) Comply with roadside safety protocols to reduce the risk of accidents. Provide "Road Work Ahead" warning signs and speed control (including signs informing drivers of state legislated double fines for speed infractions in a construction zone) to achieve required speed reductions for safe traffic flow through						
Transportation and Traffic (cont.)						
the work zones. Train construction personnel to apply appropriate safety measures as described in the Construction Traffic Management Plan. p) Maintain access for emergency vehicles at all times. Coordinate with facility owners or administrators of sensitive land uses such as police and fire stations, transit stations, hospitals, and schools. Provide advance notification to local police, fire, and emergency service providers of the timing, location, and duration of construction activities that could affect the movement of emergency vehicles on area roadways. q) Avoid truck trips through designated school zones during the school drop-off and pickup hours to the extent feasible. r) Provide flaggers in school areas at street crossings to manage traffic flow and maintain traffic safety during the school drop-off and pickup hours on days when pipeline installation would occur in designated school zones. s) Coordinate with the local transit providers to enable temporary bus routes or bus stops relocations within work zones as necessary. For example, access for Santa Monica Big Blue Bus						

Mitigation Measure	Implementation, Monitoring, and Reporting Action(s)	Responsibility	Monitoring Schedule			Approval/Completion Dates
			Before Restoration	During Restoration	Following Restoration	
Line 3 would be maintained at all times through the construction zone on Lincoln Boulevard during bridge construction.						
Mitigation Measure TRANS-1b: *Restriction of Lane Closures.* The construction traffic management plan, prepared for Mitigation Measure TRANS-1a, shall stipulate that lane closures on Culver Boulevard and Lincoln Boulevard would be restricted to nighttime hours of 11:00 p.m. to 4:00 a.m.	Include in the Construction Traffic Management Plan a stipulation that lane closures on Culver Boulevard and Lincoln Boulevard would be restricted to nighttime hours of 11:00 p.m. to 4:00 a.m. CDFW to retain a copy of the Construction Traffic Management Plan in the project file for 60 days after the conclusion of restoration.	CDFW / Contractor(s)	X X	 X	 X	

TABLE 2
PROJECT DESIGN FEATURES INCORPORATED INTO THE BALLONA WETLANDS RESTORATION PROJECT

Project Design Feature	Implementation, Monitoring, and Reporting Actions(s)	Responsibility	Timing	Approval/Completion Dates
Air Quality				
AQ-1: Engine Standards for Off-Road Equipment. In order to reduce the impact of NOx off-road equipment exhaust emissions during construction, CDFW shall ensure that restoration and construction contracts stipulate that all off-road diesel-powered equipment used will be equipped with USEPA Tier 4 or cleaner engines, except for specialized equipment in which an USEPA Tier 4 engine is not available. In lieu of Tier 4 engines, Project equipment can incorporate retrofits such that emissions reductions achieved equal that of the Tier 4 engines. Tier 4 engines use advanced engine controls and sensors that significantly reduce engine emissions on all four constituents (NOx, hydrocarbons, CO, and PM). The use of Tier 4 engines would reduce NOx emissions generated by off-road equipment.	The restoration/construction contractor shall submit a detailed list of the equipment fleet that demonstrates achievement of this design feature to CDFW for CDFW's approval prior to receiving Notice to Proceed.	CDFW / Restoration Contractor(s)	Prior to receiving Notice to Proceed.	
Biological Resources				
BIO-1: Worker Environmental Awareness Program. A Worker Environmental Awareness Program (WEAP) shall be implemented for work crews by qualified biologist(s) prior to the commencement of restoration activities and prior to site access by workers. Training materials and briefings shall include but not be limited to, discussion of the Federal and state Endangered Species Acts, the consequences of noncompliance with Project permitting requirements, identification and values of sensitive plant and wildlife species and significant natural plant community habitats, fire protection measures, hazardous substance spill prevention and containment measures, a contact person in the event of the discovery of dead or injured wildlife, and review of mitigation requirements. Training materials and a course outline shall be provided to the CDFW for review and approval at least 30 days prior to the start of site restoration. Maps showing the location of sensitive wildlife or populations of rare plants, exclusion areas, or other construction limitations (i.e., limited	Implementation of a Worker Environmental Awareness Program (WEAP)	CDFW / Restoration Contractor(s)	Training materials and course outline to be provided to CDFW for review and approval at least 30 days prior to the start of site restoration. Training of work crews to occur prior to the commencement of restoration activities and prior to site access by workers	

Project Design Feature	Implementation, Monitoring, and Reporting Actions(s)	Responsibility	Timing	Approval/Completion Dates
operating periods) shall be provided to the environmental monitors and work crews prior to ground disturbance.				

TABLE 2 (Continued)
PROJECT DESIGN FEATURES INCORPORATED INTO THE BALLONA WETLANDS RESTORATION PROJECT

Project Design Feature	Implementation, Monitoring, and Reporting Action(s)	Responsibility	Timing	Approval/Completion Dates
BIO-2: Limit of Disturbance. Construction employees shall strictly limit their activities, vehicle use, equipment use, and placement of staged materials to the approved limits of disturbance and shall utilize designated staging areas and ingress/egress access routes. The work area(s) shall be the minimal area necessary to complete the objectives of a given phase of restoration and shall be specified in the site plans. The limits of work areas shall be delineated using environmentally sensitive area (ESA) fencing (e.g., high visibility orange screen), and shall exclude sensitive habitats to the extent feasible and exclude sensitive habitats that have not been authorized or permitted for disturbance. The placement of exclusionary fencing shall be supervised by a qualified biologist and shall be maintained until the completion of all restoration activities and removed upon work completion.	Limit all activities to within approved limits of disturbance as specified in the site plans and delineated using environmentally sensitive area fencing	CDFW / Restoration Contractor(s)	Fencing to be installed prior to commencement of restoration/ construction activities, to be maintained until the completion of all restoration activities, and to be removed upon work completion.	
BIO-3: Habitat Restoration and Monitoring Plan. Prior to implementation of restoration activities involving vegetation or land disturbance, a Habitat Restoration and Monitoring Plan shall be prepared by a contractor under the direction of CDFW, for CDFW approval, and include the monitoring and adaptive management provisions detailed in section 2.2.2.6, Alternative 1: Monitoring and Adaptive Management, of Chapter 2, Description of Alternatives. The Habitat Restoration and Monitoring Plan can be a single site-wide plan that addresses every habitat type and species impacted by the Project, or individual restoration plans can be developed based on appropriate habitat types/species. All ongoing and post-restoration activities (e.g., habitat monitoring) shall comply with a corresponding approved	Preparation of a Habitat Restoration and Monitoring Plan	CDFW / Restoration Contractor(s)	To be developed prior to implementation of restoration activities involving vegetation or land disturbance, and to be implemented throughout the post-restoration phase for the specified timeframe (initially anticipated to be 10 years)	

TABLE 2 (Continued)
PROJECT DESIGN FEATURES INCORPORATED INTO THE BALLONA WETLANDS RESTORATION PROJECT

Project Design Feature	Implementation, Monitoring, and Reporting Action(s)	Responsibility	Timing	Approval/Completion Dates
Habitat Restoration and Monitoring Plan that should include applicable mitigation measures from this EIS/EIR. However, for purposes of assessing impacts in the EIS/EIR, the Habitat Restoration and Monitoring Plan is considered a mechanism to implement the standards and criteria detailed in Section 2.2.2.6 that will ensure successful performance of restoration actions. Because proper implementation of the Habitat Restoration and Monitoring Plan is exceedingly important to the success of restoration efforts, this particular plan shall:				
a) Build directly from the guidance developed in the Conceptual Plan (provided in Appendix B3), with modifications as necessary. b) Identify specific restoration actions (e.g., revegetation requirements, removal of non-native plants) and monitoring to be implemented during restoration and long-term habitat management. c) Include a timeline for the implementation of the monitoring program based on the final plan for staging and implementation. Although a monitoring period of 10 years is recommended in the Conceptual Plan, the final length of the monitoring period shall be based on the phasing to be implemented during the restoration. d) Include a work plan or schedule for long-term monitoring after the site has achieved the performance goals outlined in Section 2.2.2.6, the Conceptual Plan, and in the Habitat Restoration and Monitoring Plan. e) Provide specific protocols for monitoring, including sample design (e.g., number of replicates, locations for sample points, transects, etc.), sampling methods to be implemented, and statistical methods for analyzing the data.				

TABLE 2 (Continued)
PROJECT DESIGN FEATURES INCORPORATED INTO THE BALLONA WETLANDS RESTORATION PROJECT

Project Design Feature	Implementation, Monitoring, and Reporting Action(s)	Responsibility	Timing	Approval/Completion Dates
f) Be designed as stated in the Conceptual Plan to evaluate the progress toward achieving restoration goals and to inform the need for adaptive management during the lifespan of the restoration and include actions such as maintenance, weeding, reseeding, or revegetation of native species consistent with the adaptive management program as described in Section 2.2.2.6. Performance goals for the restoration shall not focus on specific acreages or specific species, but shall focus broadly on habitat development, species composition, and, ecosystem functions. A Post-restoration Management Plan (PMP) shall be included as a chapter, appendix, or other part of the Habitat Restoration and Monitoring Plan. The PMP shall establish procedures for				
avoidance and minimization of adverse impacts to sensitive biological resources during post-restoration operations and maintenance activities, in order to further progress towards meeting the standards and criteria detailed in section 2.2.2.6, Alternative 1: Monitoring and Adaptive Management, of Chapter 2, Description of Alternatives consistent with the Habitat Restoration and Monitoring Plan. The PMP shall: a) Include details related to the installation and maintenance of fencing or other type of demarcation along the edge of trails to prevent off-trail activities. b) If determined necessary, include details related to the establishment and maintenance of a buffer zone between the trail and upper edge of restored habitats. c) Include details related to the establishment of practices to rapidly detect and limit any impacts into new or restored habitat areas resulting from unauthorized access. This may include systematic monitoring of the trail and contiguous areas of the buffer zone for signs of damage or encroachment				

TABLE 2 (Continued)
PROJECT DESIGN FEATURES INCORPORATED INTO THE BALLONA WETLANDS RESTORATION PROJECT

Project Design Feature	Implementation, Monitoring, and Reporting Action(s)	Responsibility	Timing	Approval/Completion Dates
beyond the fence. Any signs of damage or encroachment would be remedied through a combination of signage, public education, more frequent patrolling (possibly including implementation of a volunteer patrol program), limitation on access (e.g., daylight hours only and seasonal closures) and, if necessary, more restrictive fencing. d) Clearly state adaptive management procedures including evaluation methods and periods. The procedures shall outline the processes necessary to implement any changes to the PMP. The procedures shall outline the processes necessary to implement any changes to the PMP.				
BIO-4 Water Pollution and Erosion Control Plan. To demonstrate compliance with all required permits, the contractor shall develop and submit to the CDFW for RWQCB approval an erosion control plan that will prevent the degradation of water quality arising from restoration activities, and implement BMPs, as described below. Many commonly employed BMPs can be found in the California Department of Transportation's (Caltrans') Stormwater Quality Handbooks, Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) and Water Pollution Control	Development and submittal for approval to CDFW and RWQCB of an erosion control plan; maintenance of a logbook of all precipitation events and all instances of BMP implementation at all soil-disturbance sites; and submittal of the logbook to CDFW for review within 30 days following each major storm event.	CDFW / Restoration Contractor(s)	Submittal of the logbook to CDFW for review within 30 days following each major storm event.	
Program (WPCP) Preparation Manual (Caltrans 2007). These additional management practices, including their implementation and an evaluation of their effectiveness, shall be detailed in the erosion control plan and associated logbook and shall include, but not be limited to, measures to minimize sedimentation such as a) the installation of a 500-foot floating boom and turbidity curtain prior to the start of construction, b) the removal of floating debris upstream of the boom, c) use of sediment mats downstream of the work area, d) use of geotextile roads/mats and e) gravel construction entrances. Under the erosion control plan, the contractor shall maintain a logbook of all precipitation events and all instances of BMP implementation at all soil-disturbance sites, such as restoration sites, staging areas, and surface water				

TABLE 2 (Continued)
PROJECT DESIGN FEATURES INCORPORATED INTO THE BALLONA WETLANDS RESTORATION PROJECT

Project Design Feature	Implementation, Monitoring, and Reporting Action(s)	Responsibility	Timing	Approval/Completion Dates
crossings. The logbook shall contain the date and time of the precipitation event, as well as the duration and intensity of the precipitation. Additionally, the logbook shall record all BMPs that were implemented prior to and/or following the precipitation, as well as a narrative evaluation (and/or a non-narrative evaluation, as required by the jurisdictional agency) of the erosion-prevention effectiveness of those BMPs. The logbook shall be submitted to CDFW for review within 30 days following each major storm event. Site-specific characteristics shall determine the choice of BMPs to be employed. The erosion control plan shall include a proposed schedule for the implementation and maintenance of erosion control measures and a description of the erosion control practices, including appropriate design details and a time schedule. The contractor shall consider the full range of erosion control BMPs. The contractor also shall consider any additional site-specific and seasonal conditions when selecting and implementing appropriate BMPs. Management practices shall be selected and implemented so as not to conflict with any practices or prohibitions identified in this EIS/EIR Section 3.4, Biological Resources. To address potential indirect fugitive dust impacts, the following would be implemented. South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) Rule 403—Fugitive Dust. This rule prohibits emissions of fugitive dust from any active operation, open				
storage pile, or disturbed surface area that remains visible beyond the emission source property line. The dust-control methods for the Project will be specified in a dust-control plan that would be submitted to the SCAQMD per Rule 403. Specific Rule 403 control requirements include, but are not limited to, applying water in sufficient quantities to prevent the generation of visible dust plumes, applying soil binders to uncovered areas, reestablishing ground cover as quickly as possible, utilizing a wheel washing system to remove bulk material				

TABLE 2 (Continued)
PROJECT DESIGN FEATURES INCORPORATED INTO THE BALLONA WETLANDS RESTORATION PROJECT

Project Design Feature	Implementation, Monitoring, and Reporting Action(s)	Responsibility	Timing	Approval/Completion Dates
from tires and vehicle undercarriages before vehicles exit the Project site, covering all trucks hauling soil with a fabric cover and maintaining a freeboard height of 12 inches, and maintaining effective cover over exposed areas.				
BIO-5 Avoid or Minimize Impacts to Aquatic Habitat. Temporary disturbance to and permanent loss of all aquatic habitat (open water, mudflats, marshes, salt pan) shall be avoided to the maximum extent feasible. All temporary staging areas and access roads, if necessary, shall be located away from aquatic habitats to the extent practicable, and aquatic habitats abutting impacted areas shall be clearly demarcated with Environmentally Sensitive Area fencing to avoid inadvertent disturbance during restoration activities. As detailed grading plans are prepared, they shall be designed to avoid temporary and permanent impacts to aquatic habitats to the extent practicable.	Location of temporary staging areas and access roads away from aquatic habitats to the extent practicable; clear demarcation of aquatic habitats abutting impacted areas with Environmentally Sensitive Area fencing; and design of grading to avoid impacts to aquatic habitats to the extent practicable.	CDFW / Restoration Contractor(s)	During final design and prior to restoration work.	
BIO-6 Culvert Installation Best Management Practices. Culvert and tide gate replacement/installation shall occur in the dry season when tidal slough flows are at a minimum and water quality concerns are reduced. Excavations shall be designed to limit negative effects on water quality to the maximum extent practicable. If the tidal slough is flowing at a slow rate and cannot be captured and diverted, filter structures shall be installed downstream as needed to filter turbid discharge from the worksite. If flow is sufficient to be intercepted, a small diversion dam shall be built upstream and tidal slough flow shall be piped around the work site and discharged into the tidal slough below the work site. High flows that cannot be piped around work sites shall be isolated from the work area with berms. Any diversion of water shall be pursuant to a CDFW-	Replacement/ installation of tide gates only in the dry season; limit excavations; divert flows around work sites; filter turbid discharge from the worksite if needed; and restoring the site to its prior condition post replacement/ installation.		.	
approved plan that would be included in the Habitat Restoration and Monitoring Plan for controlling sediment (consistent with SWPPP), conducting the diversion (to avoid substantial effects on wildlife resources), and				

TABLE 2 (Continued)
PROJECT DESIGN FEATURES INCORPORATED INTO THE BALLONA WETLANDS RESTORATION PROJECT

Project Design Feature	Implementation, Monitoring, and Reporting Action(s)	Responsibility	Timing	Approval/Completion Dates
restoring the site to its prior condition post replacement/installation				
BIO-7: Post-Restoration Functional Lift Assessments of Wetland Waters of the U.S. and State. Upon completion of restoration activities, the project shall demonstrate a no net loss of aquatic resource functions and demonstrate a substantial increase in wetland functions and values throughout the entire site. An assessment of habitat functions, such as biotic structure and hydrology, shall be conducted on at least an annual basis, using methods approved by the Corps, RWQCB, and CCC such as the California Rapid Assessment Method (CRAM). Based on the assessment, a discussion/analysis of functional lift for restored habitats in comparison with baseline conditions shall be prepared in the form of technical report. The results of the functional lift assessments shall be submitted to the Corps, RWQCB, and CCC on an annual basis as part of the Project's monitoring and reporting program outlined in the Habitat Restoration and Monitoring Plan (Project Design Feature BIO-3).	Assess habitat functions using approved methods; document discussion/ analysis of functional lift for restored habitats relative to baseline conditions in the form of technical report; submit reports to the Corps, RWQCB, and CCC annually	CDFW / Restoration Contractor(s)	Annually following completion of restoration activities for the timeframe specified in BIO-3.	
BIO-8: Biological Monitoring and Safety Zones to Protect Marine Mammals and Sea Turtles As a voluntary precaution to avoid direct impacts to marine mammals and sea turtles in Ballona Creek during in-water restoration or construction, a 320-foot (100 meter) safety zone shall be maintained around in-water work areas. At the discretion of the Resource Agencies, based on the findings of initial biological monitoring, the size or configuration of the in-water marine mammal safety zone may change. • A qualified biological monitor will conduct daily surveys before and during in-water activities in Ballona Creek to inspect the work zone and adjacent waters for marine mammals and sea turtles. Unless otherwise modified by the Resource Agencies, biological monitoring of in-water work	Maintain a 320-foot (100 meter) safety zone (or other distance established per Resource Agencies' discretion) around in-water work areas; conduct daily surveys monitoring before and during in-water activities in Ballona Creek; halt work if a marine mammal or sea turtle enters the safety zone; allow work to resume only after the animal has been gone from the area for a minimum of 15 minutes.	CDFW / Restoration Contractor(s)	Daily, before and during in-water restoration or construction activities, until all earth-moving work has been completed within the Ballona Creek channel	

TABLE 2 (Continued)
PROJECT DESIGN FEATURES INCORPORATED INTO THE BALLONA WETLANDS RESTORATION PROJECT

Project Design Feature	Implementation, Monitoring, and Reporting Action(s)	Responsibility	Timing	Approval/Completion Dates
will continue until all earth-moving work has been completed within the Ballona Creek channel. Work activities shall be halted if a marine mammal or sea turtle enters the 320-foot aquatic safety zone and resume only after the animal has been gone from the area for a minimum of 15 minutes. Unless the qualified biological monitor deems otherwise, the safety zone would only apply to marine and aquatic areas and would not apply to terrestrial work activities.				
Hydrology and Water Quality				
HWQ-1: A Stormwater Management Plan (Appendix B2) would be implemented and include drainage control features such as bio-swales, pre-treatment basins, armoring, and appropriate surface materials for paths and other public access features. These features are designed to capture and slow the flow of surface water and drop the sediment load during and after construction.	The Project would implement a Stormwater Management Plan prior to construction. The plan would help prevent contaminated sediment from entering the marsh and creek. The Stormwater Management Plan is presented in Appendix B2 of the Draft EIR.	CDFW / Restoration Contractor(s)	Prior to construction	
HWQ-2: An armored sill would be constructed across the channel from the Culver Boulevard Bridge to the Lincoln Boulevard Bridge to limit scour at this location.	The Project would construct the armored sill during restoration activities	CDFW / Restoration Contractor(s)	During construction.	
HWQ-3: Four levels of erosion protection would be constructed along the channel banks and levees as shown in Figures 2-16, Alternative 1, Phase 1: Perimeter Levee Armoring Plan, and 2-17, Alternative 1, Phase 2: Perimeter Levee Armoring Plan. Level 1, which would include buried or surface armoring, would be placed along the levees at the entrance to the site and at the end of Area A along the Interim levee to protect against erosion from the expansion and contraction of flood flows. The Culver Boulevard levee in North Area B would be protected with Level 2, or buried armoring. Most of the Area A levee would have the lowest level of armoring, Level 4, since the sloped marsh plain would channel flows away from the levee. In Phase 2, Level 1 armoring would	The Project would construct the four levels of erosion protection during restoration activities.	CDFW / Restoration Contractor(s)	During construction.	

TABLE 2 (Continued)
PROJECT DESIGN FEATURES INCORPORATED INTO THE BALLONA WETLANDS RESTORATION PROJECT

Project Design Feature	Implementation, Monitoring, and Reporting Action(s)	Responsibility	Timing	Approval/Completion Dates
be added to the West Area B levee, where the flow would contract back into the channel. The southern, more protected part of the levee would have Level 2 armoring, and the levee south of the salt pan would be Level 4 armoring.				
Hydrology and Water Quality (cont.)				
HWQ-4: A berm would be constructed along Culver Boulevard, a section of Jefferson Boulevard, and on the SoCalGas Property in South and Southeast Area B to reduce the flood risk in these areas.	The Project would construct the berms during restoration activities.	CDFW / Restoration Contractor(s)	During construction.	