

STATE CAPITOL
P.O. BOX 942849
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0054
(916) 319-2054
FAX (916) 319-2154
DISTRICT OFFICE
3711 LONG BEACH BOULEVARD
SUITE 801
LONG BEACH, CA 90807
(562) 997-0794
FAX (562) 997-0799



COMMITTEES:
CHAIR
ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT, SPORTS,
TOURISM, AND INTERNET MEDIA
SELECT COMMITTEE ON PORTS
MEMBER
APPROPRIATIONS
EDUCATION
TRANSPORTATION

April 18, 2007

Mr. Douglas Bosco, Chairman
California State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 11th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

RE: Support for the Colorado Lagoon Wetlands Restoration Project

Dear Chairman Bosco:

As the Assemblymember representing the 54th District, which includes the Colorado Lagoon, I encourage you to support the Colorado Lagoon Wetlands Restoration Project. The Colorado Lagoon in the City of Long Beach is unique tidal wetlands surrounded by urban development. There are over 700,000 residents in the communities surrounding this 28.3-acre tidal wetland, who benefit from the recreational, wildlife and storm retention capacity functions of the Lagoon.

Unfortunately, the recreational and wildlife habitat functions have continued to erode as pollutants brought into the Lagoon through the storm drain lines accumulate. These pollutants in the bottom sediment have resulted in the Colorado Lagoon being listed as an impaired water body on the State Water Quality Control Boards listings. The loss of wildlife diversity is directly linked to the accumulation of pollutants as the most polluted areas of the Lagoon have markedly fewer species of fish and invertebrate organisms. The impact on wildlife is not isolated to specific areas of Colorado Lagoon, as overall species diversity has declined from 29 species to 13 species since the 1970s as documented in comparative studies from that time period and today.

While swimming remains a popular activity at Colorado Lagoon, closures due to unacceptable bacteria levels are becoming increasingly frequent and closed Colorado Lagoon for much of the summer of 2006. Algae blooms are also frequent in warm weather months, discoloring the shoreline and leaving an odor in the air. The pollutant levels and the limited tidal flushing in the Lagoon aggravate these adverse recreational conditions.

Positive actions are underway. Los Angeles County will soon be constructing a new storm drain that will divert the highly polluted non-storm flows to the sanitary sewer system for 40 percent of the inflow into the Lagoon. The new County storm drain will also bypass the Lagoon during storms, allowing for a more stable wildlife habitat. The State Water Resources Board has also funded the diversion of non-storm flows from a second storm drain line carrying approximately



California State Senate

SENATOR
ALAN LOWENTHAL

TWENTY-SEVENTH SENATE DISTRICT



CAPITOL OFFICE
STATE CAPITOL
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
TEL (916) 651-4027
FAX (916) 327-9113

LONG BEACH OFFICE
115 PINE AVENUE, SUITE 430
LONG BEACH, CA 90802
TEL (562) 495-4766
FAX (562) 495-1876

PARAMOUNT OFFICE
16401 PARAMOUNT BLVD.
PARAMOUNT, CA 90723
TEL (562) 529-6659
FAX (562) 529-6662

SENATOR.LOWENTHAL@SEN.CA.GOV

WWW.SEN.CA.GOV/LOWENTHAL

TRANSPORTATION
AND HOUSING
CHAIR

LEGISLATIVE ETHICS
CHAIR

BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE #2
ON RESOURCES,
ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION AND ENERGY
CHAIR

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
CALIFORNIA PORTS AND
GOODS MOVEMENT
CHAIR

BANKING, FINANCE
AND INSURANCE

BUDGET AND FISCAL
REVIEW

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

May 2, 2007

Douglas Bosco, Chairman
California State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 11th Floor,
Oakland, CA 94612

RE: Support for the Colorado Lagoon Wetlands Restoration Project

Dear Chair Bosco:

On behalf of the 27th State Senate District, which includes the Colorado Lagoon, I encourage you to support the Colorado Lagoon Wetlands Restoration Project. The Colorado Lagoon in the City of Long Beach is unique tidal wetlands surrounded by urban development. There are over 700,000 residents in the communities surrounding this 28.3-acre tidal wetland, who benefit from the recreational, wildlife and storm retention capacity functions of the Lagoon.

Unfortunately, the recreational and wildlife habitat functions have continued to erode as pollutants brought into the Lagoon through the storm drain lines accumulate. These pollutants in the bottom sediment have resulted in the Colorado Lagoon being listed as an impaired water body on the State Water Quality Control Boards listings. The loss of wildlife diversity is directly linked to the accumulation of pollutants as the most polluted areas of the Lagoon have markedly fewer species of fish and invertebrate organisms. The impact on wildlife is not isolated to specific areas of Colorado Lagoon, as overall species diversity has declined from 29 species to 13 species since the 1970s as documented in comparative studies from that time period and today.

While swimming remains a popular activity at Colorado Lagoon, closures due to unacceptable bacteria levels are becoming increasingly frequent and closed Colorado Lagoon for much of the summer of 2006. Algae blooms are also frequent in warm weather months, discoloring the shoreline and leaving an odor in the air. The pollutant levels and the limited tidal flushing in the Lagoon aggravate these adverse recreational conditions.

REPRESENTING THE CITIES OF THE 27TH SENATE DISTRICT
ARTESIA, AVALON, BELLFLOWER, CERRITOS, DOWNEY, HAWAIIAN GARDENS, LAKEWOOD, LONG BEACH,
LYNWOOD, PARAMOUNT, SIGNAL HILL, SOUTH GATE, FLORENCE-GRAHAM AND WILLOWBROOK



Colorado Lagoon

Page 2

Positive actions are underway. Los Angeles County will soon be constructing a new storm drain that will divert the highly polluted non-storm flows to the sanitary sewer system for 40 percent of the inflow into the Lagoon. The new County storm drain will also bypass the Lagoon during storms, allowing for a more stable wildlife habitat. The State Water Resources Board has also funded the diversion of non-storm flows from a second storm drain line carrying approximately 25 percent of the flow into the Lagoon, and cleaning of the culvert to improve the tidal flushing of the Lagoon. Trash filters will also be installed on these two lines and others. Finally, a project is being prepared with the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers to dredge the accumulated polluted sediments from the Lagoon and to reslope the shore of portions of the Lagoon to allow replanting with native wetland plants.

The project before you now is to take the next steps as were identified in the Colorado Lagoon Restoration Feasibility Study. These include the design and environmental review of resloping the remainder of the shoreline and creating an educational walking trail; tracing pollutants to their sources and monitoring to assure the pollution has been eliminated; and managing this further work and the previously funded construction projects.

These efforts will help restore plants and animals that are facing extinction and help draw residents to and around the wetlands habitat to appreciate them. It will also improve the recreational function of the Colorado Lagoon as the cleaner water that will benefit wildlife, will also benefit the swimmers, sunbathers and picnickers that utilize the Lagoon.

I would appreciate your favorable consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Alan Lowenthal, Member of the Senate, 27th District

CC: Chris Kroll, Project Manager, Coastal Conservancy
Tom Modica, Manager of Public/Government Affairs
Phil Hester, Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine
Dennis Eschen, Manager of Planning and Development

RECEIVED

MAY 11 2007

COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.



Friends of Colorado Lagoon - a coalition of concerned citizens working to preserve and restore Colorado Lagoon

Douglas Bosco, Chairman
California State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 11th Floor,
Oakland, CA 94612

May 1, 2007

Subject: Support for the Colorado Lagoon Wetlands Restoration Project

Dear Mr. Bosco:

We, the Friends of Colorado Lagoon (FOCL), strongly encourage you to support the Colorado Lagoon Wetlands Restoration Project. The Colorado Lagoon is a unique piece of the tidal wetlands in the City of Long Beach. Surrounded by three schools, puts it within walking distance for over 5000 students. Students come to the Lagoon for marine science education. Additionally, students from Long Beach City College and CSULB come to the Lagoon to study and participate in wetlands restoration efforts. FOCL and the City of Long Beach have turned an old snack shack into the Wetlands and Marine Science Education Center (Science Shack). On any day one can see diverse residents enjoying recreation and observing the marine wildlife at the Colorado Lagoon.

However, pollutants brought into the Lagoon through the storm drains are eroding the recreational and wildlife habitats over time. These pollutants have already caused the Colorado Lagoon to be listed as an impaired water body on the State Water Quality Control Boards listings. While swimming remains a popular activity, closures at the Lagoon due to unacceptable bacteria levels are becoming increasing frequent and caused the Colorado Lagoon to be closed for much of the summer of 2006. Wildlife diversity is directly linked to the accumulation of pollutants and it can be shown that the most polluted areas of the Lagoon have markedly fewer species of fish and invertebrate organisms.

Positive actions are underway by Los Angeles County, State Water Resources Board and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. These efforts will help restore plants and animals that are facing extinction and will help draw residents to the wetlands to participate in the wetlands restoration efforts. Cleaner water will benefit wildlife habitat, as well as the diverse community that utilizes and enjoys the Lagoon.

We very much appreciate your favorable consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ray Thorn". The signature is written in black ink and is located below the "Sincerely," text.

Ray Thorn, President, Friends of Colorado Lagoon
Cc: Chris Kroll, Project Manager, Coastal Conservancy

25 percent of the flow into the Lagoon, and cleaning of the culvert to improve the tidal flushing of the Lagoon. Trash filters will also be installed on these two lines and others. Finally, a project is being prepared with the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers to dredge the accumulated polluted sediments from the Lagoon and to reslope the shore of portions of the Lagoon to allow replanting with native wetland plants.

The project before you now is to take the next steps as were identified in the Colorado Lagoon Restoration Feasibility Study. These include the design and environmental review of resloping the remainder of the shoreline and creating an educational walking trail; tracing pollutants to their sources and monitoring to assure the pollution has been eliminated; and managing this further work and the previously funded construction projects.

These efforts will help restore plants and animals that are facing extinction and help draw residents to and around the wetlands habitat to appreciate them. It will also improve the recreational function of the Colorado Lagoon as the cleaner water that will benefit wildlife, will also benefit the swimmers, sunbathers and picnickers that utilize the Lagoon.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



BETTY KARNETTE
Assemblymember, 54th District

Cc: Chris Kroll, Project Manager, Coastal Conservancy
Tom Modica, Manager of Public/Government Affairs
Phil Hester, Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine
Dennis Eschen, Manager of Planning and Development

RECEIVED

APR 23 2007

COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.