

CAPITOL OFFICE
P.O. BOX 942848
SACRAMENTO, CA 94248-0001
(916) 651-4027
FAX (916) 327-9113

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

PARAMOUNT OFFICE
16401 PARAMOUNT BOULEVARD
PARAMOUNT, CA 90723
(562) 529-6659
FAX (562) 529-6662

E-mail: senator.lowenthal@sen.ca.gov
www.sen.ca.gov/lowenthal

California State Senate

SENATOR

ALAN LOWENTHAL

TWENTY-SEVENTH SENATE DISTRICT

*Representing the communities of Artesia, Avalon, Bellflower, Cerritos, Downey,
Florence-Graham, Hawaiian Gardens, Lakewood, Long Beach, Lynwood,
Paramount, Signal Hill, South Gate and Willowbrook*

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AND HOUSING
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ENERGY, UTILITIES AND
COMMUNICATIONS

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
AND WATER

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

August 31, 2010

RE: City of Long Beach, California Colorado Lagoon Coastal Wetlands Restoration Project

I am writing in strong support of the City of Long Beach's application for \$700,000 for restoration of the Western Arm of the Colorado Lagoon. This funding in partnership with the California State Water Board, Rivers and Mountains Conservancy, Army Corps of Engineers Estuary Habitat Restoration Program, and the City and Port of Long Beach, will complete the estimated cost of dredging the Western Arm of the Colorado Lagoon. This area has long been on California's 303(d) list of impaired water bodies, causing public health concerns.

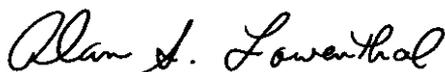
While this project is small in terms of acreage restored, I believe it needs to be considered in the context of the scarcity of coastal wetlands in Los Angeles County. In collaboration with the City of Long Beach, Friends of Colorado Lagoon (FOCL) have been instrumental in creating upland and transitional habitat unique in the County and restoring healthy habitat. The educational component is significant in that children and middle, high school and college students, as well as adults, are learning about our vital interdependency with the ocean and nature.

The Colorado Lagoon, an urban wetland, has been degraded for many years by unfiltered storm water that flows into it. Through a \$5,000,000 allocation through the State Water Board, the City of Long Beach is close to completing a project to divert contaminated storm water flows into the sewer system, catch debris before it enters the Colorado Lagoon and clean the culvert. A study is also being completed to determine how to fully restore tidal exchange.

Dredging contaminated sediments from the lagoon is the critical next step in the restoration process. So as not to jeopardize the progress that has been made in recent years, continued restoration and mitigation measures need to be taken.

Thank you for your consideration of the City of Long Beach's grant application for funding for the Colorado Lagoon Coastal Wetlands Restoration Project.

Sincerely,



Alan S. Lowenthal
Senator, 27th District

STATE CAPITOL
P.O. BOX 942849
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0054
(916) 319-2054
FAX (916) 319-2154

DISTRICT OFFICE
110 PINE AVENUE, SUITE 804
LONG BEACH, CA 90802
(562) 495-2915
FAX (562) 495-2983

WEB SITE
www.asm.ca.gov/lowenthal

Assembly California Legislature



BONNIE LOWENTHAL
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, FIFTY-FOURTH DISTRICT

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CHAIR, TRANSPORTATION
AGING AND LONG-TERM CARE
ACCOUNTABILITY AND
ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW
HEALTH
TRANSPORTATION
WATER, PARKS AND WILDLIFE

CHAIR, SELECT COMMITTEE ON PORTS

August 31, 2010

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

RE: Colorado Lagoon Coastal Wetlands Restoration Project – City of Long Beach

Dear Mr. Bosco:

I am writing in support of the City of Long Beach's application for \$700,000 for restoration of the Western Arm of the Colorado Lagoon. With this funding, the California State Coastal Conservancy, in collaboration with the California State Water Board, Rivers and Mountains Conservancy, Army Corps of Engineers Estuary Habitat Restoration Program, and the City and Port of Long Beach, will complete the dredging the Western Arm of the Colorado Lagoon. This area has been listed on California's 303d list of impaired water bodies for years and continues to serve the public as a badly needed recreation area.

In collaboration with the City of Long Beach, Friends of Colorado Lagoon (FOCL) have been instrumental in creating upland and transitional habitat that does not exist in the County, restoring healthy intertidal habitat and connecting and educating kids of all ages about our vital interdependency with the oceans and nature. As you are aware, Los Angeles County's wetlands have disappeared, and only 5% remain.

This urban wetland has been degraded over a long period of time by storm water that has flowed unfiltered into the lagoon. Through \$5M in AARP funds allocated through the State Water Board, the City of Long Beach is close to completing a project to divert contaminated storm water flows into the sewer system, catch debris before it enters the Colorado Lagoon, and clean the culvert, currently the Lagoon's constricted lifeline to the ocean. Additionally, the City is completing a study to determine how to best fully restore tidal exchange in Colorado Lagoon. Dredging contaminated sediments from the Lagoon is the critical next major step in the restoration process.

As you can see, this project has many partners and collaboration efforts from the Federal government to State agencies to the City of Long Beach has been a major factor in the ability to move forward.

I urge you to grant this funding request for the Colorado Lagoon Wetlands Restoration Project.

Sincerely,

BONNIE LOWENTHAL
Assemblymember, 54th District

RECEIVED

SEP 07 2010

COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.





203 Argonne, Ste B #140
Long Beach, CA 90803-1777
(562) 261-9058
www.coloradolagoon.org
Email: Friends@coloradolagoon.org

Friends of Colorado Lagoon

A coalition of concerned citizens working to preserve and restore Colorado Lagoon

Mr. Chris Kroll
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

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Ray Thorn

Dr. Christine Whitcraft

Restoration Director

Eric Zahn

Education Director

Taylor Parker

Tax ID number:

33-0968096

RE: Support and commitment to the Long Beach, California Colorado Lagoon Coastal Wetlands Restoration Project

Dear Mr. Kroll;

Friends of Colorado Lagoon (FOCL) strongly supports and commits volunteer hours to the Long Beach, California Colorado Lagoon Wetlands Restoration Project in the Western Arm in collaboration with the California State Water Board, California Coastal Conservancy, Rivers and Mountains Conservancy, Army Corps of Engineers Estuary Habitat Restoration Program, and the City and Port of Long Beach. In the last 22 months FOCL coordinated community based restoration at Colorado Lagoon's Eastern Arm, totaling 2329 volunteer visits for 5741 volunteer hours equaling \$116,301 of in kind volunteer contribution, and we commit much more towards the restoration and creation of a reserve in the Western Arm of Colorado Lagoon.

The Colorado Lagoon comprises 18 acres of degraded coastal wetlands habitat that has survived the destruction of 98% of the Salt Marsh Habitat within the Lost Cerritos Wetlands, the terminus of the San Gabriel River Watershed. While this project is small in terms of acreage restored, it must be considered in the context of the scarcity of coastal wetlands in Los Angeles County, where less than 5 percent of this ecosystem's historic acreage remains undeveloped. The project will create upland and transitional habitat that does not exist in the County, and restore healthy intertidal habitat that is also very sparse. Restoring an urban lagoon / wetland also affords a great opportunity to connect and educate people about our vital interdependency with nature.

FOCL strongly supports the awarding of a California Coastal Conservancy grant to Colorado Lagoon Western Arm Restoration.

Sincerely,

Dave Pirazzi,
President
Friends of Colorado Lagoon

Alamitos Heights Improvement Association

P.O. Box 14571
Long Beach, CA 90853

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

24 August, 2010

Subject: Support for the Long Beach Colorado Lagoon Wetlands Restoration Project

Alamitos Heights Improvement Association (AHIA) has been a supporter for years of the Long Beach Colorado Lagoon Restoration. Our neighborhood association was responsible in early 1960 to prevent a freeway from being constructed beside the lagoon though the wetlands area. As current president of AHIA I strongly request that the California State Coastal Conservancy provide the support needed for the Colorado Lagoon Wetlands Restoration Project located in Long Beach, California. With Coastal Conservancy and other agency support, the City of Long Beach and Friends of Colorado Lagoon have made significant progress in cleaning the contaminated and debris-ridden storm water entering the Lagoon since the 1960's when the freeway project was aborted.

These pollutants have caused the Colorado Lagoon to be listed on the State's 303(d) list of impaired water bodies, and earned the Lagoon a regular place on Heal the Bay's Top Ten Beach Bummer list as the 6th and 4th most polluted beaches in California for the last two years. Restoring our urban lagoon / wetland is critical to educating people about our vital connection with nature. Surrounded by three schools, the Lagoon is located within walking distance for over 5000 students. The lagoon is used by a diverse community of people from across the Los Angeles area because they believe the Lagoon provides a safe place for their children to recreate.

Alamitos Heights is now a community of more than 800 homes surrounding our Colorado Lagoon. Our residents consider the restoration of Colorado Lagoon one of the highest priority issues affecting both our local resident's safety and quality of life.

With your continued support, the Colorado Lagoon will be a safe place for people, a safe nursery for marine life, and will provide a rich educational experience, teaching people about how they can make a difference in protecting nature and the environment. We now request your continued support to remove the contaminated sediments that have been carried to the Lagoon through unfiltered storm drains for the last 80 years.

Sincerely,



W. I. Thomas
AHIA president

Belmont Heights Community Association
375 Redondo Avenue #332
Long Beach, CA 90814
www.mybelmonthheights.org

August 27, 2010

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

Subject: Support for the Colorado Lagoon Wetlands Restoration Project

The Belmont Heights Community Association (BHCA) strongly requests that the California State Coastal Conservancy provide the support needed for the Colorado Lagoon Wetlands Restoration Project located in Long Beach, California. With Coastal Conservancy and other agency support, the City of Long Beach and Friends of Colorado Lagoon have made significant progress in cleaning the contaminated and debris-ridden storm water entering the Lagoon. Now we are asking for your continued support to remove the contaminated sediments that have been carried to the Lagoon through unfiltered storm drains for the last 80 years.

These pollutants have caused the Colorado Lagoon to be listed on the State's 303(d) list of impaired water bodies, and earned the Lagoon a regular place on Heal the Bay's Top Ten Beach Bummers list as the 6th and 4th most polluted beaches in California for the last two years. Restoring our urban lagoon / wetland is critical to educating people about our vital connection with nature. Surrounded by three schools, the Lagoon is located within walking distance for over 5000 students. The lagoon is used by a diverse community of people from across the Los Angeles area because they believe the Lagoon provides a safe place for their children to recreate.

Belmont Heights is a community of more than 3,000 residents that borders on Colorado Lagoon. Our residents consider the restoration of Colorado Lagoon one of the highest priority issues affecting both safety and quality of life.

With your continued support, the Colorado Lagoon will be a safe place for people, a safe nursery for marine life, and will provide a rich educational experience, teaching people about how they can make a difference in protecting nature and the environment.

Sincerely,

Dianne Sundstrom

Dianne Sundstrom, President
Belmont Heights Community Association