



425 S. Palos Verdes Street Post Office Box 151 San Pedro, CA 90733-0151 TEL/TDD 310 SEA-PORT www.portoflosangeles.org

Antonio R. Villaraigosa

Mayor, City of Los Angeles

Board of Harbor
Commissioners

Cindy Miscikowski
President

David Arian
Vice President

Robin M. Kramer

Douglas P. Krause

Sung Won Sohn, Ph.D.

Geraldine Knatz, Ph.D.

Executive Director

January 3, 2012

Samuel P. Schuchat
Executive Officer
California State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612-2530

Dear Mr. Schuchat:

SUBJECT: PORT OF LOS ANGELES INTEREST IN BALLONA WETLAND RESTORATION

The Port of Los Angeles (POLA) is required to mitigate for the loss of aquatic habitat resulting from port development projects. Creation of new terminals such as the 484-acre Pier 400 has led to POLA involvement in two successful wetland restoration projects in southern California: Batiquitos Wetland and Bolsa Chica Wetland. The ongoing need for port fill projects necessitates that POLA continue to look for biological mitigation opportunities.

POLA staff has followed with interest and actively participated in the Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project. POLA's involvement has included attendance at meetings, participation in stakeholder planning charrettes, and conducting an initial soil investigation at Area A of the wetlands. POLA staff is currently working with Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission staff regarding development of habitat evaluation procedures to determine the potential credits POLA could receive, depending on the selected plan and the implementation cost.

With this ongoing activity in mind, I wanted to clearly express POLA interest in the opportunity for biological mitigation credits from the restoration of the Ballona Wetlands. POLA's involvement would be limited to those credits suitable for use as mitigation for fill of harbor waters in accordance with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Final Compensatory Mitigation Rule. Cost and timing are also factors that must be considered as part of any recommendation to the Board of Harbor Commissioners. POLA would be interested in exploring an arrangement similar to that undertaken for restoration of Bolsa Chica wetland.

Mr. Schuchat

Page 2

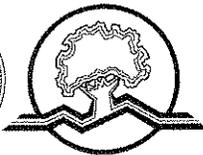
POLA looks forward to continuing to work with you, your staff, and the Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project team, as well as the regulatory and resource agencies and others involved in this promising wetland restoration project.

Sincerely,



GERALDINE KNATZ, Ph.D.
Executive Director

cc: Shelly Luce, Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission
Mary Small, California State Coastal Conservancy
Chris Cannon, Port of Los Angeles



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
Los Angeles River Center & Gardens
570 West Avenue Twenty-Six, Suite 100
Los Angeles, California 90065
Phone (323) 221-9944 Fax (323) 221-9934

December 27, 2011

Mr. Doug Bosco, Chairman
State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, #1300
Oakland, CA 94612
Attn: Mary Small

**Proposed Conservancy Authorization for Ballona Wetlands Restoration
Engineering and Technical Studies**

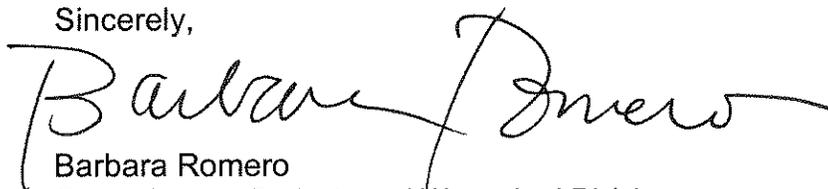
Dear Chairman Bosco,

I am writing to urge the California Coastal Conservancy (Conservancy) to authorize funding for the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve Restoration Project for the completion of technical studies, engineering design, hydrologic and project management to support the environmental impact analysis and permit applications for the restoration of the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve.

The Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve (BWER) is 600 acres, surrounded by urban Los Angeles County. The BWER provides valuable and scenic open space in the heart of congested Los Angeles County and offers one of the largest and most promising opportunities for coastal wetland restoration in the region. When restored and opened to the public, the site will allow millions of residents and visitors a rare opportunity to experience a coastal wetland.

I support this project and ask for your support of this authorization. This action by the Conservancy will facilitate the planning process, a critical element to moving the restoration closer to fruition. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


Barbara Romero
Chief of Urban Projects and Watershed Division

GALANTER AND COMPANY, LLC
P.O. BOX 66494
LOS ANGELES, CA 90066
(310) 985-3598
ruth.galanter@verizon.net

January 5, 2012

Mr. Doug Bosco, Chairman
State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1300
Oakland, CA 94612

Re: Agenda Item 5, funding for Ballona Wetlands restoration

Dear Mr. Chairman,

I write in support of this funding. The struggle to preserve the Ballona Wetlands took over 30 years; now it is time to proceed with restoration.

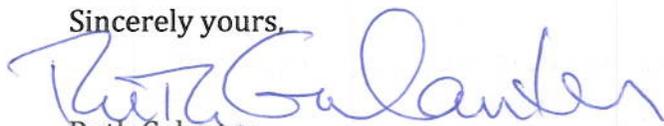
Over my 16 years as the Los Angeles City Council representative for this area, I heard many voices in support of restoration, but not all of their arguments were appropriately science-based.

This funding will facilitate a constructive, science-based effort to achieve a better functioning wetland system than we have today. In the face of endless threats to California's remaining wetlands, this is an opportunity to good to miss.

I urge an aye vote on this item and, in my capacity as a visiting scholar with the Urban Ecology program at Loyola Marymount University, I look forward to working with the Conservancy and local organizations to make the best possible use of the funding.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,


Ruth Galanter

RECEIVED

JAN 09 2012

COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.



Friends of Ballona Wetlands

www.ballonafriends.org

January 9, 2012

Mr. Doug Bosco, Chairman
State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, #1300
Oakland, CA 94612
Attn: Mary Small (by email)

RE: Proposed Conservancy Authorization for Ballona Wetlands
Restoration Engineering and Technical Studies

Dear Chairman Bosco:

I am writing to encourage the Conservancy to authorize funding for the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve Restoration Project planning process. These authorizations would enable the development of technical assessments and engineering design, technical review and agency coordination to support environmental impact analysis and permit applications for the restoration of the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve (BWER). These early planning and design studies and reviews are critical work to ensure the proposed restoration alternatives are technically sound and feasible.

The Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve is 600 acres, surrounded by urban Los Angeles County. The BWER provides valuable and scenic open space in the heart of congested Los Angeles County and offers one of the largest and most promising opportunities for coastal wetland restoration in the region. When restored and opened to the public, the site will allow millions of residents and visitors a rare opportunity to experience a coastal wetland.

Friends of Ballona Wetlands (FBW), www.ballonafriends.org, is a non-profit 501(c)(3) membership organization with more than 7,000 individuals participating in our education and restoration programs each year. We represent the single largest group of stakeholders participating in the Coastal Conservancy's Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project. FBW has been dedicated to protecting and restoring the Ballona Wetlands for over 30 years with the help of more than 75,000 volunteers, and was instrumental in protecting the Ballona Wetlands from development through designation of the wetlands as a State Ecological Reserve.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at (310) 306-5994.

Sincerely,

Lisa Fimiani
Executive Director

Cc (by email): Hon. Bill Rosendahl
Hon. Zev Yaroslavsky
Hon. Betsy Butler

Board of Directors

Catherine Tyrrell, President
Dr. David Kay, Vice President
Jacob Lipa, Secretary
John Gregory, Treasurer
Ruth Lansford, Founder
Micah Ali
Dr. Pippa Drennan
Lisa Fimiani
Susan Gottlieb
Stephen Groner
Dr. James Landry
Dr. Edith Read
Bob Shanman
Michael Swimmer
Richard Wegman

Emeritus Board

Tim Rudnick
Ed Tarvyd

**CALIFORNIA STATE
LANDS COMMISSION**



EXECUTIVE OFFICE

100 Howe Avenue, Suite 100-South
Sacramento, CA 95825-8202

CURTIS L. FOSSUM, *Executive Officer*
(916) 574-1800 Fax (916) 574-1810
California Relay Service TDD Phone 1-800-735-2929
Voice Phone 1-800-735-2922

SENT VIA U.S. MAIL AND EMAIL

Mary Small: msmall@scc.ca.gov

January 10, 2012

Mr. Doug Bosco, Chairman
State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, #1300
Oakland, CA 94612

**RE: Proposed Conservancy Authorizations for Ballona Wetlands Restoration
Engineering and Technical Studies (File No. 04-088)**

Dear Chairman Bosco:

On behalf of State Lands Commission (SLC) staff, I am writing to support the proposed Coastal Conservancy authorizations needed to continue funding for the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve Restoration Project planning process. These authorizations would enable the development of technical assessments, engineering design, and technical review, and provide for agency coordination to support environmental impact analysis and permit applications for the restoration of the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve (BWER).

The BWER includes approximately 600 acres, surrounded by urban Los Angeles County. Portions of the property are under the jurisdiction of the Department of Fish and Game (DFG) and the SLC, with the SLC parcel under lease to DFG. The BWER provides valuable and scenic open space in the heart of congested Los Angeles County and offers one of the largest and most promising opportunities for coastal wetland restoration in the region. When restored and opened to the public, the site will allow residents and visitors an exceptional opportunity to experience a coastal wetland. I support these authorizations because they will help bring the long-envisioned restoration of the Ballona Wetlands one step closer to realization. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


CURTIS L. FOSSUM
Executive Officer

cc: Pam Griggs
Eric Gillies