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Subject: Fw: Ballona Wetlands Update at September 14, 2023 meeting
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Coastal Conservancy Authorities:

Please provide a forum for discussion, an update regarding the Coastal Conservancy's role in Ballona's future at the September 2023 meeting as part of the Director's Report.

Grassroots Coalition and the Sierra Club have worked for the past 30 years to protect Ballona Wetlands.

Our work has been instrumental in Playa Capital LLC's willingness to sell their Ballona properties that now is Public Trust land and water of Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve. We were instrumental in furthering this rare, freshwater driven ecosystem's induction by the California Fish & Game Commission in 2004 into California's Ecological Reserve System as a Title 14, Section 630 Terrestrial, NONMARINE Ecological Reserve. As all Section 630 Ecological Reserves, each has its own Purpose and Goals that the California Dept. of Fish & Wildlife's actions and agreements are mandated to adhere under Fish and Game Code 1745. Ballona Wetlands' Purpose and Goals are to protect its vegetation (salt marsh) and its freshwater resources and the endangered species dependent upon both. In particular Ballona's saltmarsh/ pickleweed vegetation favored by the endangered Belding's Savannah Sparrow. The goals include protecting Ballona's wildlife corridors and the corridors as they join with wildlife corridors outside the Reserve area. **The Department of Fish & Wildlife has not adhered to Section 1745 and failed to perform**

the required Section 1019 Land Management Plan that all newly inducted Ecological Reserves are to undergo in order to best manage the existing natural resources.

The Department of Fish & Wildlife has failed to abide by California's Sustainable Groundwater Management Act and its Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem evaluations.

This failure to protect Ballona's abundant, natural freshwater aquifers and its surface and groundwater connections must stop.

The California Coastal Conservancy, instead of providing funding to CDFW for performance of an Land Management Plan, instead utilized public bond funds to promote a predetermined end goal that was contrary to the Fish and Wildlife Commission's approved goal, T. 14, Section 630 that was also registered with the Office of Administrative Law. Namely, the State Coastal Conservancy (SCC) promoted contracts of conversion of Ballona into a fully tidal bay.

Now, we the public, have prevailed in a California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) LAWSUIT. A NEW ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT must be performed.

The SCC needs to provide the public with an ability to discuss all the protective issues of Ballona in an honest update of where the SCC stands in its manipulation of public bond funds and its plans for Ballona. Please include Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve update discussion into the Director's Report for this September 2023 meeting. It is long past due to provide a forum for discussion of Ballona Wetlands' future and the SCC roleplay in that future.

The SCC has thus far, bordered upon fraudulent outreach to the public regarding Ballona and has utterly refused to communicate in a respectful, honest fashion regarding Ballona's natural freshwater resources; its handling of adherence to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act and Ballona as a Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem as acknowledged by the Department of Water Resources.

Concerned,
Patricia McPherson, Grassroots Coalition, Sierra Club