

**From:** [Wendy Zacuto](#)  
**To:** [Hutzel, Amy@SCC](#); [ben.allen@sen.ca.gov](#); [tina.mckinnor@asm.ca.gov](#)  
**Cc:** [SCC Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Please provide an update on the Ballona Wetlands at your 9/14 meeting  
**Date:** Friday, September 8, 2023 9:08:33 AM

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Dear Executive Officer Hutzel,

The State Coastal Conservancy has been funding the Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project since December of 2004. When the Conservancy allocated an additional \$1.5 million for the project in September of 2007, the staff report stated that "[s]taff expects that final planning, environmental review and permitting for the restoration of the site will take approximately three years. Sixteen years and many more millions of dollars later there does not seem to be any timeline, budget, or roadmap for these wetlands.

It appears that planning for the project is now serving no other purpose than to consume additional time and money that could be used instead to improve the current conditions of the wetlands by way of the most basic stewardship, such as addressing promoting native vegetation, removing trash, and creating additional educational opportunities for students around greater Los Angeles.

There has been no substantive discussion of the Ballona Wetlands by Conservancy staff since March of 2022, almost 18 months ago. Please provide a detailed update on this important ecosystem during your Executive Officer's report at the September 14th meeting of the Conservancy Board.

We ask that the plight of the La Ballona Wetlands be fully addressed.

Thank you for addressing this important issue as we stand back wondering how we can do more to provide clarity in saving our wetlands, this important resource in our community.

Wendy Zacuto, retired educator  
Brad Zacuto, Head of School, Westside Neighborhood School

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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.