



Ballona Tribal Engagement & Timeline Summary

Background

The Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project is a large-scale restoration project proposed by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) to enhance native habitats and increase compatible public outdoor recreational opportunities within its Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve (Ballona Reserve). The 600-acre Ballona Reserve is one of Los Angeles's (L.A.) largest open spaces and the largest remaining opportunities for coastal habitat restoration in L.A. County. CDFW is leading the restoration and has started engineering and permitting for sequences one and two, which involve enhancing and restoring approximately 60 acres of degraded tidal, brackish, and freshwater wetland area in the south and southeast portion of the reserve for the benefit of wildlife and public enjoyment. CDFW is the project lead for the restoration, and State Coastal Conservancy (SCC) supports the project with state funds.

Tribes with Interest

In no specific order, here are the Tribes engaging in the project: Gabrielino-Tongva Tribe; Gabrielino Tongva Indians of California Tribal Council; Gabrielino/Tongva Nation; Gabrieleno/Tongva San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians; Gabrieleno Band of Mission Indians - Kizh Nation; Shoshone-Gabrielino Nation; Ti'at Society/Traditional Council of Pimu/Mother Earth Clan.

Tribes Engagement Process

In May 2022, the SCC contracted with Cogstone, a Tribal lead consulting company, to lead a Tribal engagement for the project. Cogstone reached out to California Native American Tribes with ancestral lineage in the project regions using the Native American Heritage Commission's list. From this outreach, seven Tribes and Tribal communities with a historical and cultural affinity for this site are engaged in providing insights and recommendations on sequences one and two of the project. The recommendations will be integrated into engineering designs as it is feasible.

This engagement includes 1) government-to-government consultations, 2) a Tribal Advisory Committee that includes only Tribal Chairperson or appointed Tribal representative, and 3) a Tribal Community meeting for broader Tribal representation. The Kizh Nation and the Gabrieleno/Tongva San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians have chosen to have government-to-government engagement with SCC and CDFW.

Meetings

Dates	Tribe/Group	Topic
September 20 2022; October 18, 2022; February 7, 2023; *Potentially: April 2023; October 2023	Tribal Advisory Committee	The 1 st Tribal Advisory Committee meeting was on-site visit, and the following engagements will be held virtual Zoom meetings
November 15 th , 2022; March 8, 2023; *Potentially: April/May 2023	Tribal Community Meeting	Tribal Community are hosted on Zoom, and the last meetings will be on-site.
October 27, 2022; December 7, 2022; January 31, 2023; *Potentially: April 2023; October 2023	Gabrieleno Band of Mission Indians - Kizh Nation	The engagements include SCC phone calls, SCC's/ CDFW government-to-government Zoom consultation, and an on-site visit invitation.
November 7; *Potentially: April 2023; October 2023	Gabrieleno/Tongva San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians	The engagement includes SCC's government-to-government consultation, SCC's/CDFW government-to-government consultation on Zoom, and there will be an invitation to the on-site visit.

*Meetings that have yet to occur still need to be determined/confirmed by Tribes.

Reports

Following all Tribal engagements, Cogstone and SCC will deliver a report capturing Tribal insights and recommendations for sequences one and two engineering designs in September 2023. CDFW will review and incorporate the feasible recommendations in the project.