



February 8, 2024

**Chairman Douglas Bosco**  
**California State Coastal Conservancy**  
**1515 Clay Street, 10th Floor**  
**Oakland, CA 94612-1401**

**Subject: Support of the Los Cerritos Wetlands Land Exchange Agreement**

Dear Chairman Bosco,

I am writing to ask you to support the Los Cerritos Wetlands Land Exchange Agreement proposed by the Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority, Los Cerritos Wetlands LLC, and Synergy Oil and Gas.

As the Chair of the Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority and the Chair of Long Beach's Climate, Environment, and Coastal Protection Committee, I am excited by the opportunity to transition this invaluable property from oil fields to coastal wetlands. The Los Cerritos Wetlands Land Exchange Agreement comes with the added benefit of decommissioning oil wells over 15 years earlier than previously discussed. This project symbolizes a key milestone in our City's transition away from oil drilling, highlighting our commitment to restoring native ecosystems after years of harm.

As the 3rd District Councilmember, this project falls entirely within my district, and I am excited that 154-acres of private property along our coastline will be converted to public land accessible for people throughout California to enjoy responsibly. Discussions have already started about how we can create educational opportunities at the wetlands for Los Angeles County students, especially for those who don't have the means to visit the the Bolsa Chica wetlands.

**Councilmember Kristina Duggan | District 3**

411 W. Ocean Blvd. 11th Floor | Long Beach, CA | 90802 | (562) 570-6300 | [longbeach.gov/district3](https://longbeach.gov/district3)

Over the past year, I have worked closely with the Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority, Los Cerritos Wetlands LLC, Coastal Conservancy, Rivers and Mountains Conservancy, and many other partners to come to the mutually beneficial agreement before you today. I commend partners from each entity who came together to overcome obstacles that could have derailed this project resulting in continued oil operations and no pathway for restoration.

If you would like to discuss this item further, please contact me at [kristina.duggan@longbeach.gov](mailto:kristina.duggan@longbeach.gov) or (562) 570-6300.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Kristina Duggan" with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kristina Duggan  
Councilmember, 3rd District, City of Long Beach  
Chair, Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority

**Councilmember Kristina Duggan | District 3**

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February 6, 2024

Mr. Douglas Bosco, Chair  
California State Coastal Conservancy  
1515 Clay Street, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Oakland, CA 94612-1401

RE: Los Cerritos Wetlands Oil Consolidation and Restoration Project

Dear Chair Bosco,

On behalf of Audubon California, a state office of the National Audubon Society and our 118,000 members and supporters, we submit this letter to express our support for the essential land exchange between Synergy and the Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority. Audubon California has been invested in this project by supporting the efforts of our local chapter, El Dorado Audubon Society, to move this restoration project forward and serve as a key partner with the Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority.

This last atmospheric river that hit California reached record amounts of rain in the state. These massive storms and climate change impacts we continue to face, only emphasize the need for nature-based solutions and the restoration of wetlands we have lost. We must act quickly to mitigate the impacts of this climate crisis and we are pleased to see that this land swap would allow for immediate restoration of the entire Synergy site and ensure faster removal of exiting oil operations. In addition, this land swap will establish a visitor center and trails to increase public access and educate visitors on the importance of restoring these vanishing wetlands.

We respectfully ask the California State Coastal Conservancy to consider and approve this land swap for the protection of wetlands and the creation of open space and public access.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Liliana Griego', with a stylized, cursive script.

Liliana Griego  
Sr. Coastal Program Manager  
Audubon California



**Los Cerritos Wetlands Land Trust**  
*for Long Beach and Seal Beach*

**PO Box 30165  
Long Beach, CA 90853**

[www.lcwlandtrust.org](http://www.lcwlandtrust.org)

February 9, 2024

Amy Hutzell, Executive Officer  
CA State Coastal Conservancy  
1515 Clay Street, 10th Floor  
Oakland, CA 94612-1401

**Re: Los Cerritos Wetlands Land Exchange**

The Los Cerritos Wetlands Land Trust supports the Los Cerritos Wetlands Land Exchange proposed by Los Cerritos Wetlands LLC., Synergy Oil and Gas, and the Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority.

The Los Cerritos Wetlands Land Trust was incorporated in 2001 by dedicated individuals who grasped the vital importance of the Los Cerritos Wetlands and the urgency of saving and restoring what remained of this unique estuary.

We advocate for the protection and restoration of Los Cerritos Wetlands which includes the transfer of privately owned portions of Los Cerritos Wetlands into the public trust.

We envision a beautiful and permanently protected Los Cerritos Wetlands where generations can discover the wonders of this one-of-a-kind environment.

We urge the Coastal Conservancy to approve this land exchange as it will help reconnect and restore the area's natural wetlands and allow public access to a site that has been closed to the public for decades. Most importantly, this exchange will expedite the capping and abandonment of oil production on the 150-acre site and will result in the removal of oil production almost 16 years sooner than required by the landowner's coastal development permit.

In addition, approval of this exchange will help establish the Upper Los Cerritos Mitigation Bank (Bank) restoration project which is designed to preserve, enhance, and restore over 70 acres of tidal wetlands and associated buffer habitats in Long Beach. The Bank will preserve nearly 30 acres of existing tidal wetlands in and around Steamshovel Slough and will restore approximately 28 acres of historic tidal marsh, that had been separated from tidal flow by a berm and series of tidal gates.

The restoration approach will breach the berm in strategic locations, and perform minimal grading to re-establish tidal hydrology to the historic tidal sloughs and marshes. Tidal wetlands protect our shoreline communities from sea-level rise, act as a crucial transitional habitat between our oceans and lands, and provide habitat, foraging grounds, and nesting opportunities for numerous wildlife species, including the Belding's savannah sparrow (*Passerculus sandwichensis beldingi*) – a bird that is listed as endangered by the state of California. This project will protect and restore these significant habitats in an area from which they have been significantly reduced.

In addition, approximately 10 acres of native upland, riparian, and transitional habitats will be planted and a trail will be constructed on the east side of the Bank property which will allow docent-led tours to view the restoration project and educate visitors about the importance of tidal wetland systems. Once this land is restored it will be transferred into public ownership. Finally, the Bank's habitats and species will be protected, monitored, and managed in perpetuity via a non-wasting endowment fund and conservation easement. This is the exact type of project that will help California advance our critically important 30x30 land conservation goals by helping combat the biodiversity and climate change crisis using nature-based solutions.

We thank you for the Coastal Conservancy's work towards ensuring this project appropriately provides adequate public benefits and again ask for your support in approving this exchange.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Elizabeth J. Lambe". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and prominent.

Elizabeth Lambe  
Executive Director  
Los Cerritos Wetlands Land Trust

Feb. 6, 2024

Connie Warner  
6233 E. Marina View Dr.  
Long Beach, CA. 90803

Mr. Douglas Bosch, Chair  
California State Coastal Conservancy

Dear Mr. Bosch,

I am writing to you in support of encouraging the Coastal Conservancy to approve the land exchange between Synergy and the Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority. I have been an advocate and supporter from the very beginning of the Los Cerritos Wetlands Oil Consolidation and Restoration Project. I have had the privilege of living across from Steam Shovel Slough and witnessing the birds and wildlife that inhabit the wetlands. It is amazing to watch the resident birds, which include many varieties of waterfowl and migratory birds. To restore the Synergy site back to wetlands would greatly benefit the wildlife and insure their future. Another benefit is having a visitor center to educate people about the wetlands and wildlife. With a public access trail, people can appreciate and enjoy the Los Cerritos Wetlands.

With the recent earthquake activity we have had in the area, the faster we can remove the wells and infrastructure in the Synergy site the better. It would be devastating to have an oil spill throughout the wetlands.

Your support for the land exchange would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Connie Warner

February 6, 2024

Douglas Bosco, Chair  
CA State Coastal Conservancy

RE: Support for Los Cerritos Wetlands Land Exchange

Mr. Bosco:

I am writing in support of the land exchange which facilitates the Los Cerritos Wetlands Oil Consolidation and Restoration Project. I live less than a mile from the Los Cerritos Wetlands and have long recognized the need to protect and preserve this wonderful natural resource. This project restores a large portion of the Los Cerritos Wetlands immediately, and opens the area up for the public to enjoy. Additionally, removal of the existing oil operations will also provide an immediate aesthetic benefit to the people who live, work and play here.

This is a unique and interesting project and I respectfully request that this land exchange be approved.

Regards,

Jeff Hoffman

February 6, 2024

Douglas Bosco, Chair  
California State Coastal Conservancy

Re: Land Exchange Support

Mr. Bosco,

I am writing to support the land exchange for the Los Cerritos Wetlands Oil Consolidation and Restoration Project. I have been impressed with the project since I attended a wetlands tour many years ago. I am pleased that the oil operations on the Synergy site will be immediately removed, and the area restored and opened up to the public. I live very close to the wetlands and can't wait to enjoy them.

This project is a win-win for all of Long Beach. I respectfully request approval of this land exchange so that the restoration can move forward.

Sincerely,  
Bob Lane