

Subject: FW: Written information for tomorrow's meeting

From: Walter Lamb <landtrust@ballona.org>  
Sent: Wednesday, September 22, 2021 5:00 PM  
To: SCC Public Comment <publiccomments@scc.ca.gov>  
Subject: Written information for tomorrow's meeting

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] DO NOT CLICK links or attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Conservancy Staff,

I am including this written information in advance of tomorrow's meeting. At the May meeting, staff mischaracterized a lawsuit against CA Fish and Wildlife and the Coastal Conservancy as opposing hand restoration. To the contrary, our lawsuit opposed only a small fraction of a project carried out by the Friends of Ballona Wetlands. Specifically, we challenged the cutting down of a handful of trees for which no valid coastal development permit existed and for which there was an appalling lack of analysis of the environmental impacts. We knew that a Barn Owl was using one or more of the trees in question. The judge in that case issued a preliminary injunction to stay removal of the trees and a subsequent settlement requires the Friends of Ballona Wetlands to seek a valid CDP for the work. While the case was being heard, the Friends conducted extensive hand restoration that we did not oppose. Additionally, the litigation was necessitated by the Friends refusal to respond to a single inquiry about the project prior to the filing of litigation. It is important for agency communication about this ecological reserve to be objective. It does not seem in line with the Conservancy's values to criticize enforcement of the Coastal Act by a volunteer stakeholder of the ecological reserve.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Walter Lamb  
Ballona Wetlands Land Trust  
310-384-1042