

## Addendum

**From:** [Walter Lamb](#)  
**To:** [SCC Public Comment; Samuelson, Taylor@SCC](#)  
**Cc:** [Cooper, Megan@SCC](#)  
**Subject:** Final written comments  
**Date:** Friday, March 18, 2022 4:45:49 PM  
**Attachments:** [image.png](#)  
[A - BWER Riparian Restoration Proposal Spending Plan.pdf](#)

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

Hi Taylor,

Sorry for adding in these supplemental comments just before the deadline, but I realized that I hadn't copied the public comment address on the below email to Megan with the attached record of the funds Friends of Ballona Wetlands already received from via the Coastal Commission to do riparian habitat restoration in the same area.

I'm also including a redacted and highlighted screenshot of one of the tribal consultation letters below. The wording of the highlighted sections is confusing as there is a certified final EIR for the most substantial earth-moving project in Los Angeles County in over 50 years, and the EIR expressly states that AB 52 did not apply to this project. We are concerned that the recipients of these letters could wrongly conclude from this confusing language that this project is in its planning phase and has not yet analyzed or approved any earthmoving, and that additional tribal consultation will take place pursuant to AB 52 when that is not the case.



2/18/2022



**Re: Potential Coastal Conservancy project in Los Angeles County**

Dear [REDACTED]

The Coastal Conservancy is considering participating in the Tribal and Community Engagement for Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project in Los Angeles County. The Project is located south of Marina Del Rey in the Los Angeles County (see attached map) and entails hiring contractors to develop and implement participation from tribal communities, community groups, and residents of the greater Los Angeles region to further assist in the planning of the Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project. The proposed Tribal and Community Engagement contracts are intended to contribute to the success of the larger Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project. **This is Project is in a planning phase to develop input for designs and does not involve any earth-moving or construction, yet.**

The Conservancy hopes to present the Project to the Conservancy board for consideration at its 03/24/2022 meeting. This letter is being sent to you in accordance with the Coastal Conservancy's Tribal Consultation Policy. The Conservancy adopted this policy to ensure effective government-to-government consultation between the Conservancy and tribes regarding the development of policies, programs, projects, plans, property decisions, and activities that may affect tribal communities. This letter is not regarding AB 52, the law that enacted the tribal consultation process through CEQA (Public Resources Code § 21080.3.1).

**The AB 52 process will be implemented as appropriate by the lead agency under CEQA.** We are reaching out to you to see if your tribe would like further information about the Project or initiate formal government-to-government consultation. Please let us know by 3/07/2022 whether you would like to discuss this Project. Emely Lopez is the Coastal Conservancy project manager assigned to this project and will coordinate information and consultation requests. She can be reached by email at [emely.lopez@scc.ca.gov](mailto:emely.lopez@scc.ca.gov) or by phone at 213-709-4180.

Thank you again for your consideration of all of our comments. I understand that these comments will not be included in the exhibits but will be shared with board members. Have a great weekend!

Walter

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Walter Lamb

## Addendum

Ballona Wetlands Land Trust  
310-384-1042  
[Facebook](#)

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Walter Lamb** <[landtrust@ballona.org](mailto:landtrust@ballona.org)>  
Date: Wed, Mar 16, 2022 at 2:23 PM  
Subject: Another important document  
To: Cooper, Megan@SCC <[megan.cooper@scc.ca.gov](mailto:megan.cooper@scc.ca.gov)>

Hi again Megan,

Attached is the spending plan for riparian enhancement that Friends submitted to the Coastal Commission in order to receive over \$70K in mitigation funds. Nothing in this document even hints at the need for additional funds to revegate the area that Friends cleared using those mitigation funds. It is very alarming that Friends first spent all their available funds clearing trees without informing the Commission that they lacked sufficient funds for revegetation. This is the classic bait and switch that has been harming the Ballona Wetlands for decades.

Walter Lamb  
Ballona Wetlands Land Trust



### **Riparian Restoration Proposal – Spending Plan (CDP 5-97-144)**

This spending plan provides a description of how the funds will be used to mitigate for temporal losses of habitat caused by the unpermitted development, and a detailed budget for the mitigation project, including, but not necessarily limited to, costs for planting materials and totals of collective staff and consultant hours and costs.

- Total Project Cost: \$81,385.70
- Project costs years one and two: \$71,996.75
- Project cost year three: \$9,388.95 (Cost to be absorbed by Friends of Ballona Wetlands)

To follow conditions set forth by the California Coastal commission, Friends of Ballona Wetlands agrees:

- Expend all of the funds to undertake the restoration will be completed within 2 years of transfer of the funds to the Friends of Ballona Wetlands.
- If any portion of the funds remains 2 years after it is transferred to the Friends of Ballona Wetlands, they shall send the remaining funds to the Violation Remediation Account of the State Coastal Conservancy.
- The Friends of Ballona Wetlands shall provide receipts for costs detailed in the spending plan to the Executive Director of the California Coastal Commission on an annual basis.

#### 1. Introduction and Background

This restoration plan as submitted by Friends of Ballona Wetlands (FBW) describes an approach, methods, and monitoring for restoration and enhancement of approximately 0.60 acres of riparian habitat overrun by non-native trees and a weedy understory. The BWER is currently undergoing a large-scale restoration planning effort. The area FBW is restoring will not be impacted by the State's future efforts within the BWER.

The restoration area consists of a riparian area identified by The Bay Foundation (Medel, Johnston and McCarthy 2014). This area is degraded and has high coverage of invasive non-native plants, such as Iceplant (*Carpobrotus edulis*), Canary Island Palms (*Phoenix canariensis*), and Acacia (*Acacia longifolia*). Due to the large coverage of non-native trees, FBW seeks a partnership with the Los Angeles Conservation Corps to remove the bulk of large trees and associated debris.

This area is not included in the full-scale restoration and therefore would benefit greatly from immediate restoration. Riparian habitat is rare and sensitive, and makes up only a small portion of the BWER, 15.5 acres (Medel, Johnston and McCarthy 2014). This area provides habitat to some of California's most sensitive species. The high-quality riparian habitat in the BWER supports riparian-obligate species such as the federally endangered Least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*) and California species of special concern, the yellow-breasted chat (*Icteria virens*). Restoring this riparian area will provide additional habitat for protected and sensitive species. Numerous other species of mammals, reptiles, birds, and invertebrates will benefit from increased high-quality foraging and breeding sites.

The proposed site is heavily inundated with a mixture non-native trees, perennials and annuals. The first year of restoration will focus on removal of large non-native trees and shrubs, with the assistance of the LA Conservation Corps, supplemented by public volunteer events. The second year of restoration will focus on removing smaller exotics with public volunteer events. The third year will consist of continuing non-native plant removal, but also include native plant revegetation. Waiting until year three to re-introduce natives will allow for time to deplete the non-native seed bank at each site. No alteration of topography is proposed – only enhancement with native plants and removal of exotics.

The first phase will require hand removal of the existing exotic vegetation by volunteers under the supervision of FBW staff. **If volunteer events are unable to be held due to coronavirus, FBW will engage a contractor to perform this work.**

The hand removal protocols are as follows:

- (1) FBW will lead and supervise volunteer groups, ensuring protocols are followed at all times
- (2) Hand-pulling of targeted invasive, non-native vegetation species: a. Slowly remove invasive plant, including roots, by hand-pulling or using hand tools b. Gently shake loose attached dirt (if present) from plant and roots c. Replace dirt into hole (if hole was created) from removed plant area
- (3) Dispense of invasive, non-native plant into a green waste dumpster
- (4) Track and record area of restoration (geospatial); weight, condition, and species of removed plants; and basic volunteer statistics

### 3. Work Plan

Map of Riparian Restoration Area



The proposed .60-acre restoration area is dominated by non-native species such as Acacia (*Acacia longifolia*), Canary Island palm (*Phoenix canariensis*), Italian Stone Pine (*Pinus pinea*), Black Nightshade (*Solanum nigrum*), Myoporum (*Myoporum laetum*), and Carnation Spurge (*Euphorbia terracina*). Non-native trees that need to be removed cover approximately 0.41 acres. Removal of larger trees will be contracted with Los Angeles Conservation Corp, who will facilitate the cutting of the trees and the removal of all cut material off site. Additionally, crews from Conservation Corp will move two large debris piles consisting of fallen Canary Island palm fronds to a green waste dumpster.

This site supports an iconic Fremont Cottonwood (*Populus fremontii*) tree that would benefit from the removal of a dense ring of acacia surrounding its base. Adjacent areas also support Arroyo Willow (*Salix lasiolepis*) and Mexican Rush (*Juncus mexicanus*). All natives will be carefully preserved and only non-natives will be removed. FBW staff will flag plants and Environmentally Sensitive Areas as needed to ensure that native species are not harmed in the restoration process. Trees will be removed by lowering limbs and trunk with ropes to prevent pieces from falling on native plants.

#### **Year 1 Expenses: \$64,697.80 (See budget detail spreadsheet)**

Remove approximately 0.1 acres of palm trees, 0.25 acres of acacia and myoporum, 0.05 acres of pine trees, and large debris (palm frond) piles – work to be contracted with Los Angeles Conservation Corp with environmental monitoring by FBW.

Hold approximately three volunteer events to remove non-native weeds in an attempt to reduce the non-native seed bank as much as possible before seeding/planting.

#### **Year 2 Expenses: \$7,298.95 (See budget detail spreadsheet)**

Remove non-native weeds with approximately five volunteer events in an attempt to reduce the non-native seed bank as much as possible before seeding/planting.

#### **Year 3 Expenses: \$9,388.95 (Cost to be absorbed by Friends of Ballona Wetlands)**

Begin willow staking and seeding with native riparian species found on site or historically in coordination with CDFW. Maintain area and remove non-native weeds with approximately five volunteer events.

#### 4. Revegetation

Revegetation of restoration areas will be done in coordination with CDFW. We estimate approximately 20 lbs. of seed will be distributed through the riparian area. **Willow staking will be performed using specimens collected from plants on-site or in nearby areas such as the Ballona Freshwater Marsh and Riparian Corridor. The plant pallet will be designed in coordination with CDFW and reflect the riparian community on-site and historical ecology.**

#### 5. Monitoring

In order to protect wildlife from potential impacts, all trees will be surveyed for nesting birds and roosting bats by a qualified biologist prior to removal. Trees will be removed during a time period that would not negatively impact wildlife. During tree removal, a qualified biologist will monitor the efforts of LA Conservation Corps and FBW volunteers to ensure that no wildlife, native plants, or Environmental Sensitive Areas are impacted by restoration efforts.

Scientific monitoring of the restoration sites will also include vegetation surveys before, during, and after restoration. Monitoring not only records and quantifies changes that occur as a result of the project, but it also allows for adaptive management of re-vegetation. After establishing a baseline assessment of the field site, continued monitoring will allow for comparison of conditions before and after the initial restoration is implemented. This data will permit for analysis of success and inform future restoration projects. After planting and/or seeding, vegetation regrowth will be monitored and non-native plants will continue to be removed.

Surveys will include (1) native and non-native vegetation cover, (2) wildlife presence, (3) visual record points.

- (1) Vegetation cover:
  - (a) Prior to restoration, a baseline vegetation survey will be performed utilizing cover class transects protocols.
  - (b) After restoration, vegetation surveys will continue twice-yearly, documenting both native and non-native vegetation growth.
- (2) Wildlife presence and behavior:
  - (a) Avian surveys will be completed before, during, and after the project is completed. After the project is completed, surveys will take place twice-yearly. The endangered Belding's Savannah Sparrow nests in the pickleweed at the Ballona Wetlands. No pickleweed habitat is present within the project boundary. No tree removal will take place during nesting season. Only low impact weeding and planting will take place throughout spring and summer, which is not expected to disturb the Belding's Savannah Sparrows. If any bird species nests within the designated project site, restoration will be halted near the nest. Depending on the species, a larger buffer zone may be implemented to reduce impacts on the bird.
  - (b) Other Species will be surveyed before, during, and after the project is completed. After the project is completed, surveys will take place annually.
- (3) Visual record:
  - (a) Photographs will be taken at permanent predetermined locations throughout the project site. Photographs will be taken monthly for three years at a minimum. This will assist in documenting the change of plant assemblages overtime. This will also allow for community outreach and involvement in the success of this restoration project.

## **6. Success Criteria and Reporting**

### **Year 1**

- Successful removal of all non-native trees within the restoration footprint**
- Hand removal of current cover of non-native herbaceous species**
- Successful implementation of three volunteer events**

### **Year 2**

- Hand removal of non-native herbaceous species within the restoration footprint**
- Less than 5% cover of re-sprouting non-native trees**
- Successful implementation of five volunteer events**

### **Year 3**

- Implementation of re-vegetation of native riparian habitat.**
- Zero percent cover by Cal-IPC species rated as "High"**
- Less than 30% Cal-IPC rated "Moderate" and "Limited"**
- Successful implementation of five volunteer events**

### **Year 5 (After grant term has concluded)**

- Native species diversity significantly higher than baseline**



- Zero percent cover by Cal-IPC species rated as “High”
- Less than 10% Cal-IPC rated “Moderate” and “Limited”

**Reports will be submitted to CDFW annually. Reports will include a full assessment of all work performed, number of volunteers engaged, monitoring results, and success criteria met.**

#### 7. Cultural Resources

If suspected cultural or historic artifacts are identified through monitoring in invasive vegetation removal or planting procedures described above, field staff conducting invasive plant management work will implement the following best management practices (BMPs) to avoid impacts. Subsequent steps are as follows:

- (1) Immediately stop work
- (2) Contact the land manager (CDFW) via phone from the field
- (3) Replace the soil and artifact where it was found and photograph the location
- (4) GPS specific location and send location and photograph to land manager (CDFW)

In compliance with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990, CDFW will notify and consult affiliated tribal representatives for proper treatment of human remains, funerary, and sacred objects, should these be discovered.

#### 8. Additional Details

Pipes and old infrastructure will not be disturbed or removed.

#### 9. Sources Cited

Medel, Ivan, Karina Johnston, and Amanda McCarthy. 2014. Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve Vegetation Alliance and Habitat Crosswalk.

Contact: Scott Culbertson  
Executive Director  
Friends of Ballona Wetlands  
211 Culver Boulevard, Suite N  
Playa del Rey, CA 90293  
310-306-5994  
[scott@ballonafriends.org](mailto:scott@ballonafriends.org)

## Addendum

**From:** [patriciamcpherson1@verizon.net](mailto:patriciamcpherson1@verizon.net)  
**To:** [Samuelson\\_Taylor@SCC](mailto:Samuelson_Taylor@SCC); [Hutzel\\_Amy@SCC](mailto:Hutzel_Amy@SCC); [SCC Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Conservancy Meeting March 2022, Item 10  
**Date:** Saturday, March 19, 2022 10:32:49 AM  
**Attachments:** [Screen Shot 2022-03-17 at 12.56.02 PM.png](#)  
[Screen Shot 2021-06-25 at 1.10.49 PM.png](#)  
[Screen Shot 2022-03-17 at 12.56.02 PM.png](#)

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Patricia McPherson President  
[Jeanette@SaveBallona.org](mailto:Jeanette@SaveBallona.org) (310) 721-3512

TO: California Coastal Conservancy Board Members and Staff  
RE: March 24, 2022 Staff Recommendation of Grants for Project Nos. 04-088-03 & 21-072-01

Grassroots Coalition rejects approval of these grants based upon the following reasons:

Key legal issues are:

The Staff Recommendation does not alert the Conservancy board members to the legal need of adherence to the purpose for which the land was acquired, namely Title 14, Section 630 Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve's specific Purpose and Goals for its acquisition and induction into the the State of California's Ecological Reserve System.

The Staff Recommendation promotes hiring contractors to promote public awareness and support of a Plan for conversion of Ballona Wetlands into a saltwater bay, a Plan that is inconsistent with the Wildlife Conservation Board's and the Fish & Game Commission approval of Ballona Ecological Reserve as a Terrestrial/ Nonmarine Ecological Reserve having **specific Purpose and Goals to protect its freshwater resources, its endangered species and its wildlife corridors** (which is now further enhanced via legislative protection via the 30 x 30 plan for protection of biodiversity and wildlife corridors. Staff, via omission of facts, recommends such destructive and risky plans without alerting the public to the Title 14, Section 630 status of the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve's

1. This Staff Recommendation, as virtually all past Staff Recommendations, fails to alert Coastal Conservancy Board Members of the legal parameters of offering a grant namely:
  - a. Ca. Dept. of Fish & Game Code 1745 assures that any/all agreements, with agencies and/or nonprofits, shall adhere to the Purpose for which the Ecological Reserve was acquired.



## Addendum

- b. Here, the Staff Recommendation fails to alert Board Members that Ballona is a Title 14, Section 630 Terrestrial/ NonMarine Ecological Reserve having its specific Purpose and Goals for acquisition. The Grant is inconsistent with the Title 14, Section 630 Terrestrial/ NonMarine nature and purpose for which the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve (BWER) was acquired.

The grant instead promotes the intent to pursue the preferred alternative of the Conservancy's, namely, converting the terrestrial, predominantly seasonal freshwater nature of Ballona into a fully tidal saltwater bay. Such intent of conversion into an estuarine, marine outcome would require a revocation request to the Ca. Fish and Game Commission to revoke its status as a Title 14, Section 630 Terrestrial, NON- MARINE RESERVE. Into a Title 14, Section 632 Marine Preserve.

- c. The Ballona Channel is also outside the Ecological Reserve.

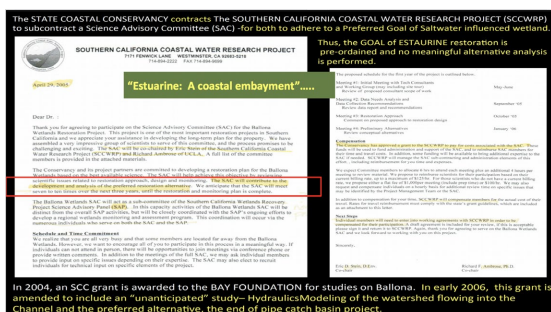
- d. The Conservancy has failed to consult with CDFW and provide this available Prop 12. Funding for the Fish & Game Commission's Section 1019, required Land Management Plan (LMP) for Ballona as an inducted Ecological Reserve as Registered in 2005 with the OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW.

The LMP leading language IS THE TITLE 14 SECTION 630 PURPOSE AND GOALS OF BALLONA'S ACQUISITION. And, any and all subsequent Environmental Impact Report done for Ballona is to lead with the Title 14, Section 630 Purpose and Goals of its acquisition.

- e. The Conservancy, instead of leading with (or including anywhere in the Staff Recommendation) the Title 14 Section 630 language of Purpose and Goals, as required for the lead agency's engagement, inappropriately inserts again its own preferred outcome of creating a full tidal bay.

\*The Conservancy, unknown to the public at large, created its own 'preferred alternative' in 2005 as it awarded a Conservancy grant to the Southern California Coastal Waters Research Project and its Science Advisory Committee. Such creation of its 'preferred alternative' namely the conversion of Ballona into a saltwater bay and its grant award for such a narrowed scientific review, was inconsistent with the 2005 approval and Registration of Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve under Title 14, Section 630 Terrestrial/ NonMarine Ecological Reserve having specific Purpose and Goals of its acquisition. AOL 2005. <https://saveballona.org/presidents-presentations.html>

Acquisition with Public Bond Dollars PPT SLIDE 9 of 12



The wrongful activity by the Conservancy is demonstrated by the contractual letter of SCCWRP

## Addendum

(attached).

The Conservancy in this Staff Recommendation continues in its improper attempt to act as lead agency and fails to act in its role of Responsible Agency to advise the CDFW on ways to implement CDFW's requirements for leadership on Ballona. Namely, to perform the Fish and Game Code Section 1019--the performance of a Land Management Plan which would necessitate the implementation of CDFW's strategy of study for Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems...which Ballona Wetlands/ Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve is a state acknowledged (Dept. of Water Resources) Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem.

The Conservancy should be administering its grants to fulfill the requirements of CDFW for Ballona as an Ecological Reserve but instead has failed to advise and alert CDFW and the public and other agencies to the funding that was made available for the Title 14, Section 630 Terrestrial/ NonMarine specific Purpose and Goals for which Ballona was inducted into the Ecological Reserve System (Aug. 19 2005 Fish & Game Commission Meeting video archive). The Conservancy has instead, been pursuing an unapproved goal of its own for Ballona which is contrary to the law and inconsistent with the Title 14, Section 630 Terrestrial/ NonMarine Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve's specific Purpose and Goals.

*The proposed project will replace the concrete levees of the Ballona Creek flood control channel with set back earthen levees to re-establish the creek's floodplain and return the daily ebb and flow of tidal waters where feasible. P. 8 of 20.*

**The following contains the California State Registered Title 14, Section 630 NonMarine Purpose and Goals for Ballona Wetlands ER.**

California Regulatory Notice Register 2005, Volume No. 20-Z, Starting on **page 663** Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve

[https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/medi-cal/Documents/AB1629/ZREG/ZREG\\_20-Z\\_5.20.05\\_notice.pdf](https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/medi-cal/Documents/AB1629/ZREG/ZREG_20-Z_5.20.05_notice.pdf)

-This Staff Recommendation as have the other SCC Staff Recommendations, failed to point out the need for adherence to what the Wildlife Conservation Board and the Ca. Fish and Game Commission acquired with \$140 million and then codified as Ballona's Ecological Reserve status under Title 14, Section 630 NonMarine Ecological Reserve respectively.

-Further, the SCC Project Manager, inserted in 2005, in contractual letter language for a SCC grant to the Southern California Coastal Waters Research Program(SCCWRP) and its attendant Science Advisory Committee(SAC) an unapproved Preferred Alternative Outcome for Ballona Wetlands restoration that improperly narrowed the scope of alternatives for SCCWRP & SAC to evaluate thereby causing the removal of all reasonable alternatives and creating inconsistency with the Title 14, Section 630 NONMARINE STATUS OF BALLONA WETLANDS ECOLOGICAL RESERVE as approved and registered with the State of California. (SCCWRP letter contract 2005)

-The California Coastal Conservancy admittedly, managed the studies for the restoration of Ballona utilizing Prop 12 funding provided by the public for Ballona's restoration. The Prop. 12 funding did not envision removal of the Ballona Channel levees and/or the conversion of Ballona Wetlands into a fully tidal, saltwater bay. Therefore, the use of the Prop. 12 funds for studies that eliminated the advancement of the CDFW Land Management Plan and eliminated basic hydrology studies of Ballona itself to instead promote the preferred alternative cited by Ms. Small to SCCWRP privately and later as a saltwater bay by the 2008

## Addendum

timeframe, was improper use of public funds.

F. The Staff Recommendation does not alert the Conservancy board members to the legal need of adherence to the purpose for which the land was acquired, namely Title 14, Section 630 Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve's specific Purpose and Goals for its acquisition and induction into the the State of California's Ecological Reserve System.

The Staff Recommendation promotes hiring contractors to promote public awareness and support of a Plan for conversion of Ballona Wetlands into a saltwater bay, a Plan that is inconsistent with the Wildlife Conservation Board's and the Fish & Game Commission approval of Ballona Ecological Reserve as a Terrestrial/ Nonmarine Ecological Reserve having **specific Purpose and Goals to protect its freshwater resources, its endangered species and its wildlife corridors** (which is now further enhanced via legislative protection via the 30 x 30 plan for protection of biodiversity and wildlife corridors). Staff, via omission of facts, recommends such destructive and risky plans without alerting the public to the Title 14, Section 630 status of the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve's

Public Resource Code violations:

- a. 31251, 31251.2,
- b. Division 20, starting with Section 3000 (Coastal Act), 30002 Ca. Coastal Zone Conservation Act starting with Section 27000. In particular Groundwater Sustainability Plan( GSP) data gaps that include saltwater intrusion in the Ballona region that need to be resolved as cited in the 2022 GSP Appendix F. ( The GSP DATA GAP is current conditions. The CDFW Plan of removal of over 3 million cubic yards of soil to allow for creation of a fully tidal saltwater bay compounds the need for modeling evaluation for contamination of the multiple freshwater aquifers underlying Ballona Wetlands classified as Potential Drinking Water and Drinking Water.
- c. Chapter 6, 31251-31270 Coastal Resource Enhancement Projects enabling legislation violated via lack of adherence/notification to Title 14, Section 630 Purpose and Goals of Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve.

Any and all agreements with agencies and/or nonprofits shall adhere to the Purpose for which the Ecological Reserve was acquired...Section 1745 Ca. Fish & Game Code.

The Conservancy violates Section 1745 of the Fish and Game Code as the grants to not abide by the Purpose for which the ER was acquired by the Wildlife Conservation Board and approved by the Fish and Game Commission and Registered by the Office of Administrative Law.

We request your good faith consideration of the issues raised above,  
Patricia McPherson, Grassroots Coalition



The STATE COASTAL CONSERVANCY **contracts** The SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA COASTAL WATER RESEARCH PROJECT (SCCWRP) to subcontract a Science Advisory Committee (SAC) -**for both to adhere to a Preferred Goal of Saltwater influenced wetland.**



## SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA COASTAL WATER RESEARCH PROJECT

7171 FENWICK LANE WESTMINSTER, CA 92683-5218  
714-894-2222 FAX 714-894-9699

April 29, 2005

### "Estuarine: A coastal embayment".....

Dear Dr. :

Thank you for agreeing to participate on the Science Advisory Committee (SAC) for the Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project. This project is one of the most important restoration projects in Southern California and we appreciate your assistance in developing the long-term plan for the property. We have assembled a very impressive group of scientists to serve of this committee, and the process promises to be challenging and exciting. The SAC will be co-chaired by Eric Stein of the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project (SCCWRP) and Richard Ambrose of UCLA. A full list of the committee members is provided in the attached materials.

The Conservancy and its project partners are committed to developing a restoration plan for the Ballona Wetlands based on the best available science. The SAC will help achieve this objective by reviewing scientific issues related to restoration approach, design and monitoring. The SAC will contribute to the development and analysis of the preferred restoration alternative. We anticipate that the SAC will meet seven to ten times over the next three years, until the restoration and monitoring plan is complete.

The Ballona Wetlands SAC will act as a sub-committee of the Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project Science Advisory Panel (SAP). In this capacity activities of the Ballona Wetlands SAC will be distinct from the overall SAP activities, but will be closely coordinated with the SAP's ongoing efforts to develop a regional wetlands monitoring and assessment program. This coordination will occur via the numerous individuals who serve on both the SAC and the SAP.

#### Schedule and Time Commitment

We realize that you are all very busy and that some members are located far away from the Ballona Wetlands. However, we want to encourage all of you to participate in this process in a meaningful way. If individuals can not attend in person, there will be opportunities to join meetings via conference phone or provide written comments. In addition to the meetings of the full SAC, we may ask individual members to provide input on specific issues depending on their expertise. The SAC may also elect to recruit individuals for technical input on specific elements of the project.

The proposed schedule for the first year of the project is outlined below.

Meeting #1: Initial Meeting with Tech Consultants and Working Group (may including site tour) Review of proposed consultant scope of work	May-June
Meeting #2: Data Needs Analysis and Data Collection Recommendations Review data report and recommendations	September '05
Meeting #3: Restoration Approach Comment on proposed approach to restoration design	October '05
Meeting #4: Preliminary Alternatives Review conceptual alternatives	January '06

#### Compensation

The Conservancy has approved a grant to the SCCWRP to pay for costs associated with the SAC. These funds will be used to fund administration and support of the SAC, and to reimburse SAC members for their time and travel costs. In addition, some funding will be available to bring additional expertise to the SAC if needed. SCCWRP will manage the SAC sub-contracting and administration elements of this effort, including reimbursement for you time and expenses.

We expect Committee members to allocate 6 hrs to attend each meeting plus an additional 4 hours per meeting to review material. We propose to reimburse scientists for their participation based on their current billing rate, up to a maximum of \$125/hr. For those scientists who do not have a current billing rate, we propose either a flat fee of \$1,000 per meeting (include prep time) or \$100/hr. We may also request and compensate individuals on a hourly basis for additional review time on specific issues that may be identified by the Project Management Team or the SAC.

In addition to compensation for your time, SCCWRP will compensate members for the actual cost of their travel. Rates for travel reimbursement must comply with the state's grant guidelines, which are included as an attachment to this letter.

#### Next Steps

Individual members will need to enter into working agreements with SCCWRP in order to be compensated for their participation. A draft agreement is included for your review, if this is acceptable please sign it and return it to SCCWRP. Again, thank you for agreeing to serve on the Ballona Wetlands SAC and we look forward to working with you on this project.

Sincerely,

Eric D. Stein, D.Env.  
Co-chair

Richard F. Ambrose, Ph.D.  
Co-chair

In 2004, an SCC grant is awarded to the BAY FOUNDATION for studies on Ballona. In early 2006, this grant is amended to include an "unanticipated" study—Hydraulics Modeling of the watershed flowing into the Channel and the preferred alternative, the end of pipe catch basin project.