

From: [Kathy Knight](#)
To: [Hutzel, Amy@SCC](mailto:Hutzel,Amy@SCC)
Cc: [SCC Public Comment](#); ben.allen@sen.ca.gov; tina.mckinnor@asm.ca.gov
Subject: Ballona Wetlands Update at September 14, 2023 meeting
Date: Thursday, September 7, 2023 4:58:23 PM

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September 9, 2023

To: amy.Hutzel@scc.ca.gov

CC: publiccomments@scc.ca.gov, ben.allen@sen.ca.gov, tina.mckinnor@asm.ca.gov

Subject: Please provide an update on the Ballona Wetlands at your September 14, 2023 meeting

Dear Executive Officer Hutzel,

Our organization has been working to save, protect and restore the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve for the past 30 years. We support a slow, careful restoration of Ballona that protects the plants and wildlife, and engages young people in this process.

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.

Thank you,
Kathy Knight, Board Member

Ballona Ecosystem Education Project (B.E.E.P.)
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