

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

SOUTH COAST DISTRICT OFFICE
301 E. OCEAN BLVD. SUITE 300
LONG BEACH, CA 90802
(562) 590-5071



Th16a

CDP 5-23-0233 (Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority)

MARCH 13, 2025

CORRESPONDENCE

Three (3) Letters in Opposition

Forty-Nine (49) Letters in Support

From: [Adrian Morales](#)
To: [Ziff, Dani@Coastal](mailto:Ziff_Dani@Coastal)
Cc: [Gttribalcouncil](#); [Anthony Morales](#)
Subject: Application No. 5-23-0233 (Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority, Seal Beach)
Date: Friday, March 7, 2025 4:46:29 PM

Dear Commission and Staff,

In addition to comments already provided to the commission on May 6, 2022, the Gabrieleno Tongva San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians continues to support and recommend the denial of CDP- 5-23-0233, the Los Cerritos Wetlands Restoration Project.

As you are aware the project property including the continuous amount of tribal resources identified and discovered are Tribal Cultural Resources defined by CA PRC 21074(a), and CA PRC 21080.3.1, including resources that are eligible for the California and National Registers' of Historic Places. Avoidance / preservation in place should be implemented prior to approval. I included meaningful Tribal Cultural Resource Resolution information regarding the interpretation of the Public Resource Code as it pertains to all TCRs.

The proposed wetlands restoration project also continues to not be in compliance with CDP 5-97-367-A1 (2002).

According to the Los Cerritos Wetlands Cultural Resource Assessment Report, In addition to the already registered sites (CA-ORA 260, 261, 262, 263, 264), three additional TCR were discovered during the preliminary survey including the over near ninety identified Prehistoric cultural resources (Appendix F) in the surrounding areas that would all support the high probability of an adverse effect to the landscape.

In consultation with the Gabrieleno Tongva San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians, the tribe continues to request that the LCWA consider a restoration project that is consistent with the CDPs special conditions and deed restrictions including the avoidance and preservation of TCRs as defined in the Public Resource Codes.

TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCE RESOLUTION

STIPULATIONS

Native American sacred places, burial sites, and tribal cultural resources are vital to the cultural and spiritual well-being of Indian tribes and people. These physical places and remaining resources are directly tied to the cultural identity and sovereign self-determination of Indian tribes. Impacts to or destruction of such places can interrupt, eliminate, or adversely affect integral cultural practices and beliefs, and thus obstruct tribal sovereignty.

As California Native Americans have used and continue to use natural settings in the conduct of religious observances, ceremonies, and cultural practices and

beliefs, these resources reflect the tribes' continuing cultural ties to the land and their traditional heritage. Those sites, including tribal ancestral burial areas, are being lost at an alarming rate because lead agencies are not performing cumulative impact assessments and are approving land use development projects that do not consider avoidance and preservation in place.

Most concerning, it has become common practice for archaeological and historic properties standards to be used for tribal cultural resources, including the very identification of tribal cultural resources determined by archaeologist and consultants, while lead agencies and consultants dismiss critical tribal government information.

In recognition of California Native American tribal sovereignty and the unique relationship of state and local governments, and respecting the interests and roles of

project proponents, it is the intent of the Legislature, in enacting Assembly Bill 52, to

accomplish all of the following:

(1) Protect tribal cultural resources, which is in the public interest of the state of California

(2) Clarify that the category of "tribal cultural resources" is distinct and separate from

"archaeological resources" and that tribal methods and solutions, rather than archaeological methods, must be the foremost and principal information used to identify tribal cultural resources and define culturally appropriate treatment or mitigation, with a deference for avoidance.

(3) Clarify that "tribal cultural resources" may include or be primarily composed of a sacred site, Native American human remains or burial areas.

(4) Clarify the substance, steps, and purposes of tribal consultation, to ensure that the

lead agencies engage in and actively seek practicable and culturally appropriate solutions with tribes early in the planning and environmental review processes and throughout these processes until the mitigation measures or planning

agreements have been completed.

Enclosure

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)



May 6, 2022

From: The Gabrieleno/Tongva San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians

To: The California Coastal Commission

Re: Coastal Permit Application 9-21-0488 by Poseidon Water, Coastal Commission Meeting on 5/12/22, Agenda Items Th 9a and Th10a

We respectfully submit the following comments in advance of the public hearing on this CDP.

1. Tribal Chair, Anthony Morales has consulted with Coastal Commission staff as to the project's negative impacts on coastal lands and waters within our tribal jurisdiction. Our tribe has historic, cultural, and spiritual ties to the project site and surrounding area and therefore takes responsibility for protecting the health and well-being of all life dependent on these ancestral lands and waters for sustenance.
2. The Gabrieleno/Tongva San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians supports Coastal Commission Staff's recommendation that the project be denied. The evidence is clear that, as designed and operated, Poseidon Water's proposed desalination facility will pollute water and land and kill marine life while failing to contribute anything of value to coastal communities. Privatizing and profiting from the commodification of a basic human need, water, is morally reprehensible and environmentally unjust. This Project will result in an increase in the cost of water locally putting low-income residents at risk. Shamelessly, this corporation also expects the public to help pay for this for-profit enterprise. In 2019, Poseidon Water sent an initial application for \$1.1 billion in financing from the State's Debt Limit Allocation Committee which finances tax-exempt bonds to help fund private projects with a public benefit, like housing. Our tribal territory must not be pillaged by corporations who seek to exploit the human right to water for their own bottom line.
3. The Project Applicants have failed to care for this property and are not likely to do so in the future. Unpermitted grading and removal of wetlands habitat @ 2002 resulted in Coastal Act violations that remain unaddressed a decade later. Coastal Commission Enforcement does not have the capacity to police and to prosecute those who intentionally violate CDPs, especially those issued with multiple Special Conditions.
4. The Project Applicant has not taken tribal sovereignty and tribal engagement seriously. No tribal consultation has taken place between Poseidon Water and our tribal council

regarding this CDP. Although the Project EIR states that an archaeologist will be consulted if tribal cultural resources are discovered during construction, there is no requirement in the document that tribes also be contacted or that tribal monitoring be provided. Nor is there any reference in the EIR as to the significance of the project site to contemporary tribal members or the negative impacts of the Project on our present and future generations.

5. Prior actions by both state and private entities dispossessed California's indigenous peoples from our ancestral homelands and many current and proposed policies and projects continue to ensure that we remain landless in our homelands. Tribal peoples and cultures both locally and globally are marginalized populations. However, as our predecessors have done, we seek to retain and reclaim stewardship of and access to our tribal lands and to maintain and revive suppressed tribal cultural and spiritual practices. The 24th Annual Pilgrimage of the Tongva and Acjachemen People, Carrying Prayers for our Ancestors and Future Generations, passed by this site on October 2, 2022. The Gabrieleno/Tongva San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians is currently engaged in efforts to save the last remaining open space on the Bolsa Chica Mesa from luxury housing and to remove bike jumps that have desecrated this Sacred Site since the 1970's. We oppose the LCWA's exploratory drilling of boreholes in the Los Cerritos Wetlands, and the LCWA's plans to grade, flood, and build on these wetlands. We regard Banning Ranch and San Onofre as sacred sites at risk from the unintended consequences of resource extraction and energy development and seek their restoration and conservation. It is past time to stop expanding the footprint of industry, especially as the developers' profits have far exceeded those considered "reasonable" and the negative impacts are cumulative and life threatening.
6. Unfortunately, Governor Newsom has recently restated his support for Poseidon Water's Huntington Beach desalination project, which will inevitably destroy the health of Southern California's coastal lands, waters, and marine life. This undermines the trust that tribal nations and the people of California have placed in him. On June 18, 2019, the 53rd Annual California Native American Day, Governor Newsom issued Executive Order N-5-19, a directive to state agencies to engage with CA tribes, encourage them to return state lands under their jurisdiction to CA tribes, and to co-manage these lands with CA tribes. In supporting Poseidon Water he fails to acknowledge the disregard this corporation has shown towards tribal cultural resources and tribal engagement. His position on the project is also in direct conflict with his October, 2020 Executive Order N-82-20 to employ nature-based solutions to protect biodiversity, advance equitable access to nature, and combat climate change.
7. Responding to Executive Order N-8-20, in December 2021 the CA Natural Resources Agency issued *Pathways to 30x30: Accelerating Conservation of California's Nature*, a draft document which intends to engage state and federal agencies, CA tribes, and private landowners in the conservation of state lands, including those that have been damaged, are currently being degraded, or will be negatively impacted by approved projects. This effort cannot be successful as long as multiple state entities under the the CA Natural Resources Agency (such as the State Lands Commission, the CA Department of Parks and Recreation, the Coastal Conservancy, the San Gabriel and

Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy, the Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority, and the CA Department of Fish and Wildlife) regularly enter into agreements with and accept funding from private for-profit corporations like Poseidon Water and AES as mitigation for projects like the one before you now which harm public health, damage coastal lands and waters, and destroy tribal cultural and sacred sites. Alarming, like a snake swallowing its own tail, the Coastal Commission approves CDPs that mitigate a project's inability to comply with Coastal Act regulations by allowing the applicant to offset the damage by providing mitigation for a different project whose CDP also required mitigation because of its negative impacts on our coast. Mitigation credits and mitigation banking have become independent for-profit enterprises supported by public monies and attracting all manner of paid consultants who justify the ongoing erasure of tribal culture and endanger the ability of our tribal homelands to sustain life.

8. We are particularly concerned as to the mitigations proposed by Poseidon Water for this project, especially those that involve CA state entities engaged in environmental protection. According to *Poseidon Huntington Beach Desalination Facility Marine Life Mitigation Plan: Bolsa Chica*, "The State Lands Commission supports having Poseidon fund the inlet maintenance to allow for estuarine and coastal fish populations to be sustained and to undertake wetland restoration activities within the muted tidal basins to increase fish and wildlife resources within this important coastal habitat in Orange County." This report also notes that the State Lands Commission may approve Poseidon's request to contribute to the Palos Verdes Reef Restoration. The Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority is currently engaged in discussion with Poseidon Water to provide mitigation for the Project and Exhibit 13 for Th9a/9b lists mitigation credits for the South Los Cerritos Wetlands Restoration, Phase II. Our tribal council opposes the LCWA's Los Cerritos Wetlands Restoration Program EIR and the Southern Los Cerritos Wetlands Restoration Project. Phase II will inundate existing seasonal brackish wetlands and salt flats, bury sensitive habitat areas beneath berms providing access to and protection for fossil fuel operations in the Los Cerritos Wetlands which are within the Sacred Site of Puvungna as registered with the CA Native American Heritage Commission. Multiple tribal burials and cultural objects have been unearthed from Puvungna and only a fraction of this 10,100+ year old creation site still provides habitat for coastal wildlife and marine species, holds the remains of our ancestors, and is compatible with our spiritual and ceremonial practices.

We hope you will consider the perspective of those who have stewarded these lands for centuries and continue to do so.

Sincerely, Chief Anthony Morales, Tribal Chair, Gabrieleno/Tongva Band of San Gabriel Mission Indians
chiefrbwife@aol.com



March 7, 2025

CDP for Southern Los Cerritos Wetlands 5-23-0233

Comments on March Coastal Commission Agenda Item Th16a

CA Sierra Club Coastal Sub-committee, Los Cerritos Wetlands Task Force

CONCLUSION

The Sierra Club finds that this project is not protective of existing Coastal and Tribal Resources. We find that the proposed benefits can be accomplished without grading, flooding, and removing habitat, including ESHA, threatening wildlife, including special species, or erasing tribal cultural resources, possibly including burials. We ask that the Coastal Commission deny this CDP request.

This conclusion and the following comments have been reached in consultation with and are supported by the Gabrieleno San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians and Acjachemen Elder and Culture Keeper Rebecca Robles.

COMMENTS ON STAFF REPORT

Note: Comments (**RED TEXT**) on Coastal Commission Staff Report (STAFF REPORT TEXT IN *ITALICS*)

STAFF REPORT

Project Description:

Southern Area Los Cerritos Wetlands, Pacific Coast Highway and 1st Street, Seal Beach.

Two-phase habitat restoration of a 103.54-acre site of prior oil operation lands to subtidal, salt marsh, transitional, and upland habitats at the Southern Los Cerritos Wetlands Site including remediation or containment of contaminated soil, grading, habitat restoration, replacement of existing culvert along Hellman Channel with a larger culvert, creation of new secondary tidal channels through the wetlands, construction of new tribal and public access opportunities including parking and trails, construction of flood management elements, raising of the existing utility and maintenance road (1st Street) through the wetlands, and undergrounding of power transmission lines along the road.

*LCWA Mission: The mission of the LCWA is to provide for a comprehensive program of acquisition, protection, conservation, restoration, maintenance and operation, and environmental enhancement of the Los Cerritos Wetlands area consistent with the goals of flood protection, **habitat protection and restoration**, and improved water supply, water quality, groundwater recharge, and water conservation.*

Transforming an historic and existing seasonal wetlands into a tidal salt marsh is not restoration, it is habitat creation. Removing most of the existing habitat, native and non-native, is not protection. In this case, focusing on flood protection for the Hellman oil facility and its service road results in loss of existing wetlands for the benefit of preserving oil extraction.

The project would increase local Native American Tribes' access to their ancestral lands by constructing a Story Porch, harvest garden, gathering spaces, traditional tulle boat launch area, and a monument all

*developed with local tribal representation during the project planning process. The applicant has worked closely and collaborated with **five local tribal leaders** on these aspects of the restoration project.*

All the above tribal access benefits can be accomplished without grading and/or flooding the site and could have been implemented by the LCWA when the property was first acquired. Therefore, these measures cannot be considered to be a benefit for the purpose of offsetting actual and potential damage to a Sacred Site. This project site, and the entire Los Cerritos Wetlands, fall within the Sacred Site of Puvungna as registered with the Native American Heritage Commission. Prior to and during the construction of the adjacent Heron Pointe housing development, multiple ancestors' burials were illegally desecrated and removed. Shell deposits (evidence of tribal occupation), can be found on trails throughout the adjacent Gum Grove Park. The proposed grading, the storage of debris and construction materials, and the permanent deposit of soils, will negatively impact surface and subsurface tribal/archaeological materials.

Additionally, Sacred Sites are not only defined by remaining physical evidence of tribal occupation, but also by the responsibility that tribes have to protect these sites and their occupants from disturbance and destruction. The extensive erasure of existing habitat, ongoing construction activities, and increased human presence on trails and at picnic sites, will displace and harm wildlife (including insects and sub-surface life), in one of the few remaining natural open spaces within Puvungna. For decades, multiple tribal representatives have opposed projects that put these wetlands at risk from commercial, residential, industrial and recreational development. This includes the LCWA's multiple restoration plans and projects which continue and expand fossil fuel production that puts wildlife and the general public at risk; grading, flooding, paving, burying, and using herbicides on existing wetlands habitat areas. The LCWA has failed to prioritize "preservation in place," always the preference of tribal peoples, with respect to disturbance of or removal of tribal cultural resources on this Sacred Site.

Five leaders? While a number of tribal leaders have collaborated with the LCWA and were involved in its Tribal Consultation Group, there remain others who have consistently opposed both the LCWA's vision to support ongoing and expanding fossil fuel production on and adjacent to the wetlands and to create tidal and full-tidal salt marsh habitat by grading and flooding existing seasonal wetlands. These tribal leaders have been undervalued and ignored by the LCWA, the Coastal Conservancy, the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy, and the Coastal Commission.

*While the construction activities associated with the ecological restoration would impact a portion of the existing wetlands, **may** impact unknown archaeological and/or tribal cultural resource deposits,*

Not may, but WILL - the site AS A WHOLE is not being considered as sacred, nor as an archaeological site worthy of preservation, nor as a diverse wetlands ecosystem.

the restoration project would significantly expand and enhance the wetlands and, in so doing, improve habitat, water quality, and local marine ecosystem health, as well as provide for improved tribal access and new public access opportunities consistent with the Chapter 3 policies of the Coastal Act.

This proposed restoration does not expand the footprint of existing wetlands (seasonal), but alters them (tidal/saltwater marsh), or eliminates them (construction of flood protection barriers, raised road, public amenities such as trails parking and visitor services like picnic tables).

III Special Conditions

2 b. Tribal Cultural Resources Plan—Project Plans shall include a Tribal Cultural Resources Site Plan depicting locations of the resources proposed to be used by local native tribes including, but not limited to a) tribal gathering space, b) tribal harvest areas and/or harvest garden, c) tribal monument, d) tidal channel access points specific for tribal use. The Plan shall also clearly

indicate that these improvements will be constructed as part of Phase 1 of the project and will become available for Tribes' use at the end of Phase 1.

2 e. Construction Staging Plan—The Construction Staging Plan Shall Identify The limits of the work areas and staging areas, all such areas shall be delineated in cooperation with a qualified biologist, limiting the potential habitat areas affected by project activities and **in cooperation with known tribal resource areas**. All vehicles and equipment shall be restricted to pre-established work areas and haul routes and to established or designated staging areas. Construction vehicle access shall be limited to 1st Street and Adolfo Lopez Drive only. Construction vehicles shall be restricted to designated routes. Construction equipment and materials shall be stored only in designated staging and stockpiling areas, and equipment shall not be in contact with any receiving waters or environmentally sensitive habitat areas **only as needed for targeted construction**.

It is not clear what is meant by “In cooperation with known tribal resource areas.” This Construction Staging plan does not require the input of either archaeologists or tribal representatives/monitors. Since the entire project area is known to have been the village of Motuucheyngna, and lies within the Los Cerritos Wetlands and larger Puvungna complex, no staging and stockpiling areas should be on site. Nor should construction materials or equipment be stored on the project site, especially as additional weight can result in permanent damage to/destruction of archaeological and other tribal evidence. “Only as needed for targeted construction” is also unclear - does this mean that “receiving waters and environmentally sensitive habitat areas” may be in contact with staging and stockpiling areas if these are “needed for targeted construction?”

4. Archaeological and Tribal Cultural Resource Monitoring and Treatment Plan.

PRIOR TO COMMENCEMENT OF CONSTRUCTION, the applicant shall submit, for the review and approval of the Executive Director, an Archaeological and Tribal Cultural Resources Monitoring and Treatment Plan (Plan) prepared by a qualified resource specialist **in consultation with Gabrieleño-affiliated Native American representatives**, which shall incorporate the following measures and procedures:

All **Gabrieleño-affiliated Native American Tribes** listed on an updated Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) contact list for the area shall be invited to consult on the preparation of the Plan and all who accept the invitation shall be allowed to consult and shall be meaningfully considered in the Plan's development. Evidence of written notification shall be made available to the Executive Director.

It appears that this plan will be developed without consultation with the Acjachemen who, like the Gabrieleno/Tongva, consider Motuucheyngna and all of Puvungna to be a Sacred Site, foundational to the tribe's origin and history. Additionally, the Acjachemen are the only tribe to regularly host ceremonies here (The Annual Ancestor Walk). Failure to include the Acjachemen 1) in the preparation of the Tribal Cultural Resource Monitoring and Treatment Plan, 2) to be present during ground disturbing and other project activities, and 3) to provide tribal monitors, violates the protocols set forth by the CA Native American Heritage Commission, in addition to other state laws.

- a. *The Plan shall ensure that any archaeological or tribal cultural resources that are present on the site and could be impacted by the approved development will be identified so that a plan for their protection can be developed. The methods of protection of Tribal Cultural Resources shall be developed in consultation with the Native American tribal government(s). If there is disagreement regarding the method(s) of protection of resources, **the methods that are most protective of coastal resources shall be***

selected. To this end, the Plan shall require that the **Gabrieleño-affiliated** be invited to be present and monitor all ground-disturbing activities and arrange for any invited Tribal representative that requests to monitor and a qualified archaeological monitor to be present to observe project activities with the potential to impact archaeological and/or tribal cultural resources. The monitor(s) shall have experience monitoring for archaeological resources of the local area during excavation projects, be competent to identify significant resource types, and be aware of recommended Tribal procedures for the inadvertent discovery of archaeological resources and human remains.

- b. There shall be at least one pre-grading conference with the project manager and grading contractor at the project site to discuss the potential for the discovery of archaeological or tribal cultural resources. Prior to grading operations, a copy of all archaeological documents and reports shall be provided to the Native American monitors.
- c. The permittee shall provide sufficient archaeological and **Gabrieleño- affiliated Native American monitors** to assure that all project grading and subsurface construction activities that have any potential to uncover or otherwise disturb cultural deposits are monitored at all times.
- d. The permittee shall provide sufficient archaeological and **Gabrieleño- affiliated Native American monitors** to assure that all project grading and subsurface construction activities that have any potential to uncover or otherwise disturb cultural deposits are monitored at all times.
- e. If any archaeological or cultural deposits are discovered, including not limited to skeletal remains and grave-related artifacts, artifacts of traditional cultural, religious or spiritual sites, or any other artifacts relating to the use or habitation sites, all construction shall cease. Should human remains be discovered on-site during the course of the project, immediately after such discovery, the on-site archaeologist and Native American monitor(s) shall notify the County Coroner within 24 hours of such discovery, and all construction activities shall be temporarily halted until the remains can be identified. The Native American group/person deemed acceptable by the NAHC shall participate in the identification process, pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 5097.98. Should the human remains be determined to be that of a Native American, the permittee shall comply with the requirements of Section 5097.98. Within five (5) calendar days of such notification, the permittee shall notify the Executive Director of the discovery of human remains. Treatment of any archaeological or cultural resource discovery shall be determined by the appropriate monitor(s) or the Most Likely Descendant (MLD) when state law mandates the identification of an MLD. If there is disagreement amongst monitors regarding the treatment of any resource discovery, **the treatment that is the most protective of coastal resources shall prevail.** Significance testing may be carried out only if acceptable to the affected Native American Tribe(s), in accordance with the attached "Cultural Resources Significance Testing Plan Procedures" (Appendix B). The permittee shall report all discovered resources as soon as possible, by phone and/or by email to the Executive Director. The permittee shall provide the significance testing results and analysis to the Executive Director, if applicable. A permittee seeking to recommence construction activities shall follow the procedures set forth in Appendix B.

Multiple tribal representatives have previously commented on “the treatment that is the most protective of coastal resources” with respect to the LCWA’s plans for the Los Cerritos Wetlands, including this project site. This most protective treatment would not include grading, flooding, raising roads, building parking lots, and constructing flood protection for off-site private properties. Any reshaping of the land will inevitably destroy both past and present tribal coastal resources, and any subsequent proposed “treatment” cannot compensate for this loss.

9. Tribal Access Plan. PRIOR TO ISSUANCE OF THE COASTAL DEVELOPMENT PERMIT, the Applicant shall submit a Tribal Access Plan for the South LCW project area written in collaboration with the Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority and **the affected tribal governments**, for the review and written approval of the Executive Director. The Plan shall include but is not limited to, the names of Tribes that will have access to the area for religious and ceremonial gatherings, resource and material gathering, and other tribal gatherings, a description of the type and frequency of activities permitted on the site and a discussion of how these activities will be carried out in a manner that is protective of the native habitat and species, and a description of whether and how the area will be closed off to the general public while Tribes are accessing the area for certain described activities. Tribal access shall be maintained in perpetuity in conformance with the approved Tribal Access Plan unless the Commission amends this permit or the Executive Director determines that no amendment is legally required.

The definition of “affected tribal governments” must be made by tribal entities themselves, no tribe shall be excluded by another or by any government authority. Additionally, this plan does not provide access for individual tribal members and appears to limit access to pre-approved group activities. Barring tribal individuals from sacred sites on public lands denies their First Amendment Rights.

5. Habitat Restoration and Monitoring Plans.

a. ii Success criteria.

b. iv Restoration Goals and Objectives

“Success criteria” and “Restoration Goals and Objectives” primarily reference establishing and maintaining “intended,” “desired” habitat, as a way to justify negatively impacting/ eliminating existing wetlands and uplands habitats. The assumption being that the existing ecosystem and species dependent on it can be removed and replaced. While coastal salt marshes are endangered, seasonal coastal wetlands are even moreso. Although degraded, the seasonal wetlands and uplands of the Los Cerritos Wetlands are irreplaceable, and should not be destroyed.

vi. 2 Design Plans and Construction Methods, Site Preparation

Methods and plans for salvage of any plants/or seed material (including collection from impact areas, storage, relocation, and/or reestablishment); salvage of any topsoils to be stock-piled and reused in the restoration area; any demolition, debris removal, grading or other landform alteration; decompaction, soil amendment, or other substrate-affecting activities; erosion control measures; and treatment of invasive species.

“Restoration and construction methods consistent with identified goals and objectives”, allow the removal of ESHA as long as some seeds and topsoils are “salvaged” and “stockpiled.” This is not aligned with either the Coastal Act or the LCWA’s stated goals of preservation of biological and coastal resources.

vii Invasive Species Control/

Provision for continued control of all California Invasive Plant Council Inventory species listed as high or moderately invasive and description of monitoring and control methods. If any herbicide is proposed for potential use, rationale for why it would constitute the least environmentally damaging alternative and detail on the specific product(s), including adjuvants, that would be used, including its certification by the California Department of Pesticide Regulation and allowance for the intended application. This section shall not conflict with the approved IPM for Phase 2.

6. Integrated Pest Management Plan.

Herbicides and pesticides are not to be used on wetlands. None have proven to be safe. Other methods of controlling invasive species may be more time consuming and/or costly, but this does not justify the use of pesticides or herbicides.

7. Construction Best Management Practices.

a. Pre-Construction Surveys for Special Status Species

for special-status plant and wildlife species and nesting birds protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and California Fish and Wildlife Code Section 3503 and to document the boundaries of existing wetlands and other sensitive habitat areas identified by the biologist.

All wildlife currently dependent on the Southern Los Cerritos Wetlands for foraging, nesting, breeding, or as a transportation corridor must be surveyed and protected - before, during and after construction (should the project be approved). Limiting surveys and implementation of the project to only special status species and nesting birds will ensure that this site will not maintain its status as a wildlife habitat area. Including only segments of the project site that are determined to be wetlands or sensitive habitat areas ensures that only a patchwork of safe spaces for plants and wildlife will be spared. Rather than acknowledge that an existing ecosystem has value, the LCWA pretends that meager efforts to spare single plants, seeds, and nests will suffice. Mitigation measures that seek to replace, rather than to protect, existing plant and wildlife communities are inhumane and emblematic of a worldview that treats living beings as disposable.

a. li Nesting Birds.

If any active nest is located within 300 feet of construction activities (or within 500 feet for raptors), the Permittee must ensure that noise levels do not exceed 65 dB at the nest and that nesting birds are not disturbed by construction-related activities.

Given the massive extent of this project limiting individual construction activities to within 300 or 500 ft of active nests is not sufficient to ensure the survival of eggs, hatchlings, or their parents. The overall disruption and destruction of the ecosystem, including habitat removal, grading, storage and use of heavy equipment, is not being considered with respect to birds and to wildlife in general. The cut and paste special conditions for nesting birds that may be appropriate for smaller projects will result in abandoned nests and likely ensure the loss of multiple breeding pairs of Belding's Savannah Sparrows and other not-so-endangered species. Multiple surveys are fine but unless a project is conditioned in a manner that fully protects birds relying on the site, simply observing and documenting their suffering and demise is merely research at the expense of the subjects being studied.

8. Public Access Management Plan.

The Access Plan shall clearly describe the manner in which general public access associated with the approved project is to be provided and managed, with the objective of maximizing public use and enjoyment of the public access areas of the site area including the Stewardship Site Plan improvements (i.e., car and bike parking areas, trails, wildlife viewing areas.

While equitable public access to the Coast is foundational to the Coastal Act itself, it must not take priority over the protection and preservation of coastal ecosystems. Because the Southern Los Cerritos Wetlands have for some time been fenced off from public access, this site has become a unique refuge for local wildlife. Establishing multiple new trails, even on

Exhibit 10

From: SouthCoast@Coastal
To: [Roman, Liliana@Coastal](mailto:Roman,Liliana@Coastal)
Subject: FW: Comment on CCC March Meeting Agenda Item Th16a # 5-23-0233 Southern Los Cerritos Wetlands Restoration CDP
Date: Friday, March 7, 2025 4:56:10 PM

From: Patricia <p.martz@cox.net>
Sent: Friday, March 7, 2025 4:54 PM
To: 'Anna Christensen' <annachristensen259@gmail.com>; SouthCoast@Coastal <SouthCoast@coastal.ca.gov>; Ziff, Dani@Coastal <dani.ziff@coastal.ca.gov>; Hudson, Steve@Coastal <Steve.Hudson@coastal.ca.gov>
Subject: RE: Comment on CCC March Meeting Agenda Item Th16a # 5-23-0233 Southern Los Cerritos Wetlands Restoration CDP

Anna Christensen, Dani Ziff,

This letter is excellent, the comments are true and fully supported by the California Cultural Resources Preservation Alliance., Inc.(CCRPA). The Th16a Los Cerritos project will damage habitat and cultural resources and the so called benefits can be accomplished without grading, flooding, removing habitat, threatening endangered species and erasing tribal cultural resources.

Patricia Martz, Ph.D.
President
CCRPA

From: Anna Christensen <annachristensen259@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 7, 2025 4:36 PM
To: SouthCoast@coastal.ca.gov; Ziff, Dani@Coastal <dani.ziff@coastal.ca.gov>; Hudson, Steve@Coastal <Steve.Hudson@coastal.ca.gov>
Subject: Comment on CCC March Meeting Agenda Item Th16a # 5-23-0233 Southern Los Cerritos Wetlands Restoration CDP

See attached.

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

March 3, 2025

Dr. Justin Cummings, Chair
California Coastal Commission
South Coast District Office
301 E Ocean Blvd., Suite 300
Long Beach, CA 90802-4302

Re: Southern Los Cerritos Wetlands Restoration Project (CDP No. 5-23-0233) Letter of Support

Dear Chair Cummings and Coastal Commissioners:

I am writing to ask for the full and fair consideration of the Southern Los Cerritos Wetlands Restoration Project and the project's Coastal Development Permit (CDP No. 5-23-0233).

This restoration project will repair the damage done by more than a century of oil drilling and other industrial use of the site. This is the first step in restoring a significant portion of the historic wetland complex, which previously spanned more than 2,400 acres. This project will restore over one hundred acres of wetlands, improve water quality, increase biodiversity, support local wildlife, and create a system of trails and public access features that will serve a diverse community.

This restoration project will support a variety of wildlife and will allow the wetlands to adapt to sea level rise by maximizing mid-marsh and transitional wetlands in the design. This restoration project will create public access amenities that are critical to the community, especially in this industrialized area with underserved communities to the west, north, and east. The plans include a new trail system that will connect Gum Grove Park, and the Heron Point Cultural Trail to the San Gabriel River Trail. The trail connections, public parking, ADA features, bike racks, and nearby bus stops will facilitate access to the site. The project will allow people of all ages and abilities to explore and recreate in harmony with the natural space while protecting sensitive habitats from negative impacts. Public amenities include an outdoor classroom, benches and shade, interpretive features, an amphitheater, interpretive signage, educational opportunities, and ADA accessible trails and viewing spaces.

The longstanding collaboration between multiple non-profits, tribal groups, local, state, and federal agencies in protecting and restoring the Los Cerritos Wetlands underscores the broad support for this project and its importance. I respectfully request the full and fair consideration of this important project for the restoration of valuable coastal wetlands and wildlife habitat.

Sincerely,



Robert Garcia
Member of Congress



JOSH LOWENTHAL
ASSEMBLY MEMBER, SIXTY-NINTH DISTRICT

Dr. Justin Cummings, Chair
California Coastal Commission
South Coast District Office
301 E Ocean Blvd., Suite 300
Long Beach, CA 90802-4302

Re: Southern Los Cerritos Wetlands Restoration Project (CDP No. 5-23-0233) Letter of Support

Dear Chair Cummings and Coastal Commissioners:

On behalf of California's 69th Assembly District, I am writing to support the implementation of the Southern Los Cerritos Wetlands Restoration Project and urge the Commission to approve the project's Coastal Development Permit application (CDP No. 5-23-0233).

This restoration project will repair the damage done by more than a century of oil drilling and other industrial uses of the site. Residents across the community are eager to see progress on this significant effort to restore over one hundred acres of wetlands, improve water quality, increase biodiversity, support local wildlife, and create a system of trails and public access features that will serve a diverse community.

This restoration project will support a variety of wildlife and will allow the wetlands to adapt to sea level rise by heavily incorporating mid-marsh and transitional wetlands. This restoration project will create public access amenities that are critical to the community, especially in this industrialized area with underserved communities to the west, north, and east. The plans include a new trail system that will connect Gum Grove Park and the Heron Point Cultural Trail to the San Gabriel River Trail. The trail connections, public parking, ADA features, bike racks, and nearby bus stops will facilitate access to the site. The project will allow people of all ages and abilities to explore and recreate in harmony with the natural space while protecting sensitive habitats from negative impacts. Public amenities include an outdoor classroom, benches and shade structures, interpretive features, an amphitheater, interpretive signage, and ADA accessible trails and viewing spaces.

The longstanding collaboration between multiple non-profits, tribal groups, local, state, and federal agencies in protecting and restoring the Los Cerritos Wetlands underscores the broad support for this project and its potential impacts. I strongly encourage you to support this important project for the restoration of critically valuable coastal wetlands and wildlife habitat.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Josh Lowenthal", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

JOSH LOWENTHAL
Assemblymember, 69th District

STATE CAPITOL
P.O. BOX 942849
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0072
(916) 319-2072
FAX (916) 319-2172

DISTRICT OFFICE
4100 MACARTHUR BOULEVARD, SUITE 340
NEWPORT BEACH, CA 92660
(949) 798-7221

Assemblymember.Dixon@assembly.ca.gov
<https://ad72.asmr.org/>



COMMITTEES
VICE CHAIR, JUDICIARY
VICE CHAIR, PRIVACY & CONSUMER
PROTECTION
APPROPRIATIONS
BANKING AND FINANCE
GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION

March 4, 2025

Dr. Justin Cummings
Chair California Coastal Commission
South Coast District Office
301 E Ocean Blvd., Suite 300
Long Beach, CA 90802-4302

Re: Southern Los Cerritos Wetlands Restoration Project (CDP No. 5-23-0233) Letter of Support

Dear Chair Cummings and Coastal Commissioners:

I am writing to support the implementation of the Southern Los Cerritos Wetlands Restoration Project and urge the Commission to approve the project's Coastal Development Permit application (CDP No. 5-23-0233).

This restoration project will repair the damage from a century of oil drilling and other industrial uses of the site. This is the first step in restoring a significant portion of the historic wetland complex, which previously spanned more than 2,400 acres. This project will restore over one hundred acres of wetlands, improve water quality, increase biodiversity, support local wildlife, and create a system of trails and public access features.

This restoration project will create public access amenities that are critical to the community, especially in this industrialized area. The plans include a new trail system that will connect Gum Grove Park and the Heron Point Cultural Trail to the San Gabriel River Trail. The trail connections, public parking, ADA features, bike racks, and nearby bus stops will facilitate access. The project will allow people of all ages and abilities to explore and recreate with the natural space while protecting sensitive habitats from negative impacts. Public amenities include an outdoor classroom, benches and shade, interpretive features, an amphitheater, interpretive signage, educational opportunities, and ADA accessible trails and viewing spaces.

The longstanding collaboration between multiple non-profits, tribal groups, local, state and federal agencies in protecting and restoring the Los Cerritos Wetlands underscores the broad support for this project and its importance. I respectfully encourage your support for the restoration of valuable coastal wetlands and wildlife habitat.

Sincerely,

Diane Dixon
Assemblymember, 72nd District

CC: Liliana Roman



February 13, 2025

Dr. Justin Cummings, Chair
California Coastal Commission
South Coast District Office
301 E Ocean Blvd., Suite 300
Long Beach, CA 90802-4302

Re: Southern Los Cerritos Wetlands Restoration Project (CDP No. 5-23-0233) – Letter of Support

Dear Chair Cummings and Coastal Commissioners,

As Councilmember for Long Beach's 3rd District, I strongly support the Southern Los Cerritos Wetlands Restoration Project and urge approval of its Coastal Development Permit (CDP No. 5-23-0233).

This project will restore over 100 acres of wetlands, reversing a century of industrial damage, improving water quality, enhancing biodiversity, and creating public access. It will also connect key trails, including Gum Grove Park, the Heron Point Cultural Trail, and the San Gabriel River Trail, with ADA-accessible paths, bike racks, and public parking.

The City of Long Beach and the City of Seal Beach are working together as partners on this critical effort, alongside non-profits, tribal groups, and government agencies. This collaboration underscores the project's regional importance and shared commitment to environmental restoration. I urge your support for this vital investment in our coastline and community.

Sincerely,

Kristina Duggan
Long Beach Councilmember, 3rd District

Councilmember Kristina Duggan | District 3

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



MAYOR
REX RICHARDSON

March 3, 2025

Dr. Justin Cummings, Chair
California Coastal Commission
South Coast District Office 301
E Ocean Blvd., Suite 300 Long
Beach, CA 90802-4302

Re: Southern Los Cerritos Wetlands Restoration Project (CDP No. 5-23-0233) Letter of Support

Dear Chair Cummings and Coastal Commissioners:

As Mayor of the City of Long Beach, I am writing to support the implementation of the Southern Los Cerritos Wetlands Restoration Project and urge the Commission to approve the project's Coastal Development Permit application (CDP No. 5-23-0233).

This restoration project will repair the damage done by more than a century of oil drilling and other industrial use of the site. This is the first step in restoring a significant portion of the historic wetland complex, which previously spanned more than 2,400 acres. This project will restore over one hundred acres of wetlands, improve water quality, increase biodiversity, support local wildlife, and create a system of trails and public access features that will serve a diverse community.

This restoration project will support a variety of wildlife and will allow the wetlands to adapt to sea level rise by maximizing mid-marsh and transitional wetlands in the design. This restoration project will create public access amenities that are critical to the community, especially in this industrialized area with underserved communities to the west, north, and east. The plans include a new trail system that will connect Gum Grove Park and the Heron Point Cultural Trail to the San Gabriel River Trail. The trail connections, public parking, ADA features, bike racks, and nearby bus stops will facilitate access to the site. The project will allow people of all ages and abilities to explore and recreate in harmony with the natural space while protecting sensitive habitats from negative impacts. Public amenities include an outdoor classroom, benches and shade, interpretive features, an amphitheater, interpretive signage, educational opportunities, and ADA accessible trails and viewing spaces.

The longstanding collaboration between multiple non-profits, tribal groups, local, state, and federal agencies in protecting and restoring the Los Cerritos Wetlands underscores the broad support for this project and its importance. I respectfully encourage you to support this important project for the restoration of valuable coastal wetlands and wildlife habitat.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rex Richardson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mayor Rex Richardson
City of Long Beach

CC: Liliana Roman



Juaneño Band of Mission Indians

Acjachemen Nation

February 13, 2025

Dr. Justin Cummings, Chair
California Coastal Commission
South Coast District Office
301 E Ocean Blvd., Suite 300
Long Beach, CA 90802-4302

Re: Southern Los Cerritos Wetlands Restoration Project (CDP No. 5-23-0233) Letter of Support

Dear Chair Cummings and Coastal Commissioners:

I am writing to support the implementation of the Southern Los Cerritos Wetlands Restoration Project and urge the Commission to approve the project's Coastal Development Permit application (CDP No. 5-23-0233).

This restoration project will repair the damage done by more than a century of oil drilling and other industrial use of the site. This is the first step in restoring a significant portion of the historic wetland complex, which previously spanned more than 2,400 acres. This project will restore over one hundred acres of wetlands, improve water quality, increase biodiversity, support local wildlife, and create a system of trails and public access features that will serve a diverse community.

This restoration project will support a variety of wildlife and will allow the wetlands to adapt to sea level rise by maximizing mid-marsh and transitional wetlands in the design. This restoration project will create public access amenities that are critical to the community, especially in this industrialized area with underserved communities to the west, north, and east. The plans include a new trail system that will connect Gum Grove Park and the Heron Point Cultural Trail to the San Gabriel River Trail. The trail connections, public parking, ADA features, bike racks, and nearby bus stops will facilitate access to the site. The project will allow people of all ages and abilities to explore and recreate in harmony with the natural space while protecting sensitive habitats from negative impacts. Public amenities include an outdoor classroom, benches and shade, interpretive features, an amphitheater, interpretive signage, educational opportunities, and ADA accessible trails and viewing spaces.

The longstanding collaboration between multiple non-profits, tribal groups, local, state, and federal agencies in protecting and restoring the Los Cerritos Wetlands underscores the broad support for this project and its importance. I respectfully encourage you to support this important project for the restoration of valuable coastal wetlands and wildlife habitat.

Sincerely,

Joyce Stanfield Perry
Cultural Resource Director
Juaneño Band of Mission Indians, Acjachemen Nation-Belardes

CC: Liliana Roman



GABRIELINO TONGVA INDIANS OF CALIFORNIA

Tribal Council

February 27, 2025

Dr. Justin Cummings, Chair
California Coastal Commission
South Coast District Office
301 E. Ocean Blvd., Suite 300
Long Beach, CA 90802-4302

Re: Southern Los Cerritos Wetlands Restoration Project (CDP No. 5-23-0233) Letter of Support

Dear Chair Cummings and Coastal Commissioners


I am Christina Conley, the Cultural Resource Administrator for the Gabrielino Tongva Indians of California, a coastal band of Indigenous people connected to the Los Cerritos Wetlands and our village site of Motuuchey. We share a common goal of caring for our land, and we respectfully request that you approve the Southern Los Cerritos Wetlands Restoration Project and their application (CDO No. 5-23-0233).

This extraordinary restoration project will cover 100 acres and will revitalize the land. By improving water quality, we can expect the return and thriving of wildlife.

Our community will benefit greatly from the healing power of this unique wetland environment, which will invite our neighbors to enjoy its beauty. The improvements will encourage hikers, cyclists, and individuals requiring ADA access to explore the area with ease. We anticipate that the location will also attract visitors from outside the Los Cerritos area, as it is accessible via nearby bus stops.

Investing in this project will not only restore the land and its inhabitants but also help heal the harms experienced by Indigenous peoples whose land was negatively impacted by the decades of oil drilling.

Warmest Regards,


Christina Conley
Cultural Resource Administrator
Gabrielino Tongva Indians of California Tribal Council
Native American Heritage Commission Contact

RECEIVED
South Coast Region

MAR 03 2025

CALIFORNIA

UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF CHAIRMAN ROBERT DORAME, MOST LIKELY DESCENDANT

Christina.Marsden@Alumni.USC.edu

PO Box 490 Bellflower, CA 90707

www.GTIOC.org



Gabrielino/Tongva Nation

A California Tribal Sovereign

106 1/2 Judge John Aiso St. #231, Los Angeles, CA 90012
www.gabrielinotongva.org

Tribal Council Members:

Sandonne Goad
Tribal Council Chairwoman

Adam Loya
Tribal Council Vice Chairman

Ed White
Tribal Council Secretary

Joey Aguirre
Tribal Council Member

John Cody Blunt
Tribal Council Member

Reuben Dominguez, II
Tribal Council Member

Regina Murillo
Tribal Council Member

Patricia Neminski
Tribal Council Member

Sen. Richard G. Polanco (Ret.)
CEO

Austin Tighe
General Counsel

Dr. Justin Cummings, Chair
California Coastal Commission
South Coast District Office
301 E Ocean Blvd., Suite 300
Long Beach, CA 90802-4302

March 4, 2025

Re: Southern Los Cerritos Wetlands Restoration Project (CDP No. 5-23-0233) Letter of Support

Dear Chair Cummings and Coastal Commissioners:

I am writing to support the implementation of the Southern Los Cerritos Wetlands Restoration Project and urge the Commission to approve the project's Coastal Development Permit application (CDP No. 5-23-0233).

This restoration project will repair the damage done by more than a century of oil drilling and other industrial use of the site. This is the first step in restoring a significant portion of the historic wetland complex, which previously spanned more than 2,400 acres. This project will restore over one hundred acres of wetlands, improve water quality, increase biodiversity, support local wildlife, and create a system of trails and public access features that will serve a diverse community.

This restoration project will support a variety of wildlife and will allow the wetlands to adapt to sea level rise by maximizing mid-marsh and transitional wetlands in the design. This restoration project will create public access amenities that are critical to the community, especially in this industrialized area with underserved communities to the west, north, and east. The plans include a new trail system that will connect Gum Grove Park and the Heron Point Cultural Trail to the San Gabriel River Trail. The trail connections, public parking, ADA features, bike racks, and nearby bus stops will facilitate access to the site. The project will allow people of all ages and abilities to explore and recreate in harmony with the natural space while protecting sensitive habitats from negative impacts. Public amenities include an outdoor classroom, benches and shade, interpretive features, an amphitheater, interpretive signage, educational opportunities, and ADA accessible trails and viewing spaces.

The longstanding collaboration between multiple non-profits, tribal groups, local, state, and federal agencies in protecting and restoring the Los Cerritos Wetlands underscores the broad support for this project and its importance. I respectfully encourage you to support this important project for the restoration of valuable coastal wetlands and wildlife habitat.

Respectfully,

Sandonne Goad
Tribal Council Chairwoman
Gabrielino/Tongva Nation

"The Gabrielino/Tongva Nation for all Gabrielinos"



GABRIELINO- TONGVA TRIBE

A California Indian Tribe historically known as San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians

P.O. Box 3919, Seal Beach, CA 90740

www.gabrielinotribe.org

March 4, 2025

Dr. Justin Cummings, Chair
California Coastal Comm.
South Coast District Office
301 E. Ocean Blvd., Ste. 300
Long Beach, CA 90802

Re: Southern Los Cerritos Wetlands Restoration Project (CDP No. 5-23-0233) Letter of Support

Dear Chair Cummings and Coastal Commissioners:

The Gabrielino Tongva Tribe is writing to support the implementation of the Southern Los Cerritos Wetlands Restoration Project and urge the Commission to approve the project's Coastal Development Permit application (CDP No. 5-23-0233).

This restoration project will repair the damage done by more than a century of oil drilling and other industrial use of the site. This is the first step in restoring a significant portion of the historic wetland complex, which previously spanned more than 2,400 acres. This project will restore over one hundred acres of wetlands, improve water quality, increase biodiversity, support local wildlife, and create a system of trails and public access features that will serve a diverse community.

This restoration project will support a variety of wildlife and will allow the wetlands to adapt to sea level rise by maximizing mid-marsh and transitional wetlands in the design. This restoration project will create public access amenities that are critical to the community, especially in this industrialized area with underserved communities to the west, north, and east. The plans include a new trail system that will connect Gum Grove Park and the Heron Point Cultural Trail to the San Gabriel River Trail. The trail connections, public parking, ADA features, bike racks, and nearby bus stops will facilitate access to the site. The project will allow people of all ages and abilities to explore and recreate in harmony with the natural space while protecting sensitive habitats from negative impacts. Public amenities include an outdoor classroom, benches and shade, interpretive features, an amphitheater, interpretive signage, educational opportunities, and ADA accessible trails and viewing spaces.

The longstanding collaboration between multiple non-profits, tribal groups, local, state, and federal agencies in protecting and restoring the Los Cerritos Wetlands underscores the broad support for this project and its importance. I respectfully encourage you to support this important project for the restoration of valuable coastal wetlands and wildlife habitat.

Sincerely,

Sam Dunlap – Cultural Resource Director
Gabrielino Tongva Tribe
P.O. Box 3919
Seal Beach, CA 90740
909-262-9351



GABRIELINO-SHOSHONE NATION OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA TRIBAL COUNCIL

GABRIELINOSHOSHONE.ORG | (626) 322-6840 | INFO@GABRIELINOSHOSHONE.ORG

Dr. Justin Cummings, Chair
California Coastal Commission
South Coast District Office 301 E
Ocean Blvd., Suite 300 Long
Beach, CA 90802-4302

Re: Southern Los Cerritos Wetlands Restoration Project (CDP No. 5-23-0233) Letter of Support

Dear Chair Cummings and Coastal Commissioners:

I am writing to support the implementation of the Southern Los Cerritos Wetlands Restoration Project and urge the Commission to approve the project's Coastal Development Permit application (CDP No. 5-23-0233).

This restoration project will repair the damage done by more than a century of oil drilling and other industrial use of the site. This is the first step in restoring a significant portion of the historic wetland complex, which previously spanned more than 2,400 acres. This project will restore over one hundred acres of wetlands, improve water quality, increase biodiversity, support local wildlife, and create a system of trails and public access features that will serve a diverse community. It will also help reconnect the Gabrielino-Shoshone, and the Gabrielino/Tongva back to the ancestral village of Mutuucheynga.

This restoration project will support a variety of wildlife and will allow the wetlands to adapt to sea level rise by maximizing mid-marsh and transitional wetlands in the design. This restoration project will create public access amenities that are critical to the community, especially in this industrialized area with underserved communities to the west, north, and east. The plans include a new trail system that will connect Gum Grove Park and the Heron Point Cultural Trail to the San Gabriel River Trail. The trail connections, public parking, ADA features, bike racks, and nearby bus stops will facilitate access to the site. The project will allow people of all ages and abilities to explore and recreate in harmony with the natural space while protecting sensitive habitats from negative impacts. Public amenities include an outdoor classroom, benches and shade, interpretive features, an amphitheater, interpretive signage, educational opportunities, and ADA accessible trails and viewing spaces.

The longstanding collaboration between multiple non-profits, tribal groups, local, state, and federal agencies in protecting and restoring the Los Cerritos Wetlands underscores the broad support for this project and its importance. I respectfully encourage you to support this important project for the restoration of valuable coastal wetlands and wildlife habitat.

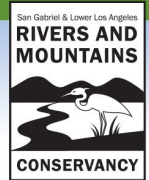
Sincerely,

Gabrielle Crowe
Co-Chair/Secretary of Environmental Sciences
Gabrielino-Shoshone Nation
gcrowe@gabrielinoshoshone.org



California Natural Resources Agency

San Gabriel & Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy



Governing Board of Directors:

Vacant
Governor Appointed Public Member

Korey Bradbury
Central Basin Water Association

Yana Garcia, Secretary
California Environmental
Protection Agency

Jennifer Stark
San Gabriel Valley Council of
Governments

David Fredendall
San Gabriel Valley Water Association

Wade Crowfoot, Secretary
California Natural Resources Agency

Joe Stephanshaw
State of California, Department of
Finance

Fred Jung
Orange County Division of the
League of California Cities

Margaret Clark
San Gabriel Valley Council of
Governments

Hilda Solis, Supervisor
Los Angeles County Board of
Supervisors, First District

Roberto Uranga
City of Long Beach

Ali Saleh, Chair
Gateway Cities Council of
Governments

Joe Kalmick
Orange County Division of the
League of California Cities

Vacant
Governor Appointed Public Member

Victoria R. Martinez Muela
Governor Appointed Public Member

[Ex Officio Members](#)

Lena Gonzalez
Member of the CA Senate

Honorable Josh Lowenthal
Member of the CA State Assembly

Armando Quintero
State of California, Department of
Parks and Recreation

John Donnelly
State of California, Wildlife
Conservation Board

Colonel Andrew J. Baker
US Army Corps of Engineers

James Treadaway
Orange County Public Works
Department

Stephen Johnson
San Gabriel River Water Master

Jennifer Eberlien
Angeles National Forest
US Forest Service

Mark Pestrella
Los Angeles County Department of
Public Works

[Executive Officer](#)
Mark Stanley

Date: 2/27/25

Dr. Justin Cummings, Chair
California Coastal Commission
South Coast District Office
301 E Ocean Blvd., Suite 300
Long Beach, CA 90802-4302

RE: Southern Los Cerritos Wetlands Restoration Project (CDP No. 5-23-0233) Letter of Support

Dear Chair Cummings and Coastal Commissioners:

I am writing to support the implementation of the Southern Los Cerritos Wetlands Restoration Project and urge the Commission to approve the project's Coastal Development Permit application (CDP No. 5-23-0233).

This restoration project will repair the damage done by more than a century of oil drilling and other industrial use of the site. This is the first step in restoring a significant portion of the historic wetland complex, which previously spanned more than 2,400 acres.

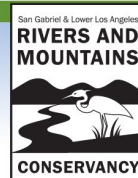
This project will restore over one hundred acres of wetlands, improve water quality, increase biodiversity, support local wildlife, and create a system of trails and public access features that will serve a diverse community.

This restoration project will support a variety of wildlife and will allow the wetlands to adapt to sea level rise by maximizing mid-marsh and transitional wetlands in the design. This restoration project will create public access amenities that are critical to the community, especially in this industrialized area with underserved communities to the west, north, and east. The plans include a new trail system that will connect Gum Grove Park and the Heron Point Cultural Trail to the San Gabriel River Trail. The trail connections, public parking, ADA features, bike racks, and nearby bus stops will facilitate access to the site. The project will allow people of all ages and abilities to explore and recreate in harmony with the natural space while protecting sensitive habitats from negative impacts. Public amenities include an outdoor classroom, benches and



California Natural Resources Agency

San Gabriel & Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy



Governing Board of Directors:

Vacant
Governor Appointed Public Member
Korey Bradbury
Central Basin Water Association

Yana Garcia, Secretary
**California Environmental
Protection Agency**

Jennifer Stark
**San Gabriel Valley Council of
Governments**

David Fredendall
San Gabriel Valley Water Association

Wade Crowfoot, Secretary
California Natural Resources Agency

Joe Stephenshaw
**State of California, Department of
Finance**

Fred Jung
**Orange County Division of the
League of California Cities**

Margaret Clark
**San Gabriel Valley Council of
Governments**

Hilda Solis, Supervisor
**Los Angeles County Board of
Supervisors, First District**

Roberto Uranga
City of Long Beach

Ali Saleh, Chair
**Gateway Cities Council of
Governments**

Joe Kalmick
**Orange County Division of the
League of California Cities**

Vacant
Governor Appointed Public Member

Victoria R. Martinez Muela
Governor Appointed Public Member

Ex Officio Members

Lena Gonzalez
Member of the CA Senate

Honorable Josh Lowenthal
Member of the CA State Assembly

Armando Quintero
**State of California, Department of
Parks and Recreation**

John Donnelly
**State of California, Wildlife
Conservation Board**

Colonel Andrew J. Baker
US Army Corps of Engineers

James Treadaway
**Orange County Public Works
Department**

Stephen Johnson
San Gabriel River Water Master

Jennifer Eberlien
**Angeles National Forest
US Forest Service**

Mark Pestrella
**Los Angeles County Department of
Public Works**

Executive Officer
Mark Stanley

shade, interpretive features, an amphitheater, interpretive signage, educational opportunities, and ADA accessible trails and viewing spaces.

The longstanding collaboration between multiple non-profits, tribal groups, local, state, and federal agencies in protecting and restoring the Los Cerritos Wetlands underscores the broad support for this project and its importance. I respectfully encourage you to support this important project for the restoration of valuable coastal wetlands and wildlife habitat.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

3EF0743E521D4ED...

Mark Stanley
Executive Officer



February 25, 2025

Dr. Justin Cummings, Chair
California Coastal Commission
South Coast District Office
301 E Ocean Blvd., Suite 300
Long Beach, CA 90802-4302

Re: Southern Los Cerritos Wetlands Restoration Project (CDP No. 5-23-0233) Letter of Support

Dear Chair Cummings and Coastal Commissioners:

I am writing to support the implementation of the Southern Los Cerritos Wetlands Restoration Project and urge the Commission to approve the project's Coastal Development Permit application (CDP No. 5-23-0233).

This restoration project will repair the damage done by more than a century of oil drilling and other industrial use of the site. This is the first step in restoring a significant portion of the historic wetland complex, which previously spanned more than 2,400 acres. This project will restore over one hundred acres of regionally important wetlands, improve water quality, increase biodiversity, support local wildlife, and create a system of trails and access features that will serve a diverse community.

This restoration project will support a variety of wildlife and will allow the wetlands to adapt to sea level rise by maximizing mid-marsh and transitional wetlands in the design. This restoration project will create public access amenities that are critical to the community, especially in this industrialized area with underserved communities to the west, north, and east. The plans include a new trail system and amenities that will connect Gum Grove Park and the Heron Point Cultural Trail to the San Gabriel River Trail. The project will allow people of all ages and abilities to explore and recreate in harmony with the natural space while protecting sensitive habitats from negative impacts. The plans also feature new tribal access facilities that have been developed in partnership with local tribes that would preserve and enhance tribal members' access to, and use of, the restoration project area for a variety of cultural purposes.

1515 Clay Street, 10th Floor
Oakland, California 94612-1401
scc.ca.gov
510-286-1015

The longstanding collaboration between multiple non-profits, tribal groups, local, state, and federal agencies in protecting and restoring the Los Cerritos Wetlands underscores the broad support for this project and its importance. I respectfully encourage you to support this important project for the restoration of valuable coastal wetlands and wildlife habitat.

Sincerely,

Amy Hutzel

Amy Hutzel
Executive Officer

1515 Clay Street, 10th Floor
Oakland, California 94612-1401
scc.ca.gov
510-286-1015



CALIFORNIA
**OCEAN
PROTECTION
COUNCIL**

Wade Crowfoot | Secretary for Natural Resources | Council Chair
Yana Garcia | Secretary for Environmental Protection
Eleni Kounalakis | Lieutenant Governor
Ben Allen | State Senator
Dawn Addis | State Assemblymember
Alexis Jackson | Public Member
Megan Rocha | Public Member

Dr. Justin Cummings, Chair
California Coastal Commission
South Coast District Office
301 E Ocean Blvd., Suite 300
Long Beach, CA 90802-4302

March 4, 2025

Re: Southern Los Cerritos Wetlands Restoration Project (CDP No. 5-23-0233) Letter of Support

Dear Chair Cummings and Coastal Commissioners:

I am writing to express support for the implementation of the Southern Los Cerritos Wetlands Restoration Project and to recommend the Commission approve the project's Coastal Development Permit application, as conditioned (CDP No. 5-23-0233).


This restoration project is a significant step in repairing over a century of environmental degradation caused by oil drilling and industrial activity, restoring more than 100 acres of vital wetland habitat within a historic 2,400-acre wetland complex. This restoration will improve water quality, enhance biodiversity, and support native wildlife, while also increasing coastal resilience by incorporating mid-marsh and transitional wetlands to adapt to sea level rise. The project will expand public access opportunities through a connected trail system linking Gum Grove Park, the Heron Point Cultural Trail, and the San Gabriel River Trail, while providing inclusive amenities such as ADA-accessible pathways, bike racks, public parking, an outdoor classroom, an amphitheater, and interpretive signage to ensure accessibility for all.

As a multi-benefit, nature-based solution, this project aligns with statewide climate resilience goals and conservation priorities. The Ocean Protection Council (OPC) has invested state funds in this

effort¹, demonstrating its significance for coastal restoration. Additionally, the long-standing collaboration between multiple non-profits, tribal groups, and government agencies underscores the broad support for this initiative.

I respectfully encourage the Commission to support this important project, as recommended by staff, for the restoration of valuable coastal wetlands, wildlife habitat, and overarching community benefits.

Sincerely,



Maria Rodriguez

Climate and Environmental Justice Program Manager

Ocean Protection Council

715 P St., 20th Floor

Sacramento, CA 95814

¹ Ocean Protection Council. [Staff Recommendation—Action Item: Consideration and Approval for Disbursement of Funds for the Southern Los Cerritos Wetland Restoration Project](#). December 12, 2023.



Los Cerritos Wetlands Land Trust
for Long Beach and Seal Beach

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

www.lcwetlandtrust.org

February 21, 2025

Dr. Justin Cummings, Chair
California Coastal Commission
45 Fremont Street, Suite 2000
San Francisco, CA 94105-2219

Southern Los Cerritos Wetlands Restoration Project, Project number No. 5-23-0233.

Dear Chairman Cummings,

The Los Cerritos Wetlands Land Trust, a membership organization whose mission is protecting and restoring Los Cerritos Wetlands, supports a Coastal Development Permit for the Southern Los Cerritos Wetlands Restoration Project (Project). The Project restores tidal wetlands, wetland-upland transition zones, and upland habitats.

Phase 1 restoration activities cover about 55 acres and will focus on using the existing tidal connection to the San Gabriel River to enhance salt marsh habitat and reduce upland coverage overall. Phase 2 restoration activities cover about 48.5 acres and will expand tidal wetlands throughout the site by creating a full tidal connection with the Haynes Cooling Channel.

In late 2023, the LCWA received \$32.5 million in grant funding to finalize design plans, obtain remaining permits, and construct Phase 1 of the Project. A Coastal Development Permit (CDP) from the California Coastal Commission is required to implement the restoration.

We support this project because it is the first large-scale restoration of Los Cerritos Wetlands. The restoration will remediate existing contamination from prior oil operations and restore vital habitat. Furthermore, the project will provide new public access opportunities as well as expand education and stewardship opportunities. Lastly, the project includes important aesthetic improvements, especially for the under-utilized State Lands parcel, which fronts Pacific Coast Highway.

Sincerely

Elizabeth Lambe, Executive Director
Los Cerritos Wetlands Land Trust

El Dorado Audubon Society
Conservation of Native Birds and their Habitats & Education
PO Box 90713
Long Beach, CA 90809

California Coastal Commission
Attention: Dr. Justin Cummings, Chair

RE: Approve, Southern Los Cerritos Wetlands Restoration Project
Project #5-23-0233

The Los Cerritos Wetlands in Seal Beach and Long Beach are a gem in the string of pearls along our Southern California coast and we fully support this project. Our chapter has led regular bird/nature walks the wetlands the last 20 years.

First major restoration project of the Los Cerritos Wetlands
Phase I is fully funded
Remediates existing contamination from prior oil operations
Restores vital habitat
Provides new public access opportunities
Expands education and stewardship opportunities
Includes aesthetic improvements, especially for the under-utilized State Lands parcel which fronts Pacific Coast Highway

Sincerely,

Mary Parsell

El Dorado Audubon

(Contact email mfp2001@hotmail.com)

From: SouthCoast@Coastal
To: [Roman, Liliana@Coastal](mailto:Roman,Liliana@Coastal)
Subject: FW: Public Comment on March 2025 Agenda Item Thursday 16a - Application No. 5-23-0233 (Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority, Seal Beach)
Date: Friday, March 7, 2025 4:46:24 PM

-----Original Message-----

From: Vic Leipzig <vicleipzig@outlook.com>
Sent: Friday, March 7, 2025 4:11 PM
To: SouthCoast@Coastal <SouthCoast@coastal.ca.gov>
Cc: susansheakley@cox.net; redtail1@cox.net
Subject: Public Comment on March 2025 Agenda Item Thursday 16a - Application No. 5-23-0233 (Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority, Seal Beach)

Item 16.a, Thu, Mar 13
Los Cerritos Wetlands Restoration Project SUPPORT

Dear Chair Cummings and Commissioners:

Sea and Sage Audubon Society strongly supports the restoration of the Los Cerritos Wetlands. Sea and Sage is the principal Orange County chapter of the National Audubon Society. Coastal wetlands can be successfully restored from a degraded condition, as we have seen at numerous southern California sites. We urge you adopt the staff recommendation for approval of the application by the Los Cerritos Wetland Authority.

Victor Leipzig, Ph.D.
Chair
Legislation and Advocacy Committee
Sea and Sage Audubon Society
17461 Skyline Lane
Huntington Beach CA 92647

February 26, 2025

Re: Support for Southern Los Cerritos Wetlands Restoration Project (No. 5-23-0233)

Dear Chair Cummings and Commissioners,

On behalf of Audubon California, a state office of the National Audubon Society, and our 140,000 members and supporters, we write this letter to show our support for the Southern Los Cerritos Wetlands Restoration Project (Project) and urge the Commission to approve their Coastal Development Permit.

Audubon protects birds and the places birds need, today and tomorrow. Audubon California was established in 1996 as a field program of the National Audubon Society, overseeing the organization's properties and leading conservation efforts in California and along the Pacific Flyway. The Audubon California network includes 48 affiliate chapters including, El Dorado Audubon Society, which has been active on this site leading bird and nature walks over the past 20 years. Audubon California has also brought students and young professionals to this site to learn about this critical restoration effort and gain hands-on restoration experience.

Los Cerritos Wetlands is part of the Orange Coast Wetlands Important Bird Area (IBA). An IBA is an area that has been identified as globally important for the conservation of bird populations based on a set of criteria. Los Cerritos Wetlands is part of a network of wetlands along the southern California coast that provides critical habitat for birds that are migrating, breeding, and feeding in these areas, such as the Belding's Savannah Sparrow, Marsh Wren, and locally-breeding terns and waterfowl ¹. Restoring these areas will improve the sensitive habitat these birds depend on.

We fully support this Project and appreciate the Commission for their consideration.

Sincerely,



Liliana Griego
Sr. Coastal Program Manager
Audubon California

¹ Important Bird Areas – National Audubon Society
(https://gis.audubon.org/portal/apps/sites/?_gl=1*4cnudb*_gcl_au*Nzc0NDExMDU0LjE3MzMyNjE2NjA.*_ga*MTc2MDExMjE3MC4xNjg2MDgzMTA0*_ga_X2XNL2MWTT*MTc0MDU5NTQzOC41ODQuMC4xNzQwNTk1NDM4LjYwLjAuMA..#/nas-hub-site)



ISLAND VILLAGE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

January 23, 2025

Dr. Justin Cummings
Chair
California Coastal Commission

Re: **Southern Los Cerritos Wetlands Restoration Project (No 5-23-0233), SUPPORT**

Dear Dr. Cummings:

The Island Village Homeowners' Association is pleased to support the proposed Southern Los Cerritos Wetlands Restoration Project. Island Village residents live adjacent to the wetlands area and we see it as almost a part of our community and certainly a benefit to us. The development of the area will be an instant improvement and so valuable to the wildlife that we enjoy. A number of our neighbors are supporters of the wetlands and actually work with the Wetlands Stewards to clean up various areas in and around the Los Cerritos Wetlands.

We hope the project is approved without delay and look forward to walking through a restored wetlands.

Very sincerely,

Ivan Roson

Ivan Roson
President
Island Village Homeowners Association
ivananddana@msn.com

IR:cm

Island Village is a domestic nonprofit gated private community consisting of 182 homes in southeast Long Beach, CA

Island Village Officers:

*Ivan Roson, President
Carolyn Quadt, Vice President
Brian Fisk, Secretary
Willie Gutierrez, Treasurer
Carol Meyer, Member-at-Large*



March 3, 2025

Dr. Justin Cummings
California Coastal Commission
301 East Ocean Blvd. Suite 300
Long Beach, CA 90802

Re: Southern Los Cerritos Wetlands Restoration Project Coastal Development Permit

The Los Cerritos Wetlands Fund, a non-profit fundraising and grant-giving organization, is supportive of the Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority's proposed Southern Los Cerritos Wetlands Restoration Project, which includes restoring tidal wetlands along both the wetland and upland habitats. This is the first major restoration project that will occur in two phases. Phase 1 is fully funded and will conduct restoration activities across 55 acres and will focus on using the existing tidal connection to the San Gabriel River to enhance salt march habitat and reduce upland coverage.

To implement this restoration, the Los Cerritos Wetlands Fund respectfully encourages the Coastal Commission to approve the Coastal Development Permit for project No. 5-23-0233

This project will make tremendous restorative impacts to vital habitats by remediating existing contamination from prior oil operations. Additionally, the project aims to engage the public by providing new public access opportunities, expanding education and stewardship programs and improving aesthetics, especially for the under-utilized State Lands parcel that faces Pacific Coast Highway.

Our organization is committed to fundraising and grant-giving for projects that increase awareness of the importance of coastal wetlands and the restoration opportunities in the Los Cerritos Wetlands. In addition, we provide funding for wetland research and educational opportunities for students in the community to experience nature in an outdoor classroom.

Sincerely,

Shauna Badheka, Interim Board President
Los Cerritos Wetlands Fund



February 14, 2025

Dr. Justin Cummings, Chair
California Coastal Commission
South Coast District Office
301 E Ocean Blvd., Suite 300
Long Beach, CA 90802-4302

Re: Southern Los Cerritos Wetlands Restoration Project (CDP No. 5-23-0233) Letter of Support

Dear Chair Cummings and Coastal Commissioners:

I am writing on behalf of the Aquarium of the Pacific to support the implementation of the Southern Los Cerritos Wetlands Restoration Project and urge the Commission to approve the project's Coastal Development Permit application (CDP No. 5-23-0233).

This project will restore over one hundred acres of coastal habitat including tidal wetlands. The project will improve water quality, increase biodiversity, support local wildlife, and create a system of trails and public access features that will serve a diverse community. This restoration project will also create habitat for the state endangered Belding's Savannah Sparrow and other salt marsh species that have lost most of their habitat throughout southern California and allow the wetlands to adapt to sea level rise.

The reason that we care about this wetland restoration is because wetlands are vital to the health of our communities and Ocean habitats. Wetland habitats are some of the most productive ecosystems, housing immense biodiversity and acting as nursery settings for a number of species. As "filters of the ocean" they also have a hand in stopping debris before it gets to the open ocean. They are an important part of our watershed, and we are excited to participate in restoring these vital habitats.

The Southern California Sea Turtle Monitoring program that has been ongoing since 2012, takes place on the San Gabriel River just adjacent to the Los Cerritos Wetlands. Data shows that many of the turtles congregate near the outflow of the wetlands, and it is hypothesized that is due to the nutrient exchange coming from the warm, shallow waters of the wetlands.

We have seen first-hand how the Los Cerritos wetlands are a hub that brings our local community together to practice collective action. People of all ages and backgrounds come to the wetlands to be in nature whether they are planting native plants, participating in community science, or removing marine debris.

We are eager to use the new trail system and Visitor Plaza, which includes new opportunities to relax, explore, and learn. The Commission should approve the Southern Los Cerritos Wetlands Restoration Project's Coastal Development Permit without delay.

Sincerely,

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

Jennie Dean
Vice President of Education and Conservation
Aquarium of the Pacific
100 Aquarium Way, Long Beach CA 90802

CC: Liliana Roman



AMIGOS *de* BOLSA CHICA

P.O. Box 1563
Huntington Beach, CA 92647
714-840-1575
info@amigosdebolsachica.org
www.amigosdebolsachica.org

March 3, 2025

California Coastal Commission
Dr. Justin Cummings, Chair, and Commissioners
45 Fremont Street, Suite 2000
San Francisco, CA 94105-2219

Re: Southern Los Cerritos Wetlands Restoration Project
Application No. 5-23-0233
Hearing: Item Th16a – March 12, 2025

Dear Chairman Cummings and Commissioners:

Amigos de Bolsa Chica is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to advocate for the protection of the Bolsa Chica Wetlands and educate the public about its ecological value. We recognize that the few remaining wetland areas in Southern California function together as an aquatic ecosystem supporting birds, fish, and other creatures.

Because ninety percent of our coastal wetlands have been lost, we think it critical that projects that protect and restore wetlands, especially those near the Bolsa Chica Wetlands, be encouraged. We have reviewed the application of the Los Cerritos Wetland Authority for a Coastal Development Permit as well as your staff's report and recommendation. to proceed with its major restoration proposal.

We support the project and urge the Commission to vote in favor of the staff recommendation.

Sincerely,

Melvin L. Nutter, President
Amigos de Bolsa Chica

TIJUANA RIVER NATIONAL ESTUARINE RESEARCH RESERVE

"A Wetland of International Importance" International Ramsar Convention

301 Caspian Way
Imperial Beach, CA 91932
(619) 575 3613 x.333
jcrooks@trnerr.org



25 February 2025

Dr. Justin Cummings, Chair
California Coastal Commission
South Coast District Office, 301 E Ocean Blvd., Suite 300
Long Beach, CA 90802-4302

Re: Southern Los Cerritos Wetlands Restoration Project (CDP No. 5-23-0233) Letter of Support

Dear Chair Cummings and Coastal Commissioners:

As Research Director of the Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve, I am writing to support the implementation of the Southern Los Cerritos Wetlands Restoration Project and urge the Commission to approve the project's Coastal Development Permit application (CDP No. 5-23-0233). This restoration project represents an important step forward in recovering Southern California's coastal wetlands, and will address damage done by more than a century of oil drilling and other industrial uses at this location. Only about 500 acres of this historic wetland complex remain, and this project will increase this footprint by over 100 acres. It will also enhance tidal flows, recreate marsh elevations, replace invasive weeds with native plants, and create a system of trails and public access features that will serve a diverse community.

This restoration project is designed to protect, enhance, and create tidal salt marsh to support the State endangered Belding's Savannah Sparrow and other salt marsh-dependent species that have lost most of their habitat throughout southern California. Overall, the restoration design will nearly double the amount of wetland and transitional habitats, while removing infrastructure that negatively impacts the site. Restored habitats will be much higher quality than the existing conditions, greatly improving the opportunities for wildlife to forage and breed, and potentially attracting new species to the area. The new tidal channels will improve water quality and flow and increase habitat for fish and invertebrates. The types of plant communities and species proposed will considerably improve biodiversity at the site, making the area more resilient to climate change and providing more resources for pollinators and other wildlife. It will also allow the wetlands to adapt to sea level rise by maximizing mid-marsh and transitional wetlands in the design. The wetlands are constrained by development, which prevents inland wetland migration, but the gradual elevation transitions will allow the wetlands to spread to higher elevations over time, preserving wetland habitat into the future for wetland-dependent plants and animals.

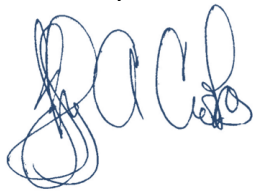
Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve

"A Wetland of International Importance" International Ramsar Convention, 2005

Improving public access is also a key feature of this work, and is especially relevant in this industrialized area with underserved communities to the west, north, and east. The plans include a new trail system that will connect Gum Grove Park and the Heron Point Cultural Trail to the San Gabriel River Trail. The trail connections, public parking, ADA features, bike racks, and nearby bus stops will facilitate access to the site. The project will allow people of all ages and abilities to explore and recreate in natural spaces while protecting sensitive habitats from negative impacts. Public amenities include an outdoor classroom, benches and shade, interpretive features, an amphitheater, interpretive signage, educational opportunities, and ADA accessible trails and viewing spaces. Planning for the restoration project included collaboration with a Tribal Advisory Group to ensure that the needs of the Tribal communities are addressed in the project. The future harvest gardens, gathering place, monument, and water access ramp create opportunities for cultural and spiritual practices to resume on these sacred lands.

The project is funded through Phase 1 and is expected to begin restoration activities in Fall 2025. The environmental review, stakeholder engagement, and design process have been extremely thorough, and the community is eager to see this project begin on schedule. For all these reasons and more, the Commission should approve the Southern Los Cerritos Wetlands Restoration Project's Coastal Development Permit without delay.

Sincerely,



Dr. Jeff Crooks

Research Director – Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve

CC: Liliana Roman

February 18, 2025

Dear Dr. Cummings, chair and Coastal Commissioners,

I encourage the Commission to approve the Coastal Development Permit Application (CDP No. 5-23-0233), Phase 1 of the Los Cerritos wetlands restoration project.

I support the Southern Los Cerritos Wetlands Restoration Project as restoring tidal wetlands, transition zones and upland habitats benefit both the surrounding communities, which can be affected by sea level rising, as an area for excess water to be channeled, along with benefits for ocean habitats. It is vital we enlarge breeding areas for fish and other aquatic animals, giving nesting and feeding grounds for coastal and migrating birds. Endangered and threatened coastal animals are in dire need of habitat. Improving coastal habitat shares a valuable education for people who walk through the areas to enjoy and learn the importance of our coast and the animals that should be thriving in areas which used to be wetlands. The opportunity to use the Haynes Cooling Channel to expand tidal wetlands with a full tidal connection, is an ideal opportunity and money saver.

I live in Seal Beach and have been volunteering for the Bolsa Chica Reserve for four years, observing the changes over the past 30 years, with the opening of their Full Tidal Basin. I can see the difference you can make opening the wetlands with healthy brackish water flow. Hundreds and thousands of birds thrive and breed their way to healthier numbers, when given additional habitat.

Southern Los Cerritos Wetlands Restoration Project is vital for the future safety of our community and the habitat within the wetlands. I strongly urge you to approve the Phase 1 construction permit.

Rheo McColl
208 2nd St.
Seal Beach, CA 90740

**Carol Meyer
7145 Island Village Drive
Long Beach, CA 90803**

January 23, 2025

Re: Southern Los Cerritos Wetlands Restoration Project (No. 5-23-0233), Support

Dr. Justin Cummings, Chair

I live in Island Village, a community that generally abuts the Los Cerritos Wetlands. I learned about the Southern Los Cerritos Wetlands Restoration Project at a presentation given to our Homeowners Association last year.

This project will be the first major restoration project implemented at the Los Cerritos Wetlands, so this is a very exciting opportunity! I am pleased that the project includes public access trails as I look forward to exploring the area once restored.

I hope this restoration project is the first of many for the Los Cerritos Wetlands. I've lived here a while and it will be good to see this area finally restored. I urge you to approve the Coastal Development Permit without delay!

Thank you,

Carol Meyer

19 February 2025

Dr. Justin Cummings
California Coastal Commission
701 Ocean Street, Room 500
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

RE: Support for Southern Los Cerritos Wetlands Restoration Project

Dr. Cummings,

The Los Cerritos Wetlands are very special for the cities of Seal Beach and Long Beach, and the coast of California, in general. After helping lead this local conservation effort for over a decade, I am excited to see that the Southern Los Cerritos Wetlands Restoration Project is so close to implementation. I understand that the next important step is for the California Coastal Commission to approve the Project's Coastal Development Permit (CDP); I am humbly supportive of this and urge you to do this without delay.

As a former owner and co-founder of Tidal Influence, LLC, I have long supported restoration of the Los Cerritos Wetlands, and this project accomplishes the admirable goal of being the first major restoration project of the Los Cerritos Wetlands. It also greatly enhances public access and education opportunities.

As a native Californian, coastal advocate, and former Long Beach conservationist, I can confidently say that this project is a definitive win for the people of California. Ensuring the protection of the remnant ecological resources is an investment in California's coastal future. The focus on wetland habitat for ecosystem services, environmental education, recreational access, and natural preservation provides a healthy and sustainable foundation on which to ensure local coastal resiliency.

This is a unique opportunity to exhibit vision and leadership to restore degraded habitat and increase access. It is my hope that this CDP is approved.

Sincerely,



Taylor Parker, MS PhD

Forestry Program Director, Sierra Nevada Alliance (SierraNevadaAlliance.org)
Instructor in the Geography Department at California State University, Long Beach
Board member, co-founder, and co-host of Pelecanus (pelecanus.org)
Owner of Intentional Ecology (<https://www.practicepraxis.org/consulting.html>)

March 3, 2025

Dr. Justin Cummings, Chair
California Coastal Commission
South Coast District Office
301 E Ocean Blvd., Suite 300
Long Beach, CA 90802-4302

Re: Strong Support for the Southern Los Cerritos Wetlands Restoration Project (CDP No. 5-23-0233)

Dear Chair Cummings and Coastal Commissioners:

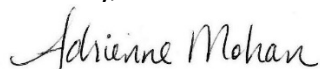
As a lifelong resident of Long Beach and professional with expertise in the restoration of precious coastal ecosystems, I am writing to express my support the implementation of the Southern Los Cerritos Wetlands Restoration Project and urge the Commission to approve the project's Coastal Development Permit application (CDP No. 5-23-0233). This project represents a critical investment in the ecological health and resilience of our coastal environment.

The restoration of over 100 acres of wetlands—including vital tidal marshes—will significantly enhance water quality, bolster biodiversity, and support a range of native wildlife species. This includes the state-endangered Belding's Savannah Sparrow and other salt marsh-dependent species that have suffered dramatic habitat loss across Southern California. By restoring these crucial habitats, the project will not only provide sanctuary for threatened species but also strengthen the wetlands' ability to adapt to sea level rise, a pressing concern for our region.

Beyond ecological benefits, the project prioritizes public access, education, and aesthetic improvements for the benefit of the community. By integrating a system of trails and public access features, it will create new opportunities for residents and visitors to connect with this unique landscape, fostering a deeper appreciation for the value of coastal wetlands. The Southern Los Cerritos Wetlands Restoration Project stands as a model for responsible environmental stewardship, balancing ecological restoration with public access in a way that benefits both people and nature.

Given the urgent need for habitat restoration and the multiple long-term benefits this project will bring to our coastal community, I strongly urge the Commission to approve the Coastal Development Permit without delay. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Adrienne Mohan".

Adrienne Mohan
Executive Director, Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy

CC: Liliana Roman

February 11th, 2025

Dr. Justin Cummings, Chair
California Coastal Commission
South Coast District Office
301 E Ocean Blvd., Suite 300
Long Beach, CA 90802-4302

Re: Southern Los Cerritos Wetlands Restoration Project (CDP No. 5-23-0233) Letter of Support

Dear Chair Cummings and Coastal Commissioners:

I am writing to support the implementation of the Southern Los Cerritos Wetlands Restoration Project and urge the Commission to approve the project's Coastal Development Permit application (CDP No. 5-23-0233).

This project will restore over one hundred acres of coastal habitat including tidal wetlands. The project will improve water quality, increase biodiversity, support local wildlife, and create a system of trails and public access features that will serve a diverse community. This restoration project will also create habitat for the state endangered Belding's Savannah Sparrow and other salt marsh species that have lost most of their habitat throughout southern California and allow the wetlands to adapt to sea level rise.

I care deeply about this restoration project due to its ties to my studies. I am a conservation botanist at UCSC, and my current project focuses on nine endangered wetland species native to California's coast. Preserving and restoring as much of this habitat as possible is of the utmost importance in the fight against climate change. As sea levels rise, these plants will need more space in order to adapt. I have also spent much time at the nearby Zedler Marsh, and have seen first-hand the impact of restoration sites on the people, plants, and animals.

I am eager to use the new trail system and Visitor Plaza, which includes new opportunities to relax, explore, and learn. The Commission should approve the Southern Los Cerritos Wetlands Restoration Project's Coastal Development Permit without delay.

Sincerely,

Callaghan Montgomery
UCSC Arboretum and Botanical Garden
129 Roswell Avenue, Long Beach, California

CC: Liliana Roman

February 25, 2025

Dr. Justin Cummings, Chair (California Coastal Commission):

The Coastal Commission website states "The Commission is committed to protecting California's coast and ocean for present and future generations."

The Southern Los Cerritos Wetlands Restoration Project, project number 5-23-0233, does just that and should be approved.

The project restores a critical wetlands ecosystem that was severely damaged by prior oil operations while improving public access and educational opportunities.

I live in Seal Beach and support this local project.

Thank you.

Tom Hazelleaf
4656 Fir Avenue
Seal Beach, CA 90740

February 24, 2025

Re: Southern Los Cerritos Wetlands Restoration Project
Project No. 5-23-0233

Dear Dr Cummings,

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter in support of the Southern Los Cerritos Wetlands Restoration Project. I have been a resident of Long Beach for more than 30 years and am so happy to see the increasing local interest in restoring sensitive environmental areas and providing green spaces for all of the area's residents.

Late last year I attended a local meeting to learn more about the Los Cerritos Wetlands Restoration project and the schedule to begin restoration. In my opinion the project fulfills so many important needs for our area:

- Restores wetlands areas that are critical to the plants, animals, birds, and fish that rely on them for food, shelter, and reproduction
- Provides an educational opportunity for visitors to the restored area to learn more about the habitat and how they can support it
- Returns largely unused land to a more natural state, removing invasive species to allow California natives to thrive
- Remediates existing contamination from prior oil operations
- Improves the view from Pacific Coast Highway and the San Gabriel River bike path, for drivers, cyclists, and pedestrians

Your approval of the Coastal Development Permit is critical to allowing this important project to continue to move forward. Thank you again for taking time to read my letter and your review of the project as a whole.

Inger Nelson

3845 E. Fountain St.
Long Beach, CA 90804
ingernelson@hotmail.com

Dr. Justin Cummings, Chair
California Coastal Commission
South Coast District Office
301 E Ocean Boulevard, Suite 300
Long Beach, CA 90802-4302

February 20, 2025

Dear Chair Cummings and Coastal Commissioners,

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for the proposed Southern Los Cerritos Wetlands Restoration Project. This letter is to urge the Commission to approve the project's Coastal Development Permit application (CDP No. 5-23-0233).

This project is vital. It will restore over 100 acres of coastal habitat including tidal wetlands. By doing so, it will improve water quality, increase biodiversity, and support local wildlife. The many trails and public access features will serve and directly benefit diverse communities, providing immersion in naturally beautiful flora and fauna habitats while simultaneously raising awareness about the importance of responsible stewardship. This restoration project will also create habitat for the state endangered Belding's Savannah Sparrow as well as other salt marsh species that have lost most of their habitat throughout southern California. And critically, this project will allow the wetlands to adapt to sea level rise.

Shortly after I first moved to Long Beach a year ago, I began volunteering once a month at the Los Cerritos Wetlands restoration events. As I've become more aware of endangered habitats, I've also becoming increasingly concerned with the fact that our climate crisis is only intensifying. Wetlands provide flood protection, aid erosion control, and they sequester more carbon than forest ecosystems (despite covering less land area than the latter). For these reasons and more, I now volunteer at least once a week. I plan on more in the future but, for now, this is how I'm doing my part. It is my hope that you do your part by approving the Southern Los Cerritos Wetlands Restoration Project's Coastal Development Permit.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Helen Kim

CC: Liliana Roman

February 20, 2025

California Coastal Commission
ATTN: Dr. Justin Cummings, Chair
301 E. Ocean Blvd., Suite 300
Long Beach, CA 90803

Re: Southern Los Cerritos Wetlands Restoration Project (Pjt. No. 5-23-0233)

Dear Dr. Cummings:

I am pleased to write today in support of the above referenced project. If approved, the Southern Los Cerritos Wetlands Restoration Project will be the first major restoration project of the Los Cerritos Wetlands to be implemented. That is so exciting!

With so much going on in the world right now, it is nice to see progress like this start to take root here.

I strongly encourage you to approve this project and issue the requested Coastal Development Permit without delay.

Thank you for your time,

Meg Pennington
Long Beach, CA

February 17, 2025

Dr. Justin Cummings, Chair
California Coastal Commission
South Coast District Office
301 E Ocean Blvd., Suite 300
Long Beach, CA 90802-4302

Re: Southern Los Cerritos Wetlands Restoration Project (CDP No. 5-23-0233) Letter of Support

Dear Chair Cummings and Coastal Commissioners:

I am writing to support the implementation of the Southern Los Cerritos Wetlands Restoration Project and urge the Commission to approve the project's Coastal Development Permit application (CDP No. 5-23-0233).

This project will restore over one hundred acres of coastal habitat including tidal wetlands. The project will improve water quality, increase biodiversity, support local wildlife, and create a system of trails and public access features that will serve a diverse community. This restoration project will also create habitat for the state endangered Belding's Savannah Sparrow and other salt marsh species that have lost most of their habitat throughout southern California and allow the wetlands to adapt to sea level rise.

I am excited to see a new chapter in the preservation and restoration of this area and am looking forward to using the new trail system and Visitor Plaza, which includes new opportunities to relax, explore, and learn. I have explored these areas in the past while working in the conservation field and am excited to see these areas open to the public soon. The Commission should approve the Southern Los Cerritos Wetlands Restoration Project's Coastal Development Permit without delay.

Sincerely,

Austin Parker
254 Corona Ave. Long Beach, CA 90803

CC: Liliana Roman

February 11, 2025

Dr. Justin Cummings, Chair
California Coastal Commission
South Coast District Office
301 E Ocean Blvd., Suite 300
Long Beach, CA 90802-4302

**Re: Southern Los Cerritos Wetlands Restoration Project
Letter of Support for CDP No. 5-23-0233 Letter of Support**

Dear Chair Cummings and Coastal Commissioners:

It is vitally important that the wetlands property defined by the Southern Los Cerritos Wetlands Restoration Project be restored and protected. I urge the Commission to approve the project's Coastal Development Permit application (CDP No. 5-23-0233).

This land is unique in the State of California where over 90% of coastal wetlands have been filled and destroyed. This project is an opportunity to demonstrate the importance of this habitat for plants, birds and insects and as a fish nursery. The fact that this property is surrounded by urban development is underscored by the fact that the land will be easily accessible to the public, with opportunities to relax and enjoy nature.

The Commission should approve the Southern Los Cerritos Wetlands Restoration Project's Coastal Development Permit without delay.

Sincerely,

Gordana Kajer
235 Loma Avenue
Long Beach, CA 90803

CC: Liliana Roman

February 20, 2025

California Coastal Commission
Dr. Justin Cummings, Chair
301 E. Ocean Blvd., Suite 300
Long Beach, CA 90803

Re: Southern Los Cerritos Wetlands Restoration Project (Pjt. No. 5-23-0233)

Dear Dr. Cummings:

I am writing today in support of the Southern Los Cerritos Wetlands Restoration Project. I attended a presentation about the project late last year and I was very impressed. It is clear that a lot of time has gone in to planning this fantastic project.

I am looking forward to using the new trails once they are built. I love taking nature walks and am excited to use this new trail system once it is built starting later this year (hopefully!!).

Please approve this project. The wetlands need to be restored right away!

Respectfully,

Jeannine Wall

February 23, 2025

California Coastal Commission
Dr. Justin Cummings, Chair
301 E. Ocean Blvd., Suite 300
Long Beach, CA 90803

Re: Project No. 5-23-0233, Southern Los Cerritos Wetlands Restoration Project

Dear Dr. Cummings:

I am writing in support of the Southern Los Cerritos Wetlands Restoration Project. I have been a Long Beach resident my whole life and I must have driven by the restoration site 1000 times either going to Seal Beach or through Seal Beach. I always thought that the part fronting PCH had so much potential and I am glad to see that it is part of this restoration project.

We need more open space so that people can enjoy nature, and this project provides that. It's a really good project and I hope it gets approved.

Let's restore the wetlands!!

Thank you,

Stephanie Mallon

February 12, 2025

Dr. Justin Cummings, Chair
California Coastal Commission
South Coast District Office
301 E Ocean Blvd., Suite 300
Long Beach, CA 90802-4302

**Re: Southern Los Cerritos Wetlands Restoration Project
Letter of Support for CDP No. 5-23-0233 Letter of Support**

Dear Chair Cummings and Coastal Commissioners:

I urge the Commission to approve the project's Coastal Development Permit application (CDP No. 5-23-0233).

The restoration of these tidal wetlands is an important step forward in preserving this area of Long Beach as critical and vital habitat.

Please approve the Southern Los Cerritos Wetlands Restoration Project's Coastal Development Permit without delay.

Sincerely,

Joe Geever
235 Loma Avenue
Long Beach, CA 90803

CC: Liliana Roman

February 12, 2025

California Coastal Commission
Dr. Justin Cummings, Chair

Re: Project No. 5-23-0233, Southern Los Cerritos Wetlands Restoration Project

Dear Dr. Cummings:

I support the Southern Los Cerritos Wetlands Restoration Project, and hope that you approve it at the March meeting. The project's engagement coordinator gave me a site tour last month and I was impressed! There are so many different things to consider and it sounds like everything has been very thoughtfully planned out.

I am looking forward to enjoying the restored wetlands. I've been telling people about my site tour and they've become excited about the restoration too!

Please approve this project without delay.

Thank you,

Sara Hoenshell
Long Beach, CA

February 16, 2025

California Coastal Commission
Dr. Justin Cummings, Chair

Re: Southern Los Cerritos Wetlands Restoration Project

Dear Dr. Cummings:

What a great project! I can't believe it. I've lived in Long Beach almost 70 years, and I can't believe how close I am to finally FINALLY seeing restoration of the Los Cerritos Wetlands.

The area gets cleaned up from contamination, more water will move through the property, and the bugs and birds will be happy!

This project needs to happen!!

Respectfully

Brad Van Reemer
Long Beach

2/15/25

California Coastal Commission
South Coast District Office
301 E Ocean Blvd., Suite 300
Long Beach, CA 90802-4302

Re: Southern Los Cerritos Wetlands Restoration Project (CDP No. 5-23-0233) Letter of Support

Dear Chair Cummings and Coastal Commissioners:

I'm writing to support the implementation of the Southern Los Cerritos Wetlands Restoration Project and urge the Commission to approve the project's Coastal Development Permit application (CDP No. 5-23-0233).

This project will restore over one hundred acres of coastal habitat including tidal wetlands, which I hope is enough value in itself to support. IF you need more incentive, the project will also improve water quality, increase biodiversity, support local wildlife, and (less importantly) create a system of trails and public access features that will serve a diverse community. This restoration project will also create habitat for the state endangered Belding's Savannah Sparrow and other salt marsh species that have lost most of their habitat throughout southern California due to human encroachment and allow the wetlands to adapt to sea level rise.

I was once a steward of these wetlands and had hands-on experience on how important it is to support the rewilding of and restoration of our disturbed sites. It's been belabored enough about how dire the climate crisis is and the extent that we are heading into the next major extinction event, but it's small changes like this that show that we acknowledge and care about nature and all the wonderful things it brings to all animals (humans obviously included). It's imperative that you approve this permit.

I await to see this habitat restored to return some nature to this urban hellscape we call home. The Commission should approve the Southern Los Cerritos Wetlands Restoration Project's Coastal Development Permit without delay.

Sincerely,
Jacob Sobol
253 Quincy Ave, Long Beach CA

CC: Liliana Roman

February 26, 2025

Dr. Justin Cummings, Chair
CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

Re: Southern Los Cerritos Wetlands Restoration Project
Project No. 5-23-0233

Dear Dr. Cummings:

We who have been working decades to preserve and restore our local wetlands encourage the Coastal Commission to approve the CDP for this project.

This will be the first major restoration of the Los Cerritos Wetlands, which have a history of contamination from prior oil operations.

Phase 1 of the project is fully funded. This project remediates the existing oil operations contamination and will restore vital habitat. It will also provide additional public access to the wetlands and includes aesthetic improvements, especially a parcel along Pacific Coast Highway. Like all similar natural habitat restoration, this will expand education and stewardship opportunities for all.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

/s/

Lisa Rinaldi
5624 La Paz St.
Long Beach, CA. 90803

January 27, 2025

Dr. Justin Cummings
Chairperson
California Coastal Commission

Re: Support for Southern Los Cerritos Wetlands Restoration Project (No. 5-23-0233)

Dear: Dr Cummings

I am writing in support of the Southern Los Cerritos Wetlands Restoration Project. I became familiar with the Los Cerritos Wetlands when I began entitling the Los Cerritos Wetlands Oil Consolidation and Restoration Project several years ago. I really grew to appreciate the wetlands, and am glad to see that more parcels are slated for restoration!

So many people have worked a long time to make this restoration a reality, and I'm glad it is paying off. I look forward to taking a walk out in the restored wetlands and request that you approve the Coastal Development Permit without delay.

Thank you,

Michael Di Sano
Michael DiSano

February 22, 2025

California Coastal Commission
Dr. Justin Cummings, Chair
301 E. Ocean Blvd.
Long Beach, CA

Re: Southern Los Cerritos Wetlands Restoration Project (no. 5-23-0233)

Dr. Cummings:

I am writing to support the Southern Los Cerritos Wetlands Restoration Project, and am asking you to approve the project at the upcoming hearing. This is a really good project with a lot of benefits – for humans and the environment.

I have driven down PCH past this project area every day on my way to work. I can't wait for the restoration to start. I will definitely use the trail system once it is open, and I'm sure a lot of others will too.

I hope this project gets approved in March.

Thank you for your time,

John Patrick
Long Beach

02/10/2025

Dr. Justin Cummings, Chair
California Coastal Commission
South Coast District Office
301 E Ocean Blvd., Suite 300
Long Beach, CA 90802-4302

Re: Southern Los Cerritos Wetlands Restoration Project (CDP No. 5-23-0233) Letter of Support

Dear Chair Cummings and Coastal Commissioners:

I am writing to support the implementation of the Southern Los Cerritos Wetlands Restoration Project and urge the Commission to approve the project's Coastal Development Permit application (CDP No. 5-23-0233).

This project will restore over one hundred acres of coastal habitat including tidal wetlands. The project will improve water quality, increase biodiversity, support local wildlife, and create a system of trails and public access features that will serve a diverse community. This restoration project will also create habitat for the state endangered Belding's Savannah Sparrow and other salt marsh species that have lost most of their habitat throughout southern California and allow the wetlands to adapt to sea level rise.

The reason that I care about this wetland restoration is because of my former employment with Tidal Influence, the ecological restoration firm that works to restore the Los Cerritos Wetlands and ensure its future as a natural space and an important part of the local biodiversity. As an educator, it is important to me that the future generation of environmental stewards will be able to reap the benefits of the Southern Los Cerritos Wetlands Restoration Project.

I am eager to use the new trail system and Visitor Plaza, which includes new opportunities to relax, explore, and learn. The Commission should approve the Southern Los Cerritos Wetlands Restoration Project's Coastal Development Permit without delay.

Sincerely,

Mikayla Adkins
29449 Masters Drive
Murrieta, CA 92563

CC:Liliana Roman

March 1, 2025

Dr. Justin Cummings, Chair
California Coastal Commission
301 E. Ocean Blvd., Suite 300
Long Beach, CA 90802

Dear Dr. Cummings

The Los Cerritos Wetlands restoration project is the first fully funded project and will remediate existing contamination from the oil operations.

Wetlands are essential in aiding in mitigating the effects of climate change, which is a planet wide problem.

Please support the wetlands.

Sincerely,

Dorothy Johnson, PhD

March 3, 2025

Dr. Justin Cummings, Chair
California Coastal Commission
South Coast District Office
301 E Ocean Blvd., Suite 300
Long Beach, CA 90802-4302

Re: Southern Los Cerritos Wetlands Restoration Project (CDP No. 5-23-0233) Letter of Support

Dear Chair Cummings and Coastal Commissioners:

I am writing to support the implementation of the Southern Los Cerritos Wetlands Restoration Project and urge the Commission to approve the project's Coastal Development Permit application (CDP No. 5-23-0233).

This project will restore over one hundred acres of coastal habitat including tidal wetlands. The project will improve water quality, increase biodiversity, support local wildlife, and create a system of trails and public access features that will serve a diverse community. This restoration project will also create habitat for the state endangered Belding's Savannah Sparrow and other salt marsh species that have lost most of their habitat throughout southern California and allow the wetlands to adapt to sea level rise.

The reason that I care about this wetland restoration is because I have seen firsthand how these restored public spaces can benefit and educate underprivileged youth. Last summer while interning with Tidal Influence, I had the opportunity to lead field trips through the BESAFE program. Myself and my colleagues led tours of the wetlands for these students and created interactive science activities for the students to learn about this unique habitat which many of them did not know about. Restoring this habitat will create even more opportunities for students and adults alike to learn about coastal and tidal wetlands habitat and their importance especially in protecting communities like Long Beach from sea level rise.

I am eager to use the new trail system and Visitor Plaza, which includes new opportunities to relax, explore, and learn. The Commission should approve the Southern Los Cerritos Wetlands Restoration Project's Coastal Development Permit without delay.

Sincerely,

Jordan Guzman
6023 Loynes Drive
Long Beach, CA 90803

CC: Liliana Roman



690 Studebaker Rd.
Long Beach, CA 90803

March 4, 2025

Dr. Justin Cummings, Chair
California Coastal Commission
South Coast District Office
301 E Ocean Blvd., Suite 300
Long Beach, CA 90802-4302

RE: Support for Southern Los Cerritos Wetlands Restoration Project (CDP No. 5-23-0233)

Dear Chair Cummings and Coastal Commissioners:

AES Alamitos writes this letter supporting the Southern Los Cerritos Wetlands Restoration Project and Coastal Development Permit application CDP No. 5-23-0233.

This project will restore over one hundred acres of coastal habitat, including tidal wetlands. It will improve water quality, increase biodiversity, support local wildlife, and create a system of trails and public access features that will serve a diverse community.

This restoration project will also create a habitat for the state endangered Belding's Savannah Sparrow and other salt marsh species that have lost most of their habitat throughout southern California.

AES is proud to partner with the Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority to help fund the restoration of wetlands in Long Beach and Seal Beach and create greater access to environmental educational programming, especially for disadvantaged communities.

We thank you for your consideration and eagerly await the new trail system, which will provide new opportunities to relax, explore, and learn.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mark Miller', is written over the word 'Sincerely,'.

Mark Miller
General Manager – Southland
AES CA Market Business Leader

CC: Liliana Roman

March 3, 2025

Dr. Justin Cummings, Chair
California Coastal Commission
South Coast District Office
301 E Ocean Blvd., Suite 300
Long Beach, CA 90802-4302

Re: Southern Los Cerritos Wetlands Restoration Project (CDP No. 5-23-0233) Letter of Support

Dear Chair Cummings and Coastal Commissioners:

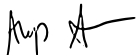
I am writing to support the implementation of the Southern Los Cerritos Wetlands Restoration Project and urge the Commission to approve the project's Coastal Development Permit application (CDP No. 5-23-0233).

This project will restore over one hundred acres of coastal habitat including tidal wetlands. The project will improve water quality, increase biodiversity, support local wildlife, and create a system of trails and public access features that will serve a diverse community. This restoration project will also create habitat for the state endangered Belding's Savannah Sparrow and other salt marsh species that have lost most of their habitat throughout southern California and allow the wetlands to adapt to sea level rise.

This project is important to me because restoring these coastal wetlands will provide several ecosystem services that wildlife and our communities depend on. Coastal wetlands filter our water, protect our communities from floods, provide nesting ground for wildlife and fish which support our economy, and provide educational and recreational opportunities. Restoring coastal wetlands can boost fish populations, recover endangered and threatened species, and support a resilient coastal ecosystem and community. Overall, the project will result in important benefits for wildlife, coastal access, and improved resilience to climate change.

I respectfully encourage you to support this important project for the restoration of valuable coastal wetlands. I am eager to use the new trail system and Visitor Plaza, which includes new opportunities to relax, explore, and learn. The Commission should approve the Southern Los Cerritos Wetlands Restoration Project's Coastal Development Permit without delay.

Sincerely,



Alys Arenas, LBC Resident/Wetland Ecologist
alys.arenas@gmail.com

CC: Liliana Roman

4 March 2025

Dr. Justin Cummings, Chair
California Coastal Commission
South Coast District Office
301 E Ocean Blvd., Suite 300
Long Beach, CA 90802-4302

**Re: Southern Los Cerritos Wetlands Restoration Project
Letter Of Support**

Dear Chairman Cummings and Coastal Commissioners:

I am writing in support of the Los Cerritos Wetlands Restoration Project and I urge the Commission to give approval for this endeavor. From all the damage caused by industry on our local coastal environment, this project is necessary to restore lost habitats so that fish and wildlife have a home.

I often watch the documentaries done by David Attenborough and he regularly speaks about how man has taken much of the environment for themselves and have left little of it for wildlife. Our wildlife has declined by about 70% now because of the activities done by man.

My daughter recently graduated from Cal Poly Humboldt with a degree in wildlife and her emphasis was on birds. I know how important those nesting sites are for the health and well-being of many species. Restoring these wetlands will create more habitats and nesting sites for our local wildlife plus restoring an environment back to health.

I encourage you and the California Coastal Commission to please take this project under your consideration. This endeavor would add another 100 acres of coastal habitat and tidal wetlands for fish and wildlife. It would add a quality of life in southern California for both wildlife and humanity.

Thank you for your consideration and I hope that this project will be approved.

Thank you,
Bobbie McIntyre
12200 Montecito Rd. E201
Seal Beach, CA 90740

March 3, 2025

Dr. Justin Cummings, Chair
California Coastal Commission
South Coast District Office
301 E Ocean Blvd., Suite 300
Long Beach, CA 90802-4302

Re: Southern Los Cerritos Wetlands Restoration Project (CDP No. 5-23-0233) Letter of Support

Dear Chair Cummings and Coastal Commissioners:

I am writing to support the implementation of the Southern Los Cerritos Wetlands Restoration Project and urge the Commission to approve the project's Coastal Development Permit application (CDP No. 5-23-0233).

This project will restore over one hundred acres of coastal habitat including tidal wetlands. The project will improve water quality, increase biodiversity, support local wildlife, and create a system of trails and public access features that will serve a diverse community. This restoration project will also create habitat for the state endangered Belding's Savannah Sparrow and other salt marsh species that have lost most of their habitat throughout southern California and allow the wetlands to adapt to sea level rise.

The reason that I care about this wetland restoration is because as a former environmental educator and steward for Los Cerritos Wetlands I have led a multitude of tours, field trips, and volunteer habitat restoration events within the wetlands and have witnessed community members re-connect with these degraded areas and be inspired to live an environmentally conscious lifestyle. I know that further restoration, improved access, and the environmental education opportunities this project will provide for the public will help garner further appreciation for wetland habitats and continue to inspire the next generation of scientist and the public to not only protect but also mitigate impacts to these dwindling ecosystems. I also believe I am also eager to use the new trail system and Visitor Plaza, which includes new opportunities to relax, explore, and learn. The Commission should approve the Southern Los Cerritos Wetlands Restoration Project's Coastal Development Permit without delay.

Sincerely,

Jesse Aragon
Orange County Public Works
2301 N Glassell St, Orange, CA 92865

CC: Liliana Roman