

Notice of Determination**- 1 -****To:** Office of Planning and Research*For U.S. Mail:*P.O. Box 3044
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044*Street Address:*1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814**From:**Lead Agency:
California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)
Region 5
3883 Ruffin Road
San Diego, CA 92123
Contact: Richard Brody
Phone: 310-455-3243**SUBJECT: Filing of Notice of Determination pursuant to Public Resources Code § 21108**

State Clearinghouse Number: 2012071090

Project Title: Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project**Project Location:** The Project is located at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve (Ballona Reserve). The Ballona Reserve is located in Los Angeles County, south of Marina del Rey and east of Playa del Rey. It extends roughly from the Marina Freeway (State Route [SR] 90) to the east, the Westchester bluffs to the south, Playa del Rey to the west, and Fiji Way to the north.**Project Description:**

The Project approved by CDFW is Alternative 1 as analyzed in the EIR except construction of a three-story parking garage and an access road behind businesses along Culver Boulevard. The Project will restore and reconnect Ballona Creek with its historical floodplain, include adaptation for sea level rise, restore upland and non-tidal wetlands, construct public access improvements, establish new flood risk and storm water management infrastructure, and provide for long-term operation and maintenance activities. The Project, as described in the EIR, is divided into two phases (Phase 1 and 2). However, during the next design phase, the Department will firm up potential sequences available to further divide the Project into smaller components.

The Project includes the following restoration-related components:

1. Overall net increase of approximately 201 acres of wetlands.
2. Remove and replace approximately 9,800 feet of existing Ballona Creek levees with transitional zones to accommodate for sea level rise and realigning the existing Ballona Creek channel with a more natural "meander-shape" through the Project reach and re-established floodplain.
3. Restoring, enhancing, and establishing estuarine aquatic and associated upland habitats connected to the realigned Ballona Creek.
4. Improving tidal circulation into the Ballona Reserve and implementing other modifications to create dynamic interactions between the Ballona Creek channel, aquatic resources within the Ballona Reserve, and the Santa Monica Bay and thereby support estuarine and associated habitats within the Ballona Reserve.
5. Modifying existing infrastructure and utilities as necessary to implement restoration activities, including the abandonment or relocation of SoCalGas wells and pipelines with the Ballona Reserve.
6. Implementing long-term post-restoration activities as needed, including inspections, repairs, clean-ups, vegetation management, and related activities.

Public access-related improvements include:

1. Removing existing bike trails from the middle of the Ballona Reserve, reconnecting fragmented habitat, and realigning the bike trails atop constructed levees around the perimeter of the reserve with interpretive and learning opportunities.
2. Installing approximately 29,000 additional linear feet (approximately 5.5 miles) of pedestrian-only trails.
3. Installing approximately 2,000 linear feet of elevated boardwalks.
4. Constructing two bike and pedestrian bridges. Providing access between Area A and North Area C over Lincoln Boulevard and between Area A and Area B over Ballona Creek.
5. Constructing a spur bicycle trail connection under Lincoln Boulevard (Highway 1).
6. Improving Area A and West Culver Parking Lots.

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Flood risk management–related components include:

1. Constructing new engineered levees set back from the existing Ballona Creek channel in Area A and along Culver Boulevard.
2. Installing, operating, and maintaining new hydraulic structures.
3. Constructing storage basin in Area B to alleviate neighborhood flooding.

This is to advise that CDFW, acting as the lead agency / a responsible agency] approved the above-described project on December 30, 2020, and made the following determinations regarding the above-described project:

1. The project will / will not] have a significant effect on the environment.
2. An environmental impact report / A negative declaration] was prepared by the lead agency for the original project.
3. Mitigation measures were / were not] made a condition of CDFW’s approval of the project.
4. A mitigation reporting or monitoring plan was / was not] adopted by CDFW for this project.
5. A Statement of Overriding Considerations was / was not] adopted by CDFW for this project.
6. Findings were / were not] made by CDFW pursuant to Public Resources Code § 21081(a).

This is to certify that the final EIR with comments and responses and record of project approval is available to the General Public at: 1416 Ninth Street, 12th Floor, Sacramento, CA 95814.

DocuSigned by:
Ed Pest
 Signature _____ Date: 12/30/2020
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Date Received for filing at OPR: _____