



Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority

Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority
100 N. Old San Gabriel Canyon Road
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NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

TO: Interested Parties
FROM: Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority
DATE: April 10, 2023
SUBJECT: Southern Los Cerritos Wetlands Restoration Project

SEAL BEACH, CALIF. — The Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority (LCWA) is pleased to host a public meeting to present the Southern Los Cerritos Wetlands Restoration Project and discuss the related environmental analysis document, as required under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The meeting will be held virtually on April 27, 2023, from 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

The Southern Los Cerritos Wetlands Restoration Project (Project) involves the restoration of tidal wetlands on 103.5-acres of the Los Cerritos Wetlands located in Seal Beach, California, and will facilitate restoration of a range of wetland types extending from subtidal habitat to upland transition habitat. The restoration design considers factors such as historical ecology, natural ecosystem processes, tribal cultural resources, public access, resiliency to sea level rise, and current biotic and abiotic conditions of the site.

This public meeting will include a presentation of the restoration design, and discussion of the CEQA Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND). The LCWA and members of the consultant team will also be providing a brief summary of the prior public meeting and sharing information on next steps in the process. There will be several opportunities throughout the meeting to ask questions.

Additionally, and in its capacity as Lead Agency under CEQA, the LCWA is releasing an IS/MND analyzing the potential impacts of the Project. The IS/MND are available for a 30-day public comment period beginning April 10, 2023 and ending May 10, 2023.

Project Description: The project proposes to restore wetland, wetland-upland transition zone, and upland habitats throughout the project area. This would involve addressing any contaminated soil, grading, revegetation, construction of new public access opportunities (including trails, a Stewardship Site, and viewpoints), construction of flood management facilities (including earthen berms), and modification of existing infrastructure and utilities.

Ecosystem restoration in the Project Area would occur in two phases based on access to the Haynes Cooling Channel as a source of tidal waters. The Phase 1 restoration activities would focus on enhancing existing habitat areas in closer proximity to the existing muted tidal channel connection via the culvert connected to the San Gabriel River. Phase 2 restoration activities would expand tidal wetlands throughout the Project site by creating a full tidal connection with the Haynes Cooling Channel.

Phase 1 will be designed to provide an initial functional lift to existing habitat areas that will become further enhanced by the improved hydrological conditions provided by Phase 2. Phase 1 could start as early as 2024 pending permitting and secured funding, while Phase 2 would not start until after 2029 when the Haynes Cooling Channel is no longer needed.

Who is invited: All are welcome to join this virtual meeting and learn about the Southern Los Cerritos Wetlands Restoration Project. We are excited to share this information with as many people as possible, so be sure to invite your friends and neighbors.

How to access: The meeting will begin at 6:00 p.m. until 7:30p.m. Use the link below to access the meeting (check project website if you're having technical difficulties):

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86727562801?pwd=Y1RNWWJxS24xUGFoNOVHYjFSWnZUUT09>

Who is the LCWA and their consulting team: The Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority is a joint powers authority composed of the City of Seal Beach, the City of Long Beach, the State Coastal Conservancy, and the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy. The consultant team, spearheaded by Tidal Influence and Moffatt and Nichol, also includes, Cogstone Resource Management Inc., Altman Environmental Consulting, and Anchor QEA.

Environmental Determination: An Initial Study was prepared to examine potential areas of impact resulting from the proposed Project. The Initial Study found that the proposed Project would not have a significant effect on the environment with compliance with required regulatory permit conditions and with the required implementation of mitigation, reduction and avoidance measures found in the Los Cerritos Wetlands Restoration Plan Project Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) for Aesthetics, Air Quality, Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Geology and Soils, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Hydrology and Water Quality, Noise, Public Services, Transportation, Tribal Cultural Resources, and Utilities and Service Systems. As a result, an Environmental Impact Report is not required, and a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) has been prepared.

Availability of Documents: The Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) is now available for public review at the Mary Wilson Library, 707 Electric Avenue, Seal Beach, CA 90740, and Bayshore Library, 195 Bay Shore Avenue, Long Beach, CA 90803. The document **can also be accessed online** at this website: [Southern Los Cerritos Wetlands Restoration Project – Into Los Cerritos Wetlands \(https://intoloscerritoswetlands.org/southern-los-cerritos-wetlands-restoration-project/\)](https://intoloscerritoswetlands.org/southern-los-cerritos-wetlands-restoration-project/).

Comments on the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration: The Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority requests any comments you may have on the IS/MND during a **30-day review period**, which **commences on April 10, 2023, and ends on May 10, 2023**. Please submit any comments you may have in writing (letter or e-mail) by the end date listed above to:

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TO BE PUBLISHED ON OR BEFORE: **Monday April 10, 2023**

PUBLISHED FOR: **Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority**