

Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority

Date: December 3, 2020

To: Governing Board Members

From: Sally Gee, Project Manager

Through: Mark Stanley, Executive Officer

Subject: Item 8: Consideration of a resolution authorizing an extension to the Memorandum of Agreement for the Los Cerritos Wetland Stewardship Program with the Aquarium of the Pacific

RECOMMENDATION: That the Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority (LCWA) authorize an extension to the Memorandum of Agreement for the Los Cerritos Wetland Stewardship Program with the Aquarium of the Pacific.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The LCWA entered into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Aquarium of the Pacific (AOP) in 2013 and amended in 2016 to implement the Los Cerritos Wetlands Stewardship Program (LCWSP). The term of the agreement is expiring on December 31, 2020. This resolution would extend the current agreement to February 28, 2021 (Exhibit A), which would allow enough time to coordinate an amendment to the MOA to consider a long-term agreement between the LCWA and the AOP to continue implementation of the LCWSP. The AOP is highly qualified to provide such services including organizing and engaging the community, distributing information for habitat restoration events to the public at-large, and are leaders who represent the LCWSP.

BACKGROUND: The AOP has successfully implemented the Los Cerritos Wetlands Stewardship Program (LCWSP) by engaging the community, leverage funding for the LCWSP and providing services for sea turtle monitoring since 2013.

The LCWA continues to work with local non-profit groups to develop and implement the LCWSP through MOAs. These MOAs are highly beneficial for allowing public access into the Los Cerritos Wetlands and the public becoming active participates in stewardship activities. Without the MOAs, the LCWA does not have staff to administer, manage and implement a public program or sufficient time to allow public access into the Los Cerritos Wetlands. These non-profits continue to successfully implement the goals of the LCWSP, including, promoting community involvement through environmental education, maintenance, restoration, and monitoring of the wetlands.

In addition, these non-profits which manage the MOAs have abided to the LCWA set conditions for administration, which are: 1) any public events must be consistent with all applicable access agreements, 2) the MOAs will be at no cost to the LCWA, 3) the MOAs must meet all insurance and liability provisions that may be recommended by the LCWA legal counsel and 4) the entity has a proven ability to render such services.

FISCAL: This MOA will not incur any costs to the LCWA and LCWSP. The AOP is responsible for providing for itself any equipment needed for stewardship or educational purposes.

December 3, 2020 – Item 8

RESOLUTION 2020-07

RESOLUTION OF THE LOS CERRITOS WETLANDS AUTHORITY (LCWA)
AUTHORIZING AN EXTENSION TO THE MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT
FOR THE LOS CERRITOS WETLANDS STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM
WITH THE AQUARIUM OF THE PACIFIC

WHEREAS, the Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority has been established between the Coastal Conservancy, the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy, the City of Seal Beach and the City of Long Beach to facilitate the acquisition, protection, conservation, restoration, maintenance and operation an environmental enhancement of the Los Cerritos Wetlands; and

WHEREAS, the LCWA has further been established to focus on projects which will provide open space, habitat restoration, and watershed improvement projects within the Los Cerritos Wetlands; and

WHEREAS, this action will authorize an amendment to the Memorandum of Agreement with the Aquarium of the Pacific; and

WHEREAS, the LCWA has acquired certain properties which will require active stewardship; and

WHEREAS, the LCWA had adopted a Los Cerritos Wetlands Stewardship Program; and

WHEREAS, this action is exempt from the environmental impact report requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA); NOW

Therefore be it resolved, that the LCWA hereby:

1. FINDS that this action is consistent with the purposes and objectives of the LCWA.
2. FINDS that the actions contemplated by this resolution are exempt from the environmental impact report requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act.
3. ADOPTS staff report dated December 3, 2020.
4. AUTHORIZES an extension to the Memorandum of Agreement with the Aquarium of the Pacific to February 28, 2021.

~ End of Resolution ~

Passed and Adopted by the Board of the Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority
On December 3, 2020.

Sam Schuchat, Board Chair

ATTEST: _____

Christina Bull Arndt
Deputy Attorney General