

Questionnaire: Los Cerritos Wetlands

Interviewer	Location
Date	Start Time

Open-Ended with Payment Card

Good Morning/Afternoon, My name is _____ and I am a student in the Department of Environmental Science and Policy at California State University, Long Beach. We are conducting a research project and I was wondering if you would answer some questions. If yes....

For our current research project, we are interviewing people about the Los Cerritos Wetlands. All of your answers will be confidential and will be used purely for analysis.

Are you 18 years or older? ___ Yes ___ No Do you live in California? ___ Yes ___ No
Are the Los Cerritos Wetlands close enough to your home for a day trip? ___ Yes ___ No
Proceed if respondent is 18 or over and lives in Long Beach/Seal Beach. Record the number of those who do not meet specified criteria.

Hand cards to respondent. "Please do not flip through the pages until I ask you to, but follow along with the interview as I share information relevant to each part of the interview."

Section A: Description and attributes of Los Cerritos Wetlands.

These are just a few of the programs for which cities, LA and Orange County, the State of California, and Federal Government spend tax money:

Maintain Beach Cleanliness; Maintain/Improve Marine Wildlife Habitat;
Maintain/Improve Water Quality; Marine Safety; Wildlife Protection; Coastal Development;

Q1. Please flip to card A. For each item on Card A, is this issue not important at all to you personally, not too important, somewhat important, very important or extremely important?

	1. Not Important at all	2. Not too important	3.Somewhat Important	4. Very Important	5.Extremely Important
a. Maintain Beach Cleanliness					
b.Maintain/Improve Marine Wildlife Habitat					
c. Maintain/Improve Water Quality					
d. Marine Safety					

e. Wildlife Protection					
f. Coastal Development					

Proposals are sometimes made for new projects, but additional projects have additional costs that require funding.

The view of citizens like yourself is important in the decision making process.

So, one way we can gain some insight into the public's view is to give people like yourself, information about a particular project, so that you can give your own opinion about it.

In an interview like this, some people may think that the project is unnecessary, and others may find it very valuable. We would like to know your opinion.

I want to describe to you what a wetland or salt marsh is. Generally, wetlands are lands where saturation with water is the dominant factor determining the nature of soil development and the types of plant and animal communities living in the soil and on its surface. There are areas where water covers the soil, or is present either at or near the surface of the soil all year or for varying periods of time during the year. Wetlands may support both aquatic and terrestrial species. Coastal Wetlands are closely linked to estuaries, where sea water mixes with fresh water to form an environment of varying salinities.

Now please look at Cards B and C.

Card B and C- Side 1: This is a picture taken at the Los Cerritos Wetlands. It is representative of other salt marsh wetland ecosystems in Southern California. Side 2: These are more pictures of the Los Cerritos Wetlands ecosystem.

I am going to ask you about three separate project proposals that intend to preserve and or restore the Los Cerritos Wetlands.

Section B: Recreation, Participation and Intensity

Q2. In what recreational activities have you participated at Los Cerritos Wetlands during the past 12 months such as?

- Fishing
- Hiking
- Bird Watching
- Kayaking
- Boating
- Rowing
- Scenic Tours
- Bicycling or Jogging along San Gabriel River

- Recreational Photography

Q3. Please flip to card D. About how many trips did you take to any Southern California Wetlands in the past 12 months?

If trips were taken, to which Wetlands?

Q4. About how many trips did you take to the Los Cerritos Wetlands in the past 12 months?

Section C: Contingent Valuation-Stress and Shock to Ecosystem

Along the coastline from Long Beach to the northern end of Huntington Beach, there are several different wetlands/salt marsh ecosystems which include:

- Los Cerritos Wetlands
- Bolsa Chica Wetlands
- Jack Dunster Marine Preserve
- Ballona Wetlands

We want to learn more about the value the citizens of Long Beach and Seal Beach place on the Los Cerritos Wetlands ecosystem.

Southern California's coastal zone has been heavily developed over the last century. Much of the natural wetland ecosystems have been dramatically altered due to things such as coastal development, oil drilling and pumping, river damming, river channelizing, etc.

Now please flip thru Cards E thru H.

These cards show some types of animal and plant organisms that make their home in the salt marsh wetland ecosystem.

Q5: Are you familiar with any of the organisms in the salt marsh wetland ecosystem?
 ___ Yes ___ No ___ Not Sure

According to biologists there are several endangered or threatened species that either live or breed in the salt marsh wetland ecosystem.

Please flip to cards I and J. Let me describe four of these bird species for which the Wetlands are their habit:

- Belding Savannah Sparrow
- California Least Tern
- Western Snowy Plover
- Light Footed Clapper Rail

Research shows that many of those animals that make this ecosystem their home, such as those shown on the card, are facing habitat loss due to development and oil drilling.

Just as a reminder, I would like to remind you that our primary concern is salt marsh wetland habitat preservation and restoration.

Section D: Policy, Options, Payment Mechanisms, Willingness to Pay

Q6: Do you feel that the habitat I have described has a value to today's society or future generations and is worth protecting?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Sure

I previously mentioned several other wetland ecosystems in the general vicinity. These ecosystems have been designated as wetlands and therefore are allowed some general protection under the law by entities such as the California Coastal Commission, Cities of Long Beach, Seal Beach, and Huntington Beach, Fish and Wildlife Service, and Cal EPA. Often times though, the wetland ecosystems still face degradation and habitat loss due to improper enforcement and development.

Now please look at Card K.

Some areas have demonstrated the feasibility of restoration projects along with proper enforcement to achieve a healthy salt marsh wetland ecosystem. One example of this is in the northern portion of Huntington Beach at the Bolsa Chica Wetlands. This area has been protected from development and has recently began to undergo a restoration project that will not only provide both marine and terrestrial plants and animals with healthier habitat, but will also provide human access to and enjoyment of a naturally occurring habitat that has all but vanished.

Some present environmental amenities at Bolsa Chica Wetlands include:

- Fishing
- Hiking
- Bird Watching
- Scenic Tours
- Bicycling or jogging along the boardwalk
- Recreational Photography

Please flip to card L. Presently only a small portion of the Bixby Ranch land is a natural salt marsh wetland ecosystem. There is, however, the potential for a much more expansive salt marsh wetland ecosystem, like that of Bolsa Chica.

In reaching this potential, there are two problems that have been identified. The first is the purchasing of lands adjacent to the existing Los Cerritos Wetlands. The second is the additional funds necessary to purchase as well as maintain/ restore the Los Cerritos Wetlands.

One proposal is to create a Los Cerritos Restoration Land Trust financed by taxes. Proceeds from this fund would pay for the acquisition of the Bryant and Hellman Ranch properties, reconnecting and restoring the now separated estuary remnants.

We are going to ask you if you are willing to pay additional taxes. Before we ask you our question, think about referendums on the ballot that allow you to vote in favor of programs to improve the environment. Those votes, you actually give permission to increase your taxes. Since you are not actually voting on a referendum, the increase in taxes is hypothetical. Some researchers are concerned that when payment is hypothetical people will over state the amount they are willing to allow taxes to be raised. We call this hypothetical bias, the difference between the amounts people respond to hypothetical situations as compared to real situations. We want to get people to think about their taxes in a hypothetical setting like they think in a real situation, where if they agree, their taxes really will be raise, and they will really have to dig into their pockets and pay money.

Now please look at card M. This is the area of the wetlands that we are going to ask you how much you would be willing to pay to see restored.

Q7. Please flip to card N. How much would you be willing pay based on the amounts on the card in annual taxes to restore this portion of the wetlands?

Section E: Travel Time- Household Wage, Income, Residence

I would like to ask you about your background. This information will help us understand what you are willing to give up in terms time and wages in order to participate in outdoor recreation.

Q8. In what zip code do you live?

Q9. Are you employed part time or full time?

If neither, are you a homemaker, student, retired, etc?

Q10. If part time how many hours do you work in a given week?

Q11. If full time, how much time do you receive for vacation?

Now please look at card O.

Q12. Which describes your monthly take-home pay?

Please look at card P.

Q13. Which describes the total annual income, before taxes, for everyone in your household?

Section G: Socioeconomic Variables

Q14. What is your age?

Please look at card Q.

Q15. What is your highest level of education?

Q16. How many people other than yourself live in your household?

Q17. What are their ages?

Q18. How many are wage earners?

Q19. Do you currently belong to any environmental organizations?

If so, can you recall which ones?

Section H: Interviewer information

Sex: M or F

Race: White Black Hispanic Asian Other

The respondent was:

	Not at all	Slightly	Somewhat	Very	Extremely
Distracted					
Attentive					
Interested					
Impatient					

Did the respondent say anything suggesting that he/she had any difficulty understanding what the Wetland is?

Appendix B: INTERVIEWER SHEET

Interviewer	Location
Date	Start Time

1.

	1. Not Important at all	2. Not too important	3.Somewhat Important	4. Very Important	5.Extremely Important
a. Maintain Beach Cleanliness					
b.Maintain/Improve Marine Wildlife Habitat					
c. Maintain/Improve Water Quality					
d. Marine Safety					
e. Wildlife Protection					
f. Coastal Development					

2.

3.

4.

5. ____ Yes ____ No ____ Not Sure

6. ____ Yes ____ No ____ Not Sure

7.

8.

9. part time full time

10.

11.

12.

13.

14.

15.

16.

17.

18.

19.

Interviewer information

End Time: _____

Sex: M or F

Race: White Black Hispanic Asian Other

The respondent was:

	Not at all	Slightly	Somewhat	Very	Extremely
Distracted					
Attentive					
Interested					
Impatient					

Did the respondent say anything suggesting that he/she had any difficulty understanding what the Wetland is?

CARDS A through P

CARD A

	1. Not Important at all	2. Not too important	3.Somewhat Important	4. Very Important	5.Extremely Important
a. Maintain Beach Cleanliness					
b.Maintain/Improve Marine Wildlife Habitat					
c. Maintain/Improve Water Quality					
d. Marine Safety					
e. Wildlife Protection					
f. Coastal Development					

The Los Cerritos Wetlands



Card B Side 2



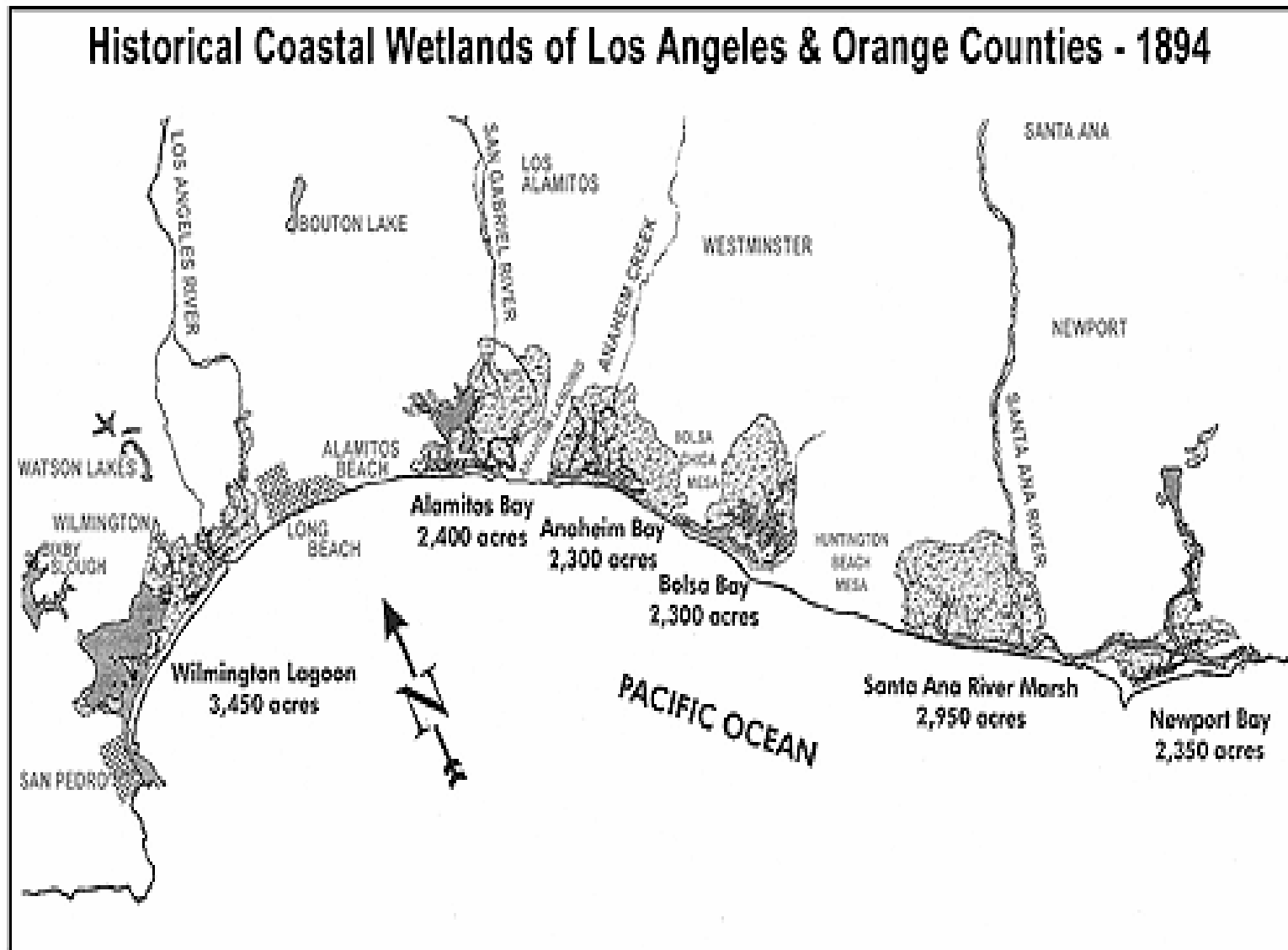
Card C Side 1



Card C Side 2



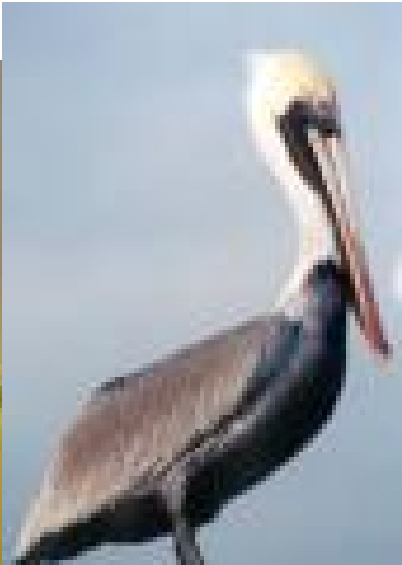
CARD D



Card E



Belding's Savannah Sparrow



Brown Pelican



Forster's Tern



Forster's Tern

Card F



Long Billed Curlew

Card G



Dunlin



Snowy Egret

Card H



Caspian Terns and Ring-billed Gulls

Card I



Snowy Plover



Belding's Savannah Sparrow

Card J



least tern



light footed clapper rail

Card K Side 1: Bolsa Chica



Card K Side 2: Bolsa Chica



CARD L SIDE 1

Los Cerritos Wetlands is an island of natural habitat surrounded by a sea of humanity and it is especially valuable because it is unfragmented habitat connecting the Seal Beach National Wildlife Refuge and El Dorado Nature Center.



CARD L SIDE 2

Our Purpose:

The Los Cerritos Wetlands Land Trust for Long Beach and Seal Beach seeks to Acquire, Restore, Preserve and Protect the former estuary of the Lower San Gabriel River in southeast Los Angeles Co. and northwest Orange Co. in the State of California, its Tidal Salt Marsh, Riparian Habitats and a buffer of Coastal Sage Scrub Habitats.



Recovery of the Watershed and ocean fisheries that once thrived in Long Beach depend upon Estuary restoration, as do the migrating birds



Los Cerritos Wetlands is the year-round home for a dozen State or Federally listed plants, fish, invertebrates, mammals and birds like Belding's Savanna Sparrow (above) and is used as a foraging area by Osprey, Bald Eagle, Brown Pelican and California Least Tern, (below)



Once a major nesting site for endangered Least Terns, Western Snowy Plovers and myriads of seabirds; a restored estuary will enable their recovery.

LOS CERRITOS



Land Trust
for
Long Beach and
Seal Beach

dedicated to
Preserving and Restoring
the Estuary of the
San Gabriel River

(562) 293-3011
P.O. Box 30165
Long Beach, CA 90853

Card M: I



Card M: I, II



Card M: I II III



Card N

- A. Less than \$10
- B. \$10
- C. \$15
- D. \$20
- E. \$25
- F. \$30
- G. \$40
- H. \$50
- I. \$60
- J. \$75
- K. \$100
- L. Greater than \$100

CARD O

A. Less than \$200	N. \$1900
B. \$300	O. \$2100
C. \$400	P. \$2300
D. \$500	Q. \$2500
E. \$600	R. \$2700
F. \$700	S. \$2900
G. \$800	T. \$3100
H. \$900	U. \$3300
I. \$1000	V. \$3500
J. \$1200	W. \$3700
K. \$1400	X. \$3900
L. \$1600	Y. \$4000
M. \$1800	Z. Greater than \$4000

CARD P

A. Less than \$5000

B. \$10,000

C. \$15,000

D. \$20,000

E. \$25,000

F. \$30,000

G. \$35,000

H. \$40,000

I. \$50,000

J. \$60,000

K. \$70,000

L. \$80,000

M. \$90,000

N. \$100,000

O. \$120,000

P. \$140,000

Q. \$160,000

R. \$180,000

S. \$200,000

T. Greater than \$200,000