

Los Cerritos Wetlands Conceptual Restoration Plan – Project Goals and Objectives

Goal #1: Restore tidal wetland processes and functions to the maximum extent possible. *(RFP: Restore wetland processes and functions.)*

Objectives:

- 1.a. Increase estuarine habitat with a mix of tidal channels, mudflat, salt marsh, and brackish/freshwater marsh and ponds.
- 1.b. Provide adequate area for wetland-upland ecotone and upland habitat to support wetlands.
- 1.c. Restore and maintain habitat that supports important life history phases for species of special concern (e.g. federal and state listed species), essential fish habitat, and migratory birds as appropriate.

Goal #2: Maximize contiguous habitat areas and maximize the buffer between habitat and sources of human disturbance. *(RFP: Maximize contiguous wetland areas and minimize the edge between wetlands and sources of disturbance.)*

Objectives:

- 2.a. Maximize wildlife corridors within the LCW Complex and between the LCW Complex and adjacent natural areas within the region. *(RFP: Restore the complex as habitat for resident bird species and migratory birds along the Pacific Flyway.)*
- 2.b. Incorporate native upland vegetation buffers between habitat areas and human development to mitigate urban impacts (e.g. noise, light, unauthorized human encroachment, domestic animals, wastewater runoff) and reduce invasion by non-native organisms. *(RFP: Insure the long term viability and sustainability of the project in the face of such threats as urbanization, sea level rise and other impacts of climate change (latter items addressed by goal #5 below).)*
- 2.c. Design the edges of the LCW complex to be respectful and compatible with current neighboring land uses.

Goal #3: Create a public access and interpretive program that is practical, protective of sensitive habitat and ongoing oil operations, economically feasible, and will ensure a memorable visitor experience. *(RFP: Create a public access and interpretive program that is practical and economically feasible and will insure a memorable visitor experience.)*

Objectives:

- 3.a. Build upon existing beneficial uses.
- 3.b. Minimize public impacts on habitat / wildlife use of the LCW Complex.
- 3.c. Design interpretive concepts that promote environmental stewardship and the connection between the wetlands and the surrounding community.
- 3.d. Solicit and address feedback from members of the surrounding community and other interested parties.

Goal #4: Incorporate phasing of implementation to accommodate existing and future potential changes in land ownership and usage, and as funding becomes available.

Objectives:

- 4.a. Include projects that can be implemented as industrial operations are phased out and other properties are acquired over the near-, mid- and long-term (next 5-25-100 years).
- 4.b. Investigate opportunities to restore levels of tidal influence that are compatible with current oil leases and neighboring private land holdings.
- 4.c. Remove/realign/consolidate existing infrastructure (roads, pipelines, etc.) and accommodate future potential changes in infrastructure, to the maximum extent feasible.

Goal #5: Strive for long-term restoration success.

Objectives:

- 5.a. Implement an adaptive management framework that is sustainable.
- 5.b. Restore habitats in appropriate areas to minimize the need for long-term maintenance activities that are extensive and disruptive to wildlife.
- 5.c. Design habitats that will accommodate climate changes, e.g. incorporate topographic and habitat diversity and natural buffers and transition zones to accommodate migration of wetlands with rising sea levels. (*RFP: Insure the long term viability and sustainability of the project in the face of such threats as urbanization (addressed by goal #2 above), sea level rise and other impacts of climate change.*)
- 5.d. Provide economic benefit to the region.

Goal #6: Integrate experimental actions and research into the project, where appropriate, to inform restoration and management actions for this project.

Objectives:

- 6.a. Include opportunities for potential experiments and pilot projects to address gaps in information, (e.g. effect of warm river water on salt marsh ecosystem) that are protective of sensitive habitat and wildlife and that can be used to adaptively manage the restoration project.
- 6.b. Include areas on the site, where appropriate, that prioritize research opportunities (such as those for adaptive management) over habitat sensitivities.