

**MINUTES  
LOS CERRITOS WETLANDS AUTHORITY (LCWA)  
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING  
July 1, 2021**

The meeting was held via Zoom.us. The meeting was called to order by Chair Suzie Price at approximately 12:3 p.m.

- 1. CALL TO ORDER**
- 2. ROLL CALL**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Mr. Roberto Uranga  
Ms. Mary Small  
Ms. Suzie Price  
Mr. Joe Kalmick

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Mark Stanley, Executive Officer  
Dena Williams, Board Secretary  
Salian Garcia, Fiscal Manager  
Sally Gee, Project Manager  
David Edsall, Jr., Deputy Attorney General

- 3. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Anna Christensen requested that Shopkeeper Road in Long Beach be blocked off and the public not be allowed on that street due to birds nesting on that street during 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend.

- 4. CHAIR'S REPORT**

Vice Chair Price welcomed Mary Small to the Board and thanked the staff for working hard on getting a quorum for this meeting.

- 5. CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR ELECTIONS**

By acclamation, Board Member Kalmick motioned for Suzie Price to be the Chair. Board Member Uranga seconded the motion.

By acclamation, Madam Chair Price motioned for Mayor Joe Kalmick to be the Vice Chair. Board Member Uranga seconded the motion.

- 6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

One set of minutes for Board Meeting from January 7, 2021. Madam Chair motioned to approve the minutes and Board Member Uranga seconded the motion. There were no questions or objections.

**Minutes were passed.**

## **CONSENT CALENDAR**

7. Consideration of resolution ratifying conveyance of a Highway Easement and Temporary Construction Easement to the California Department of Transportation.

8. Consideration of a resolution to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Seal Beach for the Water Relining Project.

Anna Christensen asked if there was any outreach given to the native American tribal representatives for both of these projects. Anna is concerned of the aspect of the digging and cannot tell how deep the digging will be with these projects or the tribal monitoring.

Mr. Stanley stated that both of the public agencies listed in the projects have their own internal requirements that they have to meet in terms of moving forward they both will engage in their public outreach campaign with a firm guideline in terms of public engagement before moving forward with any of these projects.

**Board Member Uranga motioned to approve Item 7. Board Member Small seconded the motion. Madam Chair Price motioned to approve Item 8. Vice Chair Kalmick seconded the motion. Board Voted: 4 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Abstentions. These items passed.**

## **REGULAR CALENDAR**

### **9. STATUS REPORT ON WORK PLAN IMPLEMENTATION**

#### **A. LAND MANAGEMENT UPDATE**

Marcello Ceballos stated that in the board packet are the land management reports from December 2020 through May 2021. There have been fence line maintenance and repairs coordinating with surrounding partners including DWP regarding security issues, there has been trash removal, trail maintenance and will continue since the stewardship activities will be back on line.

Marcello mentioned staff was contact by the Orange County Vector Control who recently demonstrated their applicator drone for possible use at the Los Cerritos Wetlands South area which would reduce the amount of disturbance caused by traditional observation and application methods that include the use of a backpack sprayer.

Madam Chair Price asked what agency was using the drones because she has some concerns as to what they would be used for. Marcello answered that it was Orange County Vector Control. Madam Chair Price also expressed her concern as to whether the drones would be used for law enforcement purposes. Marcello answered that it was

all just preliminary talks right now and has not heard that it would be used for law enforcement issues and doesn't think staff would be interested in that aspect. Mr. Stanley suggested that the authority review the activity guidelines to make updates because there is new technology that should probably be considered.

**B. LOS CERRITOS WETLANDS STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM COORDINATOR UPDATE**

Eric Zahn stated that we would be seeing Jayde on a regular basis due to the Stewardship Program activities back up and running starting this weekend.

Eric also stated that for the past two months his staff has done a bunch of work to figure out how to get the programs running with new safety measures in place. He also mentioned that they hosted a couple of "dry-runs" just to see how the new protocols would work and they are working out the kinks.

Madam Chair Price asked if Eric could email or text the new flyer to her so that it could be put into the July newsletter.

**C. HOMELESS RELOCATION PROGRAM UPDATE**

Lenny Arkinstall stated that there is no homeless on any of the properties. Lenny also stated that on May 16, 2021 he received a call from the oil company that there was a large encampment on LCWS and found out it was Larry who lived there 10 years ago and had returned. Lenny mentioned quality of life police department was sent out to speak with Larry to offer services, Larry accepted, he showed up to the Multi Service Center for his appointments, got his medical papers up to date and the next day Larry moved out.

Madam Chair Price asked Lenny if he knew if Larry got into any transitional housing or some sort of program. Lenny answered unfortunately not and he is now part of the problem across the street on 2<sup>nd</sup> and San Gabriel where there is a large encampment that is terrorizing the area but assured us that his group would be on top of it to clear it out.

**D. EL DORADO AUDUBON UPDATE**

Mary Parsell stated that there was a bird walk on May 1, 2021 and saw 37 species of birds on a beautiful, cloudy day.

Mary concluded with that it was a very good day to see 37 species in about an hour and a half with the next walk being in July. Mary mentioned that there was an issue at Bolsa Chica with a drone scaring off birds out of their nests with lots of writeups about it and it is illegal to fly drones in the area.

**E. EXPENDITURES REPORT**

Salian Garcia gave a brief synopsis of the FY 2020/2021 budget and summarized the Expenditures and Revenues as of May 31, 2021.

**10. RECEIVE AND FILE THE LCWA ANNUAL AUDIT AND RELATED REPORTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019/2020.**

Salian stated that Fedak & Brown LLP conducted the audit with the cooperation of City of Long Beach and the LCWA staff.

Salian stated that during the 2019/2020 fiscal year the Authority's net position decreased by 0.46% or \$51,440 to \$11,203.939 primarily related to the Authority's operations which coincides with the pandemic.

Salian further stated that total revenues increased 3.67% or \$23,206 to \$655,732 primarily due to an increase in program and grants, particularly lease revenue and activities related to Orange County Public Works and Ascon Tarplant Mitigation. The total expenses decreased 1.53% or \$11,008 to roughly \$707,172 primarily due to a decrease in consulting and grant management expenditures from the prior year.

Salian, in conclusion, stated that capital assets amount to \$11,000,000 with no change from the previous fiscal year, the Authority continues to have no long-term debt and no material weaknesses or deficiencies in internal control were found or identified and no findings were noted in the current fiscal year.

**11. CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF LONG-TERM MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENTS FOR THE LOS CERRITOS WETLANDS STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM WITH THE**

- 1. LOS CERRITOS WETLANDS LAND TRUST,**
- 2. EL DORADO AUDUBON, AND**
- 3. AQUARIUM OF THE PACIFIC**

Sally Gee stated that LCWA has been able to successfully implement the Los Cerritos Wetlands Stewardship Plan as a result of partnerships with three non-profit organizations and without the MOA's the LCWA does not have staff to administer, manage and implement public programs.

Sally also stated that past MOA's have helped to establish the procedures and communications to conduct stewardship programming on LCWA property and these long-term agreements maintain those established procedures. Sally mentioned that the terms of the MOA's would be effective by the date of execution going forward unless and until it is terminated by either party or amended and the parties of the MOA's may for any reason terminate the MOA's by providing prior notification.

Board Member Uranga asked if there was a time limit with these agreements. Mr. Stanley answered that due to the organizations benefitting from the programs, since LCWA will not incur any costs or there is no financial exchange between the organizations and LCWA the authority is leaving the terms for these agreements up to the parties discretion of when they would like to terminate the agreement.

**Chair Price motioned to approve. Board Member Uranga seconded the motion. Board Voted: 4 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Abstentions.**

**12. CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE LOS CERRITOS WETLANDS HABITAT RESTORATION PLAN.**

Eric Zahn stated that the purpose of the Los Cerritos Wetlands Habitat Restoration Plan is to provide a conceptual basis of design from a habitat perspective for the restoration of the entire Los Cerritos Wetlands Complex and to provide guidance for future phases of the restoration process.

Eric also stated that in January of this year the LCWA certified the Final PEIR which brings us to this final task associated with the planning process to develop a habitat restoration plan that conforms to the analyses presented in the PEIR.

Eric explained that a draft of the LCW Habitat Restoration Plan was circulated for public review from March 1, 2021 to March 25, 2021, LCWA hosted a public meeting on March 18, 2021 during which the contents of the Plan were presented and a question and answer session was held.

Eric further explained that the Plan was also circulated to the LCWA's Technical Advisory Committee on February 8, 2021 and the committee met on April 12, 2021 to discuss the TAC's comments on the Plan.

Eric mentioned that a total of 8 comment letters were received from the public and TAC including 2 letters from local tribal groups. Eric stated that a matrix was developed in order to respond to these comments and direct edits to the draft Restoration Plan and the final Plan reflects responses to these comments which included making revisions to clarify sections regarding cultural resources, existing and potential biological resources, the planning process, special status species and plant communities, oil operations, public access, interpretive elements, restoration strategies, next phases of planning and the timeline.

Eric concluded with the adoption of the Plan would not incur any cost to the LCWA and any future phases of implementation of the Plan will require additional funding for restoration design planning, environmental compliance, public outreach and construction.

**Chair Price motioned to approve. Vice Chair Kalmik seconded the motion. Board Voted: 4 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Abstentions. This item passed.**

13. **CLOSED SESION: PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54956.8, LCWA MAY HOLD A CLOSED SESSION TO CONSIDER THE DRAFT APPRAISAL REPORT AND THE DRAFT LAND TRANSFER AGREEMENT, AND RELATED ITEMS, BETWEEN LOS CERRITOS WETLANDS AUTHORITY AND LOS CERRITOS WETLANDS, LLC FOR THE APN 7237-019-809; 7237-017-010 THRU 014; 018; 019; LCWA NEGOTIATORS: MARKSTANLEY AND PROPERTY OWNER NEGOTIATOR: JOHN MCKEOWN AND MICHAEL DI SANO. UNDER CONSIDERATION: PRICE AND TERMS.**

**14. CLOSED SESSION: PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54956.8(D)(1), LCWA MAY HOLD A CLOSED SESSION TO DISCUSS THE MATTER OF *PUVUNGA WETLANDS PROTECTORS V. CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION, ET AL.*, LOS ANGELES SUPERIOR COURT CASE NO. 19STCP00435.**

Closed Session began at approximately 2:00 pm and ended approximately at 2:28 pm. The Board received information and advice and provided direction.

**15. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

**A. STATEMENTS, RESPONSES, QUESTIONS OR DIRECTIONS TO STAFF PURSUANT TO SECTION 54954.2(A) OF THE GOVERNMENT CODE.**

Next meeting will be August 5, 2021.

**B. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

**16. ADJOURNMENT UPON COMPLETION OF BUSINESS**

Chair Price adjourned the meeting at approximately 2:35 p.m.

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X

Suzie Price  
Chair

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X

Dena Williams  
Board Secretary