

**MINUTES
LOS CERRITOS WETLANDS AUTHORITY (LCWA)
BOARD MEETING
November 4, 2021**

This meeting was held via Zoom.us. The meeting was called to order by Chair Suzie Price at approximately 12:30pm.

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

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ms. Suzie Price

Ms. Mary Small

Mr. Joe Kalmick

Mr. Roberto Uranga

MEMBERS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT:

Mark Stanley, Executive Officer

Salian Garcia, Fiscal Manager

Sally Gee, Project Manager

David Edsall Jr., Deputy Attorney General

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Anne Cantrell explained the negative impact of oil drilling on birdlife and the wetlands. She requested on behalf of the Sierra Club Los Cerritos Wetlands Taskforce that the board prevents onshore oil drilling by reconsidering their collaboration with BOMP.

Anna Christensen referenced Seal Beach's plans to move forward with creating a new visitor center and requested on behalf of the Sierra Club Los Cerritos Wetlands Taskforce that the board reassess the plan's impact on tribal access and wetland preservation.

4. CHAIR'S REPORT

There was no report from the chair.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

No minutes for the Board Meeting from September 9, 2021 to approve.

CONSENT CALENDAR

No Items

REGULAR CALENDAR

6. Status Report on Work Plan Implementation

a. Land Management Update

Marcello Ceballos, Associate Restoration Ecologist at Tidal Influence, stated that in the board packet there are the Land Management Reports for August 2021 through September 2021. Ceballos explained there have been several fence line breeches that have been since repaired. Ceballos stated bird surveys have been conducted this month. Ceballos highlighted a break in attempt which occurred at the OTD parcel and the leasee was consulted and all locks were replaced. Ceballos stated the OTD parcel will have a cleanup effort over the weekend. The CSULB Mammal Lab conducted Small Mammal Surveys the previous weekend.

b. Los Cerritos Wetlands Stewardship Program Coordinator Update

Jayde Bahrami, Restoration Programs Coordinator at Tidal Influence, stated that the Stewardship Program started back up July 2021 after COVID restrictions. Bahrami stated the program has since held a total of 6 events, including monthly restoration events and special events with university students and high school programs. Bahrami confirmed there are at least 2 more events planned by the end of the year.

Bahrami stated over 200 plants have been installed in the southern marsh area and over 200 pounds of trash and 350 pounds of non-native vegetation have been removed. Bahrami stated that Zedler Marsh has had open access every Friday and Saturday from 9-2pm off the San Gabriel River bike path and the program has been trying to include the public when available.

Chair Price stated that there was a lot of trash removed and asked where the trash is coming from.

Bahrami explained that the trash all comes from a small culvert off the San Gabriel River which connects down the watershed into the marsh. Bahrami stated the trash gets stuck in vegetation especially during high tide and the trash was removed to get it out of the way. Jayde stated it is a problem that affects the marsh and the ocean which the program hopes to improve.

Chair Price asked if opportunities for grant funding to implement trash capture devices in the area have been maximized.

Mark Stanley stated that the two conservancies' primary focus are on capital assets and not operations and maintenance. Stanley stated that the board can discuss leaning on cities to help with those types of resources in future meetings.

Chair Price stated that LCWA should talk to the City of Long Beach, possibly its sustainability department, to get involved in trash capture in various bodies of water in the cities. Chair Price expressed concern over the amount of trash captured.

c. Homeless Relocation Program Update

Lenny Arkinstall stated homeless and urban campers are free and clear from the property. Arkinstall stated the program does a good job of controlling the property by catching them just before they set up.

Arkinstall gave an update on the nesting platforms installed on the Wetlands to mitigate palm tree destruction.

d. El Dorado Audubon Update

Mary Parsell stated the El Dorado Audubon has been out on the wetlands twice a month from July 2021 until the present month of November 2021. Parsell stated that few people attended which was possibly because of COVID.

Parsell added she had seen great blue herons on what used to be phone poles and expressed the belief that they will have no issue nesting on the artificial structures Arkinstall had previously shared.

Parsell showed picture of the Los Cerritos Wetlands Hellman property. Parsell stated the highlight has been regularly seeing whitetail kites which had not been seen on the property for five years. Parsell expressed the importance of the Southern California Wetlands as they are different from other wetlands in country.

e. Expenditures Report

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

Mark Stanley provided comments about possible grant opportunities and the 300 Studebaker Road project from page 4 of the workplan report. Stanley stated the project is being proposed by the Panattoni group.

Sally Gee stated the project was originally approved by the Long Beach City Council in January 2020 and the Coastal Commission approved the project on September 8, 2021 with special conditions. Gee stated special condition 8 states that prior to issuance of a permit, offers to dedicate a fee title to a public agency must be recorded in accordance with the terms of the CDP. Gee explained LCWA has been coordinating with Panattoni Development on this project and has received a draft that will be brought to the Board for consideration in a future meeting. Gee stated conversations about native habitat restoration and a tribal access plan are currently active. Gee stated they will share more information about the project at the next board meet. Gee stated the project is hosting its first public meeting December 7, 2021 and more information is available on the LCWA website.

Stanley added that the passage of the California State Budget there are opportunities for the California Natural Resources Agency through both conservancies. Stanley stated they will be looking out for those opportunities to be brought back to the board.

Anna Christensen stated that the Sierra Club Los Cerritos Wetlands Task Force and Anthony Morales oppose the project. Christensen asked that the LCWA disagree to take lands from Panattoni. Christensen stated that the plan makes tribal access impossible and is bad for wetlands wildlife.

Chair Price stated that the project went through the Coastal Commission and appeals based on all arguments previously made. Chair Price clarified that the project went before a different agency and not LCWA. Mark Stanley affirmed that the project did not get approved through the LCWA. Chair Price ended comment period.

Ann Cantrell clarified that the LCWA is involved in the project by receiving the land which allows Panattoni to build a truck stop. Cantrell stated that there will be no tribal access and that there is no parking on Studebaker or Loynes drive. Cantrell expressed the belief that the project will cause lights to be on 24/7 which will negatively affect the wetlands.

7. Consideration of a resolution authorizing the Executive Officer to execute documents necessary to satisfy conditions in the Notice of Intent to Issue Permit for Coastal Development Permit No. 9-18-0395.

Sally Gee stated that, on December 13, 2018, the California Coastal Commission approved Coastal Development Permit (CDP) No. 9-18-0395 for the Los Cerritos Wetlands Oil Consolidation and Restoration Project with 25 special conditions. Gee explained the LCWA is a co-applicant with Beach Oil Mineral Partners (BOMP) and LCWA review and approval is needed to satisfy some conditions on the Notice of Intent to Issue Permit (NOI) (Exhibit A). Gee stated the resolution would authorize the Executive Officer to execute documents reasonably necessary to satisfy the “prior to issuance” special conditions by the current

deadline of December 13, 2021. Gee stated BOMP has submitted a majority of the documents for CCC review, including a Notice of Intent, with some outstanding items remaining. An NOI extension may be needed.

Gee stated that any costs for legal and technical review service related to the completion of these special conditions will be allocated from the Option Agreement from September 2, 2016.

Ann Cantrell urged the LCWA to not approve the 25 conditions set and not accept the land swap so BOMP is unable to move forward with new drilling. Cantrell stated this is the LCWA's chance to protect the wetlands from future oil spills and restore the land's original condition. Cantrell asked that the board does not give BOMP 5 additional acres of land.

Board member Uranga motioned to approve. Board member Kalmick seconded the motion. Board voted: 4, Ayes, 0, Nays, 0, Abstentions. This item was passed.

8. Consideration of a resolution authorizing the Executive Officer to commit staff resources to negotiate an agreement and workplan with AES Corporation for their Voluntary Environmental Benefits Grants Program.

Sally Gee stated that AES is a global power company and operates several coastal OTC facilities in California, including the Alamitos, Huntington Beach, and Redondo Beach Generating Stations. Gee stated AES is committed to investing in additional voluntary environmental benefits for watershed improvements and community benefits for receiving an extension for Once Through Cooling (OTC) operations at the Redondo Generating Station. Gee clarified this program is not mitigation and is separate from the existing OTC Policy Mitigation mandates AES is obligated to. Gee stated AES proposes to grant \$1,000,000 to LCWA to support planning, engineering, restoration, and rehabilitation of the Los Cerritos Wetlands (LCW) (Exhibit A). An excerpt from the letter from AES to Water Board's is attached as Exhibit A.

Sally Gee stated that the goals for the funding are to support coastal access and educational opportunities. Gee stated staff time is needed to develop an agreement between AES and LCWA to commit the grant funds and establish a work plan. Gee explained the work plan may support elements to support stewardship programs, planning and monitoring for the Southern Los Cerritos Wetlands Restoration Project, and continued care of LCWA properties. The proposed agreement, workplan and financial analysis will be presented to the Board for approval at a later date.

Sally Gee explained that the reason this grant project was established and AES received an extension for operations is that California Public Utilities agency and other state agencies determined the California energy supply is insufficient for projected demands, especially with extreme heat waves and oncoming and rolling black outs. Gee stated operations by AES at the Redondo Beach Generating Station were extended 2 years until December 21, 2023.

Board member Small motioned to approve. Board member Kalmick seconded the motion. Board voted: 4, Ayes, 0, Nays, 0, Abstentions. This item was passed.

9. **Closed Session: 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: Mark Stanley and Property Owner Negotiator: John McKeown and Michael Di Sano. Under Consideration: Price and Terms.**

Closed section began at approximately 1:30 pm and ended at approximately 1:39 pm. The board received information and advice and provided direction. The Board discussed an informational item and no action was taken.

10. Oral Communications

- a. **Statements, responses, questions or directions to staff pursuant to Section 54954.2(a) of the Government Code.**

Next meeting will be February 2, 2022

- b. **Future agenda items.**

Mark Stanley stated the Board has been meeting virtually for a year and a half and should discuss whether an in-person option should be considered for future meetings

Chair Price stated that Long Beach continues to encourage virtual meetings as COVID cases continue to increase in the city

11. Adjournment upon completion of business.

Chair Price adjourned the meeting at approximately 1:41 pm.