

Southern Los Cerritos Wetlands Restoration Project Public Meeting #2

January 25, 2023 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Welcome



Public Meeting Format



Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority

There will be various opportunities in this meeting to ask questions

- Direct your questions and comments to the presenters, not other community members
 - Interact respectfully, no cross talk
 - Turn off or silence cell phones

Public Meeting Agenda



Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority

- Southern LCW Restoration Project
- Public Meeting 1 Summary*
- Design Update*
- CEQA Approach and Permitting*
- Next Steps

* = Breaks for Q&A

Southern Los Cerritos Wetlands Restoration Project







Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority

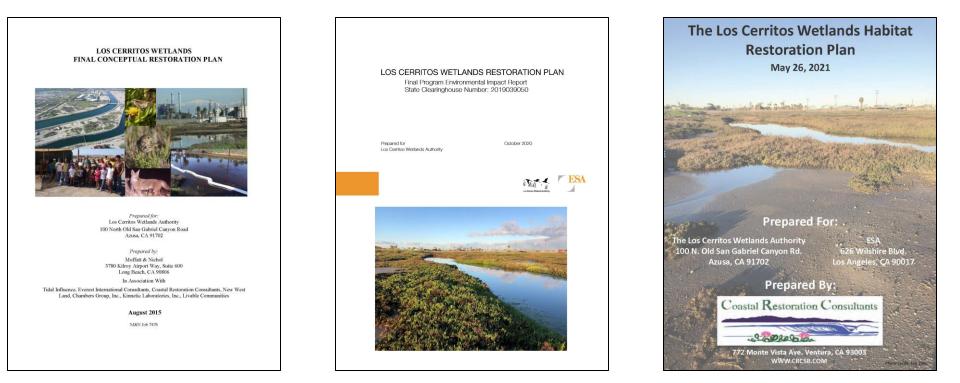
- Formed in 2006
- Comprised of the City of Seal Beach, City of Long Beach, State Coastal Conservancy, and Rivers and Mountains Conservancy
- Promotes protection, restoration, conservation, and management of the Los Cerritos Wetlands



Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority

Restoration Planning Background

Conceptual LCW Restoration Plan, ^I (August 2015) LCW Restoration Plan Program EIR, (January 2021) LCW Habitat Restoration Plan, (July 2021)



Restoration Planning Background

Los Cerritos Wetlands Restoration Plan Program Environmental Impact Report, (pg. 2-3):

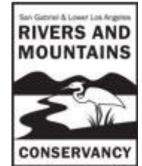
"Future phases of restoration would involve identifying individual projects, performing required analysis and field surveys (i.e. wetland delineations, habitat surveys, archaeological and cultural surveys, soil samples, etc.), engaging stakeholders, and developing more detailed, project-level designs (i.e. engineering designs, grading plans)."

Grant Funding

- In January 2021, grant funding was received to initiate the next stage of project level restoration planning for the Southern LCW Restoration Project
 - Complete necessary technical studies
 - Produce the 30% and 65% construction design plans
 - Produce environmental review documentation
 - Prepare permit applications
 - Conduct stakeholder outreach









Southern LCW Restoration Project Area



Public Meeting #1 Recap and Survey Results

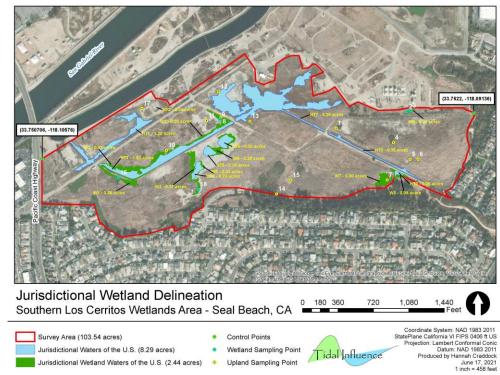






Public Meeting #1 Recap

- Virtual meeting December 7, 2021
- Introduced Southern LCW Restoration Project
- Baseline data
- Design considerations
- Next steps



Public Access Survey



- c. Once a month
- d. Several times a month
- When you are enjoying the open space areas in the Alamitos Bay and/or Seal Beach areas, what are your top three favorite activities (choose 3).
 - a. Bird watching
 - b. Walking/hiking
 - c. Dog walking
 - d. Bicycling
 - e. Photography/art
 - f. Meditation
 - g. Cultural ceremonies
 - h. Prayer
 - i. Reading
 - j. Swimming
 - k. Running
 - l. Yoga
 - m. Sports (like a pick-up game or similar)
 - n. Clean-ups/restoration events
 - o. Other

- Multiple-choice questionnaire focusing on public access
- Accessible from LCWA website
- Survey ran 12/07/2021
 7/15/2022
- 148 total responses
 - 3 hard copy, 145 SurveyPlanet

Survey Results - General Preferences

- Amenities <u>most</u> preferred: public trails, public restrooms, public parking
- Amenities <u>least</u> preferred: playground equipment, exercise equipment, and fishing areas
- Preferred trail surface is dirt
- Signage should be thoughtfully located throughout the trail system
- A docent should be monitoring the trail system only as needed

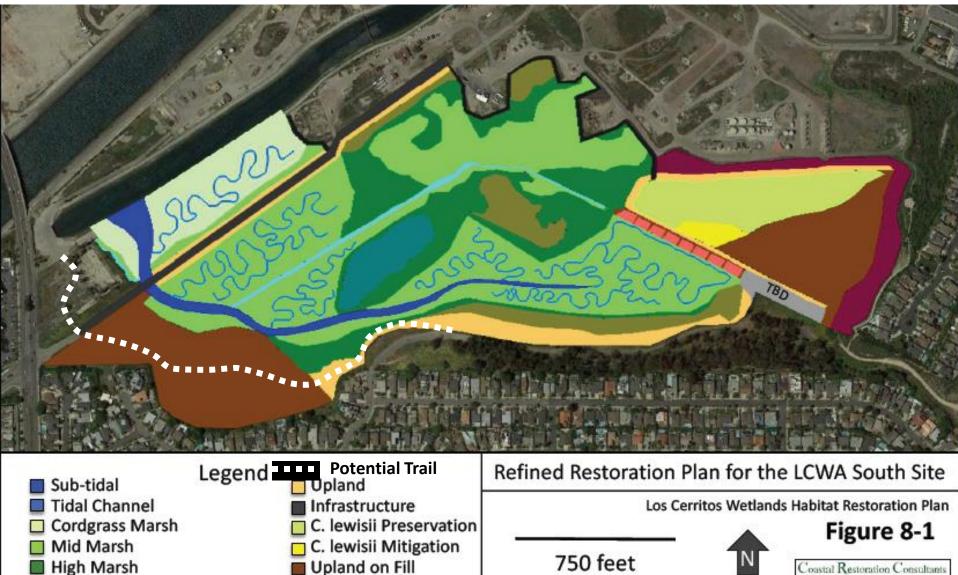
Public Access Survey - Trail Preference

- Connector Trail Alternative
- Loop Trail Alternative
- Multi-Loop Trail Alternative
- No Trail Alternative





Connector Trail Alternative



- **Transition Zone**
 - Salt Panne

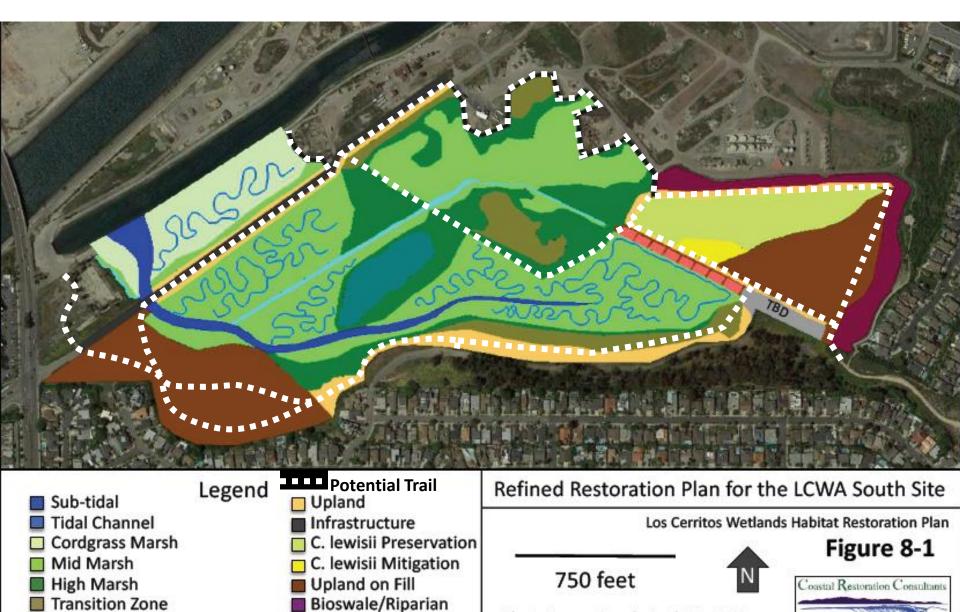
Bioswale/Riparian Photo Source: Google Earth May 2019 **Experimental Plot**



Loop Trail Alternative



Multi-Loop Trail Alternative



Experimental Plot

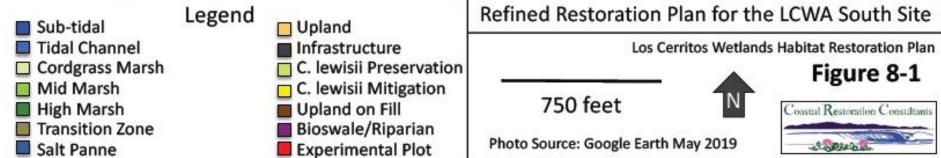
Photo Source: Google Earth May 2019

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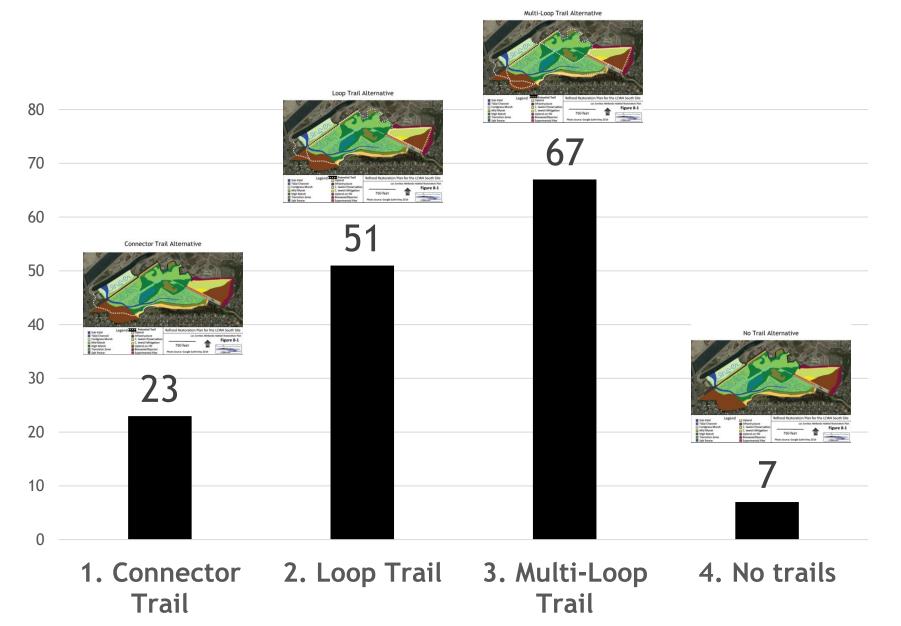
Salt Panne

No Trail Alternative





Survey Results - Trail Preference



Public Access Design Variables

- Cost
 - Capital
 - Operations/Maintenance
- Protection of Sensitive Habitat
- ADA Compliance
- Community Connectivity
- Site Security
- Neighboring Land Uses
- Allowable Use Compatibility
- Public Opinion





Questions?

Restoration Design Update

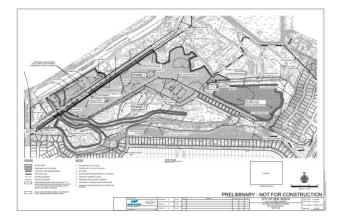


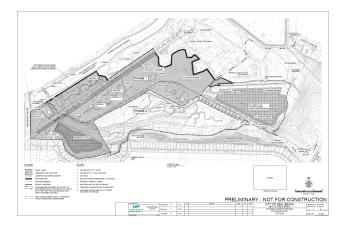




Typical Restoration Design Steps

- 1. Conceptual Design
- 2. 30% Design (aka Preliminary Design)
- 3. 65% Design
- 4. 90% Design
- 5. 100% Design
- 6. Final Construction Documents





Refined Habitat Restoration Plan LCWA South Site

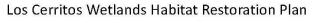




Legend

- 🔲 Upland
 - Infrastructure
 C. lewisii Preservation
 - C. lewisii Mitigation
 - Upland on Fill
 - Bioswale/Riparian
 - Experimental Plot

Refined Restoration Plan for the LCWA South Site



750 feet





Figure 8-1

Photo Source: Google Earth May 2019

Preliminary Design

- Completed the 30% Design in September 2022
- Focused on Site Grading Plan
- Analyzed Tidal Hydrology
- Investigated Potential Constraints
 - Soils Investigation
 - Archaeology/Paleontological/Cultural Resources
 - Biological Resources/Jurisdictional Wetlands
- Coordinated Design with Tribal Advisory Group



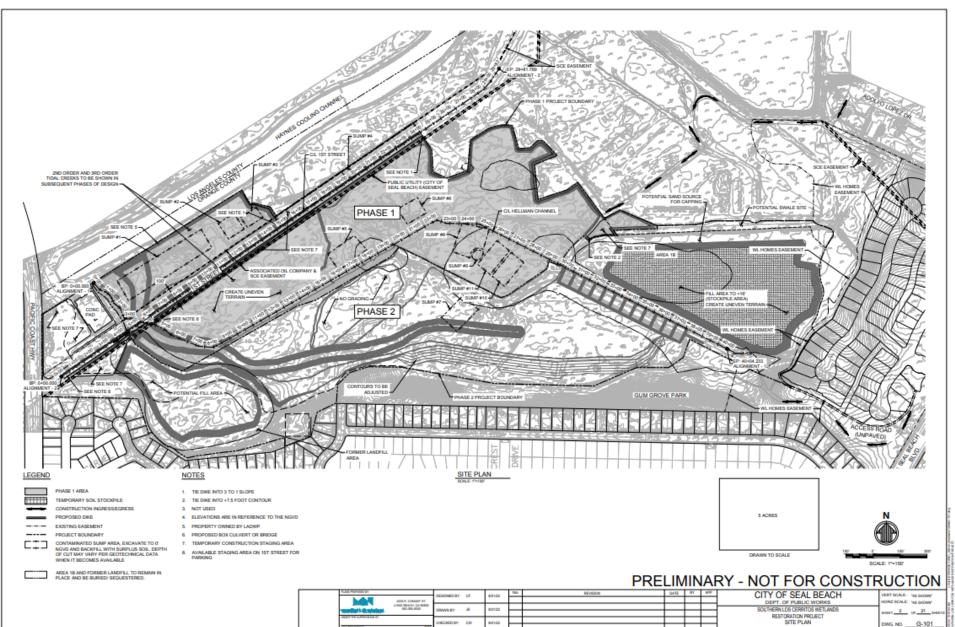
65% Design

- Currently Preparing the 65% Engineering Designs that will include
 - Demolition plans
 - Planting plans
 - Experimental plot design
 - Initial bridge design
- Updating All Related Efforts:
 - Tidal hydrology modeling
 - Grading and Earthwork plan

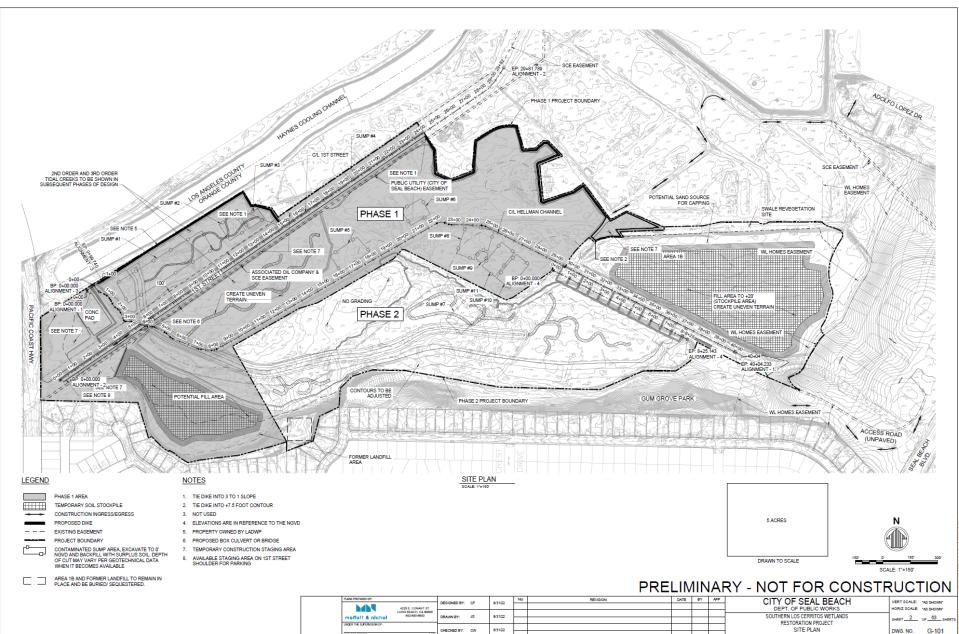
Example Engineering Plan

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30% Design Site Plan



65% Design Site Plan



Example Salt Marsh and Transition Zone Plants



Jaumea carnosa Fleshy jaumea



Sarcocornia pacifica Common Pickleweed



Frankenia salina Alkali Heath



Lycium californicum California Box Thom



Juncus acutus Spiny Rush



Distichlis spicata Salt Grass

Example Upland Plants



Rhus integrifolia Lemonade Berry



Cleome isomeris Bladderpod



Encelia californica Coast Sunflower



Isocoma menziesii Coast Goldenbush



Eschscholzia californica California Poppy



Eriogonum parvifolium Seacliff Buckwheat

Example Trees



Quercus agrifolia Coast Live Oak



Populus fremontii Fremont's Cottonwood



Prunus ilicifolia Holly-leafed Cherry



Salix gooddingii Goodding's Black Willow



Salix lasiolepis Arroyo Willow



Lyonothamnus floribundus Catalina Ironwood

Questions?

CEQA Approach and Permitting



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PEIR Section 2.1.2

- Individual restoration projects
 - Evaluated for consistency with the LCW Restoration Plan and the goals and objectives of the PEIR Section 2.5
 - Developed with input from public agencies, tribal representatives, stakeholders, landowners, and the community
 - Prepare requisite environmental documentation
 - Comply with PEIR Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP)

Los Cerritos Wetlands Restoration Plan Final Program EIR

• Certified by the LCWA Board, January 2021

 Individual restoration projects can "tier" off Program EIR



Tiering (Guidelines §15152)

- a) "Tiering" refers to using the analysis of general matters contained in a broader EIR with later EIRs or negative declarations on narrower projects; incorporating by reference the general discussions in the broader EIR; and concentrating the later EIR or negative declaration solely on the issues specific to the later project.
- b) Agencies are encouraged to tier the environmental analyses which they prepare for separate but related projects. This approach can eliminate repetitive discussions of the same issues and focus the later EIR or negative declaration on the actual issues ripe for decision at each level of environmental review.

CEQA Process for Individual Projects (PEIR Section 2.1.2)

- Is there a new significant effect and/or a substantially more severe environmental effect that was not examined in the PEIR?
 - If yes, new environmental documentation is necessary; likely Supplemental EIR or Subsequent EIR.
 - If no, new environmental documentation is not required. However, this must be documented with an Addendum to the PEIR.
 - A MND [or ND] may also be appropriate tiering document when the individual project would:
 - Be clearly consistent with and in furtherance of the adopted LCW Restoration Plan;
 - Be described and evaluated in the PEIR;
 - Not trigger the need for further environmental review pursuant to CEQA 15162

Southern LCW Restoration Project CEQA Approach

- The LCWA will be pursuing a **Negative Declaration**
 - It was determined that an Addendum to the PEIR would be sufficient due to consistency
 - However, the LCWA wanted to provide stakeholders with a public comment period and a public meeting forum to discuss the project
 - It is anticipated that the Negative Declaration will be released in Spring 2023
- Updates will be provided through:
 - The LCWA email database
 - The LCWA's Website
 - An upcoming CEQA Public Meeting

Permits/Approvals Potentially Required

<u>Federal</u>

- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
 - Includes consultations with U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Historic Preservation Office, and NOAA Marine Fisheries

<u>State</u>

- California Coastal Commission
- California Department of Fish & Wildlife
- Regional Water Quality Control Board
- California State Lands Commission

<u>Local</u>

- City of Seal Beach
- City of LA Department of Water and Power

Permitting Status

- Applications completed and to be submitted to agencies soon:
 - USACE, CCC, CDFW, City of SB local agency approval
- Application to be submitted upon completion of ND:
 - Water Board
- Applications to be submitted at a later date:
 - State Lands Commission lease renewal; County of Orange, County of L.A., and City of L.A. encroachment permits; City of SB site plan review/ grading permit; SCAQMD permits to construct and operate
 - The need for permits/approvals from the latter agencies will be confirmed via further discussion with these agencies

Questions?

Next Steps







Next Steps

Release of ND (early 2023)
 30-day ND comment period
 CEQA Public Meeting
 Ongoing public outreach and agency coordination
 Completion of 65% level design drawings

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Additional information: www.intoloscerritoswetlands.org

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