

MINUTES
Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority (LCWA)
held on

Thursday, May 8, 2025 @ 12:30 p.m.

at

CCLB Headquarters
340 Nieto Avenue
Long Beach, CA 90814

AGENDA

1. Call to Order

Chair Duggan called the meeting to order at approximately 12:31 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Voting Members Present

Kristina Duggan, Councilmember/Long Beach, Chair

Joe Kalmick, City of Seal Beach, Vice-Chair

Megan Cooper, Designee, State Coastal Conservancy

Staff Present

Mark Stanley, Executive Officer

John Natalizio, Deputy Attorney General

Eric Zahn, Principal Restoration Ecologist/Tidal Influence

Sebastian De Leon, Restoration Programs Manager/Tidal Influence

Christian Garcia, Restoration Programs Manager/Tidal Influence

Megan Wolff, Associate Restoration Ecologist/Tidal Influence

Neysa Frechette, Associate Restoration Ecologist/Tidal Influence

Chad Oberly, Staff Services Manager I

Amanda Chan, Staff Services Analyst I

Maria Medrano, Secretary

Voting Members Absent

Roberto Uranga, Councilmember/City of Long Beach

Amy Hutzler, State Coastal Conservancy

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3. Selection of Chair

Board Member Cooper motioned to approve Board Member Duggan as Chair. Board Member Kalmick seconded. No objections noted.

4. Selection of Vice Chair

Board Member Duggan motioned to approve Board Member Kalmick as Vice Chair. Board Member Cooper seconded. No objections noted.

5. Public Comment

No public comment was received.

6. Chair's Report

Chair Duggan stated they had a great tour of the LCWA sites earlier. Staff is moving forward with the complex restoration projects they currently have on hand.

7. Approval of Minutes

One set of minutes from February 6, 2025, were approved.

Board member Kalmick moved to approve. Board member Cooper seconded. No objections noted, all in favor, minutes approved.

Regular Calendar

8. Status Report on Work Plan Implementation
a. Land Management Update

Sebastian De Leon stated the detailed Land Management report provided updates for the months of January through March. De Leon stated the focus of the past quarter was to address security concerns as quickly and efficiently as possible. The main process included identifying an issue or problem followed quickly with identifying a solution. De Leon stated implementing these two processes back-to-back minimized downtime.

De Leon stated as an example, the dividing fence between the Hellman property and the Gum Grove Parking lot developed a small opening. The issue was identified quickly, staff went to the drawing board, developed a solution which included what materials were necessary to fix the problem. De Leon stated at the next site visit, the solution was implemented, and the fence is now repaired. Implementing this process quickly and efficiently has shown the public that security is more vigilant and they are less likely to keep trespassing on the properties.

De Leon stated staff along with CCLB cleared palm fronds from the State Lands concrete slab in anticipation of the Southern Los Cerritos Wetlands Restoration Project Public workshop.

De Leon stated fence on the Bryant Lease West property was breached and left unlocked. Although gate is not on LCWA land, it provides direct access to LCWA property. Staff quickly repaired it which has kept trespassers away.

De Leon stated the private property sign in the Steamshovel Slough site was knocked down. As it is one of the most secure sites, staff believe wind knocked the sign down.

Board Member Kalmick asked, with the start of the two restoration projects, will staff be able to maintain ongoing maintenance of the sites. Will the slabs be kept clean and the entrance off First Street to the Hellman property. De Leon directed the question to Eric Zhan. Tidal Influence, who indicated contractor will be maintaining the maintenance beginning in September.

Mark Stanley further stated, part of the contractors' duties during construction, is the responsibility of maintaining a specific standard of cleanliness in the contraction site area and keeping dirt from flying through the air. A water tank truck is often used to water down the dirt. Stanely stated these are all CEQA requirements that must be maintained during construction.

Chair Duggan asked what kind of flower was being displayed in the presentation. DeLeon stated that it was a non-native flower that was being removed.

b. Los Cerritos Wetlands Stewardship Program Coordinator Update

Megan Wolff stated the Stewardship Program hosted three monthly habitat restoration events. There were 35 volunteers in February, 95 in March which is not common and 22 in April. Through great team effort in coordinating all these groups, volunteers planted 48 plants, weeding groups cleared 169 pounds of trash and weeds, and another planting group helped spread 1200 pounds of mulch. They also spread four cubic yards of gravel and sand in the nursery.

Wolff stated the stewardship program also hosted two special events. The first event was on Sunday, February 2nd, the Being the Church. The second event, Aquarium of the Pacific's Earth Day was on April 18th. These two volunteer groups helped clear 150 pounds of trash and weeds. A total of 39 hours were volunteered.

Wolff stated their continued partnership with CCLB includes two groups they are working with. The short core group works on Thursdays and the other on Fridays. The Friday group has been working with the Stewardship Program for

over a year. Various tasks included trail repair, spreading mulch, maintaining fences, digging holes for plants and removing non-native plant species.

Wolff further mentioned their hosting of many educational groups as well as the 16 field trips since February 2025. These trips have accommodated 458 Long Beach students. Since AES funding began in 2023, a total of 2,997 students have participated in these field trips. The curriculum has been tailored to the specific grade levels to engage the students as much as possible.

Chair Duggan asked Wolff if she wrote the current curriculum. Wolff replied yes with the team's help. It is an ongoing effort where activities are revised depending on the different age groups. Chair Duggan asked, which age groups. Wolff replied they range from second to fifth graders, and occasionally some middle school groups.

c. Homeless Relocation Program Update

Lenny Arkinstall, CEO of Los Cerritos Wetlands Stewards, provided an update on the homeless relocation program and stated things were going well. Arkinstall introduced David Lopez, indicating he runs his company, overseas the crew. He has great relationship with Tidal Influenceir and should be called first if reporting an incident.

Arkinstall showed pictures of the jetty indicating the constant patrolling and being vigilant has kept it free of homeless individuals for the past year and a half. Once the homeless settle in anywhere, it becomes harder to remove them. Being proactive is very important and with the help of local police, they have been able to keep these areas free of homeless camps. More pictures were shown of other areas, the coast highway Second Street bridge, the pipe bridge, and the middle of the wetlands. All of the sites are routinely patrolled to keep the homeless out.

Arkinstall again stated their main goal is to get the homeless people help and into shelters. Pictures were shown of two homeless individuals who they had helped get into a shelter and a hospital.

Chair Duggan stated Arkinstall's work with helping all the homeless was amazing, since it's an especially hard job getting them into shelters and off the streets. The great job is seen with the previously homeless individual Kelly, who seeing her now, you wouldn't have known she was once homeless.

Chair Duggan asked Megan Wolff when their next kayak tour was? Wolff responded, not until fall, as the bay is too crowded during the summer. Also, LA River Expeditions have their tours during the summer.

d. El Dorado Audubon Update

Mary Parsell, President of the El Dorado Audubon, stated they enjoy their walks. Parsell stated they continue to conduct bird walks at the wetlands, documenting around 130 species of birds. Recent sightings include a lot of red-winged blackbirds, various swallow species, and swifts.

Parsell stated the Los Cerritos channel, which runs along Studebaker Road and across Atherton, provides habitat for great egrets, snowy egrets, and other unexpected species like ospreys. The group maintains good attendance and documentation, with their data being shared with Audubon California and National Audubon. The early morning walks are considered optimal for bird sightings.

e. Expenditures Report

Amanda Chan stated she would be reporting on the Expenditure Report. Chan stated Exhibit A reflects balances as of March 31, 2025.

The Authority is approximately 50% through the current fiscal year and activities are on par for contributions within all revenue and expense categories. 75 percent of the outstanding annual JPA contributions have been received and the remaining 25 was just received yesterday. The Authority recently received a scheduled payment from AES Alamitos, LLC for \$375,000.00. Revenue and expense budget line items have been updated.

Administration has minimal activity. However, several expenditures in this category, such as Audit Services, are typically last quarter of the fiscal year expenditures. Security expense item includes about 25% expenditures. Overall Capital Outlay Expenses in relation to grant funding sources are in line with projections. As contracts related to the Southern Area Restoration Project are currently being negotiated, expenses will not be reflected until after the last quarter.

Staff are awaiting reimbursement from several grants and contracts. The revenue will be reflected when submitted costs expended under the grants have been approved for reimbursement and the reimbursement is received.

Chair Duggan stated AES gave \$375,000 thousand, what is the commitment from them. Chan stated this was for the AES 2.0 project. As it has different categories, that is programs, expenses will be allocated between them. Chair Duggan asked if there was a commitment from them for 25/26 and was it for the same amount of \$375,000. Chan stated, no, it was not. She was going to verify the amount and get back to Chair Duggan. Chair Duggan asked for

clarification of what the \$375,000 would cover. Chan stated it covers the 2.0 project, the southern marsh as well as field trips.

f. Status report for the Southern Los Cerritos Wetlands Restoration Project

Eric Zahn, Principal Restoration Ecologist/Tidal Influence, highlighted the Southern Los Cerritos Wetlands Restoration Project. Funding for the project was received from various agencies and groups such as the State Coastal Conservancy (SCC), the Ocean Projection Council, AES and the Orange County Community Fund.

Zahn stated the SCC is providing \$25.8 million for the planning, permitting and large aspects of the construction. \$2 million of the amount will be for long-term management of the project and potentially for other parts of the LCWA land holdings. A deliverable of the Authority is to develop a long-term management plan and do a property analysis record report (PAR). This will determine these the costs and to strategize with Conservancy staff on how to use the \$2 million and invest it. Zahn stated \$6 million was received from Ocean Projection Council, \$305,000 from AES, and \$35,000 from the Orange County Community Fund.

Zahn stated the project management team continues to monitor and manage the budgets from the funding sources. They review contract/consultant invoices and prepare them for processing by LCWA staff. The team continues to review all deliverables from the consultant team which includes the 100% designs, specifications and basis of the design report. Additionally, they were involved in the RFP process for the hiring of the construction manager.

Zahn stated project's progress included the completion of 100% design, the approval of the draft lease agreement, and the ongoing community engagement. Zahn emphasized the importance of the project's design and the need for it to be tight to avoid issues during construction. All major permit applications have been submitted. Zahn mentioned the ongoing community engagement and the collaboration with the Tribal Advisory Group. He concluded by acknowledging the hard work of Moffatt and Nichol in the design process.

Zahn concluded by showing illustrations of the stages of the project's progress. Including parking arrangements and bus access, plans for parallel and nose-in parking, as well as bus drop-off areas. Also mentioned were the safety measures for pedestrian crossing and the project maintains environmental compliance and has started pre-construction biological monitoring.

9. Consideration of a resolution to authorize the Executive Officer to negotiate and execute an amendment to lease 9005 with the California State Lands Commission.

Chad Oberly stated LCWA leases the state lands parcel from the California State Land Commission (CLSC). The first lease was executed in 2012, and updated in 2022, allows the Authority to do basic activities such as the stewardship program and invasive species abatement. The Southern Area Restoration project and all its improvement are not allowed under this current lease.

Oberly stated the need to amend and extend the lease to allow for these improvements as well as Authority's investment of this Parcel. The lease would be approved by the State Lands if they receive a resolution from the Board guaranteeing execution of the amendment. Lease amendments would include the extension of the lease to August 2050, update the purpose of use, update environmental commitments, clarify conditions related to rights-of-way, and add provisions for debris removal and agent compliant responsibilities.

Oberly stated \$5,000 deposit has been provided to the CLSC and is budgeted as an line-item expense in the Southern Los Cerritos Restoration Project. This covers costs associated with environmental review, boundary review and preparation of necessary lease and staff report documents. Any unused portion of the deposit will be returned.

Chair Duggan asked if it was \$5,000 to make this amendment. Oberly stated, the amount was to cover staff time at the Commission as they will be reviewing everything as well as board reports.

Chair Duggan asked if there was a timeframe within the lease to complete Phase 1 & 2 and will it come up as a part of the negotiations of what they will want. Oberly stated, current lease ends in 2032. Phase 1 should be done by then and Phase 2 is still not completed scheduled. Oberly further stated as the State Lands Commission didn't put the submission in their June hearing, it will now be placed on its August consent calendar and are very confident in the project. Oberly stated, no, there was no timeframe in the language lease.

Board member Cooper moved to approve. Board member Kalmick seconded. Approved. Roll call vote: 3 Ayes. 0 Nays. 0 Abstentions.

10. Oral Communications

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

11. **Announcement of next meeting date** – Thursday, August 14, 2025, at 12:30 p.m.
12. **Adjournment.**

Chair Duggan adjourned the meeting at approximately 1:39 p.m.

MINUTES
Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority (LCWA)
held on

Thursday, June 18, 2025 @ 3:00 p.m.

at

CCLB Headquarters
340 Nieto Avenue
Long Beach, CA 90814

AGENDA

1. Call to Order

Chair Duggan called the meeting to order at approximately 3:01 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Voting Members Present

Kristina Duggan, Councilmember/Long Beach, Chair
Joe Kalmick, City of Seal Beach, Vice-Chair
Roberto Uranga, Councilmember/City of Long Beach
Sally Gee, Designee, State Coastal Conservancy,

Staff Present

Mark Stanley, Executive Officer
John Natalizio, Deputy Attorney General (Call-in)
Eric Zahn, Principal Restoration Ecologist/Tidal Influence
Chad Oberly, Staff Services Manager I
Amanda Chan, Staff Services Analyst I
Maria Medrano, Secretary

Voting Members Absent

Megan Cooper, Designee, State Coastal Conservancy
Amy Hutzler, State Coastal Conservancy

3. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

4. Chair's Report

Chair Duggan stated she had nothing to report.

5. Approval of Minutes

No minutes to approve at this session.

Regular Calendar

6. Consideration of a resolution augmenting the not to exceed contract value for Construction Management Services for the Southern Los Cerritos Wetlands Restoration Project.

Chad Oberly stated at its February 2025 board meeting, the Board authorized the Authority to negotiate and enter a contract for construction management services for the Southern Los Cerritos Wetlands Restoration Project for an amount not to exceed \$545,000. A Request for Proposal (RFP) was released on February 20, 2025 for these services. Staff advertised to about 200 different firms and there was a question-and-answer period with potential proposers. Oberly stated this resulted in five responsive proposals.

Oberly stated the top three proposals were invited to an interview which was designed to evaluate them on all the criteria stipulated on the RFP. The interviewer panel consisted of Rivers and Mountains Conservancy, State Coastal Conservancy and the City of Seal Beach Public Works. Oberly stated Syrusa Engineering was selected as the preferred candidate due to their qualifications, professionalism, and the vast experience in working with public agencies in our region. Staff entered into negotiations with Syrusa.

Oberly stated the contract negotiations resulted in a tailored scope of work and cost proposal that met the LCWA's needs, with the agreement pending final approval. Staff and Syrusa came to a tentative agreement to lower Syrusa's costs by more than half by eliminating redundant services and reassigning labor hours between tasks and team members to better suit LCWA's needs.

Oberly stated if LCWA enters into an agreement with Syrusa, LCWA would still be within its construction management budget of \$1.64 million. The agreement with Syrusa would only be 65 percent of that allocation. Oberly stated the revised contract amount is \$780,000.

Chair Duggan asked where the \$286,369 committed to Moffat & Nichol comes in. Zahn stated that was so that an engineer of record be involved with construction throughout the process. Their critical role is in ensuring things are done correctly. The project is financially secure, with a \$410,000 contingency and an additional \$100,000 for engineering, while the \$310,000 for the restoration ecologist role is now flexible for construction management needs.

Board member Kalmick moved to approve. Board member Uranqa seconded. Approved. Roll call vote: 4 Ayes. 0 Nays. 0 Abstentions.

7. **Oral Communications**
 - a. **Statements, responses, questions or directions to staff pursuant to Section 54954.2(a) of the Government Code.**
 - b. **Future agenda items.**
8. **Announcement of next meeting date – Thursday, August 14, 2025, at 3:13 p.m.**
9. **Adjournment.**

Chair Duggan adjourned the meeting at approximately 3:13 p.m.