

MINUTES
Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority (LCWA)
held on

Monday, November 13, 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 12:34 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Voting Members Present

Kristina Duggan, Councilmember/Long Beach, Chair

Joe Kalmick, City of Seal Beach, Vice Chair

Amy Hutzel, State Coastal Conservancy

Staff Present

Mark Stanley, Executive Officer

John Natalizio, Deputy Attorney General

Christian Garcia, Restoration Programs Manager/Tidal Influence

Sebastian De Leon, Restoration Facilities Manager/Tidal Influence

Megan Wolff, Associate Restoration Ecologist/Tidal Influence

Neysa Frechette, Associate Restoration Ecologist/Tidal Influence

Chad Oberly, Staff Services Manager I

Salian Garcia, Budgets and Administration Officer/RMC

Amanda Chan, Staff Services Analyst I

Maria Medrano, Secretary

Voting Member Absent

Roberto Uranga, Councilmember/City of Long Beach

3. Public Comment

No public comments were made/received.

4. Chair's Report

There was no Chair report.

5. Approval of Minutes

Minutes from September 29, 2025 were approved.

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

Regular Calendar

6. Status Report on Work Plan Implementation

a. Land Management Update

Sebastian De Leon stated the land management report covered the month of September. Staff have put a lot of effort into the Los Cerritos bluff restoration site. Restoration at the bluffs were done mainly by hand as they are an important space for the tribal partner that has a lot of historic and cultural significance. Restoration included the installation of a gate that allows access to the bluff scrub restoration site.

De Leon stated staff worked with Lenny Arkinstall at the Bryant Lease West site to assist with the homeless situation. Lenny's response time to staff's calls has been quick and efficient.

De Leon stated although activity has slowed down, activity from e-bikes stills occurs at Zedler Marsh as well as on the other properties. Staff is communicating with Signal Hill Petroleum on coordination efforts to address unauthorize access through the various properties.

De Leon stated staff continues to document the wildlife observations that are captured on camera at the various properties.

Chair Duggan asked if should could get a slide copy of the deck to use on her newsletter to show the community what the efforts being done are for. Chair Duggan asked if the heavy equipment was being used in other properties. De Leon confirmed yes, that was correct, and not at the Bluff restoration site.

b. Los Cerritos Wetlands Stewardship Program Coordinator Update

Megan Wolff gave an update on the Los Cerritos Wetlands Stewardship Program (LCWSP), highlighting volunteer activities in October. The program involved 120 volunteers who participated in community habitat restoration. Wolff stated that the 240 hours worked by these volunteers contributed

\$8,349.60 of in-kind services, propagated over 227 plants, removed 375 pounds of weeds, and planted 23 salt marsh plugs.

Wolff further mentioned the LCWSP in partnership with the Los Cerritos Wetlands Land Trust and Applied Energy Services (AES), hosted four field trips for students. Conservation Corps of Long Beach (CCLB) assisted six times with different land management and stewardship tasks.

Wolff stated volunteers attended their first Saturday monthly habitat restoration at Zedler Marsh assisting with native plant restoration, non-native removal, mulching, trail clean-up. 40 volunteers also assisted with the Los Cerritos bluff restoration site that De Leon previously mentioned.

Wolff stated volunteers from Cal State Long Beach classes, Blue Shield and CCLB installed 23 salt marsh plugs, removed 200 pounds of weeds and performed various plant care tasks at the nursery.

Wolff stated the Salt Marsh Stroll tour occurred in October with twelve participants. Participants experienced Zedler Marsh trails and learned about the habitat restoration activities that had taken place over the last decade.

Wolff stated with AES funding since 2023, 3,800 students have participated in these environmental educational field trips which include hands on activities. A new activity was introduced in October which entailed matching bird beak to food source.

Vice Chair Kalmick asked if activities were going to continue during construction phase. Wolff stated yes. Indicating plans have been in the works and will be implemented.

c. Homeless Relocation Program Update

Lenny Arkinstall, CEO of Los Cerritos Wetlands Stewards, stated he was working with PD (police department) to find the individual who damaged the concrete wall at the Bryant Lease property. Everything found under the bridge has been cleared out by his crew.

Arkinstall stated he and his crew continue to work with local law enforcement to remove homeless individuals. Stern warnings are being given as well as informing these individuals that they will be cited for trespassing. This

Arkinstall illustrated pictures of the pipe bridge indicating the constant patrolling and being vigilant has helped keep it free of homeless individuals over the past month. Once the homeless settle, 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.

Arkinstall stated he went to Zedler Marsh on a Saturday and was impressed with the amount of activity he saw. He observed over 100 cars all there who cared about the turtles. It was a great thing to see, congratulations to the Aquarium of the Pacific.

Chair Duggan asked who would cite the individuals. Arkinstall stated PD would be citing the individuals for trespassing.

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 indicating there are a lot of birds out there.

Parsell stated their walks at Gum Grove Park continue and showed pictures of the birds found there. Parsell voiced her continued concerns about dog owners not adhering to leash laws at Gum Grove. The safety risk posed to both dogs and people, especially given the presence of coyotes, is very concerning. This makes it difficult to bird watch as they have to constantly be looking out for people and their dogs off leash.

Vice Chair Kalmick, stated he hoped that as the wetland's restoration progresses, they'll be more attention to Gum Grove Park and those individuals not abiding to the leash laws and the other bad activity being encountered. Parsell highlighted the importance of patrolling as is found in the other properties.

Parsell stated they continued to see many birds and the need to build a fence to protect not only the wildlife but also the nesting birds in the wetlands.

e. Expenditures Report

Amanda Chan stated she would be reporting on the Expenditure Report for both FY 25 & FY26.

Chan stated Exhibit A reflects balances as of September 30, 2025. Although the fiscal year is over, Staff is waiting for reimbursements and expenses to clear. Staff expect this to occur by November 30th. Revenue and expenses will remain under budget for the FY 24/25 even with these items clearing. Overall capital outlay expenses in relation to grant funding sources are in line with projections.

Chan stated Exhibit B reflects balances for the current fiscal year 25/26. Activities have been minimal as the Authority is only a month into the new fiscal year. For FY25/26, the activities for grants and special projects dramatically increased compared to FY24/25 due to the start of the Southern Los Cerritos Wetlands construction.

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

Robert Bersbach, Syrusa Engineering, construction manager for the Southern Los Cerritos Wetlands Restoration Project. Bersbach stated they met with the contractor and discussed how to best implement and execute the project. A timeline schedule was developed that projected about a 30-day working days ahead of the contract schedule which is set to occur in the winter of 2026.

Bersbach stated the contractor was mobilized on November 3rd. Heavy equipment was brought onto site by the contractor and is currently bringing in additional equipment to utilize on the project. Construction manager is keeping track of what is being brought onto the project site. As this only occurred a while ago, not much else was reported of the work on the site.

Bersbach stated Tidal Influences biological monitors came out and marked the environmental sensitive areas by flagging them. Contractor is going around and setting and driving in post sticks to delineate the sensitive areas with fencing. The fence, a bright and vibrant orange, will assist in keeping area clear. Bersbach stated some trees have been removed on the state lands.

Chair Duggan asked how many trees had been removed. Bersbach stated he didn't have the exact number at hand, but would get that number.

Bersbach stated ongoing conversations with this contractor have been very positive and staff feel this engagement shows their willingness to work and deliver on this project.

Bersbach stated next steps include continued demolition/clearing and grubbing around the site and the removal of the following: fences, trees, utility posts, existing vegetation, and six inches of soil of the entire site. Upcoming operations which are anticipated to begin in the next couple of months include the Sump 1 removal which will be taken to an Orange County landfill, excavate and grading of the northern wetlands, testing and excavation for top soil and the berm installation.

Chair Duggan asked if the utility poles being removed were no longer in use. Bersbach stated that was correct. Undergrounding will occur when final designs are received from Southern California Edison which will be shared with

the contractor so plan of action can be prepared. Chair Duggan asked where that was in the timeline. Bersbach stated that would be put at the end, with staff anticipating it to be completed by the winter of 2026.

Vice Chair Kalmick asked if a performance bond could be put in place. Bersbach, stated if the Authority wanted one, one could be issued. Mark Stanley stated a performance bond is like an insurance policy. If the contractor fails or a misstep occurs, it allows the Authority to exercise that bond to bring in someone else to complete work. Mark stated that was a discussion that needed to occur between the Authority and the construction manager.

7. Receive and File the LCWA Annual Audit and Related Reports for FY 23/24.

Salian Garcia stated she would be presenting the LCWA annual audit and related reports for fiscal year ending September 30, 2024. The first 30 pages of Exhibit A, consists of statements with the management letter beginning on page 39. Pursuant to Government Code 6505 and the LCWA Joint Powers Agreement, the Authority underwent its annual independent audit of its financial statements. Procured and with the cooperation of the City of Long Beach, the audit was performed by C.J. Brown and Company (formerly Fedak and Brown LLP).

Garcia stated that in the auditor's opinion, the LCWA's financial statements present fairly in all material aspects. The Authority is in a very strong financial position and internal controls continue to be in check. Net position increased by \$12 million, or 63% from fiscal year 2023. Revenue sources increased by \$16 million from \$565,000. These increases were primarily due to the land swap that occurred in June 2024. Garcia stated total also increased by \$3 million which was also primarily due to the OTD parcel of the land exchange.

Garcia stated at the end of 2024, investment capital assets amounted to just over \$31 million. The Authority continues to have no long-term debt, no material weakness and no findings noted in the current fiscal year.

Board Member Hutzell asked what the OTD parcel is being used at this point. Garcia stated it is on sale.

8. Consideration of a resolution awarding a contract to Tidal Influence for Land Management, Administrative Services, and Implementation of the Los Cerritos Wetlands Stewardship Program and Restoration Plans.

Chad Oberly stated LCWA released a Request for Proposals (RFP) on August 22, 2025 seeking firms to provide land management, contract and grant management, and coordination and implementation of the Stewardship Program and Restoration Plans. The consultant would work in partnership with LCWA staff, non-profit

partners, and Joint Powers Authority partners for oversight of the Los Cerritos Wetlands.

Oberly stated the scope of the work entailed land management services, including routine property patrols; stewardship program services, including acting as LCWA's Stewardship program manager; contract and grant management services; and project management and partner coordination services. See Exhibit A for details of all services requested.

Oberly stated RFP was emailed to over 40 firms and were given the opportunity to submit questions by August 28th. Staff received proposals from two quality firms. After review by a panel of representatives from RMC and the State Coastal Conservancy, Tidal Influence scored the highest, 94.5 out of 100. Staff entered contract negotiations with Tidal Influence for a three-year contract with an option for two one-year extensions.

Oberly stated Task 1 (Land Management Services) and Task 2 (Stewardship Program Management) will be retained at a fixed monthly rate of \$3,250 and \$2,000 respectively. Task 3 (Contract and Grant Management) and Task 4 (Project Management and Partner Coordination Services) are to be provided as needed and billed on a time and materials basis.

Oberly stated LCWA has successfully contracted with Tidal Influence in the past and staff have been dedicated to building continuing partnerships since 2009.

Oberly stated it is staff's recommendation that the Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority (LCWA) award a contract to Tidal Influence for Land Management, Administrative Services, and Implementation of the Los Cerritos Wetlands Stewardship Program and Restoration Plans, for an amount not to exceed \$445,968.

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

9. **Consideration of a resolution authorizing the Executive Officer to negotiate and enter a contract with a consultant to develop a standard graphic design template.**

Chad Oberly stated the Authority currently has major projects underway and requires a uniform consistent logo. The logo in its various forms, has served as a guide to the many uses and platforms.

Oberly stated the development of a graphic template for the LCWA entails the creation of a reusable design structure that guarantees consistent branding, establishes the LCWA's identity, and serves as a time-saving tool. The goal of the proposed effort is to develop standard templates and a design template to be

adopted by the Authority for use on public facing materials, design palettes for capital projects, programming, and social media accounts. The use of the newly developed theme will be expanded into features such as park signs, amenities, and facilities. The Authority's

Oberly stated staff will conduct a competitive consultant procurement process in accordance with LCWA procurement policies. Proposals will be reviewed and a consultant will be selected based on their relevant experience with public agencies, environmental organizations, cost-effectiveness and demonstrated professionalism. Staff will advertise to small businesses (SB) and Disabled Veteran Business Enterprises (DVBE) registered with the State's Department of General Services (DGS).

Oberly shared various illustrations of the many LCWA logos that are currently being used.

Oberly stated it is staff's recommendation that the Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority (LCWA) authorize the Executive Officer to negotiate and enter an agreement for the development of a LCWA standard graphic design template.

Board Member Hutzel stated it would be nice to have a logo reflecting the investment that is being made in the current restoration project. Hutzel was excited and commented on getting a good graphic designer for the logo.

Board member Hutzel 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, February 12, 2026, at 12:30 p.m.**
- 12. Adjournment.**

Chair Duggan adjourned the meeting at approximately 1:32 p.m.