

# LOS CERRITOS WETLANDS STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM REPORT: JANUARY 2026-APRIL 2026

## Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority

### Executive Summary

From January 1, 2026, to April 30, 2026, the Stewardship Program engaged a total of 202 volunteers who participated in community-based habitat restoration programs. The 526.5 hours worked by these volunteers contributed \$18,316.94 of in-kind services. These volunteers propagated over 1,772 plants, removed 1,850 pounds of weeds, and planted 60 salt marsh plants. The Los Cerritos Wetlands Stewardship Program (LCWSP), in partnership with the Los Cerritos Wetlands Land Trust and Applied Energy Services (AES), hosted sixteen field trips for students. Additionally, the Conservation Corps of Long Beach assisted three times during this period assisting with stewardship and ecological monitoring tasks.

### Monthly Habitat Restoration Events

Monthly Habitat Restoration events take place at Southern Los Cerritos Wetlands every 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the month. Volunteers help non-native plant removal and site preparation activities to prepare for the Southern Los Cerritos Wetlands bluffs planting.

The LCWSP hosted four monthly habitat restoration events during this period on January 3, 2026, February 7, 2026, March 7, 2026, and April 4, 2026 (Figure 1-3). A total of 84 volunteers removed 1,200 pounds of weeds. All this help from the community resulted in 168 hours of volunteer work contributing \$5,844.72 worth of in-kind services. This event is supported by funding from AES.

### Special Events

Community and school groups regularly reach out to participate in special community-based habitat restoration events. The LCWSP hosted five additional community-based habitat restoration events with Leadership Long Beach for MLK Day of Service on January 19<sup>th</sup>, California State University Long Beach Re:Wild club on March 14<sup>th</sup>, and Occidental College on March 28<sup>th</sup>, Aquarium of the Pacific Earth Day on April 17<sup>th</sup> and University of California Los Angeles on April 18<sup>th</sup> during this period (Figure 4-6). In total, 100 pounds of weeds were removed, 60 plants were planted, 250 pounds of trash were collected, and 1772 plants were propagated in the nursery. A total of 193.5 volunteer hours were contributed with \$6,731,87 for in-kind services. These events are supported by funding from AES.

### Environmental Education Field Trips

The LCWSP continues to host a variety of youth groups and community members out at the wetlands. The Los Cerritos Wetlands Land Trust works each year to coordinate class field trips for underserved schools. For these field trips the Land Trust provides a bus that picks up students from their school and transports them to Zedler Marsh. At Zedler Marsh, the LCWSP Environmental Educators offer an engaging and informative grade-based curriculum of ecological activities where youth participate in hands-on learning focused on the Los Cerritos Wetlands and Zedler Marsh. Since January 2026, the LCWSP hosted sixteen school field trips which accommodated about 480 Long Beach

youth. Since AES funding started in 2023, this program has served 4,525 students. These field trips are sponsored by the Los Cerritos Wetlands Land Trust (Figure 7 and 8).

## Land Tours

During this period, the LCWSP hosted three land tours which included the Heron Hike, the Salt Marsh Stroll, and the Gum Grove Raptor Ramble (Figures 9-10). The Heron Hike provides a unique opportunity to explore the Central Los Cerritos Wetlands which features a freshwater marsh which is home to many herons and waterfowl. In February, 17 participants enjoyed the Heron Hike. In March, the Salt Marsh Stroll was offered to 18 participants to experience Zedler Marsh trails system where they encountered many aromatic plants and several bird species while learning about ethnobotany. This was also an opportunity to learn about all the habitat restoration activities that have taken place over the past decade. In April, 35 participants joined the first nature walk hosted at Gum Grove which had the Raptor Ramble tour theme. The meeting location was adjusted to accommodate this tour during Southern Los Cerritos Wetlands construction. Tour participants witnessed raptor activity in the eucalyptus trees and learned all about the progress of the Southern Los Cerritos Wetlands Restoration Project while enjoying views of the site.

## Youth Workforce Development

During this period, the Conservation Corps of Long Beach (CCLB) Ocean Corps started up again in April and the crew dedicated two workdays to habitat restoration activities in Zedler Marsh and Southern Los Cerritos Wetlands to help expand the impact of the stewardship team (Figure 11). CCLB helped with some of the heavy lifting to support the LCW Stewardship Program to work efficiently with a skilled field team to accomplish priority tasks with weed management. With just two workdays, CCLB removed 2,150 pounds of weeds including large invasive trees, invasive succulents, and annual weeds.



FIGURE 1. February Habitat Restoration- SLCW Weed Removal



FIGURE 2. March Habitat Restoration-Iceplant removal



FIGURE 3. April Habitat Restoration Event—SLCW weed removal



FIGURE 4. January 19<sup>th</sup> MLK Day of Service Habitat Restoration at Zedler Marsh



FIGURE 5. April 17<sup>th</sup> AOP Earth Day LCWA Nursery Event



FIGURE 6. UCLA Nursery Event April 18



FIGURE 7. Education Field Trip tour



FIGURE 8. Education Field Trip Mudballs



FIGURE 9. February Heron Hike



FIGURE 10. April Gum Grove Raptor Ramble



FIGURE 11. CCLB Weed Whacking Site Prep at Southern LCW