

Dear City Council Member,

As a founding and governing board member of the Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority, the City of Long Beach, has assumed stewardship responsibilities for the Los Cerritos Wetlands ecosystem. In spite of this legal commitment to protect and restore this fragile habitat and educate its citizens to "take ownership" of wetlands wildlife, the LCWA and its member cities have failed to address current and proposed actions which threaten the very survival of the wetlands. In fact both Seal Beach and Long Beach endorse policies that negatively impact this wetlands ecosystem. Currently several projected changes to SEADIP, Animal Care Services proposed coyote management plan, the resolution re coyote mitigation under consideration at tonight's meeting, all reflect this continued lack of awareness and accountability by Long Beach's elected officials and city administration towards the Los Cerritos Wetlands and to the general public. Please review the attached documents for details re the LCWA and efforts to clarify the obligations of its members to hold themselves accountable to oppose, not participate in, the continued assault on the wetlands.

Anna Christensen, 259 Termino Ave, Long Beach

To Animal Care Services, Long Beach (12/12/14)

The following comments address the Draft Coyote Management Plan specifically in relation to the obligations of the City of Long Beach as a member of the Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority to be a steward of our Los Cerritos Wetlands coyote pack/s and to educate the citizens of Long Beach to "take ownership" of these coyotes as members of the Los Cerritos Wetlands ecosystem. The above legal responsibilities are clearly set forth in the Los Cerritos Wetlands Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement and the Los Cerritos Wetlands Stewardship Report (see attached).

At the time he authored Draft Coyote Management Plan, Ted Stevens, Manager Animal Care Services, was not aware of the LCWA, nor of its mandate to preserve Los Coyotes Wetlands wildlife, including coyotes. Thus the creation of a document that is in conflict with existing public policy. The stewardship mandate of LCWA its member cities is not limited to monitoring activities on properties under their immediate jurisdiction, but also requires opposition to policies and projects, regardless of their location, which endanger the Los Cerritos Wetlands. Targeting any member of the wetlands coyote pack/s results in an imbalance which disrupts and damages the whole ecosystem. The Draft Coyote Management plan violates existing LCWA policy in both its profiling of coyotes as a "threat" and a "problem" species, and also by changing city policy re the killing of coyotes. While a genuine effort has been made by Long Beach Animal Care Services to inform the public re unwanted contact with coyotes (hazing/removing food sources, pets on short leashes), much more needs to be done by the LCWA to educate citizens as to the valuable role of coyotes in both the wetlands and in our urban environment (including their primary diet of mice, rats, and gophers). Currently, Long Beach Animal Care Services follows California Fish and Wildlife guidelines, only individual coyotes that have attacked humans may be trapped and exterminated. However, under Level Orange of the Draft Coyote Management Plan, the city could trap and kill a coyote for additional reasons, none of which appear to be clearly defined in this document and all of which constitute cruel and unusual punishment for normal animal behavior. Coyotes entering yards where people are present, appear to be "threatening," or attacking pets may be unwelcome behaviors, but they must be understood in the context of habitat reduction due to urban sprawl and the degree to which these wild creatures cannot help by fail to live by our "rules". In Belmont Heights, we have seen coyotes run across our front yards, one neighbor chased a coyote in her golf cart and felt threatened by it, and some residents have lost pets. Under Level Orange, "several" of such incidents could result in the killing of a coyote, whether or not it would be the "guilty" one might be impossible to determine. Better to recognize that we, who have done a good thing by creating the LCWA, must not now, go back on our promise to care for what remains of this once great coastal wetlands community. We must respect the whole of nature, not just the beautiful herons and sandpipers, but those clever coyotes as well.

To: Belmont Heights Community Association  
Re: The elements of the Long Beach Animal Care Services Draft Coyote Management Plan that conflict with the Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority Stewardship and Management Program.

As a signatory to the Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement and as a member of the Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority, the City of Long Beach has specific legal powers and obligations, which include spending public and private monies and taking actions necessary to protect and improve the Los Cerritos Wetlands ecosystem. The recent move by the City of Seal Beach, to trap and kill coyotes from the pack/s living in the Los Cerritos Wetlands is in direct violation of its duty as a member of the LCWA to protect them. Likewise, Long Beach Animal Care Services' Draft Coyote Management Plan, under "Level Orange," would violate the City's legal obligation as a member of the LCWA to protect wetlands coyotes. In addition, the LCWA has committed to educating its citizens to "take ownership" of the wetlands and wetlands wildlife. To profile coyotes as a "problem" misses the point entirely, to color code them as a "threat" and make policies to exterminate them, endangers the entire Los Cerritos Wetlands ecosystem.

Coyotes are listed under mammals as members of the Los Cerritos wetlands wildlife community in LCWA's Stewardship Program documents. Tim Revell, a biologist serving on the Seal Beach coyote committee, states that the coyote is a "keystone" species of the Los Cerritos Wetlands and biologists from the Seal Beach Naval Weapons Station consider the coyotes on the base to be essential to the health of their endangered bird population. The coyotes of the Los Cerritos Wetlands play an important role in the health of the entire ecosystem and should enjoy the legal protection of the Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority and its member organizations. The Long Beach Animal Care Services current position re killing coyotes is the same as that of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, which will only authorize the killing of a coyote who has attacked a human. Under Level Orange of the Draft Coyote Management Plan, Long Beach Animal Care Services could kill a coyote "involved in an incident where there is an attended domestic animal loss, a coyote entering a dwelling or yard where people are present, or acting aggressively towards people." Since many of us have seen coyotes in our front yards, we are already at Level Orange, and, should the Draft Coyote Management Plan be approved as is, may soon be a party to the killing of our wetlands coyote pack.

December 1, 2014

To: Andrew Willis, Enforcement Officer, California Coastal Commission

From: Anna Christensen

Re: Complaint re the trapping of coyotes in the Los Cerritos Wetlands

On September 14, 2014, the City of Seal Beach authorized the trapping and killing of coyotes, awarding a contract to Critter Busters to place traps in and around the city. On October 28, 2014, the Los Cerritos Wetlands Land Trust hosted a talk on coyote awareness by Professor Tim Revell at Kettering Elementary School in Long Beach. During the public comment period, Mike Hardaker held up a snare trap and stated that he had found it while walking in Gum Grove Park in Seal Beach. He also said it had a Critter Busters ID tag on it. Mr. Hardaker is a former resident of Seal Beach and the founder and editor of the Mountain Weekly News website. Some days later Bill Rosen, a local wildlife expert, accompanied Mike to the spot where he had found the snare and mapped the site. On this map (see attached) the yellow circle shows the snare's location to be in the Heron Pointe bioswale near the end of the public trail that begins in Gum Grove Park and heads east, then turns north, then west, and finally north again, ending at the access road to the Hellman drilling site. According to the Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority map (see attached), the snare was placed within the "Hellman" section of the "Los Cerritos Wetlands Complex." The northeast corner of the "Hellman" section includes part of the bioswale that was mandated by the California Coastal Commission when the Heron Pointe housing development was built. The trail through the bioswale links to public parking areas in both Gum Grove Park and Heron Pointe. California Department of Fish and Wildlife Warden Larry Stephens was also told by Patrick Gallegos, Seal Beach Assistant City Manager, that a snare had been placed at Heron Pointe. However at the November 10<sup>th</sup> Seal Beach City Council Meeting, Mayor Ellery Deaton insisted that no traps had been placed in the wetlands. In a press release dated November 8<sup>th</sup>, the Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority stated, "The trapper will be provided with direction to place traps where recent attacks on domestic pets have occurred within the City. These areas are outside of the Los Cerritos Wetlands." Strangely, the LCWA seems to quote from a proposed trapping plan (even using the future tense), but does not reference what had actually taken place. In addition, Tom Tandoc, Environmental Director for the Joint Forces Training Base in Los Alamitos, stated that Seal Beach had recently requested permission to cross base property to place coyote traps in a drainage ditch – certainly no domestic pet could have been attacked in this location.

While this complaint specifically addresses the placement of snare traps in the Los Cerritos Wetlands, it also asks that the California Coastal Commission seek to understand the scope of the legal commitment made by the Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority and its member organizations to the Los Cerritos Wetlands ecosystem, as defined in the Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement (see attached). The LCWA and its member cities (Seal Beach and Long Beach) have spent public and private monies with the stated goals of protecting and enhancing the Los Cerritos Wetlands habitat and educating the public to take ownership of the wetlands ecosystem, including the coyote pack/s. Therefore, Seal Beach cannot now legally place traps in any location that would lure these Los Cerritos Wetlands coyotes to their deaths (Critter Busters stated that it was using cage traps baited with rotten chicken meat and sex hormones). In its Stewardship Program (see attached), the LCWA assumes both regulatory and advisory powers in keeping with its mission. The LCWA must be willing to oppose any activity or project harmful to the Los Cerritos Wetlands, regardless of its sponsors or location. Both grieving pet owners and ambitious developers (SEADIP's proposed zoning changes include seven story buildings with "views of the wetlands" – read glass walls next to a bird sanctuary) must be made to understand that their communities have a prior commitment to the survival of this fragile ecosystem. It is clear that the California Coastal Commission need address not only the specific incident at hand but also assist the LCWA in meeting its stewardship responsibilities. Thank you.

Note: the map marking the snare's site can also be aligned with a Google satellite map of the Heron Pointe development - zoom in on the bioswale to the west, follow the trail north and match the gate and rectangular structure

cc to LCWA

November 12, 2014

To: Chris Kroll, State Coastal Conservancy

Re: Investigation and public records request re the Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority

From: Anna Christensen

The following is a formal request for an investigation by the State Coastal Commission into the legality of actions taken and proposed by Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority members that conflict with their legal obligations as LCWA members as stated in The Los Cerritos Wetlands Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement and the Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority Stewardship and Management Program. Of specific concern are the trapping and killing of members of coyote pack/s from the Los Cerritos Wetlands by the City of Seal Beach, the proposed Long Beach Animal Control Draft Coyote Management Plan, and the current trapping/killing of coyotes by a Long Beach homeowners association. Also requested are copies of the following two documents, the signed and dated version of the Los Cerritos Wetlands Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement (not the Exhibit 3 online version which is unsigned), and the Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority Stewardship and Management Program officially adopted in 2009 (not the online 2007 "interim" one).

As signatories to the LCWA Joint Use of Powers Agreement and members of the LCWA, the cities of Long Beach and Seal Beach have awarded themselves specific legal powers and incurred legal obligations, including the spending of public and private monies and the taking of actions necessary to protect and improve the Los Cerritos Wetlands ecosystem. In addition to monitoring and securing habitat, the LCWA has committed to educating its citizens to "take ownership" of the wetlands and wetlands wildlife. The recent action by the City of Seal Beach to hire Critter Busters to trap and kill members of the Los Cerritos Wetlands coyote pack/s is in conflict with its duty as a member of the LCWA to protect them. Coyote Busters has placed snare traps on public trails in the wetlands to the west of the Heron Point housing development in Seal Beach. Even when placed outside the wetlands, Critter Busters' cage traps, baited with rotten chicken and sex hormones, are attracting coyotes from protected wetlands areas. Likewise, Long Beach Animal Care's Draft Coyote Management Plan, under "Level Orange," would violate the City's legal obligation as a member of the LCWA to protect Los Cerritos Wetlands coyotes. This plan color codes coyote threat levels and makes new policy to exterminate this cornerstone species, endangering the entire Los Cerritos Wetlands ecosystem. In addition, Ted Stevens, Bureau Manager of Long Beach Animal Care Services has stated that a Long Beach homeowners association is presently engaged in trapping/killing coyotes.

The accountability of the LCWA, as a governmental regulatory agency re public and private actions impacting the Los Cerritos Wetlands ecosystem, is in question. As a member of the Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority, the State Coastal Conservancy is in a position to inquire into the effectiveness of the LCWA in educating its own representatives and board members; elected and administrative personnel from Seal Beach and Long Beach whose actions impact the Los Cerritos Wetlands; LCWA partner organizations; and the general public regarding the power and the obligation of the LCWA re the protection of the Los Cerritos Wetlands ecosystem. The LCWA, headquartered at the San Gabriel Lower Rivers and Mountains Conservancy, handles all inquiries and complaints re activities having a negative impact on the wetlands ecosystem. However, neither the LCWA staff biologist nor LCWA Director Mark Stanley have seriously responded to repeated requests for information re the above

concerns. The next public meeting of the LCWA is not until February. In voting to kill coyotes, Ellory Deaton, Seal Beach Mayor/City Council Member and LCWA representative, is either in denial that the coyotes on the streets of Seal Beach (a small town surrounded by protected wetlands) are members of the Los Cerritos Wetlands coyote pack/s or thinks that the coyotes will somehow get her message that, "we want them to stay in the wetlands." Paul Gallegos, Seal Beach Assistant City Manager and head of the city's coyote committee, did not appear to be aware of the LCWA or its Stewardship and Management Program. Suzie Price, Long Beach City Council Member and LCWA Representative, new on the job, introduced the Draft Coyote Management Plan but could not discuss her LCWA responsibilities. Christina Dugan, Price's assistant re coyote issues had not heard of the LCWA. Ted Stevens, author of the Draft Coyote Management Plan, has been in his position for three years and knew nothing of the LCWA. Even though the LCWA and its partner organizations have engaged in numerous activities to protect and preserve the Los Cerritos Wetlands, the general public is largely unaware of the LCWA.

Responding to LCWA representative Ellory Deaton's vote to kill wetlands coyotes, Mr. Stanley did acknowledge, "we have some educating to do." In the meantime the killing of protected wetlands coyotes continues. Certainly, with the help of the State Coastal Conservancy we can improve on this sad situation. See relevant documents attached to email/included in written request.

cc: LCWA, LCWA member organizations and partners

## SEADIP and the Los Cerritos Wetlands

Restrictions on development are intrinsic to the Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement. Under this agreement, which established the Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority, the Los Cerritos Wetlands ecosystem is to be protected and enhanced by the LCWA and its member organizations, including the cities of Long Beach and Seal Beach. SEADIP includes both LCWA properties and other parts of the Los Cerritos Wetlands, as well as adjoining properties whose development will impact the Los Cerritos Wetlands wildlife and habitat. The LCWA's power to exercise its legitimate authority in the process of reformulating SEADIP must be recognized and LCWA partner organizations must also be consulted regarding the legal responsibility of the City of Long Beach to honor its commitment to the Los Cerritos Wetlands. Councilwoman Suzie Price, who represents the City of Long Beach on the Governing Board of the LCWA, should be encouraged to ensure that any SEADIP changes benefit the Los Cerritos Wetlands. For more info see Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority documents online.

February 11, 2015

To: City of Long Beach

From: Anna Christensen

Re: SEADIP Revisions and LCWA Stewardship Responsibilities

Concerns/questions re proposed SEADIP Revisions in conflict with the legal obligation of the City of Long Beach, as a member of the Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority, to protect and preserve the Los Cerritos Wetlands, including wildlife integral to the wetlands ecosystem.

#### 1. Role of the Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority re SEADIP Revisions

Will the City of Long Beach, as a member of the LCWA, fulfill its legal obligation to protect and preserve the Los Cerritos Wetlands and the wetlands ecosystem with respect to any and all revisions to SEADIP?

Has the LCWA been informed of/included in discussions re SEADIP Revisions?

Have the other LCWA member organizations (Seal Beach, California Coastal Conservancy, San Gabriel Lower Rivers and Mountains Conservancy) been informed of/included in discussions re SEADIP Revisions?

Can SEADIP legally be revised without the consent of the LCWA?

#### 2. Protection of birds (nesting, feeding, flight patterns), and other wildlife in relation to proposed zoning changes re SEADIP.

Does the City of Long Beach, as a member of the LCWA, recognize that its responsibility to protect Los Cerritos Wetlands wildlife must extend to areas and projects beyond the current boundaries of the Los Cerritos Wetlands?

Will the City of Long Beach, as a member of the LCWA, oppose the construction of multistory buildings with "views of the wetlands" as such buildings are a hazard to birds residing in the wetlands?

Will the City of Long Beach, as a member of the LCWA oppose any increase in lighting that negatively impacts wetlands wildlife?

Will the City of Long Beach, as a member of the LCWA, oppose the extension of Studebaker Road through the Los Cerritos Wetlands?

#### 3. Cultural, historical, and archaeological resources within the Los Cerritos Wetlands

Is the City of Long Beach aware of the historical and cultural significance of the Los Cerritos Wetlands to the Tongva and the Acjachemen tribes?

Has the City of Long Beach consulted representatives of the Tongva or of the Acjachemen tribes re cultural, historical, or archaeological matters pertaining to the Los Cerritos Wetlands and proposed revisions to SEADIP?

Is the City of Long Beach aware of the location of marked archaeological sites within the Los Cerritos Wetlands/SEADIP areas?

Is the City of Long Beach aware that current plans to move oil drilling operations within the Los Cerritos Wetlands will impact marked archaeological sites?

Does the City of Long Beach currently work with any particular archaeologists?

#### 4. Responsibility of the City of Long Beach to address public concerns and inquiries re the Los Cerritos Wetlands, LCWA, and SEADIP revisions

What obligation does the City of Long Beach have to respond in a timely manner to the concerns/questions of its citizens?

Does the LCWA Board member representing Long Beach have a responsibility to respond in a timely manner to questions/concerns posed by Long Beach citizens?



February 11, 2015

To: LCWA

From: Anna Christensen

Re: SEADIP Revisions and LCWA Stewardship Responsibilities

Concerns/questions re the legal obligation of the LCWA and its member organizations to protect the Los Cerritos Wetlands, including wildlife integral to the wetlands ecosystem.

1. Protection of the coyote pack/s residing in the wetlands and their role as a "keystone" species in the wetlands ecosystem.

Will the LCWA oppose the trapping and killing of members of this pack who leave the Los Cerritos Wetlands to hunt?

Will the LCWA hold the cities of Long Beach and Seal Beach responsible for protecting the Los Cerritos Wetlands coyote pack/s within the boundaries of Long Beach and Seal Beach on both public and private property?

Will the LCWA hold the City of Seal Beach responsible for the deaths of coyotes from the Los Cerritos Wetlands pack in violation of the city's obligation as a member of the LCWA to protect this pack?

Will the LCWA oppose the Coyote Management Plan put forward by the City Long Beach as a violation of the city's obligation to protect the Los Cerritos Wetlands coyotes?

Does the LCWA, recognize that its responsibility to protect Los Cerritos Wetlands wildlife must extend to areas and projects beyond the current boundaries of the Los Cerritos Wetlands?

2. LCWA re proposed revisions of SEADIP.

What role is the LCWA playing in the SEADIP revision process to advocate on behalf of the Los Cerritos Wetlands and the wetlands ecosystem?

Does the LCWA oppose the construction of multistory buildings with "views of the wetlands" as such buildings are a hazard to birds residing in the wetlands?

Does the LCWA oppose any increase in lighting that negatively impacts wetlands wildlife?

Does the LCWA oppose the extension of Studebaker Road through the Los Cerritos Wetlands?

Can the City of Long Beach revise SEADIP without the approval of the LCWA and its member organizations?

3. Cultural and archaeological resources within the Los Cerritos Wetlands

Is the LCWA aware of the historical and cultural significance of the Los Cerritos Wetlands to the Tongva and the Acjachemen tribes?

Does the LCWA currently consult representatives of the Tongva or of the Acjachemen tribes re cultural, historical, or archaeological matters re the Los Cerritos Wetlands?

Is the LCWA aware of the location of marked archaeological sites within the Los Cerritos Wetlands?

Is the LCWA aware that current plans to move oil drilling operations will impact marked archaeological sites?

Does the LCWA currently work with any particular archaeologist?

# LOS CERRITOS WETLANDS AUTHORITY JOINT EXERCISE OF POWERS AGREEMENT

## PREAMBLE

*Whereas*, The San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy was established in 1999 to acquire and manage public lands within the Lower Los Angeles River and San Gabriel River watersheds, and to provide open space, low impact recreational and educational uses, water conservation, watershed improvement, wildlife and habitat restoration and protection; and

*Whereas*, the State Coastal Conservancy was established to preserve, acquire and hold significant coastal resource sites for public use and enjoyment and to enhance and restore coastal resources which have suffered the loss of natural or scenic values as a result of incompatible land uses and natural or human-induced events,

*Whereas*, the Los Cerritos Wetlands is located within the jurisdictional boundaries of the Cities of Long Beach and Seal Beach;

*Whereas*, the City of Long Beach and the City of Seal Beach share with the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy and State Coastal Conservancy a desire to provide for a comprehensive program of acquisition, protection, conservation, restoration, maintenance and operation and environmental enhancement of the Los Cerritos Wetlands area consistent with the goals of habitat protection and restoration, flood protection, and improved water supply, water quality, groundwater recharge and water conservation; Now

*Therefore*, pursuant to the Joint Exercise of Powers Act (Government Code § 6500, et. seq.), the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (hereinafter "RMC"), the City of Long Beach (hereinafter "Long Beach"), the City of Seal Beach (hereinafter "Seal Beach") and the State Coastal Conservancy (hereinafter "SCC") (separately, a "Party", jointly, the "Parties") agree as follows:

### 1. PURPOSE

1.0 There is hereby created a joint exercise of powers authority to be known as the "Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority," (hereinafter the "AUTHORITY"). The AUTHORITY is formed by this Agreement pursuant to the provisions of Title One, Division 7, Chapter 5, Articles 1 and 2 of the Government Code (Govt. Code, § 6500 et seq.) It is the intent of the parties to this Agreement (hereinafter the "Parties") that the AUTHORITY shall be the entity responsible for administering this Agreement and shall be a public entity separate and apart from the Parties.

1.1 The purpose of this Agreement is to provide for a comprehensive program of acquisition, protection, conservation, restoration, maintenance and operation and environmental enhancement of the Los Cerritos Wetlands area consistent with the goals of habitat protection and restoration, flood protection, and improved water supply, water quality, groundwater recharge and water conservation.

3.1 The AUTHORITY, upon approval of all the Parties may acquire property, or engage in activities outside the Los Cerritos Wetlands Area as defined in section 3.0 of this Agreement, to the extent necessary to carry out the purposes set forth in Section One of this Agreement.

#### 4. GOVERNING BOARD

4.0. The AUTHORITY shall be governed by a "board constituted pursuant to the agreement" within the meaning of Government Code § 6506.

4.1 The Governing Board of the AUTHORITY shall consist of four (4) voting members as follows:

- (a) One voting member appointed by the Governing Board of the RMC except that the Board shall not appoint an elected official, appointed official or employee of the City of Long Beach or the City of Seal Beach.
- (b) One voting member appointed by the City Council of Long Beach;
- (c) One voting member appointed by the City Council of Seal Beach;
- (d) One voting member appointed by the Governing Board of the State Coastal Conservancy except that the Board shall not appoint an elected official, appointed official or employee of the City of Long Beach or the City of Seal Beach.

4.2. Each appointee shall serve at the pleasure of the appointing body and may be removed by the appointing body at any time with or without cause.

#### 5. MEETINGS

5.0. All meetings of the Governing Board shall be called, held, and conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Ralph M. Brown Act and with such further rules of the Governing Board as are not inconsistent therewith.

5.1. The AUTHORITY shall keep, or cause to be kept, the minutes of the Governing Board's meetings, and shall as soon as possible after each meeting, forward a copy of the minutes to each member of the Governing Board and to the governing body of each of the Parties.

#### 6. QUORUM AND PROCEDURE

6.0. A majority of the Governing Board shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. The affirmative vote of a majority of those members present and voting shall constitute an action of the Governing Board.

6.1 The affirmative vote of two thirds of those members present and voting, but not less than three votes, shall be required for approval of the following actions: adoption of annual budgets; all contracts and expenditures not otherwise expressly approved in an adopted budget over \$20,000; authorization to accept, acquire or convey interests in property; the addition of other public agencies as Parties; and authorizations to sue.

9.2. The AUTHORITY shall be strictly accountable for all funds, receipts, and disbursements as required by Government Code Section 6505. The AUTHORITY shall adopt an annual budget. Public funds may not be disbursed by the AUTHORITY except pursuant to a budget which has been adopted by the Governing Board of the AUTHORITY and approved by the governing bodies of the Parties, and all receipts and disbursements shall be in strict conformance with the adopted and approved budget.

9.3. The treasurer of Long Beach shall act as the treasurer of the AUTHORITY and shall be the depository and have custody of all money of the AUTHORITY from whatever source. The AUTHORITY shall reimburse Long Beach for costs incurred pursuant to this section, subject to prior approval of the Governing Board. The treasurer so designated shall:

- (a) Receive all money of the AUTHORITY and place it in the treasury of Long Beach, or other appropriate account, to the credit of the AUTHORITY.
- (b) Be responsible on his official bond for the safekeeping and disbursement of all AUTHORITY money so held by him or her.
- (c) Pay, when due, out of money of the AUTHORITY so held, all sums due on outstanding obligations of the AUTHORITY. Said sums shall be paid only by warrants of the public officer performing the functions of auditor or controller of the AUTHORITY pursuant to Section 6505(d) of the Government Code.
- (d) Verify and report in writing on a quarterly basis to the AUTHORITY and to the Parties the amount of receipts since the last report, and the amount paid out since the last report.

9.4. The Auditor of Long Beach shall perform the functions of auditor or controller of the AUTHORITY. The Auditor shall either contract with a certified public accountant or prepare an annual audit of the accounts and records of the AUTHORITY. In each case the minimum requirements of the audit shall be those prescribed by the State Controller for special districts under Section 26909 of the Government Code, and shall conform to generally accepted auditing standards. Where an audit of an account and records is made by a certified public accountant, a report thereof shall be filed as a public record with each of the Parties. Such report shall be filed within six months of the end of the fiscal year under examination. Any costs of the audit, including contracts with or employment of a certified public accountant shall be borne by the AUTHORITY and charged against any unencumbered funds of the AUTHORITY. The AUTHORITY shall reimburse Long Beach for costs incurred in connection with the performance of any other functions by the Auditor Controller, pursuant to this section, subject to prior approval of the Governing Board.

9.5. The AUTHORITY shall have the power to invest any money in the treasury of the AUTHORITY that is not required for the immediate necessities of the AUTHORITY, as the AUTHORITY determines advisable, in the same manner and upon the same conditions as local agencies pursuant to Section 53601 of the Government Code.

#### 14. WITHDRAWAL OR ADDITION OF PARTIES AND TERMINATION OF AGREEMENT

14.0. Any Party may withdraw as a Party to this Agreement provided that: (1) at the time of withdrawal, that Party has either discharged, or arranged to the satisfaction of the other Parties for the discharge of, any pending legal, environmental or financial obligations it has assumed under or pursuant to this Agreement and (2) it provides written notice of its intent to withdraw to the Executive Officer of the AUTHORITY not less than three months prior to the effective date of its withdrawal.

14.1. Additional "public agencies" within the meaning of Section 6500 *et seq.* of the Government Code may become a Party by resolution of the governing boards of each of the then existing Parties and majority approval of the Governing Board of the AUTHORITY.

#### 15. CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE PARTIES

15.0. Contribution is here defined to include monetary contributions, if any, and the reasonable value of the services of any employees of any Party loaned by it to the AUTHORITY, if any.

15.1. Each Party shall, subject to the availability of funds, make an equal annual contribution to or on behalf of the AUTHORITY for purposes of this Agreement, as specified in the approved annual budget of the AUTHORITY. It is anticipated that each Party shall contribute a minimum of \$5,000 and a maximum of \$25,000 per annum to cover project management and associated administrative expenses.

15.2. Section 15.1 shall not affect the mutual exchange of services between the Parties to this Agreement and the AUTHORITY without payment of any consideration other than such services. Such mutual exchange of services is hereby authorized to the extent permitted by Section 6506 of the Government Code. One or more Parties may, however, provide all or a portion of its annual contribution in the form of services to the AUTHORITY with the prior approval of the Governing Board.

15.3. The Parties acknowledge that RMC and SCC, as state agencies, may not enter into contracts in amounts exceeding \$35,000 (which amount may be adjusted pursuant to the State Administrative Manual or State Contracting Manual) without the approval from the California Department of General Services.

#### 16. NON-DISCRIMINATION

16.0 The Authority shall comply with the provisions of the State of California Non-Discrimination Compliance Statement which requires compliance with Government Code Section 12990 (a-f) and California Code of Regulations, Title 2, Division 4, Chapter 5 in matters relating to reporting requirements and the development, implementation and maintenance of a Nondiscrimination Program. The Authority shall not unlawfully discriminate, harass or allow harassment against any employee or applicant for employment because of sex, race, color, ancestry, religious creed, national origin, physical disability (including HIV and AIDS), medical condition (cancer), age (over 40), marital status, denial of family care leave or denial of pregnancy disability leave.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have caused this agreement to be executed on the dates shown below by their duly authorized representatives.

SAN GABRIEL AND LOWER LOS ANGELES RIVERS AND MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY

Date: 2/28/06

By: Rolando V. Fuentes

STATE COASTAL CONSERVANCY

Date: 3/17/06

By: Annunzio Chiriac

CITY OF LONG BEACH,

Date: 2/27/06

By: Mark Stines

CITY OF SEAL BEACH,

Date: 03-06-06

By: Charles Carter

APPROVED AS TO FORM

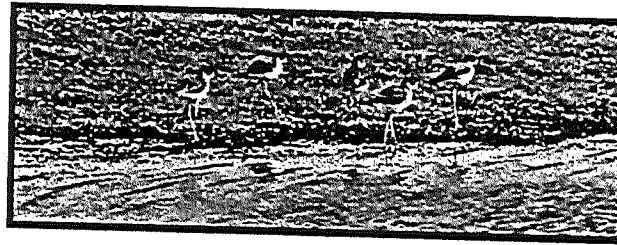
2/24, 2006  
ROBERT E. STAMINON, City Attorney  
By: [Signature]  
SAN GABRIEL AND LOWER LOS ANGELES RIVERS AND MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY

## LCWA BACKGROUND

The wetlands in the Los Cerritos Complex have been sought by public agencies and environmentalists for habitat conservation for over 20 years. Since this site is one of the few remaining opportunities in southern California for restoration of estuarine habitat, the acquisition of these properties is a top priority regionally.

### Key Achievements:

- LCWA formed February 2006
- 66 acres of former Bryant Property acquired June 2006
- 5 acres of former Edison property acquired Fall 2007
- 100 acres of former Hellman Properties, LLC acquired Winter 2010
- Los Cerritos Wetlands Stewardship Program adopted Fall 2009



### For More Information about LCWA Contact:

Luz Torres, Staff Biologist  
Phone: (626)815-1019, Ext. 110  
Email: ltorres@rmc.ca.gov



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Azusa, CA 91702  
Phone: (626) 815-1019  
Fax: (626) 815-1269  
<http://www.lcwetlands.org>



## LOS CERRITOS WETLANDS AUTHORITY

A joint powers authority  
formed by the following agencies:  
San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles  
Rivers and Mountains Conservancy,  
State Coastal Conservancy,  
City of Long Beach,  
& City of Seal Beach

**OUR MISSION:**  
to provide for a comprehensive  
program of acquisition, protection,  
conservation, restoration,  
maintenance and operation and  
environmental enhancement of the  
Los Cerritos Wetlands area  
consistent with the goals of flood  
protection, habitat protection and  
restoration, and improved water  
supply, water quality, groundwater  
recharge and water conservation.



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# LOS CERRITOS WETLANDS AUTHORITY JOINT EXERCISE OF POWERS AGREEMENT

## PREAMBLE

*Whereas*, The San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy was established in 1999 to acquire and manage public lands within the Lower Los Angeles River and San Gabriel River watersheds, and to provide open space, low impact recreational and educational uses, water conservation, watershed improvement, wildlife and habitat restoration and protection; and

*Whereas*, the State Coastal Conservancy was established to preserve, acquire and hold significant coastal resource sites for public use and enjoyment and to enhance and restore coastal resources which have suffered the loss of natural or scenic values as a result of incompatible land uses and natural or human-induced events,

*Whereas*, the Los Cerritos Wetlands is located within the jurisdictional boundaries of the Cities of Long Beach and Seal Beach;

*Whereas*, the City of Long Beach and the City of Seal Beach share with the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy and State Coastal Conservancy a desire to provide for a comprehensive program of acquisition, protection, conservation, restoration, maintenance and operation and environmental enhancement of the Los Cerritos Wetlands area consistent with the goals of habitat protection and restoration, flood protection, and improved water supply, water quality, groundwater recharge and water conservation; Now

*Therefore*, pursuant to the Joint Exercise of Powers Act (Government Code § 6500, et. seq.), the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (hereinafter "RMC"), the City of Long Beach (hereinafter "Long Beach"), the City of Seal Beach (hereinafter "Seal Beach") and the State Coastal Conservancy (hereinafter "SCC") (separately, a "Party", jointly, the "Parties") agree as follows:

### 1. PURPOSE

1.0 There is hereby created a joint exercise of powers authority to be known as the "Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority," (hereinafter the "AUTHORITY"). The AUTHORITY is formed by this Agreement pursuant to the provisions of Title One, Division 7, Chapter 5, Articles 1 and 2 of the Government Code (Govt. Code, § 6500 et seq.) It is the intent of the parties to this Agreement (hereinafter the "Parties") that the AUTHORITY shall be the entity responsible for administering this Agreement and shall be a public entity separate and apart from the Parties.

1.1 The purpose of this Agreement is to provide for a comprehensive program of acquisition, protection, conservation, restoration, maintenance and operation and environmental enhancement of the Los Cerritos Wetlands area consistent with the goals of habitat protection and restoration, flood protection, and improved water supply, water quality, groundwater recharge and water conservation.



3.1 The AUTHORITY, upon approval of all the Parties may acquire property, or engage in activities outside the Los Cerritos Wetlands Area as defined in section 3.0 of this Agreement, to the extent necessary to carry out the purposes set forth in Section One of this Agreement.

#### 4. GOVERNING BOARD

4.0. The AUTHORITY shall be governed by a "board constituted pursuant to the agreement" within the meaning of Government Code § 6506.

4.1 The Governing Board of the AUTHORITY shall consist of four (4) voting members as follows:

- (a) One voting member appointed by the Governing Board of the RMC except that the Board shall not appoint an elected official, appointed official or employee of the City of Long Beach or the City of Seal Beach.
- (b) One voting member appointed by the City Council of Long Beach;
- (c) One voting member appointed by the City Council of Seal Beach;
- (d) One voting member appointed by the Governing Board of the State Coastal Conservancy except that the Board shall not appoint an elected official, appointed official or employee of the City of Long Beach or the City of Seal Beach.

4.2. Each appointee shall serve at the pleasure of the appointing body and may be removed by the appointing body at any time with or without cause.

#### 5. MEETINGS

5.0. All meetings of the Governing Board shall be called, held, and conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Ralph M. Brown Act and with such further rules of the Governing Board as are not inconsistent therewith.

5.1. The AUTHORITY shall keep, or cause to be kept, the minutes of the Governing Board's meetings, and shall as soon as possible after each meeting, forward a copy of the minutes to each member of the Governing Board and to the governing body of each of the Parties.

#### 6. QUORUM AND PROCEDURE

6.0. A majority of the Governing Board shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. The affirmative vote of a majority of those members present and voting shall constitute an action of the Governing Board.

6.1 The affirmative vote of two thirds of those members present and voting, but not less than three votes, shall be required for approval of the following actions: adoption of annual budgets; all contracts and expenditures not otherwise expressly approved in an adopted budget over \$20,000; authorization to accept, acquire or convey interests in property; the addition of other public agencies as Parties; and authorizations to sue.

9.2. The AUTHORITY shall be strictly accountable for all funds, receipts, and disbursements as required by Government Code Section 6505. The AUTHORITY shall adopt an annual budget. Public funds may not be disbursed by the AUTHORITY except pursuant to a budget which has been adopted by the Governing Board of the AUTHORITY and approved by the governing bodies of the Parties, and all receipts and disbursements shall be in strict conformance with the adopted and approved budget.

9.3. The treasurer of Long Beach shall act as the treasurer of the AUTHORITY and shall be the depository and have custody of all money of the AUTHORITY from whatever source. The AUTHORITY shall reimburse Long Beach for costs incurred pursuant to this section, subject to prior approval of the Governing Board. The treasurer so designated shall:

- (a) Receive all money of the AUTHORITY and place it in the treasury of Long Beach, or other appropriate account, to the credit of the AUTHORITY.
- (b) Be responsible on his official bond for the safekeeping and disbursement of all AUTHORITY money so held by him or her.
- (c) Pay, when due, out of money of the AUTHORITY so held, all sums due on outstanding obligations of the AUTHORITY. Said sums shall be paid only by warrants of the public officer performing the functions of auditor or controller of the AUTHORITY pursuant to Section 6505(d) of the Government Code.
- (d) Verify and report in writing on a quarterly basis to the AUTHORITY and to the Parties the amount of receipts since the last report, and the amount paid out since the last report.

9.4. The Auditor of Long Beach shall perform the functions of auditor or controller of the AUTHORITY. The Auditor shall either contract with a certified public accountant or prepare an annual audit of the accounts and records of the AUTHORITY. In each case the minimum requirements of the audit shall be those prescribed by the State Controller for special districts under Section 26909 of the Government Code, and shall conform to generally accepted auditing standards. Where an audit of an account and records is made by a certified public accountant, a report thereof shall be filed as a public record with each of the Parties. Such report shall be filed within six months of the end of the fiscal year under examination. Any costs of the audit, including contracts with or employment of a certified public accountant shall be borne by the AUTHORITY and charged against any unencumbered funds of the AUTHORITY. The AUTHORITY shall reimburse Long Beach for costs incurred in connection with the performance of any other functions by the Auditor Controller, pursuant to this section, subject to prior approval of the Governing Board.

9.5. The AUTHORITY shall have the power to invest any money in the treasury of the AUTHORITY that is not required for the immediate necessities of the AUTHORITY, as the AUTHORITY determines advisable, in the same manner and upon the same conditions as local agencies pursuant to Section 53601 of the Government Code.

#### 14. WITHDRAWAL OR ADDITION OF PARTIES AND TERMINATION OF AGREEMENT

14.0. Any Party may withdraw as a Party to this Agreement provided that: (1) at the time of withdrawal, that Party has either discharged, or arranged to the satisfaction of the other Parties for the discharge of, any pending legal, environmental or financial obligations it has assumed under or pursuant to this Agreement and (2) it provides written notice of its intent to withdraw to the Executive Officer of the AUTHORITY not less than three months prior to the effective date of its withdrawal.

14.1. Additional "public agencies" within the meaning of Section 6500 *et seq.* of the Government Code may become a Party by resolution of the governing boards of each of the then existing Parties and majority approval of the Governing Board of the AUTHORITY.

#### 15. CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE PARTIES

15.0. Contribution is here defined to include monetary contributions, if any, and the reasonable value of the services of any employees of any Party loaned by it to the AUTHORITY, if any.

15.1. Each Party shall, subject to the availability of funds, make an equal annual contribution to or on behalf of the AUTHORITY for purposes of this Agreement, as specified in the approved annual budget of the AUTHORITY. It is anticipated that each Party shall contribute a minimum of \$5,000 and a maximum of \$25,000 per annum to cover project management and associated administrative expenses.

15.2. Section 15.1 shall not affect the mutual exchange of services between the Parties to this Agreement and the AUTHORITY without payment of any consideration other than such services. Such mutual exchange of services is hereby authorized to the extent permitted by Section 6506 of the Government Code. One or more Parties may, however, provide all or a portion of its annual contribution in the form of services to the AUTHORITY with the prior approval of the Governing Board.

15.3. The Parties acknowledge that RMC and SCC, as state agencies, may not enter into contracts in amounts exceeding \$35,000 (which amount may be adjusted pursuant to the State Administrative Manual or State Contracting Manual) without the approval from the California Department of General Services.

#### 16. NON- DISCRIMINATION

16.0 The Authority shall comply with the provisions of the State of California Non-Discrimination Compliance Statement which requires compliance with Government Code Section 12990 (a-f) and California Code of Regulations, Title 2, Division 4, Chapter 5 in matters relating to reporting requirements and the development, implementation and maintenance of a Nondiscrimination Program. The Authority shall not unlawfully discriminate, harass or allow harassment against any employee or applicant for employment because of sex, race, color, ancestry, religious creed, national origin, physical disability (including HIV and AIDS), medical condition (cancer), age (over 40), marital status, denial of family care leave or denial of pregnancy disability leave.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have caused this agreement to be executed on the dates shown below by their duly authorized representatives.

SAN GABRIEL AND LOWER LOS ANGELES  
RIVERS AND MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY

Date: 2/28/06

By: Belinda V. Fuentes

STATE COASTAL CONSERVANCY

Date: 3/17/06

By: Annunzio Chirak

CITY OF LONG BEACH,

Date: 2/27/06

By: Mark Miller

CITY OF SEAL BEACH,

Date: 03-06-06

By: Charles Carter

APPROVED AS TO FORM

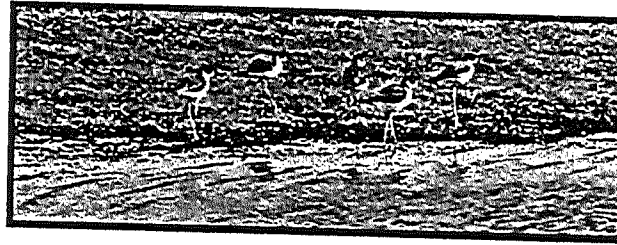
2/24, 2006  
ROBERT E. BRANNON, City Attorney  
By: [Signature]  
CITY OF SEAL BEACH

## LCWA BACKGROUND

The wetlands in the Los Cerritos Complex have been sought by public agencies and environmentalists for habitat conservation for over 20 years. Since this site is one of the few remaining opportunities in southern California for restoration of estuarine habitat, the acquisition of these properties is a top priority regionally.

### Key Achievements:

- LCWA formed February 2006
- 66 acres of former Bryant Property acquired June 2006
- 5 acres of former Edison property acquired Fall 2007
- 100 acres of former Hellman Properties, LLC acquired Winter 2010
- Los Cerritos Wetlands Stewardship Program adopted Fall 2009



### For More Information about LCWA Contact:

Luz Torres, Staff Biologist  
Phone: (626)815-1019, Ext. 110  
Email: ltorres@rmc.ca.gov



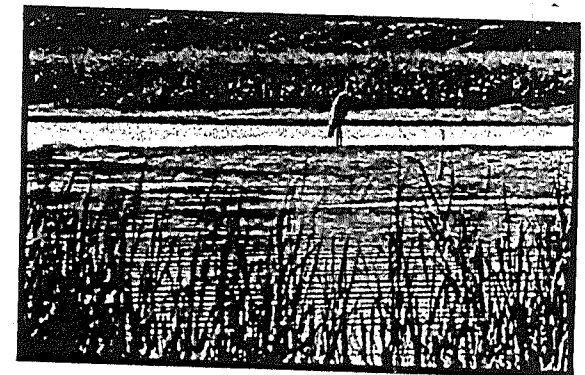
Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority  
100 Old San Gabriel Canyon Rd.  
Azusa, CA 91702  
Phone: (626) 815-1019  
Fax: (626) 815-1269  
<http://www.lcwetlands.org>



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**OUR MISSION:**  
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**LOS CERRITOS WETLANDS AUTHORITY (LCWA)**

**LOS CERRITOS WETLANDS STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM**

Revised December 14, 2011

## **Preface**

The LCWA Los Cerritos Wetlands Stewardship Program (LCWSP) is designed to promote community involvement with environmental education, maintenance, restoration, and monitoring of the wetland areas owned by the LCWA, lease agreements and future acquisitions. This program puts forth guidelines to ensure volunteers, consultants, lessees and anyone entering utilizes the land appropriately and performs safe and lawful services.

## **I. Introduction**

### ***a. Background***

The wetlands in the Los Cerritos Complex have been sought by public agencies and environmentalists for habitat protection and restoration for over twenty years. The Board of Governors of the Southern California Wetland Recovery Project has identified acquisition of these properties as a top priority; given these wetlands is one of the few remaining opportunities in southern California for restoration of estuarine habitat. Although the Los Cerritos Wetlands are surrounded by urban development, and have been dramatically altered, they provide valuable habitat to a number of wetland obligate organisms and species of special concern.

### ***b. The Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority***

In February of 2006, a joint powers agreement was adopted among the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy, State Coastal Conservancy, City of Long Beach, and City of Seal Beach. The agreement established the Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority (LCWA). The purpose of the LCWA is to provide for a comprehensive program of acquisition, protection, conservation, restoration, maintenance, and environmental enhancement of the Los Cerritos Wetlands area consistent with the goals of flood protection, habitat preservation and restoration, improved water supply, water quality, groundwater recharge, and water conservation. The LCWA has the ability to acquire and own real property, although it does not have the power of eminent domain. A second major purpose of the LCWA is to conduct restoration planning and implement that restoration. In order to accomplish this mission, the involvement of the surrounding community will be integral. Therefore, the LCWSP was developed to offer guidelines to ensure the consistent use of the best management techniques by everyone utilizing the LCWA properties.

### ***c. Vision for Community Stewardship***

In June 2006 the LCWA acquired ~67 acres of land within the Los Cerritos Wetlands Complex, which marked the first purchase of land within the complex for the purpose of wetlands restoration. The LCWSP is the initial viable step in a series of planning efforts for this recently acquired land, as well as future acquisitions. This plan is intended to serve as a comprehensive land management program which will manage access, education, maintenance, and restoration opportunities.

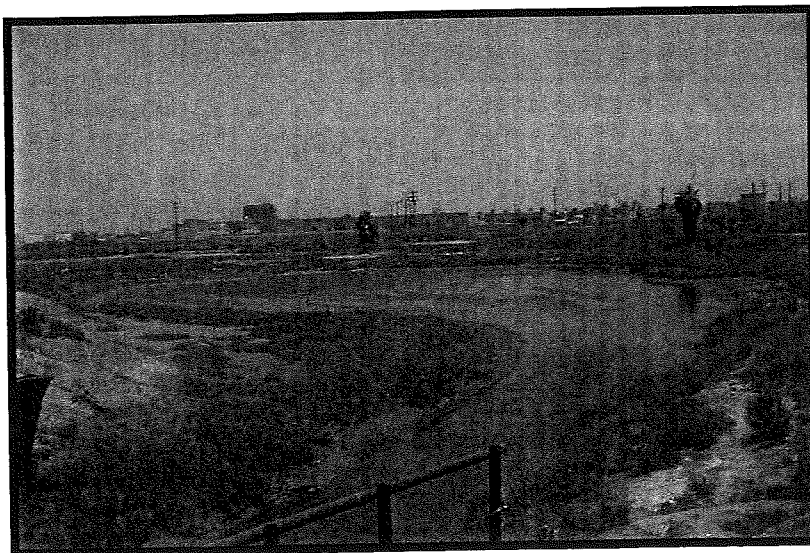
### **III. Site Overview**

Los Cerritos Wetlands are the last frontier of coastal salt marsh conservation in southern California. They are a nationally and regionally significant natural area that historically covered 2400 acres along the border of Orange and Los Angeles counties, but only approximately 500 degraded acres of LCW remain undeveloped today. For over twenty years, the conservation and restoration of these wetlands have been the focus of public agencies and environmental advocates who seek to save the last privately owned salt marsh in southern California from development. In June 2006 the LCWA purchased from the Bryant family 67 acres straddling the San Gabriel River in Long Beach at the heart of Los Cerritos Wetlands. Likewise in December 2010 the LCWA purchased from the Hellman family 100 acres in Seal Beach commonly known as the Hellman Lowlands and when added to a 5-acre industrial property (known as the OTD Parcel), dedicated to the LCWA by Edison, total the acreage to 172 acres of land in the public trust.

#### **a. *LCWA East Parcel***

The East Parcel is located just east of the River and west of the Haynes Cooling Channel on a narrow piece of land often referred to as "The Isthmus". Though this parcel is east of the San Gabriel, it is still within the Long Beach City limits. This property is a total of 26 acres, of which several acres receive limited tidal influence from the San Gabriel River. The LCWA owns 15 acres on the East Parcel. The LCWA property includes a small tidal marsh area and a larger area composed of degraded former wetland habitat that is either unvegetated or colonized by native upland plants and non-native weeds. The San Gabriel River bike trail provides access adjacent to the LCWA property and offers views of the functioning salt marsh ecosystem that exists here. An easement, via 2nd Street, provides road access to the LCWA property through retained Bryant land.

A small tidally influenced area in the east parcel, named Zedler Marsh, is located on the LCWA property and offers the best opportunity for habitat stewardship, education, and nature appreciation. The Marsh attracts and supports a variety of wildlife. It provides critical breeding habitat for the endangered Belding's savannah sparrow (*Passerculus sandwichensis beldingi*) and foraging habitat for the endangered California least tern (*Sterna antillarum browni*) amongst other species of special concern. Appendix A offers a current listing of the organisms found on this parcel.



**Zedler Marsh**



**c. Hellman Lowlands**

The Hellman Lowlands is a vast swath of coastal habitat that has long been mistreated and ignored. This former estuary turned beet farm, cattle ranch, oil field and dredge spoil depository is southern California's newest wetlands wildlife sanctuary. This site was purchased in early 2011 for \$5.1 million, and now the LCWA must provide proper management of the 100 acres and work towards reversing past degradation through current community-based efforts and a future large-scale restoration project. This property is just east of the Haynes Cooling Channel and is bordered by an active oil field to the north and house developments and a public park along its southeast border. The land is bisected by a long tidal channel that will be the focus area for this project. This 40 acres of tidal salt marsh habitat is home to about 15 breeding pairs of Belding's savannah sparrows and several populations of rare plants like Coulter's Goldfields (*Lasthenia glabrata coulterii*), Lewis' primrose (*Camissonia lewisii*), southern tarplant (*Centromadia parryi ssp. australis*), and California Boxthorn (*Lycium californicum*). Unfortunately, the site is laden with construction debris and is hindered by clogged tidal connections that limit its ecological value and threaten existing populations of the aforementioned rare wetlands organisms.

**IV. Stewardship and Management Activities**

As outlined in our objectives, the purpose of this program is to promote a variety of avenues for the public involvement. Each of these endeavors are important, however, some will require the participation of trained individuals, while other activities will be available to the general public.

**a. Environmental Education and Public Awareness Programming**

These activities will connect local citizens and interest groups with the Los Cerritos Wetlands and will create a venue for the public to become directly engaged with this natural resource. The LCWA reserves the right to terminate site access permission due to unsafe, unpermitted, or disruptive land uses. A public event application is included in Appendix B of this document.

Following is a list of the available educational opportunities:

1. Self-guided tours along the San Gabriel River Bike trail allows for a view of the entire Eastern Parcel, the adjacent River, and parts of the Western Parcel from a distance. (no permission required)
2. School field trips, public nature tours, and other environmental education events may be organized by local schools, by community non-profits, or other interest groups. (application & orientation required)
3. Regular nature tours and clean-ups organized by LCWA staff will allow for the public to access the land in a managed manner and will provide the public with a detailed background of the site's current state and future plans. (sign-up required)
4. Wetland clean-up or enhancement events organized by local schools or by community non-profits are encouraged because they promote education, while supporting site maintenance programs. For any public clean-up events, it is required that a detailed list of activities and tools being used are provided to the LCWA (application and orientation required)

4. Native and non-native plant community and species level survey maps are needed to generate a GIS database of the pre-restoration vegetation on site and to aid in invasive plant population eradication programs. (permission required)
5. Updated wetlands (salt, brackish, and freshwater marsh) and upland ecosystem delineation maps are needed to generate a GIS database of the pre-restoration habitat locations. (permission required)
6. Seasonal marine sediment and terrestrial soil analysis (heavy metals, PCBs, DDTs, salinity, organics, composition, etc.) is needed to achieve a baseline of the site's benthic and edaphic environmental quality (permission and qualifications required)
7. Regular water quality analysis (DO, pH, salinity, turbidity, temperature, various pollutants, etc) of the seawater and seasonal freshwater on the property, and in the adjacent river, is needed to achieve a baseline of the sites aquatic environmental quality. (permission and qualifications required)
8. Topographic and bathymetric elevation surveys of the property are needed to generate a geographic GIS database of the pre-restoration hydrology on site. (permission and qualifications required)
9. General research projects that increase the scientific knowledge base or emphasize management applications for the site are supported by the LCWA. A research application is included in Appendix C of this document. (application required)

## **V. Site Maintenance and Restoration**

Much of the current LCWA land has been ignored, from a habitat maintenance perspective, for many years before being purchased. Major and minor habitat improvement projects are needed on site. Without a comprehensive Wetlands Restoration and Enhancement Plan our restoration practices are limited, but small projects can provide short term habitat improvements and may help prepare the site for future large scale restoration activities.

Following is a list of the available site maintenance and restoration activities:

1. Trash and debris remediation is a constant issue throughout the property. Public clean-up events can help to dramatically curtail this impact. (permission required)
2. Non-native, invasive plant species removal is needed throughout the property to initiate the restoration of degraded native habitats. (permission required)
3. Tree and shrubs such as *Myoporum* and *Acacia* need trimming throughout the property in order to remove fire hazards and attractiveness for homeless encampments. (permission required)

**f. Road Maintenance**

Signal Hill Petroleum and LCWA staff will work to identify the roads throughout the property that can be retired. In order to ensure safe access to utilities and to reduce dust pollution, Signal Hill Petroleum will identify roads in need of maintenance. Signal Hill Petroleum, with the support of LCWA staff, will pursue the necessary permits required for road repair.

**g. Management of Non-beneficial Uses**

Many activities occur on the LCWA property that can have negative impacts on the site's natural resources. Currently the land is not patrolled regularly; so the LCWA needs the public to report these non-beneficial uses so that the proper management decisions can be made to better protect the wetlands. Please report any such activities immediately to LCWA staff at (626) 815-1019.

Following is a list of non-beneficial uses that need to be reported:

1. Unauthorized off-roading activities (ATVing, BMXing, mountain bike riding, etc.).
2. Illegal dumping of trash, construction debris, landscaping wastes, or hazardous wastes
3. Trespassing
4. General wildlife endangerment
5. Nesting habitat encroachment during breeding season (Feb-June)
6. Unapproved animal practice (dog walking, dog training, falconry, horse-back riding, etc.)
7. Hunting or Fishing
8. Camping or permanent inhabitation
9. Unpermitted habitat alterations (dredging, filling, mowing, burning, etc)
10. Bonfires or barbeques

**VI. Criteria for Approving Activities on LCWA lands**

Needs to be...

- ...consistent with the LCWA Mission.
- ...consistent with the wetland restoration purposes for which the land was acquired.
- ...consistent with the adopted LCWA Interim Stewardship and Management Program regarding the safety of participants.
- ...lawful (CEQA, CESA, CDP, ESA, MBTA, NEPA, 404, 1601, WQ, encroachments).

It should...

- ...provide a benefit to the resources on the site.
- ...increase the scientific knowledge base or emphasize management applications for the site.
- ...provide an educational benefit to the participants.
- ...have a manageable and appropriate number of participants for the subject activity and site, and supervision be satisfactory.

It cannot...

- ...impact or disrupt any listed or sensitive species, sensitive habitat or cultural resources? (specific location, time of year, duration, methods of the activity are evaluated)
- ...take place in wetlands areas during nesting season (February-June)
- ...result in a "gift of state"? (i.e. someone cannot make a profit by the activity)

**b. Protocol for Bird Surveys**

Before Event

- Have birders scheduled
- Have one designated locale for meeting
- Have data collection sheet ready for each event
- Liability Form filled and ready
- Contact Landowners/Signal Hill Petroleum

During Event

- Remember to take photos
- Sign all participants in on liability sheets
- Thank everyone for their participation and attendance
- Introduce the Stewardship program and purpose of Bird Surveys to participants
- Introduce Leaders (Audubon, LCWA, etc)
- Go over game-plan and safety concerns with participants
- Distribute binoculars and other materials
- **Five minutes after start time:** Before escorting participants along 2<sup>nd</sup> street, explain the land and safety concerns during the walk to the site
- Collect data on different species, number of species, location, etc
- Stay on designated roads

After Event

- Thank everyone for their participation and attendance
- Collect binoculars and other program materials
- Mention future events and distribute flyers to those who want them
- Take group photo
- **20 minutes prior to end:** Organize and lead group back
- Put photos on facebook
- Insert data of participants into admin excel database(numbers, emails, hours, etc)
- Insert emails into database
- Insert data on e-bird website
- Email database with thank you's and info from last event(s)/link to photos and data/upcoming events to participants on bird survey database once a month no later than the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month
- Email All scanned copies of data sheets, signed liability and all other forms used to LCWA

**c. Protocol for Habitat Restoration Events**

Before Event

- **One Week prior:** Survey site to determine event objective based on work-plan, constraints, timeline and other priorities
- Have game-plan of work to be accomplished one week prior and report to crew
- Have Leaders scheduled
- Have liability collection sheet ready for event
- Contact Landowners/Signal Hill Petroleum
- Have tools and materials on site one half-hour prior to event

During Event

- Remember to take photos
- Sign all participants in on liability sheets
- Thank everyone for their participation and attendance

- **10 minutes after start:** walk to Calloway marsh and supervise volunteer cleaning of site
- After Calloway is determined to be sufficiently clean, direct group to Zedler Marsh
- After Zedler is determined to be sufficiently clean, corral volunteers and direct group to place their bags next to the trash bin
- Make sure every volunteer is accounted for and has exited Zedler before closing and locking gate
- Focus remaining volunteers to pick up trash around Fisherman area and PCH and River
- **15 minutes prior to end:** get volunteers to collect all extraneous trash bags

#### After Event

- Thank everyone for their participation
- Mention future events and distribute flyers and coupons to those who want them
- Assist SOB with tear down of their operation
- Weigh the trash
- Throw trash in bin
- Retrieve directive signs
- **Directly after event:** Scan sign in sheets, disseminate data and email to SOB
- Put photos on Facebook
- Insert number of volunteers/hours/trash data into admin excel database
- Insert emails into database
- Email database with thank you's and info from last event(s)/link to photos/upcoming events to participants on trash database
- Generate report for LCWA staff: Example of LCWA staff report: At xx date at xx time we had xx people work for xx hours doing xx task at a independent sector equivalent of \$20.25 for a total of xx of in-kind services.

#### **VIII. Volunteer Guidelines**

Individual volunteers must sign a liability waiver, and volunteer groups must be accompanied by an orientated group member or by LCWA staff. Volunteers should use their best judgment when on site and must wear appropriate attire including: shirts and pants at all times, closed-toed shoes with sturdy soles, hats, and sunscreen. It is also the responsibility of volunteers to drink plenty of water to stay hydrated.

Volunteers under the age of 16 must be accompanied by a responsible adult. At all times it is imperative that all volunteers stay clear of any oil operations and equipment occurring on site.

The LCWA assumes zero liability for participants.

*Parapholis incurva* – Sickie Grass  
*Polypogon monospermioides* – Rabbits Foot Grass  
*Nicotiana glauca* – Tree Tobacco

### Animals

#### Birds

Belding's Savannah Sparrow – *Passerculus sandwichensis beldingi* endangered species  
California Least Tern - *Sterna antillarum brownii* endangered species  
California Brown Pelican – *Pelecanus occidentalis* endangered species  
Forsters Tern – *Sterna forsteri*  
Willet – *Catoptrophorus semipalmatus*  
Killdeer – *Charadrius vociferus*  
Mallards – *Anas platyrhynchos*  
Long-Billed Dowitcher – *Limnodromus scolopaceus*  
Turkey Vulture – *Cathartes aura*  
Great Blue Heron – *Ardea herodias*  
Cliff Swallow - *Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*  
Western Kingbird - *Tyrannus verticalis*  
Cinnamon Teal – *Anas cyanoptera*  
Anna's Hummingbird – *Calypte anna*  
Belted King Fisher - *Ceryle alcyon*  
Osprey – *Pandion haliaetus*  
White Crowned Sparrow – *Zonotrichia leucophrys*  
Marsh Wren – *Cistothorus palustris*  
Canada Geese – *Branta canadensis*  
Snowy Egret – *Egretta thula*  
Great Egret – *Ardea alba*  
Marbled Godwit – *Limosa fedoa*  
White-Tail Kite – *Elanus leucurus*  
Buffle Head – *Bucephala clangula*  
American Widgeon – *Anas americana*  
Black Pheobe – *Sayornis nigricans*  
Lagger Head Shrike – *Lanius ludovicianus*  
Lesser Scaup – *Aythya affinis*  
Double-Crested Cormorant – *Phalacrocorax auritus*  
House Finch – *Carpodacus mexicanus*  
Mouring Dove – *Zenaidura macroura*

#### Invertebrates

Wandering Skipper – *Panoquina errans* Species of Special Concern  
California Horn Snail – *Cerithidia californica*  
Striped Shore Crab – *Pachygrapsus crassipes*

#### Mammals

Coyote - *Canis latrans*  
Western Harvest Mouse - *Reithrodontomys megalotis*

#### Fishes

Topsmelt – *Atherinops affinis*  
Stripped Mullet - *Mugil cephalus*

#### Reptiles

Side Blotch Lizard - *Uta stansburiana*



# SOLUTIONS for Coyote Conflicts

## *Why Killing Doesn't Solve Conflicts with Coyotes*

As coyotes have expanded their range across North America, encounters with people have increased. These encounters alarm people who fear for the safety of their pets and children. To allay this fear, communities might feel that they need to pay for wide-scale programs to remove coyotes from the population. However, these killing programs are inhumane—and they don't work. Better solutions exist.

### WHY DON'T COYOTE KILLING PROGRAMS WORK?

They're ineffective.

- ▶ It's extremely difficult to ensure that the problem-causing coyote(s) will be the one(s) located and killed.
- ▶ New coyotes will quickly replace coyotes removed from an area. Coyote pairs hold territories, which leave single coyotes ("floaters") constantly looking for new places to call home<sup>i</sup>.
- ▶ New coyotes can quickly become "nuisance" coyotes if attractants (e.g. pet food and garbage) aren't removed from a neighborhood.

They won't reduce coyote populations.

- ▶ Research suggests that when coyote populations are controlled aggressively, the remaining coyotes often experience a reproductive boom by breeding at earlier ages, having larger litters, and experiencing a higher survival rate among the young<sup>ii</sup>. Therefore, coyote populations bounce back quickly, even when up to 70% of their numbers are removed<sup>iii</sup>.
- ▶ It's nearly impossible to completely eradicate coyotes from an area. Despite bounties and large-scale efforts to kill coyotes over the last 100 years, coyotes have in fact expanded their range throughout the U.S. and Canada tremendously. One study even found that killing 75% of a coyote population every year for 50 years would still not exterminate the population<sup>iv</sup>.

Removal is costly.

- ▶ Coyotes are very intelligent animals and are difficult to catch. Even a very skilled trapper or sharpshooter—who works for a hefty price—needs many hours to catch a targeted coyote.

## Why **KILLING** Doesn't Work

Shoot or poison coyotes and you will have just as many again within a year or two. Kill one or both members of the alpha pair (A)—the only one that normally reproduces—and other pairs will form and reproduce. At the same time, lone coyotes will move in to mate, young coyotes will start having offspring sooner, and litter sizes will grow.

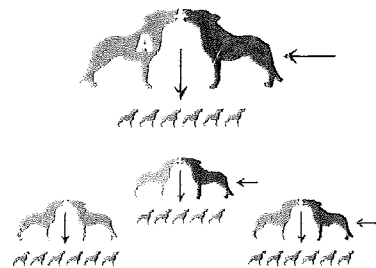


**STABLE PACK**  
Only the alpha pair reproduces, and its litters are small. Pack members are less likely to eat sheep.



**KILLING**  
Cuts numbers by half, but only temporarily.

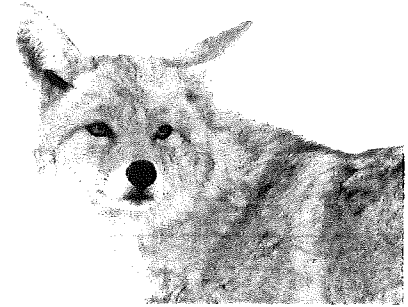
**PACK DISRUPTED BY LETHAL CONTROL**  
Survivors, joined by males from outside, start reproducing. Litter sizes increase. The need to feed many pups can lead adults to prey on sheep.



PACK FEMALE    PACK MALE    OUTSIDER MALE    PUP    YEARLING

## Trapping is inhumane.

- ▶ The most common devices used to capture coyotes are leghold traps and neck snares. Both can cause severe injuries, pain, and suffering<sup>v</sup>.
- ▶ Pets become unintended victims of traps set for coyotes. An informal search of media reports suggests thousands of unintended incidents have occurred, causing heartbreak for affected families.
- ▶ Non-target wildlife is also caught, and many sustain injuries so severe that they die or must be killed.



## WHAT ABOUT RELOCATION?

Although it may seem like a more humane alternative, in most cases relocating a coyote is a death sentence for that animal<sup>vi</sup>. Coyotes are very territorial and occupy large home ranges, in some cases up to 40 square miles. After being relocated, they will do just about anything to get back home and will undoubtedly face many challenges along the way. Unfamiliar with their new terrain, they are often killed while crossing roads and highways. They may also be injured or killed during territorial disputes with coyotes who are already established in the area where they're released. In addition, state wildlife laws usually prohibit the relocation of coyotes, since they are a rabies-vector species (although rabies is rare in coyotes).

The bottom line is that killing is not a solution for managing conflicts between people and coyotes.

Instead, a two-part program that combines education and hazing is emerging as the most humane way to resolve conflicts with coyotes<sup>vii</sup>. Education involves teaching residents of your community how to remove food attractants that lure coyotes into communities and how to properly protect pets. Hazing changes the behavior of problem coyotes by teaching them to avoid people and pets.



For more information and tips, visit our website at [humanesociety.org/coyotes](http://humanesociety.org/coyotes).



THE HUMANE SOCIETY  
OF THE UNITED STATES

<sup>v</sup> Gehrt, S. D. 2004. Chicago coyotes part II. *Wildl. Control Technol.* 11(4): 20-21, 38-9, 42.

<sup>vi</sup> Knowlton, F.F. 1972. Preliminary interpretations of coyote population mechanics with some management implications. *J. Wildl. Manage.* 36:369-382.

<sup>vii</sup> Connolly, G.E. 1978. Predator control and coyote populations: a review of simulation models. Pages 327-345 in M. Bekoff, ed. *Coyotes: biology, behavior, and management*. Academic Press, New York, N.Y.

<sup>viii</sup> Connolly, G.E. and W.M. Langhust. 1975. The effects of control on coyote populations: a simulation model. *Univ. California, Div. Agric. Sci., Bull.* 1872. 37pp.

<sup>ix</sup> Fox, C.H. and C.M. Papouchis (eds.) 2004. *Cull of the Wild: A Contemporary Analysis of Wildlife Trapping in the United States*. Animal Protection Institute, Sacramento, California.

<sup>x</sup> Gehrt, S.D. 2004. Urban coyote ecology and management: The Cook County, Illinois, coyote project. *Ohio State University Extension Bulletin*, 929.

<sup>xi</sup> [www.humanesociety.org](http://www.humanesociety.org). Animal Care and Control, 2004. [www.humanesociety.org/animal\\_care\\_and\\_control](http://www.humanesociety.org/animal_care_and_control). Accessed 12/15/04.





## WHAT

Coyotes are common throughout North America, including urban areas. You may see and hear them more during mating season (Dec.-Feb.) and when juveniles are dispersing from family groups (Sept.-Nov.). Living safely with wildlife is easy when you know how.

This field guide teaches you about “hazing,” a powerful tool for keeping coyotes at a distance by reinforcing the coyote’s natural wariness of people. Discover what hazing is, when and how to do it, and how to avoid common mistakes. Keeping coyotes wild and wary is the key to successful coexistence.

“

*“Coyotes have much to teach us about peaceful coexistence & this is largely about altering human behavior and better understanding coyote behavior.”*

—Dr. Marc Bekoff, Scientific Advisory Board member,  
Project Coyote

### What is “hazing?”

Hazing simply means scaring a coyote away from you, your yard, or your neighborhood. Coyotes are members of the dog family, and just as we train our dogs to adopt good behavior, we can reinforce a coyote’s natural instinct to avoid people without harming them.

## WHEN

➤ **Don’t haze...** if you think the coyote is sick or injured. Call your local wildlife rehabilitation center or animal control/services office.

➤ **Don’t haze...** if it is March through July, and you are in a park or open space and think you could be near a coyote den, or if you think that pups could be present. Allow them breathing room to raise and protect their new families. Be aware that you may encounter a coyote who is trying to haze **you** away from his den by acting anxious and/or assertive. He may attempt to escort you to a safe distance by hunching his back and walking towards you, or by vocalizing (barking or “huffing”). Please leash dogs and pick up small pets and leave the area calmly. Do not run.

➤ **Don’t haze...** if the coyote is at a comfortable distance from you. Seeing a coyote at a distance is no cause for alarm. They have adapted to urban environments and may be seen during the day and at night.

### When should I haze?

Haze if a coyote approaches you in a park or in a neighborhood, or if you see a coyote who is comfortable walking your street or visiting yards. Be consistent and persistent: haze every time you see this too-close-for-comfort behavior. Do not stop until the coyote has left the area or you risk teaching the coyote that your hazing behavior is “normal,” and is nothing to be concerned about.

## HOW

Hazing can be as simple as removing attractants (passive) or asserting yourself by yelling and waving your arms above your head as you walk toward a coyote (active). The aim is not to harm or harass the coyote.

**Passive hazing** involves removing attractants to create less welcoming habitats for animals. Examples include using motion activated lights or sprinklers, not feeding pets outside, cleaning around bird feeders and BBQs, and thinning vegetation where coyotes may den. **Active hazing** involves reacting to the inappropriate presence of a coyote so that he is frightened or startled and leaves the area. The response to your efforts may vary depending on the individual. Be persistent until the coyote “gets it.”

#### Hazing Tools:

**Noise makers:** your loud voice, whistles, bells, pots, pan lids, shaker cans (soda can filled with pennies & wrapped with aluminum foil), slapping a newspaper

**Surprises:** pop-up umbrella, motion-activated lights or sprinklers, garden hose, supersoaker spray gun filled with vinegar water

**Common coyote responses** ➤  
(on back)

### How should I haze?

Begin by acting “Big, Bad, and Loud.” Make and maintain eye contact. Wave your arms, a stick or jacket over your head; jump up and down, yell, or throw objects toward, not at, the coyote. The more dominant you act, the better the coyote will get the message that you are something to be afraid of! Keep at it until the coyote leaves.

## HAZING TIPS

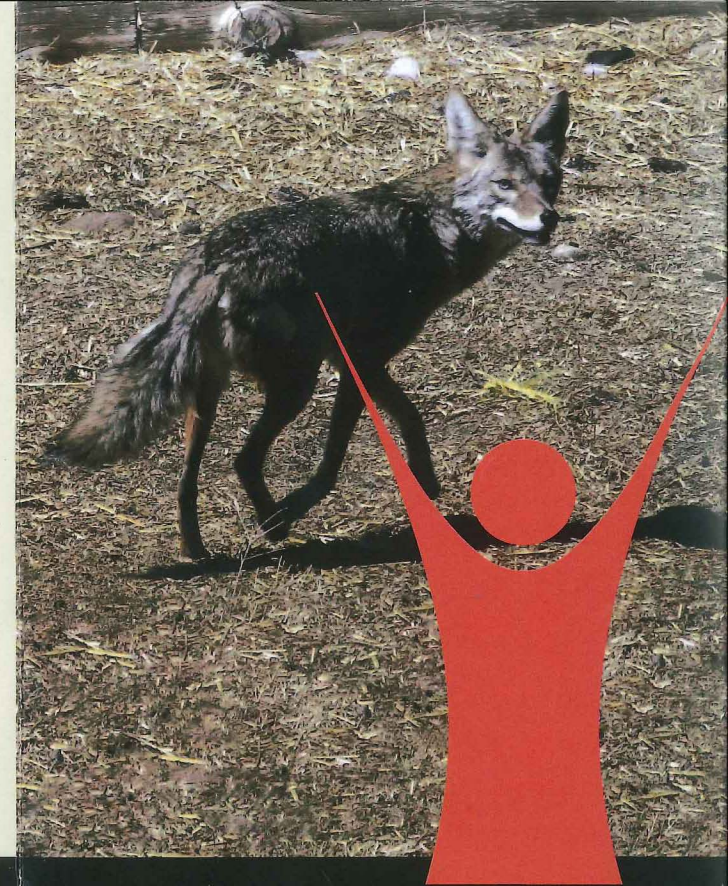
- **Stand your ground.** Make eye contact. Advance toward the coyote with your hazing tools if there is hesitation on the part of the coyote. Haze until the coyote retreats. Allow room for the coyote(s) to escape.
- **Make sure the coyote is focused on you** as the source of danger or discomfort. Do not haze from buildings or your car where the coyote can't see you clearly.
- **If you see more than one coyote, continue** your hazing efforts; multiple animals will most likely respond to the same hazing techniques at the same time.
- **Make it multisensory.** Use tools that scare with sound, light & motion.
- **Variety is essential.** Coyotes can learn to recognize and avoid individual people, so the more often a coyote has a negative experience with various hazing tools and different people, the faster he will change his behavior to avoid human contact.
- **Hazing should be exaggerated, assertive, and consistent.** Communities should always maintain some level of hazing using a variety of tools so that coyotes do not return to unacceptable behavior over time.
- **Coyotes have routine habits.** Make note on when and where you encounter them. Ask neighbors in those areas to help you scare the coyote, or avoid those areas.
- **Think prevention first!** Coyote pups begin coming out of dens in the early summer and parents are very protective. Keep pets close and don't let them roam.

## COMMON COYOTE RESPONSES

- **Being startled and running off.**
- **Freezing and staring at the hazer.** Keep hazing and increasing the intensity of your efforts.
- **Running/walking off a short distance, stopping, then looking back.** The coyote is unsure if the hazing is directed at him. Keep hazing until he gets your message to leave.

**Living safely and comfortably with coyotes isn't difficult.** Removing attractants (and asking your neighbors to do the same), and knowing when and how to scare a coyote gives you an effective and non-lethal tool for comfortably coexisting with our urban wildlife. With this field guide in hand, you can take advantage of the many benefits that a coyote provides, including free and healthy rodent control. Coyotes can make good neighbors!

*Share this guide! Coexistence between people & their domestic animals and coyotes is an active process that requires community involvement.*



Coyote Hazing Field Guide: What-When-How

Helping coyotes be good neighbors

“

*“Coyotes are naturally timid animals. Hazing is an effective method for keeping coyotes wild and wary.”*

-Dr. Paul Paquet, Scientific Advisory Board, Project Coyote

“

*“Knowledge conquers fear. Learning to haze empowers people and saves coyote lives.”*

-John Maguranis, Belmont, Massachusetts Animal Control Officer & Project Coyote MA Representative

“

*“Coyotes are keenly intelligent, adaptable and resourceful animals deserving of respect and appreciation.”*

-Camilla H. Fox, Executive Director, Project Coyote

For more information about coyotes and to help your community enact a coyote coexistence plan:

Visit us  
[ProjectCoyote.org](http://ProjectCoyote.org)

Contact us  
P.O. Box 5007  
Larkspur, CA 94977  
[info@ProjectCoyote.org](mailto:info@ProjectCoyote.org)

Join us  
[facebook.com/projectcoyote](https://facebook.com/projectcoyote)  
[youtube.com/projectcoyote](https://youtube.com/projectcoyote)

*photography donated by Pirjo Pellon*

# COYOTE HAZING FIELD GUIDE



## Coyote Encounters

Coyotes are usually wary of people and will avoid humans whenever possible. Bold behavior is unusual and is most often a result of habituation due to intentional or unintentional feeding, the presence of a dog, or the coyote defending a den and young. If you encounter a coyote, remember the following:

• Never feed or try to “tame” a coyote; appreciate coyotes from a distance.

• Walk dogs on leashes; pick up small dogs if a coyote is near.

• If approached, be BIG and LOUD. You can also scare the animal by blowing a whistle, shaking a metal can with coins inside, popping open an umbrella, or throwing objects (toward but not at the coyote). Do not run from a coyote; calmly leave the area.

## Coexistence is an active neighborhood effort.

You frequently see a coyote near your home, one or more neighbors may be unknowingly providing food or shelter. Help your neighborhood by sharing this information and by downloading the Coyote News fact sheet available free from [www.ProjectCoyote.org/resources](http://www.ProjectCoyote.org/resources)

## Coyote Conflicts

Coexistence traits that have allowed coyotes to thrive, and coexist with people even in the most populated regions of North America have also led to conflicts with us and our domestic animals. Coyotes fear people. However, those who feed coyotes or who have coyotes near their property may become habituated to human presence. The abundance of food, water, and shelter offered by urban landscapes—coupled with unsecured garbage, unfenced gardens, and unattended domestic animals—can lead to conflicts. Documented cases of coyotes injuring humans are very rare and most often related to intentional or unintentional feeding. Coyotes become more active, vocal, and territorial during mating and pupping seasons (see reverse). Pay particular attention to your children and pets' safety during these times and do not let them roam.

## Coyote Management

Historically, our society has attempted to solve human-coyote conflicts through killing. However, despite decades of poisoning, trapping, and shooting coyotes, there are more coyotes in North America today. Why?

The coyote's remarkable success appears to be closely related to human attempts to control their populations. As with many wild species, coyote populations are naturally regulated by available food and habitat. Lethal control, however, can disrupt the group hierarchy, allowing more coyotes to reproduce, encouraging larger litter sizes because of decreased competition for food and habitat, and increasing pup survival rates. It is also highly likely that lethal control favors the survival of the most resilient and genetically robust coyotes.

At least half a million coyotes are killed each year—one per minute—by federal, state and local governments and by private individuals in North America. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Wildlife Services program kills approximately 90,000 coyotes each year. Most of this killing is carried out in the name of “livestock protection” and is a taxpayer subsidy for agribusiness/ranchers.

 **Approximately one coyote is killed every minute of every day.**

Despite scientific evidence suggesting this approach is misguided and ultimately ineffective, the emphasis on lethal coyote control persists. Coyotes are also killed for their fur, for “sport,” and in “body-count” contests where prizes are awarded for killing the most coyotes. Most states set no limit on the number of coyotes that may be killed, nor do they regulate the killing methods.



Photo: John Harrison/ProjectCoyote.org

Killing to reduce coyote populations or relocating individual coyotes is not recommended. Disruption of family groups can cause more coyotes to be born or increase pup survival rates; orphaned juveniles may act unpredictably and other coyotes will simply move into vacant areas.

## Educated Coexistence

Urban landscapes offer an abundance of food, water, and shelter for coyotes. Take the following steps to prevent coyotes from being attracted to your home.

- Wildlife-proof garbage in sturdy containers with tight fitting lids.
- Don't leave pet food outside.
- Take out trash the morning pick up is scheduled.
- Keep compost in secure containers.
- Keep fallen fruit off the ground. Coyotes eat fruit.
- Keep birdseed off the ground; seeds attract rodents which then attract coyotes. Remove feeders if coyotes are seen in your yard.



Photo: John Harrison/ProjectCoyote.org



Photo: Michael Francis

- Keep barbecue grills clean.
- Eliminate accessible water sources.
- Clear away brush and dense weeds near buildings.

- Close off crawl spaces under decks and around buildings where coyotes may den.
- If you frequently see a coyote in your yard, make loud noises with pots, pans, or air horns, and haze the coyote with a water hose.
- Share this list with your neighbors; coexistence is a neighborhood effort.

 **Help keep coyotes wild.**

Look around - what unnatural food sources may you be offering wildlife?  
*A fed coyote is a dead coyote.*



Photo: John Harrison/ProjectCoyote.org



Coexisting with  
**COYOTES**



**history:** Coyotes may live as solitary individuals, in pairs, or in small family groups, both in rural and urban areas. Coyotes are generally social animals, with pair bonds frequently lasting many years, and some for life. Both male and female coyotes actively maintain territories that may vary in size from 2 to 30 square miles. Reproduction is generally once per year and limited to a few group's leaders, while other females remain reproductively sterile. Breeding season peaks in mid-summer, followed by 4-8 pups born in a den in April or May. Pup mortality is high, with an average of 50% dying within their first year. Some juveniles disperse in late fall to seek new territory, and some solitary individuals remain with their parents and form the core of the pack.

**If coyotes are left to self-regulate, they generally have one litter of pups per year and 50% of pups survive.**

### Coyote Life Cycle

Jan-Feb	Breeding Activity
March-April	Den Site Selection
May	Birthing
June-July	Raising Pups
Aug-Sept-Oct	Expanding home range
Nov-Dec	Dispersal of pups

Photo: Jim Robertson

**Food:** Coyotes eat a wide variety of food, and like most animals, prefer food that is easiest to obtain. They are true omnivores, and will eat a wide variety of foods, including rodents, rabbits, insects, lizards, snakes, vegetables, and fruits. They will also take advantage of unsecured garbage and pet food left outdoors. As scavengers, they provide an ecological service by helping to keep our communities clean of carrion. In suburbia, coyotes have been known to take smaller pets if left unprotected. Animal guardians are advised to keep cats indoors, and dogs under control during the day and indoors at night.

Photo: John Harrison/ProjectCoyote.org



**Habits:** In rural habitats, coyotes hunt by day and night. In urban areas, coyotes appear to be more nocturnal but can often be seen during daylight hours, especially at dawn and dusk. They communicate by vocalizing, scent marking and through a variety of body displays. It is common to hear them howling and yipping at night, or even during the day in response to sirens and other loud noises. Indeed, the coyote's scientific name is *Canis latrans* which means "barking dog." With approximately a dozen different vocalizations, it is common to mistake a few coyotes communicating with each other for a large group. Coyotes are fast and agile; they can run at speeds of 25-40 mph (65 km/h) and jump 6 feet. Coyotes are also highly intelligent and social animals; they learn quickly and are devoted parents.

**Rabies is rare and coyotes are not commonly implicated in the transmission of the disease to humans or domestic animals.**

## Keeping Domestic Animals Safe

Although free roaming pets are more likely to be killed by automobiles than by wild animals, coyotes may view cats and small dogs as potential prey and larger dogs as competition. Other domestic animals including sheep, chickens and rabbits may also be seen as food and must be protected. Consider the following:

- Don't let domestic animals roam; keep them securely enclosed and protected at night.
- Fence your property. The fence must be at least 6 feet tall with the bottom extending at least 6 inches below the ground. Fences are more effective by using wire mesh, outwardly inverting the top of the fence, by using electric fencing along the top and bottom (more strands for protecting livestock), or by installing the CoyoteRoller™ which makes it difficult for predators to gain the "foothold" they need to pull up and over the top of an enclosure (see: [www.coyoteroller.com](http://www.coyoteroller.com)).
- Llamas, donkeys, and livestock guard dogs are effective in reducing coyote-livestock conflicts.
- Don't leave animal foods outside; keep all food well secured.
- Install motion-sensor lights near buildings.
- Walk dogs on leashes, particularly during coyote mating and pupping seasons (see chart).
- Spay or neuter your dogs. Though uncommon, coyotes are attracted to, and can mate with, dogs.

**Livestock guard animals can effectively reduce or eliminate coyote conflicts on farms and ranches.**



Photos: Brooke Oland, Camilla Fox, "White Llama" by Tambako, creative common license 2.0

## About Project Coyote

Project Coyote is a North American coalition of wildlife scientists and educators promoting active coexistence between people and wildlife, and compassionate conservation through education, science, and advocacy. We champion progressive management policies that reduce human-coyote conflict, support and contribute to innovative scientific research, and help foster respect for and understanding of North America's native "Song Dog".

Coyotes are a healthy component of our rural and urban communities. By helping to shift attitudes toward coyotes and other native carnivores, we help replace fear and ignorance with empowerment and appreciation. Project Coyote offers a variety of educational outreach programs; contact us at [info@projectcoyote.org](mailto:info@projectcoyote.org) or visit our website at [ProjectCoyote.org](http://ProjectCoyote.org). **Please join our growing community of educated citizens by becoming a member. All donations are tax-deductible** (see reverse form).

[Project Coyote is a sponsored project of Earth Island Institute, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that supports solutions to protect our shared planet. Project Coyote will not share your personal information with any outside organization.]

