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# CITY OF LONG BEACH

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

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GERALD R. MILLER  
CITY MANAGER

November 9, 2004

HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL  
City of Long Beach  
California

**SUBJECT:** Authorize the City Manager to Negotiate a Joint Powers Agreement With Various Public Agencies for the Los Cerritos Wetlands Restoration Project (District 3)

## DISCUSSION

The Strategic Plan 2010 recognizes the importance of wetlands restoration in City efforts to provide open space for residents and visitors of Long Beach. More specifically, the Open Space and Recreation Element of the General Plan recommends that the Los Cerritos Wetlands (Wetlands) be acquired and restored to add to the City's inventory of open space. The Wetlands are a rich ecosystem that encompasses approximately 700 acres on both sides of the border of Los Angeles and Orange Counties.

Due to the complex and challenging issues associated with site acquisition, remediation and restoration of the Wetlands, several local and state agencies are considering negotiation of a joint powers agreement to address these issues and establish a Joint Powers Authority (JPA). The JPA would serve to acquire, plan and restore the Wetlands, apply for and receive grant funding, and fund and supply staff support. The JPA may also provide the means through which an existing \$7 million State grant could be preserved. The costs of property acquisition, remediation and restoration will far exceed \$7 million; however, if not appropriated for acquisition by June of 2005, the grant funds may be withdrawn. The City of Seal Beach, as well as the Lower Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers and Mountains Conservancy and California State Coastal Conservancy, are currently in the process of requesting approval from their respective governing bodies to negotiate a joint powers agreement. Additional agencies may be solicited for future inclusion.

This letter was reviewed by Principal Deputy City Attorney Dominic T. Holzhaus on November 5, 2004, and Budget Management Officer David Wodynski on November 5, 2004.

TIMING CONSIDERATIONS

City Council action is requested on November 9, 2004, in order to promptly commence negotiation of the joint powers agreement.

FISCAL IMPACT

Negotiation of the agreement has no fiscal impact. If negotiations are successful, the proposed agreement and its related fiscal impact would be brought before City Council for review and approval. These fiscal impacts could include non-grant offset pro-rata operating costs of the JPA and potential liability for cleanup of property acquired by the JPA.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE CITY COUNCIL:

Authorize the City Manager to negotiate a joint powers agreement with various public agencies for the Los Cerritos Wetlands restoration project.

Respectfully submitted,



GERALD R. MILLER  
CITY MANAGER

GRM:CFS:MPC:MFT:mft