



# CITY OF LONG BEACH

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

# R-44

333 WEST OCEAN BOULEVARD • LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA 90802 • (562) 570-6711 • FAX (562) 570-6583

GERALD R. MILLER  
CITY MANAGER

December 13, 2005

HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL  
City of Long Beach  
California

## RECOMMENDATION:

Authorize the City Manager to Enter Into a Joint Powers Authority with the California State Coastal Conservancy, the Lower San Gabriel and Los Angeles River Mountains Conservancy, and the City of Seal Beach to further a comprehensive program of acquisition, protection, conservation, restoration, maintenance and operation, and environmental enhancement of the Los Cerritos Wetlands. (District 3)

## DISCUSSION

The Los Cerritos Wetlands (Wetlands), depicted on the attached map, is home to a rich ecosystem and serves as an important potential open space resource to our residents and visitors. The Wetlands collectively total approximately 453 acres, and are comprised of three different ownerships. The Bixby Ranch Company property, located in Long Beach, contains approximately 207 acres. The Bryant property, also located in Long Beach, contains approximately 72 acres. The Hellman Ranch property, located jointly in the City of Seal Beach and unincorporated Los Angeles and Orange Counties, contains approximately 174 acres. The Wetlands have been designated as a legislative and open space priority for the City of Long Beach. Accordingly, it is important to exercise every opportunity to expedite acquisition opportunities. Although negotiations to acquire the Bixby Ranch property have stalled, efforts to acquire the Bryant property and the Hellman property are proceeding with cautious optimism.

The partners in the acquisition efforts include the California State Coastal Conservancy, the Lower San Gabriel and Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy and the City of Seal Beach. Together, these partners have worked through The Trust for Public Lands to negotiate for the acquisition of the Wetlands properties. On August 20, 2002, City Council authorized the City Manager to enter into a Confidentiality Agreement regarding the potential acquisition of the Bixby Ranch Company property, and on March 25, 2003, City Council authorized the inclusion of the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy into the Confidentiality Agreement. These Council letters are attached (see Attachments 1 and 2).

To enable the partners to more effectively negotiate for acquisition of the Wetlands, create an entity to hold title, pursue protection, conservation, and restoration of the Wetlands, and provide for long-term maintenance and operation and environmental enhancement of the Wetlands, a joint exercise of powers authority (JPA) is proposed. The partners will become parties to the JPA, allowing the JPA to exercise their common powers for the above purposes and subject to the following:

HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

December 13, 2005

Page 2

- The JPA shall not have the power to acquire property by eminent domain
- The JPA shall be governed by a board (Governing Board), consisting of four voting members, with each party appointing one voting member
- All meetings of the Governing Board shall be held in accordance with the provisions of the Ralph M. Brown Act and, where applicable, Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised
- The Treasurer of Long Beach shall act as the Treasurer of the JPA
- The Auditor of Long Beach shall perform the function of auditor of the JPA
- Each party of the JPA shall make equal contributions to the JPA, as specified in the approved budget, a minimum of \$5,000 and a maximum of \$25,000 per annum in either funds or like kind services
- Additional public agencies may become a party to the JPA if authorized by its governing body
- The JPA shall continue from year to year until terminated by unanimous vote of the Governing Board

TIMING CONSIDERATIONS

City Council action on this item is requested on December 13, 2005 to coincide with similar actions from the governing bodies of the partners.

FISCAL IMPACT

The annual budgets for the JPA will be included in the City's budget for each fiscal year.

SUGGESTED ACTION:

Approve recommendation.

Respectfully submitted,



GERALD R. MILLER  
CITY MANAGER

GRM:CFS:MPC  
C:\My Documents\Wetlands\Council Letters\JPA.doc  
Attachments