

FINAL

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT  
RESPONSE TO COMMENTS**

**COLORADO LAGOON RESTORATION PROJECT  
CITY OF LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA**

**STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NO. 2007111034**

LSA

August 2008

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## RESPONSE TO COMMENTS

### INTRODUCTION

This document comprises the Comments and Response to Comments volume of the Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the proposed Colorado Lagoon (Lagoon) Restoration project. The purpose of this document is to respond to all comments received by the City of Long Beach (City) regarding the environmental information and analyses contained in the Draft EIR.

As required by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines, Section 15087, a Notice of Completion (NOC) of the Draft EIR for the Colorado Lagoon Restoration project was filed with the State Clearinghouse on May 27, 2008, and the Notice of Availability (NOA) of the Draft EIR was filed with the Los Angeles County Clerk on May 28, 2008. In addition, the NOA was posted at City Hall and was mailed to approximately 180 public agencies, private citizens, and groups that had requested to be notified of the availability of the Draft EIR. The NOA was also mailed to approximately 1,200 property owners and/or tenants within a 300-foot (ft) radius of the project site. The NOA was published in the Press Telegram on May 28, 2008, and in the Grunion Gazette on May 29, 2008.

The City held several public meetings related to the proposed project and environmental documentation. This includes the following meetings: public scoping meeting on November 14, 2007, the Colorado Lagoon Public Outreach Meeting on June 18, 2008, the Long Beach Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting on June 19, 2008, and the Long Beach Planning Meeting on June 19, 2008. Many of the written comments received on the Draft EIR and responded to in this document reflect the questions, comments, and discussions at these public meetings. The recommendations of the City Parks and Recreation Commission are included in letter L-1.

The Draft EIR was circulated for public review for a period of 45 days, from May 28, 2008, to July 11, 2008. Copies of the Draft EIR were distributed to all Responsible Agencies and to the State Clearinghouse in addition to various public agencies, citizen groups, and interested individuals. Copies of the Draft EIR were also made available for public review at two Long Beach Public Libraries (Long Beach Main Library and Bay Shore Neighborhood Library); at the Long Beach Department of Development Services; and online via the City's Web site.

Comments were accepted for a period of 45 days as required by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Forty-five comment letters were received during the public review period. Comments were received from federal, State, and local agencies, organizations, interested parties, and private citizens. Thorough responses have been provided for all comments that address environmental issues. In some cases, corrections to the Draft EIR are required, or additional information is provided for clarification purposes. Comments that (1) do not address the adequacy or completeness of the Draft EIR; (2) do not raise environmental issues; or (3) request the incorporation of additional information not relevant to environmental issues do not require a response, pursuant to Section 15088(a) of the State CEQA Guidelines.

Section 15088 of the State CEQA Guidelines, Evaluation of and Response to Comments, states:

- a) The lead agency shall evaluate comments on environmental issues received from persons who reviewed the draft EIR and shall prepare a written response. The lead agency shall respond to comments received during the noticed comment period and any extensions and may respond to late comments.
- b) The lead agency shall provide a written proposed response to a public agency on comments made by that public agency at least 10 days prior to certifying an environmental impact report.
- c) The written response shall describe the disposition of significant environmental issues raised (e.g., revisions to the proposed project to mitigate anticipated impacts or objections). In particular, major environmental issues raised when the lead agency's position is at variance with recommendations and objections raised in the comments must be addressed in detail, giving reasons why specific comments and suggestions were not accepted. There must be good faith, reasoned analysis in response. Conclusory statements unsupported by factual information will not suffice.
- d) The response to comments may take the form of a revision to the draft EIR or may be a separate section in the final EIR. Where the response to comments makes important changes in the information contained in the text of the draft EIR, the lead agency should either:
  1. Revise the text in the body of the EIR; or
  2. Include marginal notes showing that the information is revised in the responses to comments.

Information provided in this Response to Comments document clarifies, amplifies, or makes minor modifications to the Draft EIR. No significant changes have been made to the information contained in the Draft EIR as a result of the Responses to Comments, and no significant new information has been added. Therefore, this Response to Comments document is being prepared as a separate section of the EIR and is included as part of the Final EIR for consideration by the Planning Commission prior to a vote to certify the Final EIR.

## **INDEX OF COMMENTS RECEIVED**

The following is an index list of the agencies, groups, and persons who commented on the Draft EIR prior to the close of the public comment period or immediately thereafter. The comments received have been organized in a manner that facilitates finding a particular comment or set of comments. Each comment letter received is indexed with a number below.

| <b>Letter Number</b>            | <b>Name</b>  | <b>Date</b>     |
|---------------------------------|--|-----------------|
| <b>Federal Agency Comments</b>  |  |                 |
| F-1                             | U.S. Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration | July 10, 2008   |
| <b>State Agency Comments</b>    |  |                 |
| S-1                             | State of California, Governor's Office of Planning and Research              | July 14, 2008   |
| S-2                             | State of California, Governor's Office of Planning and Research              | July 17, 2008   |
| S-3                             | State of California, Department of Transportation, District 7                | July 2, 2008    |
| S-4                             | State of California Native American Heritage Commission                      | June 5, 2008    |
| S-5                             | State of California, Water Resources Control Board                           | July 10, 2008   |
| S-6                             | State of California, Water Resources Control Board                           | July 22, 2008   |
| <b>Regional Agency Comments</b> |  |                 |
| R-1                             | California Regional Water Quality Control Board                              | July 11, 2008   |
| R-2                             | County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County                            | June 2, 2008    |
| R-3                             | Long Beach Unified School District   | July 10, 2008   |
| R-4                             | Los Angeles County Fire Department   | June 30, 2008   |
| R-5                             | Rivers and Mountains Conservancy   | July 7, 2008    |
| R-6                             | Southern California Association of Governments                               | July 1, 2008    |
| <b>Local Agency Comments</b>    |  |                 |
| L-1                             | City of Long Beach Parks and Recreation Commission                           | July 10, 2008   |
| L-2                             | City of Long Beach Water Department  | June 12, 2008   |
| L-3                             | Port of Long Beach   | August 13, 2008 |
| <b>Organization Comments</b>    |  |                 |
| O-1                             | Friends of Colorado Lagoon   | July 7, 2008    |
| O-2                             | Heal the Bay   | July 11, 2008   |
| <b>Public Comments</b>          |  |                 |
| P-1                             | Ansel, Helene  | July 7, 2008    |
| P-2                             | Baird, Patricia  | July 12, 2008   |
| P-3                             | Baird, Patricia  | July 14, 2008   |
| P-4                             | Byers, Molly   | July 7, 2008    |
| P-5                             | Considine, Sue   | June 24, 2008   |
| P-6                             | Creech, Steve  | June 19, 2008   |
| P-7                             | Desatoff Family  | July 3, 2008    |
| P-8                             | Donaldson, Diane   | July 8, 2008    |
| P-9                             | Driskill, Diana  | July 9, 2008    |
| P-10                            | Goodhue, Laurence  | June 3, 2008    |
| P-11                            | Hamilton, Robert   | July 11, 2008   |
| P-12                            | Hernandez, Luz   | July 10, 2008   |
| P-13                            | Hommel, Steve  | July 14, 2008   |
| P-14                            | McNab, Madeline  | July 3, 2008    |
| P-15                            | Nzasorin   | July 6, 2008    |
| P-16                            | Parker, Taylor   | July 14, 2008   |
| P-17                            | Pirazzi, Dave  | July 14, 2008   |
| P-18                            | Pirazzi, Tina  | June 27, 2008   |
| P-19                            | Ryan, Mary   | July 7, 2008    |

| <b>Letter Number</b> | <b>Name</b>     | <b>Date</b>   |
|----------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| P-20                 | Sibio, Mariah   | June 20, 2008 |
| P-21                 | Stern, Steve    | July 1, 2008  |
| P-22                 | Thorn, Becky    | July 8, 2008  |
| P-23                 | Thorn, Nicole   | July 10, 2008 |
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| P-26                 | Wood, Barbara   | June 18, 2008 |
| P-27                 | Zahn, Eric      | June 20, 2008 |
| P-28                 | Zoref, Norman   | June 29, 2008 |

## **FORMAT OF RESPONSES TO COMMENTS**

Responses to Comments to each of the comment letters are provided on the following pages. The comment number (e.g., F-1) is provided in the upper-right corner of each comment letter, and individual comment points within each letter are identified by index numbers located along the right-hand margin of each letter. The City's responses immediately follow each letter, with each individual response referenced by the index number of each individual comment.



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

Southwest Region

501 West Ocean Boulevard, Suite 4200  
Long Beach, California 90802- 4213

JUL 10 2008

Craig Chalfant  
City of Long Beach  
Department of Development Services  
333 West Ocean Boulevard, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Long Beach, California 90802

Dear Mr. Chalfant:

NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has reviewed the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the City of Long Beach's (City) proposed Colorado Lagoon Restoration Project. NMFS offers the following comments pursuant to our essential fish habitat (EFH) responsibilities under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.

The purpose of the proposed project is to restore the site's ecosystem, improve estuarine habitat, provide enhanced recreation facilities, improve water and sediment quality, and manage storm water. The proposed project would be implemented in two phases. Phase 1 includes improvements to the Lagoon through cleaning of the culvert and removal of structural impedances at the culvert; dredging areas of the Lagoon; implementing storm drain upgrades; removal of the north parking lot, access road, and the restroom on the north shore of the Lagoon; recontouring side slopes; developing Bird Island; revegetating land areas; planting eelgrass in the Lagoon water body; and developing the walking trail and viewing platform at the Lagoon. Phase 2 of the proposed project includes improvements to Marina Vista Park, including: the longterm project component of building an open channel between the Lagoon and Marine Stadium; constructing two roadway bridges spanning the open channel at East Colorado Street and East Eliot Street; demolishing and replacing two public restrooms in Marina Vista Park; reconfiguring the baseball and youth overlay soccer fields; and developing a walking trail on the eastern side of the open channel and vegetation buffers on both sides of the channel.

Overall, NMFS believes the proposed project would increase the quantity and quality of EFH and habitat for other marine resources. Thus, we are supportive of the City of Long Beach's efforts to restore Colorado Lagoon. Our comments below are intended to strengthen the City's environmental documentation and lay the groundwork for the anticipated EFH consultation with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The DEIR indicates that subtidal habitat will be converted into intertidal habitat during Phase 1 as a result of cleaning the culvert and removing structural impedances to tidal flow. In addition, the creation of Bird Island during Phase 1 will convert subtidal habitat to intertidal and supratidal habitat. NMFS supports the creation of additional mudflat and

F-1-1



low salt marsh habitat as these habitats provide increased foraging opportunities for fish during the higher tides. Moreover, intertidal algae and cordgrass provide organic matter that ultimately supports the production of invertebrate and fish species. Lastly, the creation of intertidal mudflats and salt marsh will likely improve water quality in the Lagoon.



F-1-1

However, NMFS is concerned that there may be a net reduction in subtidal habitat. Presumably, the creation of an open water channel connecting Alamitos Bay and the Lagoon during Phase 2 would compensate for any subtidal habitat losses associated with Phase 1 activities. This is supported by statements in the DEIR suggesting that project improvements will result in an increase in area of open water available to managed fisheries species. However, the DEIR does not clearly describe the gains and losses of all the various habitat types associated with each phase. Thus, NMFS recommends that this clarification be made in the Final EIR by providing the estimated acreages of various habitat types pre- and post-project and for each phase. If a net reduction in subtidal habitat is expected to occur, then NMFS recommends that the City evaluate conversion of some portion of the upland habitat adjacent to the Lagoon to offset any losses to subtidal habitat.

F-1-2

NMFS supports the City's proposal to enhance eelgrass resources in Colorado Lagoon. Eelgrass is recognized as an important ecological community in shallow bays and estuaries because of its multiple biological and physical values. Eelgrass is a habitat area of particular concern (HAPC) for various federally managed fish species within the Pacific Groundfish Fishery Management Plan. HAPC are described in the regulations as subsets of EFH which are rare, particularly susceptible to human-induced degradation, especially ecologically important, or located in an environmentally stressed area. Therefore, the City's proposal to enhance eelgrass within the Lagoon would increase the quantity of this HAPC for managed species.

F-1-3

NMFS recognizes the importance of providing recreation and educational opportunities and supports the City's efforts to improve access to the Lagoon. However, increased public use may inadvertently result in adverse impacts to sensitive wetland resources. The Final EIR should evaluate a range of measures that may avoid and/or minimize such public use impacts to wetland habitats.

F-1-4

Thank you for consideration of our comments. If you have any questions, please contact Bryant Chesney at 562-980-4037 or [Bryant.Chesney@noaa.gov](mailto:Bryant.Chesney@noaa.gov).

Sincerely,

for

Robert S. Hoffman  
Assistant Regional Administrator  
for Habitat Conservation

## NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

### F-1-1

The comment is introductory and generally describes the comment. In addition, the comment states that the NOAA’s National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is supportive of the City’s efforts to restore the Colorado Lagoon. The comment does not contain any substantive statements or questions about the Draft EIR or the analysis therein. Therefore, no further response is necessary.

### F-1-2

The comment expresses concern about the potential for a net reduction in subtidal habitat as a result of the proposed project changes. NMFS recommends that estimated acreages of various habitat types pre- and post-project and for each phase are included in the Final EIR. If a net reduction in subtidal habitat is expected to occur, then NMFS recommends that the City evaluate conversion of some portion of the upland habitat adjacent to the Lagoon to offset any losses to subtidal habitat. It should be clarified that the creation of the bird island does not convert subtidal habitat to intertidal and supratidal, as stated in the NOAA letter; the bird island is created by excavating upland habitat. The Marine Resources Report for Colorado Lagoon, attached in Appendix E to the EIR, discusses the subtidal habitats preproject and postproject. Table A shows the acreages for each subtidal habitat type considered.

**Table A: Existing and Proposed Elevation Categories of Colorado Lagoon<sup>1</sup>**

| Tidal Depths   | Existing Area (acres) | Proposed Area (acres) | Percent Change |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| Deep Subtidal (more than 15 ft below MSL)                            | 0.638                 | 1.866                 | +192.4         |
| Moderate Subtidal (7 to 15 ft below MSL)                             | 6.733                 | 5.139                 | -23.7          |
| Shallow Subtidal (4 ft to 7 ft below MSL, principal eelgrass depths) | 1.246                 | 2.318                 | +86.0          |
| Low Intertidal (4 to 1.75 ft below MSL)                              | 1.695                 | 1.693                 | -0.1           |
| <b>Total Subtidal Habitat</b>  | <b>10.312</b>         | <b>11.016</b>         | <b>+6.8</b>    |

<sup>1</sup> The existing areas in this table were calculated using bathymetry data provided by the consulting engineer and may not reflect the existing “Open Water/Subtidal” acreage due to differences in rounding and tidal differences.

Final site plans for Marina Vista Park and the Open Channel Construction have not been finalized, but an estimated acreage for the Open Water Channel is 1.455 acres (ac). Therefore, Phase 2 construction (Marina Vista Park-Open Channel) will result in a positive net gain of 1.455 ac of Open Water/Subtidal habitat or a positive percent change of 20.9 percent for total subtidal habitat. The project will not result in a reduction of subtidal habitat.

### **F-1-3**

The comment supports the City's proposal to enhance eelgrass resources in Colorado Lagoon. The comment does not contain any substantive statements or questions about the Draft EIR, and no further response is necessary.

### **F-1-4**

The comment states concern regarding increased public use that may inadvertently result in adverse impacts to sensitive wetland resources. NMFS suggests that the Final EIR evaluate a range of measures that may avoid and/or minimize such public use impacts to wetland habitats. The objectives of the proposed project include enhancing public recreation and enjoyment of the Lagoon in addition to restoring native habitats and improving water quality. However, to reduce impacts to sensitive wetland resources the proposed project will limit human interference in the Lagoon's western arm. The proposed walking trail would end at the proposed viewing platform on the south shore and the trail loop on the north shore, and the swimming area will be limited to the southern central portion of the Lagoon, which will be a sandy beach area. Signage would be installed to prevent people from entering the western portion of the Lagoon area, which is proposed to be restored with sensitive wetland habitat such as mudflats and cordgrass habitat. Since the project components incorporate protection from undue human impacts to the natural resources, additional mitigation measures are not warranted; however, the City is committed to monitoring and maintaining the habitat restoration areas.



STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE of PLANNING AND RESEARCH  
STATE CLEARINGHOUSE AND PLANNING UNIT



ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER  
GOVERNOR

CYNTHIA BRYANT  
DIRECTOR

July 14, 2008

Craig Chalfant  
City of Long Beach  
333 W. Ocean Boulevard, 5th Floor  
Long Beach, CA 90802

Subject: Colorado Lagoon Restoration Project  
SCH#: 2007111034

Dear Craig Chalfant:

The State Clearinghouse submitted the above named Draft EIR to selected state agencies for review. On the enclosed Document Details Report please note that the Clearinghouse has listed the state agencies that reviewed your document. The review period closed on July 10, 2008, and the comments from the responding agency (ies) is (are) enclosed. If this comment package is not in order, please notify the State Clearinghouse immediately. Please refer to the project's ten-digit State Clearinghouse number in future correspondence so that we may respond promptly.

Please note that Section 21104(c) of the California Public Resources Code states that:

"A responsible or other public agency shall only make substantive comments regarding those activities involved in a project which are within an area of expertise of the agency or which are required to be carried out or approved by the agency. Those comments shall be supported by specific documentation."

S-1-1

These comments are forwarded for use in preparing your final environmental document. Should you need more information or clarification of the enclosed comments, we recommend that you contact the commenting agency directly.

This letter acknowledges that you have complied with the State Clearinghouse review requirements for draft environmental documents, pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act. Please contact the State Clearinghouse at (916) 445-0613 if you have any questions regarding the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

Terry Roberts  
Director, State Clearinghouse

Enclosures  
cc: Resources Agency

**Document Details Report  
State Clearinghouse Data Base**

S-1

**SCH#** 2007111034  
**Project Title** Colorado Lagoon Restoration Project  
**Lead Agency** Long Beach, City of

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**Type** EIR Draft EIR  
**Description** The proposed project would improve the Colorado Lagoon water body and adjacent habitat and recreation areas. The proposed project would implement: (1) water quality and sediment quality improvements, (2) habitat improvements, and (3) recreation improvements. Specific proposed improvements include an open channel through Marina Vista Park connecting the Lagoon to Marine Stadium, dredging the Lagoon, native landscaping, and removal of the north parking lot. The project requires a Local Coastal Program Amendment, Zoning Code Amendment, California Coastal Development Permit, Site Plan Review, and Environmental Impact Report (EIR) Certification.

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**Lead Agency Contact**

**Name** Craig Chalfant  
**Agency** City of Long Beach  
**Phone** (562) 570-6368 **Fax**  
**email**  
**Address** 333 W. Ocean Boulevard, 5th Floor  
**City** Long Beach **State** CA **Zip** 90802

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**Project Location**

**County** Los Angeles  
**City** Long Beach  
**Region**  
**Lat / Long** 33° 10" N / 118° 13' 34" W  
**Cross Streets** East 6th Street and Park Avenue  
**Parcel No.**  
**Township** 5S **Range** 12W **Section** 4 **Base**

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**Proximity to:**

**Highways** SR-1  
**Airports**  
**Railways**  
**Waterways** Colorado Lagoon, Marine Stadium, and Alamitos Bay  
**Schools** Lowell, Fremont, Bryant, Mann ES; Jefferson, Rogers MS; Wilson H  
**Land Use** The Colorado Lagoon is zoned Park (P) and is designated as a Special Use Park in the City of Long Beach Zoning Code. Marina Vista Park is in the Planned Development 1 (PD-1) zoning district. PD-1 is also known as the Southeast Area Development and Improvement Plan (SEADIP) area. Within SEADIP, Marina Vista Park is located within Subarea 32, which is designated for public park uses. The City of Long Beach General Plan land use designation for the project site is "Open Space and Parks" Land Use District (LUD) No. 11.

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**Project Issues** Aesthetic/Visual; Air Quality; Archaeologic-Historic; Biological Resources; Coastal Zone; Cumulative Effects; Drainage/Absorption; Flood Plain/Flooding; Geologic/Seismic; Growth Inducing; Landuse; Noise; Public Services; Recreation/Parks; Schools/Universities; Sewer Capacity; Soil Erosion/Compaction/Grading; Solid Waste; Toxic/Hazardous; Traffic/Circulation; Vegetation; Water Quality; Water Supply; Wetland/Riparian; Wildlife

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**Reviewing Agencies** Resources Agency; Regional Water Quality Control Board, Region 4; Department of Parks and Recreation; Native American Heritage Commission; Integrated Waste Management Board; Department of Health Services; Department of Fish and Game, Region 5; Department of Water Resources; California Coastal Commission; California Highway Patrol; Caltrans, District 7; State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Water Rights; State Water Resources Control Board, Clean Water Program

Note: Blanks in data fields result from insufficient information provided by lead agency.

**Document Details Report  
State Clearinghouse Data Base**

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**Date Received** 05/27/2008      **Start of Review** 05/27/2008      **End of Review** 07/10/2008

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## **CALIFORNIA GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF PLANNING AND RESEARCH, STATE CLEARINGHOUSE AND PLANNING UNIT – FIRST LETTER**

### **S-1-1**

The comment provides information regarding processing of the document by the State of California, Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR), State Clearinghouse, and acknowledges that the City has complied with State Clearinghouse review requirements for draft environmental documents pursuant to CEQA.

The comment does not contain any substantive statements or questions about the Draft EIR or the analysis therein. Therefore, no further response is necessary.

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CYNTHIA BRYANT  
DIRECTOR



ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE *of* PLANNING AND RESEARCH  
STATE CLEARINGHOUSE AND PLANNING UNIT

July 17, 2008

Craig Chalfant  
City of Long Beach  
333 W. Ocean Boulevard, 5th Floor  
Long Beach, CA 90802

Subject: Colorado Lagoon Restoration Project  
SCH#: 2007111034

Dear Craig Chalfant:

The enclosed comment (s) on your Draft EIR was (were) received by the State Clearinghouse after the end of the state review period, which closed on July 10, 2008. We are forwarding these comments to you because they provide information or raise issues that should be addressed in your final environmental document.

The California Environmental Quality Act does not require Lead Agencies to respond to late comments. However, we encourage you to incorporate these additional comments into your final environmental document and to consider them prior to taking final action on the proposed project.

Please contact the State Clearinghouse at (916) 445-0613 if you have any questions concerning the environmental review process. If you have a question regarding the above-named project, please refer to the ten-digit State Clearinghouse number (2007111034) when contacting this office.

Sincerely,

Terry Roberts  
Senior Planner, State Clearinghouse

Enclosures

cc: Resources Agency

S-2-1

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## **CALIFORNIA GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF PLANNING AND RESEARCH, STATE CLEARINGHOUSE AND PLANNING UNIT – SECOND LETTER**

### **S-2-1**

The comment provides additional comment letters that were received by the State Clearinghouse after the end of the State review period. As described in the comment, CEQA does not require Lead Agencies, such as the City of Long Beach, to respond to late comments. However, the City has responded to all comments received at the time the Responses to Comments were prepared, including those that were received after the close of the public review period. The comment letters attached to this letter are from the State Water Resources Control Board and the California Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), Los Angeles Region. Responses to Comments to these letters are included in this Final EIR.

The comment in the cover letter from OPR does not contain any substantive statements or questions about the Draft EIR or the analysis therein. Therefore, no further response is necessary.

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**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**  
DISTRICT 7, OFFICE OF REGIONAL PLANNING  
AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION  
IGR/CEQA BRANCH  
100 SOUTH MAIN STREET  
LOS ANGELES, CA 90012  
PHONE (213) 897- 6696  
FAX (213) 897-1337



*Flex your power!  
Be energy efficient!*

July 2, 2008

Mr. Craig Chalfant  
Department of Development Service  
333 W. Ocean Boulevard 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Long Beach, CA 90802

Re: Colorado Lagoon Restoration Project  
IGR/CEQA No. 080604/EA  
Vic. LA-710-PM 6.384

Dear Mr. Chalfant:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation in the review process for the proposed Colorado Lagoon water body, adjacent habitat and recreation area improvement project. The proposed project would implement water quality and sediment quality improvements, habitat improvements, and recreation improvements. Specific proposed improvements include an open channel through Marina Vista Park connecting the Lagoon to Marine Stadium, dredging the Lagoon, native landscaping, and removal of the north parking lot.

S-3-1

This proposed project is located some distance from Interstate 710 (I-710) right-of-way. We do not expect project approval to result in a direct, adverse impact to existing State transportation facilities. However, our concern with "cumulative" traffic impacts resulting from continued development in this area remains.

S-3-2

We would like to remind you that any transportation of heavy construction equipment and/or materials which requires the use of oversized-transport vehicles on State highways will require a Caltrans transportation permit. We recommend that large size truck trips be limited to off-peak commute periods.

S-3-3

If you have any questions regarding our comments, please call project coordinator Zeron Jefferson at (213) 897 – 1333 or Elmer Alvarez at (213) 897-6696 and please refer to our record number 080604/EA.

Sincerely,

Elmer Alvarez  
IGR/CEQA Senior Transportation Planner  
Caltrans, District 7

cc: Scott Morgan, State Clearinghouse

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## STATE OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### S-3-1

The comment is introductory and generally describes the proposed project. The comment does not contain any substantive statements or questions about the Draft EIR or the analysis therein. Therefore, no further response is necessary.

### S-3-2

The comment states that because the proposed project is located some distance from Interstate 710 (I-710), direct adverse impacts are not anticipated. However, the comment states concern about cumulative traffic impacts from continued development in the project area.

As described in Section 4.12.5 of the Draft EIR, the proposed project would retain the existing recreation and open space uses of the project site, and no intensification of uses would occur. Any change in park attendance and patterns of use are expected to be negligible as a result of project implementation. Therefore, traffic levels resulting from operation of the proposed project are not anticipated to change as a result of the proposed project, and little to no contribution to cumulative operational traffic impacts would occur. This includes impacts related to existing State transportation facilities.

Also as described in Section 4.12.4 of the Draft EIR, the proposed project includes transporting both construction and disposal material, which includes use of the following State transportation facilities: Interstate 605 (I-605), Interstate 5 (I-5), Interstate 405 (I-405), and I-710. As shown in Table 4.12.C, construction activities related to the proposed project are anticipated to total 32 p.m. peak-hour short-term trips, which would represent a negligible increase in traffic levels on the relevant interstate freeways. In addition, most truck trips would occur during the day, when traffic levels are lower than during peak commute times. Therefore, construction of the proposed project would not cause an increase in traffic that is substantial in relation to the existing traffic load of the State transportation facilities. In addition, construction traffic effects are temporary, and the number of construction workers and truck trips would vary depending on specific construction activities. Further, to ensure that cumulative construction-related traffic impacts are less than significant, the Draft EIR (Mitigation Measure TR-1) requires implementation of a construction traffic management plan to minimize construction effects on traffic.

### S-3-3

The comment states that construction activities that require the use of oversized-transport vehicles on State highways require a Caltrans transportation permit and that it is recommended to limit large-size truck trips to off-peak commute periods. The City of Long Beach will adhere to all regulations regarding use of State highways, including securing all permits, if necessary, for transportation of material and equipment. It is not anticipated that the use of oversize transport vehicles will be required for the Lagoon project. Also, as described in Response to Comment S-1-2, most truck trips would occur during the day during off-peak commute periods. The comment

does not contain any substantive statements or questions about the Draft EIR or the analysis therein. Therefore, no further response is necessary.

**NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION**

915 CAPITOL MALL, ROOM 364  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814  
(916) 653-6251  
Fax (916) 657-5390  
Web Site [www.nahc.ca.gov](http://www.nahc.ca.gov)  
e-mail: [ds\\_nahc@pacbell.net](mailto:ds_nahc@pacbell.net)



June 5, 2008

Mr. Craig Chalfant, Director, Department of Development Services  
**CITY OF LONG BEACH**  
333 W. Ocean Boulevard, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Long Beach, CA 90802

Re: SCH#2007111034; CEQA Notice of Completion; draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the Colorado Lagoon Restoration Project, City of Long Beach, Los Angeles County, California

Dear Mr. Chalfant:

The Native American Heritage Commission is the state agency designated to protect California's Native American Cultural Resources. The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requires that any project that causes a substantial adverse change in the significance of an historical resource, that includes archaeological resources, is a 'significant effect' requiring the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) per the California Code of Regulations §15064.5(b)(c) (CEQA guidelines). Section 15382 of the 2007 CEQA Guidelines defines a significant impact on the environment as "a substantial, or potentially substantial, adverse change in any of physical conditions within an area affected by the proposed project, including ... objects of historic or aesthetic significance." In order to comply with this provision, the lead agency is required to assess whether the project will have an adverse impact on these resources within the 'area of potential effect (APE)', and if so, to mitigate that effect. To adequately assess the project-related impacts on historical resources, the Commission recommends the following action:

S-4-1

√ Contact the appropriate California Historic Resources Information Center (CHRIS) for possible 'recorded sites' in locations where the development will or might occur. Contact information for the Information Center nearest you is available from the State Office of Historic Preservation (916/653-7278)/ <http://www.ohp.parks.ca.gov>. The record search will determine:

S-4-2

- If a part or the entire APE has been previously surveyed for cultural resources.
  - If any known cultural resources have already been recorded in or adjacent to the APE.
  - If the probability is low, moderate, or high that cultural resources are located in the APE.
  - If a survey is required to determine whether previously unrecorded cultural resources are present.
- √ If an archaeological inventory survey is required, the final stage is the preparation of a professional report detailing the findings and recommendations of the records search and field survey.

S-4-3

- The final report containing site forms, site significance, and mitigation measures should be submitted immediately to the planning department. All information regarding site locations, Native American human remains, and associated funerary objects should be in a separate confidential addendum, and not be made available for public disclosure.
- The final written report should be submitted within 3 months after work has been completed to the appropriate regional archaeological Information Center.

√ Contact the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) for:

- \* A Sacred Lands File (SLF) search of the project area and information on tribal contacts in the project vicinity that may have additional cultural resource information. Please provide this office with the following citation format to assist with the Sacred Lands File search request: USGS 7.5-minute quadrangle citation with name, township, range and section.
- The NAHC advises the use of Native American Monitors whenever there is justification for utilizing the services of an archaeologist in order to ensure proper identification and care given cultural resources that may be discovered. The NAHC recommends that contact be made with Native American Contacts on the attached list to get their input on potential project impact (APE). In some cases, the existence of a Native American cultural resources may be known only to a local tribe(s).

S-4-4

- √ Lack of surface evidence of archeological resources does not preclude their subsurface existence.
- Lead agencies should include in their mitigation plan provisions for the identification and evaluation of accidentally discovered archeological resources, per California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) §15064.5 (f). In areas of identified archaeological sensitivity, a certified archaeologist and a culturally affiliated Native American, with knowledge in cultural resources, should monitor all ground-disturbing activities.
- A culturally-affiliated Native American tribe may be the only source of information about a Sacred Site/Native American cultural resource.
- Lead agencies should include in their mitigation plan provisions for the disposition of recovered artifacts, in consultation with culturally affiliated Native Americans.

S-4-5

√ Lead agencies should include provisions for discovery of Native American human remains or unmarked cemeteries in their mitigation plans.

\* CEQA Guidelines, Section 15064.5(d) requires the lead agency to work with the Native Americans identified by this Commission if the initial Study identifies the presence or likely presence of Native American human remains within the APE. CEQA Guidelines provide for agreements with Native American, identified by the NAHC, to assure the appropriate and dignified treatment of Native American human remains and any associated grave liens.

S-4-6

√ Health and Safety Code §7050.5, Public Resources Code §5097.98 and Sec. §15064.5 (d) of the California Code of Regulations (CEQA Guidelines) mandate procedures to be followed, including that construction or excavation be stopped in the event of an accidental discovery of any human remains in a location other than a dedicated cemetery until the county coroner or medical examiner can determine whether the remains are those of a Native American. . Note that §7052 of the Health & Safety Code states that disturbance of Native American cemeteries is a felony.

S-4-7

√ Lead agencies should consider avoidance, as defined in §15370 of the California Code of Regulations (CEQA Guidelines), when significant cultural resources are discovered during the course of project planning and implementation

S-4-8

Please feel free to contact me at (916) 653-6251 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Dave Singleton  
Program Analyst

Attachment: List of Native American Contacts

Cc: State Clearinghouse

**Native American Contacts**  
Los Angeles County  
June 5, 2008

LA City/County Native American Indian Comm  
Ron Andrade, Director  
3175 West 6th Street, Rm. 403  
Los Angeles , CA 90020  
(213) 351-5324  
(213) 386-3995 FAX

Gabrielino Tongva Indians of California Tribal Council  
Robert Dorame, Tribal Chair/Cultural Resources  
5450 Slauson, Ave, Suite 151 PMB Gabrielino Tongva  
Culver City , CA 90230  
gtongva@verizon.net  
562-761-6417 - voice  
562-925-7989 - fax

Ti'At Society  
Cindi Alvitre  
6515 E. Seaside Walk, #C Gabrielino  
Long Beach , CA 90803  
calvitre@yahoo.com  
(714) 504-2468 Cell

Gabrieleno/Tongva San Gabriel Band of Mission  
Anthony Morales, Chairperson  
PO Box 693 Gabrielino Tongva  
San Gabriel , CA 91778  
ChiefRBwife@aol.com  
(626) 286-1632  
(626) 286-1758 - Home  
(626) 286-1262 Fax

Gabrielino/Tongva Council / Gabrielino Tongva Nation  
Sam Dunlap, Tribal Secretary  
761 Terminal Street; Bldg 1, 2nd floor Gabrielino Tongva  
Los Angeles , CA 90021  
office @tongvatribes.net  
(213) 489-5001 - Office  
(909) 262-9351 - cell  
(213) 489-5002 Fax

**This list is current only as of the date of this document.**

**Distribution of this list does not relieve any person of statutory responsibility as defined in Section 7050.5 of the Health and Safety Code, Section 5097.94 of the Public Resources Code and Section 5097.98 of the Public Resources Code.**

**This list is only applicable for contacting local Native Americans with regard to cultural resources for the propose SCH#2007111034; CEQA Notice of Completion; draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the Colorado Lagoon Restoration Project; City of Long Beach; Los Angeles County, California.**

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## STATE OF CALIFORNIA NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION

### S-4-1

The comment notes that the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) is the State agency designated to protect Native American cultural resources. The comment further describes the requirements of CEQA Guidelines, Section 15064.5. The Draft EIR is consistent with this section as well as all other relevant CEQA requirements. As described throughout Section 4.4 (and specifically on page 4.4-9) of the Draft EIR for the Colorado Lagoon Restoration Project, potential significant adverse impacts on cultural resources are not anticipated. This conclusion is based on a record search, field survey, paleontological locality search, and Native American Consultation, as described in Section 4.4.2 of the Draft EIR. However, precautionary mitigation measures have been included as a result of Native American consultation and in the event that unanticipated archaeological resources or human remains are discovered. These precautionary mitigation measures are intended to ensure that no archaeological sites, sacred (Native American) lands, or cultural resources would be adversely impacted by the proposed project.

### S-4-2

The comment provides direction in conducting a record search related to potential cultural resources on the project site. As described in Sections 4.4.2 and 4.4.4 of the Draft EIR, a record search was conducted at the South Central Coastal Information Center (SCCIC) of the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS). It included a review of all recorded cultural resources located within a 0.25-mile (mi) radius of the project area, as well as a review of known cultural resource survey and excavation reports. In addition, the Points of Historical Interest (PHI), the California Historic Landmarks (CHL), the California Register of Historic Resources (California Register), the National Register of Historic Places (National Register), and the California State Historic Resources Inventory (HRI) listings were reviewed. Additionally, several historic aerials and historic maps of the project area were reviewed.

The records search identified six archaeological sites within a 0.25 mi radius of the project area, but none within the project site. The project site was developed as a water body through dredging, and later the Marina Vista Park land area was developed through fill. Because of this, the soils within the project area have been highly disturbed and some are nonnative, such as the "fill soils" that compose Marina Vista Park. In addition, much of the proposed dredge material within the Lagoon consists of sediment that has been deposited via the storm drains and nonnative replenishment beach sand that has eroded into the Lagoon. The archaeological survey results, which are consistent with the history of the site, indicate that soil in the project area is loamy sand and that marine shell was observed over the majority of the project area. These are conditions consistent with an area of dredge and fill.

Implementation of the project includes areas within the previous dredging and/or fill areas and depths. Therefore, adverse impacts to cultural resources are not anticipated. However, precautionary mitigation measures have been included, as listed on page 4.4-9 of the Draft EIR, to ensure that adverse impacts to unanticipated cultural resources do not occur.

### **S-4-3**

The comment details the requirements of an archaeological inventory survey, subsequent report of findings, and submission of the report to the appropriate archaeological information center. On November 8, 2007, and February 12, 2008, an archaeological survey was conducted by an LSA archaeologist. The survey entailed walking parallel transects spaced by 10 meters across the project area until it had been surveyed in its entirety. Exposed soil profiles and rodent backdirt were examined for evidence of cultural remains. No cultural resources were identified during the survey. Observed soil and marine shell remains appeared to be the result of extensive dredging and filling, which is consistent with historical aerials for the project area. The findings of the survey were detailed in a letter report dated February 21, 2008. The letter report has been submitted to the SCCIC. Although the field survey results were negative for cultural resources, precautionary mitigation measures have been included, as listed on page 4.4-9 of the Draft EIR, to ensure that adverse impacts to unanticipated cultural resources do not occur.

### **S-4-4**

The comment describes the need to contact the NAHC for a Sacred Lands File (SLF) search and use of Native American monitors. As described in Section 4.4.2, the City initiated consultation with the NAHC by letter in November 2007. The letter requested a SLF search to determine whether cultural or traditional resources significant to a California Native American tribe are present in the project area. In a letter response dated November 15, 2007, the NAHC stated that the results of the SLF search were negative; however, the NAHC also recommended that seven groups be contacted that may have knowledge of cultural resources that could be affected by the project. The City then contacted each group by letter dated December 10, 2007, and follow-up phone calls were made to the seven groups to ensure that their input in the project would be included. This contact did not identify any cultural or archaeological resources. However, precautionary mitigation measures have been included, as listed on page 4.4-9 of the Draft EIR, to ensure that adverse impacts to unanticipated cultural resources do not occur. Specifically, Mitigation Measure CULT-3 requires retention of a Native American monitor immediately if exposure of native soils occurs during project construction activities.

### **S-4-5**

The comment states that lack of surface evidence of archeological resources does not preclude their subsurface existence. The Draft EIR recognizes that even though cultural or archaeological resources have not been identified on the project site and that the likelihood of encountering cultural resources is low due to the history of dredge and fill on the project site, the existence of resources cannot be completely precluded. Therefore, the Draft EIR includes precautionary mitigation measures to ensure that adverse impacts to unanticipated cultural resources do not occur. Specifically, Mitigation Measure CULT-1 requires retention of a certified archaeologist for project activities, including a curation agreement for the permanent care of any artifacts recovered from the project, and Mitigation Measure CULT-3 requires retention of a Native American monitor immediately if exposure of native soils occurs during project construction activities.

#### **S-4-6**

The comment states that Lead Agencies should include provisions for discovery of Native American human remains or unmarked cemeteries in their mitigation plans. Even though the likelihood of encountering human remains on the project site is low due to the history of dredge and fill, in compliance with this comment and CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5(d), Mitigation Measure CULT-2 states that if human remains are encountered, no further disturbance shall occur until the County Coroner has made a determination of origin and disposition pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 5097.98. The County Coroner must be notified of the find immediately. If the remains are determined to be Native American, the County Coroner will notify the NAHC, which will determine and notify a Most Likely Descendant (MLD). With the permission of the landowner or his/her authorized representative, the MLD may inspect the site of the discovery. The MLD shall complete the inspection within 48 hours of notification by the NAHC. The MLD may recommend scientific removal and nondestructive analysis of human remains and items associated with Native American burials.

#### **S-4-7**

The comment describes the requirements of Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5, Public Resources Code Section 5097.98 and Section 15064.5 (d) of the CEQA Guidelines with regards to accidental discovery of any human remains. As described in Response to Comment S-2-6 and included in Mitigation Measure CULT-2, the proposed project would be consistent and in compliance with requirements related to the discovery of human remains.

#### **S-4-8**

The comment states that Lead Agencies should consider avoidance when significant cultural resources are discovered. As described in Responses to Comments S-2-1 through S-2-7, the presence or likely presence of cultural resources is considered low, and the proposed project is not anticipated to result in adverse impacts to cultural resources. However, precautionary mitigation measures have been included as a result of Native American consultation and in the event that unanticipated archaeological resources or human remains are discovered. These precautionary mitigation measures are intended to avoid or minimize adverse impacts to archaeological sites, sacred (Native American) lands, and cultural resources by the proposed project.

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# State Water Resources Control Board



Linda S. Adams  
Secretary for  
Environmental Protection

**Division of Financial Assistance**  
1001 I Street, Sacramento, California 95814 • (916) 341-5700  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 944212 • Sacramento, California 94244-2120  
FAX (916) 341-5707 • <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov>



Arnold Schwarzenegger  
Governor

**JUL 10 2008**

Mr. Craig Chalfant  
City of Long Beach  
333 W. Ocean Boulevard, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Long Beach, CA 90802

Dear Mr. Chalfant:

**DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (DEIR) FOR CITY OF LONG BEACH (CITY) COLORADO LAGOON RESORATION PROJECT (PROJECT); LOS ANGELES COUNTY; STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NO. 2007111034**

We understand that the City may be pursuing State Revolving Fund (SRF) financing to construct components of this Project. As a funding agency and a State agency with jurisdiction by law to preserve, enhance, and restore the quality of California's water resources, the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) is providing the following information for the environmental document prepared for the Project.

S-5-1

Part of the Project will be funded by the State Water Board through the Clean Beaches Initiative (CBI) grant. Therefore, following the public review period, please send us a copy of: (1) a resolution certifying the Environmental Impact Report, adopting the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan, and making California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) findings, including any Statement of Overriding Considerations for significant, adverse impacts that can not be fully mitigated or avoided, (2) all comments received during the review period and the City's responses to those comments, (3) the adopted Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan, and (4) the Notice of Determination filed with the Governor's Office of Planning and Research for the Project. In addition, we would appreciate notices of any hearings or meetings held regarding environmental review of any projects to be funded by the State Water Board.

S-5-2

The City might also apply for funding under the SRF Clean Water Program. The SRF Program is partially funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and requires additional "CEQA-Plus" environmental documentation and review. The State Water Board is required to consult directly with agencies responsible for implementing federal environmental laws and regulations. Any environmental issues raised by federal agencies or their representatives will need to be resolved prior to State Water Board approval of an SRF funding commitment for the proposed Project. Please contact Michelle L. Jones at (916) 341-6983 for further information.

S-5-3

Mr. Craig Chalfant

JUL 1 0 2008

It is important to note that prior to an SRF funding commitment projects are subject to provisions of the Federal Endangered Species Act and must obtain Section 7 clearance from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and/or National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) for any potential effects to special status species. Please be advised that the State Water Board will consult with USFWS and/or NMFS regarding all federal special status species the Project has the potential to impact if the Project is to be funded under the SRF Program. The City will need to identify whether the Project will involve any direct effects from construction activities or indirect effects, such as growth inducement, that may affect federally listed threatened or endangered species that are known, or have a potential, to occur on-site, in the surrounding areas, or in the service area. Identify applicable conservation measures to reduce such effects.

S-5-4

In addition, SRF projects must comply with federal laws pertaining to cultural resources, specifically Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. Please contact the State Water Board's Cultural Resources Officer, Ms. Cookie Hirn, at (916) 341-5690 to find out more about the requirements and to initiate the Section 106 process if pursuing SRF financing. Note that the City will need to identify the Area of Potential Effects (including construction and staging areas and the depth of any excavation).

S-5-5

Other federal requirements pertinent to the Project under the SRF Program include the following:

1. Compliance with the federal Clean Air Act: (a) provide air quality studies that may have been done for the Project; and (b) if the Project is in a nonattainment area or attainment area subject to a maintenance plan: (i) provide a summary of the estimated emissions (in tons per year) that are expected from both the construction and operation of the Project for each federal criteria pollutant in a nonattainment or maintenance area, and indicate if the nonattainment designation is moderate, serious, or severe (if applicable); (ii) if emissions are above the federal de minimis levels, but the Project is sized to meet only the needs of current population projections that are used in the approved State Implementation Plan for air quality, quantitatively indicate how the proposed capacity increase was calculated using population projections.
2. Compliance with the Coastal Zone Management Act: identify whether the Project is within a coastal zone and the status of any coordination with the California Coastal Commission.
3. Protection of Wetlands: identify any portion of the proposed Project area that may contain areas that should be evaluated for wetland or U.S. waters delineation by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) or require a permit from the USACE, and identify the status of coordination with the USACE.
4. Compliance with the Flood Plain Management Act: identify whether the Project is within the 100-year flood zone and whether new structures created would impede flood flows. Include a flood map.

S-5-6

S-5-7

S-5-8

S-5-9

Mr. Craig Chalfant

- 3 -

JUL 10 2008

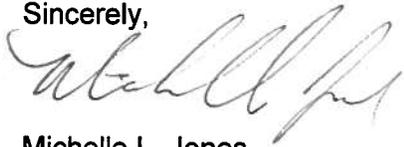
- 5. Compliance with the Migratory Treaty Bird Act (Act): list any birds protected under this Act that may be impacted by the Project and identify conservation measures to minimize such impacts.

S-5-10

Specific comments on the DEIR will be provided in a separate letter from State Water Board staff in the CBI Program. Thank you for the opportunity to provide our funding requirement as they relate to the City's proposed Project. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at (916) 341-6983 or by email at [MLJones@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:MLJones@waterboards.ca.gov) or contact Justine Herrig by email at [JMHerrig@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:JMHerrig@waterboards.ca.gov).

S-5-11

Sincerely,



Michelle L. Jones  
Environmental Scientist

cc: State Clearinghouse  
(Re: SCH# 200711034)  
P. O. Box 3044  
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

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## STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD (FIRST LETTER)

### S-5-1

The comment is introductory and states that as a potential funding agency and a State agency with jurisdiction of the water resources within and near the project area, it provides information for the EIR for the proposed project. The comment does not contain any substantive statements or questions about the Draft EIR, and no further response is necessary.

### S-5-2

The comment pertains to financing components of the project and requests that copies of several documents are sent to the Board, including a resolution certifying the EIR, Mitigation and Monitoring Reporting Plan (MMRP), and CEQA findings, all comments and Responses to Comments, the adopted MMRP, and the Notice of Determination (NOD) filed with the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR). All requested items will be sent following EIR certification. The State Water Resources Control Board is and will remain on the mailing list for all public hearings or meetings regarding environmental review of the project. The comment does not contain any substantive statements or questions about the Draft EIR, and no further response is necessary.

### S-5-3

The comment pertains to sources of funding for the project and related requirements. The City of Long Beach has not yet made a determination whether State Revolving Fund (SRF) Clean Water Program funding will be pursued. Generally, the environmental analysis contained in the Draft EIR would be used as a basis for the "CEQA-Plus" environmental documentation needed if and when SRF Clean Water Program funding is pursued. The City would work closely with the State Water Resources Control Board to ensure that all requirements of the funding are met, including coordination and consultation with other agencies and supplemental analysis, if warranted, if SRF funding is pursued. This comment does not contain any substantive statements or questions about the analysis contained within the Draft EIR. No further response is necessary.

### S-5-4

This comment states that obtaining financing through the SRF program would require Section 7 clearance from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and/or National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) for any potential effects to special-status species. The State Water Resources Control Board would consult with USFWS and/or NMFS regarding all federal special-status species the project has the potential to impact (if funding is provided under the SRF program). The comment states that the City will need to identify direct or indirect effects from construction activities, etc., that may affect federally listed species that occur or have the potential to occur on site or in the project vicinity. Applicable conservation measures to reduce effects are also required. The Draft EIR has addressed these issues, along with direct and indirect effects on

listed species and applicable mitigation measures, in Section 4.3, Biological Resources. Special-status species have been observed on the project site including, the California least tern (*Sternula antillarum brownii*), the brown pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis*), and estuary sea blite (*Suaeda esteroa*). Additionally, some special-status species have a potential to occur on the project site. However, impacts to these species are considered less than significant and mitigation measures ensure that potential impacts to certain species are reduced to a level less than significant. Please see Section 4.3 Biological Resources for more information regarding impacts and mitigation for special-status species. Additionally, the City of Long Beach would pursue appropriate Section 7 consultation as needed at the time SRF Clean Water Program funding is pursued.

#### **S-5-5**

The comment states that SRF program funding requires compliance with federal laws pertaining to cultural resources, specifically Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. The cultural resource evaluation that was prepared for the proposed project is described in Section 4.4 and Appendix F of the Draft EIR. This evaluation addresses potential impacts to archaeological and historical resources and has been prepared in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. In addition, the Areas of Potential Effects (including construction and staging areas and the depth of excavation) are identified and described throughout the Draft EIR. Therefore, the environmental documentation related to cultural resources that was prepared for the proposed project is in compliance with federal laws, including Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. No cultural resources were identified on the project site, and no adverse impacts to Section 106 resources are anticipated. The City would provide Section 106 documentation if and when SRF Clean Water Program funding is pursued.

#### **S-5-6**

The comment states that SRF program funding requires compliance with the federal Clean Air Act. The air quality analysis that was prepared for the proposed project is described in Section 4.2 and in Appendix C of the Draft EIR. The air quality analysis within the Draft EIR is consistent with this comment, as it provides both a summary (Tables 4.2.E through 4.2.G) and the detailed calculations (Appendix C) of the estimated emissions for each criteria pollutant in the nonattainment area. The analysis also indicates (Table 4.2.C) whether the pollutant nonattainment designation is moderate, serious, or severe. Additionally, the Draft EIR describes that the proposed project would implement restoration activities to improve the water quality, habitat quality, and recreation amenities on the project site. The proposed project would not change the land uses on the project site, increase capacity, or result in a substantial number of vehicle trips. Therefore, the air quality analysis within the Draft EIR is consistent with the comment pertaining to the federal Clean Air Act. A conformity analysis would be prepared if and when SRF Program funding is pursued.

#### **S-5-7**

The comment states that SRF program funding requires compliance with the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA). As described in Section 4.8 of the Draft EIR and shown in Figure 4.8.2, the project area is located within the Coastal Zone and is under the regulatory jurisdiction

of the California Coastal Commission (CCC). The CCC retains permanent authority over the project area because it is located on the immediate shoreline and contains tidelands and submerged lands. The CZMA consistency analysis would be based on information contained within the Draft EIR and would include the status of coordination with the CCC. The City will prepare a CZMA consistency document including coordination with the CCC, if and when SRF Clean Water Program funding is pursued.

#### **S-5-8**

The comment states that SRF program funding requires identification of any portion of the project area that may contain areas that should be evaluated for wetland or United States waters delineation by the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) or require a permit from the USACE and identify the status of coordination with USACE. The Draft EIR has documented wetland resources subject to USACE jurisdiction in Section 4.3 and in the Biological Resources Assessment, Appendix E. The City has been and will continue to coordinate with USACE to obtain all necessary permits and approvals.

#### **S-5-9**

The comment states that SRF program funding requires compliance with the Flood Plain Management Act. As described in Section 4.7 of the Draft EIR, the project site is located in Flood Zone X and Flood Zone AE. Zone X is the designation of a 100-year flood area. Zone AE includes areas with a 1 percent annual chance of flooding. The proposed project does not include housing or other habitable structures (other than two replacement restroom structures). Further, the project does not include any structures that would impede flood flows. Conversely, construction of the proposed open channel, low-flow diversion system, and the County's Termino Avenue Drain Project (TADP) would enhance the existing flood conveyance facilities and increase flood protection over existing conditions. Therefore, the proposed project is expected to result in a beneficial effect related to flood protection. The proposed project's compliance with the Flood Plain Management Act would be documented if and when SRF Clean Water Program funding is pursued.

#### **S-5-10**

The comment states that SRF Program funding requires compliance with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and measures to minimize impacts to birds protected by the MBTA. Compliance with the MBTA is discussed in Section 4.3 of the Draft EIR. Impacts to nesting birds are addressed in Mitigation Measure BIO-12. Information regarding the project's compliance with the MBTA would be included with the environmental documentation submitted if and when SRF Clean Water Program funding is pursued.

#### **S-5-11**

The comment states that comments on the Draft EIR will be provided under a separate letter from State Water Resources Control Board staff in the CBI program. The comment does not contain any substantive statements or questions about the Draft EIR. No further response is necessary.



ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE *of* PLANNING AND RESEARCH  
STATE CLEARINGHOUSE AND PLANNING UNIT



CYNTHIA BRYANT  
DIRECTOR

July 25, 2008

Craig Chalfant  
City of Long Beach  
333 W. Ocean Boulevard, 5th Floor  
Long Beach, CA 90802

Subject: Colorado Lagoon Restoration Project  
SCH#: 2007111034

Dear Craig Chalfant:

The enclosed comment (s) on your Draft EIR was (were) received by the State Clearinghouse after the end of the state review period, which closed on July 10, 2008. We are forwarding these comments to you because they provide information or raise issues that should be addressed in your final environmental document.

The California Environmental Quality Act does not require Lead Agencies to respond to late comments. However, we encourage you to incorporate these additional comments into your final environmental document and to consider them prior to taking final action on the proposed project.

Please contact the State Clearinghouse at (916) 445-0613 if you have any questions concerning the environmental review process. If you have a question regarding the above-named project, please refer to the ten-digit State Clearinghouse number (2007111034) when contacting this office.

Sincerely,

Terry Roberts  
Senior Planner, State Clearinghouse

Enclosures

cc: Resources Agency



Linda S. Adams  
Secretary for  
Environmental Protection

# State Water Resources Control Board

Division of Financial Assistance  
1001 I Street, Sacramento, California 95814  
P.O. Box 944212, Sacramento, California 94244-2120  
(916) 341-5700 ♦ FAX (916) 341-5707 ♦ <http://waterboards.ca.gov>



Arnold Schwarzenegger  
Governor

JUL 23 2008

Mr. Dennis Eschen  
City of Long Beach  
2760 Studebaker Road  
Long Beach, CA 90815-1697



*Clear*  
*7-10-08*  
*late*  
*e*

Dear Mr. Eschen:

RESPONSE TO DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (DEIR) FOR CITY OF LONG BEACH (CITY) COLORADO LAGOON RESTORATION PROJECT; STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NO. 2007111034; COLORADO LAGOON BEACHES (PROJECT); CLEAN BEACHES INITIATIVE (CBI); AGREEMENT NO. 06-266-550-0; GRANT NO. 310

Thank you for providing the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) the opportunity to review the DEIR. In accordance with Exhibit C.6 of the Agreement between the State Water Board and the City no work that is subject to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) may proceed under this Agreement until documents that satisfy the CEQA process are received by the grant manager and the State Water Board has given environmental clearance.

State Water Board CBI staff has reviewed the DEIR and have the following specific comments which must be addressed to comply with requirements of the CBI Program:

1. Table 1.A (page 1-13) and section 4.7 :

Please specifically define the water quality impacts (i.e. physical, chemical, and microbiological water quality effects) relative to the CBI Project components.

2. Culvert Improvement ( Sections 3.0 and 4.7):

Please address the following comments:

- Table 3.C (page 3-24): The table illustrates that the CBI grant is the only funding source to "upgrade the culvert." This information implies that the culvert cleaning and opening, as described in the text of DEIR, will be funded as part of the CBI Project. Please clarify and modify the table to distinguish between the CBI culvert component and the proposed culvert cleaning and opening, as described in the DEIR document.
- Please provide a section to explain the culvert component for the CBI Project and describe any potential environmental effects and mitigation measures. Explain whether the culvert component, funded by the CBI Project, will be superseded by opening the channel in the near future.

S-6-1

S-6-2

S-6-3

JUL 23 2008

Mr. Dennis Eschen

- 2 -

1. Vegetated Bioswales (page 4.7-32):

- Please address the ongoing maintenance plan for the life cycle of the Project's Bioswale(s).
- Please specify which Stormwater BMP Design Manual will be utilized for the design of the Project Bioswale(s).

S-6-4

If you have any questions or comments regarding this letter, please contact Mina Danieli at (916) 341-5865 or mdanieli@waterboards.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Laura L. Peters, Manager  
CBI Grant Program

cc: State Clearinghouse  
1400 Tenth Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

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## STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD (SECOND LETTER)

### S-6-1

The City acknowledges this comment, which states that in accordance with Exhibit C.6 of the Agreement between the State Water Board and the City (Agreement No. 06-266-550-0; Grant No. 310), no work that is subject to CEQA may proceed under this agreement until documents that satisfy the CEQA process are received by the grant manager and the State Water Board has given environmental clearance. No further response is necessary.

### S-6-2

The comment requests a description of the water quality impacts (i.e. physical, chemical, and microbiological water quality effects) relative to the Clean Beaches Initiative (CBI) Project components.

The CBI Project components include upgrading the storm drains on the north and eastern shores with trash separators and diverting low flows to the sanitary sewer system, constructing a bioswale, and modifying the existing culvert.

Implementing these components would result in several physical, chemical, and microbiological improvements to the Lagoon. For example, the trash separator devices would eliminate trash from entering the Lagoon from the storm drains. In addition, the bioswale and low-flow diversions would reduce the pollutants and bacteria entering the Lagoon. It is anticipated that the improved water quality conditions in the Lagoon would help reduce algae blooms. Cleaning of the culvert would provide additional improvements to the Lagoon by increasing circulation and exchange of the Lagoon waters with Marine Stadium waters. Therefore, water would be cleaner and clearer. The tidal exchange improvements are even more pronounced with implementation of the open channel. However, funding from the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) will only be used to modify the culvert if the Planning Commission and City Council decide to exclude the open-channel component as part of the master restoration plan. The City acknowledges the requirement that SWRCB-funded projects must produce at least 20 years' worth of benefits.

### S-6-3

The comment is regarding funding for near-term culvert cleaning and the long-term culvert replacement of the culvert with the open channel. The information is acknowledged. Both the near-term culvert cleaning and long-term open channel construction are analyzed in Chapter 4.0 of the Draft EIR. The open channel would be located approximately where the existing culvert is, and demolition of the culvert would be required for construction of the open channel. Funding from the SWRCB through its Clean Beaches Initiative (CBI) grant program has been awarded for only the near-term culvert cleaning. The long-term open channel component is not funded through the CBI grant. As noted above, funding will not be used for the near-term culvert modifications if the open channel becomes an approved restoration component.

#### S-6-4

The comment requests information regarding the ongoing maintenance plan for the life cycle of the Project's bioswale(s). The maintenance objectives for vegetated swale systems include maintaining the hydraulic and removal efficiency of the channel and maintaining a dense, healthy grass cover.

The City is committed to bioswale maintenance activities that include periodic mowing (with grass never cut shorter than the design flow depth), weed control, watering during drought conditions, reseeding of bare areas, and clearing of debris and blockages. Cuttings will be removed from the channel and disposed in a local composting facility. Accumulated sediment will be removed manually to avoid concentrated flows in the swale. The application of fertilizers and pesticides will be minimal.

Typical maintenance activities are summarized below.

- Inspect swales at least twice annually for erosion, damage to vegetation, and sediment and debris accumulation, preferably at the end of the wet season to schedule summer maintenance and before major fall runoff to be sure the swale is ready for winter. However, additional inspection after periods of heavy runoff is desirable. The swale should be checked for debris, litter, and areas of sediment accumulation.
- Grass height and mowing frequency may not have a large impact on pollutant removal. Consequently, mowing may only be necessary once or twice a year for safety or aesthetics or to suppress weeds and woody vegetation.
- Trash tends to accumulate in swale areas. The need for litter removal is determined through periodic inspection, but litter should always be removed prior to mowing.
- Sediment accumulating near culverts and in channels should be removed when it builds up to 75 millimeters (3 inches) at any spot, or covers vegetation.
- Regularly inspect swales for pools of standing water. Swales can become a nuisance due to mosquito breeding in standing water if obstructions develop (e.g., debris accumulation, invasive vegetation) and/or if proper drainage slopes are not implemented and maintained.

The *California Stormwater BMP Handbook—New Development and Redevelopment* was used for all BMP designs pertaining to storm water.



# California Regional Water Quality Control Board Los Angeles Region



R-1

Recipient of the 2001 *Environmental Leadership Award* from Keep California Beautiful

Linda S. Adams  
Agency Secretary

320 W. 4th Street, Suite 200, Los Angeles, California 90013  
Phone (213) 576-6600 FAX (213) 576-6640 - Internet Address: <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles>

Arnold Schwarzenegger  
Governor

July 11, 2008

Craig Chalfant  
City of Long Beach  
Department of Development Services  
333 West Ocean Boulevard, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Long Beach, CA 90802

**Comments on Draft Program Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Assessment  
for the Colorado Lagoon Restoration Project, City of Long Beach, California, State  
Clearing House, No. 2007III034.**

Dear Mr. Chalfant:

The Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board) appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the Colorado Lagoon Restoration Project for the City of Long Beach, State Clearing House No. 2007III034. The Regional Board would like to express its support for the development of the Colorado Lagoon Restoration Project to address the water quality and sediment problems of Colorado Lagoon.

R-1-1

Colorado Lagoon was listed as being impaired pursuant to Section 303 (d) of the Clean Water Act. Constituents causing impairment in the Colorado Lagoon watershed include OC pesticides, PCBs, sediment toxicity, PAHs, metals, and bacteria. Regional Board staff acknowledges that the proposed project includes improvements to the Lagoon through cleaning of the culvert and removal of structural impedances at the culvert and dredging areas of the Lagoon. However, the Regional Board must carefully evaluate, potential impacts of new projects that may alter the discharges to impaired waterbodies. Please provide the following additional information for both the construction and operational phases of the Colorado Lagoon Restoration Project.

R-1-2

Surface Water Quality

As discussed above, the implementation of the proposed actions would improve water and sediment quality. However, water quality standards for OC pesticides, PCBs, PAHs, metals, and other constituents of concern could be exceeded during the dredging and construction period. The EIR should address in more detail the impacts to water quality during implementation of proposed actions. A detailed description of current water quality and potential increases in concentrations of the above listed constituents during implementation of proposed actions should

**California Environmental Protection Agency**



*Our mission is to preserve and enhance the quality of California's water resources for the benefit of present and future generations.*

July 11, 2008

be provided. If the estimated concentrations in surface water during implementation of proposed actions increase above the water quality objectives for these constituents, mitigation measures should be provided.

↑ R-1-2

Groundwater Quality

As described in the DEIR, seawater intrusion has produced deterioration of water quality over time. As proposed in the DEIR, removal of contaminated sediments in the West Arm of the lagoon may involve dewatering groundwater and discharging groundwater back into the Central Lagoon. Regional Board notes that waste discharge requirements (WDRs) should be obtained to ensure the discharge of dewatered groundwater to the storm drain system or surface waters will be in compliance with all applicable provisions in the permit, including water sampling, analysis, and reporting of dewatering-related discharges.

R-1-3

Sediment Quality and Dredged Material Disposal

The results of sediment testing indicate that sediment in the West Arm of the lagoon should be considered as Title 22 hazardous waste material. Due to the contamination levels within the West Arm of the lagoon, the dredged material from this Lagoon location should be disposed properly. Regional Board notes that proper WDRs should be obtained from the Regional Board to ensure the proposed disposal of contaminated sediments, and that discharges of effluent from the Dredge Material Disposal sites into surface water will be in compliance with all applicable provisions in the discharge permit.

R-1-4

Regional Board staff appreciates the opportunity to submit our comments. Should you have any questions regarding this response, please contact me at (213) 576-6622 or Thanhloan Nguyen at (213) 576-6689.

Sincerely,



Samuel Unger, P.E.  
Section Chief, Regional Programs

cc Terry Roberts  
State Clearinghouse Director  
Office of Planning and Research  
P.O. Box 3044  
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

## REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD

### R-1-1

The comment states that the RWQCB expresses its support for the development of the Colorado Lagoon Restoration Project to address the water quality and sediment problems of Colorado Lagoon. The comment does not contain any substantive statements or questions about the Draft EIR or the analysis therein; therefore, no further response is necessary.

### R-1-2

The comment states that the EIR should address in more detail the impacts to water quality during implementation of the proposed actions. The comment further states that a detailed description of current water quality and potential increases in constituents of concern during construction should be provided along with mitigation measures to mitigate increases in constituents of concern above increases in water quality objectives.

Monitoring of water quality for OC pesticides, PCBs, PAHs, metals, and other constituents of concern, if warranted, will occur during the dredging and construction phases of the project. The west arm of the Lagoon will be separated from the central Lagoon either by a dike or silt curtains, minimizing the potential for the water quality of the remainder of the Lagoon and the receiving body to be impacted with constituents of concern in these sediments; additionally, the methodology proposed for dredging is relatively self-contained. Suspension of contaminated sediments is a concern with the wet dredge approach; however, the use of silt curtains and turbidity monitoring will minimize potential water quality impacts.

However, in the unlikely event that water quality standards are exceeded during the dredging and construction phases of the project, work will cease until an alternative method of dredging is implemented.

### R-1-3

The RWQCB commented that waste discharge requirements (WDRs) should be obtained to ensure the discharge of dewatered groundwater to the storm drain system or surface waters will be in compliance with all applicable provisions in the permit, including water sampling, analysis, and reporting of dewatering-related discharges.

Section 4.7, Regulatory Requirements, includes *Waste Discharge Requirement for Discharges of Groundwater from Construction and Project Dewatering to Surface Waters in Coastal Watersheds of Los Angeles and Ventura Counties* (Order No. R4-2003-0111, NPDES No. CAG994004). To mitigate the impacts of potential discharge of groundwater back into the Lagoon during dredging of the west arm of the Lagoon, Mitigation Measure WQ-5 is proposed. Mitigation Measure WQ-5 requires compliance with the *Waste Discharge Requirement for Discharges of Groundwater from Construction and Project Dewatering to Surface Waters in Coastal Watersheds of Los Angeles and Ventura Counties* (Order No. R4-2003-0111, NPDES

No. CAG994004), or subsequent permit, and requires compliance with all applicable provisions in the permit, including water sampling, analysis, and reporting of dewatering-related discharges.

#### **R-1-4**

The RWQCB commented that proper WDRs should be obtained from the RWQCB to ensure the proper disposal of contaminated sediments and that discharges of effluent from the Dredge Material Disposal sites into surface water will be in compliance with all applicable provisions in the discharge permit. The City concurs and will obtain all required permits.

A Report of Waste Discharge (ROWD) pursuant to California Water Code Section 13260 states that persons discharging or proposing to discharge waste that could affect the quality of the waters of the State, other than into a community sewer system, shall file an ROWD containing information that may be required by the appropriate RWQCB.

Discharges to both surface and groundwater are regulated by the NPDES, which is administered by the RWQCB as part of its discharge permits program. Any proposed action that would result in a discharge into the waters of the Los Angeles region must describe the quantity and nature of the proposed discharge in an ROWD or an NPDES application. As part of the NPDES ROWD permit, the RWQCB would incorporate appropriate measures and limitations to protect public health and water quality. The Draft EIR discusses NPDES requirements in Section 4.7.2.

Because the dredged material is classified as a hazardous waste according to Section 6626.3 of Title 22, it will be managed in accordance with Chapter 30 of Division 4 of Title 22. Since the dredged material is classified as hazardous waste, the material will be placed in a Class I landfill or at the Port of Long Beach in accordance with Section 1058, Water Code.



# COUNTY SANITATION DISTRICTS OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY

1955 Workman Mill Road, Whittier, CA 90601-1400  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 4998, Whittier, CA 90607-4998  
Telephone: (562) 699-7411, FAX: (562) 699-5422  
www.lacsd.org

**STEPHEN R. MAGUIN**  
Chief Engineer and General Manager

June 2, 2008

File No: 03-00.04-00

Mr. Craig Chalfant  
Department of Development Services  
City of Long Beach  
333 West Ocean Boulevard, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Long Beach, CA 90802

Dear Mr. Chalfant:

### Colorado Lagoon Restoration Project

The County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County (Districts) received a Draft Environmental Impact Report for the subject project on May 27, 2008. The proposed project is located within the jurisdictional boundaries of District No. 3. We offer the following updated information and comments regarding sewerage service:

1. The Joint Water Pollution Control Plant currently processes an average flow of 310.9 million gallons per day.
2. All other information concerning Districts' facilities and sewerage service contained in the document is current.

R-2-1

If you have any questions, please contact the undersigned at (562) 908-4288, extension 2717.

Very truly yours,

Stephen R. Maguin

Ruth I. Frazen  
Customer Service Specialist  
Facilities Planning Department

RIF:rf

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## COUNTY SANITATION DISTRICTS OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY

### R-2-1

The County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County has stated the project is located within the jurisdictional boundaries of District No. 3. The comment further notes that the Joint Water Pollution Control Plant currently processes an average flow of 310.9 million gallons daily (mgd). The Draft EIR states that the daily flow is slightly lower, at 310.8 mgd. The County Sanitation Districts' comment is included in the Response to Comments volume of the Final EIR, and therefore this updated information regarding treatment plant capacity is incorporated into the Final EIR. The updated information does not change the EIR analysis or conclusions. The comment also states that all other information in the Draft EIR is current. Therefore, no further response is necessary.

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**BUSINESS DEPARTMENT - Business Services**  
**Facilities Development & Planning Branch**  
Donald K. Allen Building Services Facility  
2425 Webster Ave., Long Beach, CA 90810  
(562) 997-7550 Fax (562) 595-8644

July 10, 2008

Via US Mail  
Via Facsimile

City of Long Beach  
Department of Development Services  
333 West Ocean Boulevard, 5th Floor  
Long Beach, California 90802  
Attention: Craig Chalfant  
(562) 570-6368  
Fax (562) 570-6068

**Re: Comments on the Draft EIR for the Colorado Lagoon Restoration Project, Long Beach, California**

Dear Mr. Chalfant:

The Long Beach Unified School District (LBUSD or District) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the proposed Colorado Lagoon Restoration Project (Project) Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) released May, 2008 by the City of Long Beach (City).

**BACKGROUND**

In addition to establishing high standards of academic excellence for its students, LBUSD is committed to providing a safe environment and school facilities for its students and staff. Thus, the District's primary concern in its review of the DEIR is to distinguish the environmental impacts which must be properly addressed, analyzed, and mitigated to assure an environment conducive to learning.

The District is pleased to support the goals of the proposed Project, which include improved water quality and recreational opportunities for Colorado Lagoon. The District submitted a comment letter, dated December 7, 2008, in response to the Notice of Preparation (NOP)/Initial Study (IS) for the proposed Project. The NOP comment letter offered input to the scope and content of the environmental analysis to be included in the DEIR. We appreciate that the DEIR addresses, in part, the District's written comments on the NOP, and we understand that the City has documented a range of proposed mitigation measures in response to its environmental analysis of the project. However, the District is concerned that the DEIR does not adequately address potential noise impacts on nearby schools that would result from project construction activities.

R-3-1

|                                      |  |                                       |   |                                      |
|--------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|
| Mary Stanton<br>District 1<br>Member | Felton Williams<br>District 2<br>President | Michael Ellis<br>District 3<br>Member | Jon Meyer<br>District 4<br>Vice President | David Barton<br>District 5<br>Member |
|--------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|

## OVERVIEW OF THE DISTRICT'S CONCERNS

### Noise Impacts

The District notes that the DEIR fails to fully analyze the noise impacts to two LBUSD schools (Rogers Middle School [MS] and Lowell Elementary School [ES]). In particular, the DEIR does not address the fact that pile driving and other activities associated with construction of the proposed Project's open channel, vehicular bridges over the open channel, and/or viewing platform in the lagoon apparently would result in noise levels that exceed significance thresholds for exterior noise at one, and possibly both, of these schools. We make this observation based on our analysis of the construction noise levels estimated in the DEIR, the significance thresholds relied on by the DEIR (City of Long Beach Noise Control Ordinance, daytime residential exterior noise standard of 70 dBA  $L_{max}$ ), and the distance between the proposed construction and the referenced schools. Accordingly, we request that the final EIR (FEIR) include analysis and documentation of noise impacts on Rogers MS and Lowell ES. More detailed comments regarding noise impacts on schools are provided in the "Specific Comments" section of this letter.

R-3-2

### Sensitive Receptors

The DEIR identifies selected "Sensitive Land Uses in the Project Vicinity" that "...are considered more sensitive to noise than others." The DEIR states that "The sensitive land uses within the vicinity of the proposed project include the existing residences to the west, south, and northeast, Marina Vista Park to the east, the north and south Colorado Lagoon (Lagoon) beaches, an on-site preschool, and a recreational park golf course. These land uses are located within 50 to 100 ft of the on-site construction areas." [See page 4.9-3 of the DEIR Volume I, and page 23 of the DEIR Appendix H]. However, the DEIR fails to identify as sensitive receptors the two LBUSD schools located closest to the project boundary and proposed construction activities: Rogers MS and Lowell ES. These two schools are sensitive receptors and should be identified as such in the final EIR.

## SPECIFIC COMMENTS

### Proximity of Schools

Rogers MS and Lowell ES are the two LBUSD school facilities located closest to the project area boundary, and the schools that are most likely to be impacted by noise from the project, and by the lead agency's action. Each school's address, and the school's distance and direction from the Project boundary and proposed pile driving activities (and associated project feature), is listed below.

- Rogers Middle School (MS): 365 Monrovia Avenue, Long Beach, CA 90803; 365 feet southwest from the Project boundary; 575 feet west-southwest from proposed pile driving activities (open channel and Eliot St. bridge).
- Lowell Elementary School (ES): 5201 E. Broadway Long Beach, CA 90803; 1,000 feet southwest from the Project boundary and proposed pile driving activities (open channel and Eliot St. bridge).

R-3-3

### Noise Impacts

Based on our review of the project alternatives, we believe that Rogers MS, and possibly Lowell ES, may be significantly and adversely impacted by noise from the project depending on: 1) which of

R-3-4

the alternatives is selected, 2) the distance between the school and the construction activity, and 3) the timing and characteristics of the noise generating activities.

The proposed Project includes construction of an open channel, two bridges over the open channel, and a viewing platform (see Figure 4.9.1 of the DEIR). Each of these activities involves pile driving. Pile driving will be the noisiest activity on the project site, generating an estimated 93 dBA  $L_{max}$  at a distance of 50 ft. Other "standard" construction equipment used on the project site, such as loaders and backhoes, would generate approximately 86 dBA  $L_{max}$  at a distance of 50 ft.

Noise levels decrease with increasing distance from the source. The DEIR indicates that sensitive land uses located within 315 ft of the standard construction equipment and 706 ft of the pile driving would be exposed to noise levels in excess of the City's daytime residential exterior noise standard of 70 dBA  $L_{max}$ . Thus, pile driving and other construction activities yield significant noise impacts within a radius of 315 feet and 706 feet, respectively, of sensitive receptors. The DEIR's identification of sensitive receptors includes an "on-site" pre-school, nearby residential developments, and open space land uses (e.g., beaches and parks).

The DEIR fails to note that Rogers MS is within 365 feet of the project boundary and 575 feet from the construction area for the proposed Eliot St. bridge over the proposed open channel (based on Google Earth). Accordingly, Rogers MS apparently would be subject to significant noise impacts because it is located within 575 feet from pile driving activities, which is closer than the distance threshold that defines significant impacts (706 feet). Lowell ES is located approximately 1,000 feet from the project boundary and proposed pile driving activity (Eliot St bridge and open channel) and, thus, just outside the distance threshold for significant noise impacts.

The District requests that the Final EIR include Rogers MS and Lowell ES in the analysis and documentation of noise impacts on sensitive receptors, and to determine whether, and to what extent, either school is subject to significant noise impacts from the Project and propose appropriate mitigation measures for impacts to the schools.

When identifying the potential noise and vibration impacts that may occur from the Project (including to sensitive receptors at the school sites), and determining corresponding mitigation measures, the FEIR should use the actual separation distances between the noise source and the school sites. The FEIR should consider the impacts of the Project's construction phase on school learning activities for both outdoor and indoor environments, including noise from pile driving, other construction activities, and multiple construction vehicles and equipment and excessive ground borne vibration or ground borne noise levels.

### Mitigation

The FEIR should identify and evaluate appropriate and feasible mitigation measures to reduce the noise and vibration impacts from the construction phase of the Project on sensitive receptors, including the LBUSD schools. The FEIR should consider whether certain phases of construction could be completed when schools are not in session (i.e., summer) to reduce the Project's noise and vibration impacts. In addition, the District requests that the analysis and mitigation measures consider the school hours of operation which are Monday through Friday 7:00 am to 4:00 pm, and testing periods during the school year for the aforementioned schools to avoid potentially significant noise and vibration impacts during these time periods.

Other potential mitigation measures to reduce noise impacts include, but are not limited to, using best available noise control techniques on all equipment and trucks; placing stationary equipment as

R-3-4

R-3-5

far from sensitive receptors as possible; temporary sound barriers around construction areas to inhibit transmission of noise to sensitive receptors; and the supervision of an acoustical consultant.

**Timing of Noise Generating Activities**

Based on our review to date of the proposed alternatives and the DEIR analysis, the District is concerned that our ability to fully understand the impacts to schools is limited by the absence of definitive information about construction activities at this time, including with respect to the schedule for pile driving and other noise generating activities and their potential impacts during the hours of school operation. We understand from the DEIR that the City proposes to hold future public meetings to discuss the schedule and timing for specific construction activities and hereby request formal notification of any such public meetings.

R-3-5

**CONCLUSION**

In summary, the District believes the goals of the proposed Project (improved water quality and recreation opportunities) are laudable. However, we believe the DEIR does not adequately analyze and address the sensitive receptors represented by schools and school children, especially with respect to noise impacts from construction activities. The District would like the opportunity to discuss, with the City, ways to minimize noise impacts to our schools from the project construction activities. In addition, the District reserves its right to supplement and provide additional comments in the future- in the event that the City were to extend the comment period or if new information was discovered.

R-3-6

The District appreciates the opportunity to participate in this process. We look forward to working with the City in a continuing review and assessment of project impacts, and the development and implementation of effective mitigation.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (562) 997-7550.

Sincerely,



Carri Matsumoto  
Executive Director  
Facilities Development & Planning Branch  
Long Beach Unified School District

CM:KHR

- cc: Chris Steinhauser – LBUUSD Superintendent of Schools
- Kim Stallings – LBUUSD Chief Business & Financial Officer
- Karl Rodenbaugh – The Planning Center

## LONG BEACH UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

### R-3-1

The comment is introductory and includes a statement expressing an opinion in support of the goals of the proposed project. The comment requests additional information regarding potential noise impacts of the project on nearby schools. Please see responses below.

### R-3-2

The comment specifically requests additional information regarding the noise impacts to Rogers Middle School (MS) and Lowell Elementary School (ES). The comment states that the impacts to these schools was not analyzed in the Draft EIR. The noise analysis was based on the distance from on-site noise sources to the closest sensitive receptors, which include the on-site preschool and recreational areas and off-site residences. The LBUSD schools are sensitive receptors; however, they are not the closest sensitive receptors to the proposed construction activity. The noise analysis is focused on the maximum or most severe noise impacts that would result, and therefore, specifically identifies the closest sensitive receptors to the location of the loudest proposed construction activity. However, the analysis and information disclosed in the Draft EIR is also applicable to the two closest schools, which are also sensitive receptors of the proposed project.

Please note that there are no changes to the existing recreation uses on the project site and no new sources of noise from the operation and use of the Lagoon and Marina Vista Park. All potential noise effects of the project are short-term impacts related to construction activity.

### R-3-3

The comment provides the distance between the Rogers MS and Lowell ES to the project site. The City concurs with this information.

### R-3-4

The comment expresses an opinion that Rogers MS is, and Lowell ES may be, significantly and adversely impacted by noise depending upon which alternative is selected, the distance between the school and the construction activity, and the timing and characteristics of the noise-generating activities. The comment also includes information from the Draft EIR regarding the greatest noise-generating construction activity (pile driving) and the fact that noise levels decrease with increasing distance from the source.

The Colorado Lagoon Draft EIR evaluated the potential construction noise impacts on the sensitive land uses adjacent to the proposed construction areas. These land uses include the on-site preschool and beaches, a recreational golf course, Marina Vista Park, and residences. These sensitive land uses would be located within 50 to 100 ft of the construction activities and would be exposed to construction noise levels of up to 93 dBA  $L_{max}$ . As stated in the comments, the

Rogers MS and Lowell ES are located 575 to 1,000 ft from the proposed pile driving locations and would be exposed to noise levels of up to 72 and 67 dBA  $L_{max}$ , respectively. The 72 dBA  $L_{max}$  noise level at Rogers MS would exceed the City of Long Beach's 70 dBA  $L_{max}$  exterior noise standard for sensitive land uses. This noise level would be similar to noise levels that currently exist when a truck passes the school on Appian Way.

### **R-3-5**

The comment requests that all appropriate and feasible mitigation measures be applied to reduce the noise and vibration impacts from construction. Implementation of the following mitigation measures included in the Draft EIR would reduce the construction noise impacts at the school sites:

**NOI-2** During all site excavation and grading, the project contractors shall equip all construction equipment, fixed or mobile, with properly operating and maintained mufflers consistent with manufacturers' standards, as documented in construction plans and verified by the City Building Official.

**NOI-3** The project contractor shall place all stationary construction equipment so that emitted noise is directed away from sensitive receptors nearest the project site, as documented in construction plans and verified by the City Building Official.

In addition, mitigation has been included in the Draft EIR to ensure that affected property owners are provided with specific and updated information regarding the construction schedule, including the dates, times, duration, and location of specific construction activity. It is the City's intent to work with the local residents and the Long Beach Unified School District (LBUSD) to refine the construction schedule as feasible to reduce adverse impacts to sensitive on-site and off-site land uses. See mitigation measure NOI-6 below.

**NOI-6** Prior to issuance of a grading permit, the Director of Parks, Recreation, and Marine shall hold a community pre-construction meeting, in concert with the Construction Contractor, to provide information regarding the construction schedule. The construction schedule information shall include the duration of each construction activity and the specific location, days, frequency, and duration of the pile driving that will occur during both Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the project construction. Public notification of this meeting shall be done in the same manner as the Notice of Availability mailings for this Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

The City is not able to commit to a construction schedule that excludes construction activity during the school year because of other scheduling factors. For example, the dredging of the Lagoon and the excavation of the channel would need to be coordinated with the dry weather months and Spring tides. The City is committed to refining the construction schedule overall and timing of specific construction activities within the schedule to minimize disruption to the schools, recreation uses, and other sensitive receptors.

The Draft EIR concludes that due to the distance between construction activities and the existing sensitive receptors, project construction activities would result in a significant noise impact to

sensitive receptors. It is noted that the sensitive receptors include Rogers MS in addition to the on-site preschool and beaches, a recreational golf course, Marina Vista Park, and residences. Lowell ES is not significantly affected by construction noise.

The significant noise impact would be intermittent and temporary. Construction-related, short-term noise levels would be higher than existing ambient noise levels in the project area but would no longer occur once construction of the project is completed. The City of Long Beach Municipal Code allows elevated construction-related noise levels as long as the construction activities are limited to the hours specified. Adherence to the City's noise regulations and implementation of Mitigation Measures NOI-1 through NOI-5 would reduce construction noise impacts to sensitive receptors; however, the construction noise impacts would remain significant and unavoidable. Measure NOI-6 provides for community notification and input to the final construction schedule, and reflects the City's commitment to minimize the disruption to educational and recreational uses near the project site and to residents in the adjoining neighborhood. This Response to Comments document is a component of the Final EIR for the Colorado Lagoon restoration project. Therefore, the information contained in the comment letter and in this response is incorporated into the Final EIR.

### **R-3-6**

The comment states that the Draft EIR does not adequately analyze the impacts to the schools. Please see Responses to Comments R-3-2 through R-3-5 for clarifying information regarding the effects to the schools.

The letter concludes with support for the goals of the proposed project but with a request to discuss with the City way to minimize noise impacts to the schools. The City welcomes an ongoing dialogue with LBUSD regarding the project construction schedule and the opportunity to identify means to minimize adverse effects. The appropriate City contact to discuss future meetings regarding project implementation is Eric Lopez in the City's Department of Community Development, Project Development Bureau, at (562) 570-5690.

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# COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

## FIRE DEPARTMENT

1320 NORTH EASTERN AVENUE  
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90063-3294

(323) 890-4330

P. MICHAEL FREEMAN  
FIRE CHIEF  
FORESTER & FIRE WARDEN

June 30, 2008

Mr. Craig Chalfant  
City of Long Beach  
Department of Development Services  
333 West Ocean Boulevard, 5th Floor  
Long Beach, CA 90802

Dear Mr. Chalfant:

**DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT, PROJECT: COLORADO LAGOON RESTORATION PROJECT, LONG BEACH, (FFER #E200800156)**

The Draft Environmental Impact Report has been reviewed by the Planning Division, Land Development Unit, Forestry Division, and Health Hazardous Materials Division of the County of Los Angeles Fire Department. The following are their comments:

**PLANNING DIVISION:**

- 1. The subject property is totally within the city of Long Beach and is not part of the emergency response area of the Consolidated Fire Protection District.

**LAND DEVELOPMENT UNIT:**

- 1. This project is located entirely in the City of Long Beach. Therefore, the City of Long Beach Fire Department has jurisdiction concerning this project and will be setting conditions. This project is located in close proximity to the jurisdictional area of the Los Angeles County Fire Department. However, this project is unlikely to have an impact that necessitates a comment concerning general requirements from the Land Development Unit of the Los Angeles County Fire Department.

**FORESTRY DIVISION – OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS:**

- 1. The statutory responsibilities of the County of Los Angeles Fire Department, Forestry Division include erosion control, watershed management, rare and endangered species, vegetation,

R-4-1



SERVING THE UNINCORPORATED AREAS OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY AND THE CITIES OF:

|              |           |                  |                      |           |                      |                       |                  |
|--------------|-----------|------------------|----------------------|-----------|----------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| AGOURA HILLS | BRADBURY  | CUDAHY           | HAWTHORNE            | LA MIRADA | MALIBU               | POMONA                | SIGNAL HILL      |
| ARTESIA      | CALABASAS | DIAMOND BAR      | HIDDEN HILLS         | LA PUENTE | MAYWOOD              | RANCHO PALOS VERDES   | SOUTH EL MONTE   |
| AZUSA        | CARSON    | DUARTE           | HUNTINGTON PARK      | LAKEWOOD  | NORWALK              | ROLLING HILLS         | SOUTH GATE       |
| BALDWIN PARK | CERRITOS  | EL MONTE         | INDUSTRY             | LANCASTER | PALMDALE             | ROLLING HILLS ESTATES | TEMPLE CITY      |
| BELL         | CLAREMONT | GARDENA          | INGLEWOOD            | LAWNDALE  | PALOS VERDES ESTATES | ROSEMEAD              | WALNUT           |
| BELL GARDENS | COMMERCE  | GLEN DORA        | IRWINDALE            | LOMITA    | PARAMOUNT            | SAN DIMAS             | WEST HOLLYWOOD   |
| BELLFLOWER   | COVINA    | HAWAIIAN GARDENS | LA CANADA-FLINTRIDGE | LYNWOOD   | PICO RIVERA          | SANTA CLARITA         | WESTLAKE VILLAGE |
|              |           |                  | LA HABRA             |           |                      |                       | WHITTIER         |

Mr. Craig Chalfant  
June 30, 2008  
Page 2

fuel modification for Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones or Fire Zone 4, archeological and cultural resources, and the County Oak Tree Ordinance.

2. The areas germane to the statutory responsibilities of the County of Los Angeles Fire Department, Forestry Division have been addressed.

**HEALTH HAZARDOUS MATERIALS DIVISION:**

1. We have no comments at this time.

If you have any additional questions, please contact this office at (323) 890-4330.

Very truly yours,



FRANK VIDALES, ACTING CHIEF, FORESTRY DIVISION  
PREVENTION SERVICES BUREAU

FV:lj

↑  
R-4-  
1

## COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT

### R-4-1

The County of Los Angeles Fire Department (County Fire Department) states that the Draft EIR has been reviewed by the Planning Division, Land Development Unit, Forestry Division, and Health Hazardous Materials Division of the County Fire Department and noted that the project is located entirely in the City of Long Beach and is not a part of the emergency response area of the Consolidated Fire Protection District. The comment further noted that the project is unlikely to have an impact on the ability of the County Fire Department to provide service. The letter acknowledges that the proposed project's impacts on erosion control, watershed management, rare and endangered species, vegetation, fuel modification, and archaeological and cultural resources are addressed in the appropriate topical section of Chapter 4.0 in the Draft EIR. The County Oak Tree Ordinance is not applicable to the proposed project. The comment also states that the areas germane to the responsibilities of the County Fire Department Forestry Division have been addressed in the Draft EIR. Therefore, no further response is necessary.

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# San Gabriel & Lower Los Angeles RIVERS AND MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY

CALIFORNIA RESOURCES AGENCY

## Governing Board of the Conservancy

- Dan Arrighi, Chair  
Central Basin Water Association
- Frank Colonna, Vice Chair  
Environmental Public Member
- Linda Adams  
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California Environmental Protection Agency
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Secretary for Resources  
Resources Agency
- David De Jesus  
San Gabriel Valley Water Association
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Director  
Department of Finance
- Dean Grose  
Orange County Division of the League of California Cities
- Sharon Martinez  
San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments
- Gloria Molina  
Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
- Patrick O'Donnell  
City of Long Beach
- Ed Wilson  
Gateway Cities Council of Governments
- Vacant  
Orange County Division of the League of California Cities
- Ex Officio Members
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Director  
Department of Parks and Recreation
- John Donnelly  
Executive Director  
Wildlife Conservation Board
- Colonel Thomas H. Magness  
District Engineer, Los Angeles District  
US Army Corps of Engineers
- Bryan Speegle  
Orange County Executive Office
- Thomas M. Stetson  
San Gabriel River Water Master
- Bernie Weingardt  
Angeles National Forest  
US Forest Service
- Dean Efstathiou  
LA County Public Works

## Executive Officer Belinda Faustinos

July 7, 2008

Craig Chalfant  
City of Long Beach  
Department of Development Services  
333 West Ocean Boulevard  
Long Beach, CA 90802

Re: Colorado Lagoon Notice of Availability of a DEIR

Dear Craig Chalfant:

The San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy, or Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (RMC) is grateful for the opportunity to provide comments on the Colorado Lagoon Notice of Availability of a Draft Environmental Impact Report. It has been our pleasure at the RMC to work collaboratively with the Coastal Conservancy, Regional Water Board, Friends of Colorado Lagoon, City of Long Beach and other partners to be part of the of the Colorado Lagoon Restoration and enthusiastically supports the project. In addition, the RMC is very appreciative of the hard work and collaborative efforts though these partners to complete the Draft Environmental Impact Report and support the proposed project's effort to restore the overall ecological health of the Colorado Lagoon by creating estuarine habitat, improving water and sediment quality, managing storm water and enhancing recreational facilities.

The RMC has reviewed the Colorado Lagoon Notice of Availability of a Draft Environmental Impact Report per the goals of the RMC are described in "*Common Ground*", the Conservancy's Watershed and Open Space Plan (found at <http://www.rmc.ca.gov/plan/intro.html>). The Plan presents a simple vision for the future: **restore balance between natural and human systems in the watersheds**. The centerpiece of the Plan is a series of Guiding Principles that cities, federal, state and local agencies, communities, groups and individuals can use to plan preservation, restoration and establishment of future open space, water resources, and habitat projects.

R-5-1

Craig Chalfant  
 City of Long Beach  
 July 7, 2008  
 Page 2

The RMC has the following comments:

1. The proposed project should include an educational component or atleast placement of interpretative signage which will educate the public on the existing and proposed restoration of the estuarine habitat in order for the public to further understand the existing natural resources and encourage stewardship and protection of the natural resources. R-5-2
  
2. BIO-2, pg 1-6: does not state when the presence/absence surveys will need to be completed for the western yellow bats (*Lasiurus xanthinus*). Include as part of this mitigation measure, presence/absence surveys will be completed no more than one week prior to clearing and grubbing. Additionally, if any special status species are found at the construction site, these occurrences will be reported to the CNDDB and CNPS databases as appropriately. R-5-3
  
3. BIO-8, pg 1-7: develop a detailed monitoring plan for the onsite biological monitor unless this mitigation measure will be furthered developed once the regulatory permits are obtained. Include as part of this mitigation measure, the frequency, duration and tasks for the onsite biological monitor of the construction site. R-5-4
  
4. BIO-9, pg 1-7: what type of program, training or instructions will the construction crew receive for the protection of marine mammals, specifically sea turtles. Will the training/presentation only occur at the beginning of the construction or throughout the construction period or as new construction crew members begin work? What type of brochures, pamphlets will be distributed and will the construction crew be required to sign a statement affirming they understand the Marine Mammal Act and more importantly how their actions can harm marine mammals. R-5-5
  
5. Section 4.3 Biological Resources, pg 4.3-1: update to reflect Biological Resource Assessment completed by Chambers Group on July 2004 was updated by LSA on May 2008 and can be found as the Biological Resources Assessment in Appendix E. R-5-6
  
6. Section 4.3.2 Regulatory Setting: clearly state and determine what proposed alternatives will require obtaining what regulatory permits or if any coordination or consultation has been initiated with these regulatory agencies. In addition under the USFWS, a statement should be included to determine if informal or formal consultation with USFWS has been initiated and completed for impacts to the nesting or foraging sites of the California brown pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis californicus*) and the California least tern (*Sterna antillarumbrowni*) in order to make the following statement on pg 4.3-26 "...are known to use the project area. These species are not expected to be significantly adversely affected as a result of the Lagoon improvements since the Lagoon is a poor quality foraging site and higher quality foraging sites are available short distances up and down the coast." R-5-7

Craig Chalfant  
City of Long Beach  
July 7, 2008  
Page 3

Please include under CDFG section a reference to the CDFG Code Section 4150 Nongame mammals. "...All mammals occurring naturally in California which are not game mammals, fully protected mammals, or fur-bearing mammals, are nongame mammals. Nongame mammals or parts thereof...may not be possessed except as provided in this code or in accordance with regulations adopted by the commission..."

R-5-8

Section 4.3.3 Methodology, pg 4.3-8 and 9: Field surveys were conducted on January 11, 2008 and a literature review and database search was conducted January 12, 2008. Please ensure the literature search was conducted before the field survey in order to further validate previous surveys and biological assessments, I would assume the literature review would have provided the necessary special status species list to determine the type of field surveys to conduct. In addition, given field surveys were conducted outside the blooming periods for special status plant species, include a statement affirming when obtaining regulatory permits, if necessary, further spring surveys will be conducted to determine presence or absence of this special status species.

R-5-9

Thank you for your consideration of these comments. If you have any questions, please contact me or the Project Manager assigned to this project, Luz Torres, at 626-815-1019 ext 110 or at [ltorres@rnc.ca.gov](mailto:ltorres@rnc.ca.gov).

Sincerely,



Belinda V. Faustinos  
Executive Officer

cc: Eric Lopez  
Eric Zahn

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## RIVERS AND MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY (RMC)

### R-5-1

The comment is introductory and states that the RMC is very appreciative of the collaborative effort of several agencies on the project and is supportive of the proposed project's effort to restore the ecological health of the Colorado Lagoon. The comment does not contain any substantive statements or questions about the Draft EIR or the analysis therein. Therefore, no further response is necessary.

### R-5-2

The comment states that an educational component or signage should be included in the project design to aid in educating the public about the natural resources of the Lagoon and encourage public stewardship. The project includes enhanced educational opportunities for the public as well as informative signage. The City Department of Parks, Recreation, and Marine is in support of implementing interpretative signage at the Lagoon to supplement and further the City's and FOCL's educational efforts. The signage program will be designed during the implementation stage of the project. Additionally, Friends of the Colorado Lagoon (FOCL) maintains a Marine Science Learning Center that provides educational activities to the public. This facility will remain in operation.

### R-5-3

The comment pertains to the presence/absence surveys included as a mitigation measure to ensure that western yellow bats (*Lasiurus xanthinus*) are not impacted by project activities. RMC requests that the preconstruction surveys for this species are conducted no more than a week prior to clearing and grubbing. The specified time frame is appropriate and is agreed to by the City. Additionally, the appropriate agencies will be notified if survey results are positive for special-status species. Mitigation Measure Bio-2 is refined to read as follows:

The Director of Parks, Recreation, and Marine shall ensure that the presence or absence of western yellow bats is investigated by a qualified biologist prior to the removal of any palms or cottonwoods from the project area no more than one week prior to clearing and grubbing activities. If bats are present, a memo shall be submitted to the CDFG to determine appropriate action.

### R-5-4

This comment requests that a detailed biological monitoring plan be developed and include the frequency, duration, and tasks for the on-site biological monitor. A more detailed monitoring plan will be included in the final compensatory mitigation plan for the Lagoon improvements as part of the regulatory permitting process. The biological monitor will be responsible for monitoring the progress of the site toward meeting the performance standards, monitoring the implementation and maintenance for compliance with the final compensatory mitigation plans

and technical specifications, documenting the progress of the site, annual report submittal to the resource agencies, and to provide recommendations and remedial measures as needed. The frequency of visits will be determined during the regulatory permitting process and will be subject to approval of the permitting resource agencies. The frequency will most likely be monthly during the first two years of implementation and quarterly thereafter, with annual reporting requirements.

#### **R-5-5**

This comment requests more clarification regarding mitigation measures dealing with construction crew briefing on marine mammals and sea turtles. Construction crews will be briefed prior to commencement of project activities with the potential to result in impacts to marine mammals. Each construction crew member will be briefed and will be required to sign a statement acknowledging receiving training regarding the Marine Mammal Act and the potential harm his/her actions may have on marine mammals and sea turtles prior to beginning work on the project site. Informative pamphlets, including characteristics for identification and requirements of the Marine Mammal Act, will be distributed to each crew member during the training session. A qualified biological monitor with authority to stop or redirect construction activities will be on site during all construction activities with the potential to result in impacts to marine mammals.

#### **R-5-6**

This comment requests a minor clarification in the description of the update to the previously conducted Biological Resources Assessment. A previous Biological Resources Assessment conducted by Chambers Group, Inc. in July 2004, was updated by LSA Associates, Inc. in May 2008. This Response to Comments document is a component of the Final EIR. The information in this comment and response clarifying the previously conducted Biological Resources Assessment is hereby updated in the Final EIR.

#### **R-5-7**

This comment pertains to the regulatory permits that may be required with different project alternatives, if any, and also asks for clarification regarding consultation with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) for listed species with a potential to occur on site, including the California brown pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis californicus*) and the California least tern (*Sterna antillarum browni*). Consultation with the USFWS will be initiated for listed species with the potential to occur on the project site during the permit application process. The brown pelican and California least tern have the potential to utilize the project area for foraging or roosting activities, but significant adverse impacts are not expected to occur for these species due to the presence of higher-quality habitat a short distance from the project site. It is expected that these bird species will select one of these other locations for foraging or roosting if they are present in the project vicinity. A list of Regulatory Actions by Responsible Agencies is provided in Table 3.B on page 3-24 in Section 3 of the DEIR. These regulatory actions remain the same for each of the project alternatives, with the exception of the no project alternative, which will not require permit approvals by regulatory agencies.

### **R-5-8**

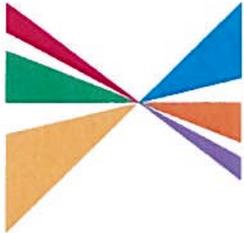
This comment requests that CDFG Code Section 4150 be included in the regulatory setting discussion of the Biological Resources section (Section 4.3) of the DEIR. The updated information includes the following language regarding protection of nongame mammals: "...All mammals occurring naturally in California which are not game mammals, fully protected mammals, or fur-bearing mammals, are nongame mammals. Nongame mammals or parts thereof...may not be possessed except as provided in this code or in accordance with regulations adopted by the commission...". This Response to Comments document is a component of the Final EIR. The Final EIR is hereby updated by the comment and response to include information regarding the protection of nongame mammals.

### **R-5-9**

The comment identifies a minor error in the date the literature search was conducted and requests confirmation that the literature search was conducted prior to field surveys. The literature search was conducted on January 11, 2008, prior to field surveys that were conducted later that day. This Response to Comments document is a component of the Final EIR. The Final EIR is hereby corrected by the comment and response clarifying the date of the literature search.

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SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA



**ASSOCIATION of GOVERNMENTS**

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Mike Ten, South Pasadena

July 1, 2008

Mr. Craig Chalfant  
City of Long Beach Department of Development Services  
333 West Ocean Blvd, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Long Beach, CA 90802

**RE: SCAG Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the proposed Colorado Lagoon Restoration Project, SCH No. 2007111034, SCAG NO. I20080308**

Dear Mr. Chalfant,

Thank you for submitting the **Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for Colorado Lagoon Restoration Project - SCAG No. I20080308**, to the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) for review and comment. SCAG is the authorized regional agency for Inter-Governmental Review of Programs proposed for federal financial assistance and direct development activities, pursuant to Presidential Executive Order 12372 (replacing A-95 Review). Additionally, pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21083(d) SCAG reviews Environmental Impact Reports of projects of regional significance for consistency with regional plans per the California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines, Sections 15125(d) and 15206(a)(1). SCAG is also the designated Regional Transportation Planning Agency and as such is responsible for both preparation of the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) under California Government Code Section 65080 and 65082. As the clearinghouse for regionally significant projects per Executive Order 12372, SCAG reviews the consistency of local plans, projects, and programs with regional plans. This activity is based on SCAG's responsibilities as a regional planning organization pursuant to state and federal laws and regulations. Guidance provided by these reviews is intended to assist local agencies and project sponsors to take actions that contribute to the attainment of regional goals and policies.

SCAG staff has reviewed this project and determined that the proposed project is regionally significant per California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines, Sections 15125 and/or 15206. The Lagoon is an approximately 11.7 acre tidal water body that is connected to Alamitos Bay and the Pacific Ocean through an underground tidal culvert to Marine Stadium. The project site is located entirely within the Coastal Zone and is under the land use planning and regulatory jurisdiction of the City of Long Beach and the California Coastal Commission (CCC). The proposed project includes improvements to the Colorado Lagoon (Lagoon) water body and adjacent habitat and recreation areas. The Lagoon serves as an estuarine habitat, which has been in a state of deteriorated ecological health for the past several decades. The proposed project seeks to improve the water and sediment quality of the Lagoon as well as enhance recreational opportunities.

We have evaluated this project based on the policies of SCAG's Regional Comprehensive Plan and Guide (RCPG), Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), and Compass Growth Vision (CGV) that may be applicable to your project. The RCPG, RTP and CGV can be found on the SCAG web site at: <http://scag.ca.gov/igr>. The attached detailed comments are meant to provide guidance for considering the proposed project within the context of our regional goals and policies. Please provide a copy of the Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) for our review. If you have any questions regarding the attached comments, please contact Jennifer Samecki at (213) 236-1829. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jacob Lieb, Program Manager  
Environmental Planning Division

DOCS# 146573

The Regional Council is comprised of 76 elected officials representing 187 cities, six counties, five County Transportation Commissions, and a Tribal Government representative within Southern California.

R-6-1

July 1, 2008  
Mr. Chalfant

SCAG No. I20080308

**COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT  
(DEIR) FOR THE COLORADO LAGOON RESTORATION PROJECT –  
SCH NO. 2007111034, SCAG NO. I20080308**

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The proposed project site is located in the southeastern portion of the City of Long Beach, and includes the Colorado Lagoon, Marina Vista Park, and a small area at Marine Stadium. The first phase of the proposed Colorado Lagoon Restoration project would provide improvements to the Lagoon through cleaning of the culvert and removal of structural impedances at the culvert as well as dredging, storm drain upgrades, recontouring side slopes, developing Bird Island, revegetating land areas, planting eelgrass in the Lagoon water body and developing the walking trail and viewing platform at the Lagoon. The second phase of the proposed project would provide improvements to Marina Vista Park, including the long-term project component of building an open channel between the Lagoon and Marine Stadium, constructing two roadway bridges spanning the open channel at East Colorado Street and East Eliot Street, demolishing and replacing two public restrooms in Marina Vista Park, reconfiguring the baseball and youth overlay soccer fields, and developing a walking trail on the eastern side of the open channel and vegetation buffers on both sides of the channel.

R-6-2

The proposed project would require a Local Coastal Program Amendment, Zoning Code Amendment, California Coastal Development Permit, Site Plan Review, and Environmental Impact Report Certification.

**CONSISTENCY WITH REGIONAL COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AND GUIDE POLICIES**

The **Growth Management Chapter (GMC)** of the Regional Comprehensive Plan and Guide (RCPG) contains the following policies that are particularly applicable and should be addressed in the Final EIR. The discussion of SCAG's Regional Policies on page 4.8-19 describes the Draft Regional Comprehensive Plan (RCP). The Draft RCP has not been adopted by the Regional Council and therefore, the RCPG dated March 1996 applies to this project. However, the appropriate RCPG policies are listed in Table 4.8.C.

R-6-3

**Regional Growth Forecasts**

The Final EIR should reflect the most current SCAG forecasts, which are the 2008 RTP (May 2008) Population, Household and Employment forecasts. The forecasts for your region, subregion, and cities are as follows:

| <b>Adopted SCAG Regionwide Forecasts<sup>1</sup></b> |             |             |             |             |             |             |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
|  | <u>2010</u> | <u>2015</u> | <u>2020</u> | <u>2025</u> | <u>2030</u> | <u>2035</u> |
| Population   | 19,418,344  | 20,465,830  | 21,468,948  | 22,395,121  | 23,255,377  | 24,057,286  |
| Households   | 6,086,986   | 6,474,074   | 6,840,328   | 7,156,645   | 7,449,484   | 7,710,722   |
| Employment   | 8,349,453   | 8,811,406   | 9,183,029   | 9,546,773   | 9,913,376   | 10,287,125  |

R-6-4

| <b>Adopted Gateway Cities Subregion Forecasts<sup>1</sup></b> |             |             |             |             |             |             |
|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
|   | <u>2010</u> | <u>2015</u> | <u>2020</u> | <u>2025</u> | <u>2030</u> | <u>2035</u> |
| Population  | 2,143,979   | 2,190,471   | 2,236,253   | 2,280,588   | 2,323,438   | 2,364,199   |
| Households  | 591,028     | 607,440     | 623,862     | 636,482     | 648,759     | 658,696     |
| Employment  | 762,987     | 776,857     | 785,715     | 796,129     | 807,251     | 817,891     |



| <b>Adopted Gateway Cities Unincorporated Subregion Forecasts<sup>1</sup></b> |             |             |             |             |             |             |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
|  | <u>2010</u> | <u>2015</u> | <u>2020</u> | <u>2025</u> | <u>2030</u> | <u>2035</u> |
| Population   | 350,853     | 358,727     | 367,065     | 375,093     | 382,816     | 390,183     |
| Households   | 85,356      | 89,168      | 93,186      | 96,323      | 99,353      | 101,847     |
| Employment   | 86,142      | 88,293      | 89,666      | 91,281      | 93,006      | 94,656      |

R-6-4

| <b>Adopted City of Long Beach Forecasts<sup>1</sup></b> |             |             |             |             |             |             |
|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
|   | <u>2010</u> | <u>2015</u> | <u>2020</u> | <u>2025</u> | <u>2030</u> | <u>2035</u> |
| Population  | 503,251     | 517,226     | 531,854     | 545,980     | 559,598     | 572,614     |
| Households  | 169,739     | 175,415     | 181,397     | 186,067     | 190,576     | 194,287     |
| Employment  | 185,938     | 189,987     | 192,573     | 195,614     | 198,860     | 201,967     |

1. The 2008 RTP growth forecast at the regional, county and subregional level was adopted by the Regional Council in May 2008. City totals are the sum of small area data and should be used for advisory purposes only.

**3.01** *The population, housing, and jobs forecasts, which are adopted by SCAG's Regional Council and that reflect local plans and policies shall be used by SCAG in all phases of implementation and review.*

**SCAG Staff Comments:** As stated on page 4.8-24 of the Draft EIR, the proposed project would not create new jobs or develop new residential uses. In addition, the project does not include infrastructure improvements that could induce population growth. SCAG staff agrees with the conclusion in Table 4.8.C [Consistency with SCAG Regional Policies] that the proposed project does not conflict with adopted forecasts. Therefore, the project is consistent with Policy 3.01.

R-6-5

**GMC POLICIES RELATED TO THE RCPG GOAL TO IMPROVE THE REGIONAL STANDARD OF LIVING**

The Growth Management goals to develop urban forms that enable individuals to spend less income on housing cost, that minimize public and private development costs, and that enable firms to be more competitive, strengthen the regional strategic goal to stimulate the regional economy. The evaluation of the proposed project in relation to the following policies would be intended to guide efforts toward achievement of such goals and does not infer regional interference with local land use powers.

- 3.04** *Encourage local jurisdictions' efforts to achieve a balance between the types of jobs they seek to attract and housing prices.*
- 3.05** *Encourage patterns of urban development and land use which reduce costs on infrastructure construction and make better use of existing facilities.*
- 3.09** *Support local jurisdictions' efforts to minimize the cost of infrastructure and public service delivery, and efforts to seek new sources of funding for development and the provision of services.*
- 3.10** *Support local jurisdictions' actions to minimize red tape and expedite the permitting process to maintain economic vitality and competitiveness.*

R-6-6

**SCAG Staff Comments:** The Colorado Lagoon Restoration project would provide improvements to the Lagoon through cleaning of the culvert and removal of structural impedances as well as provide improvements to Marina Vista Park. The proposed project would not create new jobs or develop new residential uses. In addition, the project does not include infrastructure improvements that could induce population growth. Therefore, SCAG staff has determined that Policies 3.04, 3.05, 3.09 and 3.10 do not apply to the project but have listed them for information.

**GMC POLICIES RELATED TO THE RCPG GOAL TO IMPROVE THE REGIONAL QUALITY OF LIFE**

The Growth Management goals to improve the regional quality of life include strategies to attain mobility and clean air goals and to develop urban forms that enhance quality of life. In addition, these goals seek to accommodate a diversity of life styles that preserve open space and natural resources, and that are aesthetically pleasing, and preserve the character of communities. The evaluation of the proposed project in relation to the following policies would be intended to provide direction for plan implementation, but does not set forth regional mandates.

- 3.20** *Support the protection of vital resources such as wetlands, groundwater recharge areas, woodlands, production lands, and land containing unique and endangered plants and animals.*
- 3.21** *Encourage the implementation of measures aimed at the preservation and protection of recorded and unrecorded cultural resources and archaeological sites.*
- 3.23** *Encourage mitigation measures that reduce noise in certain locations, measures aimed at preservation of biological and ecological resources, measures that would reduce exposure to seismic hazards, minimize earthquake damage, and to develop emergency response and recovery plans.*

R-6-7

**SCAG Staff Comments:**

Table 4.8.C describes the proposed project's consistency with Policies 3.20, 3.21, and 3.23. As stated in Table 4.8.C, the objective of the project is to enhance and protect the habitat areas and restore Colorado Lagoon. Based on the discussion provided in Table 4.8.C, SCAG staff agrees with the consistency finding for the aforementioned policies.

**GMC POLICIES RELATED TO THE RCPG GOAL TO PROVIDE SOCIAL, POLITICAL, AND CULTURAL EQUITY**

The Growth Management goals seek to develop urban forms that avoid economic and social polarization, promote the regional strategic goal of minimizing social and geographic disparities, and achieve equity among all segments of society. The evaluation of the proposed project in relation to the policy stated below is intended guide direction for the accomplishment of this goal, and does not infer regional mandates or interference with local land use powers.

R-6-8

- 3.27** *Support local jurisdictions and other service providers in their efforts to develop sustainable communities and provide, equally to all members of society, accessible and effective services such as: public education, housing, health care, social services, recreational facilities, law enforcement, and fire protection.*

**SCAG Staff Comments:**

The proposed project would enhance the natural resources and existing recreational uses on site. The recreational uses within Marina Vista Park, including sports fields and walking trails, would be maintained and enhanced. In addition, the proposed project would maintain the existing accessibility to the project site's open space areas utilized for outdoor recreation. Therefore, the project would be consistent with Policy 3.27.

**AIR QUALITY CHAPTER**

The **Air Quality Chapter** core actions related to the proposed project include:

- 5.11** *Through the environmental document review process, ensure that plans at all levels of government (regional, air basin, county, subregional, and local) consider air quality, land use, transportation, and economic relationships to ensure consistency and minimize conflicts.*

R-6-9

**SCAG Staff Comments:**

As discussed on page 4.8-24, the proposed project would not change the existing uses on the project site and would therefore not create an inconsistency between air quality, land use, transportation and economic relationships. Therefore, SCAG staff agrees with the consistency finding regarding Policy 5.11.

R-6-9

**OPEN SPACE AND CONSERVATION CHAPTER**

The **Open Space and Conservation Chapter** goals related to the proposed project include:

- 9.01** *Provide adequate land resources to meet the outdoor recreation needs of the present and future residents in the region.*
- 9.02** *Increase the accessibility to open space lands for outdoor recreation.*
- 9.03** *Promote self-sustaining regional recreation resources and facilities.*
- 9.04** *Maintain open space for adequate protection to lives and properties against natural and manmade hazards.*
- 9.08** *Develop well-managed viable ecosystems or known habitats of rare, threatened and endangered species, including wetlands.*

R-6-10

**SCAG Staff Comments:**

As stated on page 4.8-25, the objective of the proposed project is to protect and enhance habitat resources, including wetlands, open space, and recreation resources. The proposed project would improve water quality, enhance access to recreational resources, and provide mitigation in cases where there may be project-related risk to natural and human-made hazards. Therefore, SCAG staff agrees with the consistency findings in Table 4.8.C for Policies 9.01, 9.02, 9.03, 9.04, and 9.08.

**WATER QUALITY CHAPTER RECOMMENDATIONS AND POLICY OPTIONS**

The **Water Quality Chapter** goals related to the proposed project include:

- 11.05** *Support regional efforts to identify and cooperatively plan for wetlands to facilitate both sustaining the amount and quality of wetlands in the region and expediting the process for obtaining wetland permits.*
- 11.07** *Encourage water reclamation throughout the region where it is cost-effective, feasible, and appropriate to reduce reliance on imported water and wastewater discharges. Current administrative impediments to increased use of wastewater should be addressed.*

R-6-11

**SCAG Staff Comments:**

As stated on page 4.8-26, the City of Long Beach and the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board are working together to improve the wetlands within the project area. Various improvements would restore the Lagoon's water, sediment, and habitat quality. Furthermore, the proposed project would continue to use reclaimed water for irrigation. Therefore, SCAG staff agrees with the consistency findings for Policies 11.05 and 11.07.

**GROWTH VISIONING**

The fundamental goal of the **Compass Growth Visioning** effort is to make the SCAG region a better place to live, work and play for all residents regardless of race, ethnicity or income class. Thus, decisions regarding growth, transportation, land use, and economic development should be made to promote and sustain for future generations the region's mobility, livability and prosperity. The following "Regional Growth Principles" are proposed to provide a framework for local and regional decision making that improves the quality of life for all SCAG residents. Each principle is followed by a specific set of strategies intended to achieve this goal.

R-6-12

July 1, 2008  
Mr. Chalfant

SCAG No. I20080308

A portion of the City of Long Beach is located within a Compass 2% Strategy Area. The Compass Blueprint 2% Strategy is a guideline for how and where we can implement the Growth Vision for Southern California's future. It calls for modest changes to current land use and transportation trends on only 2% of the land area of the region – the 2% Strategy Opportunity Areas. Investing our planning efforts and resources according to the 2% Strategy will yield the greatest progress toward improving measures of mobility, livability, prosperity and sustainability for local neighborhoods and their residents.

**Principle 1: Improve mobility for all residents.**

- GV P1.1** Encourage transportation investments and land use decisions that are mutually supportive.
- GV P1.2** Locate new housing near existing jobs and new jobs near existing housing.
- GV P1.3** Encourage transit-oriented development.
- GV P1.4** Promote a variety of travel choices

**Principle 2: Foster livability in all communities.**

- GV P2.1** Promote infill development and redevelopment to revitalize existing communities.
- GV P2.2** Promote developments, which provide a mix of uses.
- GV P2.3** Promote "people scaled," walkable communities.
- GV P2.4** Support the preservation of stable, single-family neighborhoods.

**Principle 3: Enable prosperity for all people.**

- GV P3.1** Provide, in each community, a variety of housing types to meet the housing needs of all income levels.
- GV P3.2** Support educational opportunities that promote balanced growth.
- GV P3.3** Ensure environmental justice regardless of race, ethnicity or income class.
- GV P3.4** Support local and state fiscal policies that encourage balanced growth
- GV P3.5** Encourage civic engagement.

**Principle 4: Promote sustainability for future generations.**

- GV P4.1** Preserve rural, agricultural, recreational, and environmentally sensitive areas.
- GV P4.2** Focus development in urban centers and existing cities.
- GV P4.3** Develop strategies to accommodate growth that uses resources efficiently, eliminate pollution and significantly reduce waste.
- GV P4.4** Utilize "green" development techniques

**SCAG Staff Comments:**

As stated on page 4.8-26, the proposed project would enhance recreational opportunities by providing walking trails and maintaining existing sports fields. Water quality would be improved through various techniques such as bioswales, and native vegetation would be utilized. Through the provision of public recreation areas and improved public access, the proposed project could encourage a mix of uses that promote walkable communities. Therefore, SCAG staff agrees with the consistency finding for Growth Visioning strategy P4.1. The proposed project also furthers the objective of strategies GV P1.1, GV P2.2, GV P2.3, and GV P4.4. The remaining principles and strategies are provided for information.

**CONCLUSION**

All feasible measures needed to mitigate any potentially negative regional impacts associated with the proposed project should be implemented and monitored, as required by CEQA.

When a project is of statewide, regional, or areawide significance, transportation information generated by a required monitoring or reporting program shall be submitted to SCAG as such information becomes reasonably available, in accordance with CEQA, Public Resource Code Section 21018.7, and CEQA Guidelines Section 15097 (g).

R-6-12

R-6-13

## **SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS**

### **R-6-1**

The comment is introductory and provides information regarding processing of the document by the Southern California Association of Government (SCAG). The City acknowledges that SCAG has determined that the proposed project is regionally significant per CEQA Guidelines. The comment does not contain any substantive statements or questions regarding the analyses or conclusions contained in the Draft EIR, and no further response is necessary.

### **R-6-2**

The comment provides information regarding the project description and required discretionary actions. The comment does not contain any substantive statements or questions regarding the Draft EIR. Therefore, no further response is necessary.

### **R-6-3**

The comment states that the March 1996 Regional Comprehensive Plan and Guide (RCPG) applies to the proposed project and that the appropriate policies are listed in Table 4.8.C of the Draft EIR. Because the appropriate policies have been included in the Draft EIR, no further response is necessary.

### **R-6-4**

The comment provides the most current SCAG forecasts from the 2008 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) (May 2008) for the region, Gateway Cities Subregion, and the City of Long Beach. The SCAG comment letter is included in the Response to Comments volume of the Final EIR, and therefore the growth forecasts provided are incorporated into the Final EIR. See Response to Comment R-6-5 for more information regarding the project's consistency with the regional growth forecasts.

### **R-6-5**

The comment agrees with the conclusion in the Draft EIR that the project does not conflict with adopted growth forecasts and is consistent with RCPG Policy 3.01. Therefore, no further response is necessary.

### **R-6-6**

The comment lists SCAG's Growth Management policies related to the RCPG goal to improve the standard of living in the region, and then states that the listed policies do not apply to the project because the project would not induce population growth. Therefore, no further response is necessary.

### **R-6-7**

The comment lists SCAG's Growth Management policies related to the RCPG goal to improve the regional quality of life through improved mobility and air quality. The comment agrees with the conclusion in the Draft EIR that the project would be consistent with the adopted policies because the objective of the project is to enhance and protect habitat areas and restore the Lagoon. Therefore, no further response is necessary.

### **R-6-8**

The comment provides SCAG's Growth Management policies related to the RCPG goal to provide social, political, and cultural equity. The comment states that the project would be consistent with the adopted policy because the project enhances natural resources and existing recreational uses that are equally accessible to all members of society. Therefore, no further response is necessary.

### **R-6-9**

The comment lists the applicable SCAG Air Quality policy ("core action") and agrees with the Draft EIR conclusion that the project would be consistent with the adopted policy because the project would not change the existing land use of the project site, which is recreation. Therefore, no further response is necessary.

### **R-6-10**

The comment lists the applicable SCAG Open Space and Conservation policies and agrees with the conclusion in the Draft EIR that the project would be consistent with the adopted policies because the objective of the project is to enhance and protect habitat and recreation resources. Therefore, no further response is necessary.

### **R-6-11**

The comment lists the applicable SCAG Water Quality policies and agrees with the conclusion in the Draft EIR that the project would be consistent with the adopted policies because the project would restore the Lagoon's water, sediment, and habitat quality, and would continue the use of reclaimed water for irrigation. Therefore, no further response is necessary.

### **R-6-12**

The comment lists the applicable SCAG Regional Growth Principles and Strategies and agrees with the conclusion in the Draft EIR that the project would be consistent with the adopted policies because the objective of the project is to enhance and protect the existing natural environment. Therefore, no further response is necessary.

**R-6-13**

The comment states that all feasible measures needed to mitigate any potential impacts associated with the project should be implemented and monitored as required by CEQA and that transportation information generated as a result of the mitigation monitoring program (MMRP) be submitted to SCAG. As described in Section 4.12 of the Draft EIR, the project is expected to have little to no effect on traffic levels.

The letter states that, as described throughout the Draft EIR, the environmental analysis of the proposed project has been prepared according to all applicable CEQA and other State, local, and regional requirements. All feasible mitigation measures have been included in the Draft EIR to mitigate to the extent possible any adverse impacts resulting from the proposed project. Further, the project would continue to be implemented and monitored as required by CEQA, the City of Long Beach, and all other responsible agencies. The City concurs with SCAG's comments. Therefore, no further response is necessary.

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DATE: July 10, 2008

TO: Craig Chalfant, Senior Planner

FROM: Dennis Eschen, Manager, Planning and Development Bureau

SUBJECT: Colorado Lagoon Restoration EIR

On June 19, 2008, the City of Long Beach Parks and Recreation Commission (P&RC) in their monthly public meeting reviewed the Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Colorado Lagoon Restoration. The P&RC voted to recommend that the Planning Commission certify the document subject to inclusion of the following comments:

- The channel connecting the Colorado Lagoon and Marine Stadium divides Marina Vista Park. This will inconvenience park patrons wishing to use both sections of the park. Thus, a pedestrian bridge over channel should be added to the project construction plans. L-1-1
- Improved water quality in Colorado Lagoon is likely to make it more attractive to users. Parking counts that are adequate for the current level of use may not be sufficient for future use. Parking availability should be monitored annually and contingency plans developed for increasing parking availability should be included into the project. L-1-2
- As part of the land of Marina Vista Park will be removed and converted into water area, the P&RC would like to believe the EIR should include a discussion of why the removal of park land area does not trigger the Parks in Perpetuity City Charter provision that requires two to one replacement of park land converted to non-park use. L-1-3
- As part of the land of Marina Vista Park will be removed and converted into water area, the P&RC would like to believe the EIR should include a discussion of why the removal of park land area does not trigger the Parks in Perpetuity City Charter provision that requires two to one replacement of park land converted to non-park use. L-1-4

The P&R Commission thanks you for the opportunity to comment on the Draft EIR.

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## **CITY OF LONG BEACH PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

### **L-1-1**

The comment is introductory and states that the City of Long Beach Parks and Recreation Commission has reviewed the Draft EIR for the Colorado Lagoon Restoration Project. The comment states that the Parks and Recreation Commission voted to recommend that the Planning Commission certify the EIR subject to inclusion of comments, which are detailed in Responses to Comments L-1-2 through L-1-4 below. The comment does not contain any specific statements or questions about the Draft EIR or the analysis therein; therefore, no further response is necessary.

### **L-1-2**

The comment states that the open channel connecting the Lagoon to Marine Stadium would divide Marina Vista Park, which would inconvenience park patrons wishing to use both sections of the park. Therefore, the comment states that a pedestrian bridge over the channel should be added to the proposed project.

As described on page 3-9 of the Draft EIR and evaluated in Section 4.11.5, Recreation, the proposed project includes constructing two vehicular bridges with pedestrian and bicycle facilities over the open channel at East Colorado Street and East Eliot Street in order to maintain existing circulation. The two bridges would both be approximately at grade and would be approximately 160 ft in length and approximately 45 ft in width. It is anticipated that each bridge would include two 12 ft lanes, two 5 ft sidewalks, and an 8 ft wide bike path on one side. The distance between the two bridges is approximately 600 ft. The pedestrians in Marina Vista Park could walk to the proposed bridges at East Colorado Street or East Eliot Street to access the sidewalk and cross the open channel to reach the opposite side of the park. The proposed project does not include any additional crossings over the open channel. This suggestion will be made available for consideration by the decision-makers as part of their determination regarding the proposed project. Although the pedestrian bridge is not included in the project description at this time and, therefore, funding sources for such an improvement have not been identified, the proposed project components and design do not preclude the construction of such a facility at a later date. The pedestrian bridge is contemplated for an area where there are no known sensitive resources and is not expected to result in significant adverse impacts. If the proposal is pursued in the future, it would be subject to additional engineering analysis. The comment does not contain any substantive statements or questions about the Draft EIR or the analysis therein; therefore, no further response is necessary.

### **L-1-3**

The comment states that improved water quality in the Lagoon is likely to make it more attractive to users and that parking availability should be monitored annually and contingency plans for increasing parking should be included in the project.

As detailed in Sections 4.11, Recreation, and 4.12, Traffic and Circulation, in addition to the north shore parking lot (which would be removed with the proposed project), parking for Lagoon use is also provided by a parking lot on the southwest shore along Appian Way, which includes 56 parking spaces, and by on-street parking on East 6th Street to the north of the Lagoon and on East Colorado Street south of the Lagoon. The parking lot bound by East Colorado Street, East Appian Way, and Nieto Avenue is also utilized for Lagoon parking; however, it is not reserved for Lagoon use. After implementation of the proposed project, the maximum parking demand of Lagoon use is anticipated to be approximately 38 spaces. The parking lot on the southwest shore can accommodate this demand while providing 18 surplus parking spaces. In addition, parking will remain available on East 6th Street, East Colorado Street, and at the Nieto Avenue parking lot. The parking locations along the southern shore of the Lagoon are appropriate, as a large portion of the existing recreational use of the Lagoon is on the south shore, which is also the location of the swimming area. As a result, removal of the north parking lot will not cause a parking deficiency, overcrowding of the remaining parking areas, or other adverse impacts. Therefore, based on the analysis within the Draft EIR, a contingency plan for additional parking would not be necessary. However, this suggestion will be made available for consideration by the decision-makers as part of their determination regarding the proposed project.

The City Department of Parks, Recreation, and Marine (applicant) will commit to monitoring use of parking areas for the Lagoon and on the closest residential streets to the Lagoon during the summer months, according to a survey protocol developed and/or approved by the City traffic engineer. This commitment, while not required to reduce a significant impact (since no significant impacts to parking were identified in the Draft EIR), will be incorporated into the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program to ensure and track compliance. In addition, the City Department of Parks, Recreation, and Marine will provide an annual report to the Parks and Recreation Commission on the progress of the Lagoon improvements and potential effects to the neighborhood from construction and operation of the project.

#### **L-1-4**

The comment states that the Draft EIR should include a discussion of why the proposed project does not trigger the Parks in Perpetuity City Charter provision that requires two-to-one replacement of park land. The Parks in Perpetuity City Charter provision (Section 905 of the City Charter) states:

“The City Council shall by ordinance adopt zoning and other regulations for the proper use and protection of parks, plazas, beaches, golf courses, playgrounds, recreation facilities, and other recreation areas in the City.

Notwithstanding any other provisions of this Charter to the contrary, those areas that have been dedicated or designated as public park or recreation areas of the City shall not be sold or otherwise alienated unless first authorized or later ratified by an affirmative vote of a majority of the qualified electors of the City voting at an election for such purpose; except that the City Council may sell or alienate public parks or recreation areas, or any portions thereof, if, after a public hearing, and the approval of the Parks and Recreation Commission, the City Council determines that said park or recreation areas will be replaced by other dedicated or

designated park or recreation areas on substantially an amenity for amenity basis, and at a ratio of at least two to one (2:1); and further that an approximately equal portion of the replacement land will be located in the park service area where the land was converted, and an approximately equal portion of the replacement land will be located in a park service area needing parkland as determined by the Parks and Recreation Commission.”

As detailed in Section 4.11, Recreation, the proposed project would make changes to the recreation amenities within Marina Vista Park due to the development of the open channel connecting the Lagoon to Marine Stadium. However, the proposed project would not sell or otherwise alienate any portion of the park; nor would development of the open channel reduce the number of existing amenities or uses within Marina Vista Park (e.g., there would be no reduction in the number of ball fields at Marina Vista Park). Conversely, the proposed project would add recommended amenities within Marina Vista Park by developing a walking trail on the eastern side of the open channel. The channel itself would provide passive open space uses, including additional native vegetation located within the open channel and along its banks. Further, the existing baseball and youth overlay soccer fields would be reconfigured, and the restroom would be moved and redeveloped. Therefore, implementation of the proposed project would not eliminate any existing uses or amenities within Marina Vista Park.

Development of the open channel would result in a conversion of 2.02 acres (ac) of parkland from existing active to 2.02 ac of passive parkland. The Parks in Perpetuity City Charter provision applies to the sale or alienation of existing parkland only. In addition to the new walking trail and passive uses described previously, the City has not ruled out the possibility of considering additional recreational activities in the open channel in the future by allowing boating access for kayaks and canoes. Although there would be a change from active to passive uses of approximately 2.02 ac within Marina Vista Park as a result of the open channel, there would be no loss or alienation of City parkland overall and no conversion from parkland to nonparkland use. The addition of the walking trail, reconfigured and leveled sports fields, and new redesigned restrooms would enhance the existing recreation uses on site. Therefore, the conversion of approximately 2.02 ac of park from active recreation parkland to passive recreation/open channel parkland would not trigger the Parks in Perpetuity City Charter provision or otherwise require any replacement of parkland.

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6/12/08

Craig,

Jimmy Chen brought to my attention on the following references made in your Draft Colorado Lagoon Restoration Project, Environmental Impact Report.

Page 4.10-6, Paragraph 1, last sentence which reads:

"The City currently has approximately 7 mgd of reclaimed water that is unused"

Source: Ana Ananda LBWD

Please delete the above sentence and source reference from the report since it implies that there is a steady stream of 7 mgd will be available for your project.

What we have indicated to your consultant was that there should be an adequate supply of recycled water during construction phase for construction use. Please make necessary corrections.

Ana Ananda  
Long Beach Water Department  
Phone - 562-570-2326  
Fax - 562-570-2330  
ana\_ananda@lbwater.org

L-2-1

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## **CITY OF LONG BEACH WATER DEPARTMENT**

### **L-2-1**

The City of Long Beach Water Department comment clarifies that there would be an adequate supply of recycled water available during construction activities, but does not specify a specific amount of daily reclaimed water availability. The comment does not change the analysis or conclusion of the Draft EIR, which is that the proposed project would not result in a significant impact related to either potable or reclaimed water supplies. Since the conclusions of the comment and Draft EIR are consistent, no further response is necessary.

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925 Harbor Plaza, Long Beach, CA 90802 Tel 562.437.0041 Fax 562.901.1725



The Port of  
**LONG BEACH**

August 14, 2008

Mr. Craig Chalfont  
City of Long Beach Development Services  
333 Ocean Boulevard, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Long Beach, CA 90802

Dear Mr. Chalfont:

Thank you for affording the Port of Long Beach the opportunity to review the draft EIR on the proposed Colorado Lagoon Restoration Project. The Port believes the project would benefit the people of Long Beach and their environment, and is supportive of the project. Our review of the document indicates that the EIR fully covers the potential impacts of the proposed project, but several areas were identified where, we believe, more detail would make the document more useful to decision makers, including the resource agencies, as they consider the Port's participation in project implementation. Those issues are addressed in our specific comments, below.

L-3-1

#### Comments

1) Section 3.5.2: The document might be more helpful to decision makers if more information on the acreages of habitat to be created were provided – how much subtidal and low intertidal is currently in the Lagoon and how much more would be created. Table 3.A presents some information, but if more information is available it should be provided. Any detail on the expected extent of eelgrass and cordgrass relative to how much is there today would be useful for resource managers to establish the ecological values associated with the proposed restoration. In addition, it would be useful to list the major fish and invertebrate species that would be expected to inhabit the restored lagoon.

L-3-2

2) Section 4.3.4, pages 3-14: The document states that "the Lagoon still provides habitat for adult fish and their young" but there is no supporting information on what species of fish are involved. It would be helpful if the main body of the document could be more quantitative about the fish and invertebrates currently in the lagoon, summarizing data from Allen (1976) and Chambers (2004). There are data in the marine resources report in the appendix, but it would improve our understanding of the restoration if we had a better sense of the current quality of the marine habitat in the Lagoon presented in the setting section. That assessment would be even more useful if it integrated hydrological (e.g., dissolved oxygen (DO), nutrients, temperature, flushing time) and biological information.

L-3-3

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August 14, 2008  
Page 2

3) Section 4.3.4: At least as important would be information on fish and invertebrate resources in nearby Alamitos Bay. That information would help resource managers establish the ecological values associated with the proposed restoration. Alamitos Bay would be the source of marine organisms that would colonize and exchange with the Lagoon, so that knowledge of its resources is integral to assessing the biological outcomes of the restoration.

L-3-4

4) Section 4.3.5, pages 4.3-28: The document's discussion of recolonization of dredged areas might be stronger if the reader were given a sense of the approximate time course of benthic recolonization. Data from the Batiquitos Lagoon and Anaheim Bay monitoring programs, for example, would be relevant.

L-3-5

5) Section 4.6 (Hazards) Tables 4.6A-E: It would be helpful to include in these tables current regulatory standards or guidance values regarding the ecological risks posed by concentrations of contaminants in sediments. That would give readers and resource managers some context for the values presented in those tables and for the characterization of sediment contamination within the Lagoon. The state's recently promulgated sediment objectives, and/or ERL or ERM values used in sediment toxicity evaluations, would be appropriate. The soil data are presented with PRGs and TTLCs, so that it is clear that except for arsenic there are no issues with soil; comparable criteria should be presented for the sediments to provide support for the proposed dredging program.

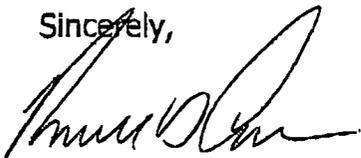
L-3-6

6) Section 4.7 (Hydrology) pages 4.7-7: The narrative might be stronger if there was a clearer description of the existing and proposed tidal regimes in the Lagoon as they relate to the biological zonation of the site (e.g., subtidal, low intertidal, high intertidal, local MLLW, MWL, and MHHW). Information on future conditions is presented later in the section on pages 4.7-45 (Figure 4.7-4), but existing conditions should also be described, to the extent possible. Much of that hydrological information will be developed in later design phases and is not yet available, but it would be useful to have presented what quantitative information is available on current conditions. This information would help readers understand how the proposed restoration would alter and improve Lagoon hydrology.

L-3-7

I hope that these comments will be useful for preparation of the final document. If you have any questions concerning our comments, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Richard Cameron  
Director of Planning and Environmental Affairs

## PORT OF LONG BEACH

### L-3-1

The comment is introductory and states that the Port of Long Beach (Port) is supportive of the project. The comment further states that the EIR fully covers the potential impacts of the proposed project, but requests more detail about specific topics, which are detailed in the responses below.

### L-3-2

The comment requests additional information regarding the estimated acreages of habitat to be created, specifically regarding the subtidal and low intertidal environments. The Port’s comment requests a comparison of the existing and projected acreages for subtidal and low intertidal. As requested, Table B provides the acreages for each subtidal habitat type considered.

**Table B: Existing and Proposed Elevation Categories of Colorado Lagoon<sup>1</sup>**

| Tidal Depths   | Existing Area (acres) | Proposed Area (acres) | Percent Change |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| Deep Subtidal (more than 15 ft below MSL)                            | 0.638                 | 1.866                 | +192.4         |
| Moderate Subtidal (7 to 15 ft below MSL)                             | 6.733                 | 5.139                 | -23.7          |
| Shallow Subtidal (4 ft to 7 ft below MSL, principal eelgrass depths) | 1.246                 | 2.318                 | +86.0          |
| Low Intertidal (4 to 1.75 ft below MSL)                              | 1.695                 | 1.693                 | -0.1           |
| <b>Total Subtidal Habitat</b>  | <b>10.312</b>         | <b>11.016</b>         | <b>+6.8</b>    |

<sup>1</sup> The existing areas in this table were calculated using bathymetry data provided by the consulting engineer and may not reflect the existing “Open Water/Subtidal” acreage in the DEIR due to differences in rounding and tidal differences.

The comment also requests additional detail regarding eelgrass and cordgrass habitat. Specific information regarding the location of eelgrass is addressed in the Marine Resources Report in Appendix E of the Draft EIR. As stated, “Few scattered eelgrass (*Zostera marina*) plants have been observed in past reconnaissance dives (Chambers 2004). Three eelgrass locations from past surveys conducted in the Lagoon are mapped in the 2004 report provided by Chambers and depicted in Figure 2.” Additionally, Draft EIR Section 4.3.4 states on page 4.3-16, “The shallow eelgrass habitats within the Lagoon are approximately 1.25 ac.” Figure 4.3.2 in the Draft EIR depicts the eelgrass previously mapped by Chambers (2004). Similarly, cordgrass habitat is discussed in the Marine Resources Report in Appendix E of the Draft EIR. Cordgrass is expected to establish in the Low Intertidal (4 to 1.75 ft below mean sea level [MSL] and the Low Marsh (1.75 ft below MSL to 1.5 ft above MSL.) Low Intertidal areas overlap with Low Marsh and Shallow Subtidal, but for the purposes of this discussion they are mapped within approximately 1.695 ac of surface area in the Lagoon. Low Intertidal areas contain portions of mudflats and

populations of cordgrass, but cordgrass was not mapped distinctly during previous field surveys. Proposed acreages for potential cordgrass habitat in the intertidal zone are approximately 1.69 ac (Low Intertidal) and 3.16 ac (Low Marsh) for a total of 4.85 ac of potential cordgrass habitat.

The comment also requests a list of major fish and invertebrate species that would be expected to inhabit the restored lagoon. This information is also provided in the Marine Resources Report in Appendix E of the Draft EIR. Major fish species expected to reestablish in the Lagoon include a suite of species that currently exist. Dominant fish species included topsmelt, which accounted for 99 percent of the total abundance, arrow goby (*Clevelandia ios*), and California killifish (*Fundulus parvipinnis*), each contributing approximately 0.3 percent to the total abundance. The remaining 10 species each accounted for 0.1 percent or less of the abundance (Chambers 2004). A total of 46 fish species have been reported in surveys conducted in 1968, 1971, 1973, and 2004 (Allen 1976, Chambers 2004). Two species were reported for the first time in 2004: California needlefish (*Strongylura exilis*), taken occasionally in Southern California embayments, and yellowfin goby (*Acanthogobius flavimanus*), an introduced, nonnative species (Chambers 2004). Conditions at the Lagoon and surrounding areas are not expected to have changed notably since the 2004 baseline survey. Dominant invertebrates that would be expected to colonize the Lagoon following project implementation include species that currently exist in the Lagoon. Dominant invertebrates noted from the Chambers 2004 report included the gelatinous colonial bryzoan (*Zoobytron verticillatum*) and the solitary tunicate (*Styela plicata*). Other invertebrates expected to recolonize include the introduced mussel (*Muscilista senhousesi*), the bubble snail (*Bulla gouldiana*), and the California horn snail (*Cerithidea californica*). Clam species collected during the July 2004 survey included smooth chione (*Chione fluctifraga*), common littleneck (*Protothaca staminea*), California jackknife clam (*Tagelus californianus*), and Philippine cockle (*Venerupis philipinarum*). All these species are expected to recolonize within three years of project implementation.

### L-3-3

This comment requests that a summary of the data from Allen (1976) and Chambers (2004) be included in the main body of the Draft EIR, specifically regarding the species of fish mentioned in the statement in Section 4.3.4, page 3-14 of the Draft EIR, “the Lagoon still provides habitat for adult fish and their young.” The details of fish species populating the Lagoon is discussed in the Marine Resources Report in Appendix E of the Draft EIR and is provided below.

Beach seines conducted for fish in the Lagoon in July 2004 caught 18,903 individuals of 13 species of fish in three seines (Chambers 2004). Seine abundances ranged from 2,246 individuals taken in the north arm to 12,061 individuals in the western arm, with 4,596 individuals taken in the central portion. The number of species was similar in all three areas, with nine species found in the central and northern areas and eight in the western arm. Dominant fish species included topsmelt, which accounted for 99 percent of the total catch, arrow goby (*Clevelandia ios*), and California killifish (*Fundulus parvipinnis*), each contributing about 0.3 percent to the total abundance. The remaining ten species each accounted for 0.1 percent or less of the catch abundance. Absence of the second most abundant species, arrow goby, a burrow-living species, in the west arm was suggested to be related to sediment contamination, low dissolved oxygen, or a combination of these or other factors near the bottom of the Lagoon,

although a few individuals of four other goby species were taken. Both topsmelt and round stingray (*Urobatis halleri*), however, were particularly abundant in the western arm. All round stingray taken in 2004 were female and most were gravid, suggesting that the Lagoon serves as a spawning area for the species.

In surveys conducted in 1973, northern anchovy (*Engraulis mordax*) dominated the fish catch in the Lagoon, although abundances were found to be highly seasonal (Allen 1976). Topsmelt were the second most abundant species taken during these surveys (Allen and Horn 1975). Northern anchovy, like topsmelt, are a schooling species that may occasionally be found in very dense abundances. Unlike topsmelt, however, northern anchovy are more variable on a seasonal and yearly basis, and differences in abundances of the species from year to year are not uncommon (Chavez et al. 2003).

A total of 46 fish species have been reported in surveys conducted in 1968, 1971, 1973, and 2004 (Allen 1976, Chambers 2004). Two species were reported for the first time in 2004: California needlefish (*Strongylura exilis*), taken occasionally in southern California embayments, and yellowfin goby (*Acanthogobius flavimanus*) an introduced, nonnative species. Although only 13 fish species were taken in 2004, previous studies included additional collection methods and seasonal surveys, and results from the 2004 survey appear to be representative of the fish populations expected from previous summer seining surveys. Conditions at the Lagoon and surrounding areas are not expected to have changed notably since the 2004 baseline survey.]

The comment also requests that a summary of data from Allen (1976) and Chambers (2004) regarding the abundance of invertebrates in the Lagoon be included. The following information regarding invertebrates in the Lagoon is found in the Marine Resources Report in Appendix E of the Draft EIR, which paraphrases the results of previous studies conducted by Chambers (2004).

Dominant invertebrates included the gelatinous colonial bryzoan (*Zoobytron verticullatum*) and the solitary tunicate (*Styela plicata*). Clam species collected during the July 2004 survey included smooth chione (*Chione fluctifraga*), common littleneck (*Protothaca staminea*), California jackknife clam (*Tagelus californianus*), and Philippine cockle (*Venerupis philipinarum*). In benthic community surveys conducted in 2004, a total of 35 taxa of invertebrates were collected in nine cores in the Lagoon (Chambers 2004). Densities of organisms ranged from 2,089 individuals of 18 species per square meter in the north arm to 3,822 individuals of 26 species per square meter in the central Lagoon. Though invertebrate density in the west arm was median to these other sites, with 2,930 individuals per square meter, only four invertebrate taxa were collected; a notably reduced diversity in the west arm and indicating environmental stress in the area.

Additional invertebrates observed during Chambers (2004) field investigations include the introduced mussel (*Muscilista senhousesi*), the bubble snail (*Bulla gouldiana*), and the California horn snail (*Cerithidea californica*).

The comment also states that the assessment of habitat quality would be more useful if it integrates hydrological (e.g., dissolved oxygen [DO], nutrients, temperature, flushing time) and biological information. This information is also summarized in the Marine Resources Report in Appendix E of the Draft EIR, which is based on the Chambers 2004 Habitat Assessment. As provided in Appendix E, temperature and salinity levels stay relatively constant throughout the year, but oxygen and nutrient levels vary (Chambers 2004). The current residence time of the water in the Lagoon is 8.5 days. In addition, the Chambers (2004) report states, "The water quality data indicate that [the Lagoon] does not experience extreme temperature or salinity levels, but that dissolved oxygen levels are low during the summer. Nutrient levels are elevated at all times."

The comment further requests that the data in the Marine Resources Report (Appendix E of the Draft EIR), be included in the setting section of the Draft EIR. CEQA Guidelines Section 15125(a) states that "The description of environmental setting shall be no longer than is necessary to an understanding of the significant effects of the proposed project and its alternatives." Additionally, CEQA Guidelines Section 15147 states that, "The information contained in an EIR shall include summarized technical data...sufficient to permit full assessment of significant environmental impacts by reviewing agencies and members of the public. Placement of highly technical and specialized analysis and data in the body of an EIR should be avoided through inclusion of supporting information and analyses as appendices to the main body of the EIR." As currently provided, the information in the body of the Draft EIR is sufficient to fully assess the potential environmental impacts of the proposed project, and the technical data requested in this comment is appropriate for inclusion in Appendix E.

#### **L-3-4**

The comment states that additional information regarding fish and invertebrate resources in Alamitos Bay would help resource managers establish ecological values associated with the proposed project. Analysis of fish and invertebrate populations outside of the project area, including Alamitos Bay, is outside the scope of the Colorado Lagoon Restoration Project Draft EIR. However, as part of the Alamitos Bay Rehabilitation Project, the City of Long Beach conducted marine biological surveys in Alamitos Bay. The comprehensive marine resources environmental assessment focused on eelgrass habitat to prepare an Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) analysis. Information found in the Alamitos Bay Rehabilitation Project Draft Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (April 2008) is available for review at City Hall (333 West Ocean Boulevard, Long Beach) and contains much of the requested information. The City and its consultant team will continue to work with resource managers through the resource agency permitting process that will occur after EIR certification.

#### **L-3-5**

The comment requests information regarding the approximate time period involved in benthic recolonization and indicates that data from the Batiquitos Lagoon and Anaheim Bay monitoring programs would be relevant information to include. Marine Biological Consultants (MBC) was consulted regarding recolonization of benthic organisms and has provided the following information:

“Anderson et al. (1993)<sup>1</sup> stated the following, summarizing results from Soule and Oguri (1976) in outer Los Angeles Harbor: "Sediments from dredged and non-dredged sites, which had been frozen to render them azoic, were placed in containers, transported to the bottom by divers, and left there for varying periods up to 24 weeks. The recolonizing populations were then compared. Over 140 taxa (100 of which were polychaetes) were identified from the containers. There was little difference between the newly exposed sediment and the older sediment. Most of the species that dominated marine communities in outer Los Angeles Harbor were present as early as 6 weeks, but they were not necessarily in dominating proportions. Colonizing populations were less diverse than established populations, and it was believed that 2-3 years would be required for the community to stabilize....These experiments by Soule and Oguri indicated that while a period of time is required for the benthos to recover to previous conditions, it will recover from dredging, and assuming that no additional environmental change occurs, the area will gradually return to previous population levels."

The period of time required to return to existing baseline levels varies greatly and depends on location, time of year, condition of sediments (pre- and post-), surrounding benthic communities, etc.

### **L-3-6**

The comment requests guidance values regarding risks associated with Lagoon sediment. The purpose of the analysis of the Lagoon sediment served a different objective than the analysis of park soil. The comparison of the lead concentrations with waste extraction test (WET) and total threshold limit concentration (TTL) thresholds is intended for potential off-site disposal purposes (i.e., to determine whether the dredged materials [sediment] would be considered “hazardous” based on these hazardous waste criteria). The purpose of the comparison of soil data to preliminary remedial goals (PRGs) is to determine whether the soils in the Marina Vista Park that would be exposed for construction of the channel contain concentrations of constituents of concern that potentially pose a risk or adverse impact to human health.

Additionally, a human health risk assessment was prepared using soil matrix data from the Marina Vista Park to evaluate the potential for constituents of concern detected in the soils that would be exposed if the proposed alternative channel alignment was implemented would pose an adverse impact to the health of the construction workers and future end users of the park.

Comparison of the detected concentrations of constituents of concern in the sediments to the Effects Range Low (ERLs) or Effects Range Median (ERMs), the current threshold, was not performed because the Colorado Lagoon restoration project involves dredging the sediments and constructing a channel to improve tidal flushing of the Lagoon. In essence, the project consists of the removal of these sediments, regardless of whether they contain elevated concentrations of

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<sup>1</sup> Anderson, J.W., D.J. Reish, R.B. Spies, M.E. Brady, and E.W. Segelhorst. 1993. Human Impacts. Ch. 12 in: Ecology of the Southern California Bight (M.D Dailey, D.J. Reish, and J.W. Anderson [eds.]). Univ. Calif. Press, Los Angeles, CA. 926 p.

constituents of concern when compared to current thresholds. Additionally, ERLs or ERMs were not developed for bacteria levels, a pollutant within the Lagoon sediments. Moreover, the appropriate sediment thresholds are being reevaluated by the SWRCB and will be replaced with Sediment Quality Objectives.

**L-3-7**

The comment requests additional information regarding the existing and proposed tidal regimes in the Lagoon as they relate to the biological zonation of the site (e.g., subtidal, low intertidal, high intertidal, local Mean Water Level [MWL], Mean Lower Low Water [MLLW], and Mean Higher High Water [MHHW]). Information regarding existing local MWL, MLLW, and MHHW can be found in Table 4.7.A on page 4.7-6 of the Draft EIR. Because there are no tide stations at Alamitos Bay, the closest monitoring station is the Los Angeles Outer Harbor. However, two tide gauges were deployed in November 2004, one at Marine Stadium and one at the Colorado Lagoon. Water level data from these gauges was used to compare to model simulations for calibration. The water levels and tide phase at Marine Stadium were similar to those predicted at Los Angeles Outer Harbor.

Tidal inundation curves were prepared for the Colorado Lagoon Feasibility Study, and the model will be rerun as part of the final design efforts for the restoration. This information will be available to the Port after final design. Table C provides information regarding the existing and proposed tidal regime in the Lagoon as it relates to biological zonation of the site (e.g., subtidal, low intertidal, high intertidal). Also, please see Table B in this RTC document for additional information regarding subtidal conditions. It is important to note that variations in tides at the time of data collection may account for differences in the totals for subtidal and intertidal habitat acreages. Additionally, these defined elevation categories overlap as discussed in Appendix E of the Draft EIR. Muting in Phase 1 and nontidally muted tidal regimes in Phase 2 are estimates provided by the engineer and not necessarily reflective of actual conditions in the Lagoon.

**Table C: Existing and Proposed Tidal Regimes**

| Tidal Phase                | Existing Conditions   | Phase 1               | Phase 2             |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Subtidal                   | < -1 ft MLLW          | < +0.8 ft MLLW        | < -2 ft MLLW        |
| Mudflat/Low Intertidal     | -1 to +1.25 ft MLLW   | +0.8 ft to +4 ft MLLW | -2 ft to +4 ft MLLW |
| Salt Marsh/High Intertidal | +1.25 ft to 2 ft MLLW | +4 ft to +7 ft MLLW   | +4 ft to +7 ft MLLW |
| Upland/Non-tidal           | > +7 ft MLLW          | > +7 ft MLLW          | > +7 ft MLLW        |



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**Friends of Colorado Lagoon**

A coalition of concerned citizens working to preserve and restore Colorado Lagoon

July 7, 2008

Craig Chalfant  
City of Long Beach  
Department of Development Services  
333 West Ocean Blvd., 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Long Beach, Ca 90802

Dear Mr. Chalfant:

The Colorado Lagoon Restoration project is really about contributing to the sustainability and health of our wetlands and oceans, upon which the health and well being of our entire community is dependent. We, Friends of Colorado Lagoon (FOCL), strongly support the preferred alternative described in the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) on the Colorado Lagoon Restoration Project.

Historically, Colorado Lagoon was part of the San Gabriel River delta /wetlands; so this is truly a restoration effort. Growth and development in our society is often fraught with decisions that have detrimental impacts on the long-term health and well being of nature and subsequently on us. Specifically focusing on our Long Beach community and the Colorado Lagoon, the DEIR states, "The deteriorated ecological health of the Lagoon has been established for the past several decades;" "...the lagoon receives inflow from 11 storm drains...it accumulates pollutants deposited over the entire watershed...and is listed as an impaired water body for lead, zinc, sediment toxicity, chlordane, DDT, dieldrin, PAHs, PCBs, and bacteria." Additionally, due to a series of decisions made over time, the Lagoon lacks adequate tidal flushing which increases the degradation of the water quality. The hopeful thing about us, as people, is that we often try to learn from mistakes and for the most part, are responsible enough to try to correct them.

The Colorado Lagoon Restoration provides an opportunity to do just that while at the same time building community involvement and ownership, providing educational awareness of our vital connections to the oceans, and enhancing the beauty and health of our community.

The single most important component of the Colorado Lagoon Restoration is the construction of the open channel connecting the Lagoon to Marine Stadium and the ocean. While costs and construction impacts of this element are significant, the benefits make this worthwhile. In fact, an open channel is the only alternative that guarantees

O-1-1

O-1-2

full tidal flushing, which is critical to achieving the overall goals of the restoration. The benefits of an open channel include:

- Aesthetically, an open channel will greatly beautify Marina Vista Park and surrounding area, providing scenic vistas and natural habitat, all without the loss of any sports fields.
- Tidal flushing improves approximately two-fold over current conditions (tidal range will go from 4.3' to 8.2'; residence time – 1.6 days longer than Marine Stadium to only .5 days longer; tidal prism changes from 64 ac ft to 114 ac ft).
- Significant improvement in water quality for the health of the people swimming and recreating at the Lagoon.
- Improved water quality also leads to enhanced habitat health – spreading eelgrass is critical for healthy marine populations, plus vital flora and marine organisms clean storm drain urban slobber before the waters progress to contaminate our beach areas and our oceans.
- Elimination of flooding potential in Colorado Lagoon area – storm waters have over topped the lagoon and caused personal property damage and blocked streets.
- Additional recreational opportunities such as creating walking trails with educational signage and possibly kayaking.
- Enhanced existing sports activities - sports fields on the Western side of the park are in such poor condition that coaches avoid using them due to risks of injuring players.
- Lastly, an open channel would restore waterways similar to what is shown in 1896 etching of the area, and very close to the 1920's condition shown on the cover of the DEIR.

O-1-2

Some impacts associated with the construction of an open channel can be mitigated. For instance, Colorado and Elliot can be re-routed during or after construction of the bridges is completed.

One key area of concern FOCL has in the restoration effort is the resloping of the banks. While we generally support this part of the project, research has shown that habitat restoration is most successful when existing plants are used at the sites being restored. We think it is a high priority that existing flora and marine organism populations be preserved intact, where possible, or protected for re-population where it is not possible to preserve them intact. Cuttings of existing plants can be taken, nurseries created, and then replanted on site once bank resloping is complete. However, marine organisms, such as Tiger Beetles (identified at the Lagoon and which some believe to be threatened) and benthic organisms (which take 3 years to repopulate) are not so easily snipped and sustained in nurseries. Restoration design needs to identify healthy biodiverse areas at the Lagoon and preserve them intact where possible. FOCL is very willing to assist with these efforts.

O-1-3

Care in planting native flora is also an area of community concern, as well as a wonderful opportunity for community involvement, education and ownership. Based on experiences at Dunster Reserve, native plants need to be selected that will not significantly obstruct resident's views. Some residents planted palm trees that can hopefully be moved back to form part of the berm between the golf course and the

O-1-4

Lagoon. Other residents planted ice plants that need to be removed, but also need to be replaced with hardy, erosion protecting, non-view blocking native plants. Additionally, some non-native trees that have been planted by the city and neighbors, like eucalyptus, serve as nesting areas for some of the 165 bird species that call the Lagoon home. One study, recently cited in LA Times, showed that golf coursed planted with native vegetation, significantly increased native bird and insect populations allowing pesticides usage to decrease by about 50%, and water usages by 30%. One of FOCL’s top priorities is involving the community in the native revegetation process as an educational opportunity that will hopefully spread to residences and stimulate water conservation. It will also serve to create a sense of ownership of the Lagoon leading to community care and maintenance of this “jewel in our city.”

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O-1-4

While FOCL’s mission has always been to recognize and balance the multiple and sometimes conflicting uses of the Lagoon, apart from this EIR, we have made a request of the Third District Councilmember, Gary DeLong, to designate major areas of the Lagoon as a reserve. Lagoons and wetlands are the baby nurseries for marine habitat. Two-thirds of the fish in the ocean spend their first year of life in wetlands. Globally, we are at great risk of decimating many fish and marine populations. Southern California has destroyed 95% of its coastal wetlands, and Long Beach has destroyed 98%. While we do not want to stop swimming, model sailboat building and sailing, nor any other low/no-impact recreational activities at the Lagoon, we think it is essential to protect and preserve a small piece of the ocean’s nurseries. To accomplish this we strongly support the following elements of the DEIR:

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O-1-5

- Bioswales around the golf course are an imperative to keep herbicides, pesticides and algae feeding fertilizers out of the Lagoon.
- Designating the Western arm of the Lagoon as a “preserve” will eliminate human entrance into the area, but greatly enhance educational observation experiences from viewing platforms.
- Changing the men’s tee on the 7<sup>th</sup> hole of Little Rec Golf Course, as well as utilizing signs discouraging golfers from hitting balls into the Northern arm while waiting to get to the tee are important to protect the Lagoon.
- Creating a bird island will provide a secure resting place for migratory and year round birds.
- Removal of the road on the North side of the Lagoon will change the nature of, but not eliminate that area for recreational usage – bringing us into closer connection with nature.
- Eliminating / severely limiting fishing (with poles and nets) and clamming at the Lagoon. Sea Bass and Halibut spawn in the Lagoon. [This is not part of DEIR]

An additional FOCL concern, that is not directly part of the EIR, but still needs to be addressed, are the watershed’s contaminants of concern (COC) that continue to be carried by stormwater into the Colorado Lagoon. While low flow diversions to the sewer system are very important in eliminating some of these COC, DDT, for example, identified in the old Park Nursery area is still a future threat.

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O-1-6

FOCL has worked closely with the City of Long Beach to develop a very productive, collaborative relationship. We see our role as health and environmental stewards. We are also educators and liaisons with the community. We co-created and co-staff the

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O-1-7

Wetlands and Marine Science Center. We are currently working with Parks, Recreation and Marine to use native plants as trash management devices and mini bioswales to impede irrigation and storm water runoff that erodes sand into the Lagoon in recreational areas. We collaborate in seeking out and lobbying for restoration funding – recently participating in a stakeholders meeting co-sponsored by Senator Lowenthal and Councilmember DeLong. Attendees included: the City Manager and key city staff, representatives from State Coastal Conservancy, Rivers and Mountains Conservancy, State Water Quality, US Army Corps of Engineers, US Fish and Wildlife, County of LA, and Port of Long Beach.



O-1-7

FOCL’s top priorities have been and continue to be: 1) Facilitating the Colorado Lagoon’s Restoration, including the open channel, and 2) Facilitating Wetlands and Marine Science Education. We regularly reach out to our community and schools, beyond the 5000 students within walking distance of the Lagoon, to connect people of all ages to the Lagoon and an understanding our interdependence with nature.

Dr. Sylvia A. Earle, Explorer-in-Residence with the National Geographic Society sums up our passion for restoration of Colorado Lagoon: *Of all the great discoveries about the sea, the two most significant may be, first, that life on Earth—including our own—is dependent on the existence of the ocean. The second major discovery is that the ocean does not have an infinite capacity to absorb without harm the wastes we allow to flow in to it, nor can it fully recover from the millions of tons of wildlife that we extract from it. In short, we have the capacity to alter the nature of the ocean and thus affect the basic processes that make Earth hospitable for life as we know it. This knowledge alone is reason enough to ensure that our children become ocean literate.*

O-1-8

Sincerely,

Ray Thorn, President, Friends of Colorado Lagoon

## FRIENDS OF COLORADO LAGOON

### O-1-1

The comment is introductory and expresses support for the Colorado Lagoon Restoration Project. The comment notes that the ecological health of the Lagoon has been deteriorating for several decades because it accumulates pollutants from the entire watershed combined with inadequate tidal flushing. The comment notes that this project is an opportunity to enhance the environment and the community. The comment does not contain any substantive statements or questions about the Draft EIR or the analysis therein; therefore, no further response is necessary.

### O-1-2

The comment states that the most important component of the project is the open channel connecting the Lagoon to Marine Stadium to provide enhanced tidal flushing. The comment further lists benefits of the open channel and states that construction impacts from construction of the channel can be mitigated. The comment expresses an opinion in support of the open channel and includes information that is generally consistent with the Draft EIR. The comment does not contain any substantive statements or questions about the Draft EIR or the analysis therein; therefore, no further response is necessary.

### O-1-3

The comment expresses concern about the preservation of populations of existing flora and marine organisms such as tiger beetles during recontouring of the banks. As the comment acknowledged, plant cuttings and seedlings from the existing plant population will be preserved and replanted on site after resloping is completed. Section 4.3.8, page 4.3-29 of the Biological Resources section of the Draft EIR addresses this concern.

“The plants associated with this remnant strip of middle salt marsh have survived the long history of degradation to the Lagoon and represent a remnant population of plants that are uniquely adapted to living at the Lagoon. In order to retain the same genetic resilience as the parent population, cuttings and/or propagules will be collected from these plants for use in the restoration effort as described in Section 3.5. A habitat restoration plan based on the conceptual plan shown in Figure 4.3.4 will be prepared and submitted to applicable regulatory agencies during the permit application process.”

Additionally, the Friends of Colorado Lagoon (FOCL) comment states that marine organisms, such as tiger beetles (identified at the Lagoon and which some believe to be threatened) and benthic organisms (which take three years to repopulate) are not so easily snipped and sustained in nurseries.

Tiger beetles and benthic organisms identified on site do not include any listed species with legal protections. These species are all expected to repopulate the Lagoon following project implementation. Marine Biological Consultants (MBC) were consulted regarding recolonization

of benthic organisms. Research by MBC indicated that, “while a period of time is required for the benthos to recover to previous conditions, it will recover from dredging, and assuming that no additional environmental change occurs, the area will gradually return to previous population levels” (Anderson et al. 1993).<sup>1</sup> Additionally, the Lagoon will provide more intertidal and mudflat habitat as a result of the recontouring.

The letter also states that restoration design needs to identify healthy biodiverse areas at the Lagoon and preserve them intact where possible. In order for the project to satisfy the goal of providing increased mudflat and intertidal habitat, all existing areas must be recontoured. Preserving populations of benthic organisms and beetles is outside of the scope of the proposed project.

The City recognizes and appreciates FOCL’s contributions in protecting the natural environment at the Lagoon, and welcomes further collaboration with FOCL in the restoration efforts.

#### **O-1-4**

The comment discusses the benefits of restoring the Lagoon with native plants. The comment provides the following suggestions.

- Native plants need to be selected that will not significantly obstruct resident’s views.  
The restoration plan will consider neighboring views when plant placement is designed. Vegetated biological buffer strips consisting of aesthetically appealing native shrubs and grasses would be installed in various areas. The buffer strip species would be selected and located according to the desired viewsheds throughout the buffer alignment to allow for a combination of visual screening using taller species and to allow for viewsheds through the use of low-growing species and species that can be selectively pruned. Plants with varying heights will be placed so as not to substantially obstruct views.
- Some residents planted palm trees that can hopefully be moved back to form part of the berm between the golf course and the Lagoon.  
Berms will be installed along Park Avenue on the southwestern shoreline and on either side of the proposed open channel. No berms are planned for the area between the Lagoon and the golf course. Additionally, this project does not propose any improvements to private properties.
- Other residents planted ice plants that need to be removed, but also need to be replaced with hardy, erosion-protecting, non-view blocking native plants.  
Improvements on private property surrounding the Lagoon are beyond the scope of the proposed project.
- Additionally, some nonnative trees that have been planted by the City and neighbors, like eucalyptus, serve as nesting areas for some of the 165 bird species that call the Lagoon home.

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<sup>1</sup> Anderson, J.W., D.J. Reish, R.B. Spies, M.E. Brady, and E.W. Segelhorst. 1993. Human Impacts. Ch. 12 in: Ecology of the Southern California Bight (M.D Dailey, D.J. Reish, and J.W. Anderson [eds.]). Univ. Calif. Press, Los Angeles, CA. 926 p.

No nesting birds will be disturbed by project activities. Mitigation Measure BIO-12 is proposed to avoid and minimize impacts to nesting birds subject to the protection of the MBTA and California Fish and Game Code and includes the following:

- The Director of Parks, Recreation, and Marine will endeavor to conduct vegetation clearing and grading outside of the nesting season. If construction is proposed between February 1 and August 31, the Director of Parks, Recreation, and Marine shall ensure that a qualified biologist familiar with local avian species and the requirements of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and the California Fish and Game Code shall conduct a preconstruction survey for nesting birds no more than 1 week prior to construction. The survey will include the area of impact and suitable habitat up to 300 feet from the area of impact (as appropriate, given the anticipated nature of project impacts). The results of the survey will be recorded in a memo and submitted to the City of Long Beach within 48 hours. If the survey is positive and the nesting species are subject to the MBTA or California Fish and Game Code, the memo shall be submitted to the CDFG to determine appropriate action. If the survey is negative or inconclusive, either due to ambiguous behavior by birds or overly dense vegetation, a qualified biologist shall be retained to monitor the site during initial vegetation clearing and grading, as well as during other activities that would have the potential to disrupt nesting behavior. The monitor shall be empowered by the City to halt construction work in the vicinity of the nesting birds if the monitor believes the nest is at risk of failure or the birds are excessively disturbed.
- A golf course planted with native vegetation, significantly increased native bird and insect populations allowing pesticides usage to decrease by about 50 percent and water usages by 30 percent.

Restoring the Lagoon habitat with appropriate native vegetation is proposed and is expected to increase habitat and uses for a variety of organisms, including bird species.

- One of FOCL's top priorities is involving the community in the native revegetation process as an educational opportunity that will hopefully spread to residences and stimulate water conservation.

The City recognizes and appreciates FOCL's contributions to public outreach and education at the Lagoon, and looks forward to further coordination with FOCL on the project's revegetation planting and implementation. The comment does not contain any substantive statements or questions about the Draft EIR or the analysis therein; therefore, no further response is necessary.

### **O-1-5**

The comment notes that Friends of Colorado Lagoon has made a request to the Third District Councilmember, Gary DeLong, to designate major areas of the Lagoon as a reserve. It should be noted that changing portions of the Lagoon area to a reserve is not part of the proposed project. The comment further provides the following suggestions to protect the Lagoon's coastal wetland habitat.

- Bioswales around the golf course are an imperative to keep herbicides, pesticides, and algae-feeding fertilizers out of the Lagoon.

The proposed project includes a bioswale on the north shore of the Lagoon, which will provide separation between a large portion of the area between the golf course and Lagoon.

- Designating the Western arm of the Lagoon as a “preserve” will eliminate human entrance into the area, but greatly enhance educational observation experiences from viewing platforms.

Even though the proposed project does not involve designating portions of the Lagoon area as a reserve, the proposed project would limit human interference in the Lagoon’s western arm. The proposed walking trail would end at the proposed viewing platform on the south shore and the trail loop on the north shore, and the swimming area will be limited to the southern central portion of the Lagoon. Signage would be installed to prevent people from entering the western portion of the Lagoon area and possibly disrupting bird foraging and food sources.

- Changing the men’s tee on the 7th hole of Little Rec Golf Course, as well as utilizing signs discouraging golfers from hitting balls into the Northern arm while waiting to get to the tee are important to protect the Lagoon.

The proposed project does not involve any changes to the golf course or changes to usage of the golf course.

- Creating a bird island will provide a secure resting place for migratory and year round birds.

The proposed project includes development of a bird island in the western arm of the Lagoon.

- Removal of the road on the North side of the Lagoon will change the nature of, but not eliminate that area for recreational usage – bringing us into closer connection with nature.

The proposed project would remove the parking lot and access road on the north shore of the Lagoon. The area would be converted to a walking trail, native vegetation, and a vegetated bioswale. Recreational activities including walking, viewing nature and wildlife, and picnicking would continue on the north shore of the Lagoon.

- Eliminating/severely limiting fishing (with poles and nets) and clamming at the Lagoon. Sea Bass and Halibut spawn in the Lagoon.

The proposed project does not include any changes to currently allowable fishing and/or clamming in the Lagoon. Any changes or restrictions to the allowable recreation uses at the Lagoon would be subject to additional planning and environmental review by the Department of Development Services, including but not limited to a consistency analysis with the Local Coastal Program and other Elements of the City’s General Plan, a determination of any necessary actions by the California Coastal Commission (CCC), and applicable CEQA documentation and clearance.

The suggestions, which are beyond the scope of the proposed project, will be made available for consideration by the decision-makers. The comment does not contain any substantive statements or questions about the Draft EIR or the analysis therein; therefore, no further response is necessary.

### **O-1-6**

The comment states that an additional FOCL concern, which is outside the scope of the proposed project, is the contaminants of concern in the watershed that are carried by runoff to the Lagoon. As described in the comment, the proposed project would implement a low-flow diversion system that would redirect the first flush flows into the sewer system, thereby disposing of many pollutants prior to entering the Lagoon. In addition, the bioswale along the north shore, separating the golf course from the Lagoon, will help to remove pollutants of concern prior to storm water discharge to the Lagoon. The proposed project does not regulate the treatment and discharge of contaminants of concern that are generated or released outside of the project site.

The City has a comprehensive storm water plan aimed at reducing contaminants of concern from entering receiving water bodies in the watershed. The Long Beach Stormwater Management Plan is a comprehensive program containing several elements, practices, and activities aimed at reducing or eliminating pollutants in storm water to the maximum extent practicable (MEP). The objectives of this program are to effectively prohibit non-storm water discharges and to reduce the discharge of pollutants to the MEP such that these discharges will not adversely impact the beneficial uses of our receiving waters. All new construction and significant redevelopment is required to comply with the requirements to reduce pollutants of concern to the MEP. In addition, most construction activities are required to comply with the General Construction Permit, which requires implementation of best management practices to eliminate contaminants of concern from entering the watershed during construction activities.

In addition, Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act provides authority for completing total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) to achieve water quality standards and/or designated uses. The Los Angeles RWQCB has initiated development of TMDLs for organochlorine pesticides, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), sediment toxicity, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), and metals in the Lagoon. Once these TMDLs are implemented and enforced, total loading to the Lagoon would be reduced to maintain water quality objectives and beneficial uses. Please see Section 4.7.3 of the Draft EIR for more information.

### **O-1-7**

The comment describes how FOCL has been working closely with the City on projects related to the environment of the Lagoon, including cocreating and costaffing the Wetlands and Marine Science Center, collaborating on the Lagoon Restoration project components, and seeking funding for project implementation. The City recognizes and appreciates the collaborative relationship with FOCL and the efforts of FOCL and all other community members who are active in the Lagoon Restoration Project. The comment does not contain any substantive statements or questions about the Draft EIR or the analysis therein; therefore, no further response is necessary.

### **O-1-8**

The comment lists FOCL's top priorities, of which the first is facilitating the Colorado Lagoon Restoration, including the open channel. Hence, the comment expresses support for the proposed project. The comment also emphasizes FOCL's commitment to wetlands and marine science

education. As noted at the public outreach meeting on June 18, 2008, there are opportunities for continued and effective collaboration with and input from FOCL on the interpretive components of the proposed trail, as well as other project features, to incorporate marine life educational themes. The comment does not contain any substantive statements or questions about the Draft EIR or the analysis therein; therefore, no further response is necessary.



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July 11, 2008

Craig Chalfant  
Department of Development Services  
City of Long Beach  
333 W. Ocean Boulevard, 5th Floor  
Long Beach, California 90802

**Re: Comments on the Colorado Lagoon Environmental Impact Report, City Project No. 2007111034**

Dear Mr. Chalfant:

On behalf of Heal the Bay, we submit the following comments on the *Colorado Lagoon Restoration Project Draft Environmental Impact Report, City Project No. 2007111034* (“DEIR”). We appreciate the opportunity to provide these comments.

Heal the Bay would like to commend the City for putting together such a comprehensive project that attempts to address three segments of Colorado Lagoon: restoration, public recreation and water quality improvement. As such, we applaud the City of Long Beach’s efforts to improve water quality in the lagoon, and restore native plant and animal species. However, Heal the Bay does have some comments and concerns about the project as currently proposed that we address below.

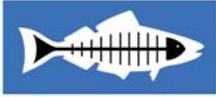
O-2-1

**1. Can the Colorado Lagoon effectively support multiple uses?**

Our over-arching concern with this project as outlined in the DEIR is that the desired goals (restoration, public recreation and water quality improvement) are potential incompatible with one another. Without a specific design plan that effectively separates the uses, Heal the Bay feels that it is impossible for a single parcel, the Colorado Lagoon, to serve all three uses effectively.

For example, to include the use of the lagoon for REC 1 purposes in proximity to wildlife habitat, such as Bird Island, is an unwise strategy. The DEIR already states that “*all three monitoring locations in the Lagoon have had several advisory warnings over the past 2 years, whereby bacteria levels have exceeded State Standards.*” Why site a habitat use in proximity to a Rec-1 use that is already impacted by fecal pollution? As native wildlife begins to flourish in this section of the Lagoon, the fecal pollution loading will only further degrade downstream rec-1 water quality? As acknowledged in the hydrologic section of the DEIR, “*Due to the habitat improvements throughout the Lagoon, bird species may be more attracted to the Lagoon area than previously, given the increased marsh habitat. As a result of increased foraging and roosting activities of birds, bacterial levels of the Lagoon waters could potentially increase.*” (Sec.4-7, pg.49)

O-2-2



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Yet, instead of addressing the issue in the planning and design phase to prevent the outcome from ever occurring, the DEIR simply offers an administrative mitigation measure under Water Quality-9 (WQ-9). WQ-9 simply states that on-going monitoring will continue to take place, and that postings and closures will be implemented if water quality standards are exceeded. The mitigation measure goes on to state that “*Development Services shall review the monitoring data on an annual basis and evaluate the water contact recreational beneficial use of the Lagoon.*” (Sec.4-7, pg.53) There is no discussion in the DEIR of mitigating the pollution source or remediating the loss of recreational use. Therefore, should this predicament occur, what protocols are in place to determine prioritization of uses water quality vs. native wildlife?



O-2-2

Another example of incompatible uses is the siting of Bird Island in the Western Arm of Colorado Lagoon, historically the most contaminated section of Lagoon. Although the area is proposed to be dredged and restored with clean sediment, there is no evidence provide in the DEIR that states the western arm will not become recontaminated in the future. What BMPs are in place to ensure that no recontamination takes place? Will there be on-going water quality and sediment monitoring to ensure that habitat is not being impaired? Would prioritization of storm water best management practices (BMPs) affect habitat goals?

O-2-3

**2. The DEIR lacks any data on pollutant loadings**

DDT, lead and a number of chlordane and dieldrin have been listed as causing impairment to the Western arm of the lagoon. Dredging of the contaminated sediment is the suggested option for removing this sediment and restoring water quality. However, there are no wet weather pollutant loadings or flow data to demonstrate that the environment will not be recontaminated once this sediment has been removed. In addition, the DEIR offers no data or documentation on how BMPs were selected, sized, or sited? For example, if most of the pollutant loads to Colorado Lagoon take place during wet weather events, what size storm events are the vegetative swales and wet well designed to handle? Also, there is no discussion of an on-going monitoring plan to determine the efficacy of implemented BMPs. How will the City know that habitat uses are being protected if there is no post-construction monitoring plan? It is important to ensure that these sizes are sufficient and will not saturate into the lagoon in the case of a rain event.

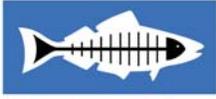
O-2-4

Since the Colorado Lagoon has historically been impaired due to elevated levels of chlordane, dieldrin and DDT in the sediment, any future loading of this pesticide should be mitigated or eliminated. What controls will be put in place to ensure no additional loadings of these pesticides occur, particularly during wet weather season? Chlordane use is obviously a problem in Colorado Lagoon area since it has been accumulating in the lagoon sediments.

O-2-5

Following completion of this project, what monitoring will be taking place to ensure the lagoon does not degrade and for how long will this monitoring be occurring? The DEIR outlines a plan to comply with mandatory water quality monitoring for bacteria; however, there is no mention of toxicity or turbidity monitory that should absolutely be taking place.

O-2-6



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**3. Is there any evidence that increased tidal flow stemming from the cleaning of the culvert and the construction of the channel will not bring an increase of contaminants from the marina?**

With an increased exchange between the lagoon and the Marina, it is important to ensure that water entering the lagoon will serve the sole purpose of increasing circulation and will not contribute to further contamination of the lagoon. However, the DEIR provide no data or documentation to show that water and sediment within the Marine Stadium is not toxic or contaminated. Therefore, it is quite possible that by increasing circulation and tidal mixing between the Lagoon and the Marine Stadium, the project will allow contaminated water and sediment to be pushed back into the lagoon during flood tides. In fact, the construction of the Terminal Ave Drain Project (TADP), which will take runoff away from the Lagoon by diverting it to Marine Stadium, the potentially exists for that runoff to come back into the Lagoon during flood tides. What monitoring has been conducted to determine this issue is not a problem? What BMPs are in place to ensure that poor water quality in Marine Stadium will not be pushed back into the lagoon during flood or high tides? It is important that this data be reviewed before construction takes place.

O-2-7

In conclusion, the Heal the Bay is supportive of the City of Long Beach’s Colorado Lagoon in concept; however, there is a great deal of information that is missing in the DEIR that prevents us from endorsing it as a project. As indicative of the statement ,*“With the possible exception of AB 411 sampling requirements, there have not been any consistent sampling programs in the Lagoon to document the concentrations of contaminants in water, sediment, and biota,”* the City needs to adequate address this issue prior to proceeding with construction. Without such information, the City of Long Beach or the public cannot possibly make any determinations about this projects future impact on water quality, sediment, or biota.

O-2-8

If you have any questions or would like to discuss any of these comments, please feel free to contact us at (310) 451-1500. Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

Polly Barrowman  
Staff Scientist

James Alamillo  
Beach Report Card Manager

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## HEAL THE BAY

### O-2-1

The comment expresses an opinion in support of the Colorado Lagoon Restoration Project and commends the City for pursuing habitat restoration, public recreation, and water quality improvements at the Colorado Lagoon. The comment does not contain any substantive statements or questions about the Draft EIR or the analysis therein; therefore, no further response is necessary.

### O-2-2

The comment expresses concern that the habitat restoration, public recreation, and water quality goals of the project reflect potentially incompatible uses. Specifically, the comment expresses concern that the use of the Lagoon for recreation purposes conflicts with the wildlife habitat components of the project. The City recognizes the potential issues of bacteria contamination in the Lagoon as a result the presence of wildlife; however, the Lagoon is an existing public park with a long history of providing free water-dependent recreation activities to the public. The Colorado Lagoon was created in 1923 for recreational rowing, along with Marine Stadium. Therefore, the recreation use of the site for 85 years is well established. The Colorado Lagoon Restoration Project seeks to maintain the existing uses of the site, while at the same time providing improved water quality that will benefit both the wildlife and human use of the site. It is anticipated that the increased tidal flushing and storm drain treatments will offset any potential increase in bacteria as a result of the habitat improvements. However, if continued monitoring of the Lagoon after the project improvements are in place indicate that bacterial levels are unsuitable for human recreation, the City will pursue options at that time that may include limiting body contact recreation.

### O-2-3

This comment expresses concern that the “Bird Island “ component of the project is inappropriately located in the western arm of the Lagoon due to historic contamination of the western arm sediment. As noted in the comments, the western arm will be dredged and the contaminated sediment removed form the Lagoon as part of the proposed project. As described in the Draft EIR (Chapter 3.0, Project Description, and Section 4.7, Hydrology and Water Quality), it is believed that the existing contamination occurred over many decades, particularly as a result of the use of pesticides in previous decades when use of such substances was less regulated. These contaminants would have been transported to the Lagoon in storm water runoff.

The proposed project does not regulate the treatment and discharge of contaminants of concern that are generated or released outside of the project site. While many of the contaminants impairing the Lagoon may persist in the environment after use is discontinued, generally their presence in the environment decreases over time. The proposed project would implement a low-flow diversion system that would redirect the dry weather flows into the sewer system, thereby disposing of many pollutants prior to entering the Lagoon. Likewise, the TADP would also eliminate a significant pollutant contribution to the western arm by diverting flow to the sanitary

sewer and Marine Stadium. In addition, the bioswale along the north shore, separating the golf course from the Lagoon, will help to remove pollutants of concern prior to storm water discharge to the Lagoon. Therefore, the proposed project will result in improvements to the quality of the storm water flows to the Lagoon. Please see Response to Comments O-2-4 and O-2-5 for more information regarding the potential for recontamination.

Given that the Lagoon is a receiving water body for a large portion of an urbanized and largely built-out City, it is not possible to ensure that recontamination does not occur. However, the proposed project's components (diversion of dry weather discharge to the wet well and the bioswales) will help to ensure that the potential for future contamination is limited. Storm water Best Management Practices (BMPs) are not expected to interfere with habitat goals and will ensure that discharge of sediment and pollutants are reduced to the maximum extent practicable. This will improve the efficacy of habitat goals for the Lagoon. The City will continue to provide water quality monitoring consistent with its current National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program. In addition, the RWQCB has initiated studies of the Lagoon for the TMDL program.<sup>1</sup> These studies will further characterize the condition of the Lagoon's water and sediment quality. The enforcement of TMDLs for the Lagoon would result in an improved quality of off-site storm water entering the Lagoon.

The City is committed to ongoing monitoring to ensure that contaminants do not present undue risk for wildlife and humans, and therefore mitigation measure WQ-9 is modified in the Final EIR to read as follows:

**WQ-9** The Director of Health and Human Services shall continue to monitor bacteria levels in the Colorado Lagoon on a weekly basis, and the Parks, Recreation and Marine Department will monitor sediment quality on an annual basis or more frequently for a period of at least 3 years. If water quality exceeds the water contact recreational beneficial use water quality standards, the Directors of the Health and Human Services, and Parks, Recreation and Marine Services, shall post the site and close the beach, if necessary. In addition, the Directors of the Department of Health and Parks, Recreation and Marine Services, and Development Services shall review the monitoring data on an annual basis and evaluate the water contact recreational beneficial use of the Lagoon.

The additional monitoring will allow for the City to ensure that the water quality benefits of the project are realized and maintained and will inform future decision making regarding allowable uses at the Lagoon.

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<sup>1</sup> On July 2, 2008, the Orange County Superior Court issued a Writ of Mandate ordering the State Water Resources Control Board to "cease, desist and suspend all activities relating to the implementation, application, and/or enforcement of the Standards in the [Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board's] Basin Plan, as applied or to be applied to Stormwater." The RWQCB has interpreted the writ as requiring suspension of activities associated with implementation of water quality standards as they relate to storm water, and efforts on the Colorado Lagoon TMDL study are currently on hold but are expected to be resumed when the RWQCB is no longer subject to the writ.

#### **O-2-4**

The comment expresses several concerns:

- There are no wet weather pollutant loadings or flow data to demonstrate that the environment will not be recontaminated once the sediment has been removed. The Draft EIR does not include data or documentation on how BMPs were selected, sized, or sited.
- That there is no discussion of an ongoing monitoring plan to determine the efficacy of implemented BMPs.

Please see Response to Comment O-2-3 and further discussion below.

#### **Pollutant Loading**

The Termino Avenue Drain Project (TADP) EIR provided a pollutant loading analysis on the drains entering the Colorado Lagoon and Marine Stadium for wet weather conditions. Implementation of the TADP would redirect three storm drains on the south shore to an existing County sanitary sewer line, significantly decreasing contaminant loadings into Colorado Lagoon compared to the existing conditions. The TADP would increase loadings to Marine Stadium and decrease the loadings to Colorado Lagoon. However, the impacts to Marine Stadium would be fewer than those to Colorado Lagoon since Marine Stadium has better flushing. Based on the pollutant loading analysis provided in the TADP EIR, a 50 percent reduction in concentration occurs within about one day in Marine Stadium, but that same reduction takes approximately three days in Colorado Lagoon. Therefore, pollutant dispersal for the overall system (Colorado Lagoon and Marine Stadium) would improve. In addition, improvement in water quality would occur during dry weather conditions, as the TADP and the proposed project would reduce the total loading in the system due to the in-line storm drain catch basin screens and through the diversion of dry weather flows to the sanitary system. In addition to the pollutant loadings, most of the constituents on the 303(d) list are associated with the sediments. Scouring and re-suspension of existing sediments in Colorado Lagoon during flood events may also contribute to additional pollutant loadings to Colorado Lagoon and Marine Stadium. However, because the proposed project removes contaminated sediment from the western arm, the resuspension of contaminated sediments is drastically reduced, improving water quality during a storm event.

#### **BMP Selection**

The City has been working to restore the Colorado Lagoon for several years. In studying the Lagoon, the City has prepared several feasibility studies detailing the need to restore the Lagoon. The proposed improvement components/BMPs were based on field studies, historical data review analysis, and public input as part of the previous feasibility study, coupled with lessons learned from other similar projects. The process included involvement of a Technical Advisory Committee, which included members from the Coastal Conservancy, CDFG, RWQCB, and the Corps.

## Monitoring Plan

The City will provide pre- and postconstruction monitoring of water quality. Monitoring is to be conducted prior to construction of the improvements to provide a contemporary baseline and immediately after construction to evaluate changes in water quality. The monitoring plan will directly address water clarity (turbidity), bacteria, litter, algal blooms, nutrients, total suspended solids, dissolved oxygen, metals, PCBs, and chlorinated pesticides in the waters of Colorado Lagoon. In addition, tidal ranges will be monitored before and after construction to evaluate improvements in lagoon tidal flushing rates in response to the cleaning of the culvert between Colorado Lagoon and Marine Stadium. The Colorado Lagoon will be monitored for a period of four months prior to construction and again for a seven-month period following completion of Lagoon improvements.

Progress on the monitoring and reporting program will be reported quarterly to the City of Long Beach for inclusion in the City's quarterly progress reports to the SWRCB. Comprehensive draft and final reports will be prepared at the conclusion of the postconstruction monitoring period. The monitoring plan is expected to be approved by the SWRCB in September 2008.

In addition to the pre- and postconstruction monitoring plan, the City will provide annual maintenance for the BMPs (wet well and bioswales) implemented in the Colorado Lagoon. The City will also conduct weekly sampling for bacteria and annual (or more frequent) testing of sediment quality as described in Response to Comment O-2-3.

In addition, a long-term habitat maintenance plan will be prepared to ensure success of the native habitat through removal of invasive and exotic species. The maintenance plan will include target and ultimate performance criteria and will likely require a minimum of five years of monitoring and maintenance before the resource agencies will release the City from further maintenance and monitoring obligations. The maintenance plan will address all the habitat areas associated with the Colorado Lagoon Restoration project, including the open channel between the Lagoon and Marine Stadium. The maintenance plan will address requirements for establishment of target native habitat communities and maintenance criteria (e.g., maximum percent vegetative cover on nonnative weed species, maintenance guidelines, herbicide use guidelines, specifications, and details for installation of native trees, shrubs, forbs, and seed).

### O-2-5

The comment questions what controls will be put in place to ensure that no additional loadings of pesticides occur, particularly during the wet weather season. The sources of pesticides are off site and therefore not within the jurisdiction of the proposed project. However, off-site areas are subject to the City's NPDES requirements.

See Responses to Comments O-2-3 and O-2-4. In addition, the use of chlordane, dieldrin, and DDT has been banned by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). However, chlordane, dieldrin, and DDT may persist for long periods of time in air, soil, and water. Most of the chlordane, dieldrin, and DDT residing in the sediments of the Lagoon are from historical use in the watershed. These contaminants are present in storm drain sediments found throughout the

watershed<sup>1</sup>. The proposed project will result in decreased sediment loads due to treatment BMPs included in the proposed project, including the low flow diversion and bioswales, as well as a result of the TADP division. Therefore, while some recontamination in the future is possible, the future threat to sediment quality is less than it was in previous decades. The quality of off-site storm water and storm water sediment is not within the jurisdiction of the proposed project; however, it will be addressed through the TMDL study initiated by the RWQCB and the City's Stormwater Program (see Response to Comment O-2-3). Also, see modified Mitigation Measure WQ-9, which calls for sediment quality monitoring (Response to Comment O-2-3).

#### **O-2-6**

The comment expresses concern about postconstruction monitoring of the Lagoon.

Refer to Response to Comment O-2-4 regarding the monitoring plan.

#### **O-2-7**

The comment inquires whether water entering the Lagoon as a result of improved tidal flushing will contribute to further contamination of the Lagoon.

See Response to Comment O-2-4. The TADP EIR contained information relative to Marine Stadium sediment quality. Marine Stadium is not an impaired water body under Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act, and results of sediment samples collected within Marine Stadium were nondetect or within background concentrations with the exception of one occurrence of semivolatile organic compounds (Coastal Resources Management 2006). The TADP EIR concluded that sediment quality of Marine Stadium is better than that of Colorado Lagoon. Therefore, there is no information to support a conclusion that improved tidal flushing will contribute to further contamination of the Lagoon.

#### **O-2-8**

The comment expresses support of the project in concept but seeks additional information, testing, and analysis prior to endorsing the project. The City acknowledges the request for additional testing and analysis. The City of Long Beach has engaged in numerous studies of the Lagoon over the past decade, including several studies on the sediment quality (2004–2007). The City has also conducted several studies to evaluate potential restoration opportunities at the Lagoon. There have also been several habitat studies done on the Colorado Lagoon, Marine Stadium and Alamitos Bay. Please refer to Chapter 1.0 and 11.0 of the Draft EIR for a complete set of references to studies conducted on Colorado Lagoon and the surrounding areas.

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<sup>1</sup> Stormwater Monitoring Report 2006/2007 NPDES Permit No. CA00403 (CI 8052) City of Long Beach, Kinnetic Laboratories, Inc., July 2007.

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The Ansel Group  
Government and Community Relations

July 7, 2008

Mr. Craig Chalfant  
City of Long Beach  
Department of Development Services  
333 W. Ocean Boulevard  
Long Beach, CA 90802

Re: Draft EIR for Colorado Lagoon

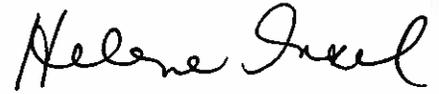
Dear Mr. Chalfant:

I am writing in strong support of the Draft EIR for Colorado Lagoon. As a resident of the nearby Marine Stadium area, I am most appreciative that plans for the Lagoon restoration and preservation are moving forward. As one of the last remaining urban wetlands in California, the Colorado Lagoon is a significant resource in our region.

The Lagoon serves as a preserve for birds and aquatic life, an educational entity and as a recreational area for the community. Improving the water quality is a key ingredient in the restoration of the Lagoon and in ensuring the health and safety of area residents and visitors as well as the natural habitat. Reconnecting the channel to increase the tidal flow and eliminate potential flooding will also restore the history of the Colorado Lagoon.

Thank you for your consideration of my views in support of the scope of the EIR document and the efforts required for reaching the goal of restoration and preservation of the Lagoon.

Sincerely,



Helene Ansel

P-1-1

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## HELENE ANSEL

### P-1-1

The comment expresses an opinion in support of the Colorado Lagoon Restoration Project. The comment notes that the Lagoon is a significant resource in the region, serves as habitat for birds and aquatic life, and provides for education. The comment supports improvement of water quality in the Lagoon and development of the open channel to increase tidal flow. The comment does not contain any substantive statements or questions about the Draft EIR or the analysis therein; therefore, no further response is necessary.

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Dear Long Beach Development Services:

I have read and reviewed the Draft EIR of the Colorado Lagoon Restoration Project, by LSA Associates , May 2008. I have just reviewed them today, for I have been out in the field doing research last week.

Since my comments are positive, I trust that it is not too late to respond for the "comments" period.

**A little about my background as an expert to comment on this draft EIR:**

I am a seabird and shorebird biologist, having worked on seabirds in Alaska, Argentina, and California, and on shorebirds in Panama, Mexico, California, and Canada over the last 25 years. I worked for the United States Fish and Wildlife Service as a research biologist for 6 1/2 years, as a habitat planner at the Alaska Department of Fish and Game for 3 years, as a research associate (1987-1988) and professor (1989-1998) at California State University, and now as a research associate at Simon Fraser University.

Here is a brief resume:

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Patricia Baird directs the Kahiltna Research Group, a biological research organization. As Director, she affiliates with the Department of Biological Sciences at California State University Long Beach where she conducted research since 1987. She also advises graduate students in the Department, and supervises senior projects of undergraduates. She is a research associate at Simon Fraser University in British Columbia, Canada and supervises research of national and international students who work on her projects through SFU.

Dr. Baird's research covers the ecology of waterbirds, most recently seabirds and shorebirds. Her interests lie in foraging ecology, breeding biology and competition among various species. Some recent seabird projects have been: 1) a six-year study on the population ecology of the California Least Tern, 2) a three-year study to restore beach dune habitat and establish a breeding colony of the California Least Tern in the Santa Monica Bay Estuary, 3) a four-year study of foraging ecology of California Least Terns in San Diego Bay, and 4) monitoring the behavioral and reproductive changes of California least terns in response to human disturbance 5) two-year pilot study (with grad student) on identification of species identification, size, and trophic level of prey of California least terns by using otoliths and regression analysis, and by using radioactive isotopes of C and N.

P-2-1



Recent studies on shorebirds have been 1) using shorebird populations as indicators of degraded and natural ecosystems and 2) using the western sandpiper as a model for migration changes of shorebirds.

Other general projects have been 1) a one-year study on the ecological characterization of Hueneme Beach and Ormond estuary, and 2) an ecological survey of avifauna and a restoration and rehabilitation plan for threatened and endangered habitat (San Francisco Bay). Undergraduate research projects that she has directed recently have been 1) population dynamics of Black-footed and Laysan Albatrosses on Tern Island, Hawaii National Refuge, 2) seed preference by mourning doves, and 3) the effect of piers on accumulation of beach sand. Review projects have been: 4) Reviewing EIR for the Port of L.A. relating to the relocation of California Least Terns, 5) Reviewing EIR for Friends of the Colorado Lagoon relating to construction of runoff outfall.

P-2-1

Courses she has taught most recently have been General Ecology, Biostatistics, Senior Seminars and Biology for Teachers.

Her Post-doctoral research was first at the University of California at Irvine, with funding from EnviroSphere, where she developed a raptor management plan for the U.S. Forest Service and California Department of Fish and Game, to help expand the breeding range of the Bald Eagle and Osprey in northern California. Her later post-doctoral research was at the University of Washington (Seattle), with funding from the New York Zoological Society, to collect baseline information on the Magellanic Penguin ecosystem in Patagonia (Argentina).

Ph.D. University of Montana, Missoula. Ecology, Statistics. Dissertation: Comparative Ecology of California and Ring-billed Gulls, Larus californicus and L. delawarensis.

M.S. California State University, Los Angeles, Zoology, Statistics. Thesis: Brightness and Pattern Discrimination in the Banded Gecko, Coleonyx variegatus.

B.A. Denison University, Granville Ohio, Biology, English

AFFILIATIONS:

- American Ornithologists Union
- British Ornithologists Union
- Cooper Ornithological Society
- Pacific Seabird Group
- The Seabird Group
- American Institute of Biological Sciences
- Sigma Xi ( $\Sigma\Xi$ ), National Science Honorary
- Waterbird Society



AWARDS:

Phi Society - National Scholastic Honorary  
Phi Sigma - National Biology Honorary  
National Science Foundation Start-up Student Grant  
Chapman Fund Grant  
Nominated to Alaska Board of Game  
Principal Investigator, Department of the Navy Grant: data reduction and computerization of a four-year data base for the California least tern.

Lead Research Affiliate, Department of the Navy Grant: California Least Tern adult banding study: 1987-1992.

Principal Investigator, Environmental Protection Agency Grant: Enhancement of nesting habitat for the California Least Tern, 1990-1993.

Invited to be lead author on The California Bight, Chapter 10: Birds, M. Dailey, lead editor, 1993.

P-2-1

Elective Member in the AOU 1992 (permanent position).

Principal Investigator, Sierra Club and Surfside III Condominium Group Grant: Ecological Characterization of the Port Hueneme Sand Dune Coastal Strand, 1993.

Principal Investigator, Department of the Navy Grant: Foraging Ecology of the California Least Tern in San Diego Bay, 1993-1996

University Affiliate, Hawaiian Islands National Refuge Grant Black-footed and Laysan Albatross population biology, 1996-1999.

Elected Officer of the Board of Pacific Seabird Group: Regional Representative, 1993-1996 present.

Appointed Officer of the Pacific Seabird Group: Elections Committee Head, 1995- present.

Elected Councilor of the Executive Board of Colonial Waterbird Group, 1996- 2000

Principle Investigator, ESPN X-Games: Monitoring of the California least tern colony at Mariner's Point, Mission Bay, San Diego, 1997, 1998.

Invited to be lead author on Marine Birds, Chapter 10, Behavior, edited by B.A. Schreiber and Joanna Burger, 2001.



Principle Investigator, Department of Defense Grant to study migration of the western sandpiper as a model for shorebird migration in general, 2003-present.

EXPERTISE:

- o Effect of oil and gas development on seabirds and the marine environment
- o Influence of abiotic and biotic factors on distribution and abundance of vertebrate and invertebrate populations
- o Human disturbance of birds
- o Trophic ecology in the marine environment.
- o Growth, development, and energy requirements of seabird and shorebird chicks.
- o Breeding biology, and habitat partitioning of marine and shorebirds.
- o Habitat partitioning, coexistence and competition
- o Prey selection and foraging ecology of marine and shorebirds
- o Shorebirds and seabirds as indicators of environmental quality

P-2-1

A SAMPLE OF RECENT REFEREED PUBLICATIONS:

BAIRD, P.H. 2001 Chapter 10, Behavior, in Marine Birds, E.A. Schreiber and J. Burger, eds. CRC Press.

BAIRD, P.H., 1994. The Black-legged Kittiwake. The Birds of North America, Life Histories for the Twentieth Century. American Ornithologists' Union and The Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, Publishers.

BAIRD, P.H. 1993. Birds of the Southern California Bight. Chapter 10. In: M. Dailey, J. Anderson, and D. Reish, [eds.]. The ecology of the Southern California Bight: a synthesis and interpretation. The University of California Press.

BAIRD, P.H. 1992. Seabirds as indicators of the oceanic environment. In: P.M. Grifman and S.E. Yoder, [eds.] Perspective on the Marine Environment. *Proced.*, pp. 91-105. From a symposium on the Marine Environment of Southern California, May 10, 1991, 100th



Anniversary Meeting of the Southern California Academy of Sciences. Sea Grant Prog., Univ. of Southern Calif., USCSG-TR-01-92.

BAIRD, P.H. 1991. Optimal foraging and intraspecific competition in the Tufted Puffin. Condor 93: 503-515.

BAIRD, P.H. 1990a. Concentrations of seabirds at sites of drilling oil rigs. Condor 92(3):768-771.

BAIRD, P.H. 1990b. Influence of abiotic factors and prey distribution on diet and reproductive success of three seabird species in Alaska. Ornis Scandinavica 21:224-235.  
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As you see from the above truncated resume, I have years of research on seabirds, especially the California least tern. Until recently I was a member of the California Least Tern Recovery Team, and proposed various conditions for decisions regarding their endangered status. My 5-year research on habitat use of wetlands by shorebirds from Panama to Alaska, also entailed detailed research on all of the southern California wetlands. I also have a house near Colorado Lagoon, and when I am there in Long Beach, I walk past Colorado Lagoon every day.

P-2-1

I have also been working on a research project on shorebirds, highlighting the western sandpiper in a study on its migration from Panama to Alaska. Western sandpipers have been sighted in Colorado Lagoon, and I would suspect that more of them, as well as their congeners, would utilize that area if the habitat were improved. The presence of western sandpipers in a wetland is a well-known model for presence of other shorebird species, many of which are threatened or of Special Concern. As you know, populations of many species of shorebirds have declined radically over the last 30 years, and a majority of this decline has been from habitat fragmentation. I will send you a pamphlet that I wrote for the U.S. government, summarizing this situation, if you would like. Any improvement in the quality of the habitat at Colorado Lagoon, especially creating new habitat for shorebirds, would help mitigate any adverse effects of recent years for this group.

I am familiar with the ecology of wetlands in southern California, having advised various students of wetland ecology in their senior research projects, and having taught General Ecology at Cal State for many years. I also was the thesis adviser for one graduate student who compared biodiversity and physical parameters of various natural and artificial wetlands in southern



California (Lisa Dobson Snyder). Another graduate student of mine at Cal State did his thesis on a comparison of the foraging ecology least terns (Dan Robinette) at various wetlands. Both of these theses were presented at various national meetings and were well-received.

I wrote the Birds chapter of the book: Ecology of the Southern California Bight. I had just affiliated with Cal State, and was surprised at what a high percentage of the wetlands in southern California had been degraded in the last 50 years. Colorado Lagoon was one water body that I could see merited improving and expanding in order to provide more biodiversity and species stability. With a few of the measures taken so far, the quality of this lagoon seems to have improved a bit. However, it is a far cry from what it could be, with the stepwise plan of habitat improvement that LSA Associates suggest.

The list of potential species, both plant and animal, at Colorado Lagoon is impressive. Even today, with as much disturbance as there is, and with such a deterioration of habitat quality, it is good to see use of the lagoon by some of these species listed in the report.

**Comments on the EIR:**

The various steps and stages that LSA Associates proposes for the Colorado Lagoon Restoration Project are logical, conservative, and good. The time period they propose to implement the improvements seems reasonable, and breaking the process down into stages where milestones can be met is the best approach. They have covered thoroughly almost all aspects of the abiotic and biotic factors associated with the lagoon. Their multi-faceted approach is good and well thought out.

None of the Alternatives, except perhaps Alternative 4, should be considered. As far as I can ascertain from a quick reading today, the only difference between Alternative 4 and the Proposed Project is the restructuring of the baseball diamond. All of the other steps proposed are extremely important. None of the steps should be omitted in the proposed Project Plan to improve habitat quality of Colorado Lagoon.

To convert Colorado Lagoon back into a quality habitat and truly functioning water body, the Proposed Project Plan, as written so clearly by LSA Associates, should be followed to the letter. The open channel between the Lagoon and Marine Stadium is one of the keys to the success of any



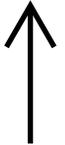
P-2-1

P-2-2

P-2-3

P-2-4

improvement project for the Lagoon. If the City does not build this channel, along with the other improvements that go with its building, the improvement effects will be minimal. The open channel is a highlight of this improvement plan.



P-2-4

Likewise, the EIR for the Colorado Lagoon Restoration Project should be approved by analyzing only its ecological assets. Funding of the Project is a clear and separate issue, and should be voted on apart from approval of LSA Associates' proposed project in its entirety.

However, I understand that all of this improvement, and improvement by doing it the right way, costs money. The City of Long Beach, like many cities in Southern California, does not have an excess of funding. However, at present, this should not be considered as a prerequisite for passing the Proposed Project Plan. What should be done to improve habitat quality should not be contingent on what is able to be funded right now. The two are entirely separate issues, and as such, only the habitat quality improvement of the Lagoon and the positive impacts to flora and fauna, water and air quality, and in the long run, improvement for the public, should be considered.



P-2-5

For the improvement in quality of life of the public when habitat quality is improved, as well as information on the revenue generated by wildlife viewing, please refer to the many publications and studies that have been written by state and federal agencies on this subject. If you need references, I can get them to you. In Florida, for example, more than \$3 billion in total economic impact was generated by the wildlife viewing public. (A report by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission stated in February of 2008: "Retail sales account for approximately \$1.8 billion of this total. **While other areas of the economy may be experiencing a downswing**, the FWC's report finds retail sales for wildlife-viewing activities have almost doubled from \$1.575 billion in 2001). So, as you can see, wildlife viewing is no small addition to a region's economy.



P-2-6

If the City of Long Beach has questions about where the funding can come from, I would be glad to help write proposals *gratis*, for the City for Federal and NGO grant assistance. There are many wetland improvement grants sponsored by the Federal government and by private sources, that would more than offset any money needed that is not currently in the City's budget. I can run these grants either through the city or through the university or through a non-profit. I spoke with some members of the Long Beach City Council and Long Beach Development Services about a number of grants



for habitat improvement near and at the lagoon years ago when I was a board member of the Belmont Heights Community Association. At that point we were considering what to do with the old "Red Line" right of way. I gave the sources of a number of grants to help improve the greenbelt habitat to some of the council members at that time, as well as to the people in Development Services (which I believe may have had a different name). I still have a file on these grants in Long Beach (I am currently in Canada this week), plus I have files on many more other wetlands grants from numerous sources. I would be more than happy to share them with you. I have no doubt that the City would be able to win a number of these grants. And I would be glad to help write or review the grant proposals *gratis*.



P-2-6

I urge the Long Beach City Council and the Long Beach Development Services to quickly approve the LSA Associates' draft EIR for the Colorado Lagoon Restoration Project in its entirety, and secondly, to keep approval of the project separate from obtaining funding to implement it.



P-2-7

If you have any more questions, or need further explanation or clarification, please do not hesitate to write or call.

Respectfully yours,

Patricia Baird

Patricia Baird, Ph.D.  
 Simon Fraser University  
 Centre for Wildlife Ecology  
 Tel= 604-928-5510  
 California Cell phone: 714-231-1563

## **PATRICIA BAIRD**

### **P-2-1**

The comment is introductory and provides background information regarding the author's expertise in biological resources with a specialty in sea and shore birds. The comment does not contain any substantive statements or questions about the Draft EIR or the analysis therein. Therefore, no further response is necessary.

### **P-2-2**

The comment expresses support for the Colorado Lagoon Restoration Project as described in the Draft EIR and for the biological resource analysis contained therein. The City notes that the applicant for the proposed project is the City of Long Beach Parks, Recreation and Marine. The comment does not contain any further substantive statements or questions about the Draft EIR; therefore, no further response is necessary.

### **P-2-3**

This comment expresses an opinion about the selection of project alternatives to be considered by the City for implementation. The comment states that none of the alternatives, except perhaps Alternative 4, should be considered, and that all components of the proposed project are important. This opinion will be made available for consideration by the decision-makers as part of their determination regarding the proposed project.

### **P-2-4**

The comment expresses support for the Colorado Lagoon Restoration Project as described in the Draft EIR and for the proposed open channel between the Lagoon and Marine Stadium in particular as key to the success of improving the Lagoon. The comment does not contain any further substantive statements or questions about the Draft EIR or the analysis therein; therefore, no further response is necessary.

### **P-2-5**

The comment expresses an opinion that the proposed project should be approved based on its ecological assets and that funding should not be considered a prerequisite for approving the project. This opinion will be made available for consideration by the decision-makers as part of their determination regarding the proposed project. The comment does not contain any substantive statements or questions about the Draft EIR or the analysis therein; therefore, no further response is necessary.

**P-2-6**

The comment provides information about the potential economic benefits of wildlife viewing opportunities and offers to assist the City in writing proposals to obtain additional grant funding for the proposed project. The comment does not contain any substantive statements or questions about the Draft EIR or the analysis therein; therefore, no further response is necessary.

**P-2-7**

This comment is a conclusion statement expressing an opinion in support of the proposed project and the separation between project approval and project funding. The comment does not contain any substantive statements or questions about the Draft EIR or the analysis therein; therefore, no further response is necessary.

Dear Development Services:

There is one small item that I did not include in my comments on the Draft EIR for the Colorado Lagoon Restoration Project.

The "sighted" species list could have been much improved if the biologists had sampled all year. I see that they sampled the fish and the birds at times other than when some species are at their most abundant (or potential abundance) at Colorado Lagoon. Thus, if people who are against the restoration project state that not many species were actually found at Colorado Lagoon, it is not because these species are not there; it is because the sampling plan to determine which species were there was not the best that it could have been.

Stratified sampling at different times of the day and at different tidal regimes throughout the entire year would have been the way to sample for species distribution and abundance.

Please add this to my comments.

Respectfully yours,  
Patricia Baird

--  
Patricia Baird, Ph.D.  
Simon Fraser University  
Centre for Wildlife Ecology  
Tel= 604-928-5510  
California cell: 714-231-1563  
and 4307 Massachusetts Street 90814

P-3-1

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## **PATRICIA BAIRD/SECOND LETTER**

### **P-3-1**

The comment pertains to the timing of biological surveys for wildlife species and notes that greater species abundance and diversity may have resulted if surveys were done at different times of the day and year. Qualified project biologists and at least one community member from FOCL surveyed the area in conformance with general industry standards to determine biological resources on site and determine the habitat communities present in the project area. Project biologists consulted the results of several other surveys previously conducted at the Lagoon as well as consulting other biologists with experience in the area. Additionally, a literature search and database review were conducted, and the results were incorporated. These methods are discussed in Section 4.3, Biological Resources, of the Draft EIR and are sufficient for the purposes of satisfying CEQA and resource agencies.

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**"Molly Byers"**  
<mdbyers@verizon.net>

To <craig\_chalfant@longbeach.gov>  
cc

07/07/2008 12:50 AM

Subject cEIR Report

Craig,

I've been a resident of Naples Island for over 30 years, and I am thrilled to see the City finally taking steps to return the Colorado Lagoon to its former cleanliness, beauty, and natural habitat. It was in times past one of the little gems of Long Beach, and to see this restoration going forward can only bless all those in the surrounding community.

Thanks, in advance, for your help in making all of this happen.

Molly Byers  
6014 Lido Lane  
Long Beach

P-4-1

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## MOLLY BYERS

### P-4-1

The comment expresses an opinion in support of the Colorado Lagoon Restoration Project. The comment does not contain any substantive statements or questions about the Draft EIR or the analysis therein; therefore, no further response is necessary.

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Craig Chalfant  
 City of Long Beach  
 Department of Development Services  
 333 West Ocean Blvd., 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
 Long Beach, Ca 90802

June 24, 2008

Dear Mr. Chalfant

As a resident of Trimble Court with a view of the Colorado Lagoon and a long time interest in its restoration and preservation, I would like to extend my thanks for the opportunity to comment on this exciting EIR. The restoration plan for the Colorado Lagoon has been a long time coming and is now an urgent necessity for the sake of the habitat and recreational users.

P-5-1

In any project of this size impacts are expected and from my perspective, any temporary or resulting impact that in the long term improves the water quality is applauded and welcomed. Noise, traffic disturbances etc. are all minor when considered against the long term impacts of losing this wetland to pollution. The alternative to this project is already creating ramifications that extend to the health of those who frequent the Lagoon, both human and otherwise.

P-5-2

There are many creative alternatives listed in this draft Environmental Impact Report and I would like to highlight some aspects that are of particular interest to me. I believe people will be excited and encouraged to use the trail around the Lagoon and I certainly look forward to being able to enter and view the western arm area from Park Avenue. I hope this end will be designated a preserve for flora and fauna and understand it will not be possible to walk totally around the Lagoon but entrances from Park Ave to viewing platforms will encourage visitors from neighborhoods to the west of the Lagoon.

P-5-3

I particularly like the idea of the curved channel *reconnecting* the Lagoon to Marine Stadium thereby ensuring adequate tidal flow into the Lagoon, an important piece of restoring this potentially valuable wetland. What a wonderful riparian recreation area this will create for those neighbors who don't play sports but who value nature and the environment. This still allows the sports buffs to use the fields without disturbance. I would like to see a trail along both sides of the open channel. The restoration of the open channel to Alamitos Bay and therefore the open ocean is an *essential* piece in restoring the health of the Lagoon.

I have noticed traps full of garbage in the drain between Appian Way and Trimble Court and while I'm sure traps have helped keep runoff and garbage from entering the Lagoon, it will be imperative to keep *all* drains clean or the trapped trash will overflow and get into the Lagoon anyway either by flood or wind. I look for monitoring of all changes to drainage to ensure the desired effect is reached.

P-5-4

It is a large and complex undertaking and while it is difficult to adequately cover every element, this report shows we are moving toward that goal. I would like to voice my overall support for the scope of this document and the project ahead.

P-5-5

Sincerely,



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## SUE CONSIDINE

### P-5-1

The comment is introductory and expresses an opinion in support of the proposed project. The comment does not contain any substantive statements or questions about the Draft EIR or the analysis therein. Therefore, no further response is necessary.

### P-5-2

The comment notes the importance of water quality improvements and states that the temporary construction-related impacts are minor in consideration of the long-term effects of not restoring the wetland. The comment does not contain any substantive statements or questions about the Draft EIR or the analysis therein; therefore, no further response is necessary.

### P-5-3

The comment expresses support for many of the project components, including: the trail and viewing platform at the Lagoon, the open channel providing tidal flow, retention of the sports fields in Marina Vista Park, and limiting human interference on the Lagoon's western arm to the proposed viewing platform on the south shore and the trail loop on the north shore. The comment also expresses a desire to have a trail on both sides of the open channel and a trail entrance from Park Avenue, which is not part of the proposed project. This opinion regarding the project description will be made available for consideration by the decision-makers as part of their determination regarding the proposed project.

### P-5-4

The comment states that debris traps in the drain between Appian Way and Trimble Court have been observed to be full and that it is important to keep drains clean to keep trash out of the Lagoon. The comment states that drainage changes should be monitored to ensure results.

The City has a very proactive and aggressive storm drain system maintenance program, and any changes as a result of the proposed project will be monitored. In addition to a preventative maintenance schedule, all catch basins and devices are scheduled to be cleaned a minimum of one time during the summer months and one time during the winter months. Additionally, during the winter (roughly October to May), catch basins and devices are cleaned more frequently. A priority or "trouble spot" list has been created from historical need, and the rule of thumb is that if the catch basin becomes 40 percent full it must be cleaned. However, if for any reason a resident sees a catch basin and/or device that needs maintenance, the problem can be reported to: (562) 570-DUMP (3867) or electronically at [www.lbstormwater.org](http://www.lbstormwater.org).

Also, please see Response to Comment O-2-3 for more information regarding vegetated bioswales. The comment does not contain any substantive statements or questions about the Draft EIR or the analysis therein; therefore, no further response is necessary.

**P-5-5**

This comment is a conclusion statement expressing an opinion in support of the proposed project. The comment does not contain any substantive statements or questions about the Draft EIR or the analysis therein; therefore, no further response is necessary.

June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2008

Mr. Craig Chalfant  
Department of Development Services  
City of Long Beach  
333 W. Ocean Boulevard, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Long Beach, CA 90802

Reference: Colorado Lagoon Restoration Project Enhancements

Dear Craig:

It was a pleasure meeting you at the Colorado Lagoon Public Outreach Meeting last night at the Council District Three Field Office. Your presentation of the Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Colorado Lagoon Restoration Project was very professional and highly informative.

P-6-1

I would like to suggest two (2) simple enhancements to the Project for your consideration:

- 1) Integrating a landscaped Class 1 Bike Path along 6<sup>th</sup> Street from the northern access point to the Lagoon trails near Monrovia Avenue west to Park Avenue and continuing along the eastern side of Park Avenue down Appian Way to Colorado Avenue.
- 2) Integrating a clearly marked pedestrian crossing on the north and south legs of the intersection of Park Avenue and 6<sup>th</sup> Street.

Although technically outside the boundary of the Project, a Class 1 Bike Path as described above would encourage Colorado Lagoon visitors to choose cycling for access to the proposed trailheads at the North Arm of the Lagoon and alleviate parking demands along 6<sup>th</sup> Street. Bicycle parking racks could be provided as well for secure cycle storage.

P-6-2

Although a Bike Path currently exists along the eastern side of Park Avenue it is only rarely utilized by the most valiant of cyclists due to the speed and volume of traffic along Park Avenue between 4<sup>th</sup> Street and 7<sup>th</sup> Street (particularly at peak AM and PM hours when the Level of Service reaches an F grade).

In the interest of insuring their personal safety, the vast majority of recreational cyclists currently using this essentially unmarked Bike Path instead choose to utilize sidewalks along Park Avenue which creates a conflict with pedestrians.

The existing iron fence could simply be relocated a few feet eastward (or removed entirely) to accommodate this enhancement to the Restoration Project. Both cyclists and pedestrians would then be able to enjoy panoramic vistas of the Lagoon from Park Avenue and Appian Way with less concern for their personal safety as a result of decreased proximity to high volumes of vehicular traffic exceeding the posted 25 MPH speed limit.

Integration of a landscaped Class 1 Bike Path would also possibly have a "calming" effect on traffic along the heavily traveled corridors of both Park Avenue and Appian Way resulting in decreased speeds.



A significant amount of pedestrian traffic currently crosses Park Avenue at 6<sup>th</sup> Street to access both the Colorado Lagoon and Recreation Park. Morning and evening joggers, residents walking their dogs, students from nearby schools taking field trips or participating in physical education activities all choose to cross Park Avenue at the intersection of 6<sup>th</sup> Street.

Since Park Avenue essentially serves as a minor arterial for cross-town traffic during peak AM and PM hours and this coincides with peak recreational pedestrian access to both the Colorado Lagoon and Recreation Park, a conflict arises since rush-hour commuters show little, if any, regard for pedestrians and cyclists along Park Avenue.

Both during and after Restoration of the Colorado Lagoon, demand for pedestrian access will increase since people will be increasingly curious to monitor progress of the Project and enjoy it more often once it is complete. Installation of a pedestrian crosswalk at the intersection of Park Avenue & 6<sup>th</sup> Street will enhance their safety while possibly having a "calming" effect on traffic along Park Avenue resulting in decreased speeds and increased observation of the right-of-way of both pedestrians and cyclists by motorists.

I will be absolutely thrilled to see the Colorado Lagoon Restoration Project move forward in as timely a manner as possible and respectfully submit these two (2) simple enhancements for your consideration to compliment the grand and ambitious scope of the Project.

Thank you again for an outstanding presentation on the Project, Craig, and best of luck negotiating your way through the Public Comment Period. You and your colleagues are to be commended for reaching out to the community regarding the impact of this landmark Project and your efforts are greatly appreciated.

Good Day!

Steve Creech  
Chairman, Traffic & Infrastructure Committee  
Alamitos Heights Improvement Association Board of Directors  
616 Park Avenue  
Long Beach, CA 90814-1812  
(562) 439-7843  
[s\\_creech@verizon.net](mailto:s_creech@verizon.net)

cc: Third District Councilman Gary Delong



P-6-2

P-6-3

## STEVE CREECH

### P-6-1

The comment is introductory and states that the public outreach meeting for the proposed project was informative. The comment does not contain any substantive statements or questions about the Draft EIR or the analysis therein. Therefore, no further response is necessary.

### P-6-2

The comment suggests adding pedestrian bike and crossing facilities outside of the project boundary. The comment suggests a landscaped bike path along 6th Street, Park Avenue, and Appian Way, and adding a pedestrian crossing at the intersection of Park Avenue and 6th Street. It is suggested that the facilities are needed due to the existing volume of both pedestrian and vehicle traffic and that the project could increase the number of pedestrians accessing the project area. The comment further suggests that the additional pedestrian and bike facilities could have a calming effect on traffic.

As noted in the comment, the suggested pedestrian facilities are located outside of the project boundary and would not directly further the project objectives as stated in the EIR. Further, a bike path along 6th Street is constrained by the width of the existing right-of-way. Providing a bike path along 6th Street would require acquisition of additional right-of-way from the existing golf course. While outside the scope of the Colorado Lagoon Restoration Project, the suggestion could be considered during any future efforts to redesign the Recreation Park Golf Course.

With regard to the proposed pedestrian crossing, the City traffic engineer reviewed the request. The City Department of Public Works does not support crosswalks at intersections without traffic stops or traffic lights, such as the intersection of Park Avenue and 6th Street. The City's traffic data demonstrates that crosswalks without stops or lights gives pedestrians a false sense of security without affecting driver behavior. Therefore, the City traffic engineer does not anticipate that a calming effect or additional safety would be realized from adding a crosswalk to the intersection of Park Avenue and 6th Street. However, this suggestion will be made available for consideration by the decision-makers.

### P-6-3

This comment is a conclusion statement expressing support for the proposed project and the two additional facilities proposed by the commentor. The comment does not contain any substantive statements or questions about the Draft EIR or the analysis therein; therefore, no further response is necessary.

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July 3, 2008

Craig Chalfant  
City of Long Beach  
Department of Development Services  
333 West Ocean blvd., 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Long Beach, CA. 90802

Dear Mr. Chalfant:

My family and I are so happy that all this work is being done to save our precious wetland, the Colorado Lagoon. We are very aware that this is one of the last wetlands left in California and for that reason alone it is wonderful that all this work is being done to save it. Thank you so much.

We think that the recent EIR draft for the restoration of the Lagoon is on target and addresses several issues that will help to restore this wonderful nursery for all the critters that depend on this lagoon to survive. The one issue that we feel is most important is the open channel between the Marine Stadium and the Colorado Lagoon. Without this the rest of the work runs the chance of being in affective in solving some of the other major problems the lagoon faces. We feel that the tidal flushing an open channel will provide is pertinent to the success of providing healthy water quality, and without healthy water quality we do not have healthy marine life, birds, and people.

Also, we are watching the interest in the new Wetland and Marine Science Education Center grow in leaps and bounds. This is so wonderful for all the generations of families now and all the families to come here in Long Beach. This will secure the future of our wetland and the future of our children. This is an extraordinary opportunity to be a hero to us all. Without compromise we need to fulfill this unique challenge with passion and determination. Thank you again for considering our concerns.

P-7-1

Sincerely,



The Desatoff Family  
420 Monrovia Ave.  
Long Beach, Ca. 90814



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## DESATOFF FAMILY

### P-7-1

The comment expresses an opinion in support of the Colorado Lagoon Restoration Project, as well as for the existing Marine Science Center. The comment specifically supports development of the open channel to provide tidal flushing that would result in long-term improvements to water quality and habitat resources. The comment does not contain any substantive statements or questions about the Draft EIR or the analysis therein; therefore, no further response is necessary.

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**Diane Donaldson**  
<d\_l\_donaldson@yahoo.com>

To craig\_chalfant@longbeach.gov  
cc

07/08/2008 09:00 AM

Subject Support for Lagoon FOCL Report

Please respond to  
d\_l\_donaldson@yahoo.com

Dear City Officials-

A great deal of information has been utilized in the report developed by FOCL that can help create a positive, inviting, healthy Long Beach. I urge you to follow up on this plan for a true restoration of this valuable and highly utilized public recreation site. We can't let this chance to improve our city drop by the wayside. It is important for us to act now on the findings of this committee that has spent countless hours researching the lagoon and ways to make it usable in the future. Thank you for your kind consideration.

Diane Donaldson  
533 Havana Avenue  
Long Beach, CA 90814  
562 498-8020

P-8-1

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## DIANE DONALDSON

### **P-8-1**

The comment expresses an opinion in support of the Colorado Lagoon Restoration Project. The comment does not contain any substantive statements or questions about the Draft EIR or the analysis therein; therefore, no further response is necessary.

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**"Diana Driskill"**  
<dcdriskill@charter.net>

To <craig\_chalfant@longbeach.gov>  
cc

07/09/2008 08:16 PM

Subject Colorado Lagoon

Dear Mr. Chalfant,

I attended the presentation on the draft EIR for the lagoon restoration, and I want to endorse it heartily. I am excited at the prospect of cleaning the water, enhancing it as a natural wetland, and yet maintaining its recreational role. I think the open channel is vital to the plan, and I am hopeful the full proposal will be implemented.

Sincerely,

Diana Driskill  
320 Granada Avenue, LB 90803

P-9-1

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## **DIANA DRISKILL**

### **P-9-1**

The comment expresses an opinion in support of the Colorado Lagoon Restoration Project. The comment does not contain any substantive statements or questions about the Draft EIR or the analysis therein; therefore, no further response is necessary.

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Received Via E-mail 6/3/08

Craig:

- 1.Thanks for follow through.
- 2 The PDF on the plan replete with the excellent color renderings opened up nicely.
- 3.FYI-the second item(2 pages) contained one page that had but a City Seal in upper left corner;one page that contained a zip coded map of some sort-nothing about any time;locations of any meetings-which you were kindly told me of on the 18th and 19th of this month.My plans are to attend the meeting in the Council Field office and the one at the Planning Commission.
- 4.HERE WITH ARE MY WRITTEN COMMENTS ON THE CONNECTING CHANNEL WHICH WILL GREATLY ENHANCE TIDAL FLOW:  
TO WIT:

P-10-1

A.Such a connecting channel is something which this individual has advocated for years.The benefits of direct tidal flow and flushing are so obvious they need not be discussed-and are amply covered in the EIR

P-10-2

B.Properly designed the channel can enhance and go along way in facilitating the original intent of the Marine Stadium in chief as a world class recreational boating venue.As you may know Grant Deed No.753 between the San Gabriel Land Improvement(1923) REQUIRED the City to create and maintain a venue for small boating recreational activity.

P-10-3

The California Act encourages and warrants such enhancement and facilitation.The Department of Boating and Waterways has funding programs for such projects.

Said channel,easily and properly designed,will yield what is called"running room" for major crew races including Olympiads and Olympic Trials and or staging areas.Running room gives the boats a place to go once crossing the finish line.Staging area allows for warm up and moment adjustments prior to start.

The projected 14' depth is ample depth.The required width circa 60' of water should be no problem.Ample room exist for that slight adjustment from the 100'side-to side width at the top of the banks as it were.

Laurence B. Goodhue  
Long Beach,California  
90803

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## LAURENCE GOODHUE

### **P-10-1**

The comment is introductory and informational and does not contain any substantive statements or questions about the Draft EIR or the analysis therein. Therefore, no further response is necessary.

### **P-10-2**

The comment expresses support for development of an open channel to improve tidal flow and flushing. The comment does not contain any substantive statements or questions about the Draft EIR or the analysis therein; therefore, no further response is necessary.

### **P-10-3**

The comment expresses the desire that the open channel be redesigned to better accommodate and support active recreation uses, such as competitive rowing events, and notes that the State encourages and funds such projects. It is anticipated that changes to the channel design that would be needed to accommodate this suggestion would result in a much deeper and wider channel, resulting in loss of sports fields within Marina Vista Park. The depth of the water in the proposed channel at low tide would be 4 to 5 ft and the corresponding width of the channel at the water surface would be 40 to 45 ft. Thus, the channel would need to be another 20 ft wider at the top to achieve the 60 ft required width. This opinion about the project description, specifically the channel design and proposed uses, will be made available for consideration by the decision-makers as part of their determination regarding the proposed project. The comment does not contain any substantive statements or questions about the Draft EIR or the analysis therein; therefore, no further response is necessary.

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Dear Mr. Chalfant,

As a small child I grew up in the Colorado Lagoon learning to swim with the Cities Parks & Recreation Dept. and then years later as a Long Beach Lifeguard working the area in the spring and summer months. As a small child I grew up in the Colorado Lagoon learning to swim with the Cities Parks & Recreation Dept. and then years later as a Long Beach Lifeguard working the area in the spring and summer months. As a small child I grew up in the Colorado Lagoon learning to swim with the Cities Parks & Recreation Dept. and then years later as a Long Beach Lifeguard working the area in the spring and summer months. Today I still work with the City of Long Beach as Rescue Boat Operator with the Fire Dept. Marine Safety Division. I currently am assigned to the Marine Stadium area and I am also a resident of Alamitos Heights. Therefore I hold a great interest in the Colorado Lagoons rebirth. I would like to thank you for this opportunity to comment on the draft environmental impact report. This is an extremely exciting time for all and I feel that this project has been a long time coming. The Colorado Lagoon is an important fixture to our neighborhood and deserves all of the positive attention that it is starting to receive.

P-11-1

During my years with the city I have been around several studies involving the Colorado Lagoon. One such study that the Long Beach Lifeguards assisted in was with the Army Core of Engineers with the taking of core samples from several layers of the bottom of the lagoon. This study was completed back in the 1980's and the results found that the ground under the first foot to be toxic with several chemicals and was listed on the State of California's (303d) list of impaired bodies of water. The clean up at the time was too costly for the city and also the sediment had to not only be cleaned but also returned to the city as the city still owned the dirt. Again, the Colorado Lagoon went uncleaned for over two more decades. Today there remain's eleven storm drains dumping directly into the Lagoon. The idea of dredging the Lagoon is a necessary evil & with the Army core of engineers donating thier efforts as well as the Harbor dept. accepting the toxic sediment to bury, I feel that we need to look to dredge the "ENTIRE" Lagoon including the Northern most portion for the sediment below & sealife living within this sediment here is also "TOXIC" and will spread back into the other areas with currents, wind and the wildlife that the Lagoon attracts. One of the goals here is to have a renewed Colorado Lagoon that can attract not only the public and school programs but also to attract new species of wildlife as well. The Lagoon is a unique wetland habitat with brackish water that can sustain a number of species that can survive only in this environment. The Termino Ave storm drain project should also end up further west, as the storm drain will return the future hazzardous waste products directly back into the Lagoon at an incoming tide.

The dynamic components of this restoration will provide ample opportunities for the public to enjoy as well as many of the local schools to study not only now but



also into the future as the Lagoon grows further into a healthy state. I am looking forward to exploring the newly renovated Lagoon with not only the many students that I encounter every year but also with the new potential of brining back the public to the area and as a Lifeguard I welcome the potential growth to our cities staffing of the Lagoon. Back in the 1980's the Colorado Lagoon would be staffed year round with a permanant Lifeguard Sgt. and in the spring and summer months the staffing would increase to 8-10 Lifeguards daily. In the seventies the Lifeguards would work until 12:00 midnight. The number of rescues annually were into the thousands. The Lagoon also had several classrooms and a model Boat facility as well as a Lifeguard station. My era has learned to swim here at the Lagoon or at Bayshore.

There are some truly innovative and wonderful aspects to this plan that I would like to mention. The dredging of the toxic sediments out of the entire Lagoon would be an absolute relief. It is unfortunate that they have been ignored for so long but finally, a welcomed resolution. Complimentary to this improvement of the water quality by redirecting or filtering the 11 storm drains currently running directly into the Lagoon. This, in addition to the much anticipated open channel alternative, will greatly benefit the water quality. Making the water in the Colorado Lagoon healthy again is imperative for the wildlife but more importantly the multitude that swim here annually in the warm weather. With these kinds of improvements we can return the Lagoon to a local destination where everyone can enjoy for a long time.

P-11-1

The water is the most obvious feature of the Lagoon and it will be great to see it clean again. The other important facet the report discusses is the habitat restoration. Creating a nexus between a healthy habitat and a recreational facility in the city of Long Beach is pioneering and hopefully can be a vanguard for future restoration possibilities within the city. The building facilities need to be improved such as the two docks need to be completely replaced before someone is seriously injured. The half dock has been missing for several years. This dock was used by the public swimming & fishing and also by serving the local wildlife nesting during the winter months. The restrooms on the northshore golf course area could be converted into a classromm facility or even a small boathouse for the model boat classes.

This is an outstanding and completely worthwile project and I appluad the effort and hard work by all involved in the creation of this great benefit to our neighborhood.

Sincerely,

Robert Hamilton  
410 Monrovia Ave  
Alamitos Heights  
Long Beach, CA 90814

## **ROBERT HAMILTON**

### **P-11-1**

The comment expresses an opinion in support of the Colorado Lagoon Restoration Project overall. The commentor is a long-time resident and user of the Lagoon for both habitat and swimming resources. The comment supports dredging the Lagoon and suggests that the entire Lagoon be dredged to ensure the removal of contaminated materials.

Information regarding the status of the Lagoon sediment is provided in Section 4.7, Hydrology and Water Quality, and Section 4.6, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, of the Draft EIR. The sediment-testing analysis determined that there is a layer of pollution gradient in the Lagoon, with the highest levels of constituents in the western arm. The sediment in the central region and northern arm of the Lagoon are not hazardous in accordance with State standards and do not warrant removal.

The comment also supports development of the open channel to assist in the improvement of water quality for swimming and habitat resources. The comment further notes deferred maintenance of several facilities at the Lagoon. This opinion will be made available for consideration by the decision-makers.

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July 10, 2008

Luz Hernandez  
250 West Ocean Blvd, Long Beach CA 90802 1810

Craig Chalfant  
City of Long Beach  
Department of Development Services  
333 West Ocean Blvd., 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Long Beach, Ca 90802

Dear Mr. Chalfant:

As a resident of Long Beach, I would like to extend my thanks for the opportunity to comment on this exciting report. The restoration of the Colorado Lagoon has been a long time coming and for the sake of the habitat and recreational users, necessary. Any resulting impact that improves the water quality is applauded and welcomed as the ramifications extend to the health of those who frequent the Lagoon, both human and otherwise. There are many intriguing and creative alternatives listed in this draft Environmental Impact Report and I would like to highlight some aspects that caught my attention and curiosity.

Of particular importance to me is the improvement of the water quality of the Lagoon through the creation of an open channel, remediation of the sediment contamination, and minimizing runoff contaminated with pesticides from the golf course. I believe this is vital for the protection of fish and bird species, as well as the public who swim in the Lagoon. I believe fishing should be prohibited as the Lagoon is a spawning ground for many species of fish and the fishing is depleting their threatened populations. The addition of native plants around the Lagoon and the open channel would be a wonderful addition to the area and help provide habitat for the abundance of wildlife that lives in and around the Lagoon.

With these facets of the report addressed, I would like to voice my overall support for the scope of this document and the project that lies ahead. It is a large and complex undertaking with many constituent factors and while it is difficult to adequately cover every element, this report does well toward that goal.

Sincerely,

Luz Hernandez

P-12-1

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## **LUZ HERNANDEZ**

### **P-12-1**

The comment expresses an opinion in support of the Colorado Lagoon Restoration Project. The comment specifically supports development of the open channel, sediment removal, and storm drain upgrades to assist in the improvement of water quality for swimming and habitat resources. The comment also supports the development of native habitat. The comment further provides the opinion that fishing should be prohibited at the Lagoon to protect fish resources. The proposed project does not include the elimination of any current recreation uses of the project site; however, this opinion will be made available for consideration by the decision-makers. The comment does not contain any substantive statements or questions about the Draft EIR or the analysis therein; therefore, no further response is necessary.

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Steve Hommel  
<shommel@earthlink.net>

07/06/2008 04:51 AM

To craig\_chalfant@longbeach.gov  
cc  
bcc  
Subject

Dear Mr. Chalflant,

I strongly urge you to implement the proposal outlined in the current dEIR concerning restoration of the Colorado Lagoon. As a long time resident and property owner in Long Beach, my family and I very regularly visit the lagoon. We, along with so many other Long Beach residents, consider it an invaluable slice of nature in our primarily urban environment.

Thank you for doing what you can to restore and protect this local oasis!

Sincerely, Steve Hommel

P-13-1

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## **STEVE HOMMEL**

### **P-13-1**

The comment expresses an opinion in support of the Colorado Lagoon Restoration Project. The commentor is a long-time resident and property owner in the Lagoon area and regularly visits the Lagoon. The comment does not contain any substantive statements or questions about the Draft EIR or the analysis therein; therefore, no further response is necessary.

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Madeline McNab

**MCNAB & ASSOCIATES LLC**  
**DESIGN AND PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT**

393 Haines Avenue  
Long Beach, California 90814

E-mail: [mcnabassoc@aol.com](mailto:mcnabassoc@aol.com)

Telephone: 562 597 7615

Facsimile: 562 498 6610

Cellular: 562 715 1803

July 3, 2008

Craig Chalfant  
City of Long Beach  
Department of Development Services  
333 West Ocean Blvd., 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Long Beach, Ca. 90802

Dear Mr. Chalfant:

I would like to take this opportunity to comment on the recent EIR draft for the restoration of the Colorado Lagoon. As a resident of the eastern shore of the lagoon for 36 years, I am pleased and excited with the breath and scope of the report. To finally reach this point in the preparation for restoration is a wonderful accomplishment which I have looked forward to for many years. I believe the report has covered well the work that needs to be done to restore the wetlands habitat to a healthy state and still maintain the recreational aspects enjoyed by so many of our families.

I am in agreement with all of the proposed plans, however in my opinion the restoring of the open channel from the lagoon into the Marine Stadium is of utmost importance. To my understanding this is the only way that adequate tidal flow can be provided to insure the healthy water quality. Since all the aspects of the restorations success depend on clean water and without it our goals will not be realized.

Thank you for taking my comments. I realize what a major undertaking this project is and you have my full support and gratitude for its undertaking. I look forward to witnessing the work in progress and its completion.

Sincerely,



Madeline McNab

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## **MADLINE McNAB**

### **P-14-1**

The comment expresses an opinion in support of the Colorado Lagoon Restoration Project. The commentor is a long-time resident near the shore of the Lagoon. The comment specifically supports development of the open channel to provide tidal flushing that would result in long-term improved water quality for recreation and habitat resources. The comment does not contain any substantive statements or questions about the Draft EIR or the analysis therein; therefore, no further response is necessary.

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**Nzasorin@aol.com**

To craig\_chalfant@longbeach.gov

07/06/2008 08:46 PM

cc

Subject Colorado Lagoon

Having one of the South Coast's few remaining wetlands restored would be a great amenity for Long Beach. It will provide a place of transcendence and peace. It will give migrating birds a place to feed, rest, and over-winter. It will add to the value of real estate of all of Long Beach. This city, which has some of the only affordable beach community property left, and which is within reach of the Westside, Downtown LA and Orange County. Historic Long Beach properties will be restored and new cultural and urban resources will make LB with its excellent public transportation, parks and recreation facilities, its port a unique and beautiful coastal city.

P-15-1

Keep the real estate developers, who want to grow a fungus of developments on this open treasures, OUT. We don't need more McMansions, rows of instant slums, condos, chain restaurants, and especially no more big box stores. We don't want more asphalt parking lots and Wal Marts.

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## NZASORIN

### **P-15-1**

The comment expresses an opinion in support of the Colorado Lagoon Restoration Project. The commentor states that the project would help improve the City. The commentor further provides opinions regarding future development within the City that are not related to the proposed project. The comment does not contain any substantive statements or questions about the Draft EIR or the analysis therein; therefore, no further response is necessary.

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Re: Colorado Lagoon Restoration

Dear Mr. Chalfant,

As a member of the Friends of Colorado Lagoon and their Education Director I would like to extend my thanks for the opportunity to comment on this exciting report. The restoration of the Colorado Lagoon has been a long time coming and for the sake of the habitat and recreational users, necessary. Any resulting impact that improves the water quality is applauded and welcomed as the ramifications extend to the health of those who frequent the Lagoon, both human and otherwise. There are many intriguing and creative alternatives listed in this draft Environmental Impact Report and I would like to highlight some aspects that caught my attention and curiosity.

First, I would like to offer my complete support of the open channel. This is a thrilling component of the project that will assist the Lagoon's natural process of water flow into Alamitos Bay. In addition, it is a great aesthetic benefit to our community with possibilities of more varied recreation. Although an intense and expensive proposal, the push to return the water's natural and unmitigated connection to the bay is well worth the effort in the long run.

A concern I have is of the fate of the species of Tiger Beetle that resides in and on the mud surrounding the water. *Cicindela trifasciata sigmodiae* is a precious creature dependent upon the sanctity of its habitat. Certain areas that call for re-sloping, specifically along the West Arm, could impact their habitat.

This project will greatly increase the recreation at the Lagoon. I am specifically excited about the education possibilities with the increased native vegetation and improved water quality. FOCL will be able to drastically expand our programming with this restoration and the entire city of Long Beach will benefit from these efforts.

With these facets of the report addressed, I would like to voice my overall support for the scope of this document and the project that lies ahead. It is large and complex undertaking with many constituent factors and while it is difficult to adequately cover every element, this report does well toward that goal.

Sincerely,

Taylor Parker

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## TAYLOR PARKER

### P-16-1

The comment expresses an opinion in support of the Colorado Lagoon Restoration Project. The comment specifically supports development of the open channel to provide tidal flushing that would result in long-term improved water quality for recreation and habitat resources. In addition, the comment notes the potential for increased education opportunities with improved water quality and habitat at the Lagoon. The City looks forward to a continued partnership with FOCL to provide public outreach and educational opportunities at the Lagoon.

The comment also expresses concern related to potential construction impacts to the tiger beetle. Section 4.3, Biological Resources of the Draft EIR addresses potential impacts to tiger beetles. The two species of tiger beetles identified on site do not include any listed species with legal protections. These species are expected to repopulate the Lagoon following project implementation. No additional mitigation measures for these beetles are warranted. However, this opinion will be made available for consideration by the decision-makers as part of their determination regarding the proposed project. The comment does not contain any other substantive statements or questions about the Draft EIR or the analysis therein; therefore, no further response is necessary.

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Craig,

I strongly support the preferred project defined in the draft Colorado Lagoon Restoration Environmental Impact Report. I do not support any of the alternatives.

The preferred project is the only one that meets all criteria set out for the restoration and implements the vision laid out by the community during the feasibility study phase. The open channel, while having a significant cost and causing certain impacts during construction, is the only way to restore full tidal flushing to the lagoon. Full tidal flushing is necessary to clean up the water in the lagoon.

Dave Pirazzi

445 Los Altos Ave  
Long Beach CA 90814  
562.225.5211

P-17-1

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## **DAVE PIRAZZI**

### **P-17-1**

The comment expresses an opinion in support of the proposed Colorado Lagoon Restoration Project, as described in the Draft EIR. The comment states the proposed project implements the community's vision that was defined during preparation of the Feasibility Study and supports the proposed project over the alternatives presented in the EIR. The comment specifically supports development of the open channel to provide tidal flushing that would result in long-term improved water quality. The comment does not contain any substantive statements or questions about the Draft EIR or the analysis therein; therefore, no further response is necessary.

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Dear Craig,

Please find my comments pertaining to the DEIR for Colorado Lagoon below:

1.) If Colorado Lagoon is to become a "preserve", in the truest sense of the word, then it is my understanding that this means marine organisms should not be taken out of the Lagoon. I would like to see all fishing at the Lagoon stopped. All digging for and removal of clams (and other such organisms that call the shores of the Lagoon their home) should be stopped. All removal of duck eggs should be prevented. If the wildlife at the Lagoon is to make a solid recovery, the City needs to make sure that it is not allowed to be removed (which includes the posting of signs stating as such).

P-18-1

2.) I thoroughly support the creation of an open channel between Colorado Lagoon and Marine Stadium, since this is the only realistic way to thoroughly improve tidal exchange in the Lagoon. However, instead of creating a channel that becomes an eyesore (lined with riprap and eventually filling up with trash!), I would like to propose that the City consider enlarging the footprint of the open channel, making it wide enough to include sloping banks that are planted with grass, trees and shrubs, so that they are actually usable. Maybe even including a few large scattered boulders, big enough for lazing away an afternoon with a good book or a fishing pole, along the banks of the open channel. Wide enough to include a trail along one or both sides of the banks for strolling. If a plan can like this can be incorporated, then perhaps the City is not taking away from open park space, but rather re-defining it such that it can be used for recreational purposes even with the open channel, just different types of activities.

P-18-2

3.) As restoration plans continue to evolve and as this project gets finalized, it is important to remember that the real issue is to determine what is going to be best for Colorado Lagoon and the surrounding neighborhoods, which includes proper flood management, improved water quality, maintaining wildlife habitat and the various recreational uses of Colorado Lagoon. I hope and trust that City officials will keep the bigger picture and the greater good in mind when tough decisions need to be made. In California alone more than 95% of wetland environments have been destroyed, which makes the restoration of Colorado Lagoon all the more important!

P-18-3

Thank you for the opportunity to share my thoughts.

Kindest regards,  
T. Pirazzi

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## TINA PIRAZZI

### **P-18-1**

The comment expresses a desire for the Lagoon to become a preserve to protect natural resources. The comment states that all fishing, clamming, and removal of other natural resources from the Lagoon should be stopped. The proposed project does not include eliminating any existing “beneficial” recreation uses at the Lagoon, such as swimming or fishing. Designation of the Lagoon as a “Reserve” could involve elimination of either or both of these uses. Such an action would be a separate discretionary action, subject to CEQA review. The CEQA review would include consideration of effects to both the natural and human environment. Consultation with the California Coastal Commission (CCC) would be warranted, since a Coastal Development Permit (CDP) may be required, as could an amendment to the Local Coastal Program. Coordination with the Regional Water Quality Control Board is also appropriate. While this suggestion has not been included in the proposed project, nor evaluated in the subject Draft EIR, the proposed project does not preclude consideration and evaluation of this proposal by the City in the future.

### **P-18-2**

The comment supports development of the open channel to provide tidal flushing that would result in long-term improved water quality and suggests that the design of the channel be modified to be wider and used for active recreational activities at the channel water’s edge and that walking trails be incorporated along both banks of the channel. Please see Figure 3.3 in the Draft EIR, Open Channel Profile, for a visual depiction of the proposed channel slope treatment. This opinion regarding the project components will be made available for consideration by the decision-makers.

### **P-18-1**

The comment is a conclusion statement expressing an opinion in support of the Colorado Lagoon Restoration Project with emphasis on restoring the wetland, appropriate flood management, water quality improvements, increasing habitat values, and enhancing recreation uses. The comment does not contain any substantive statements or questions about the Draft EIR or the analysis therein; therefore, no further response is necessary.

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**trickie1@aol.com**

07/07/2008 12:36 PM

To craig\_chalfant@longbeach.gov

cc

Subject Colorado Lagoon Restoration Project

Hi Craig.

My Name is Mary E. Ryan

I own and reside in the building at:

433 Tremont Ave.

Apt 1

Long Beach, Ca. 90814

I am writing in support of the Colorado Lagoon Restoration as proposed in the feasibility project.

Thank you for championing this cause.

Mary E. Ryan

(562) 438-4141

P-19-1

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## MARY RYAN

### P-19-1

The comment expresses an opinion in support of the Colorado Lagoon Restoration Project. The commentor is a resident and property owner in the City. The comment does not contain any substantive statements or questions about the Draft EIR or the analysis therein; therefore, no further response is necessary.

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June 20, 2008  
To: Craig Chalfant  
City of Long Beach Department of Development Services  
333 West Ocean Blvd. 5th Floor  
Long Beach CA 90802

From: Mariah Sibio  
5190 E Colorado Ave  
Long Beach CA 90814

Dear Mr. Chalfant,

Thank you for the recent public outreach meeting at the third district field office. Here are some additional questions and ideas.

What are the density/capacity limits on the number of visitors on the beach at the Lagoon?  
How will numbers and usage be restricted in compliance with funding provided by the California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines section 15105?

P-20-1

Redirect picnic, barbecues, fires, day camping and large party type gatherings at the Lagoon Park to protect and preserve the native plants, fish, birds and water quality. Recreational Park is an excellent nearby alternative for these activities.

The use of the Lagoon as a swim area with human waste, plastic waste, debris from campfires and traffic are counter productive with the Draft Environmental Impact Report.

P-20-2

Consider the water/wildlife California Coastal Development Restoration Projects found at Dunster Park and Bolsa Chica Wetlands.

Re-route the current traffic flow directly in front of the Lagoon on Colorado Ave. Re-route traffic to travel behind the Fire Station. Close the Nieto intersection to Colorado. Open the E 3rd street connects to Eliot. \*See MAP

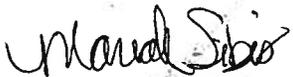
P-20-3

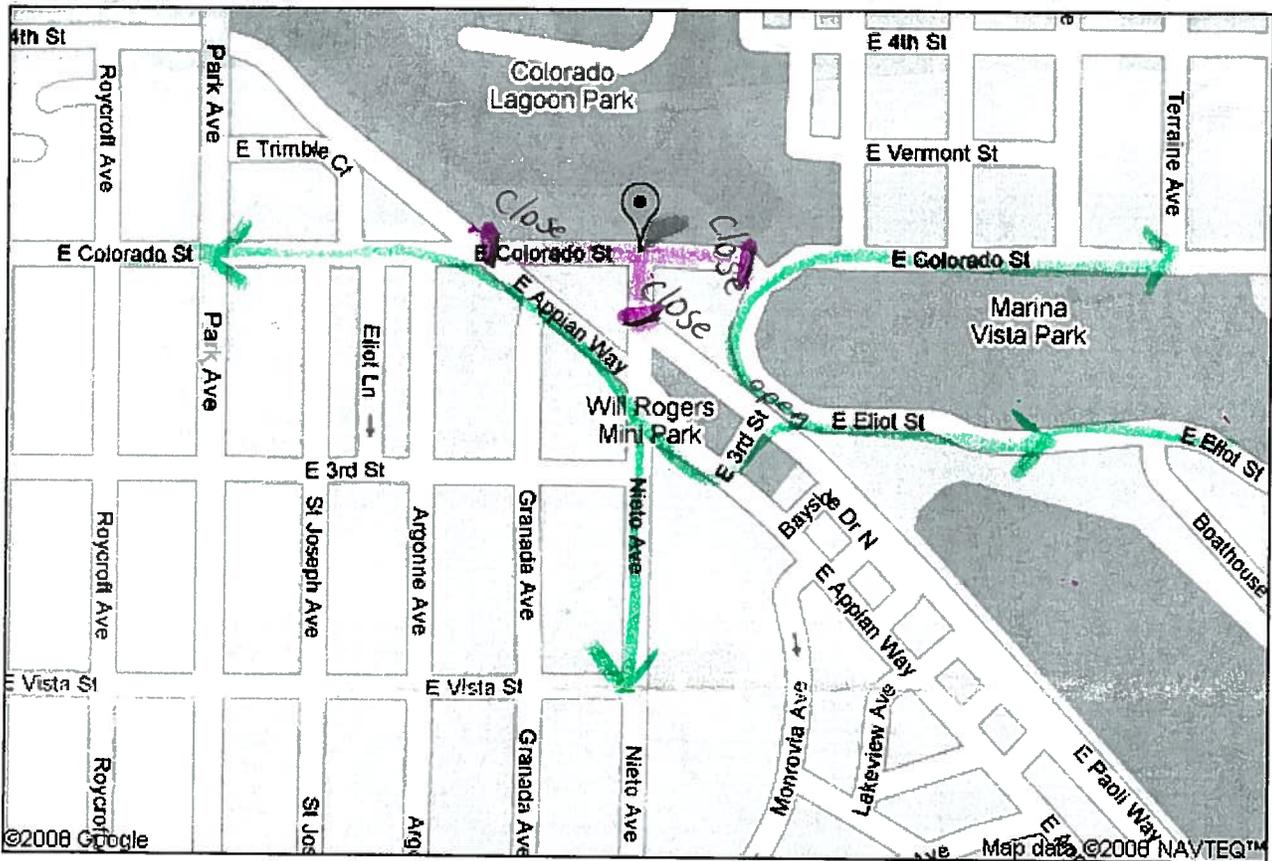
The traffic flow at the Lagoon on Colorado is badly congested and cannot handle the current use and flow. The traffic pattern needs to be re-directed to support water quality, habitat, and recreation improvements as outlined in the Draft Environmental Quality Act.

Thank you for your dedication to this project and taking public Comments into consideration.

Sincerely,

Mariah Sibio





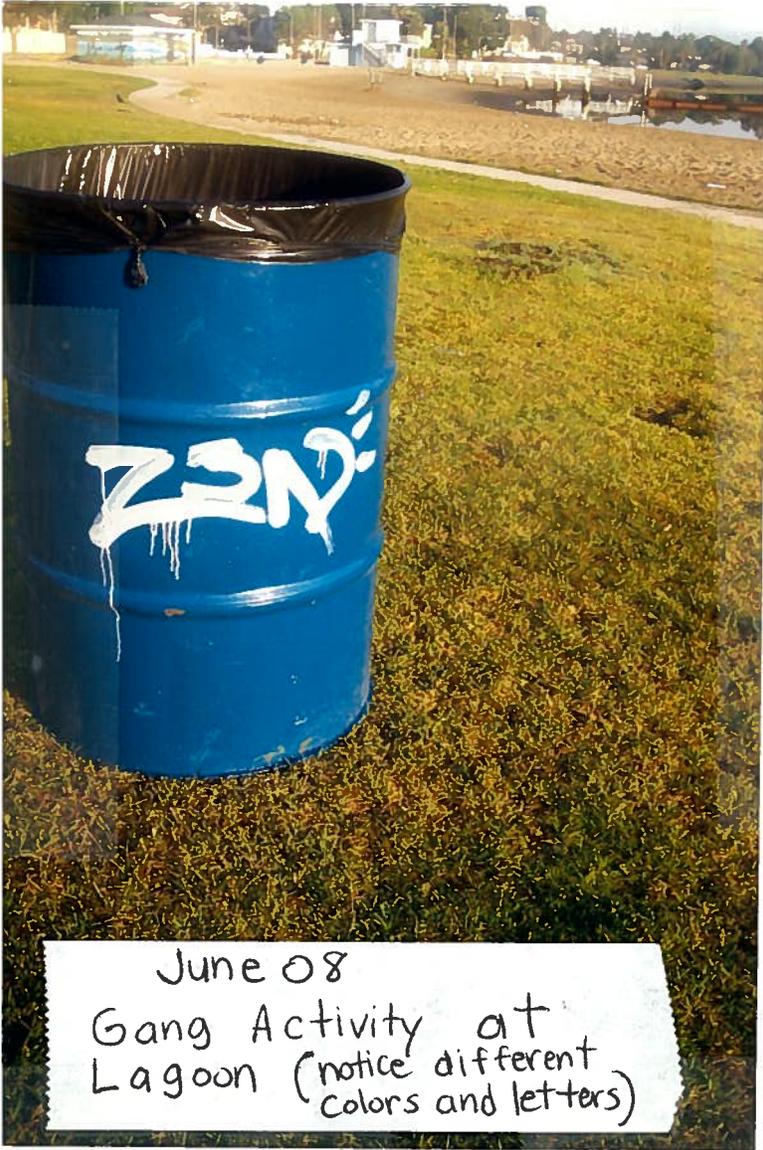
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- Zoom Out



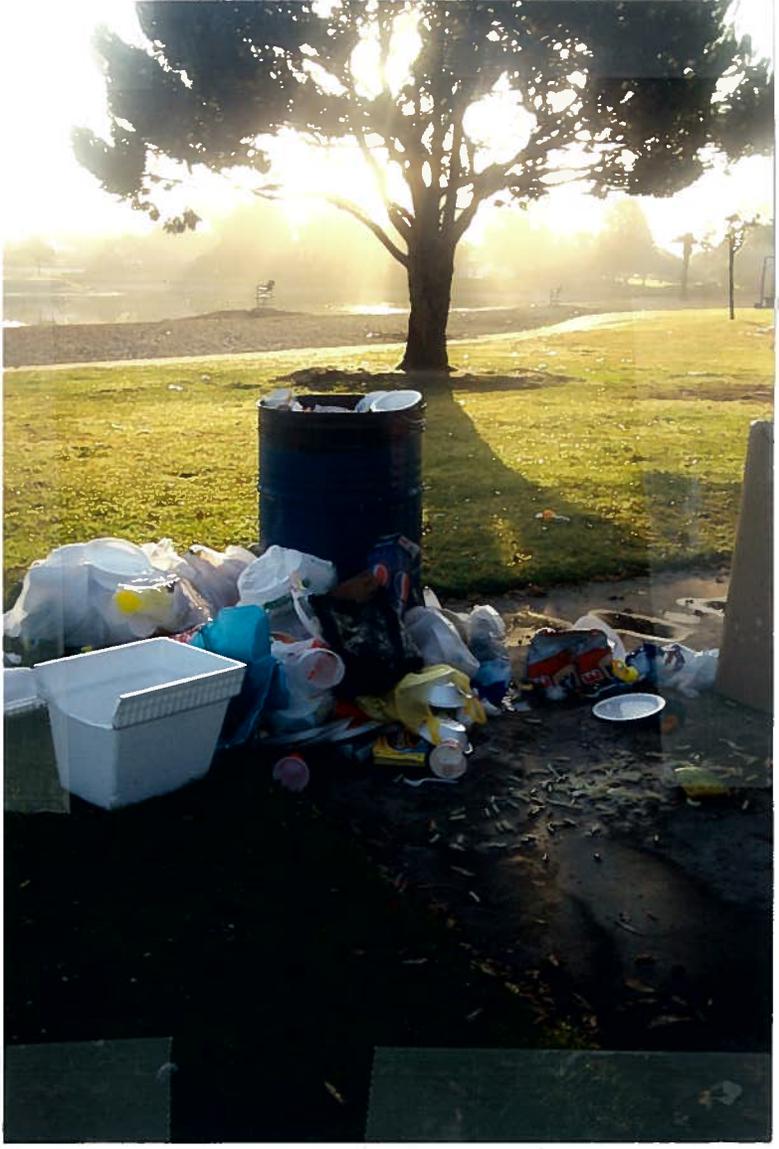
 open to traffic  
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5100 e colorado 90814

Search Maps



June 08  
Gang Activity at  
Lagoon (notice different  
colors and letters)









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## MARIAH SIBIO

### P-20-1

The comment is introductory and expresses appreciation for the public outreach meeting for the proposed Colorado Lagoon Restoration project. The comment does not contain any substantive statements or questions about the Draft EIR or the analysis therein. Therefore, no further response is necessary. The comment also inquires about density/capacity limits at the Lagoon. The comment appears to be directed at controlling the number of visitors to the Lagoon. The Lagoon is a City-owned and operated park, open to the public at no charge. The City does not restrict park usage.

### P-20-2

The comment suggests that the City should redirect picnics, barbeques, and other large gatherings to other nearby facilities, such as Recreation Park, in an effort to protect native habitat and water quality at the Lagoon. The comment further states that use of the Lagoon for swimming and other recreation activities results in waste and traffic, which are inconsistent with the project.

The goal of the Colorado Lagoon Restoration Project is to balance biological, recreation, and water quality considerations at the Lagoon. Therefore, the proposed project does not propose elimination of any existing recreation uses at the Lagoon or at Marina Vista Park. Please see Response to Comment P-18-1. The proposed project limits human interference within and on the shore of the Lagoon's western arm. The proposed walking trail would end at the proposed viewing platform on the south shore and the trail loop on the north shore, and the swimming area will be limited to the southern central portion of the Lagoon. Signage would be installed to prevent people from entering the western portion of the Lagoon area and possibly disrupting bird foraging and food sources. This concern and opinion will be made available for consideration by the decision-makers as part of their determination regarding the proposed project. The comment does not contain any substantive statements or questions about the Draft EIR or the analysis therein; therefore, no further response is necessary.

### P-20-3

The comment suggests that the existing traffic flow on Colorado Street at the Lagoon should be re-routed. The comment suggests that Colorado Street on the south side of the Lagoon be closed to traffic and that the traffic be routed behind the fire station, along East 3rd Street, and along East Eliot Street. The comment states that Colorado Street is congested and that the traffic should be redirected to support the project's improvements to water quality, habitat, and recreation.

The proposed project does not involve modifications to the existing street system and traffic flow, with the exception of temporary detours during construction activities. Further, the objectives of the proposed project do not include changes to the existing circulation system or traffic flow. Inquiries and suggestions regarding City streets should be directed to David Roseman, City Traffic Engineer, at (562) 570-6331. However, this suggestion will be made available for consideration by the decision-makers. The comment does not contain any substantive statements

or questions about the Draft EIR or the analysis therein; therefore, no further response is necessary.

7/01/08

Steven Stern  
395 Orlena Avenue  
Long Beach, CA 90814

Craig Chalfant  
City of Long Beach  
Department of Development Services  
333 West Ocean Blvd., 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Long Beach, Ca 90802

Dear Mr. Chelfant,

As a resident of Long Beach I am extremely pleased to hear Colorado Lagoon is being considered for restoration and wholeheartedly support any actions taken toward this exemplary goal.

I am particularly excited about the open channel that will reestablish the natural connection between the Lagoon and Marine Stadium. This link, along with dredging and the creation of low flow diversions and bioswales, will be vital for maintaining the Lagoon’s water quality. An open channel will also provide additional tidal habitat that is vital to a healthy marine ecosystem. Additionally, the walking trail planned to parallel the channel with accompanying natural surroundings will be a boon for species dependent on native vegetation as well as for nature-loving residents.

Tidal habitat is essential for many species of birds as well as serving as a spawning ground for fish species important to humans for consumption. As most of California’s precious wetland habit has been destroyed, the restoration of Colorado Lagoon would be a major ecological triumph for the city of Long Beach and its citizenry.

Many Long Beach inhabitants swim in Colorado Lagoon, often when pollutant levels are dangerously high. This recreation goes on whether or not signs are posted warning people of the danger. Restoring the Lagoon will alleviate these pollutants and their health risks allowing residents to enjoy the lagoon in safety.

The restoration of Colorado Lagoon and the reestablishment of an open channel connecting the Lagoon to Marine Stadium would be a tremendous victory for Long Beach’s environment and its people. I strongly urge the Planning Commission and City Council to support this most worthy project.

Sincerely,

Steven Stern

P-21-1

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## STEVEN STERN

### P-21-1

The comment expresses an opinion in support of the Colorado Lagoon Restoration Project. The comment specifically supports dredging the Lagoon and development of the open channel, low-flow diversions and bioswales to provide tidal flushing that would result in long-term improved water quality for recreation and habitat resources. The comment also supports development of the walking trail at the Lagoon. The comment does not contain any substantive statements or questions about the Draft EIR or the analysis therein; therefore, no further response is necessary.

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*Becky Thorn*, M.S., M.F.T.

Marriage & Family Therapist • 4647 Long Beach Blvd., Suite A4 • Long Beach, CA 90805 • (562) 426-7259

July 8, 2008

**Craig Chalfant  
City of Long Beach  
Department of Development Services  
333 West Ocean Blvd., 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Long Beach, Ca 90802**

**Dear Mr. Chalfant:**

**I am writing to give my support to the draft EIR on the Colorado Lagoon Restoration project.**

**There are several elements I would like to emphasize, the first being the need for greater tidal flushing that will come by creating an open channel connecting the Lagoon to Marine Stadium and the Pacific Ocean. This is vital to insure clean water for recreation and wetland habitat preservation and restoration. It would also enhance the aesthetics of Marina Vista Park without eliminating baseball or soccer fields. I also like the idea of removing the parking area on the North side of the Lagoon and creating nature trails in that area. This combined with controlling the runoff from the golf course will once again create a more pristine habitat for birds and marine, as well as enhance the enjoyment for people visiting the Lagoon.**

P-22-1

**I congratulate the City of Long Beach for its vision for this special place, and encourage the City to move forward with actions to make it a reality.**

**Sincerely,**



**Becky Thorn**

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## BECKY THORN

### P-22-1

The comment expresses an opinion in support of the Colorado Lagoon Restoration Project. The comment specifically supports development of the open channel to provide tidal flushing that would result in long-term improved water quality for recreation and habitat resources, as well as providing visual enhancement without eliminating the sports fields within Marina Vista Park. The comment is also supportive of removing the parking lot on the north shore of the Lagoon and development of the bioswale and walking trails at the Lagoon. The comment does not contain any substantive statements or questions about the Draft EIR or the analysis therein; therefore, no further response is necessary.

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July 10, 2008

Nicole Thorn  
395 Orlena Ave  
Long Beach, CA 90814

Craig Chalfant  
City of Long Beach  
Department of Development Services  
333 West Ocean Blvd., 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Long Beach, Ca 90802

Dear Mr. Chalfant:

As a long-time resident of Long Beach, I would like to extend my thanks for the opportunity to comment on this exciting report. I have lived across the street from the Colorado Lagoon for most of my life and believe that the restoration of the Colorado Lagoon has been a long time coming. For the sake of the habitat and recreational users, the restoration is a necessity. Any resulting impact that improves the water quality is applauded and welcomed as the ramifications extend to the health of those who frequent the Lagoon, both human and otherwise.

I whole-heartedly support all aspects of the restoration that are outlined in the draft EIR. Of particular importance to me is the addition of an open channel that will reestablish the natural flow of water between Marine Stadium and the Lagoon. The addition of walking trails and indigenous plants would be a wonderful and beautiful addition to the park as well. As a sports enthusiast myself, I believe the channel will add to the appeal of the park and increase recreation options, without taking away from sports recreation. The connection, along with dredging and the creation of low flow diversions and bioswales, will be vital for maintaining the Lagoon's water quality. The water quality is so poor at this point that it is visible to anyone walking by and is a danger to those who swim. I remember swimming in the Lagoon as a child, but would not risk my health at this point.

Tidal habitat is essential for many species of birds as well as serving as a spawning ground for fish species important to humans for consumption. As most of California's precious wetland habit has been destroyed, the restoration of Colorado Lagoon would be a major ecological triumph for the city of Long Beach and its residents.

Additionally, I strongly support the removal of the parking lot and road on the west side of the Lagoon and replacing it with native vegetation and walking trails. This will increase the beauty of the Lagoon and add a natural area, one of the few in Long Beach, for people to visit.

The restoration of Colorado Lagoon and the reestablishment of an open channel connecting the Lagoon to Marine Stadium would be a wonderful move in a positive direction for Long Beach's environment and its people. I strongly urge the Planning Commission and City Council to support this exemplary project.

Sincerely,

Nicole Thorn

P-23-1

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## NICOLE THORN

### P-23-1

The comment expresses an opinion in support of the Colorado Lagoon Restoration Project as described in the Draft EIR. The commentor is a long-time resident near the shore of the Lagoon. The comment specifically supports development of the open channel to provide tidal flushing that would result in long-term improved water quality for recreation (specifically swimming) and habitat resources, as well as providing park enhancements without eliminating the sports fields within Marina Vista Park. The commentor is also supportive of dredging the Lagoon; removing the parking lot and access road on the north shore of the Lagoon; and development of native vegetation, the bioswale, and walking trail at the Lagoon. The comment does not contain any substantive statements or questions about the Draft EIR or the analysis therein; therefore, no further response is necessary.

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Craig Vittitoe  
<craigvittitoe@yahoo.com>

To craig\_chalfant@longbeach.gov  
cc  
bcc  
Subject

07/08/2008 08:39 AM  
Please respond to  
craigvittitoe@yahoo.com

Craig,

As a resident of Alamitos Hights I fully endorse the Colorado Lagoon Restoration project. I believe corrective action is long overdue as a result of "just getting by" at the lowest cost over the past decades. This project is the best remedy for past negligence and bring our neighborhood to it's higher potential for natural beauty.

P-24-1

Craig Vittitoe

525 Havana Ave.

Long Beach, 90814

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## CRAIG VITTITOE

### P-24-1

The comment expresses an opinion in support of the Colorado Lagoon Restoration Project. The commentor is a resident of Alamitos Heights. The comment does not contain any substantive statements or questions about the Draft EIR or the analysis therein; therefore, no further response is necessary.

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**john wersbe**  
<[johnwersbe@la.primarycolor.com](mailto:johnwersbe@la.primarycolor.com)>

To [craig\\_chalfant@longbeach.gov](mailto:craig_chalfant@longbeach.gov)  
cc

07/09/2008 01:28 PM

Subject Colorado Lagoon

Craig,

I feel it is important to restore the Colorado Lagoon to a place that is healthy and vital to the citizens of Long Beach.

It says so much about a community if we are to restore rather degrade a habitat area.

Please consider my comments.

John Wersbe  
435 Flint Ave  
Long Beach, CA 90814

P-25-1

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## JOHN WERSBE

### P-25-1

The comment expresses an opinion in support of the Colorado Lagoon Restoration Project. The comment does not contain any substantive statements or questions about the Draft EIR or the analysis therein; therefore, no further response is necessary.

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Ms. Barbara Wood  
397 Haines Ave.  
Long Beach, CA 90814

June 18-2008

If our lagoon is to become a restored wetland and bird sanctuary I feel that their food sources should be protected.

Every day the egrets, herons + others come to feed in the existing clam beds. Twice now, I have watched while two people come in and slean <sup>out</sup> the beds methodically leaving nothing.

Please, when dredging is completed, restore the clam beds and restrict any shell fishing.

Barbara Wood

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## BARBARA WOOD

### P-26-1

The comment expresses a desire for the Lagoon's natural resources to be protected. The comment suggests that after dredging is completed, the clam beds be restored and shell fishing be restricted. The marine resources at the Lagoon are documented in the Marine Biological Resources Report provided in Appendix E of the Draft EIR. No special-status clam species were identified as present in the Lagoon. The proposed project does not include eliminating any existing "beneficial" recreation uses at the Lagoon, such as clamming or shell fishing. Such an action would be a separate discretionary action, subject to CEQA review. The CEQA review would include consideration of effects to both the natural and human environment. Consultation with the California Coastal Commission (CCC) would be warranted, since a Coastal Development Permit (CDP) may be required, as could an amendment to the Local Coastal Program. Coordination with the Regional Water Quality Control Board is also appropriate. While this suggestion has not been included in the proposed project, nor evaluated in the subject Draft EIR, the proposed project does not preclude consideration and evaluation of this proposal by the City in the future.

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CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, LONG BEACH

DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

6-30-08

**Eric Zahn**  
1340 E. Florida St.  
Long Beach, Ca 90802

**Craig Chalfant**  
City of Long Beach  
Department of Development Services  
333 West Ocean Blvd., 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Long Beach, Ca 90802

**Dear Mr. Chalfant:**

The restoration of the Colorado Lagoon is essential for the betterment of Long Beach’s natural and urban communities. As a kid growing up in Long Beach I developed an affinity for the Lagoon’s aesthetic value. As an ecologist I have developed an interest in the Lagoon’s habitat value. As a resident I hope to one day swim in the Lagoon and develop a closer relationship with the Lagoon’s recreation value.

I am in full support of the restoration plan outlined in the draft EIR. The lead agency and the City have been quite collegial in developing this document and I have been afforded the opportunity to offer my personal expertise in the development of this plan. I look forward to studying the positive impacts that this restoration will have on the site’s biodiversity. A successful restoration will lead to this wetland becoming a marine biology classroom for school-children, university students, and the general public.

While dredging the toxic sediments from the west arm and cleaning the existing culvert may have some measurable positive effects on the Lagoon’s water quality, these effects will not be comparable to the large positive effects an open channel will have the Colorado Lagoon’s aesthetic, habitat, and recreation values. Full tidal influence is essential for the establishment of healthy intertidal habitat and the flushing is necessary for the constant removal of new toxins that wash down the watershed. Without the open channel this restoration will not be nearly as successful.

It is obvious to me that this will be a groundbreaking project and will bring endless positive publicity to the City of Long Beach. I suggest, regardless of the alternative chosen for this project, that the City implement interpretive signage before, during and after the project. Since so many people use the Lagoon on a daily basis it will be imperative that all of its stakeholders are kept well-educated of all aspects of this project. While this project matures, I am confident that the City of Long Beach and its consultants will institute an adaptive management plan that will have the flexibility to evolve with the unforeseen constraints that come with any restoration project.

P-27-1





CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, LONG BEACH

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DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

After 27 years I have never swam in the Colorado Lagoon. I hope that one day I can invite all my friends down to the Lagoon's shores for a beach day full of snorkeling, barbequing, a horseshoes tournament, bird watching, and swimming without fear of infection.



P-27-1

With Support,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink.

Eric Zahn, M.S.  
Coastal Salt Marsh Ecologist  
Part-Time Faculty Member  
Department of Biological Sciences  
California State University Long Beach

## ERIC ZAHN

### P-27-1

The comment expresses an opinion in support of the Colorado Lagoon Restoration Project as described in the Draft EIR. The commentor is a long-time resident near the shore of the Lagoon and coastal salt marsh ecologist. The comment specifically supports dredging the Lagoon and development of the open channel to provide tidal flushing that would result in long-term improved water quality for recreation (especially swimming) and habitat resources. The comment also suggests that the City implement interpretive signage before, during, and after the project to provide education about the project and implement an adaptive management plan that will have flexibility to adapt to unforeseen constraints. The City Department of Parks, Recreation, and Marine is in support of implementing interpretative signage at the Lagoon to supplement and further the City and FOCL's educational efforts. The signage program will be designed during the implementation stage of the project, and the City welcomes input and collaboration with FOCL. The City also welcomes the suggestion that an Adaptive Management Plan be prepared for ongoing management of the natural resources. The next step of the implementation process will involve securing appropriate resource agency permits. At this time, the City will consult with resource agency staff and its biological resource consultant regarding appropriate monitoring and management of the habitat restoration.

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6/29/08

Norman Zoref  
525 Ultimo Ave  
Long Beach, CA 90814

Craig Chalfant  
City of Long Beach  
Department of Development Services  
333 West Ocean Blvd., 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Long Beach, Ca 90802

Dear Mr. Chelfant,

As a long time resident of Alamitos Heights I am very excited that Colorado Lagoon is getting the kind of positive attention such a beautiful community asset deserves. I am very supportive of the plan as laid out in the draft EIR.

I am especially encouraged by the attention given to improving water quality by addressing the pollutants already in the sediment (dredging), limiting pollutants from entering the Lagoon in the future (low flow diversions, bioswales) and increasing tidal flushing (restoring the open channel between the Lagoon and Alamitos Bay).

Reconnecting the Lagoon and Alamitos Bay is a critical aspect of the restoration. When the Lagoon was cut off from Alamitos Bay, first by building Colorado Boulevard and then by building Marina Vista Park, the natural cleansing of the water was choked off and tidal flushing has been severely limited since. If one looks at aerial photos of this area during the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, the area that now is Marina Vista Park was a channel whose path was almost identical to the proposed open channel.

P-28-1

The restoration of the channel is essential to restoring the Lagoon. It is essential to preserving the water quality once the contaminated sediment is removed and runoff is diverted before entering the Lagoon. It also will add recreational diversity to the community.

The restoration of Colorado Lagoon is a very worthy project and I look forward to seeing the work as presented in the Draft EIR implemented.

Sincerely,

Norman Zoref

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## NORMAN ZOREF

### P-28-1

The comment expresses an opinion in support of the Colorado Lagoon Restoration Project as presented in the Draft EIR. The commentor is a long-time resident of Alamitos Heights. The comment specifically supports dredging, development of low-flow diversions, the bioswale, and the open channel to provide long-term improved water quality for recreation and habitat resources. The comment does not contain any substantive statements or questions about the Draft EIR or the analysis therein; therefore, no further response is necessary.

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