

BALLONA CREEK WATERSHED TASK FORCE
Revised Meeting Minutes

1:30-3:30 p.m., Wednesday, July 10, 2002
City Hall, Culver City

I Introductions

Jessica Dominguez welcomed meeting participants and gave a brief overview of the agenda items. After self-introductions, the agenda and the June meeting minutes were approved.

Jessica discussed the County's Stakeholder Directory on the web (<http://www.ladpw.org/wmd/stakeholder/>). As a Task Force we want to complete our stakeholder database. Those already on the directory list have received a pin number to update their stakeholder information. Stakeholders not listed on the directory can add themselves. Handouts were given to explain the process of adding stakeholders to the list. For those who lost their pin number, you can contact Cindy Rowlan at (626) 458-4360 or Jessica Dominguez at (626) 458-4323.

II Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project

The Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project was formed to acquire, restore and expand wetland areas throughout Southern California. The Los Angeles County Coordinator, Mary Loquvam explained how the Wetlands Recovery Project is a unique alliance of federal, state, and local officials working in concert with business and nonprofit organizations. The partnership was created to pull the resources of all of these agencies and develop non-regulatory strategies, long-term goals, priorities, and policies for recovery of the wetlands.

There were three objectives to achieve the wetland recovery goals: 1) to acquire properties, 2) to restore wetlands where allowed by landowners or land managers, and 3) to educate the public on wetland recovery.

On April 2002, the Wetlands Recovery Project established five task forces and watershed coordinators in each of the five Southern California counties. Handouts including a spreadsheet were given which listed a total of 68 projects targeted in the SCWRP's draft work plan.

Mary then introduced Sujatha Jahagirdar, Program Director for CalPIRG Water Watch program and explained how CalPIRG has formed a partnership with the Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project over the next 12 months to perform an invaluable service to perform community outreach and environmental education. Sujatha then gave an overview of the program. CalPIRG is a statewide organization with about 70,000 members across the State. The mission of this program is to mobilize college students around waterway improvement projects. The program will enlist students from three different California State campuses: Cal State Long Beach, Cal State Fullerton and San

Diego State University. Federal EPA has given funds over to the program for education. The college students' activities include cleanup, restoration projects, monitoring and education.

III Committee and Stakeholder Report

Plan Development Steering Update: Jessica and Guangyu reported for Wing Tam, Chair of the Committee. The Committee received six proposals from the consultant firms. The Committee will meet July 15, 2002, to review and evaluate the proposals. Later in the month there will be consultant interviews to make the final selection.

Funding Committee: Lu Plauzoles, Chair of the Committee gave the report. The Committee met on July 2, 2002, to discuss the need to updating all stakeholder information on the Los Angeles County Public Works' website. The committee wants to get a good idea of who is interested, who might want to participate, whom the Task Force should reach out. .

It was asked that acronyms not be used under "Affiliation" on the sign-in sheet. It was also requested that updated information be done at the stakeholders' meetings as well as the website as necessary.

Monitoring Committee: The Committee met on July 1, 2002. The Committee discussed the progress made on the archive they are trying to put together. This will be a database of all monitoring efforts past and present, including previous and current studies in the Ballona Creek Watershed. A sample spreadsheet of the type of information being solicited and collected will be handed out at the next Task Force meeting. A request for more data/information was.

IV Workshop (continued from last meeting)

Anne Dove of the National Parks Service's Rivers and Trails Program facilitated the workshop, in which watershed funding and coordination opportunities were discussed. Lu Plauzoles gave an introduction and explained the recommendations of the Funding Committee re standard categories to be used in the project matrix to identify the stages of watershed improvement projects. The six standard categories of projects are:

- Preliminary/ Conceptual
- Proposal
- Application/ Pending
- Funded/ Approved
- On-going/ In progress
- Completed

Issues raised about the development of this matrix and categorizing system included:

- What about existing funding with no specific project? How address these opportunities (example, Baldwin Hills Conservancy money with no specific project identified)?
- Other needs/opportunities, such as specific research/ study needs?
- How broaden range of stakeholders/ input to this list?
- Provide forum/ means for submitting project information (participants were instructed to send additional project information to Jessica Dominguez).
- Are there opportunities to coordinate project lists being developed and maintained by other organizations (i.e. Wetlands Recovery Project, Regional Water Quality Control Board). How can information from each information from each agency be accessed (perhaps a clearinghouse of contact information at minimum or web links).

Projects identified by the group included:

- Army Corps of Engineers Reconnaissance Study
- Ballona Creek Watershed Management Plan (LACDPW)
- Ballona Creek & Trail Focused Special Study (City of Culver City with Coastal Conservancy)
- City of Los Angeles Western Ballona Lagoon Phase III
- Los Angeles County/ Heal the Bay-prioritizing structural BMPs
- Del Rey Lagoon Phase I (City of Los Angeles Recreation & Parks)
- Wetlands Recovery Project projects (acquisition and Area C)
- Ballona Wetlands Learning Lab (Ballona Wetlands Foundation/LMU)
- CalPIRG education/ outreach
- CalTrans/ Playa Vista- Lincoln Blvd. Expansion (bikeways and BMPs)
- Ballona Creek Pedestrian Bridge (City of Culver City)
- Dunes Restoration (Santa Monica Bay Restoration)
- Ballona Wetlands Restoration (tidegates – Corps & City of LA)

(Additional wish list items sent after the meeting by stakeholders):

- Bicycle racks on all Culver City busses
- Public outreach starting with government agencies (e.g., Fire Departments)

V Announcements

If anyone wants to participate in the monitoring committee or the fund development committee, please contact the committee chairs Angie Bera and Lu Plazoles or Jessica Dominguez.

**Ballona Creek Watershed Task Force Attendees (those who signed in)
July 10, 2002**

NAME	AFFILIATION	E-MAIL
Ames, Lauri	LA County Department of Beaches and Harbors	lauria@dbh.co.la.ca.us
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