BALLONA WETLANDS ECOLOGICAL RESERVE Playa del Rey, CA

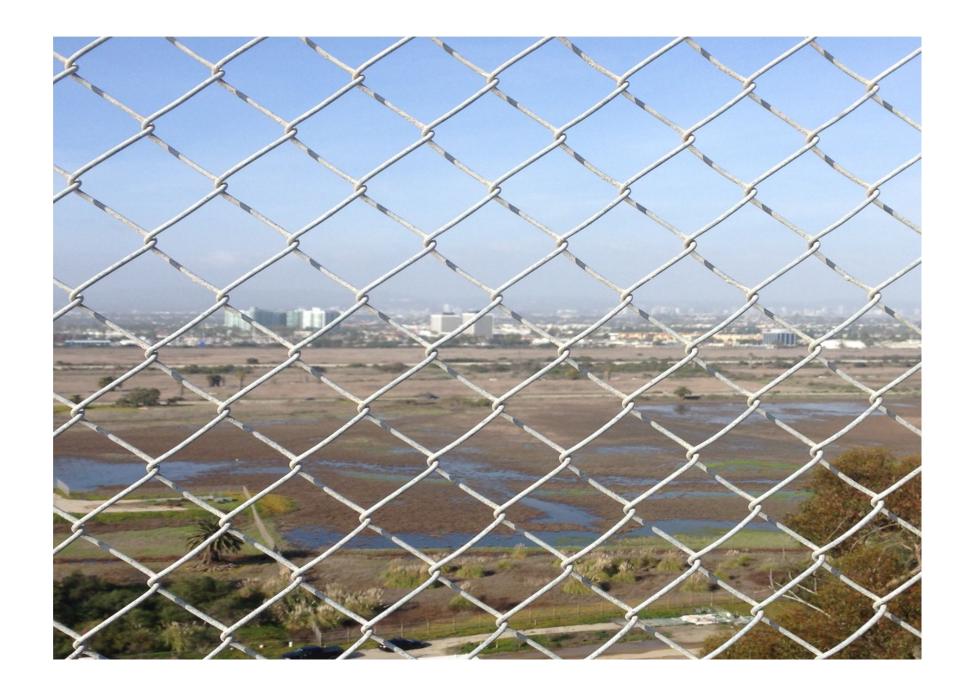
A Rainy Year Serves to Remind Us

By Cindy Hardin, LA Audubon Director of Ourdoor Education

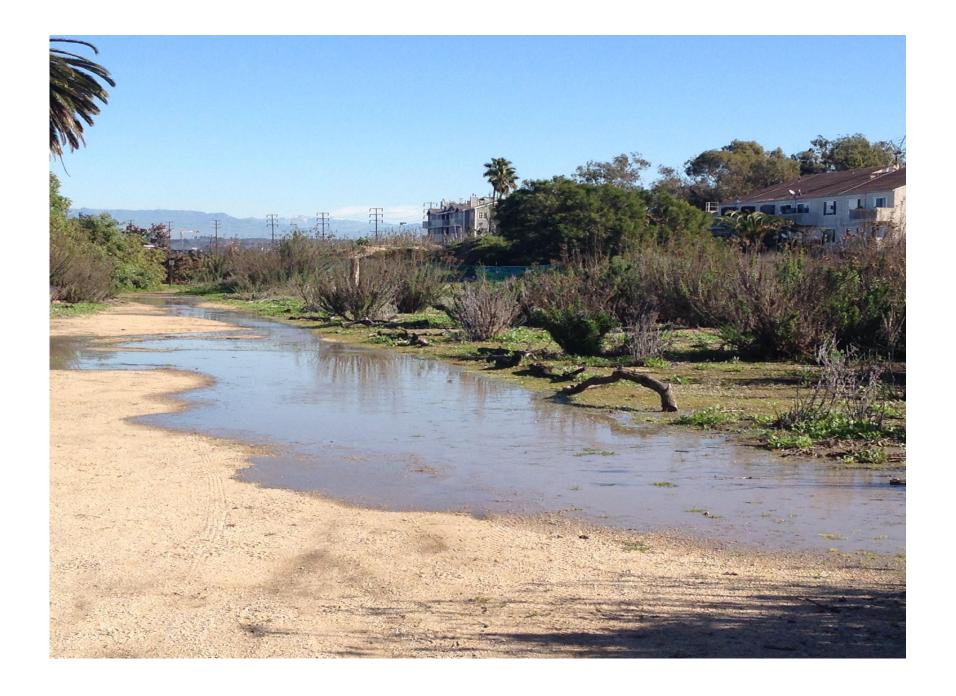
The historic salt panne at Ballona. Standing water covered the entirety of the salt panne for most of the winter.



Large ponds below the bluffs were present for weeks after the final rainfalls. Meandering streams connected some of these ponds.



This is the trail that school children use to access the wetlands for their field trips. More than a few trips had to be re-scheduled due to rainy conditions.



Moisture loving mushrooms were popping up everywhere!



Although the water has diminished, the plants that are now present echo the shape of the standing water that was there most of the season. Note the curvilinear course of the vegetation, which traces the meandering path that water takes naturally.



