



**Bolsa Chica Sustainability Report raises Red Flag on Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve Final Environmental Impact Report's Preferred Alternative**

"A seasonal non-tidal Wetland at Ballona" by Jonathan Coffin, Photographer

**BIG DIG - NOT WHAT THE PUBLIC PAID FOR**



There are five Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve (BWER) Lawsuits against a highly deficient Final Environmental Impact Report. The Preferred Alternative is to convert Ballona into a Saltwater Bay which is inconsistent with the State's registered purpose for acquisition of Ballona as a Terrestrial, NonMarine Ecological Reserve.

These lawsuits could go on for many years at great expense. Instead let's learn from the Owens Lake Collaborative's highly successful habitat restoration, after hiring a professional, impartial facilitator to guide about forty stakeholders through a fair, unbiased, science driven process.

<https://saveballona.org/opposition-ballona-wetland-ecological-reserve-fi...>

**Is there the will for a collaborative Ballona approach, among CDFW, State Lands, LA County, NGO's, private businesses? An impartial Facilitator is key to the process. Funding for a Facilitator and for public agency personnel to attend meetings will be necessary, and possibly science and engineering specialists.**

In 1908 William Mulholland, a civil engineer began construction of the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) 233 Mile Aqueduct. In 1913 the Aqueduct began bringing freshwater to LA.

Owens Valley farms began to fail due to over-pumping of freshwater. In 1928 the St. Francis Dam Disaster collapsed killing over 450 people. The Lake became a dust bowl, creating huge, life threatening dust storms. Wildlife suffered. Finally, about ten years ago stakeholders, agencies and the LADWP agreed something drastic needed to be done to correct the Dust Bowl which was created by the Aqueduct Project.

**Restoration Ecologist Dr. Margot Griswold was part of the successful habitat restoration at Owens Lake. She shares her experience in the collaborative planning of the mitigation for the Dust Storms in the Valley. She wants the process used for Ballona.** <https://youtu.be/e2F15wYL6c0> 26 minutes

See Huell Howser of **CALIFORNIA GOLD** explore LA Department of Water & Power Habitat Restoration of Owens Lake from 2002 to 2008 <https://blogs.chapman.edu/huell-howser-archives/2008/08/12/owens-river-h...> 56 minutes

# Bolsa Chica's 2021 Sustainability Report raises **Red Flag** after a 15 year experiment of engineered, full-tidal opening– Urgent Closure Remediation is recommended to restore the destroyed Salt Marsh Habitat and Endangered Species Loss.

<https://saveballona.org/lessons-applicable-ballona-wetlands-rehabilitation-bolsa-chica-2021-report-proposed-remediation-2006-full-tidal-restoration.html>

The Bolsa Chica Report provides an immediate **Red Flag** warning for conversion of Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve into a Saltwater Bay, below sea level. Like Bolsa Chica, at Ballona an engineered, full tidal opening will destroy Salt Marsh Habitat, and its reliant Endangered Species, to become mudflats and open water.

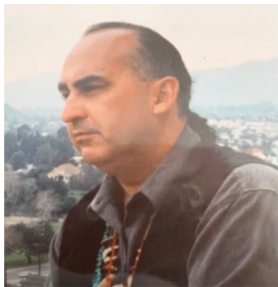


**Bolsa Chica Wetlands in need of immediate remediation to restore sensitive ecology.** [https://blandtrust.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/BCSAS\\_Final-Report\\_Executive-Summary\\_Final.pdf](https://blandtrust.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/BCSAS_Final-Report_Executive-Summary_Final.pdf) **FULL BCSAS REPORT**

## **TATTN statements to the California Coastal Commission:**

...“Playa Vista ruined and illegally diverted the fresh water pre-existing for millenniums by their illegal freshwater marsh and its illegal water discharges in the Ballona Creek Channel --at approximately 500,000 gallons per day... Playa Vista math-- my math has it way higher.” *John Tommy Rosas, TATTN.*

**Both John Tommy Rosas and Anthony Morales Standing Chief of the Gabrieleno Tongva San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians oppose the “Big Dig” and acknowledge Ballona is a predominantly seasonal freshwater wetland and should remain one.** <https://saveballona.org/862020-ccc-anthony-morales-i-have-standing-chief-gabrieleno-tongva-san-gabriel-band-mission-indians.html>



## **Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve is a SACRED NATIVE AMERICAN SITE -**

The lands and waters of Ballona are part of the Tongva Village of Saangna.

“This is a SACRED SITE registered by the Tongva Ancestral Territorial Tribal Nation...”, states TATTN spokesperson and tribal leader John Tommy Rosas.

**FACT: BWER is a CCR Title 14, Section 630 Terrestrial / NonMarine Ecological Reserve  
BWER is not a CCR Title 14, Section 632 Marine Preserve**



**Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve  
Must be protected by its Legal Designations!**

Ballona Indigenous People call Ballona Wetlands Pwinikipar – Tongva word for “It is full of water”

# Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve is protected by the

## 1. SUSTAINABLE GROUND-WATER MANAGEMENT ACT (SGMA)

<https://saveballona.org/sustainable-groundwater-management-act-sgma-plan...>

## 2. GROUNDWATER DEPENDENT ECOSYSTEM (GDE)

Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve is classified as a GDE.  
<https://saveballona.org/groundwater-dependent-ecosystems-hidden-dangers-...>

## 3. CALIFORNIA REGULATORY NOTICE REGISTER 2005,

Volume No. 20-Z, starting on pages 663-4 Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve, CCR Title 14, Section 630, Fish & Game Commission [https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/medi-cal/Documents/AB1629/ZREG/ZREG%2020-Z\\_5.20.05\\_notice.pdf](https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/medi-cal/Documents/AB1629/ZREG/ZREG%2020-Z_5.20.05_notice.pdf)

### CHANGE IN LAGOON HABITAT TYPES NORTH SAN DIEGO COUNTY

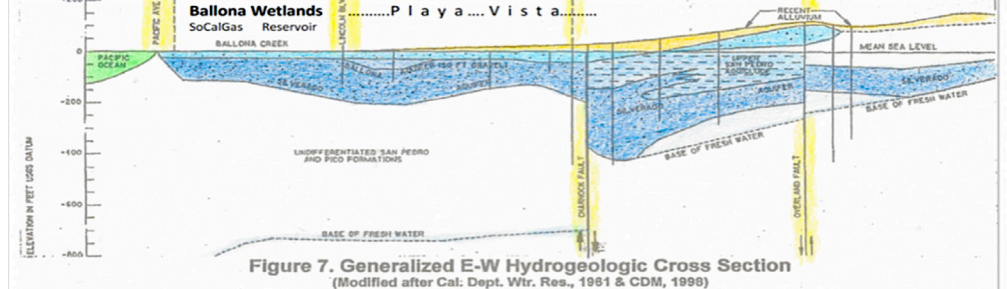
	Historical (acres)	Contemporary (acres)	% Change
SALT MARSH	1,330	1,170	-12%
SALT FLAT (SEASONALLY FLOODED)	1,230	120	-90%
OPEN WATER MUD FLAT	140	980	615%
FRESHWATER/BRACKISH WETLAND	1,650	760	-54%
DEVELOPED		1,440	

NORTHERN SAN DIEGO COUNTY LAGOONS Historical Ecology Investigation REGIONAL PATTERNS, LOCAL DIVERSITY, AND LANDSCAPE TRAJECTORIES  
 San Francisco Estuary Institute

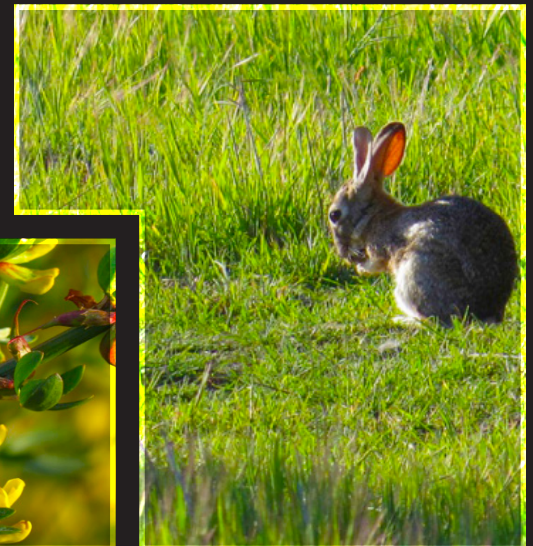


### Ballona's Aquifers Are Classified As Potential Drinking Water by LARWQCB;

Court classifies as DRINKING WATER in Proposition 65 lawsuit to which SoCalGas/Playa del Rey is ordered to remediate



- Porter-Cologne Water Quality Act disallows harming the freshwater aquifers including-**
  - Groundwater protection program under the Safe Drinking Water Act, Section 300 and Title 42 of U. S. Code per Safe Drinking Water Act
  - Water quality control standards per Federal Water Pollution Control Act
- Groundwater Protection Act & Sustainable Groundwater Management Act disallow harm to the groundwater volumes and quality.**
  - To promote groundwater conservation and protect groundwater resources and recharge zones. 10727.4 (a) Control of saline water intrusion.
- Department of Water Resources Resolution 88-88 disallows wasting of freshwater.**
  - Disallows groundwater from being discharged without use to the ocean. State Board intends to use its authority under the Water Codes to assure that both misuse of water supply does not occur and that reasonable protection of beneficial uses of water continues.





Photos taken December 30, 2021



Originally 2,000 acres of Ballona Wetlands were roughly divided into five basic parts:

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**950 acres**

Marina del Rey (park space, ocean & dockside commercial and residential development)

**527 acres**

Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve

**67 acres**

Freshwater marsh at Lincoln and Jefferson

**56 acres**

County / USACE Owned Flood Control Channel and Levees -- not part of the Ecological Reserve

**400 acres**

Playa Vista (commercial & residential development)



Patricia McPherson President  
Jeanette@SaveBallona.org (310) 721-3512

place stamp here



October 2012 Pre-capping Photo J. Coffin

Photos to East of South Drain Area B



August 2020 Three years post capping Photo M. Griswold



FEIR has inconsistencies of existing Hydrology and Vegetation: Capping the unpermitted drains in B north resulted in native pickleweed wetland habitat.

Unpermitted drains in Area B in currently preserved areas that support wetland vegetation once drains were capped.