

A State Coastal Conservancy Grant authorized in May, 2021, to CDFW, authorized a scope of work outside the Ecological Reserve, to correct flood control errors. Instead, CDFW now pursues a blind construction effort to excavate habitat & create saltwater channels of intrusion into areas that do not warrant such disruption because: 1) the area is passively regenerating native habitat; 2) the area already maintains lush saltmarsh habitat; 3) saltwater intrusion into fresh groundwater dependent habitat can harm the habitat, wildlife and the fresh groundwater, violating SGMA & Porter-Cologne Act. While multiple lawsuits challenge the FEIR, the CDFW Sequence 1,2 plans are an end-run to start the creation of a full tidal saltwater bay.

Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project

Sequence 1 and 2 Design and Permitting Solicitation Announcement

CDFW is pleased to announce that, as of April 1, 2022, we are requesting proposals from qualified firms to complete necessary designs and acquire necessary permits for Sequences 1 and 2 for the Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project.

More information can be found in the complete [Request for Qualifications](#) (RFQ).

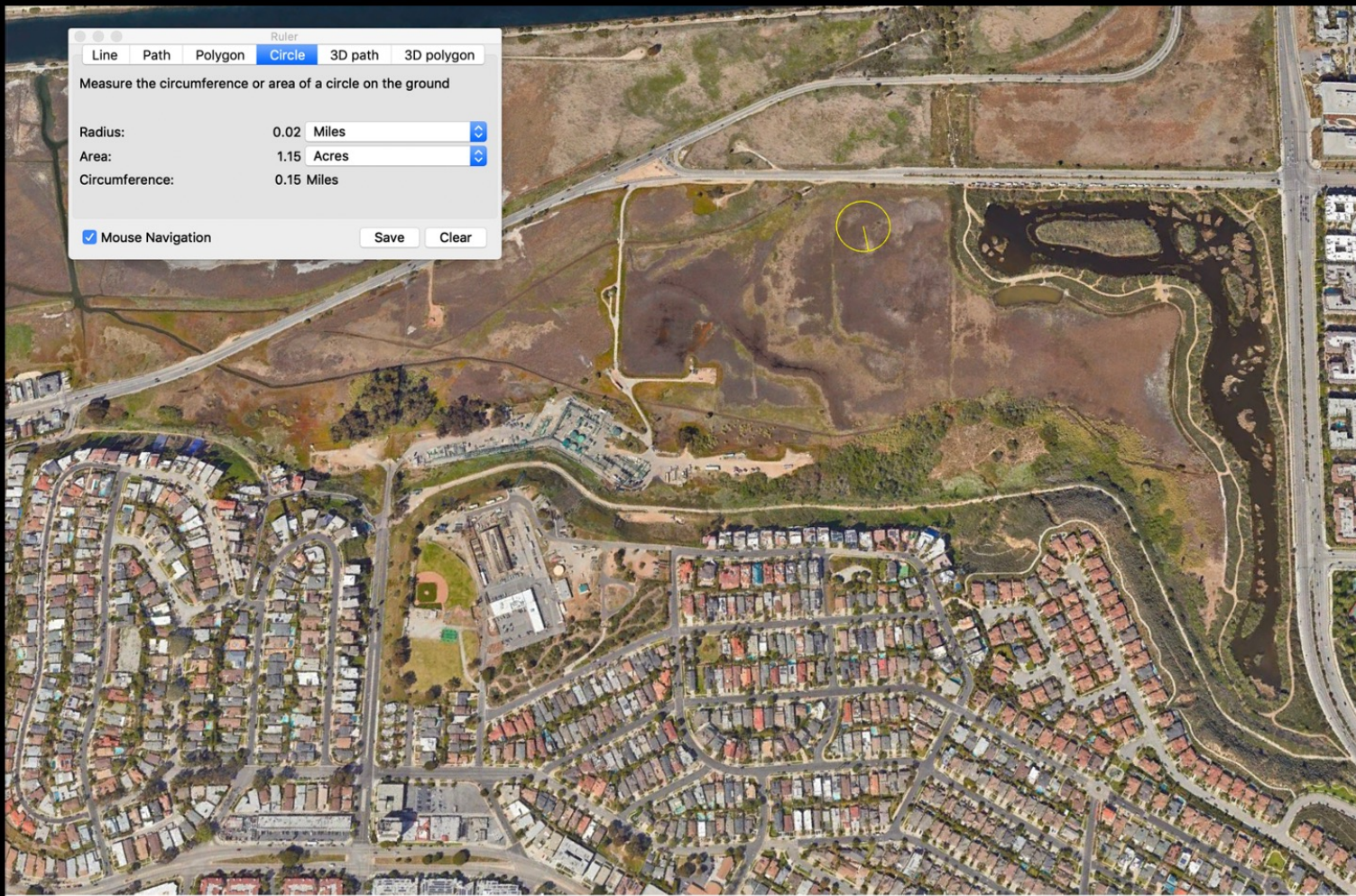
CDFW is excited to take this step in order to begin the initial two sequences of the restoration project. These two sequences involve removing and relocating an existing gas line and restoring and enhancing an approximate 60-acre degraded tidal, brackish, and freshwater wetland area in South and Southeast Area B of the ecological reserve (as analyzed in the [Ballona Restoration Environmental Impact Report](#)).

- These initial improvements will benefit endangered species. They will functionally lift and expand approximately 60 acres of habitat for the Belding's savannah sparrow and improve and expand freshwater and brackish habitat for least Bell's vireo and potentially light-footed Ridgway's rail.
- With minimal ground disturbance and a focus on improving hydrology, these initial sequences will increase tidal circulation and freshwater inputs (receiving flows from the Ballona Freshwater Marsh) to an area of the ecological reserve that has been hydrologically starved from its water source for many decades and, subsequently, where steady habitat decline is documented.

Public Trust lands and waters of the State Lands Commission are the first on the controversial conversion chopping block.

Sequence 1 & 2 Areas





Note the yellow circle on the left, which demonstrates roughly the size of 1 acre. The underlying fresh groundwater & aquifers of Ballona, are not evaluated for protection in the FEIR or Sequence 1,2. The seasonal, roughly 60 + acres of ponding freshwater throughout this area, are not discussed for protective consideration.



Language from CDFW's – ESA consulting group per Sequence 1 & 2 Presumably, **ONLY ADDRESSING** acreage of **SALTWATER INNUNDATION** via the manmade & TMDL (toxic) compromised trenches from Ballona Channel. There is no discussion of Ballona as a Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem per the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act. No evaluation of the natural surface/groundwater/habitat connection.

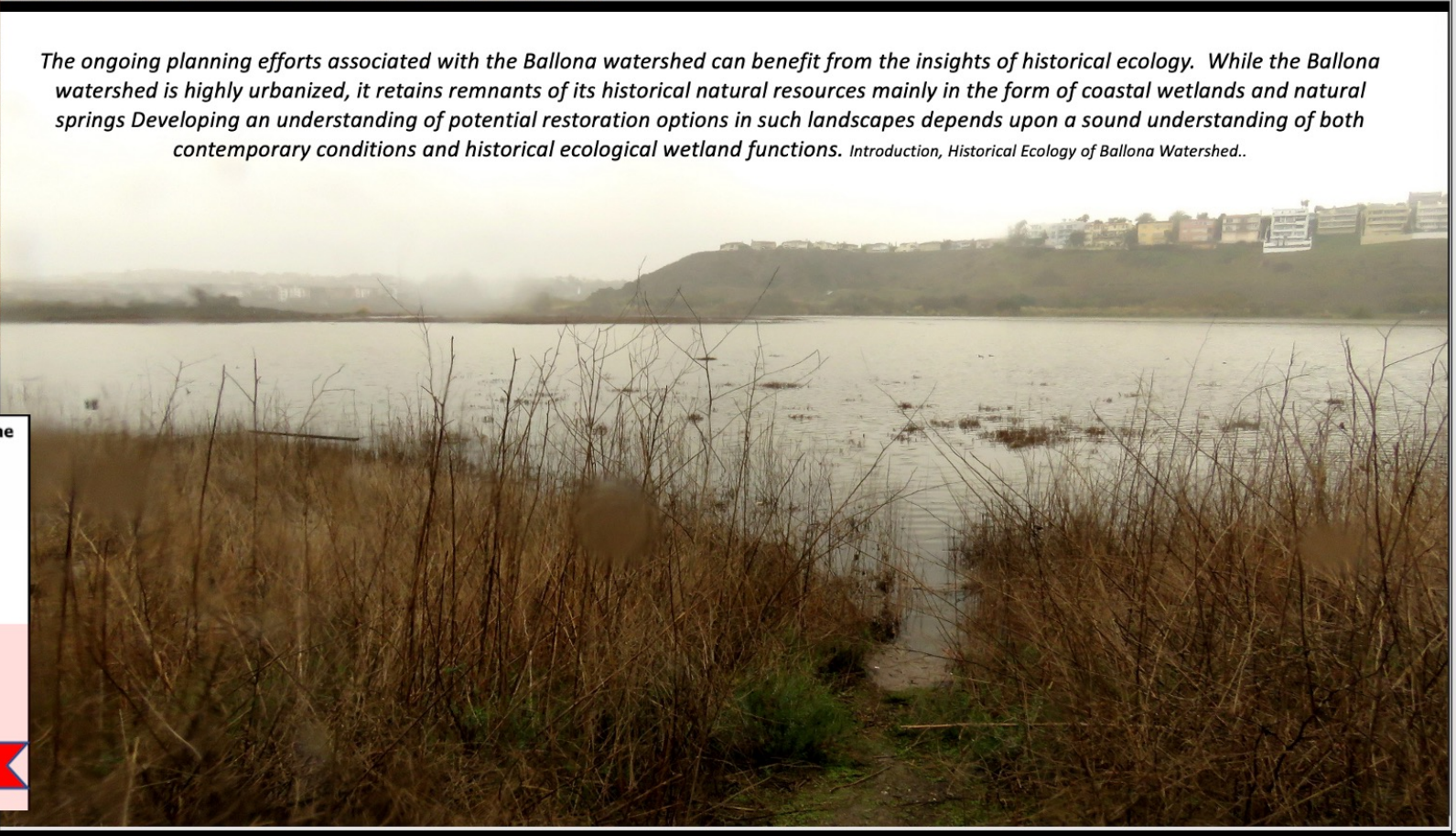
Existing Topography

- West Area B is lower in elevation than South and Southeast Area B
- ~3.9 acres in West Area B are inundated with high water
- Only ~1.1 are inundated by high water level in South and Southeast Area B



*The value of wetland ecosystems
that remain intact...*

CDFW’s Sequence 1, 2 continue to fail to address the natural freshwater systems of Ballona Wetlands and fail to address the natural regeneration of Ballona that is taking place.



The ongoing planning efforts associated with the Ballona watershed can benefit from the insights of historical ecology. While the Ballona watershed is highly urbanized, it retains remnants of its historical natural resources mainly in the form of coastal wetlands and natural springs. Developing an understanding of potential restoration options in such landscapes depends upon a sound understanding of both contemporary conditions and historical ecological wetland functions. Introduction, Historical Ecology of Ballona Watershed..

December 30, 2021 Ballona. Jonathan Coffin

No hydrology studies of Ballona Wetlands itself have been done to determine the negative impacts of the cumulative freshwater dewatering to Ballona Wetlands as can be noted in the following document portion produced by a member of the Project Management Team in the current EIR/S; Water Resource Development Act (WRDA) process. (Public Record Act response document)

5670662	Geotechnical	Appendix B – Geotechnical Memorandum	n/a	n/a
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Comment Classification: **For Official Use Only (FOUO)**

What is the groundwater condition at the project site?

Submitted By: [David Tran](#) (213-452-3563). Submitted On: Jun 05 2014
Evaluation not conducted



CDFW's Coastal Act violation of unpermitted drainage of Ballona's freshwater, which harmed the hydrology and targeted habitat—Pickleweed, has been stopped. With restored seasonal ponding, passive regeneration has occurred. On the north side of Sequence 1, 2 areas, the habitat for the endangered Belding's Savannah Sparrow has been restored as seen below.



October 2012 Pre-capping Photo J. Coffin

Photos to East
of South Drain
Area B



August 2020 Three years post capping Photo M. Griswold



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

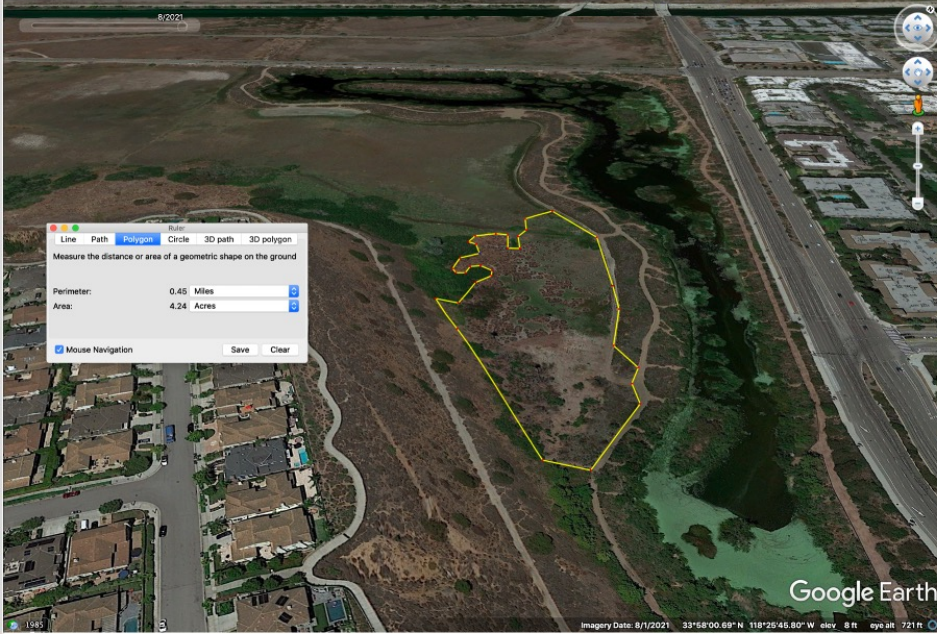
FEIR has inconsistencies of existing
Hydrology and Vegetation: Capping the
unpermitted drains in B north resulted
in native pickleweed wetland habitat.

*Endangered
Belding's
Savannah
Sparrow*






March 24, 2021 post fire (left side) May 29, 2021 post fire regrowth (right side)



Ongoing, passive regeneration of native plant species can be seen in these photos by Jonathan Coffin.


The Google Earth aerial view to the left, is outlined for the post-March 23, 2021 BWER 4.25 acre burn area as it appears on August 1, 2021



Salicornia pacific (Pickleweed) post burn regrowth along the back roadside with a row of burned Pampas Grass stumps May 29, 2021

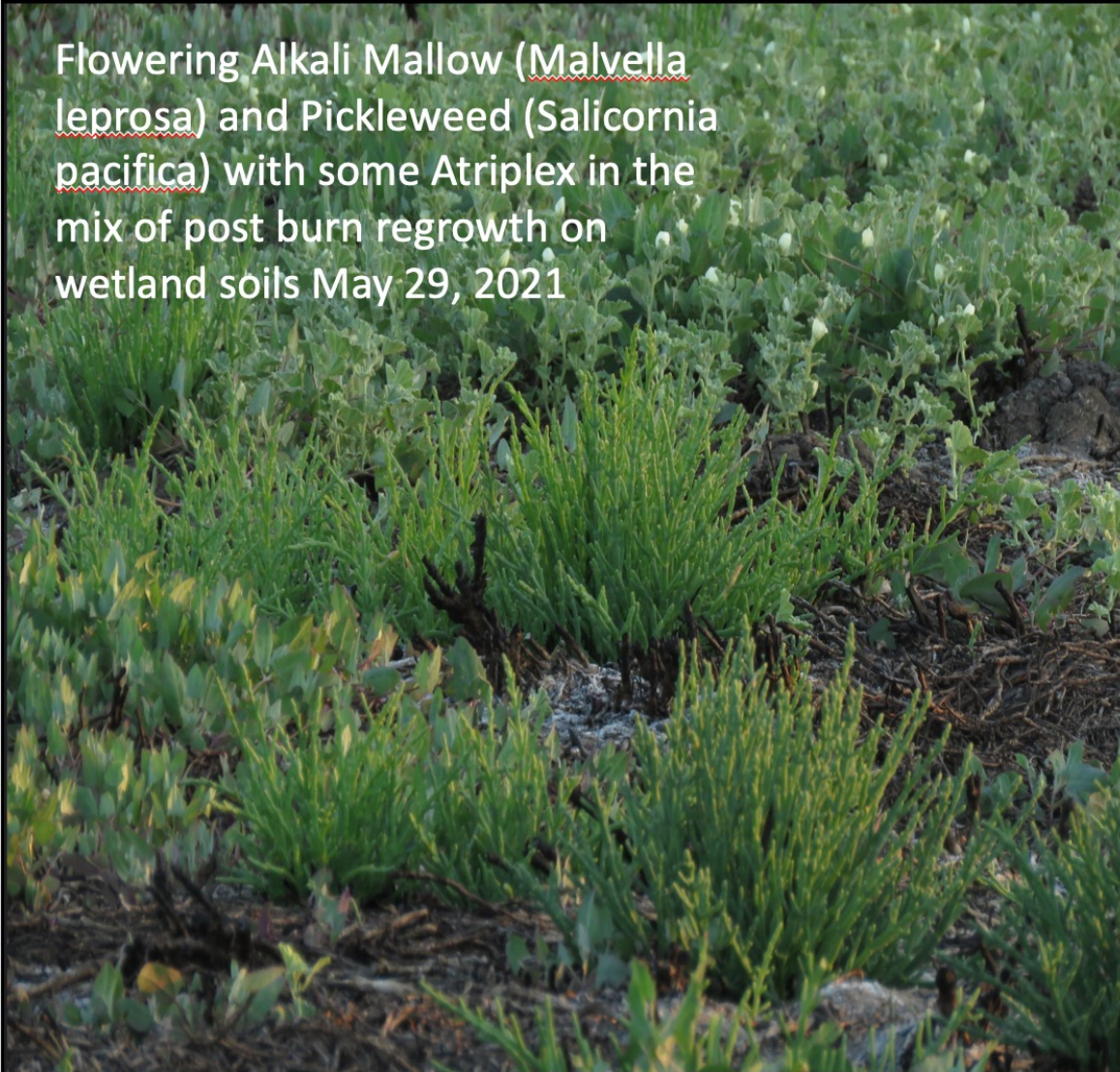


Bolboschoenus (Sedges) post burn regrowth May 29, 2021



Google Earth August 1, 2021;
Jonathan's photos showing post fire, passive
regeneration of native plants.

Flowering Alkali Mallow (Malvella leprosa) and Pickleweed (Salicornia pacifica) with some Atriplex in the mix of post burn regrowth on wetland soils May 29, 2021



Alkali Mallow (Malvella leprosa) in the foreground and Bolboschoenus (Alkali Bulrush) in the background post burn regrowth and some burned Pampas Grass stumps May 29, 2021



“The plants which are all native are all identified in my photos. You have to be specific which plants you are referring to. The “grasses” ... Bolboschoenus are Alkali Bulrushes which are sedges (sedges have edges).” Photographer & Naturalist, Jonathan Coffin.

A photograph showing a field of green Salicornia pacific (Pickleweed) growing in dark, wet soil. In the background, there are dark, charred stumps of vegetation and some taller, dry grasses. The sky is overcast.

Salicornia pacific (Pickleweed) post burn
regrowth May 29, 2021

IMG_1920 | by stonebird

A photograph showing a field of green plants, including Marsh Fleabane (Pluchea odorata) and Bolboschoenus, growing in wetland soils. There are also some Pampas Grass stumps visible in the background. The ground is dark and wet.

Marsh Fleabane, Pluchea odorata, with Bolboschoenus
and Pickleweed on wetland soils with some Pampas
Grass stumps post burn regrowth May 29, 2021

“These photos of the burn area show that tidal channels are not needed. There never were tidal channels in this area ... there were never tidal channels where they put the tide gates in for the 1135 project, for that matter. “ Margot Griswold Ph.D. Restoration Ecologist



The Sequence 1,2 area west of the expanded wetland portion is an area that has maintained Ballona's saltmarsh habitat, Pickleweed, which is the foraging and nesting habitat for the endangered Belding's Savannah Sparrow .



“Because this area is seasonally saturated with freshwater & has a historic high groundwater table, there likely is no need to create potentially harmful saltwater channels. A Land Management Plan, which would necessitate evaluation of the site's natural hydrology has not been performed as required (F&G Code 1019).” Margot Griswold PhD.

Anthony Morales-Chief Red Blood- The Gabrieleno/Tongva of San Gabriel Mission Band of Indians



<https://saveballona.org/862020-ccc-anthony-morales-i-have-standing-chief-gabrieleno-tongva-san-gabriel-band-mission-indians.html>



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XEoDN-SJido>

Anthony Morales-Chief Red Blood- The Gabrieleno/Tongva of San G

Sacred Site Registry

Site name: SA'ANQA
County: Los Angeles
Tribe: GABRIELINO/TONGVA INDIANS OF CA. TRIBAL COUNCIL

LOCATION
USGS Quad Meridian Township Range Section NW NE SW SE

CA-LAN
64,63,203,204 65
206, etc.

OWNERSHIP SA'ANQA a Tongva Village(s)
Owner name: ABORIGINAL TITLE due to preemptive and
Owner address: PROTECTING ABORIGINAL TONGVA CLAIM to land water, cultural resources.
5450 S. ANSON AVE, Suite 151 Colver City, CA 90230-6000

SITE TYPE
Burial Site ☒ Reburial Site ☐ Rock Shelter/Cave ☒
Lithic Scatter ☒ Cache ☒ Worship/Ritual Site ☒
Ceramic Scatter ☒ Village Site ☒ Sacred/Power Area ☒
Bedrock Mortar ☐ House Pits ☒ Collection Area ☒
Art ☒ Camp Site ☒ Unknown ☐

Other (specify): LAST COASTAL SITE NOT BUILT OVER. Sacred AREA.

DOCUMENTATION Village
Books, periodicals, knowledgeable person, other references well documented - CA-LAN

RECORDER
Name: John Tommy Rosas
Address: MLD
TRIBAL COUNCIL WGN
Phone: 707-961-0229 PRIVATE!
Title/Affiliation: GABRIELINO / TONGVA INDIANS OF CALIFORNIA TRIBAL COUNCIL
Date originally recorded: 1930

MLD CONSULTANT
ROBERT DORRAME
TRIBAL COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

2005 Tongva Burial Grounds-Playa Vista-Con



VIDEOS



1:07 / 5:40

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x9-YY6UaoCO> Ballona Restoration

Tongva Burial Grounds-Playa Vista-Comm...



Rep. Maxine Waters

Tongva Ancestral Territorial Tribal Nation

<https://saveballona.org/john-tommy-rosas-ccc-tongva-burial-grounds-2005-video-maxine-waters-freshwater-marsh.html>



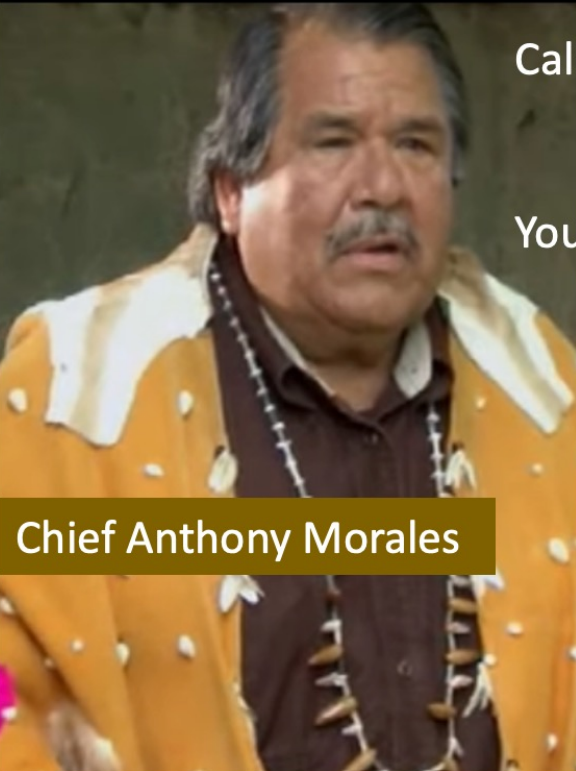
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! YOU ARE NOT LISTENING TO US !

California Department of Fish & Wildlife; California Coastal Conservancy;
California State Lands Commission; California Coastal Commission

You have requested our input on Ballona's Restoration, but you have been nonresponsive to our voluminous written and videotaped input. Sequence 1 & 2 is simply part of your overall destructive plan for conversion of our Sacred ancestral lands and waters into a full tidal saltwater bay that serves as a flood control device for Playa Vista. This FEIR, Alt. 1 Plan should not be allowed to move forward.

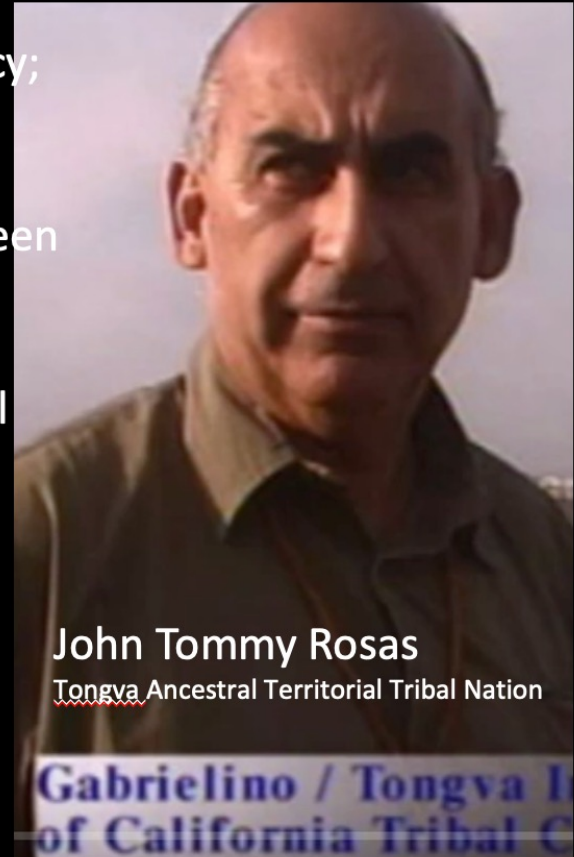


Chief Anthony Morales

<https://saveballona.org/862020-ccc-anthony-morales-i-have-standing-chief-gabrieleno-tongva-san-gabriel-band-mission-indians.html>

"Traditional Ecological Knowledge The phrase "traditional ecological knowledge," also called "indigenous knowledge" or "Native science," refers to the evolving knowledge acquired by indigenous and local peoples over hundreds or thousands of years through direct contact with the environment. This knowledge is specific to a location and includes the relationships between plants, animals, natural phenomena, landscapes and timing of events that are used for lifeways, including but not limited to hunting, fishing, trapping, agriculture, and forestry. Traditional knowledge is an accumulating body of knowledge, practice, and belief, evolving by adaptive processes and handed down through generations by cultural transmission, about the relationship of living beings (human and non-human) with one another and with the environment. It encompasses the world view of indigenous people which includes ecology, spirituality, human and animal relationships, and more."

please see the attached TATTN files - I appreciate it , thanks , jt



John Tommy Rosas
Tongva Ancestral Territorial Tribal Nation

<https://saveballona.org/john-tommy-rosas-ccc-tongva-burial-grounds-2005-video-maxine-waters-freshwater-marsh.html>

TONGVA VILLAGE OF SAANGNA IS A REGISTERED SACRED SITE[S]

N LAN-17 THE DESIGNATION COMPLETELY INCLUDES THE BWER

ANY ACTIONS BY CDFW OR CA COASTAL COMM HAS TO IMPLEMENT THE LEGAL STATUS INCLUDING THE RETURN OF FRESHWATER

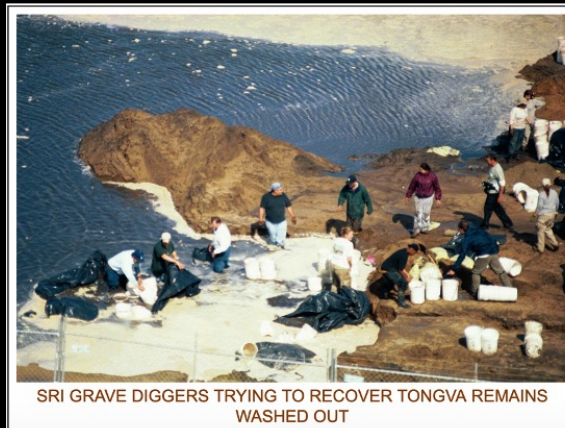
IT ALSO REQUIRES THE CCC TRIBAL CONSULTATION POLICY AND THE ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE POLICY – THE CCC IS RESPONSIBLE TO COMPLY AND IMPLEMENT THESE POLICY[S] FOR ANY CCC COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATIONS SUBMITTED FOR THE BWER DEIS/DEIR THE CCC HAS ILLEGALLY NOT CONSULTED WITH TATTN SO TATTN'S COMMENTS THRU TRIBAL CONSULTATION COULD BE INCLUDED IN THE CCC SUBMITTALS FOR THE BWER DEIS /DEIR -WHICH MAKES ANY PRIOR CCC RESPONSES TO THE BWER DEIS/ DEIR ILLEGAL AND DEFECTIVE INCLUDING COMMITTING STATUTORY TRIBAL DISCRIMINATION.

CITING THE CCC EJP

We are requesting the cessation of any activities to forward the CDFW, Final Environmental Impact Report's - Preferred Alternative Plan, including its initiation through the 'Sequence 1 and 2.'

Further, we are in process of requesting the CDFW's, Section 1019, Land Management Plan (LMP) occur. We are in process of requesting a grant from the Wildlife Conservation Board that would provide funding for the LMP to be performed which would include freshwater natural resource planning for Ballona as it is a Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem and requires adherence to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act.

We are asking for archaeological evaluation having an intent of protecting all of Ballona as the Sacred Site of SA'ANGA inclusive of reparations for protection of ancestors, our culture and the natural resources that encompass the world view of indigenous people which includes ecology, spirituality, human and animal relationships, and more. Chief Anthony Morales



Chief Anthony Morales

<https://saveballona.org/2004-new-york-times-playa-vista-digs-tongva-native-american-burial-grounds-and-more.html>