



Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project Working Group Meeting Agenda



Wednesday, September 17, 2008, 5-7pm

Loyola Marymount University, McIntosh Room, 3rd floor, University Hall

Meeting Objectives: The objective of this meeting of the Ballona Wetlands Working group is to provide a forum for non-governmental organizations, land owners and the public to receive updates and reports regarding the progress of the Ballona Wetlands Restoration Plan development process. This meeting and those that follow will also function as a means of exchanging information, ideas and approaches that could benefit the project area and surrounding communities.

1. Introductions
2. Presentation of final Feasibility Study
 - Review project goals and alternatives
 - Tradeoffs between alternatives based on measures of change
 - Next steps
3. Update of Ballona Wetlands Early Action Plan
4. Public Comments

Questions and Contact:

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Principles of Engagement

As members of the Ballona Wetlands Restoration Working Group (Working Group), we are all in this together. We are a team. We succeed as a team, or fail as a team. Participants are responsible for seeing this process through to the end.

Basic Conduct: The conduct of the discussions of the Working Group will include a commitment to:

- Focus on the future,
- Refrain from personal attacks, and
- Avoid surprises.

Disagreements between participants will be regarded as problems to be solved rather than battles to be won. The deliberations and recommendations of the Working Group will be guided by their roles and responsibilities as articulated by the convening agencies (SCC, SLC and DFG).

Participant Responsibilities: Participation as a volunteer member of the Working Group carries with it an explicit agreement with the following examples of behavior consistent with constructive dialogue, mutual respect, and a commitment to collaboration:

- Offer respect for different viewpoints and attention when others speak.
- Share the responsibility of ensuring the success of the process and the quality of the recommendations.
- Make our best faith effort to work toward reaching agreement.
- Represent the perspectives, concerns, and interests of the organizations and agencies whenever possible rather than those of the individual representative.
- Come to meetings consistently and be prepared.
- Honor commitments made in previous meetings.
- Ask questions of each other for clarification and mutual understanding.
- Verify assumptions when necessary.
- Avoid characterizing the motives of others.
- Stay focused on the task at hand and share airtime with others.
- Refrain from distracting others through side conversations.
- Concentrate on the content of discussions and allow the facilitator(s) to focus on how to promote productive discussion.
- Keep the Working Group informed about constraints on decision-making authority within agencies.

Decision-Making: The Working Group shall be guided by the goal of collaborative problem solving and consensus. Each participant is responsible for communicating his or her organization's perspectives on the issues, problems and opportunities under discussion. He or she has an obligation to articulate interests, propose alternatives, listen to proposals and build Working Group support by participating in good faith. This means that when a participant cannot support the general direction or consensus of the Working Group, that he or she has an obligation to (1) state the reason(s) why they are withholding consent in sufficient detail to allow others to respond in a meaningful manner, and (2) offer an alternative suggestion that satisfactorily addresses their own concerns and interests without compromising the interests of others.

Public Statements: Participants agree to refrain from public criticism of the Working Group without first bringing such concerns to the group for discussion.

Meeting Management and Arrangements: The group facilitator will assist the participants to reach consensual agreement. This includes preparing agendas, sign-up sheets, and meeting summaries of each meeting, as well as other materials designed to move the discussions toward resolution.