

# Facts: Ballona Wetlands Ecosystem

*The Ballona Wetlands is the last remaining coastal wetland in Los Angeles. It is integral to the Greater Ballona Ecosystem*

## Timeline



1990  
California Coastal Commission Settlement Agreement with Friends of Ballona Wetlands / Playa Vista to develop Ballona Wetlands

2000  
Playa Vista creates the Ballona Wetlands Conservancy a 501c3 to maintain control over their flood control system aka Freshwater Marsh System on Public Trust Land of Ballona Wetlands

2001-5  
ETINA/ Grassroots Coalition CEQA lawsuit prevails against LA CITY/ PLAYA VISTA; LADBS disallows residential building west of Lincoln Blvd. over SCG/PDR oil/gas operations

2003-4  
Playa Vista becomes willing seller. California acquires Ballona Wetlands. Grassroots Coalition, Sierra Club, BEEP, Ballona Wetland Landtrust, Ballona Institute, Audubon LA, TATTN work to secure Ballona as historic predominantly seasonal freshwater wetland

2012  
Ca. Coastal Conservancy/ Bay Foundation end EIR/S 2005-12 iterative process. Start new 2012 WRDA Permit Process with same inaccurate EIR info/premise.

2017  
Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) released without Ballona cumulative hydrology study and no seasonal freshwater alternative.

Now  
The Final EIR is released without change. CDFW acknowledges its mistakes in math re: flood control.

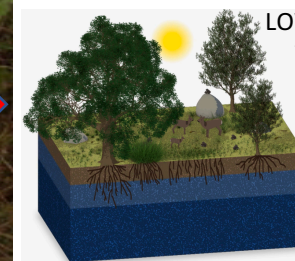
### Why Self-Sustainable Restoration of Ballona Can Help

- Ballona has been making its natural comeback from human disturbance including agriculture, oil/gas operations, habitat destruction in the creation of Marina del Rey –which used millions of yards of dredged soils for creation of 5 miles of new beaches to the north and south of the Ballona Channel; fill to create the moles upon which apartments now reside, and the levee roadways. (House Doc. 389 ...; CCC 2017)
- The Ballona Channel continues to provide a safe passage between areas to its north & south.

### Stakeholder Restoration Goals –what the public already paid for

- The preservation of biodiversity in a system that requires minimal human management and is historically accurate and historically complete.
- Community oriented slow, hand hewn, DO NO HARM, principles of stewardship have restored some areas of Ballona already. The remaining areas of Ballona can be similarly restored but the MAIN IMPEDIMENT is the need to stop the ongoing and deliberate diversion and throw-away of Ballona's freshwater watershed and ponding rainwater.

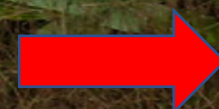
### Understanding Groundwater Pumping



LOWERING the Groundwater Takes Away Life-Giving Freshwater From the Root System & Starves Plants. The Ecosystem BREAKS DOWN.



Freshwater Marsh Drains to the ocean



Playa Vista pumps and throws away Ballona's groundwater to the sanitary sewer.



Ballona.Wetlands.Dewatering.lower.wate... Watch later

Playa Vista & CDFW were found by the CA. Coastal Commission to be harming Ballona's hydrology by draining and diverting freshwater from Ballona Wetlands.



Drain

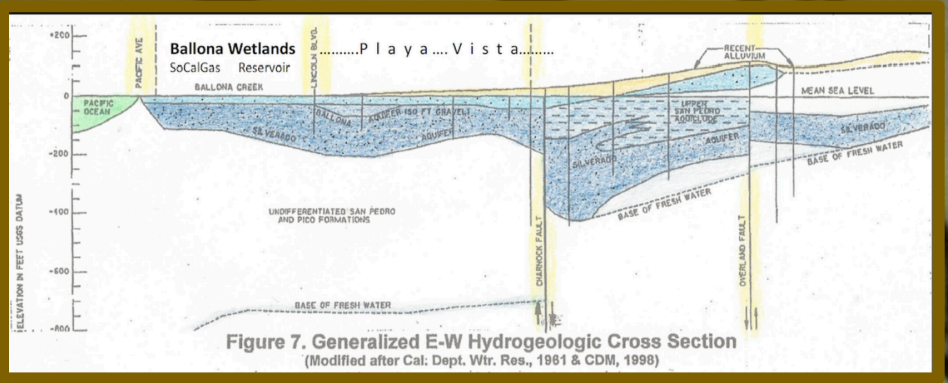
Rainy day Ballona salt pan

# Why Industrial Scale Bulldozing and Digging Out Ballona To Turn It Into a Saltwater Bay is WRONG.

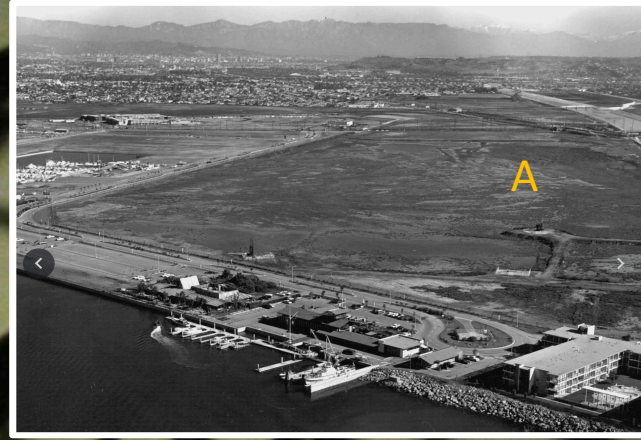


**CA. Dept. of Fish & Wildlife Goal** — Final Environmental Impact Report Goal – To bulldoze and dig out the Reserve to create a full tidal bay. CDFW options are drastically and fatally contrary to protecting wildlife and native flora and will destroy Ballona's freshwater aquifers. CDFW's claims of 15-20' of fill on Area A, are unsubstantiated.

Ballona is historically a predominantly seasonal freshwater wetland which now has manmade/maintained saltwater entrances as well. Ballona is naturally wet, at or near its surface due to its multiple underlying freshwater aquifers. (Playa Vista EIR)



The raised roadways ( post '65, post Marina de Rey completion) to oil derricks in Area A of Ballona are the same raised roadways in photos from the 30s. No showing of any fill being left on Area A. The raised roadways have been consistently used by oil/gas operators to keep their vehicles out of the wetlands.

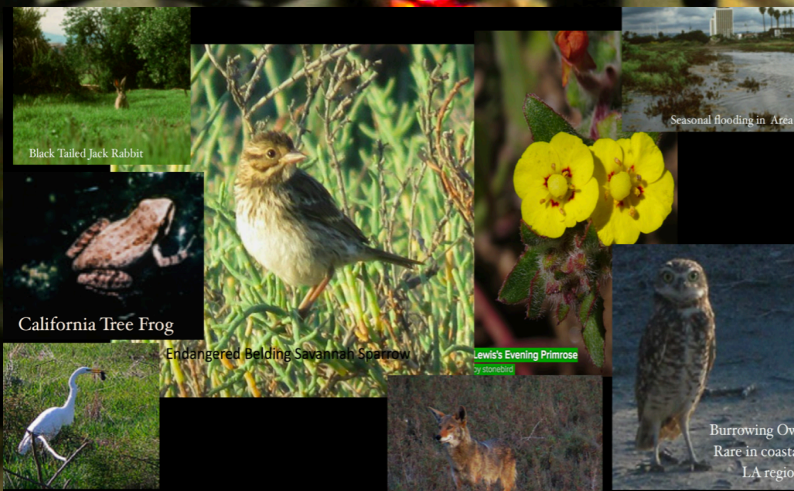


**KILL ZONE**  
3-5 miles of new levees will destroy at least 20% of habitat and become 'kill zones' of Vector Controlled landscape per USACE levee regulations.

CDFW's FEIR is falsely premised upon Ballona being a saltmarsh. This inaccuracy stems from agreements made in 1990 without scientific basis - between USACE, Ca.Coastal Com., Friends of Ballona, L.A., Playa Vista. - But for thousands of years ago, there was no 'ebb and flow' of the ocean into the Reserve. - USACE, Friends of Ballona & LA County have already created more saltwater entry into Ballona than existed historically for thousands of years. Only during peak storms did a breakthrough to the ocean occur. - Deep saltwater habitat already exists as Marina del Rey, Ballona Lagoon Marine Preserve, Del Rey Lagoon, the Channel & its openings into the Reserve—these areas already provide nursery habitat for saltwater species.

## **SAY NO TO CDFW's FEIR PLANS OF DESTRUCTION**

All Ballona's diversity and species will benefit by gentle restoration that includes cessation of ground and surface freshwater diversion away from the Reserve. All species will benefit by removing the threat of 10 years plus exposure to an experimental, life-threatening conversion from diverse, rare wetland, grassland, upland habitat into 'the bathtub' of saltwater, toxins & trash of Ballona Channel.



Barn Owl night watch  
by stonebird



Saveballona.org