



GAIL FARBER, Director

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

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IN REPLY PLEASE

REFER TO FILE: **WM-1**

July 23, 2013

Colonel Kimberly Colloton
Commander and District Engineer
Los Angeles District
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
P.O. Box 532711
Los Angeles, CA 90053-2325

Attention Mr. Richard Leifield

Dear Colonel Colloton:

408 PERMIT SUBMITTAL A (INITIAL SUBMITTAL) BALLONA WETLANDS RESTORATION PROJECT

This cover letter introduces the Los Angeles County Flood Control District's (LACFCD) and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's Submittal A (Initial Submittal) for a Section 408 Permit for the Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project. With this submittal, the LACFCD and California Department of Fish and Wildlife confirm the technical soundness and environmental acceptability of the proposal and formally initiate our request that a Section 408 Permit be granted to the LACFCD for the proposed alteration/modification of a Federal project.

The following information is provided as required by the applicable regulations:

1. Name, address, and telephone number of the prospective permittees

Ms. Menerva Ariki
Los Angeles County Flood Control District
Watershed Management Division, 11th floor
900 South Fremont Avenue
Alhambra, CA 91803
Phone: (626) 458-4316

Mr. Edmund Pert
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
4949 Viewridge Avenue
San Diego, CA 92123
Phone: (858) 467-4210

2. Location of the proposed project

USGS Quad: Venice Quadrangle, 7.5 Minute
Township 2S, Range 15W, Unsectioned
Lat/Long: 33° 58'01.14" N, 118° 26'22.21" W

The proposed project is located at approximately 400 Culver Boulevard (roughly the intersection of Culver and West Jefferson Boulevards), and is partially within the City of Los Angeles and partially within unincorporated County of Los Angeles jurisdiction just south of Marina del Rey. The proposed project will be within California Department of Fish and Wildlife property as well as property within the holdings of the State Lands Commission. The project area is approximately 600 acres.

3. Purpose and Need

A substantial portion of California's historic coastal wetlands have been lost. Restoration of coastal wetland is needed in order to increase available nursery and foraging habitat for wildlife and to provide recreation and educational opportunities to the public. The Ballona Wetlands Ecosystem is one of the last remaining major coastal wetlands in the County of Los Angeles. It is estimated that historically the wetlands ecosystem spanned more than 2,000 acres in the vicinity of the site. Development occurring over the last century greatly reduced the Ballona Wetland area, now estimated at approximately 600 acres. In addition, the wetland habitat and natural hydrological functions in the area have been substantially degraded. The project site provides habitat for a diversity of plants and wildlife species, but most on-site habitat exhibit relatively low physical and biological functions and services.

The proposed project is intended to return the daily ebb and flow of tidal waters, maintain freshwater circulation, augment the physical and biological functions and services in the project area while still maintaining the required level of flood protection to the surrounding community. Restoring the wetland functions and services would allow native wetland vegetation to be reestablished, providing important habitat for a variety of wildlife species. As a restored site, the Ballona

Wetlands would play an important role to provide seasonal habitat for migratory birds. A restored and optimally functioning wetland would also benefit the adjacent marine environment and enhance the quality of tidal waters. The proposed project would provide the community with a self-sustaining, native open space in a highly urbanized area.

4. Description of Proposed Project and Alternatives

See enclosed Project Description.

5. Conceptual-level plans

Conceptual-level plans are included in the enclosed Preliminary Design Report and Preliminary Hydrology and Hydraulics Report.

6. Preliminary Engineering Technical Analysis

The enclosed Preliminary Design Report, includes preliminary engineering designs, geotechnical analysis (Appendix B), structural analysis, and anticipated operations and maintenance requirements. The enclosed Preliminary Hydrology and Hydraulics Report, includes hydrologic, hydraulic, hydrodynamic, sediment transport, and geomorphic analyses.

7. Real Estate Analysis

The enclosed real estate analysis of existing boundaries and easements is included in the enclosed Preliminary Design Report (Appendix A -- Existing Conditions/Survey).

8. Anticipated Operations and Maintenance Requirements

Anticipated operations and maintenance requirements are addressed in Section 4 of the enclosed Preliminary Design Report.

Colonel Kimberly Colloton
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If you have any question, please contact me at (626) 458-4300 or ghildeb@dpw.lacounty.gov or your staff may contact Ms. Menerva Ariki at (626) 458-4316 or mariki@dpw.lacounty.gov.

Very truly yours,

GAIL FARBER
Director of Public Works



GARY HILDEBRAND
Assistant Deputy Director
Watershed Management Division

EDMUND PERT
Regional Manager, South Coast Region
California Department of Fish and Wildlife

JS:sw

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Enc.

cc: California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Rick Mayfield, Theresa Stewart)
California Coastal Conservancy (Mary Small)
State Lands Commission (Pamela Griggs)
Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission (Diana Hurlbert, Shelley Luce)
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Aaron Allen, Josephine Axt, Steven Vaughn)