



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Ecological Services
Carlsbad Fish and Wildlife Office
2177 Salk Avenue, Suite 250
Carlsbad, California 92008



In Reply Refer To:
FWS-LA-02B0010-17CPA0070

February 1, 2017
Sent by Email

Dr. Daniel P. Swenson
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles District
915 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 930
Los Angeles, California 90017-3409

Subject: Termination of Cooperating Agency Status for the Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project,
Los Angeles County, California

Dear Dr. Swenson:

This letter is to inform the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers of our decision to terminate our participation as a cooperating agency in the development of the Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR) for the Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project, in accordance with the Council on Environmental Quality's Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (50 CFR § 1501.6 and § 1508.5).

We began our participation as a cooperating agency on January 5, 2015 (FWS-02B0010-15CPA0048) and provided comments on administrative drafts of the EIS/EIR received on September 8, 2015; April 27, 2016; July 1 and 15, 2016; and November 15, 2016. Our review primarily focused on the project description, alternatives, and biological resources sections of the draft documents. Consistent with comments submitted prior to our participation as a cooperating agency, we recommended project design features that will restore and enhance natural estuarine functions, reduce habitat fragmentation, and minimize disturbance associated with recreational access and maintenance activities.

Other program commitments preclude our continued involvement to the degree we believe necessary to resolve the environmental issues, which were identified in our preliminary comments, prior to the scheduled release of the Draft EIS/EIR to the public. We appreciate the opportunity we had to provide early input during the development of the EIS/EIR and look forward to continued participation during the public review period.

Mr. Daniel P. Swenson (FWS-LA-02B0010-17CPA0070)

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If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Christine Medak at 760-431-9440, extension 398.

Sincerely,

Karen A. Goebel
Assistant Field Supervisor

cc:

Ms. Mary Small, California Coastal Conservancy

Mr. Edward Pert, California Department of Fish and Wildlife