



South Coast Region
3883 Ruffin Road
San Diego, CA 92123
(858) 467-4201
wildlife.ca.gov

California Environmental Quality Act

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF A DRAFT REVISED ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR THE BALLONA WETLANDS RESTORATION PROJECT

LEAD AGENCY: California Department Fish and Wildlife

CONTACT: Glen M. Lubcke, Environmental Program Manager,
(858) 467-4201

SUBJECT: Notice of Availability of a Draft Revised Environmental
Impact Report for the Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project
pursuant to Sections 21091 and 21092 of the California
Public Resources Code and CEQA Guidelines Sections
15086 and 15087

PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD: October 23, 2026 to December 7, 2026

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) hereby notifies interested agencies and parties of the availability of a draft revised environmental impact report (REIR) for the Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project (State Clearinghouse No. 2012071090). CDFW prepared the REIR in response to an order issued by the Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, in the following related cases: *Ballona Wetlands Land Trust v. California Department of Fish and Wildlife*, Case No. 21STCP00242; *Defend Ballona Wetlands et al. v. California Department of Fish and Wildlife*, Case No. 21STCP00240; *Grassroots Coalition, et al. v. California Department of Fish and Wildlife*, Case No. 21STCV03657; and *Protect Ballona Wetlands v. California Department of Fish and Wildlife*, Case No. 21STCP00237. In its May 17, 2023, decision, the court considered several issues raised in the lawsuits against the Final EIR that CDFW had prepared pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the regulations implementing CEQA (the CEQA Guidelines) and had certified for the project on December 30, 2020 (the 2020 Final EIR). The court determined the 2020 Final EIR inadequate based on the two issues noted below, in all other respects the court upheld the 2020 Final EIR.

CEQA Guidelines Section 15234(d) defines the scope of what a lead agency must consider in the event of a court ordering the agency to correct its

environmental impact report. Consistent with Section 15234(d), the scope of the REIR will be limited to the two specific issues identified in the court's decision. All other portions of the 2020 Final EIR, as affirmed by the court, remain valid and are outside the focus of the REIR.

The two issues addressed in the REIR are:

1. Disclosure and analysis of 68,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) as the "flood control design parameter," and
2. Commitment of CDFW to conduct additional environmental review should site conditions warrant a reduction of restoration goals or revisions to performance criteria to make them more attainable.

CDFW manages and maintains primary ownership of the Ballona Reserve (defined below), with a smaller interest owned by the California State Lands Commission. Under State law, CDFW is the public agency that has principal responsibility for carrying out or approving the project, and so is the lead agency for purposes of CEQA. As the CEQA lead agency, CDFW is seeking agency and public comments on the sufficiency of the REIR in identifying and analyzing the possible impacts on the environment. It would be especially helpful if such comments focused on any significant environmental issues. Comments on the REIR may be submitted to CDFW during **a 45-day period between October 23, 2026 and December 7, 2026.**

Project Location: The Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve (Ballona Reserve) is located in Southern California, south of Marina del Rey and east of Playa del Rey. It extends roughly from the Marina Freeway (State Route [SR] 90) to the east, the Westchester bluffs to the south, Playa del Rey to the west, and Fiji Way to the north. See Figure 1 and Figure 2.

Project Description: Seeking to restore degraded wetland habitat and functions within the Ballona Reserve, CDFW is proposing a large-scale effort to restore, enhance, and establish native coastal wetland and upland habitats on approximately 566 acres within the Ballona Reserve; these efforts would require incidental work on adjacent property.

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Works–Flood Control District (collectively, LACFCD) owns and operates the Ballona Creek channel and levee system, which are features of the Los Angeles County Drainage Area (LACDA) project authorized by Congress in 1990. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), in cooperation with the LACFCD, constructed the Ballona Creek channel and levees within the Ballona Reserve as part of the LACDA project.

The LACFCD and the Corps have jurisdiction over the Ballona Creek channel and levee system within the project site. As a result, authorization from the Corps under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and Sections 10 and 14 of the Rivers and Harbors Act would be needed to carry out the project. Corps approval also would be required to modify the Operation, Maintenance, Repair, Replacement and Rehabilitation Manual (OMRR&R) to reflect any approved changes to

existing LACDA project infrastructure within the project site.

To implement the project, CDFW is working with the LACFCD to modify LACDA project features (e.g., the Ballona Creek channel and levee system) within the Ballona Reserve. The three main components of the project are restoring wetlands and wetland functions within the Ballona Reserve; restoring and improving public access to the Ballona Reserve; and maintaining existing levels of flood risk management provided by the Ballona Creek channel and levee system.

As mentioned above, the REIR's analysis of the project is limited to the two issues identified by the court and as a result focused on revising the 2020 Final EIR's analysis of project's the potentially significant impacts involving hydrology and water quality. The 2020 Final EIR contains the full analysis of the project.

Location of Draft REIR Available for Public Review: Members of the public, along with federal, state, regional, local agencies and tribes, are invited to review the REIR and provide comments. The REIR and 2020 Final EIR are available for review during normal business hours at the following locations:

- County of Los Angeles Public Library, Lloyd Taber–Marina del Rey, 4533 Admiralty Way, Marina del Rey, CA 90292
- City of Los Angeles Public Library, Playa Vista Branch, 6400 Playa Vista Drive, Los Angeles, CA 90094
- City of Los Angeles Public Library, Westchester–Loyola Village Branch, 7114 W. Manchester Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90045

The documents are also available online for all-hours access on CDFW's website at: <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Notices/CEQA>. Additional project information and documents are available on CDFW's website at: <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Regions/5/Ballona-EIR>.

Public Comment Period: By this notice, CDFW is announcing the opening of the 45-day comment period (10/23 to 12/07 2026). All written comments on the REIR must be received by 5:00 p.m. on 12/07 2026 (end of the 45-day public review period).

CDFW will respond to all timely submitted comments that raise a significant environmental issue related to the REIR and will include the responses in a Final REIR.

Commenting on the Draft Revised Environmental Impact Report: Written comments on the REIR may be submitted to CDFW in one of two ways:

Physical Mail:

Attention: Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project REIR Comments
California Department of Fish and Wildlife

3883 Ruffin Road, San Diego, CA 92123

OR

Electronic Mail

BWERcomments@wildlife.ca.gov (subject line: "Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project REIR Comments")

Public Noticing Meeting: CDFW will conduct a public meeting to inform stakeholders of the REIR and how to submit comments. The meeting will be held in person on:

Date: November 12, 2026

Location: Westchester Municipal Building LA City Council District 11 Office
(7166 W. Manchester Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90045)

Start Time: 6:00 PM

End Time: 7:00 PM

If you have any questions regarding the meeting, please contact CDFW at BWERcomments@wildlife.ca.gov (subject line: "Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project REIR Meeting").

Figure 1. Regional Location

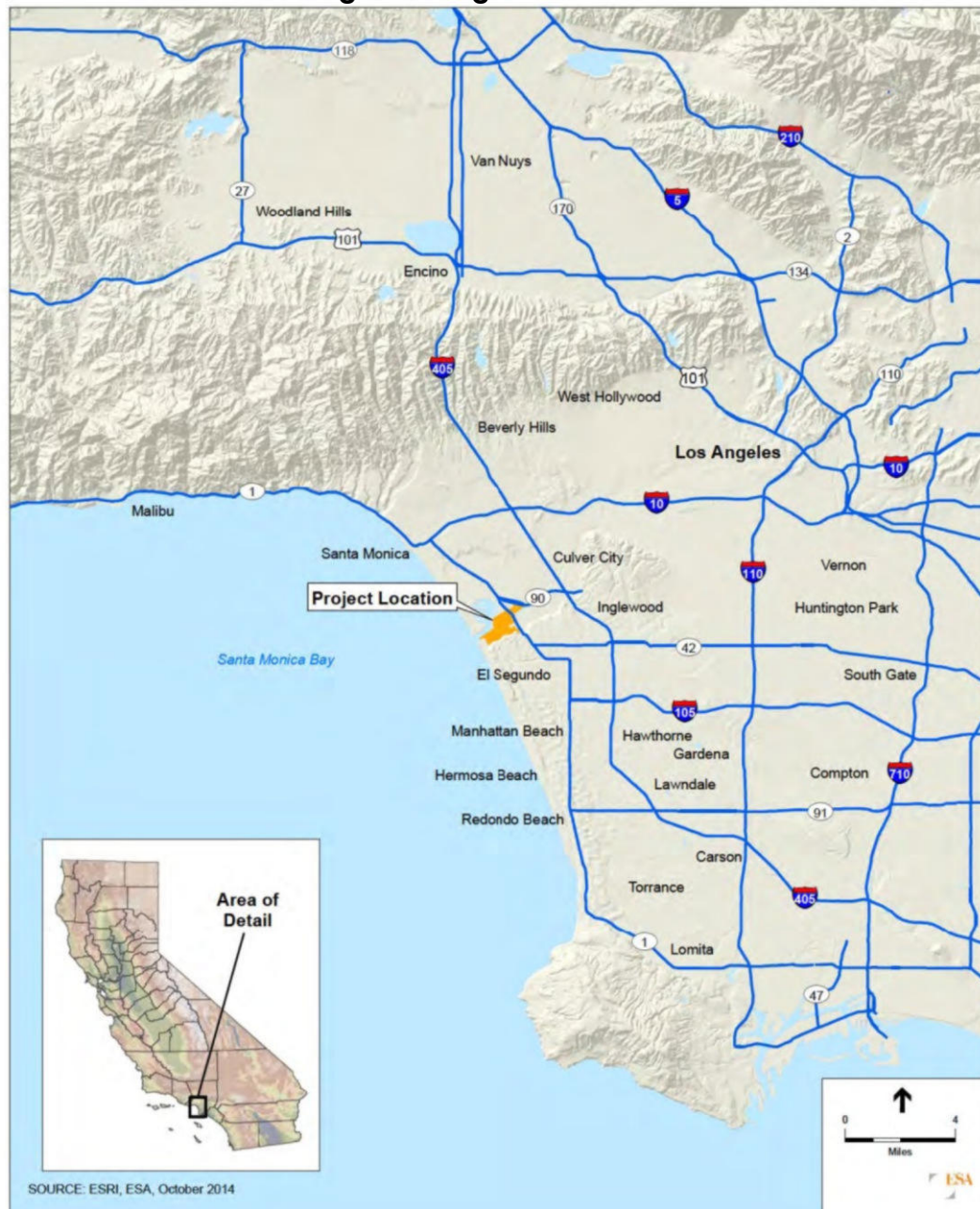


Figure 2. Project Site



Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve

California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Region 5 - July 2026

Boundary: CDFW Owned and Operated Lands and Conservation Easements ds3092

Boundaries are approximate. Map is intended for general purposes only.

