

Los Angeles Audubon Society
P.O. Box 931057
Los Angeles, California 90093-1057



October 31, 2023

Via Email (BWERcomments@wildlife.ca.gov)

TO: Erinn Wilson-Olgin, Regional Manager, South Coast Region.
Richard C. Brody, Land Manager, Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve

RE: Los Angeles Audubon Society Request for Extension of Comments for Notice of Preparation of a Revised Environmental Impact Report for the Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project

Los Angeles Audubon Society respectfully requests an extension of the Notice of Preparation (NOP) comment period from 30 days to 75 days, in the interest of public participation and transparency. As I am sure you are aware, the current 30-day comment period will end around Thanksgiving. It is a difficult time of year to respond to the NOP in a meaningful way. We are asking for 75 days as this would completely by-pass the holiday season.

Los Angeles Audubon Society thinks that this is a reasonable request given the judge's ruling on the previous FEIR concerning what CDFW did and did not adequately describe and analyze. We need to carefully go over the NOP to make sure we understand what CDFW is revising, and how the revisions fit with the judge's order. In the long run, a careful review at this stage of the preparation of a new and legal EIR will be to everyone's advantage.

Los Angeles Audubon Society has been a voice for birds and conservation in Los Angeles for over 110 years. Our mission is to promote the study and protection of birds, other wildlife, and their habitats throughout the diverse landscapes of the Los Angeles area. We have over 3,500 members and supporters, most of whom live in the County of Los Angeles. We also manage the oldest environmental education program at the Ballona Wetlands, serving mainly Title 1 schools, and twice monthly Open Wetlands to encourage public access within the Ballona Wetlands, with both programs implemented through our dedicated volunteer docents.

Again, in the interest of public participation, we request that you extend the comment period for the NOP.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Margot Griswold".

Margot Griswold, Ph.D.
Conservation and Education Committees
Los Angeles Audubon Society