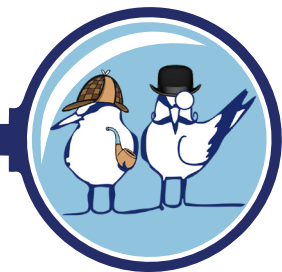


BALLONA WETLANDS RESTORATION



FACT

vs.

FICTION

Condition of Wetlands



FACT Ballona has been drilled, filled, farmed, trashed, and more. Years of monitoring demonstrates that the wetlands are degraded and conditions are worsening. Invasive plants are spreading fast, out-competing native plants that provide the habitats local wildlife require. Wetlands need water, but most of Ballona is cut off from its natural water source, Ballona Creek. Only restoration can heal a century's worth of damage done at Ballona.



The Wetlands are thriving and continue to heal themselves.

Endangered Species



FACT The restoration project will protect endangered species and expand their habitats. The work will proceed cautiously, in phases, and will be strictly monitored by scientists and biologists.



Species will disappear from the reserve for good because of the restoration project.

Relocation of Animals



FACT Some animals will be relocated throughout the project. Small animals like rabbits, lizards and snakes are sometimes trapped during construction and *moved* to another part of the reserve. They will not be kept in cages.



Animals will be kept in cages during the restoration.

Sea Level Rise



FACT Restoration is vital for the wetlands to survive; the current plan accounts for sea level rise. Without restoration, the wetlands will become a stagnant mudflat with no access to the creek.



Sea level rise projections will erase the wetlands by 2050.

Flood Control



FACT Flow capacity is being studied by State so that the Army Corps of Engineers can design the levees to withhold flood capacity. Levees and berms will be restructured to withstand regular and extreme flooding based on the updated studies.



The restoration will change the creek flow, causing the entire area to flood.

Public & Community Outreach



FACT Before developing restoration plans, a Science Advisory Committee was created and 20 public stakeholder meetings were held to gain input from experts and the local community. The Bay Foundation also made more than 60 presentations to educate the public.



There was no public outreach done on the restoration project.

The Gas Company



FACT As part of the restoration plan, SoCalGas will permanently abandon ALL 16 wells from within the boundaries of the Reserve to aid restoration. SoCalGas is leaving the Reserve, not expanding on it.



The Gas Company is using the restoration to expand their facilities.

Traffic



FACT Traffic studies were conducted and plans were developed to reduce negative impacts on the community during construction. There will not be a significant increase in traffic around the site.



There will be huge traffic impacts on the community.

Public Access



FACT Public access is currently limited to Area B, which is the only Area with a trail system and restored habitats appropriate for education programming. Proponents for restoration advocate for increased, managed public access throughout the Reserve with new trails, services and programs to create equitable recreational, educational and stewardship opportunities for many communities.



Public access is being held up by restoration proponents.

Ballona History



FACT Changing geography and climate, and human activities have dramatically altered Ballona over centuries. The big picture goal is to improve the site's hydrology and restore diversity of habitats and native species in the face of climate change and urbanization, rather than returning to a point in history.



Ballona should be freshwater only and restored to the way it was in the 1800s.