

Restoration Planning, Design, & Project Management

Los Cerritos Wetlands Seal Beach & Long Beach, CA

Client:

Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority
100 Old San Gabriel Canyon Rd.
Azusa, California 91702
Mark Stanley, Executive Officer
(626) 815-1019 ext.100

Project Staff:

Eric Zahn
Megan Wolff
Mark Hannaford

Focus: Coastal Wetlands Habitat Restoration
Planning; Public Outreach; Agency Coordination

Project Overview: Los Cerritos Wetlands (LCW) is one of the last major salt marsh complexes left to be restored in Southern California. Tidal Influence has been the ecological consultant and project manager on this decade long habitat restoration planning and design process managed by the Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority (LCWA). The project has included over 15 community involvement workshops, 12 technical advisory committee meetings, and the production of numerous technical and planning documents covering topics including habitat quality, hydrology/hydraulics, public access, geotechnical, and cultural resources. Tidal Influence has been involved in reviewing every report and plan associated with this large-scale planning effort, including the certification of Program EIR in 2021 and a project-level Mitigated Negative Declaration in 2023. Tidal Influence was the project manager for both efforts.

From 2011-2015 Tidal Influence principals were involved in all aspects of the Conceptual Restoration Plan and were the lead consultant on the public involvement process, performing the habitat assessment and special status species mapping, and developing the habitat restoration alternative graphics. Our knowledge of oil operations and recreational activities made us a valuable team member in determining how to balance concern for sensitive habitat with other land uses.



We organized several meetings with oil operators and gathered information on how to consolidate their facilities to best accommodate wetlands restoration.

We assumed the Project Manager role for the LCWA in 2016 and acquired over \$1 million in funding for the environmental review of the CRP. Tidal Influence developed the RFP and led the interview process for the LCWA to acquire the consulting team that performed this work. This phase of planning started in 2017 and ended in 2021 with the certification of a Program EIR and a complex wide Habitat Restoration Plan.

In 2020, Tidal Influence helped the LCWA acquire another \$800,000 to initiate the planning of the Southern Los Cerritos Wetlands Restoration Project. This project-level planning effort required the pursuit of several regulatory permits from various agencies including USACE, Coastal Commission, CDFW, and the State Water Board. These permit applications included 65% designs that Tidal Influence shaped in collaboration with an engineering design team. Finally this phase was capped off by the certification of a project-level Mitigated Negative Declaration that provided full analysis of the project's potential environmental impacts.

Our long running involvement in this project is indicative of Tidal Influence's ability to work collaboratively across multiple disciplines with a diverse team of experts composed of public agency staff, hydrologists, landscape architects, CEQA practitioners, modelers, and civil engineers. It also demonstrates our capacity to work independently, within a team structure, and from the ground up on projects with limited historic reports to produce professional communications regarding current conditions of a complex urban wetland system.