

TORRANCE DEMOCRATIC CLUB RESOLUTION (2013)

RE: RESTORATION OF THE BALLONA WETLANDS

Whereas, these facts are irrefutable:

- the public, for more than 30 years, worked to protect the Ballona Wetlands;
- more than 95% of California's coastal wetland ecosystems have been destroyed;
- 600+ acres of land were acquired by the State of California in 2003/2004 for preservation;
- \$139 million was spent for these lands, mostly from Wildlife Conservation bond funds with the voters' intention to **conserve wildlife**;

Whereas, the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve is a natural gem on the Los Angeles coast which:

- includes habitats that are havens for birds flying to Los Angeles from as far away as Guatemala, the Amazon River, Idaho and the Arctic Circle;
- includes a rare remnant mosaic of seasonal ponds, salt pannes, wet meadows and associated upland habitats;
- includes abundant wildflowers and a high diversity of pollinators, plus a rich diversity of animals - all part of California's historical heritage;
- includes shelter and food for endangered and imperiled species at the Ballona Wetlands, including: Least Bell's Vireo, California Gnatcatcher, California Least Tern, Belding's Savannah Sparrow, White-tailed Kite, El Segundo Blue Butterfly and Lewis' Primrose;

Now THEREFORE, the LAX-Area Democratic Club supports:

- community-engaged restoration based on the "Seven Guiding Principles for Rejuvenation of the Ballona Ecosystem" adopted by Sierra Club, Ballona Wetlands Land Trust, Ballona Ecosystem Education Project, Ballona Institute, Grassroots Coalition and Wetlands Defense Fund;
- the "Wildlife-friendly Restoration" alternative, outlined by Ballona Institute;
- a fully transparent and engaged public process during any environmental

review;

- public access that is sensitive to the ecosystem; and objects to:
- "holding hostage" of public access for an invasive plan that includes a massive construction site that will bring significant traffic impacts to the Westside community for years;
- a highly mechanized, bulldozer-driven plan that would disrupt the ecosystem and harm habitat for rare and endangered species;
- demolition of the ecosystem and the recreation area (bicycle/walking path and rowing area) of the Ballona Creek channel by moving the earthen levees.
- public land being used for a private foundation to construct an interpretive center development, including a facility for pets.

And

Now THEREFORE, the LAX-Area Democratic Club asks that US Congressmembers Henry Waxman, Maxine Waters, Janice Hahn and Karen Bass and Senators Boxer and Feinstein work to deny federal funding for these projects and that State elected officials John Chiang, Ted Lieu, Steven Bradford and Al Muratsuchi ensure no state bond or other public money be spent to implement or plan these projects.

**APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD & MEMBERSHIP
OF THE
TORRANCE DEMOCRATIC CLUB
MONDAY, APRIL 15TH 2013**