

CALENDAR ITEM

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S	34	D. Brown

**INFORMATIONAL REPORT ON THE STATUS OF THE BOLSA CHICA
LOWLANDS RESTORATION PROJECT NEAR THE CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH,
ORANGE COUNTY**

The Bolsa Chica Lowlands involves roughly 1,200 acres of former wetlands near Huntington Beach, Orange County. During 1995-96 California State Lands Commission (Commission) staff worked with three other state and four federal agencies to craft a mitigation plan for the adverse effects of filling portions of San Pedro Bay. This fill enabled development of multi-modal terminal facilities for the Ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles. In 1996, the Commission entered into an interagency agreement to buy, plan, design, construct and maintain the Bolsa Chica wetlands to mitigate the impacts from the ports' new facilities. The ports contributed funding and in exchange received environmental mitigation credits.

In February 1997, the Commission, acting in its capacity as the Kapiloff Land Bank Trustee, approved the purchase of 880 acres for the Bolsa Chica Lowlands Restoration Project (Project). Additional funds came from state bond act monies and other sources and was deposited into the Kapiloff Land Bank Fund specifically for the Project and earned interest. Later, an additional property known as the Fieldstone Parcel was acquired with Kapiloff Land Bank funds and added to the Project restoration work.

Restoration construction was largely complete in 2006 when seawater again entered the Bolsa lowlands after a nearly 100-year absence. In all, \$151 million has been invested in the restoration and operation of the Project. Since then staff has periodically reported to the Commission on the progress and success of the restoration. Overall the Project has met the mitigation goals of the 1997 agreement.

Staff will be providing the Commission with an informational presentation during the August 19th meeting. The purpose of this informational presentation is to provide project background, a current status of the restoration, and describe future funding needs.