



**BOARD GIVES NOD TO WETLANDS RESTORATION
Plan Promises Completion, Maintenance of Bolsa Chica**

August 22, 2005

The Long Beach Board of Harbor Commissioners voted unanimously to approve a supplemental agreement on Monday, August 22, to help finance the remaining restoration of the Bolsa Chica Wetlands in exchange for additional mitigation credits. The Port's \$11.4 million contribution to the planned project not only helps ensure the completion of the project but also long-term maintenance of the Wetlands, located in Huntington Beach.

In 1997, the Port contributed more than \$39 million to the Bolsa Chica restoration effort. In return, the state and federal government allocated credits that allow the Port to modify and improve land within the harbor area. Bolsa Chica is the third restoration project the Port has sponsored. Other projects include the restoration of the Seal Beach National Wildlife Refuge in 1990 and the restoration of wetlands in the Upper Newport Bay.

The final stages of the Bolsa Chica restoration project have been delayed for several years and the funds that the Port and others contributed are no longer adequate to complete the project and provide for the long-term maintenance of the area. The new funding plan, created by the state and federal agencies overseeing the work, will return funding for the project to an adequate level.

The plan will be evaluated by the California Coastal Commission in September.

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