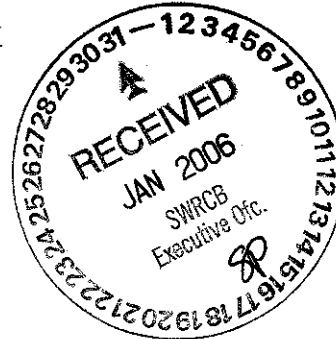


To: Selica Potter, Acting Clerk to the Board  
 State Water Resources Control Board  
 Executive Office  
 1001 I Street 24<sup>th</sup> Floor  
 Sacramento, CA 95814  
 Fax: (916) 341-5620  
 Email: [commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov)

From: Brenda Rogers  
 5315 S Marina Pacifica Dr/Key 20  
 Long Beach, CA 90803  
 Phone: (562) 799-8371  
 Fax: (562) 799-8371  
 Email: [rogersbrenda@charter.net](mailto:rogersbrenda@charter.net)



303 (d) Deadline:  
 1/31/06

### Introduction

The Los Cerritos Channel is a candidate for addition to the 303d list of the Clean Water Act under category (1) waters still requiring a TMDL. The water quality standard for **trash** in the Los Cerritos Channel has not been met, and therefore the Channel must be placed on the 303d **trash** update list for 2006. The Los Cerritos Channel is on the 303d list for other objectives, but not for a **trash** objective.

The photographic evidence included will show that the Los Cerritos Channel is an impaired waterway for **trash** requiring a TMDL.

### Photographic Contributors

**Algalita Marine Research Foundation**/148 Marina Dr, Long Beach,  
 CA90803/www.algalita.org/phone (562) 598-4889/fax (562)598-0712/ E-mail:  
[info@algalita.org](mailto:info@algalita.org) , for information on organization

Photographers: Bill Macdonald, V.P. media and promotions, and Charlie Moore,  
 founder

**Note:** Emails sent from Miriam Gordon/California Coastal Commission/phone  
 (415) 904-5214 on behalf of Agalita Marine Research Foundation

**Los Cerritos Wetlands Stewards**/Long Beach, Ca/Nonprofit Organization/Lenny  
 Arkinstall/phone (562) 225-4669

Photographer: Lenny Arkinstall, founder and CEO

**Note:** Articles below are from the Grunion Gazette Newspaper in Long Beach,  
[www.gazettes.com](http://www.gazettes.com)

## Grunion Gazette, The (Long Beach, CA)

March 4, 2004

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### New Cleanup Project Partners City, County, Corporation

*Jenny Lee Rice*

**Lenny Arkinstall** is fed up, he said, by trash. Specifically, the investment consultant turned garbage warrior is bothered by the tons of debris that gets dumped into the ocean each year. After a decade of lobbying from **Arkinstall**, the county began last week to lend direct help to collecting trash from the Los Cerritos Channel.

**Arkinstall**, who lives on a boat in Long Beach, said he was appalled by the amount of trash that would wash into the Bahia Marina after a storm. He took matters into his own hands, forming a one-man nonprofit corporation that cleaned up delicate habitats. The city's Parks, Recreation and Marine Department hired him as a contractor, where he has worked on Los Cerritos Wetlands and the Jack Dunster Marine Biological Reserve, as well as the channels and bays.

**Arkinstall's** approach to cleaning up the rivers and channels, up to this point, has been to "corral it with one of my barriers" and manually remove the debris. Now, with help from power company AES Alamitos and the county, **Arkinstall** expects the volume of trash collected to rise dramatically.

AES Alamitos' power plant funnels water from the Los Cerritos Channel through its facility as a means of cooling its turbines. The water essentially runs through the plant en route to the Pacific. For years, plant officials have battled the near constant influx of litter that threatens to clog their system.

"It comes into our plant and restricts water flow to the turbines," Plant Manager Tony Chavez explained.

The plant assembled teams of workers that would wade into the channel and pitchfork the garbage into dumpsters. Although most of the waste is delivered via storm drains, Chavez said, some people apparently use the channel as a personal dumping ground.

"I've seen sail boats, couches, thousands of Styrofoam cups and just bags of trash," he said. "We spend quite a few hours out there."

Nonetheless, **Arkinstall** has convinced AES to increase the flow of debris into the facility's intake bays, where the county's machinery is able to collect and dispose of it. The county, for its part, has committed to cleaning up after big storms and high tide cycles, **Arkinstall** said.

A preliminary run after last week's storm was successful, and **Arkinstall** said he is already looking forward to expanding the program to sort debris for recycling. Between the large-scale county cleanups, he will continue to tackle Los Cerritos one-on-one, manually picking out trash daily.

He said he doesn't intend to stop until Alamitos Bay is completely clean.

"I live in this," **Arkinstall** said.

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August 5, 2004

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### Eva, Canine Steward Of Wetlands, Dies

*Amy Bentley-Smith*

People who know Los Cerritos Wetlands steward **Lenny Arkinstall** often asked him how his dog, Eva, is doing before they inquired about him. That was fine with **Arkinstall** - he thought Eva was special, too.

Last Friday, Eva, known as the marsh dog because she was always by **Arkinstall's** side as he cleared the wetlands of trash, died of natural causes. She was 10 years old.

Eva came into **Arkinstall's** life by way of **Arkinstall's** son, **Lenny**. The puppy, only a few weeks old, had been left in the care of a bunch of partying college students, a rejected reconciliation present from one of the roommates to his girlfriend.

"My son brought me this little bundle," **Arkinstall** remembers. "I told him I'd take care of her for a couple of weeks, get her shots, get her de-wormed. After the two weeks, I couldn't give her back. She's been with me ever since."

A cocker spaniel mix with a black coat accented by a cross of white fur on her chest and a white goatee, Eva attracted a lot of attention, often when it was initially directed at **Arkinstall**. Coverage of his efforts to clean the Los Cerritos Wetlands and other local marshlands, including on **National Geographic, in the Los Angeles Times and many magazines around the world**, often highlighted Eva.

Locally, she was featured on the city cable show, "Heart of the City," hosted by Second District Councilman Dan Baker, who named Eva mascot of an award-winning watershed program he championed with **Arkinstall**. When **Arkinstall** was presented with an award from the state Parks and Recreation Department, a photo of Eva appeared on the screen behind him.

"She was just loved by so many," **Arkinstall** said. "I've already received tons of cards, phone calls and e-mails."

Eva's health started failing a few years ago; she went blind and had problems with her heart and liver. But all the while, she continued to go out with **Arkinstall** to meetings, on cleanups, restoration projects or to his many presentations to local school children.

"We were never apart," **Arkinstall** said. "I'll certainly miss my Eva at my side."

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January 8, 2004

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## No More Delays - Dunster Marine Biological Reserve To Open

*Amy Bentley-Smith*

It's taken more than 10 years, but this weekend, Dunster Marine Biological Reserve finally opens to the public. Mayor Beverly O'Neill will officially dedicate the reserve at a ceremony that begins at 10 a.m. Saturday.

An inter-tidal lagoon protected by a breakwater and upland area with a variety of coastal habitat vegetations, Dunster is in the **Los Cerritos Channel** northwest of Marine Stadium. With only walking paths, benches and over-water platforms, the reserve is intended as an educational tool for the public, particularly school-aged children.

Dunster was first formulated in the late 1980s, after plans for a marina basin and a traditional park were rejected. The late Jack Dunster, who at the time was a member of the Marine Advisory Commission, offered the compromise.

The reserve concept wasn't without its setbacks, both in design and budget. Construction finally began in 2001 and the final planting was completed in May 2002. But to give the plants time to root, the city kept the reserve closed. The plants grew so well that by September of that year, residents living in Spinnaker Bay and Spinnaker Cove were complaining of unsightly overgrowth. Dennis Eschen, director of parks planning and development, said some plants were removed and other adjustments made to improve the landscaping. The neighbors, he said, are pleased with the results.

What has kept the reserve closed for the past year has been the expansion of the Pete Archer Rowing Center around the corner from Dunster. The entrance to Dunster is behind the rowing center and has been obstructed by construction materials for the past year. Exterior work to the rowing center's expansion is finally complete, allowing better access to the reserve, officials said. Dunster will be open from dusk to dawn with access from Boat House Lane, the road leading to Pete Archer Rowing Center. Officials at the El Dorado Nature Center currently are developing programs specific to the reserve for local classroom lessons.

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September 22, 2005

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## Public Forum Looks At **Wetlands'** Future

*Harry Saltzgaver*

The latest group studying uses on and around the Los Cerritos **Wetlands** will ask the public what it thinks should happen there at a forum early next month. Called the Los Cerritos **Wetlands** Study Group, the task force was formed by Third District Councilman Frank Colonna last year after two proposed retail developments were proposed on the borders of the deteriorated **wetlands**. Since then, Bixby Ranch Company has withdrawn a plan to offer the **wetlands** for sale to developers - now saying they want to continue pumping oil there - and a third large mixed-used development has been proposed to the west of the **wetlands** and Pacific Coast Highway.

Most of Los Cerritos **Wetlands** currently is degraded and dotted with working oil wells. Bixby Ranch owns 181 acres, or more than half of the **wetland** property. For the last decade, the land company has been involved in negotiations with the state Land Conservancy to sell the property and restore it to **wetlands**. Those negotiations collapsed last year (largely on the escalating price of oil).

Colonna asked the group to consider land use on and around the **wetlands**, defined as the area south of the Los Cerritos Channel and east of Pacific Coast Highway to the Orange County border. That includes the **wetland** area, the Marketplace shopping center and Bixby Ranch's oil operation headquarters, off Second Street.

The developments in those boundaries include a Home Depot Design Center at the end of Loynes Drive on Studebaker Road (currently an oil tank farm) and the Marina Shores East mini-mall south of the Marketplace (sometimes called the Pumpkin Patch). While the Marina Shores project has been on hold since it was first publicly proposed, the Home Depot project has completed an Environmental Impact Review and is waiting for a hearing in front of the Planning Commission.

After the task force was formed in August 2004, Lennar proposed a redevelopment of the SeaPort Marina Hotel site, between Pacific Coast Highway and Marina Drive south of Second Street. The mixed retail and residential project has begun its EIR, but is not expected to have a draft ready until next year.

A primary concern already expressed by residents for all the projects is increased traffic congestion at the intersection of Pacific Coast Highway and Second Street - which already is rated as the most congested in the city. One solution proposed during previous studies has been the "Studebaker cut-through," continuing Studebaker Road around the Marketplace center and connecting with PCH to the south. That idea, though, would cut through some of the prime potential **wetlands** area.

From 7 to 9 p.m. on Oct. 5, a Wednesday, the study group will accept comments from the public at a forum planned for the Will Rogers Middle School auditorium. The school is at the corner of Monrovia and Appian Way, near Colorado Lagoon. The comments will be recorded by the city's Community Development Department for future study.

For more information or to make a comment about the area, call 570-6439. The Study Group has not set a deadline to offer its recommendations.

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August 25, 2005

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## Port Money May Help Los Cerritos

*Harry Saltzgaver*

Long Beach's port will spend another \$11.4 million to help restore the Bolsa Chica **Wetlands** in Orange County. There still is hope that Port of Long Beach money could be used to restore the Los Cerritos **Wetlands** in Long Beach, as well. But, port officials said, the Bolsa Chica mitigation credits were available now and it is unknown when or if there will be a chance to help at Los Cerritos.

"We'd still like to get something done at Los Cerritos," Port Director Richard Steinke said. "It's just that there are so many issues there. When they put it together, we'll be there. But whenever we can find mitigation credits at market rate, we are going to act on them."

Mitigation credits are how ports in California can grow. In order to mitigate the environmental impact of things like landfill to create a larger terminal, ports can help restore habitat elsewhere. The Port of Long Beach spent more than \$39 million in 1997 to start the Bolsa Chica restoration, and also has financed work at the Seal Beach National Wildlife Refuge and Upper Newport Bay. Environmentalists and city officials, Third District Councilman Frank Colonna in particular, have been trying to purchase and restore the Los Cerritos **Wetlands** for more than a decade. The property is east of Pacific Coast Highway, with much of it still an active oil field.

A deal with the Bixby Ranch Company, which owns 181 acres of the property, appeared close to fruition in 2003, but ultimately fell apart.

Bixby Ranch has no plans to sell or develop the property now due to the price of oil, said Stewart Honeyman, COO of Bixby Ranch Company.

"The land is going to remain an oil field for the foreseeable future," Honeyman said.

"We have managed to get an extension of time on the funding, which goes back to the Davis administration," Colonna said of \$7 million the state Lands Commission has set aside. "But now we have turned our attention to the Bryant Ranch property (closer to the Orange County border). The Bixby portion is still off in the distance. I'm afraid we're going to have to wait this one out." Steinke said the Port of Los Angeles matched the money the Port of Long Beach is giving to the Bolsa Chica project. The money will finish the restoration and establish a fund for long-term maintenance.

The Port of Long Beach received 38 mitigation credits for its \$11.4 million investment. While the formula is complicated, one mitigation credit essentially allows one acre of landfill. The plan will be reviewed next month by the state Coastal Commission. Approval is expected.

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June 9, 2005

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## Sewage Spill In Channel Causes Beach Closures

*Kurt Helin*

Just in time for summer, beaches facing Alamitos Bay were closed last weekend due to a **sewage spill** that contaminated the water in East Long Beach. Last Saturday (June 4), an estimated 2,500 gallons of **sewage** was spilled into the **Los Cerritos Channel**, said Nelson Kerr, manager for water programs of Long Beach Health and Human Services Department. The likely source was a Los Angeles County facility in the 2400 block of Studebaker Road.

"Based on estimation at the time, we thought it would be prudent to close Marine Stadium, Mother's Beach and Alamitos Bay," Kerr said. Those areas remained closed through the weekend as the Long Beach Health Department tested water quality. They reopened Monday. Mothers Beach in Naples, with its notoriously poor water circulation, remained closed through Tuesday due to water contamination, Kerr said. The beaches along the Peninsula also were tested for water quality over the weekend but there was no contamination there, Kerr said. In a recently released study by the environmental watchdog organization Heal The Bay, Alamitos Bay beaches fared well. The majority of beaches in the area received "A" grades, although Mother's Beach received a "C", one of the lowest grades in the city. This is not the first time city beaches have been closed due to an upstream **sewage spill**. Last year during a storm, 2.4 million gallons of **sewage** spilled into the Los Angeles River and ended up closing city beaches for several days after the rain subsided.

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**End**