

Topanga Lagoon Restoration Zoom Meeting Chat February 27, 2021

Questions and **Answers in red.**

09:42:13 From Elizabeth Herron to Kara Kemmler, Coastal Conservancy(Direct Message) : I don't know if this will be addressed but my Q is " how will you be filtering the water that will go into the Lagoon and into the Santa Monica Bay? **Increasing wetland and transitional habitat can help reduce nutrient and bacterial inputs from the lagoon into the ocean but at this stage of conceptual design, no specific filtering methods have been identified for use. It is possible that as the lagoon attracts more birds, that bacteria levels could increase. However, our 2015 fecal bacterial source identifications study (found on the RCD website) found that dogs and human "direct deposits" were responsible for most exceedences.**

09:56:01 From Annemarie Donkin to Kara Kemmler, Coastal Conservancy(Direct Message) : Is there crime and / or homelessness in the Topanga Motel area? **Yes. Fires on the beach and in the flood plain area are a consistent problem. The Rangers have relocated several encampments.**

09:57:58 From Richard Bloom to Everyone : Hi Everyone, It's great to see so many people here today. thanks for your interest in this very important project! -Richard

10:03:43 From Bruce Hamamoto to Kara Kemmler, Coastal Conservancy(Direct Message) : How can businesses like Reel Inn be removed. Do they have revocable leases? **All the businesses on the north side of PCH are concessions under lease with state parks. These leases are month to month.**

10:19:46 From Suzanne Goode to Kara Kemmler, Coastal Conservancy(Direct Message) : Can elements from the various options be exchanged to create sub-options? **Yes, sub options such as the Alternative 2 dendritic pattern on the west side could be integrated into Alternative 3 or 4 with some modifications.**

10:19:49 From natty to Kara Kemmler, Coastal Conservancy(Direct Message) : Can you address what is being considered about removing septic and potentially installing sewer lines. **State Parks is initiating an Overnight Accommodations and Visitor Serving Study which will evaluate this problem. Results of the study will be available in early 2022.**

10:20:07 From PMB to Kara Kemmler, Coastal Conservancy(Direct Message) : would there be a possible relocation of the historic topanga ranch motel in alternative 2? **Relocation of the Ranch Motel will change its historic context but it could be possible to move overnight accommodations to along Topanga Canyon Blvd. The whole area is zoned Open Space and so anything more than camping will require a variance from the Local Coastal Program.**

10:20:09 From Dorothy Reik to Kara Kemmler, Coastal Conservancy(Direct Message) : Why do the gobies prefer Topanga? I think that shows we should go with Alternative 1!! **Gobies recolonized Topanga following their reintroduction in malibu in mid-1990's after being extirpated since at least the 1970's. There are no predators of gobies in Topanga at this time and conditions are suitable for their reproduction however storm events reduce the population regularly as there is little refugia habitat.**

10:20:52 From Graham (he/him) Surfrider LA to Kara Kemmler, Coastal Conservancy(Direct Message) : What has been the input from local Chumash and Tongva on this project? **State Parks initiated consultation with local tribal representatives and thus far they are supportive since there is no plan to impact any buried resources.**

10:20:54 From Haven Scott McVarish to Kara Kemmler, Coastal Conservancy(Direct Message) : hi! Just wondering why can't relocate that motel and place it elsewhere, like at the very corner or adjacent to the shops on the very corner of Topanga Canyon Boulevard and PCH. **Motel could be relocated but it would lose its historic context. This is something that will be further evaluated in the Overnight Accommodation and Visitor Serving Study that is starting soon. Results will be shared at the December 2021 meeting.**

10:20:58 From Suzanne Goode to Kara Kemmler, Coastal Conservancy(Direct Message) : In other words, can we get the same maximum lagoon area without moving PCH north? **Maximum lagoon restoration is Alternative 2 which does not move PCH.**

10:21:00 From Charles Thomas to Kara Kemmler, Coastal Conservancy(Direct Message) : Thanks for the excellent and very necessary work!! I noticed that all of the presenters are white or at least white presenting would like to know what types of outreach was performed to engage the communities of color and who did the outreach? Especially the Native American and African American communities? **Thank you so much for your question. Yes, the project team is predominantly white. For the Native American community, Barbara Tejada with State Parks who is overseeing the historical, cultural and archeological resource protection for the project, has been consulting with the Fernandeano and Tongva tribal community. We have been thinking about and talking about doing specific outreach to communities of color as well. So far we have only sent email notices for the public meeting to community based orgs that we are aware of in the larger LA area. We would love to engage BIPOC folks in the process, especially as it relates to the access and visitor serving aspects. We are working on a strategy which we may do as a direct and separate parallel process.**

10:22:23 From Matt Doolin to Kara Kemmler, Coastal Conservancy(Direct Message) : Is there any way to combine Alt 2 elevations with Alt 4 PCH movement? **The restoration of the west side of the creek could be incorporated into Alt 4.**

10:22:24 From Meganwilliams to Kara Kemmler, Coastal Conservancy(Direct Message) : Why isn't the "high ground" off of TCB being used for pay parking TSP? Away from the beach area? **The parking along TCB road shoulder is currently free parking and since it is part of the state park could be further utilized. That option is under consideration.**

10:22:47 From Aren Sol Lipman Williams to Kara Kemmler, Coastal Conservancy(Direct Message) : Are there any plans to change current situation of direct street runoff from PCH into lagoon? **Storm water capture and Best Management Practices to reduce input into the lagoon will be incorporated into whatever preferred alternative is selected but is not highlighted at this 30% conceptual stage.**

10:22:57 From Snowdy Dodson, CNPS LASMM Chapter to Kara Kemmler, Coastal Conservancy(Direct Message) : Is there a CA native plant palette? Is there a weed management plan? **Once the preferred alternative is selected, the habitat restoration will develop the appropriate native plant palette to restore the different zones (wetland, lower bank, upper bank, etc.). A weed management plan will also be developed at that time.**

10:23:00 From Bruce Hamamoto to Kara Kemmler, Coastal Conservancy(Direct Message) : What is the timeframe for design completion and start of construction? Is there already funding for construction? We will finish 30% conceptual designs by end of 2021. **We have applied for grant funds to complete the**

next steps of CEQA/NEPA process. Once a preferred alternative is selected, we will move towards final design. There is no funding in hand for next steps yet.

10:23:07 From Griffin Srednick to Kara Kemmler, Coastal Conservancy(Direct Message) : What is the gradient of breach potential across alternatives? **The elevation of the beach berm would not change, nor the mouth opening for any of the alternatives.**

10:23:36 From Mark Abramson to Kara Kemmler, Coastal Conservancy(Direct Message) : Water quality at Malibu lagoon has markedly improved since the restoration. Also if you are fixing or restoring these structures restaurants hotel, extra parking ,, how are you going to address the pollution that are caused by these amenities. Sewer? **The Overnight Accommodations and Visitor Serving Study will address the issue of how to handle both impervious surface run off and graywater and septic issues. The results of that study will be shared in early 2022.**

10:23:44 From Elizabeth Herron to Kara Kemmler, Coastal Conservancy(Direct Message) : What is the water quality of the Topanga Creek when it reaches that area just north of the Lagoon? Has it been tested and what are the findings? **Water quality monitoring found that the area north of the lagoon has good quality except during first flush storm events. All reports on water quality are available at www.rcdsmm.org.**

10:24:42 From Matt Doolin to Kara Kemmler, Coastal Conservancy(Direct Message) : What about location of Original Native Inhabitants, that would be historically relevant? **We are working with the Fernandeano and Tongva tribal community on avoidance of impacts to indigenous sites and incorporation of public interpretive materials on the significance of the area in pre-contact and post-contact historical periods. Alternative 2 reduces grade the most, which is closest to the historic condition.**

10:24:45 From Leslie Purcell to Kara Kemmler, Coastal Conservancy(Direct Message) : **Alt 4 involves moving PCH to the east?--a huge endeavor--and looks like it would be next to the Ranch Motel--not very conducive to a restful stay.** **PCH in Alternative 4 arcs to the north on the surface of the current state parks parking lot, and so moves closer to the Ranch Motel to allow for larger beach area to the south.**

10:24:55 From Robert Jan van de Hoek to Kara Kemmler, Coastal Conservancy(Direct Message) : Car access favor rich not poor and not nature. Bus access brings poor and masses and gives us open space instead of parking lots even if not paved parking lot. Bias, environmental and social combined. **There is currently a bus stop at the corner of PCH and TCB to remain. In addition, the pending Visitor Services study will take this comment into consideration and study appropriate public transportation for recreational and educational access to the beach and park areas of the sit**

10:25:28 From Allen Ma to Kara Kemmler, Coastal Conservancy(Direct Message) : Are there existing public restrooms? Does any of the Alternatives include public restroom facilities? **The existing public restrooms are in the lifeguard headquarters on the beach. There is also a vault toilet by the Ranch Motel. At this 30% conceptual design level we have not identified locations for additional restroom facilities.**

10:25:30 From Graham (he/him) Surfrider LA to Kara Kemmler, Coastal Conservancy(Direct Message) : Can you elaborate on the modeling that was conducted to understand / avoid impacts to the surf break? **It is not modeling that tells us whether the surf break is affected, but rather the conceptual design and grading plans. The design was purposefully and intentionally done to avoid any changes to the**

bathymetry and to the intertidal shoreline. Changes to either of these areas could change the surf break. However, avoiding any changes to these areas will not change the surf break. Stormflow discharges and patterns will remain the same as existing conditions, and breaches of the lagoon mouth will not be affected. Therefore no changes to surfing are anticipated. Modeling of sediment transport was done to identify whether sediment continues to be discharged offshore during storms, and results show that largely that process will remain as is. Slightly less sediment will be delivered to the ocean with Alternative 2 during large storms, but that should also not affect surfing because the bathymetry of the surf break is primarily determined by large rocks that were historically discharged from the creek to form a delta. No changes are proposed to that rock delta configuration.

10:25:42 From Robert Jan van de Hoek to Kara Kemmler, Coastal Conservancy(Direct Message) : What about independent historic evaluation not by state parks doing evaluation. Highway Bridge is historic and cabins and Reel Inn all historic. The Topanga Ranch Motel has been evaluated by both State Parks cultural resources staff and a historic preservation consultant. Consultation has been conducted with the State Historic Preservation Office which has concurred with the findings of eligibility for the Motel. This consultation will be continuing during the environmental analysis stage of the project. The other structures have been reviewed and found not to meet historic eligibility criteria. Caltrans has separately [reviewed](#) all their bridges over 50 years of age and we will be working with them on their eligibility documentation.

10:26:04 From Robert Jan van de Hoek to Kara Kemmler, Coastal Conservancy(Direct Message) : Explain bias of income of presenter to be honest to public.

10:26:25 From Matt Doolin to Kara Kemmler, Coastal Conservancy(Direct Message) : What about recreational areas of the state park north of the lagoon farther inland? The Topanga State Park General Plan (2012) identified the floodplain north of the lagoon as critical wildlife habitat so there is no formal recreational program proposed, although trail access might be possible.

10:39:57 From Elizabeth Herron to Kara Kemmler, Coastal Conservancy(Direct Message) : Why aren't there plans to filter the water prior to being discharged into the Bay? Would the filtered water be problematic for the trout/fish? Yes runoff from developed surfaces such as PCH and parking is a concern. These are 30% conceptual designs so that level of detail is not yet available. Best management Practices will be part of the final alternative design.

10:42:24 From Dorothy Reik to Kara Kemmler, Coastal Conservancy(Direct Message) : Ted Lieu is going to make Topanga Beach and Lagoon part of the national park system. We need to wait until we see what that will mean. Stop this for now!!! This may come under the National Recreation Area, but the ownership under DPR and LACBH would remain. We will reach out to Rep. Lieu's staff for more information on the goals and timing of this proposal.

10:42:32 From Kara Kemmler, Coastal Conservancy to Snowdy Dodson, CNPS LASMM Chapter(Direct Message) : Thank you for your question- I love native plants!! We don't have a palette selected yet because we are still at the conceptual design phase but the project is primarily a habitat restoration and climate resiliency project so the plant palette will be mostly, if not all native. We would appreciate your continued input on this.

10:43:15 From Snowy Dodson, CNPS LASMM Chapter to Kara Kemmler, Coastal Conservancy(Direct Message) : Great

10:44:42 From Allen Ma to Kara Kemmler, Coastal Conservancy(Direct Message) : Does the Alternatives include increasing the number of restroom facilities?

10:48:03 From Kara Kemmler, Coastal Conservancy to Allen Ma(Direct Message) : Since we are still in conceptual phase, we haven't evaluated number of restrooms yet but please let us know if you think the number needs to change/increase.

10:49:10 From Griffin Srednick to Kara Kemmler, Coastal Conservancy(Direct Message) : another one though...did the 2D hydrodynamic model consider how each configuration might contribute to stream-mouth migration over time? **Yes see the presentation notes.**

10:49:24 From Graham (he/him) Surfrider LA to Kara Kemmler, Coastal Conservancy(Direct Message) : I'm interested in what specifically has been done in the modeling process to understand / avoid impacts to surf. We're concerned with the assertion that there will be no impacts. I don't understand how you can silo a dynamic system / process (wave formation) from a major project that will invariably alter the inputs that create those waves. **It is not modeling that tells us whether the surf break is affected, but rather the conceptual design and grading plans. The design was purposefully and intentionally done to avoid any changes to the bathymetry and to the intertidal shoreline.**

10:49:31 From Allen Ma to Kara Kemmler, Coastal Conservancy(Direct Message) : Thank you.

10:49:38 From Graham (he/him) Surfrider LA to Kara Kemmler, Coastal Conservancy(Direct Message) : Just wanting more specificity is all, thanks

10:51:04 From Suzanne Goode to Kara Kemmler, Coastal Conservancy(Direct Message) : What's the benefit of moving PCH north? **It provides greater resiliency for SLR and additional depth for the recreational use and habitat value of the beach, as well as for the new PCH structure.**

10:52:46 From Haven Scott McVarish to Kara Kemmler, Coastal Conservancy(Direct Message) : with rising oceans, will much of this work be undone in the next decade or 2? **SLR adaptability is a major consideration of the alternatives and while things will definitely change, providing greater low elevation area for the lagoon and creek to migrate in response is our plan.**

10:55:28 From Matt Doolin to Kara Kemmler, Coastal Conservancy(Direct Message) : Any way to create a double layer parking structure on the far northwest side to be as visually hidden as possible in order to have more open space on the beach and lagoon areas? **Decked, multilevel parking is possible in a number of locations at the site, and will be considered in the next phase of this project and in the Visitor Services study to follow. There is a 22' elevation difference between the proposed surface of the PCH bridges and the level of the underpass road. This is sufficient height to both lower the upper parking level on the beach side, and to stack another level underneath the upper level.**

11:50:27 From PMB to Kara Kemmler, Coastal Conservancy(Direct Message) : we did not have a moderator - so we auto moderated ourselves. (room 8) Charles Thomas will debrief for us

11:50:31 From elena eger to Kara Kemmler, Coastal Conservancy(Direct Message) : We did not have a moderator so we did not have any questions to follow...

11:50:32 From Snowdy Dodson, CNPS LASMM Chapter to Kara Kemmler, Coastal Conservancy(Direct Message) : I have to leave for another meeting thanks so much.

11:51:20 From Anthea Raymond to Kara Kemmler, Coastal Conservancy(Direct Message) : Kara — Breakout room ended up being self moderated and Charles Thomas will be our presenter

11:51:49 From Anthea Raymond to Kara Kemmler, Coastal Conservancy(Direct Message) : Breakout room 8, sorry.

11:51:50 From Robert Jan van de Hoek to Kara Kemmler, Coastal Conservancy(Direct Message) : Zoom is ideal. I did not have to drive and cost of travel and time. More public present potentially with Zoom.

11:58:13 From Robert Jan van de Hoek to Kara Kemmler, Coastal Conservancy(Direct Message) : Topanga Hotel as educational housing for student environmental studies, both nature and culture. An idea that supports restoring the building of hotel. **The functional program of Visitor Services including former Topanga Ranch Motel will be considered as part of the remaining work of this phase and the subsequent Visitor Services study. The existing structures could be used in new ways as you suggest and will be studied.**

12:05:32 From Annemarie Donkin to Kara Kemmler, Coastal Conservancy(Direct Message) : Would that be \$50 million for any and all alternatives? **Since we do not have a preferred alternative it is not possible to provide a realistic cost estimate at this time and the project team has not done any cost studies or estimates.**

12:06:37 From lindadubin@gmail.com to Kara Kemmler, Coastal Conservancy(Direct Message) : Love the idea of making it part of National Seashore, Present administration and Congress may be more receptive than past.

12:07:06 From Kara Kemmler, Coastal Conservancy to Annemarie Donkin(Direct Message) : **We are only in conceptual design phase so this is a rough estimate and we don't have the project or alternatives costed out yet. No estimate of cost has been developed by the team , “rough” or otherwise. All of the alternatives proposed will have different construction and life cycle costs associated with them.**

12:11:28 From lindadubin@gmail.com to Kara Kemmler, Coastal Conservancy(Direct Message) : Thanks so much. It's great to hear all the good ideas.

12:25:02 From Wendi Gladstone to Kara Kemmler, Coastal Conservancy(Direct Message) : Sorry, I have to leave. I have another meeting. Great job today!

12:33:08 From D Dwyer to Kara Kemmler, Coastal Conservancy(Direct Message) : consolidate parking for safety: minimize human impact on restored areas, widen beach. **These ideas will be considered.**

12:33:57 From Annemarie Donkin to Kara Kemmler, Coastal Conservancy(Direct Message) : When did State Parks take over the Lagoon area? **2001**

12:35:40 From Anthea Raymond to Kara Kemmler, Coastal Conservancy(Direct Message) : Also we did not support Alternative 2 — we'd like to see a hybrid of 3-4 that achieves the balance between ecological and historical restoration we noted. **Thanks for that clarification.**

12:36:28 From Kara Kemmler, Coastal Conservancy to Everyone : Thank you all for your input and questions. We will post comments from the chat on website and answer any unaddressed questions there as well. Enjoy the rest of your weekend!

12:37:10 From Kara Kemmler, Coastal Conservancy to Anthea Raymond(Direct Message) : You're right. We heard that and those comments will be posted as well. Thank you for your input.

12:37:23 From Glenn Bailey to Kara Kemmler, Coastal Conservancy(Direct Message) : When will the group priorities be posted on the RCDSMM website? Thanks.

12:37:27 From clark stevens, RCDSMM to Everyone : thank you to everyone who gave a Saturday to help make the project successful

12:42:52 From Kara Kemmler, Coastal Conservancy to Glenn Bailey(Direct Message) : It may take some time to collect all of the materials but Rosi is pretty good about posting quickly. I'll make a note that we may send out an email to everyone when the materials are posted.

12:43:46 From Glenn Bailey to Kara Kemmler, Coastal Conservancy(Direct Message) : Email once posted would be great. Thanks.

12:43:55 From Sabine Stork to Kara Kemmler, Coastal Conservancy(Direct Message) : thank you everyone for your service and devotion to the environment and Topanga in general

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS:

Juliet Lemar: Hello, I am a reporter for Palisades Today. We would like to do post event coverage of your February 2021 meeting. Is there a recorded version of the meeting we can view or is there someone I can speak with about what was discussed at the meeting?

Thank you and take care. **The presentation and link to the recording are posted on our website.**
<https://www.rcdsmm.org/resources/topanga-lagoon-restoration/>

Kevin Schallert: I see that the draft plan has several units of staff housing closest to the water. What is the justification, what steps will be taken to ensure that this state asset isn't abused by state employees, and how will the park keep the largest possible access to the public? I would much rather the extra units be provided to the public for low cost housing. **Only 1 unit is currently housing a ranger. The others are all empty or used for storage. The alternatives differentiation is between blue units that will be moved and red units in their current position. Use of the whole area is still under development and will focus on serving the public.**

Lynn E Levitt: Interested in how this works with the Enhanced Water Management Program 2016. **We are currently at a very preliminary design level so the BMP's associated with this Plan are not yet integrated into the project. Protecting and improving water quality is a project goal.**

Ross O'Shea: As a new volunteer, what are the first steps we can take other than simply educating ourselves that work towards achieving the first goals set to be tackled in 2021 & 2022 for the project? **Please keep checking in on the website for updates and let us know if you want to volunteer for restoration projects like the tree care, etc.**

Dorothy Reik: How do we keep the lagoon natural? **The alternatives developed all focus on protecting, enhancing and restoring ecosystem functions to the lagoon, which is currently small with limited habitat.**