

# New Crisis at LA's Ballona Wetlands: A Monday 10am News Conference to Stop Destruction of LA's Last Coastal Wetlands!

*FOSSIL FUEL INDUSTRY'S ALREADY DIGGING & DRILLING, EVEN AS COMMUNITY LEADERS SEEK TO STOP THE DESTRUCTIVE BULLDOZING PLAN, WHILE PUBLIC IS FOCUSED ON COVID*

PLAYA DEL REY, CALIFORNIA, USA,  
October 5, 2020 /EINPresswire.com/ --  
NEW CRISIS AT LA'S BALLONA  
WETLANDS!



NEWS CONFERENCE  
MONDAY, OCTOBER 5TH  
TIME: 10am pacific



Wildfires are ravaging habitats in California, accelerating wildlife extinction. So, obviously, we should not go out of our way to destroy more wildlife habitats. Bulldozing Ballona makes no sense."

*Environmental Activist*

ZOOM LINK TO JOIN:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/439247599>

ALSO WATCH AT: [facebook.com/JaneVelezMitchell](https://www.facebook.com/JaneVelezMitchell)

LISTEN LIVE:

<https://www.voiceamerica.com/show/2754/janeunchained>

CALL IN: 866 472-5795

WHO: PLAINTIFFS IN ONGOING LAWSUIT AGAINST BULLDOZING PLAN, Marcia Hanscom, Molly Basler, Roy van de Hoek, Lisa Karlan

CAUGHT IN THE ACT

In a shocking development, and while people are focused on the COVID-19 crisis, the gas industry has been caught doing an end-run around the will of the public, which is rising up against the horrific plan to bulldoze the Ballona Wetlands, LA's last coastal wetlands in Playa del Rey whose 640 acres is teeming with 1,700 species of animals and plants, some endangered.

THE PUBLIC SAYS: DON'T BULLDOZE BALLONA WETLANDS

During public meetings community leaders have denounced the plan to bulldoze the wetlands, which is being pushed by allies of the fossil fuel industry. A [lawsuit has also been filed](#) to stop this destructive project. The agenda of this phony “restoration” plan is to allow the industry to excavate the wetlands, refurbish crumbling gas infrastructure which lies underneath and throughout this ecological reserve, and extend the life of this facility which contributes to climate change impacts. The unpopular bulldozing project’s environmental impact report confirms the controversial plan would involve moving wells to allow new fossil fuel infrastructure to be installed.

#### FOSSIL FUEL ACTIVITY NEAR ENDANGERED BIRD HABITAT

Recently, local residents noticed workers digging and drilling inside the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve, just feet away from where endangered birds have been documented.

#### UNDER THE RADAR

Ballona advocates have now learned that California Governor Gavin Newsom’s administration has quietly approved nine permits through an agency that oversees oil & gas operations in the state. In essence, these permits – in a covert and piecemeal way - start the destruction that dozens of environmental, Democratic and community organizations are working to stop.

#### SO MANY QUESTIONS SPARKING ALARM

The environmentalists and community leaders trying to stop the massive bulldozing project have posed numerous questions about this newly discovered work: has the industry gone through proper procedures to do this work in the California coastal zone? Why has the Coastal Commission not overseen permit restrictions normally required (including public hearings) for significant activity in a state ecological reserve? What is the role of CA Dept of Fish & Wildlife to protect wildlife at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve?



Egrets enjoying life at Ballona Wetlands, unaware there is a plan to destroy their home.



This is what residents discovered, work that alarmed them, as it is near habitats where endangered birds have been documented.

## TIME TO PHASE OUT FOSSIL FUELS

Several LA politicians have called for the gas storage facility in the Ballona Wetlands to be decommissioned. We are approaching the 5-year anniversary of the infamous Aliso Canyon gas blowout, considered one of the worst environmental catastrophe's in California's history. Aliso Canyon is the site of a fossil fuel facility similar to the one at the Ballona Wetlands.



What's going on here? Concerned citizens are demanding answers. Why didn't the public know?

## TRYING TO PREVENT A DECADE LONG TRAFFIC NIGHTMARE ON LA'S WESTSIDE

The controversial bulldozing project would create a decade-long traffic nightmare on LA's gridlocked westside, crippling traffic around LAX, Playa del Rey, Westchester, Marina del Rey, Culver City, Venice and beyond.

## THE PUBLIC WOULD BE BLOCKED FROM THIS IDYLIC SPOT FOR A DECADE

The public access that bulldozing proponents promote could be achieved today. There are trails and bike paths currently in use. One main trail is kept from the public by a huge locked gate. Who holds the key? The gas company. Public access is being held hostage in order to claim they need to destroy nature to provide public access. Orwellian. This 270-million dollar boondoggle must not stand.

For more information: [defendballonawetlands.org](http://defendballonawetlands.org)

Contacts: Marcia Hanscom (310) 877-2634 [wetlandact@earthlink.net](mailto:wetlandact@earthlink.net)  
Molly Basler (310) 497-5980 [mollybasler@greendreamcampaign.com](mailto:mollybasler@greendreamcampaign.com)

Marcia Hanscom  
Defend Ballona Wetlands  
+1 310-877-2634  
[email us here](#)

---

This press release can be viewed online at: <https://www.einpresswire.com/article/527649562>

EIN Presswire's priority is source transparency. We do not allow opaque clients, and our editors try to be careful about weeding out false and misleading content. As a user, if you see something we have missed, please do bring it to our attention. Your help is welcome. EIN Presswire, Everyone's Internet News Presswire™, tries to define some of the boundaries that are reasonable in today's world. Please see our Editorial Guidelines for more information.

