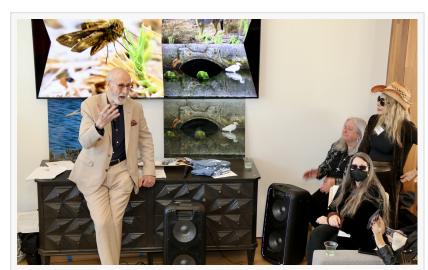


## Oscar-nominated Actor James Cromwell Headlines Event to Stop Destructive Bulldozing of LA's Ballona Wetlands

"We will win," declared Cromwell, to a roar of approval from the more than 200 Los Angeles residents who were there because they cherish wildlife.

VENICE, CALIFORNIA, US, November 21, 2022 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Venice, CA... Oscar-nominated actor James Cromwell, star of the hit show Succession, spoke Sunday to more than 200 residents of Playa del Rey, Marina del Rey, Venice, Culver City and Santa Monica, all opponents of the scam "restoration" project that aims to bulldoze LA's last coastal wetlands, the



Actor James Cromwell speak out - photo by Natalie Ford

<u>Ballona</u> Wetlands Ecological Reserve in Playa del Rey!

With the lawyers who are fighting in court standing nearby, Cromwell vowed to do all he could to

"

We will Win!"

James Cromwell, Succession

Actor

stop the project, declaring, "we will win," to rousing applause from the crowd. The Defend Ballona Wetlands event raised more than \$15,000 to pay for attorneys fees in the battle to protect the habitat.

Several lawsuits are in court challenging the deeply flawed

plan to bulldoze the ecological reserve that is home to 1,700 species including threatened and endangered species. The Army Corp of Engineers has refused to give approval to the project, citing mistakes in the flood control figures, which critics say could result in danger to surrounding residents as sea levels rise and storms intensify.

Marcia Hanscom, of <u>DefendBallonaWetlands.org</u>, said, "We have a 20-point Gentle Restoration Plan, which achieves the legitimate goals of restoration, without decimating wildlife. Wholesale destruction is not restoration; we will prove that in court."

Also stirring up the crowed was UnchainedTV founder and New York Times bestselling author Jane Velez-Mitchell who said, "I saw more than 40 pelicans playing near the mouth of the Ballona Wetlands, and I burst into tears, fearing what these bureaucrats have planned for them. I will fight to the end to save the wildlife because I don't want to live in a dead zone, where the wild animals have been wiped out. How can we criticize Brazil for destroying its wetlands, if we bulldoze ours?"

Wendy-Sue Rosen, of Protect Ballona Wetlands, said the question remains, "Why? We are perplexed as to why the state wants this when Governor Newsom has called for nature-based solutions. Bulldozing will release stored and sequestered carbon into the atmosphere at a time of climate emergency. It makes no sense!"

Critics have denounced this plan as the ultimate greenwashing plan. "Follow the money," said Simone Reyes, an attendee, noting the fossil fuel industry has a gas storage facility underneath the wetlands which they want to retrofit with new pipes and wells. "How are you going to get down there to work on it without those bulldozers? That's the real objective."

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The Fundraiser to defend LA's Ballona Wetlands is packed - Natalie Ford Photography



Ballona Burrowing Owl - Photo by Jonathan Coffin



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

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