



April 2014 Newsletter

Inside:

- [Visit Our New Website!](#)
- [Dr. Shelley Luce Departs](#)
- [Outreach & Education News](#)
- [Outreach at the WRD Groundwater Festival](#)
- [What is the Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project?](#)
- [Internships and Volunteer Opportunities](#)
- [Stay Connected!](#)

**Visit Our New Website!**

[www.ballonarestoration.org](http://www.ballonarestoration.org)

[California Department of Fish and Wildlife](#) (CDFW), [Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission](#), State Coastal Conservancy and the [Annenberg Foundation](#) announced a joint website to provide an initial outline of potential restoration alternatives at Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve. The website builds on a prior site, and features scientific studies, history of meetings and information about the wetlands.

The website, [ballonarestoration.org](http://ballonarestoration.org), provides an early overview of proposed alternatives that will be presented in a draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) that is anticipated to be released before the end of 2014. Upon release, interested parties and members of the public will have an opportunity to review and comment on the EIR/EIS.

Because this website precedes the EIR/EIS, the proposed alternatives are subject to change. The state and private partners created the site to provide as much information as possible to interested parties.

([Source](#))

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## Dr. Shelley Luce Departs

We're saddened to announce the departure of our Executive Director Dr. Shelley Luce this month. She joined the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission in 2005 after serving as Science and Policy Director at Heal the Bay. Her work included overseeing large-scale wetlands restoration projects, facilitated community-based greenway planning in dense urban Los Angeles, developed local water budgets and rainwater harvesting programs, and produced major planning documents such as the [Green Solutions](#) report.

Please join us in wishing Dr. Luce the best as she moves on to new challenges.

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# Outreach & Education News

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## Outreach at the WRD Groundwater Festival

On March 15th, we shared a table with the [TreePeople](#) at the Water Replenishment District (WRD) of Southern California's 7th Annual "Treasure Beneath Our Feet" Groundwater Festival on Saturday, March 15th, 2014, at its headquarters in Lakewood, California. Thousands of people enjoyed the Festival's 40 environmental exhibits, fun and educational activities, and useful and practical information.

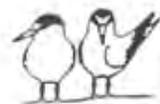
([Press Release](#))





Outreach coordinator Rod Abbott discusses volunteer opportunities.

(Photo: TBF)



Friends of Ballona Wetlands

Protecting and restoring the Ballona Wetlands for over 35 years with the help of

more than 75,000 volunteers.

## What is the Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project?



Stretching from Playa del Rey to Venice, the Ballona Wetlands once occupied a 2000-acre expanse of critical coastal habitat. Currently covering an area of 600 acres, the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve is the largest and most promising opportunity for coastal wetland restoration in Los Angeles County.

(Photo: TBF/Ivan Medel made possible by LightHawk)

The Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project is a long-term, science-based plan to return the Ballona Wetlands into a thriving ecological reserve. By healing this highly degraded site, the restoration project will create a diverse, resilient and dynamic ecosystem while providing a unique opportunity for the community to reconnect with southern California's natural heritage.

(Photo: TBF)



# Internships and Volunteer Opportunities

Assist with Scientific Monitoring and improve watershed health with the SMBRC.

The Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission and its partners have many programs and projects happening at any one time so there is always something great to participate in! Weekday and weekend opportunities available.

If you're interested in becoming an intern or volunteer, email Rod Abbott at [rabbott@santamonibay.org](mailto:rabbott@santamonibay.org)

(Photo:TBF)



## Stay Connected!

Fanatical about Facebook? Tickled with Twitter? Join the Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Flickr, and Instagram to stay informed and up-to-date on the exciting phases of the Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project.



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