

# Ormond Beach Restoration and Public Access Project

## Public Meeting #3

### November 17, 2021, 5 pm - 7:00 pm

### Summary

#### Overview

On November 17, 2021, the Ormond Beach Restoration and Public Access Project (OBRAP) Partners, The Nature Conservancy (TNC), the City of Oxnard, and the State Coastal Conservancy (SCC) convened a public meeting to share highlights about the Preferred Alternative and Preliminary Design Plan, share next steps for the OBRAP, and answer questions from the public. The meeting was held as a Zoom webinar with Spanish language interpretation, and was facilitated by staff from the Consensus and Collaboration Program (CCP) at the California State University, Sacramento. The webinar allowed members of the public to submit questions directly to the presenters via the chat and Q &A function. Attendees were able to see questions that had been answered live by the presenters, but not the list of all questions submitted. Given the time constraints, not all questions were answered. The meeting agenda included the following:

- Welcome/Tech Orientation
- Presentation on Preferred Alternative and Preliminary Design Plan
- Next Steps for the OBRAP
- Question & Answer Session
- Wrap Up & Closing Thoughts

Comments and questions submitted by attendees during the webinar through Zoom's chat and Q & A function are summarized by theme below.

#### Attendee Questions & Comments

##### Adjacent/Nearby Properties and Land Owners

- Any discussion of acquiring the Jurgen's/sod farm land?
- What's the status of Agromin moving out?
- Why is MWD still indicated? Thought it was gifted to TNC?
- Just wondering how the cleanup of Bolsa Chica is going in relation to our large wetlands; can someone comment on that. This is why Ormond is so very precious.
- Is there any planning for the eventual decommissioned power plant? (plan for the power plant removal in 2024)
- What is the disposition of the demolition and removal of the electrical plant?
- **Halaco Site**

#### Summary

- How can the project succeed without securing and acquiring Halaco site?
- Can the project be successful without including the Halaco property—and plan for the eventual power plant removal?
- Is the Halaco property, including the slag pile going to be acquired, or secured to mitigate the chronic homeless encampments impacting public safety, with the increased public access this project will bring?
- How closely have the Project Partners worked with the EPA in cleaning up the Halaco Superfund site? Is there a deadline for its cleanup?

#### City of Port Hueneme

- You mentioned a bridge to the Port Hueneme access. Does this mean that you are working with the city of Port Hueneme? If so, what is that city's role?
- Are the Project Partners receptive to having the City of Port Hueneme actively work with them on the OBRAP?

#### Encampments and People without Housing

- What is the plan to keep people from occupying the area? Will there be a dedicated security component such as park rangers who can monitor activities?
- What will be the solution for people without housing?

#### Land Manager

- Any update on a land manager yet?
- Who are you looking at for land managers? Who has already said "No" to being a land manager?
- Have the Project Partners found a land manager? If not, what is your contingency plan?
- What can you tell the public about your process for vetting a land manager, who the Project Partners contacted, and whether each party were supplied with a formal request for proposal?
- Can you tell us who you have talked to with regard to a permanent manager at Ormond?
- Has there been any progress on a land manager?
- I know you are still working on the land management issue but any timeline there? Obviously it's a big deal.

#### Safety Issues

- There are safety issues with E. McWane Street, with the illegal activities that are common there. How are those safety concerns being addressed?
- Will the safety concerns impact PH and Oxnard budgets for the possible need for increased safety staffing?
- What will be the solutions for space security?

Summary

### Site Design / Site Access

- Will the railroad allow public to access Ormond via the railroad right of way at Hueneme Road?
- Is the fencing permanent? Can it be easily moved since the birds don't always nest in exactly the same place.
- Will there ever be a visitor center?
- Of the public access trails proposed, does the OBRAP design envision they consist of ATVs, bicycles, RVs/ Day trailers, pedestrian-scale foot paths? Or combination of all?
- Why not just leave the area as protected habitat, and not for human use? That always seemed to be central to the mission of The Nature Conservancy in the past.
- **Lighting**
  - Are the OBRAP Partners contemplating night lighting in all public places? If so, what form of lighting will be used?
  - Does the City of Oxnard have a dark skies zoning ordinance?

### Snowy Plovers & Least Terns

- What is the current status of the Snowy Plover in their recovery? Increased human presence may impact their recovery.
- What measures will be in place to secure the nesting areas of the Snowy Plover from the increased human presence?
- How many successful least tern nests were there at Ormond Beach this past year?
- Why are you using fencing to protect the Plovers. Fencing allows predator birds to use as perches and shows them where the birds and their nests are.
- Least Terns and Plovers. You told us how many hatched. How many actually were successful and produced fledged

### Water Quality

- At this point large amounts of trash get washed out of the drainage system in Oxnard when it rains. What mitigation measures are planned to reduce this?
- With all of the public access at the Perkins island site what's the plan for water quality improvement?
- Also interested in water quality. What happens when it rains? for the runoff water from the Halaco property? Does it impact our community and the species who live there?

### Other

- Who has advised the Project Partners to ensure that the VCWPD Beach Elevation Management Plan (BEMP) will not adversely impact the OBRAP?
- What does the 30 by 30 plan mean in reference to how the Coastal Conservancy holds acreage on behalf of the public at Ormond?
- Since this seems to be a project improving coastal resiliency and, hence, protecting coastal infrastructure, do you anticipate any funding from the infrastructure bills coming from D.C.?

## Comments

- I really like the walk ways, as I have seen them in many natural areas, like Asilomar Beach, the Everglades, where people can have access but don't trample the vegetation or nests, because you have to stay on the them.
- Thank you to the host, and presenters for allowing us to be a part of this, and all the hard work that has gone into the planning, and considerations for the natural world and our human activities that are intersecting.
- Regarding the city canals of both Port Hueneme and Oxnard that flow into Ormond Beach, we plan to keep them clean and avoid so much garbage especially in the rainy season.
- I am the administrator for the FB pages Ormond Beach, CA and Ormond Beach Task Force. I would like to post this recording to those pages when we are finished tonight. Can you please provide a link to the YouTube recording or to the project page and appropriate link. Thanks!

## Wrap Up & Closing Thoughts

To wrap up the meeting, the facilitator invited participated to respond to the following question using an online polling tool: "What's something you learned today that you didn't know before?" Participants were then reminded that the meeting was recorded and were encouraged to stay involved using the website, Facebook page, and listserv.

### Appendix A: Attendee Responses to Online Poll Questions

#### Question 1: How often do you visit Ormond Beach? | ¿Con qué frecuencia visitas a Ormond Beach?

Choices	Votes
Yearly/Anualmente	11
Monthly/Mensualmente	9
Weekly/Semanal	6
Daily/Diario	3
Rarely/Casi Nunca	18

#### Question 2: Where do you access Ormond Beach? | ¿Dónde accedes a Ormond Beach?

##### Responses

- Arnold Road
- Mostly Arnold Road
- Hueneme beach
- Arnold road
- car ride
- hueneme Rd by the fields
- Arnold
- Off Perkins road near the lagoon
- Arnold Rd.
- From Hueneme Beach.
- arnold rd and through hueneme beach
- Arnold Rd
- By bike near Arnold
- arnold road
- Hueneme, Arnold, Perkins, other access as allowed by property owners
- Arnold Rd
- Arnold Rd.
- Hueneme Beach Park
- Never been there actually
- Perkins Rd.
- through hueneme
- From Hueneme Beach Park or from Arnold Road. Less often from Perkins Road.
- Hueneme Beach, Arnold Road, Perkins Road
- Beach
- The birds!
- Arnold
- Arnold Road
- It's calming

- Like that it is Shorebird nesting habitat
- View of the beach and endangered species. Great spot to meditate

### **Question 3: What do you like most about Ormond Beach? | ¿Qué es lo que más te gusta de Ormond Beach?**

#### **Responses**

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- Usually devoid of humans.
- wildlife watching
- the birds
- The species and wildlife
- Island views
- nature!
- get exercise outside
- The birds! The sea air. The chance to be in a space so wild and yet so near.
- the tranquility
- The quiet, not too busy
- Not too many people, no recreation, bird watching.
- The endangered birds, and all the wildlife and the long stretch of the beach--great for walking
- Birds and seeing the islands
- exercise
- bird watching
- Nature
- The great desolation and lack of people. Views of the island and wetlands and of course Walter!
- lagoon and waterway
- Endangered plant and animal species
- Birding, the ocean, fresh, cool air, nature access.
- Rare, threatened, and endangered wildlife
- wetlands and wildlife habitat
- It's a place to go and relax your mind
- I love to see all of the birds. It is a truly beautiful place to watch the islands and walking along the beach area
- Heard about the wetlands
- nature
- The ocean view and birds. Great spot to meditate.
- It is very secluded and beautiful
- It's one of the last coastal properties in Oxnard that will remain free of urbanized development

**Question 4: What's something you learned today that you didn't know before? | ¿Qué es algo que aprendiste hoy que no sabías antes?**

**Responses**

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- Learning about the Snowy Plover! Thank you all for this!
- That the bridges are still in the plan
- Didn't know that there were endangered species living on Ormond beach
- I learned that the project is quite involved. Many parties, many issues, many different disciplines require to improve the beach.
- That so many people have a deep love for Ormond Beach!
- That loggerhead shrikes are preying upon snowy plover and least tern chicks.
- learned about the Halaco property and water/soil contamination
- Partners have listened to the concern about the endangered species
- That Port Hueneme will be an entity that will need to be part of the conversation.
- the need to reestablish relationship between land and communities <3 thank you for this project!

## Appendix B: List of Attendees

### **Members of the Public\***

Adam Vega (The Port of Hueneme)  
Alex Nguyen - Oxnard City Manager  
Angel Garcia  
Angela Bonfiglio Allen  
Angela Whitecomb  
bert e perello  
Brenda McConathy  
Brenda t  
Brian Varela  
Bruce Schoppe  
Carla Mena, Brownley D26  
Carmen Ramirez  
Carolina Gallardo  
Christina Zubko  
Chuck Carter  
cristel  
Cynthia Hartley  
David Caskey  
David Kanter  
David Scrivner  
David Sherer - USFWS  
Douglas Partello  
E  
Elizabeth Espinoza-Duran  
Emiliano Amaro  
Eric Humel  
Eric Storrie  
Erika Cortes- PW: Special Districts

Esmeralda Tungui  
Fifth District  
Gabby Basua  
Geordie Scully (Sen. Limón)  
ilse  
Irene  
Janet Bridgers  
Jasmine M  
Javier Mercado  
Jennifer April Martinez  
Jim Susha  
jmc  
Joel B  
Josue Vasquez  
Joy  
JTharp  
Julianna  
Kate  
ken  
Ken Niessen  
Kendall Lousen (NBVC)  
Larry Godwin  
Laura Oergel  
Laura Riege  
Lourdes Solorzano  
Maria Navarro  
Maribel Garcia  
Maripas Jacobo  
marleen fuentes  
martin ruane  
Mayra Munguia Luisjuan

Michael Stubblefield  
Milano Jason Atanacio  
Nancy  
Naydeleen  
Odette (they/elle)  
Peter Brand  
Priscilla Akin  
rafael  
reneaiu  
Robert O'Riley  
Rodrigo  
Roger Brooks, City of Oxnard  
sandra  
Sara Wan  
Shaleen  
Sofi Magallon  
Sofia Vega  
Steve Nash  
Steven Gama  
TOM MCINALLY  
Valerie Vartanian  
Vanessa Hernandez  
Vianey López  
Yair Garcia  
Yesenia Gonzalez  
Yuritza

*\* This list does not contain those who only dialed in by phone.*

### **Project Partner Staff**

Alyssa Mann, TNC  
Kat Selm, TNC  
Peter Dixon, TNC  
Sarai Jimenez, TNC  
Shona Ganguly, TNC  
Susan North, TNC  
Chris Kroll, SCC  
Taylor Samuelson, SCC

Isidro Figueroa, City of Oxnard  
Karen Kraus, Pollinate Environment (on behalf of the City of Oxnard)

### **Facilitation and Interpretation**

Alex Cole-Weiss, CCP  
Corin Choppin, CCP  
David Gala, Translate Ventura  
Moirra Gallo, Translate Ventura