

# Proposed Bolsa Chica Mitigation VS The Ocean Plan Amendment

How does it stack up?

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## Poseidon Proposal & the OPA

- Mitigation for 421.4 acres
  - Preservation: 108 acres Dredging of Bolsa Chica Inlet
  - Restoration: 5.7 acres for Subtidal Habitat
  - Enhancement 15 acres for water circulation
  - **Alternatives**
  - Artificial reef as recommended by CA Coastal Commission
  - What about mitigation for Huntington Beach Wetlands, Los Cerritos, Newport Bay?
- ▶ The OPA requires: mitigation be accomplished through expansion, restoration or creation - Section M.2.e(3)(b)(I)
  - ▶ Mitigation must be sufficient to address the expected project impacts over the operational lifetime of the facility- Section M.2.e
  - ▶ Preservation is NOT what is required
  - ▶ Santa Ana Water Board staff have acknowledged that inlet maintenance dredging would be considered a “preservation” form of mitigation
  - ▶ Mitigation should only be considered AFTER minimizing mortality with the best site, design and technology - OPA subsection (e)

# Bolsa Chica Wetlands

- ▶ Since the 1800's LAC & OC have lost more than 90% of their wetlands due to development and urbanization
- ▶ SoCal Wetlands Recovery Project Report says: "because of rapidly rising sea levels wetland restoration must occur before 2030 in order to establish mature marshes that are more resilient to sea-level rise.
- ▶ Wetlands restoration projects take approximately 20 to 40 years from planning to completion of a fully functioning wetland
- ▶ Bolsa Chica Lowlands was reconstructed to its original conditions in the 1800s
- ▶ The Bolsa Chica Land Trust with an 8 member Steering Committee commissioned a study on alternatives to dredging to be completed in December 2020
- ▶ The Bolsa Chica Land Trust does not support the proposed Poseidon plant
- ▶ Bolsa Chica Land Trust does not believe the mitigation offered offsets a 427 acre dead zone
- ▶ Would mitigation live with the plant when it is handed over to OCWD?
- ▶ Proposed mitigation consists primarily of dredging to maintain areas of Bolsa Chica for which mitigation credits were already approved