

Foreword

Wetlands and energy provide two of our most valuable natural resources. Wetlands provide dynamic ecosystems necessary for the survival of numerous organisms and in fact provide a number of unique benefits. Birds and animals depend on wetlands for water, food, and shelter. For humans, wetlands provide functions necessary for our very survival including flood control, clean water, food supply, shoreline and storm protection, recreation areas and habitats for vital organisms in the food chain. Energy, and specifically, oil and gas, provide the lifeblood for economic growth and improving people's lives the world over. Energy transports us, lights and heats our homes, powers our businesses, and feeds our people. The Los Cerritos Wetlands Oil Consolidation & Restoration Project outlined on this website provides an opportunity to enhance both of these vital human needs.

As envisioned, the project will restore 78 acres of degraded wetlands habitat. Over the long term, the project will restore and protect the natural habitat, provide improved public access opportunities, and beautify the Long Beach community. Similarly, it will transform the Seal Beach Oil Field from an older legacy producing field with a large footprint to a modern low profile oil field with the latest safety technology.

While no industrial process is 100% safe, modern oilfield technology will enable the production of the field in a far more operationally, environmentally and aesthetically safe manner. The existing wells will be plugged and abandoned in accordance with state regulations. Newer horizontal drilling technology will provide wells constructed according to the latest engineering and safety standards and reduce the footprint of oil production facilities from 187 acres to 10 acres. "Well cellars" will be used that enable the wellheads and associated pipelines to be below grade so the community won't see the pumpjacks or "nodding donkeys" so prevalent in older oilfields. These well cellars also serve as secondary containment facilities in the event of an incident. Specialized shells and noise abatement equipment will be used to minimize any disruption to the local community. These are just a few improvements that modern oilfield technologies offer while preserving the health and well-being of employees and the communities in which the industry operates.

I encourage you to look through the web site and through the white papers to develop a fuller understanding of the breadth and depth of BOMP's efforts. I have been a part of the energy industry since 1983, first serving in a role for a large multinational exploration and production company based in Los Angeles. Later, I spent twenty years in the oilfield service industry which provides most of the equipment, services and valves you see that control the flow of oil and gas either on land or underwater in the case of offshore developments. Most of what occurs in the drilling and completion of an oil well or oil field is completed by various companies in the oilfield service industry. During my time in this segment of the industry, our equipment was not only used in wells such as the ones you see envisioned here, but also on some of the deepest most complex underwater developments in some of the harshest environments around the globe. In the past few years, in academia, I have researched, taught and studied the industry broadly and deeply, its management systems, its successes and failures, and its best practices.

BOMP's efforts in this project are exceptionally noteworthy providing a level of transparency rarely seen and an opportunity for the public to learn the extent to which the

industry goes to insure health, safety, and the environment. I urge you again to take the time to read through the web site and the papers to familiarize yourself with the many benefits of this project.

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