

From: Don May [<mailto:earthcorps@earthlink.net>]
Sent: Sunday, February 05, 2006 1:36 PM
To: 'Bob Hattoy (Hattoyland@aol.com)'
Cc: 'Sen. Alan Lowenthal (Bridget.Sramek@sen.ca.gov)'; 'Frank Colonna (colonna@ci.long-beach.ca.us)'
Subject: FW: Trashing Los Cerritos

Hi Bob,

Would you please look at <http://home.earthlink.net/~earthcorps/cattails.aspx> and, if you feel it's appropriate, pass it on to other Commissioners. Kent Smirl, a Saint of a DF&G Chief Warden, convinced the Vector Control contractor to stop as of Friday afternoon, but they may be back tomorrow. This is winter; there are no mosquitoes, and they never have been found in this portion of the wetlands. LA County Vector Control has **never** received or even filed for a 1601 Stream Alteration Permit or a 404 Permit here or anywhere else I am aware of. This area has been delineated by ACE but well over five years ago. It has been declared a wetland ESHA by Coastal Commission, who still retains Original Permit jurisdiction. Long Beach and the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy are enthusiastic members of a Los Cerritos Joint Powers Authority recently formed to acquire and protect this highly productive marsh. There is plenty of time for reasonable people to sit down to devise a strategy to control the mosquitoes without destroying the marsh. But this is a more generic problem.

Greater LA County Vector Control District under blunt outspoken Executive Director Jack Hazelrigg, jhazelrigg@glacvcd.org would never be considered reasonable. Jack continues to publicly call the executive staff and Commissioners of State Resource Agencies "misguided and irresponsible". At a recent conference in Long Beach called by Coastal Conservancy WRP, DF&G and WCB to workshop constructed wetlands, Jack called the assembled public officials "Criminals whose actions will result in many deaths". Special Districts do indeed have sweeping powers commensurate with their mission to protect the public health, but Jack believes his District is exempt from **all** State law. Several years ago, at this same pond, Vector Control started some far less destructive vegetation removal in the vicinity of the culvert which discharges surface runoff into a clarifier. Unmaintained, it overflows and causes shallow stagnant water around it where a few wigglers had been found. No complaints have ever been received by the MarketPlace, an adjacent mall. We have been birding there for decades and never seen a mosquito. Kent stopped that as well, before much destruction had occurred, just because he is very persuasive. But not before a colony of Ibis were driven out .

This week it's our treasured spot in Los Cerritos; next week someone else's. Jack frequently, publicly announces that he has unrestricted authority: "If I determine that there is a health risk here, I will have the wetland drained by lunch, and there is not a damn thing you or anyone else can do to stop me" he proclaimed to assembled dignitaries at the Gardena Willows. This has a chilling effect on those of us, public and private, who are working to restore our once magnificent coastal wetlands.

Please help. The Wildlife Conservation Board is already investing heavily (THANK YOU) in the restoration, and DF&G in the protection, of these resources. Surely there is a prudent, responsible way for agencies to work together to protect our magnificent wetlands along with our public health. If there is any way I can be of assistance, please do not hesitate to call on me.

Thank you so very much,

Don May