



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NEWS

Bolsa Chica Conservancy Holds Public Workshop to Design Education Center

Elected Officials, Environmentalists, Academia and Local Residents Meet to Develop Vision for Education and Restoration Center

HUNTINGTON BEACH, CA. – November 15, 2009 – On Saturday, November 14, the Bolsa Chica Conservancy held two public workshops on the site of the future education and restoration center at Harriet Wieder Park next to the Bolsa Chica wetlands. The goals of the workshops were to have the public provide input and ideas to the Bolsa Chica Conservancy's staff and design team led by architectural firm, ZGF Architects LLP of Los Angeles. The Bolsa Chica Conservancy and its staff and consultants want to make sure that the education and restoration center meshes with the public's needs, desires and expectations to the greatest extent possible.

A combined total of approximately 90 individuals from all walks of life attended the morning and afternoon sessions. There were several elected officials and former elected officials including three past mayors, the Huntington Beach current Mayor Keith Bohr, Orange County Supervisor John Moorlach, and Congressman Dana Rohrabacher. Additionally, representatives from several environmental protection organizations including the Bolsa Chica Land Trust, the Amigos de Bolsa Chica and Sea and Sage Audobon Society along representatives from California State University, Long Beach, Golden West College, Cerritos College and local high schools were present to provide their input.

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“It was exhilarating to see the participants of the workshop really dive into the process and develop some amazing and exciting ideas and concepts related to design, sustainability and how the center can integrate appropriately with the adjacent wetlands,” said ZGF partner and lead architect Ted Hyman, AIA.

Bolsa Chica Conservancy Board Chairman Mark Gaughan said that Saturday’s workshops marked the beginning, not the end of the public input process. “We’ll have at least one more public workshop later this year,” said Gaughan. “And as we refine the design and incorporate the public’s ideas in the development of the center, we will continue to meet with the stakeholders to make sure that this facility serves the educational, environmental and aesthetic needs of the community.”

The ZGF team of environmental designers, architects, engineers, land planners and interpretive and exhibit planners and designers will compile the comments received during the workshops and begin analyzing each one regarding their feasibility. Within the next month or so, the Bolsa Chica Conservancy will hold another public workshop where the ZGF team will report their findings and present some initial designs and program concepts for community discussion. The ideas and concepts vetted at that future public workshop will then be incorporated in a final plan for the development of the Education and Restoration Center.

Those interested in learning more about the planning process or are interested in attending future workshops are invited to call 1-877-BOLSA-61 (1-877-265-7261) or e-mail erc@bolsachica.org.

The Bolsa Chica Conservancy is a non-profit, non-political organization, established in 1990 whose mission is to advocate the restoration and preservation of the Bolsa Chica Wetlands

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through public outreach, participation, education and leadership. It is a coalition of responsible community leaders from science, business, education, and government. For more information on the Bolsa Chica Conservancy, visit www.bolsachica.org.

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