RCD
RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT
OF THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS

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QUESTIONS & ANSWERS FROM OCT 29, 2026 MEETING

The following are tables containing questions that were asked during the October 29th virtual public meeting regarding the Topanga Lagoon Restoration Project.

We were able to answer most questions during the meeting. To hear those answers directly from project partners, please utilize the corresponding timestamps provided in the table below when watching **this posted recording of the meeting.** For those questions we were not able to answer live, we've included written responses in the table at the bottom of this document.

QUESTIONS ASKED DURING THE MEETING

Question	Timestamp
How does the size of the lagoon restored compare to the size of the original size before PCH?	1 hr 13 min
Are only native soils going to be pumped offshore or also fill?	1 hr 15 min
Where is the supplemental sand/cobble sourced from	1 hr 15 min
What CA native dune plants are you planning?	1 hr 16 min
There already is an existing dune with living shoreline characteristics and you plan on taking it away?	1 hr 17 min
Will the incoming supplemental sand and materials possibly bring in non-native seeds?	1 hr 18 min
CNPS person: concern about invasive plants	1 hr 19 min
Where is the Calif. native plant nexus?	1 hr 20 min
Are there any specific fire-resilient native plant species that are going to be focused on or reintroduced?	1 hr 21 min
One worry I have is since there is a high foot traffic to the Topanga Lagoon are there going to be any measures to ensure wildlife and succession is guaranteed in efforts to restore the plan?	1 hr 24 min

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Question	Timestamp
Will there be any protective structures in the lagoon area for the tidewater goby and steelhead?	1 hr 27 min
You mentioned addressing invasive weeds to restore the Topanga ecosystem, are any other invasive species going to be addressed such as crawfish?	1 hr 29 min
The western side is the widest and sandiest part of Topanga Beach. Creating a berm with a cobblestone base, means people will be laying on cobblestone when sand leaves?	1 hr 31 min
Why are the Chumash not included with all the tribes?	1 hr 32 min
How deep will the piers be that hold up the bridge? The last time the RCDSMM spear-headed an initiative to revitalize the Lower Topanga Ecosystem they included tribal consultation and planted native species before it was legally required – they were ahead of the curve. The State and the County have each set a standard for their own land in which consultation is deemed insufficient, encouraging true collaboration, stewardship, and bringing tribes into planning. I don't think this project has caught up to those goals yet. It's still being run with the same ethos as 20 years ago: consultation and monitoring. There is still time to incorporate Tongva Nation stewardship as part of the plan. Without true collaboration and stewardship by the Tongva, we are falling behind the desires of California and LA County. There is a pathway for collaboration with State recognized Tribes	1 hr 33 min
Thank you for this meeting. I know a great deal of work has gone into this project. Maybe I missed this, but how is this Super El Nino and higher tides going to affect the project? Can you even prep for something like this?	1 hr 37 min
Is there a bathroom in ADA area?	1 hr 42 min
Has a traffic and road crossing safety study been done or is expected? You have a light pink highlighted service area up on Topanga Canyon that you had previously mentioned would be a parking area. Knowing how dangerous PCH is in this area, the increased PCH pedestrian crossing should be protected.	1 hr 43 min
If you want a softened look for the building, couldn't the structure itself be designed with soft angles?	1 hr 45 min

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How much longer are you planning on keeping the cancer causing creoste logs that have been scattered around for decades and are now burnt releasing even more carcinogens leaching into our soil and water system?	1 hr 45 min
Is the Governor going to rescind Executive Order N-1-26? How many acres are designated for development on the Topanga State Parks side if not?	1 hr 46 min
Will State Parks have a food concession?	1 hr 50 min
Topanga Beach! 60% of the visitors are Surfing. You did not say how you are going to serve them. Surfers use the beach more than any other group. Please look into this.	1 hr 51 min
Will the Topanga Watershed Map go from the summit to beach and identify visitor serving establishments within the central and northern watershed?	1 hr 55 min
How are you protecting the interpreting material from graffiti?	1 hr 56 min
The interpretive design is akin to cultural gentrification. It is attempting to wash the stories and people who have made Topanga the place it is today.	1 hr 58 min
Why no focus on Topanga Creek & its ecosystem?	1 hr 59 min
What are the dimensions of the building? I have no sense from the map of the building scale.	2 hr 00 min
What about rammed earth instead of grey concrete?	2 hr 00 min
Will the Topanga State Park be restored back to previous/historic conditions or will new features be added?	2 hr 1 min
Who will be responsible for maintaining the trail and beach with more visitors?	2 hr 2 min

QUESTIONS WE WERE NOT ABLE TO ANSWER DURING THE MEETING

Question	Answer
Can you help restripe PCH so we can make a left turn into the public	A left turn will be provided as part of the proposed project.

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parking lot at Topanga Public Beach today?	
Has a traffic and road crossing safety study been done or is expected? You have a light pink highlighted service area up on Topanga Canyon that you had previously mentioned would be a parking area. Knowing how dangerous PCH is in this area, the increased PCH pedestrian crossing should be protected.	A traffic/road-crossing safety study is required when installing a marked crosswalk at an uncontrolled approach. This does not apply to the Topanga Lagoon Restoration Project as a key element of the project is bridge replacement because of lagoon expansion. Not because of a safety or operational issue. Therefore, no safety study is required or planned. However, safety improvements are included in this project. Specifically, two undercrossings under PCH are incorporated, one on each side of the bridge for pedestrian crossing, and will facilitate more opportunities for people to safely cross under the PCH. This is in addition to the existing crossing at the PCH/Topanga Canyon Boulevard intersection that has a signal and a crosswalk. Provision of more parking on both the N and S sides of the PCH with appropriate turn lanes will also minimize unneeded pedestrian crossing of PCH outside of marked crosswalks or bridge underpasses.
It looks like there is no room for a two lane roundabout for safety. Why are you not planning that?	The key objectives of the project are lagoon restoration, sea level rise resilience, enhanced coastal access, and visitor-serving improvements. The project is not intended to address transportation operations or intersection deficiencies; therefore, no modifications to the existing intersection design are proposed. A roundabout will require more space than currently available. That said, the Gateway Corner (the NW corner of the intersection of PCH and Topanga Canyon Boulevard, where the Feed Bin used to be located) is designed to accommodate and facilitate emergency evacuation needs.

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What is the total project budget?	We do not yet have the total project budget but our working estimate for replacing the bridge, restoring the lagoon and placing that material in the nearshore is $400M. Development of visitor services on the State Parks and County properties would have additional costs that have yet to be determined. Cost estimates for construction are still pending as project elements are at different stages of design. We estimate around $400M with current information.
How important were public concerns/inputs throughout the creation of this restoration plan? If the public doesn't support the restoration and or plans within it, how much does that impact overall progress?	During the initial scoping phase there were over 200 individuals and numerous permitting agency staff that contributed to the development of the project goals and design. There is widespread support for recovering steelhead trout and tidewater goby, improving emergency access and visitor services. Public outreach and input have been guiding principals for this project. We have sought to reach out and engage in a variety of ways as we truly want this to be a project that benefits all. Outreach has included: -a large number of online and public meetings (4 charettes during the project scoping stage [2019-22], 4 public meetings during the environmental stage [2022-2024], and design meetings at each "milestone" [2024-present: 2 to date]) -an extended public comment period for the EIR -development of a project website, email lists, and social media outreach -focused group outreach to 50+ local user groups and underrepresented communities As with any project, there are always differences of opinion. We try to address those in an honest and transparent way, and work to resolve conflicts by assessing what is the best outcome while considering landowner requirements, current best scientific information, and financial constraints.
What type of plumbing will be used	The situation is different on the Department of Beaches &

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for the restoration?	Harbors [south of PCH] side than on the CA State Parks side [north of PCH]. On the DBH side, the County has decided to use the existing advanced onsite wastewater treatment system with relocation of the lift station, and when (and if) a public sewer is available they would consider joining that. On the CA State Parks side, State Parks is currently revisioning the park. When (and if) a public sewer is available they would consider joining that. If the Topanga Lagoon Restoration Project goes forward before a potential future Malibu Coast Sewerline, CSP will construct a separate new advanced onsite wastewater treatment system on their property.
Arundo removal needs to be done far up stream or you have an ongoing problem	Totally agree that arundo is a big problem however we will only be able to remove in the restored lagoon area and anticipate our partner State Parks will continue to assist with removal upstream. Thanks for noting that arundo is a watershed issue. Currently there is no significant coordinated watershed-wide effort to remove arundo that we are aware of. CA State Parks is aware of upstream arundo and is addressing arundo invasion on their property as it occurs through their standard management practices. It is understood that long-term management of the project area will require periodic habitat maintenance and removal of invading invasive weeds as part of ongoing CA State Parks management