

BALLONA WETLANDS RESTORATION PROJECT

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REVIEW



FACT SHEET

Q. WHAT IS SOCALGAS' ROLE IN THE BALLONA WETLANDS RESTORATION PROJECT?

A. For the last several years, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), the State Coastal Conservancy and the Bay Foundation have worked with the public to envision a plan for the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve. SoCalGas' environmental stewardship goals are in line with this work and we support the Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project.

As part of the restoration, SoCalGas® plans to permanently abandon 16 wells from within the boundaries of the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve. Removing these 16 wells from the Reserve, and one additional well which is located just outside of the boundaries of the Reserve, will create an opportunity for a larger restoration footprint for the Ballona Wetlands. These 17 wells are located outside of the boundaries of SoCalGas' Playa Del Rey (PDR) natural gas storage facility.

Several steps will need to be taken in order to abandon these wells from the Preserve, including making required, temporary improvements to the well pads to support the equipment necessary for well removal and the upgrading of some access roads.

The well removal work will be undertaken in a manner that minimizes environmental impacts. SoCalGas will work with the CDFW and the California Coastal Commission staff to comply with relevant regulations, request guidance and obtain any permits that may be required for work to be conducted at these sites.

Q. DOES SOCALGAS PLAN TO RELOCATE THESE 17 WELLS ELSEWHERE?

A. As the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) states, SoCalGas has identified 7 sites within the boundaries of its PDR natural gas storage facility where up to 6 of the 17 wells the company plans to abandon may be re-drilled.

SoCalGas will work with the California Geologic Energy Management Division (CalGEM) and other relevant agencies to obtain the required permits and conduct the environmental analysis for the drilling of these replacement wells. According to the final draft of the Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project Environmental Impact Review (EIR), SoCalGas plans to drill no more than six replacement wells within the PDR storage facility. The Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project will ultimately result in a decrease of total wells associated with the PDR storage facility.

Q. WHERE CAN I FIND INFORMATION ABOUT THE BALLONA WETLANDS RESTORATION PROJECT AND SOCALGAS' PLANS?

A. The final EIR for the Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project, which includes SoCalGas' well abandonment and relocation plan, was released in December 2019. The EIR may be found at <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Regions/5/Ballona-EIR>.

More information about the restoration project may be found at <http://ballonarestoration.org>.

