

Amigos de Bolsa Chica

THE

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Since 1976

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THE PRESIDENT'S TERN

By Thomas Anderson

The focus of this issue of the *Tern Tide* is to commemorate 30 years of the Amigos de Bolsa Chica's accomplishments. The most obvious accomplishment is that the tidal inlet will be opened later this summer and the ocean will flow into the lowlands for the first time in over 100 years. Without the Amigos, that simply would not be happening.

I am a relative newcomer to the Amigos Board of Directors. Even though I became a member of the Amigos de Bolsa Chica in 1987, it wasn't until 2000 that I was invited to join the Board of the Foundation. When I joined in 87, I felt I was not seasoned enough to contribute anything more than membership dues and artwork. I trusted that those with more level heads than mine would stop the destruction of the wetlands. Fortunately, for all of us, they did.

One of the keys to the success of the Amigos has been the level headed presentation of the scientific facts only. It is to this organization's credit that it never made the developers out to be greedy evildoers. The attitude was always, "The Bolsa Chica is invaluable, highly productive and increasingly rare habitat," and only the insurmountable evidence to support that was presented to the decision-makers. If any judgmental emotion had entered the discussion, it is not likely the Amigos would have been taken so seriously by so many.

When I was asked to join the Board, I wondered if I was qualified. My contribution to the cause was artwork, most notably 10 of the 25 Running is for the Birds t-shirts. For the first couple of years I sat quietly and watched and listened and learned. Since several founding members of the Amigos were (and still are) on the Board, it could not have been a better education. It is not by chance that the Amigos de Bolsa Chica retains quality relationships with many State agencies, politicians, other environmental organizations and the community at large. I am still in awe of what the Amigos has accomplished over the past 30 years, and that is my inspiration for what the Amigos can do in the next 30 years.

Our focus has changed from saving the wetlands to educating people about their importance and ensuring the restored area is properly managed. This work will never end. Being a member of the Amigos de Bolsa Chica is something to be proud of and our membership is the backbone of the organization. I want to thank the thousands of individuals that have contributed their time, energy, fortitude and money to the Amigos de Bolsa Chica since 1976. It is with great optimism that we intend to continue to be a strong presence in this community as we drive our mission to preserve, maintain and educate into the future.

30 YEARS OF SUCCESS: A Timeline of the Amigos de Bolsa Chica and other important events involving the wetlands

1964-72 FEASIBILITY STUDY OF A SMALL CRAFT HARBOR Congress authorizes US Army Corps of Engineers and Orange County to study the feasibility of a small craft harbor at the Bolsa Chica.

1970 SIGNAL ACQUIRES 2000 ACRES Signal Bolsa Corp. buys the surface right to 2000 acres from the Gun Club heirs for \$20 million.

1970 SIGNAL AND THE STATE DISAGREE OVER OWNERSHIP The State claims 528 of the lowland are historic tide and submerged lands. Signal contends these acres are free from the State's claim since they were conveyed into private ownership by a Mexican rancho grant.

1970-73 SIGNAL AND THE STATE AGREE TO COMPRISE An Inter Agency Task Force is formed and includes the Departments of Fish and Game, Navigation and Ocean Development, and Parks and Recreation plus the Attorney General's office and State Lands Commission, Dillingham Environmental Company prepares a three volume report entitled "Environmental Evaluation of the Bolsa Chica Area" which serves as environmental baseline for subsequent planning.

March 1973 SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT SIGNED The State (Governor Reagan) and Signal sign the "Boundary Settlement and Exchange Agreement Regarding Lands in the Bolsa Chica Area, Orange County, California." The State acquired 327.5 acres for the public, to be managed by Dept. of Fish and Game, and deeds 1,700 acres to Signal in fee. The agreement includes a two phase wetlands project, with Phase 2 dependent upon the State's involvement in the development of a marina and navigable ocean entrance.

1974 BURMAH OIL PURCHASES DRILLING RIGHT WITHIN BOLSA CHICA FROM SIGNAL

1976 AMINOIL OIL PURCHASES RIGHTS WITHIN BOLSA CHICA FROM BURMAH OIL

1976 AMIGOS DE BOLSA CHICA FORMS

Organization – originally printed in *The Tern Tide* February 1976

Amigos de Bolsa Chica, after some organizational meetings last fall, held its first annual meeting at the City Hall on January 15th, elected officers and planned some ways to fulfill its purpose.

Purpose - originally printed in *The Tern Tide* February 1976

The purpose of Amigos de Bolsa Chica as stated in Article II of the A.B.C. Constitution is: "to advocate the preservation of the Bolsa Chica and encourage public acquisition and planning to restore it to its natural marsh state surrounded by open space."

1977 COUNTY ALLOCATES \$2 MILLION FOR LINEAR PARK From a feasibility study by the County EMA for a regional park at Bolsa Chica, the County Supervisors approve \$2 million for a 185 acre Linear Park bordering 3 sides of the wetlands and connecting Huntington Beach Central Park and Bolsa Chica State Beach.

1977-78 PHASE I OF DEPT. FISH AND GAME'S WETLAND RESTORATION Levees are built to enclose 150 acres of the 300 acre State parcel, and the dam which has been closed since the turn of the century is reopened to restore sea water tidal influence. Public service facilities (2 parking lots, walk bridge, restrooms and signs) are built. Two sand islands (1.8 and 1.6 acres) are created as nesting habitat for endangered California Least Tern.

City Council Nixes Proposed Annexation – originally printed in *The Tern Tide* December 1977

The Huntington Beach City Council decided at their December 12 meeting to discontinue annexation efforts. This means that the City Council does not plan to proceed (sic) with either partial or complete annexation of the Bolsa Chica area to the City of Huntington Beach.

The Coastal Commission has designated the County of Orange as the lead agency in developing a Local Coastal Plan (LCP) for the Bolsa Chica area, and the City of Huntington Beach has agreed to cooperate with the County in planning the LCP.

Amigos will continue to communicate with the County Planning Staff, as well as the Board of Supervisors, in expressing high priority for the proposed County linear park around three sides of the Bolsa Chica.

Amigos Files Suit – originally printed in *The Tern Tide* February 1979

Amigos de Bolsa Chica filed suit in the Superior Court of the State of California. The complaint is for:

- Injunction and civil penalties for filling, diking, and degradation of wetlands;
- A determination that the Bolsa Chica Land Trade violates the California Constitution;
- A determination that California Public Resources Code 6307 is unconstitutional;
- An injunction to restrain the construction of dwellings;
- Civic penalties for violation of the California Coastal Act; and
- An accounting of all oil revenues derived from public trust tidelands.

1980 SIGNAL'S PREFERRED DEVELOPMENT PLANS Signal's plans for the Bolsa Chica include 504 acres of high density and 118 acres of heavy density residential, up to 11,249 dwellings, 252 acres commercial development, private and public marinas, re-routing of Pacific Coast Hwy inland, a navigable ocean entrance, and a connection to Huntington Harbour. Public cost \$124,840,000.



Tide gates are opened, 1978. Inner Bolsa Bay receives muted tidal flow as part of Phase 1 of Fish & Game's restoration plan.

Great Victory – Bolsa Chica Declared Wetlands by State Coastal Commission – first two paragraphs originally printed in *The Tern Tide* April 1980

On March 20, 1980, the California Coastal Commission declared that the Bolsa Chica Lowlands are a wetlands habitat subject to the protections of the Coastal Act. This means that there can be no roads or housing constructed on the Bolsa Chica Wetlands. Clearly, Amigos de Bolsa Chica is rejoicing over this significant decision. Other agencies that had previously identified the Bolsa Chica Gap as wetlands include: California Department of Fish and Game, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The Bolsa Chica Lowlands is an unincorporated area under the jurisdiction of the County of Orange. (It has, however, been designated within the sphere of the influence of the City of Huntington Beach.) The wetlands determination by the California Coastal Commission gives direction to the County of Orange in developing their current Local Coastal Plan (LCP). The Commission direction is to develop an LCP around marsh preservation and restoration and eliminate from further consideration the extension of roads and utility lines in the Bolsa Chica Lowlands, as the County had wanted to do. Since the latter uses are not permitted in the wetlands under the Coastal Act, taxpayers' money will now be saved by the elimination of such studies by the County in their LCP planning.

1980 PART OF AMIGOS LAWSUIT SET ASIDE

Unable to continue to fund two simultaneous lawsuits, Amigos ask that the Filing Violations portion of the lawsuit be “dismissed without prejudice” until the Superior Court rules on the Land Trade portion; the Court accepts the request.



Amigos' first annual 5K & 10K Run/Walk “Running is for the Birds” fundraiser was held in 1979. (This photo is from 1997)



Amigos began organizing the annual removal of vegetation from Fish & Game's “Tern Island” in the early 1980's to increase the area of open, sandy areas favored by terns and skimmers for nesting.

Petitions – originally printed in *The Tern Tide* July-August 1981

Petitions containing over 17,000 signatures to preserve the Bolsa Chica Wetlands were presented to California Resources Secretary Huey Johnson when he spoke to our organization last month. He promised to deliver these petitions to Governor Brown and talk to him about Bolsa Chica. We're still gathering more signatures and would like to reach 20,000 signatures. Call the Amigos office if you would like more petitions.

Where Do We Stand with the County on Bolsa Chica? – portions of article originally printed in *The Tern Tide* January 1982

Overall, Amigos gained ground with the Board of Supervisors at the December 16, 1981 hearing. Close to 40 people testified at the hearing, and the majority favored restoration of the entire Bolsa Chica lowlands.

We went into the hearing with 350 acres of restored marsh and came out of the hearing with 500-550 acres for the restored marsh. Although the Supervisors' resolution clearly calls for a minimum of 600 acres, the 600 acres are not really delineated on their map, since they included the 63 acres of Outer Bolsa Bay, which will not be there if the marina is built. They also included deep-water channels in front of the waterfront homes as part of the marsh.

California Fish and Game testified at the hearing about their recently released State of the Bolsa Chica Wetlands report. This report identifies 852 acres as **viably functioning and extremely productive wetlands**, as well as 440 acres of severely degraded historic wetlands. These findings of Fish and Game, along with the strong protection of wetlands enunciated very clearly in the Coastal Act, will not allow housing and roads to be constructed on wetlands. We were very pleased to hear the Fish and Game report.

1983 US FISH & WILDLIFE: BOLSA CHICA IS A ‘PRODUCTIVE’ WETLANDS US Fish & Wildlife study shows Bolsa Chica productivity compares favorably with Upper Newport Bay and Anaheim Bay.

1983 US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS STUDY RESULTS The Corps completes their progress report, indicating the proposed navigable entrance is technically feasible.

1983-84 HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN (SB 429) Governor Deukmejian signs Senate Bill 429 authorizing Dept of Fish & Game and the State Coastal Conservancy to prepare a Habitat Conservation Plan for Bolsa Chica to resolve disputes between Signal, the County, and the Coastal Commission. The resulting LCP calls for a navigable ocean entrance and marina, reroute of Pacific Coast Highway, Linear Regional Park, 915 acres of wetlands and 86.8 acres of ESHA's. The Coastal Commission rejects incorporating it into the County's LUP.

1984 PHILLIPS PETROLEUM PURCHASES OIL DRILLING RIGHTS FROM AMINOIL

1984 DEPT OF FISH & GAME WETLANDS DETERMINATION OF 915 ACRES Dept. of Fish & Game reevaluates its 1981 wetlands determination; the new acreage figure is 915 acres.

January 1986 STATE COASTAL COMMISSION HEARING IN EL SEGUNDO After a full day of public testimony, the Coastal Commission conditionally approves the County adopted LUP and their Staff's Non-Navigable Plan.

April 1986 AMIGOS SPONSORS ALL DAY SYMPOSIUM ON BOLSA CHICA

October 1986 FEDERAL FUNDS PROVIDED FOR NAVIGABLE ENTRANCE IF FEASIBLE

Congress enacts Water Resources Development Act which includes a provision to allow federal loans for a navigable ocean channel at Bolsa Chica if technically and economically feasible.

1987 AMIGOS LAWSUIT AND THE CALIFORNIA SUPREME COURT The Amigos awaits a hearing for four years, until in 1987 the Supreme Court decided the case is not properly before them and refuse to hear it. Despite the financial burden, the Amigos Board of Directors decide to re-file the case in Orange County Superior Court in 1987.

1988 SIGNAL COUNTERSUES AMIGOS IN SUPERIOR COURT In August, Signal files a countersuit saying the Amigos lawsuit is frivolous and without merit, and seeks payment for attorney fees. Amigos files a demurrer, and in December Commissioner Bauer dismisses Signal's countersuit.

November 1988 BOLSA CHICA PLANNING COALITION FORMED Supervisor Harriett Wieder and Mayor John Erskine form the B.C.P.C. to "prepare an alternative plan to the adopted county Bolsa Chica Land Use Plan for presentation to the County Board of Supervisors and other governmental agencies within 6 months of November 21, 1988." The 5 core members are Orange County, City of Huntington Beach, Calif State Lands Commission, Signal Landmark and Amigos de Bolsa Chica (represented by Shirley Dettloff and Adrienne Morrison). Support members include the Coastal Commission, Dept of Fish & Game, US Fish & Wildlife Service, EPA, Corps of Engineers, Senator Bergeson's office, C.A.R.P., Shell Oil, Coastal Conservancy and others. Only alternatives having a non navigable channel will be studied. Joe Bodavitch is hired as Facilitator.

1988 CITY CONSULTANTS ANALYZE W.E.S. RESULTS The City hires coastal engineering consultants to help analyze results from Corps of Engineers' W.E.S. study. Amigos approve of their independence from Signal.

Feb 1989 NEW EPA WETLANDS DETERMINATION: 927 ACRES

May 1989 COALITION CONCEPT PLAN After 6 months of meetings to evaluate various alternatives, the Coalition formulates the Coalition Plan: Wetlands/ESHS/Open Space of 1,105 acres with a minimum 1,000 acres wetlands, no navigable entrance or marina or Huntington Harbour connection, no commercial development, and fewer homes than originally planned. BCPC will continue meeting, develop the Wetlands Restoration Plan and form a non profit conservancy.

Jul 1989 PHILLIPS MOTION TO DISMISS AMIGOS LAWSUIT In February Phillips Oil asks the court to dismiss Amigos case. In July Judge Rylersdam rules against Phillips motion. Amigos case can now proceed to trial.

Aug 1989 AMIGOS MOTION FILED IN SUPERIOR COURT Amigos file a motion against Signal and Phillips to declare the 1973 Land Trade unconstitutional because it violates Calif Constitution which prohibits conveyance of tidelands to private parties. They await trial.

September 1989 AMIGOS LAWSUIT SETTLED The Amigos settle the lawsuit out of court since many of its goals were reached through the Coalition.

January 1990 BOLSA CHICA CONSERVANCY FORMED BY THE COALITION The Conservancy's goals are education, research, and restoration of Bolsa Chica Wetlands. The Volunteer Scientist Program monitors water quality and wildlife plus helps Dept Fish & Game maintain the Reserve. An Interpretive Center is planned. Former Amigos president Vic Leipzig serves as Executive Director. Ten Coalition members form the Conservancy's Board of Directors.

June 1990 SIGNAL LANDMARK, INC REPLACED BY KOLL COMPANY The Koll Company assumes responsibility for management of Henley Properties Bolsa Chica Project. Mr. Koll agrees to support and follow the Coalition Plan.

January 1994 DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT The over 1200 page BC EIR has been prepared to respond to proposed Koll project. The 1st draft EIR (1992) was prepared by Army Corps of Engineers. The 2nd EIR was prepared when Koll dropped plans for annexation to the City and requested the County to coordinate the project.

Will you allow Outer Bolsa Bay to be sacrificed? - originally printed in *The Tern Tide* October 1994

Pristine Outer Bolsa Bay will be decimated by dredging a 50 ft. wide swath from the tidegates to the Warner Bridge. Also riprap will be placed along the perimeter of the marsh adjacent to PCH. Notify the county by Oct. 6 that these "restoration plans" are unacceptable!

**** RESTORE THE TIDAL INLET at the south end of the wetlands! ****

**** The tidal inlet option must be included in the EIR! ****

March 1995 AMIGOS HONORED BY WILDLIFE SOCIETY WESTERN SECTION

The Amigos was chosen as recipients of the coveted 1995 Conservationist of the Year Award. The Wildlife Society is an international organization comprised of over 9000 professional wildlife biologists and ecologists.

Ports Announce Plan to Acquire The Bolsa Chica Wetlands - portions of article originally printed in *The Tern Tide* August 1995

July 7th, the Ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles, along with 7 other regulatory agencies, agreed to a plan to acquire and restore the Bolsa Chica Wetlands from Koll Real Estate Group. The proposal, which has been in process for over 9 months, would use port funds to restore the Bolsa Chica Wetlands. The Ports would fund this restoration as mitigation for planned expansion that will fill habitat in the Los Angeles and Long Beach Harbors.

If a purchase and restoration is completed, the mission of the Amigos de Bolsa Chica will be accomplished - as outlined in our mission statement. The Amigos have followed the development of this proposal for many months. The officers and Board have met with and had serious discussions with all of the major participants in this plan, including the Ports, the Department of the Interior, the regulatory agencies, and Koll Real Estate Group. The Amigos have continually stressed our support for such a plan, provided the restoration enacted provides for wetlands restoration that is appropriate and sensitive to valuable wildlife habitat, and provides for meaningful public input. We have received assurances that this will occur.

For over a decade, the Amigos have continually pointed to the mutual advantages of the Ports becoming involved in the restoration of the Bolsa Chica Wetlands. This proposal appears to accomplish that.

As a member of Amigos, you can be proud of the role your support has played in making this possible. The Amigos have continued to stress the need for a restoration plan that fits the wonderful wildlife resource Bolsa Chica represents - not a plan driven by other needs or issues.

Additionally, the Amigos have offered to back the plan with over \$1 million in funds raised in 1988, if the plan addresses our concerns about public input and the best possible restoration.

Bolsa Chica Wetlands Grow Larger - originally printed in *The Tern Tide* March/April 1997

On the dawn of Saturday, February 15, we celebrated the addition of 905 acres to the public lands at Bolsa Chica. Public ownership in the lowlands jumped on the preceding Friday from 309 acres to over 1200 acres. The beauty of the day was matched by the joy of those gathered to celebrate a new dawn for Bolsa Chica.



The "A-Team" thanks the many friends of the Bolsa Chica who for decades have supported our dream. Thanks are extended to the many group and individuals who sent letters to the Commission urging approval of the purchase. Over 300 letters were received, a Commission record, with none opposed to the transfer. Both Democrat and Republican elected representatives sent letters of support. Cities and city council members sent letters to. Business entities and the H.B. Chamber of Commerce also encouraged approval.

May 1997 BOLSA CHICA RESTORATION STEERING COMMITTEE FORMED Eight state and federal agencies will oversee the restoration of the Bolsa Chica lowlands: California Department of Fish and Game, State Lands Commission, State Coastal Conservancy, the State Resources Agency, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, National Marine Fisheries Service, and the EPA. During the following months, a total of five public meetings are conducted in Huntington Beach to discuss restoration plans.

Wieder Linear Park Update - Huntington Beach Gives Park Approval - originally printed in *The Tern Tide* May/June 1997

After years of contentious discussions and planning, both the Huntington Beach Planning Commission and the Huntington Beach City Council recently voted unanimously to accept phase I of the Wieder Linear Park. The 51 acres along Seapoint between Garfield and the heliport near PCH will have the following improvements: a 5,000 square foot interpretive center (to be built in the future), 100 space parking lot, bicycle and riding/hiking trails, vista points, native habitat restoration and a 3 acre park node of playground, turf and picnic areas.

Second District Supervisor Jim Silva has made it a priority to keep the approval process on an aggressive schedule. He recently allocated nearly \$700,000 from the County's Urban Parks Fund (which had been tied up in bankruptcy) to bring the total to nearly \$2 million for this phase.

Following this approval the plan goes back to the county and then to the Coastal Commission. If all runs smoothly, initial work will be done during the summer so that seeding and transplanting will take advantage of the winter rains in November.

The Amigos have attended every public meeting on the park, and have continually met with key planners through the years. With efforts from Vic Leipzig and Terry Dolton we have continually stressed the importance of native plantings as the park is a buffer to the wetlands below. The current plan has our approval and we continue to offer our services and we watchfully monitor the progress...as the park too, becomes a reality.

May 1997 SAN DIEGO JUDGE RULES IN FAVOR OF LAWSUIT PROTECTING BOLSA CHICA Filed by the Bolsa Chica Land Trust, the Sierra Club, the Surfrider Foundation, Huntington Beach Tomorrow and the Shoshone Gabrieleño Nation, the suit claimed the Coastal Commission erred in approving development in the Bolsa Chica Wetlands, allowing Warner Pond to be filled, and approving the moving of the eucalyptus ESHA to the Huntington Mesa, and the court agreed.

June 1997 AERA ENERGY TAKES OVER OIL PRODUCTION IN THE BOLSA CHICA

May 1997 AMIGOS ACQUISITION TEAM CONTINUES TO PURSUE PUBLIC ACQUISITION OF THE REMAINING 405 ACRES OF BOLSA CHICA Four hundred and twenty eight acres of the Bolsa Chica are still privately owned, including lowlands and uplands on both the Huntington Mesa (Linear park) and the Bolsa Chica mesa.

Nov 1998 BOLSA CHICA FOUNDATION PUBLISHES JIM ALDRIDGE'S ORAL HISTORY "SAVING THE BOLSA CHICA" The memories of 27 individuals who played roles in saving the Bolsa Chica wetlands are recorded in this 720 page volume.

February 1999 HUNTINGTON BEACH CITY COUNCIL ORDERS STUDY OF ANNEXATION OF BOLSA CHICA A determination is to be made whether annexation of the Bolsa Chica to the city benefits the city.

August 2000 THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR BOLSA CHICA LOWLANDS RESTORATION IS RELEASED FOR PUBLIC COMMENT The document of over 1200 pages proposes 566 acres to be restored with tidal influence from a direct opening to the sea. Amigos submits comments in October.

Nov 2000 COASTAL COMMISSION CONSIDERS BOLSA CHICA MESA DEVELOPMENT The commission staff recommends that no development be permitted on the lower bench of the Bolsa Chica Mesa. The commission concurred. Signal/Hearthside subsequently filed a lawsuit contesting the commission's finding.

April 2001 SIGNAL/HEARTHSIDE FILES LAWSUIT AGAINST AMIGOS DE BOLSA CHICA DEMANDING ARBITRATION Landowner claims Amigos failed to abide by provisions in 1989 coalition agreement when Amigos supported the Coastal Commission staff's recommendations concerning the development on the Bolsa Chica Mesa.

November 2003 CASE AGAINST AMIGOS DISMISSED BY SIGNAL Released Amigos and its members from all of the claims made by it in the arbitration action. This ended a long and tortured battle initiated by Signal following the participation of Amigos in a November 2000 Coastal Commission hearing on the County's proposed Local Coastal Program (LCP) for Bolsa Chica.

October 2004 GROUND BREAKING FOR BOLSA CHICA RESTORATION officiated by Lt. Governor Cruz Bustamonte. From left: Cathy Green, HB Mayor; Rodney McInnis, NOAA; Bustamonte; Lynn Scarlet, Assistant Secretary, Dept. of Interior; Steve Westly, State Controller; Mike Chrisman, Director, State Dept. of Resources; Col. Leonardo Flores, Dep. Commander, US Army Corps of Engineers.



WETLAND RESTORATION UPDATE

by Dave Carlberg

Finishing touches on the restoration of 600 acres of the Bolsa Chica Wetlands continue. Dredging of the full tidal basin, the last remaining major activity, will probably be completed by the end of June. You may recall the plan was to discontinue dredging once the nesting season was underway and then resume in the fall. It was then realized that doing so would be expensive, not too practical, and most importantly, the dredging did not seem that disruptive of nesting after all. So the dredging continues. Construction of the culvert that will deliver tidal water to the Pocket Wetland at the foot of the Bolsa Chica Mesa is well underway. It was anticipated that the construction would close the access between the overlook and the dam for a short period, but the contractor now thinks that a small passageway can remain open during that phase of construction. That will likely occur during late June. The opening of the loop trail (the inland trail between the dam and the foot bridge) depends on the progress of the dredging, but considering the popularity of the trail, it might be possible to open the trail earlier if safety fencing can be placed around the dredging support equipment that is on the trail. Call the Amigos office for updates.

Birds are already using the brand new nesting sites that were constructed as part of the wetland restoration. Twenty one snowy plover nests were observed in late May on the new nest sites, in addition to 13 on other sites. As reported by Jack Fancher of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, California least tern nesting is down from last year; the cause is unknown. (At least 8-10,000 elegant terns have taken up residence on the Ecological Reserve's North Tern Island.)

The culmination of the restoration will be the opening of the ocean inlet, tentatively scheduled for late August. The exact date depends on how soon the oil company can complete the moving of oil lines across the channel and also on the tides during that period. Call the Amigos office for updates.



RALPHS SCRIP PROGRAM

Ralphs calls it "simply the most powerful way to help grow your non-profit organization." Amigos has just signed up with Ralph Market's Scrip program, which gives a whopping 5% benefit from club card customer purchases to the non-profit of their choice. All it takes is to provide us your complete Ralphs club card number and we will do the rest. If you want Amigos to receive a 5% benefit from your Ralphs purchases, please either call the Amigos office 714-840-1575 or email info@amigosdebolsachica.org and provide us your club card number.

ROBERT CHRISTY MEMORIAL

Robert Christy passed away on April 5, 2006. Robert was a long time supporter of Amigos and the preservation of the Bolsa Chica Wetlands. His wife, Phyllis Marsh, requested donations to be sent to Amigos in Robert Christy's memory. Many friends and relatives from California and elsewhere responded generously. Those who made donations in Robert's memory were: Phyllis Marsh Christy, William & Karen Peoples, Regina Selvin (Rodgers Senior Center), John & Linda Stevens, Vicki Poure, Nancy & Donald Estrin, Thomas & Ila Hebert, Dorothy & Paul Sengir, Charles & Jean Jurisch, Sherry Christy, Gail Freshwater, Donald & Esther Luce, Leonard & Helen LaCasto, Gilbert Fujimoto, The Perez Family, Paul Poll, Larry Gardner, and Craig Van Velsor.



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AMIGOS DE BOLSA CHICA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

I support the specific and primary purpose of Amigos de Bolsa Chica, which is to advocate the preservation, restoration and maintenance of the Bolsa Chica, to encourage the public acquisition of all the wetlands and sufficient surrounding open space to create a viable ecosystem, and to provide education about the importance of wetlands.

ANNUAL DUES

- \$ 20 Individual
- \$ 30 Family
- \$ 50 Patron
- \$ 75 Sponsor
- \$100 Sustaining
- \$300 Life Member

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Additional Contribution:

\$ _____ Fund operational expenses

\$ _____ Total enclosed

Please check if you are interested in volunteering for:

Office assistance _____

Community Education _____

Fundraising _____

Grants _____

All contributions to Amigos de Bolsa Chica are tax-deductible as allowed by law under IRS Code Section 501(c)3. No goods or services were provided in consideration of this gift.