



[Subscribe to All Content](#) [Subscribe to Daily Content](#)

[Writing Shotgun](#)

IF HITCHCOCK'S PERMIT APPROVED, ENVIRONMENTALISTS WILL APPEAL

[Dave Wielenga](#) Mon. October 12

Despite short notice and inconvenient timing, several Long Beach residents and activists intend to monitor today's Zoning Administrator Hearing, where developer Sean Hitchcock of 2H Construction will seek a city permit to re-seal the wetlands-area earth—and old toxic landfill—that he defoliated, scraped and leveled without a permit on March 20 and 21. They will speak during the public comment period, and if zoning administrator Derek Burnham of the city's planning department approves the permit, as-is, they will file an appeal.

They are seeking a strong show of public support at the meeting (City Hall council chambers today at 2 p.m.) which was officially announced only last Thursday. [Attached to that announcement was a taxpayer-funded study](#) that agrees with a study paid for by Hitchcock, which concludes that the 8.3 acres at the intersection of Loynes Ave. and Studebaker Rd. is not officially wetlands.

[The Los Cerritos Wetlands Land Trust has commissioned a study of its own](#), a comprehensive overview of the biological resources that were on the land before the scraping. The study by Land Protection Partners, a biological consulting company, makes a strong case for the land's restoration and rehabilitation. Additionally, environmental consultant Heather Altman has written informatively on the issue on her blog, www.egretsnotregrets.com

As outlined in two stories in *The District Weekly* ([THIS ONE](#) and [THIS ONE](#)) the hearing is mostly a formality—making official the emergency work Hitchcock did months ago by order of the Coastal Commission after his illegal earthmoving uncovered a decades-sealed dump and sent plumes of poisonous gases into surrounding neighborhoods and schools.

But critics want the hearing to be more than that. They want city officials to attach some conditions to the permit—requirements that Hitchcock restore the land to its previous condition, when its rolling contours created wet-weather ponds that supported plant and animal life. Currently, its flat and denuded state has merely prepared it for the development that Hitchcock intends.

Tags: [2H Construction](#), [Derek Burnham](#), egretsnotregrets.com, [Los Cerritos Wetlands](#), [Sean Hitcock](#), [Studebaker and Loynes](#)

[ShareThis](#)



Add New Comment

You are commenting as a [Guest](#). You may select one to log into:

