

Size of storm drain may degrade lagoon

By Joe Segura
Staff writer

Friends of Colorado Lagoon will bring the community up to speed on a pending master plan for improvements at the lagoon.

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Works won the Long Beach City Council's nod last week on a consultant's conceptual plans for building a new Termino Avenue storm drain at the lagoon.

The proposal drew mixed reviews from community activists, as some objected to the technology planned for the new system.

The council and county supervisor will hear the issue several more times before final approval is granted for construction.

During a meeting set for Thursday night, leaders of Friends of Colorado Lagoon will update the community on the status of the grant application with the Coastal Conservancy and the status of the Termino Avenue Drain Project.

Assemblyman Alan Lowenthal, D-Long Beach, is expected to attend the meeting, scheduled for 7 in the auditorium at Rogers Middle School, 365 Monrovia Ave.

The Colorado Lagoon is a V-shaped body of salt water covering about 40 acres, including a beach. Gates regulate tidal flow.

A consultant initially found no impacts from the project significant enough to require mitigation measures. But the consultant said elements of the project would "degrade the quality of the environment" in several categories, including: aesthetics due to the size of the proposed outlet structure; the loss of eel grass; soil contamination; construction noise, and bacteria in the water.

For those interested in learning more about wildlife at the lagoon, there will be a sunset nature walk before Thursday's meeting, beginning at 6 at the footbridge. For details, call (562) 261-9058.