Overview of Estuarine Ecosystem Structure, Functions and Processes

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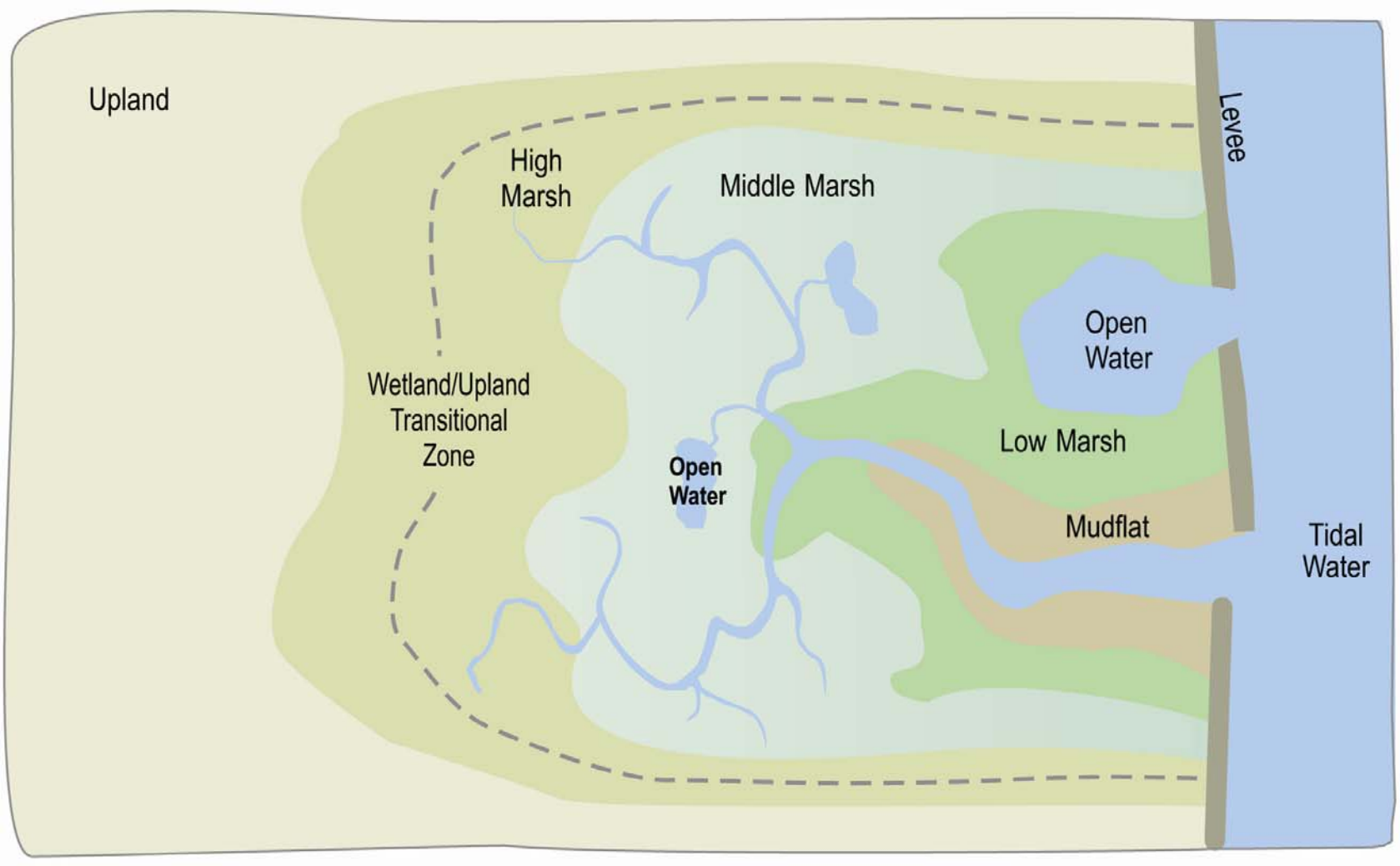
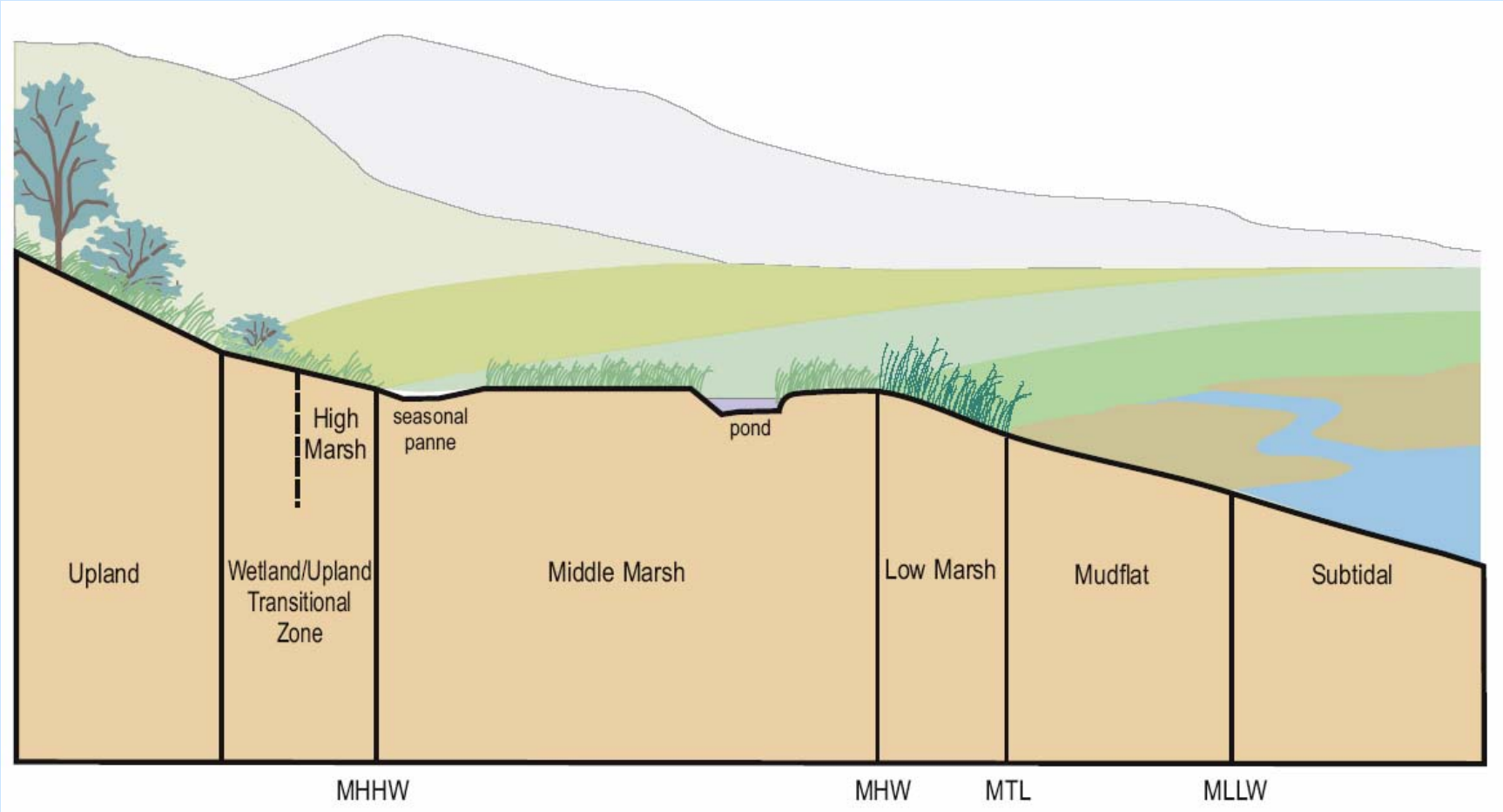
Historical Extent of Habitats at Ballona

Plan View: Estuarine Ecosystem Structure



Cross-section: Estuarine Ecosystem Structure



Upland Scrub and Grasslands

Dune Scrub

Transition Zone

Transition Zone: Structure, Function, and Processes

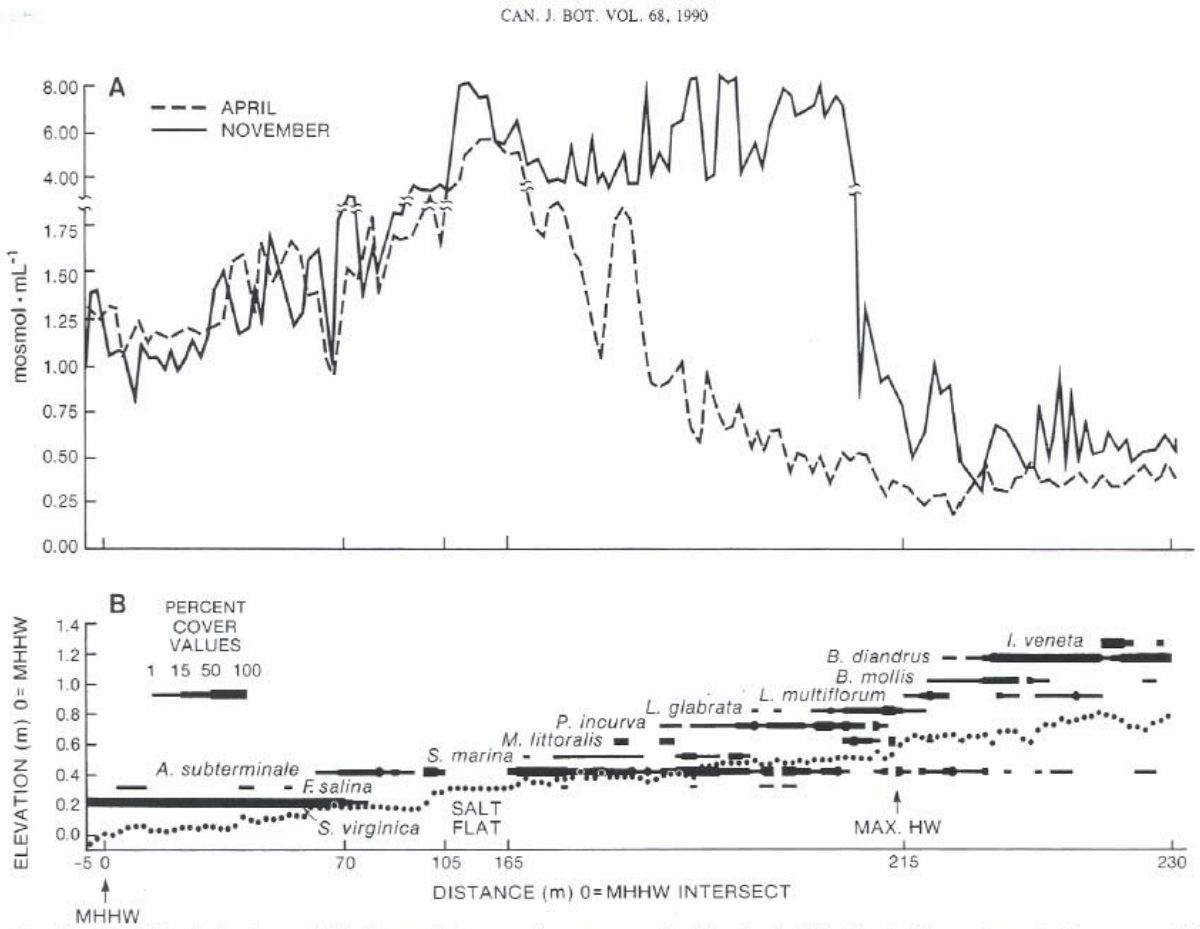


FIG. 1. (A) Soil salinity (mosmol·mL^{-1}) on the integrated transects at the Carpinteria Salt Marsh. The ordinate is the same as 1B. (B) Species cover and elevation for 153 plots on three integrated transects at the Carpinteria Salt Marsh. Plants are arranged on the ordinate by their horizontal distance from the lowest plot in the marsh. To compare vegetation and soil salinity in one figure we used an ordinate that varied in scale. ..., elevation; MHHW, mean higher high water (mean sea level + 0.85 m); max. HW, maximum high water.

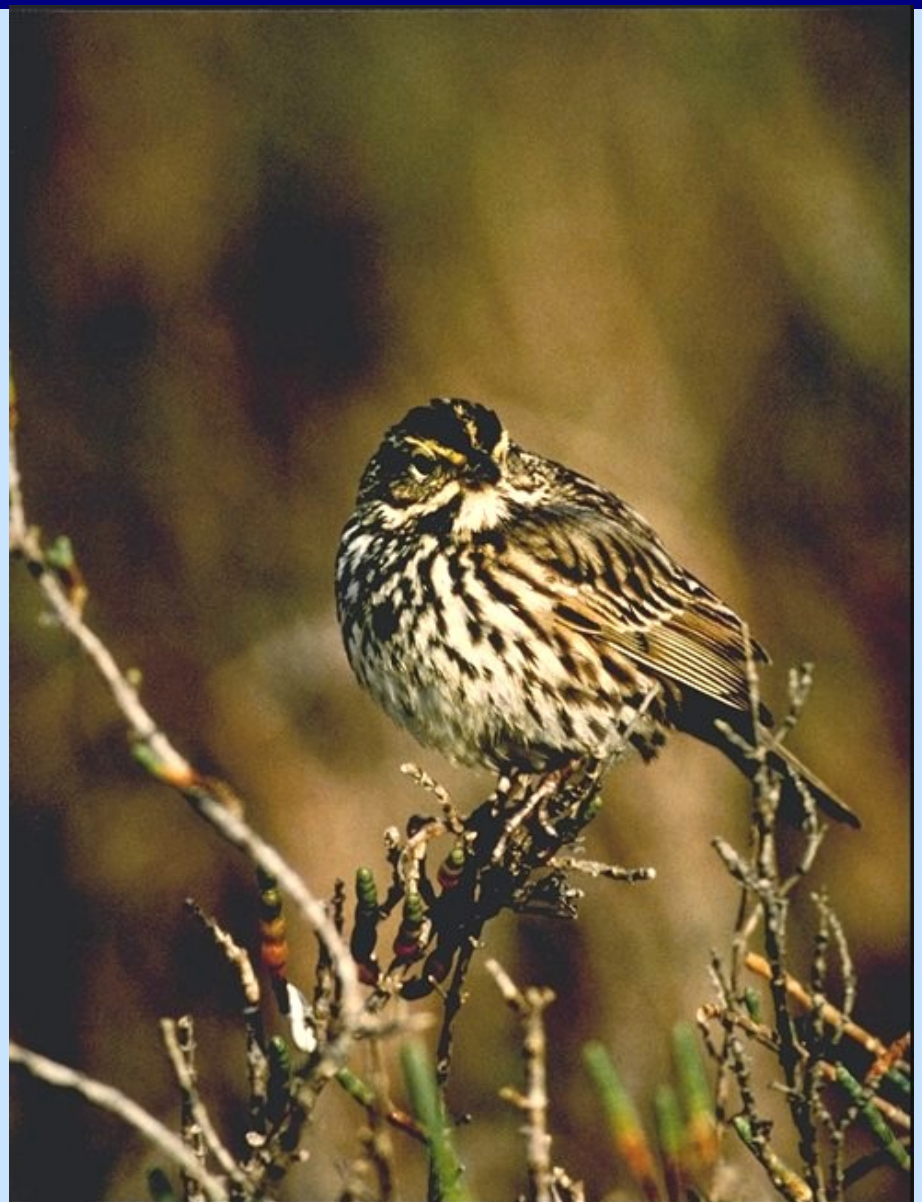
High Marsh

Salt Marsh Bird’s Beak

Middle Marsh

Middle Marsh

Belding’s Savannah Sparrow



Low Marsh and Mud Flats

California Horn Snail

Estuarine Diatoms

Mud Crab

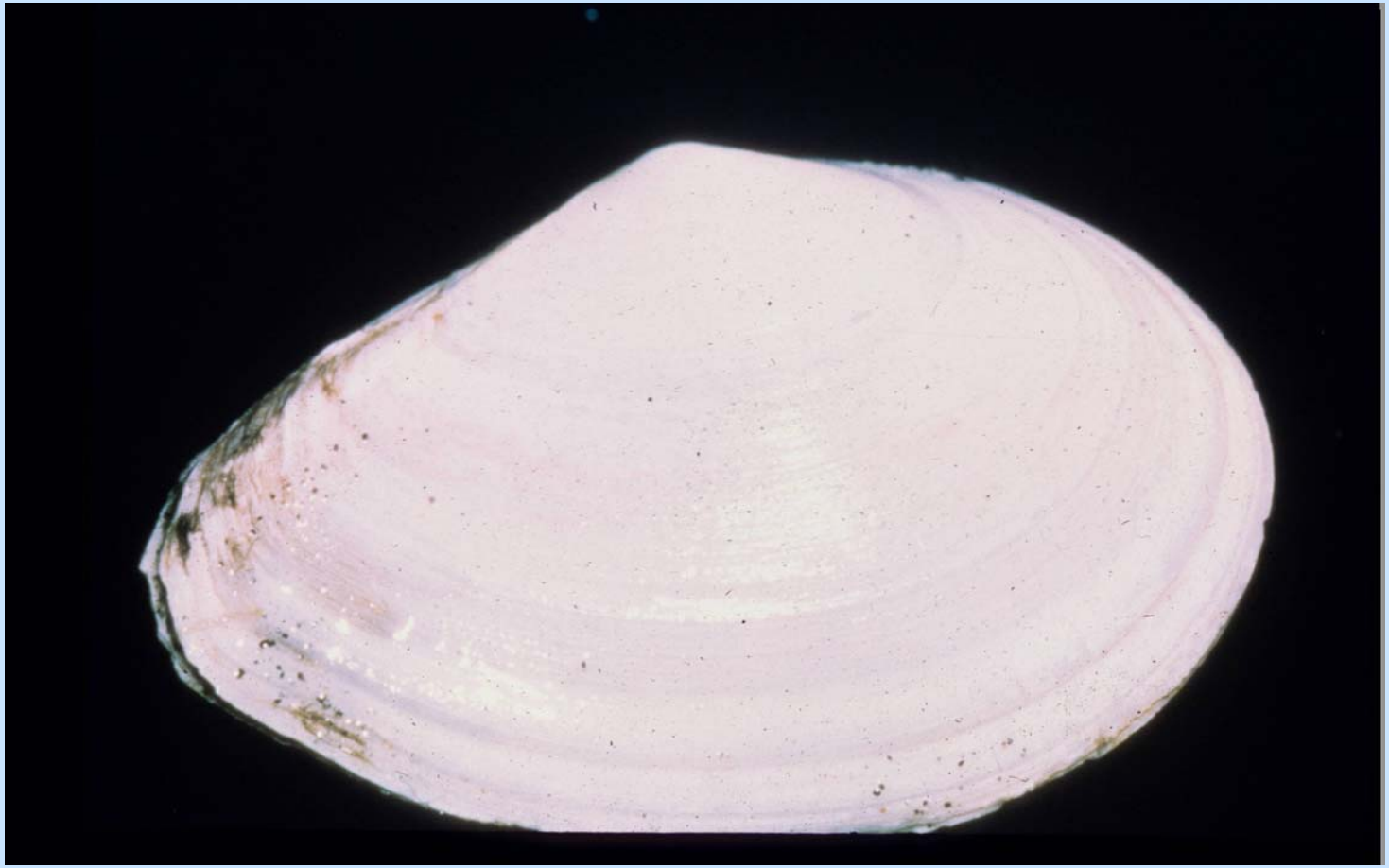
Light-footed Clapper Rail

Intertidal Channel

Shorebirds

Subtidal Deepwater Habitat

Bent-nose Clam

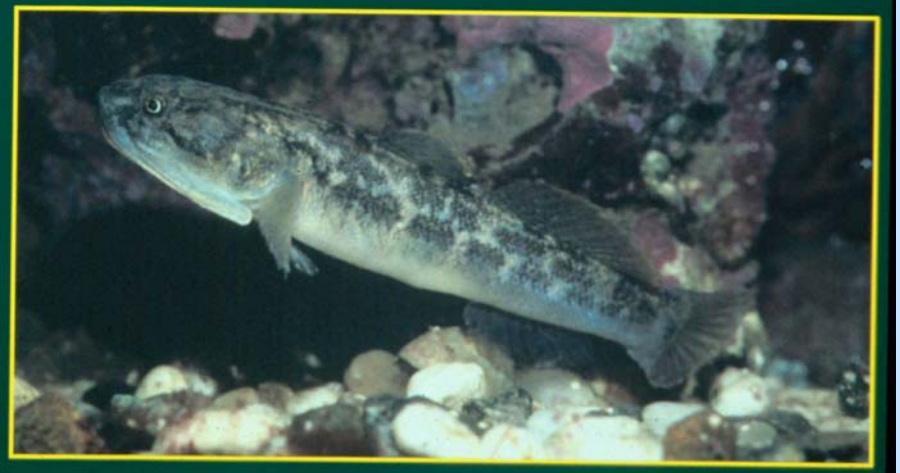


Fish

Pacific Staghorn Sculpin

Leptocottus armatus

Photo by Keith Jackson



Longjawed Mudsucker

Gillichthys mirabilis

Photo by Todd Huspeni

Open Water

Palustrine Wetlands: Freshwater Marsh

Riparian Scrub

Seasonal Wetlands

Pygmy Blue Butterfly

Aerial Photo of Ballona

Access and Values