



CITIZENS COMMITTEE TO COMPLETE THE REFUGE

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NEXT MEETING, THURSDAY, FEB. 17, 2011, 730 PM.

Fremont Refuge Headquarters, east end Dumbarton Bridge

Good News! The time for submitting comments on the Cargill development on the Redwood City crystallizers has been extended to March 31st. If you have concerns regarding the devastating impacts of filling 1,000 acres of the Bay – **this is your opportunity to express your concerns.** Look at the details on the net and write to Blake Lyon, Senior Planner, whose address is on web site.

A Reflection: After our Refuge was voted into law by the Congress in 1972, we all sat back, dusted off our hands, thinking, “that’s that”. But, by the 1980’s we realized how the lands we had acquired left out habitat critical to the species we were trying to protect. That is when we went back to Mr. Edwards and started the exhausting process again. Success was ours once more and in 1988 the new legislation was enacted to increase the size of the Refuge to approximately 43,000 acres.

Then - the big question was - what lands were vital to restoring and sustaining a diversity of habitats?

So, one summer day we met around a table upstairs at the Ed Center in Alviso with Roy Lowe, of FWS, Paul Kelly of CDFG, and John Wade of POST (Peninsula Open Space Trust). Maps were spread everywhere.

Roy, Paul and John knew every acre of land left on the edges of the Bay. New maps were painstakingly produced delineating habitat types, ownership, proximity to existing sites and wildlife use. Then the lengthy public process began. The maps were displayed and community comment invited, leading to the establishment of the final boundary.

Today every acre remaining within the expansion boundary is critical, as we have already lost to development hundreds of acres - for example, Oliver Brothers, part of Citation, the Newark/Coyote Tract, the Ugly Duckling and other duck clubs in Union City. That’s why it’s so important we fight to protect sites like the 1,433 acres in Redwood City.

The entire site is within the congressionally approved boundary and currently provides valuable habitat for sensitive species and migratory birds and is essential for the long-term sustainability of our Refuge and of the bay’s biodiversity.

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A Review: Frank Delfino sent an article about that most famous of items to fight over in the West--water. It is wonderfully rewarding to read “California Dreamin” in the December 20, 2010 issue of the *High Country News*. Along with the broad brush scary stuff, there are interesting tidbits, like Craig Manson, recently of the FWS hierarchy, is now chief lawyer for the infamous Westlands agribusiness. Julie MacDonald, who left the FWS under a cloud, also works there. Don’t miss it!

See you on the 17th

Florence LaRocque

CCCR Minutes, January 20, 2011

Attendees: Matt and Gail Leddy, Linda and Virgil Patterson, Arthur Feinstein and Ruth Vose, Eileen McLaughlin, Jana Sokale, Frank Delfino, Margaret Lewis, Carin High, Ralph Nobles, Wayne Miller, Florence LaRiviere.

The January meeting was our annual meeting for 2011 where the treasurer's report was read and an election was held with the following results:

Florence LaRiviere Chair, Carin High Vice-chair, Margaret Lewis Secretary, Enid Pearson Treasurer, and members of the board reelected were Ralph Nobles, Wayne Miller, Frank Delfino, Philip LaRiviere, Emily Renzel, Arthur Feinstein.

Discussion on demographics of Citizens Committee membership and Newsletter recipients. Also discussion on upgrades to the web site.

The Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) for the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay NWR is down to the level of details. San Pablo NWR is working on their CCP and will complete it soon if the mosquitos leave them alone.

CCCR comments on sea level rise made by Wayne Miller were met with praise. Wayne gave careful attention and cited sources in his comment letter.

The South Bay salt pond restoration project will have another meeting on Feb 10, 2011. Work being considered will be done on ponds A-16 and 17.

Newsnotes: The Coastal Conservancy is funding a mouse eradication program for the Farallon Islands. Mice are excellent at multiplying and they have negative impacts on ground nesting birds and other wildlife on the Islands... On Bair Island the Coastal conservancy is helping fund a special predator-proof bridge. Work is ongoing to restore Middle Bair. Inner Bair is slowly being filled in anticipation of habitat creation... The Federal Refuge System is on Facebook... Nomination forms are being filled out for Florence in conjunction with a conservation award... Arthur gave a report on the latest news from the Clean Water Network. February 28 is the start of WaterWeek. Take a shower with a friend.

More News: The EPA has a new person in charge of the Office of Water and Wetlands... Carin gave a

report on the State Water Board Wetland and Riparian Habitat Protection Plan..Discussion on Tiger Salamander habitat in Sonoma County. Report on draft EIS for Santa Clara Valley Habitat Conservation Plan: 21 species involved. Deadline for comments is April 18 Santa Clara Valley Audubon commenting on solar farm project proposed for the Panoche Valley: Impacts to migrating and resident birds. Carin is working on the CCCR web site...Arthur reported on the new dog policy for the Golden Gate Recreational Area.

Local Groups

Save Wetlands in Mayhews: A pair of grey foxes in my backyard. The kitties are enchanted as they sit inside and gaze at the foxes.

Friends of Charleston Slough: Upcoming meeting to discuss possible changes in the way the slough is managed. Jana saw a big bat ray in the Slough! Almost as exciting as my grey foxes!

Fremont: Update on the proposed Patterson project. The Coyote Hills quarry restoration is running into trouble with a hillside sliding onto the proposed recreation area and ring road.

Save Our South Bay Wetlands: Report on Newby Island expansion proposal. Discussion on shoreline study including sea level rise. No Army COE delineation at this time.

Friends of Redwood City: The Cargill "Saltworks" proposal is still in the scoping phase. The deadline for comments is March 31. Upcoming open houses to focus on transportation, energy, air quality and other items. Nearly every environmental organization has opposed development of the crystallizers.

Citizens for Alameda's Last Marshlands:

Discussion on the history of Baumberg Tract in Hayward. Current discussion on a southern crossing to link east and west bay. The Navy is pulling back on proposing a clinic on land planned for the refuge.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret