



# CITIZENS COMMITTEE TO COMPLETE THE REFUGE

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## NEXT MEETING, THURSDAY, MARCH 17, 2011, 7:30 P.M.

Fremont Refuge Headquarters, East end, Dumbarton Bridge

### ENDORSERS

- Acterra
- Baylands Conservation Committee
- California Hawking Club, Inc.
- California Waterfowl Association
- California Wildlife Federation
- Citizens for Alameda's Last Marshlands
- Citizens for Open Space in Alvarado
- Friends of Foster City
- Save our South Bay Wetlands
- Save Wetlands in Mayhews
- Whistling Winds/Pintail Duck Clubs
- Committee for Green Foothills
- Communities for a Better Environment
- Defenders of Wildlife
- East Bay Green Alliance
- Federation of Fly Fishers
- Friends of Charleston Slough
- Friends of Redwood City
- Golden Gate Audubon Society
- Green Belt Alliance
- League of Women Voters of the Eden Area
- League of Women Voters of the Fremont Area
- League of Women Voters of Palo Alto
- League of Women Voters of South San Mateo County
- Mission Creek Conservancy
- Loma Prieta Chapter, Sierra Club
- Madrone Audubon Society
- Marin Audubon Society
- Mission Creek Conservancy
- Mono Lake Committee
- Mount Diablo Audubon Society
- Napa-Solano Audubon Society
- Native Plant Society, Santa Clara Valley Chapter
- Ohlone Audubon Society
- Planning and Conservation League
- San Francisco Chapter, Sierra Club
- Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society
- Save San Francisco Bay Association
- Sequoia Audubon Society
- Sportsmen for Equal Access
- Trout Unlimited
- United Anglers of California
- Urban Creeks Council

A few years ago, the head of the Wetlands Branch of the EPA in Washington D.C. told me that he always looked forward to finding our Newsletter in his mail box, because that is how he learned, as he said, what is REALLY going on in San Francisco Bay.

We would like to expand our mailing list, so we are asking you to send the names and addresses of anyone you know who is, or might be, interested in Bay wetlands for their protection, acquisition and restoration.

By sending us the information, you are ensuring that your friends will receive our valuable, interesting Newsletter once or twice a year. No strings attached. What bargain!



Newspapers on the west side of the South bay have been flooded with colorful ads from Cargill/DMB regarding its Redwood City "Saltworks" development plans.

You are urged to believe that a new extension of Redwood City across Bayshore Freeway into the Bay, housing 30,000 new residents, is going to reduce traffic congestion! If you believe that, then you might also believe that the goal of the project is marsh restoration, for that's what the ads imply.

You may submit your comments about this project, a development on land that is much used now for wildlife. Send them to:

Redwood City Planning, Housing and Economic Development Department

Attn: Blake Lyon, Senior Planner,

Saltworks Project Scoping Comments

1017 Middlefield Road

Redwood City, CA 94063. Fax: (650) 780-0128

email: [BLyon@redwoodcity.org](mailto:BLyon@redwoodcity.org).

The first deadline is March 31, with the city promising a second comment period later.



We are much indebted to Rich Radigonda! He has set a tentative date of July ~~31~~<sup>23</sup> for a fundraising gala on the Navy ship "Hornet" tied up at Alameda. Please mark your calendars.

See you on the 17th, *Florence*

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## CCCR Minutes, February 17, 2011

**Attendees:** Margaret Lewis, Florence LaRiviere, Carin High, Rich Radigonda, Arthur Feinstein and Ruth Vose, Cynthia Denney, Gail Raabe and Matt Leddy, Wayne Miller, Eileen McLaughlin, Libby Lucas, and Frank Delfino.

The meeting began with a special guest, Rich Radigonda, who discussed fundraising for the Committee. Possible time frame is this summer. More discussion at upcoming meetings.

Comprehensive Conservation Plan for the Don Edwards NWR is ready for release. South Bay Ponds restoration projects are moving forward. Engineering reports will help to decide which ponds will be shallow and which will be deeper. Frank Delfino gave a brilliant presentation on the boundary map for the proposed Refuge expansion, showing which parcels are waiting for acquisition, which have been acquired by the Refuge, and which by the State Dept. of Fish and Game.

Wayne Miller discussed the BCDC Bay Plan Amendment which gives least terns the same voting rights as snowy plovers. The revised plan will provide more time for public comments than heretofore. As expected, development interests seek less protection for wildlife habitats.

**Newsnotes:** Arthur Feinstein enlightened us on recent issues with the Clean Water Network...The EPA is under attack from developers who seek to weaken regulations...Discussion on importance of seasonal wetlands...The owners under the Williamson Act may see their contract slowly disappear in a sea of state red ink. Other options for preserving farmlands may develop...The Science Symposium on pond restoration is now online. Learn all about diving ducks and shorebirds, fish and sediments.

The State of the Estuary is holding a seminar supported by the Citizens Committee with a voted donation of \$150...Funding for Refuges is still being discussed at the federal level...Plans by Solargen to build one of the largest solar farms in the U.S. in Panoche Valley of San Benito County.

The site would cover the habitat of 19 listed or special species...Another site proposed for a solar farm is on important kit fox habitat on the Carrizo Plain...Degraded farmland in the San Joaquin Valley has so far been ignored for solar installations.

Agency status for the Refuge system is up for discussion...Update on the Ravenswood triangle, a long-time mitigations site on which some work has been done recently to bring back tidal action...The Hayward Shoreline Interpretative Center is celebrating its 25th anniversary with a party at the Center on May 21, 10 am to noon...High Country News ran an article on California water in the Dec 20 issue...The Sierra Club is working on water policy...The Corps of Engineers is working on its scary Nationwide Permits that will be coming up for review in 2012.

### Local Groups

**Save Wetlands in Mayhews:** Conducted another "Newark 101" for a newspaper reporter.

**Citizens for Alameda's Last Marshland:** White clover whacking has begun at Alameda. Continuing work to get federal support of a Refuge at Alameda.

**Friends of Charleston Slough:** Meeting to discuss changes in slough layout in the area.

**Fremont:** Poster contest coming up. May 7 Award ceremony at Coyote Hills.

**Save our South Bay Wetlands:** Update on sewage treatment plant and thousands of surrounding acres. No news on Newby Island.

**Friends of Redwood City:** Update on proposal by Cargill/DMB to build in the salt ponds. Waiting to see if the Greenbelt Alliance votes to support development or not.

**Baylands Conservation Committee:** Enid and Emily working on preservation of Byxbee Park in Palo Alto.

Respectfully submitted,

*Margaret*