



SAVE WETLANDS

Newsletter of the Citizens Committee To Complete The Refuge

Newsletter Issue 37

Winter 2007-2008

LaRiviere Marsh Restored, Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge.

Protection of wetlands and the uplands that surround them, does not come merely by wishing it so. Protection of these areas comes through the hard work of local citizens fighting to preserve areas they know and love and through ongoing vigilance ensuring those areas remain so. This edition is a departure from our usual format; in it we hope to memorialize the institutional memory of our members regarding mitigation or protected sites around the south and central bay. This issue also alerts our readers to lands within the "congressionally approved refuge expansion boundary" that are under immediate threat of development. As always, we appeal to each and every reader to continue to fight the good fight for environmental protection. Each and every one of us can make positive contributions but only if we continue the battle.



Photo by Howard High

Institutional Memory

Do you remember the South San Francisco Baylands Planning, Conservation and National Wildlife Refuge Committee? This was the name of the original Citizens Committee. Forty years ago, the original Citizens Committee came together to fulfill the dream of Art Ogilvie, a planner of the Santa Clara County Planning Department. Not only was his dream of a national wildlife refuge in San Francisco Bay fulfilled in 1972, in 1988 congressional approval was granted for the expansion of the original refuge boundary.

Through the years our members have fought to protect wetlands and open space along the edges of the bay. We have accumulated vast amounts of knowledge about these lands. We have tracked the progress of mitigation sites, contacted agency staff when questions concerning the success of the mitigation have arisen, alerted local planning staff when actions in mitigation sites were proposed, and alerted appropriate agencies when suspected unauthorized fills were taking place. Over time this information is lost, if not recorded. Institutional memory in any agency is a luxury, staff turnover can be high, databases eccentric or incomplete. There have been occasions when our members have been contacted by a regulatory agency seeking information about a particular permit action or mitigation site. In this edition of the newsletter, some of our members have memorialized information they have concerning mitigation and enforcement sites along the south and east bay.

An excellent website has been developed to help document mitigation sites around the north, central, and south bay, —WetlandsTracker! (<http://www.wetlandtracker.org/>) is sponsored by San Francisco Estuary Institute (SFEI) using data primarily collected by Wetlands and Water Resources (WWR) and Point Reyes Bird Observatory (PRBO) Conservation Science.

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What the Citizens Committee to Complete the Refuge Has Been Doing For the Environment This Year (2007)

2007 has been a very busy year for CCCR. We’ve supported several educational outreach programs, participated in the environmental review process for a number of projects, participated in stakeholders forums, and volunteered with projects helping endangered species.

On the educational outreach front CCCR co-sponsored two three-day marsh ecology workshops with the Santa Clara Valley Chapter of the California Native Plant Society. Co-teaching the workshops were Dr. Howard Shellhammer, Dr. Peter Baye, and Refuge Manager Clyde Morris. The workshops were well attended by members of the regulatory, resource, consulting, and environmental communities, and provided tremendous insight to historic and current tidal marsh diversity. Also this year CCCR, Ohlone Audubon Society, and the Friends of Coyote Hills sponsored a student poster contest. The —HabitatMeansHome! Poster Contest celebrates the diversity of habitats, plants, and animals that exist at Coyote Hills Regional Park. With little time for publicity, we received over 150 incredible posters, submitted by students in the Fremont Unified School District. All of the submitted posters were displayed at the park’s visitor center. We once again sponsored a meeting between bay area environment groups and the Endangered Species Branch of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. CCCR also participated in the City of Fremont Earth Day celebration. Arthur Feinstein participated at the State of the Estuary Conference and spoke about the importance of taking a broader ecosystem perspective when conducting environmental restoration and the need to restore and maintain habitat diversity.

On the environmental advocacy front there has been much to do. We submitted comments to Corps Headquarters against the proposal to renew and amend the nationwide permit program—a program that permits certain types of fill in wetlands and waters without any public comment process. We also submitted comments to the State Water Board regarding the nationwide permit program. Locally, there have been a number of egregious projects that have been proposed including:

- * the Potrero Hills Landfill Expansion (Fairfield) which is located in the Secondary Management Area of the Suisun Marsh Preservation Act of 1977 and would impact the California tiger salamander and its habitat;
- * the Todd Road-Terra Bagnata Public Notice (PN) (Santa Rosa) which is an after-the-fact permit request for four acres of unauthorized fill;
- * the Gentry-Suisun PN (Suisun City sphere of influence) for the placement of almost 36 acres of wetlands fill in an area identified as critical habitat for the federally listed Contra Costa goldfields. The goldfields and a number of sensitive species occur on the proposed development site;
- * the Casamira Valley PN (Dublin) a development proposal to realign almost a mile of creek. The development could

adversely impact the California tiger salamander, the California red-legged frog, and the San Joaquin kit fox;

- * the Rio del Oro PN (Sacramento) for a development project that would impact over 30 acres of wetlands including over 17 acres of direct impacts and additional indirect impacts to vernal pools.

We have participated in the CEQA environmental review process for a number of projects, two of which will be highlighted in the following pages: the proposed Patterson Ranch development in Fremont, and the Area 3 & 4 (Whistling Wings and Pintail duck clubs) in Newark. Other CEQA projects include the Redwood City Area H/Indian Creek Preserve Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR), the High Speed Rail DEIR (we are opposed to the Pacheco alignment and have numerous concerns regarding the proposed Altamont alignment), and the sand mining DEIR.

Other issues we have devoted time to have been:

- * the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project—attorney Steve Volker submitted a letter on our behalf regarding concerns about the incomplete review of alternatives for the programmatic DEIS/EIR.
- * the campaign underway in Redwood City to prevent the development of 1433 acres of Redwood City crystallizers
- * the BCDC Water Trail proposal and our concerns about impacts to wildlife
- * Friends of the Alameda Refuge—volunteer efforts to maintain the breeding habitat, protect the nesting terns from predators, and our ongoing quest to see the California least tern colony and adjacent areas incorporated into the wildlife refuge
- * the ongoing and frustrating effort to gain information regarding the decisions that have been made by the US Fish and Wildlife Service regarding the Bison Range
- * the ongoing efforts to prevent the land acquisition appraisal process from being misused in the future
- * and attending meetings regarding numerous projects and programs concerning wetlands.



Dr. Peter Baye and students of the Marsh Ecology Short Course examine a transition zone in the LaRiviere Marsh. Photo by Carin High

At Risk Lands Within the Refuge Expansion Boundary

The lands pictured on this and the following two pages, were identified in the 1990, —LandProtectionPlan, Potential Additions to San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge. On October 28, 1988 Congress passed Public Law 100-556, which increased the Service’s acquisition authority from 23,000 acres to a total of 43,000 acres.

These lands were added to the land protection plan because they

provide the opportunity for the preservation and enhancement of highly significant wildlife habitat for the protection of migratory waterfowl and other wildlife, including species known to be threatened with extinction. These lands also provide an opportunity for wildlife oriented recreation and nature study.

All these lands are under immediate threat of development.

1,433 Acres Redwood City Crystallizers



All of the aerial photography in this newsletter is from the Google Earth website. The locations of the sites and the boundaries identified are best approximations.

The 1,433 acres of crystallizers in Redwood City were included in the 1990 congressionally approved refuge expansion boundary. These lands are of significant value in preserving and restoring habitat diversity within the south and central bay ecosystem. Under the heading of —UniqueRestorationOpportunities! for the Redwood City segment of the bay, the *Goals Project* stated, —The Redwood City crystallizers and associated salt ponds offer the opportunity to maintain and enhance shorebird and waterfowl habitat in close proximity to large tidal flats that are so important for foraging shorebirds. Creating salt pan habitat would provide nesting habitat for the snowy plover. The *Feasibility Analysis of the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration*, produced by Dr. Stuart Siegel and Dr. Philip Bachand states, —Crystallizerponds are ready-made pannes suitable for shorebird nesting and roosting habitat that need comparatively little modification. The crystallizer ponds address ecological needs for a variety of

species, especially the threatened western snowy plover...! and —...thecrystallizersare targeted by regional ecological recovery efforts as prime salt panne habitat easily managed and restored for Snowy Plover nesting, least tern foraging, and seasonal shorebird use. In addition to the environmental significance of the 1433 acres, there are public safety hazards to be considered such as flooding and seismic hazards. BCDC’s sea level rise maps show the entirety of the site inundated under a one meter rise in sea level. Cargill Incorporated is aggressively pursuing a campaign to convince Redwood City officials to rezone its property to permit large-scale development. CCCR, Committee for Green Foothills, Friends of Redwood City, Loma Prieta Chapter of the Sierra Club, Sequoia Audubon Society, and Save the Bay are all participating in the fight to preserve these lands for future generations to enjoy.

Area 4 Whistling Wings and Pintail Duck Clubs, Newark, CA



Ducks and shorebirds inhabit the areas of ponded waters during the rainy season, and portions of the land support the endangered salt marsh harvest mouse. Over the levee in the tidal marshes along Mowry Slough the endangered California clapper rail can be found and harbor seals have an important haul-out area. It sounds like a perfect addition to the Refuge doesn't it? Members of Congress thought so when the lands were included in the refuge expansion boundary in 1990.

Instead the City of Newark is reviewing a development proposal that would build an 18-hole golf course and executive housing on a large portion of these lands. Goodbye migratory birds, goodbye salt marsh harvest mouse, and hello Canada geese, coots, and feral predators.

Extremely few places remain along the edges of the bay where the gradient from tidal marsh to upland habitats can be restored. Area 4 is one of the few places where this important transition zone could be recovered, and without tremendous effort.

Under the heading, —Unique Restoration Opportunities, the *Goals Project* states, —There are opportunities to restore historic tidal marsh/upland transitional habitat... and under —Recommendations, —Protect and enhance the tidal marsh/

upland transition at the upper end of Mowry Slough... In addition to the numerous environmental issues, there are

public safety issues: flood and seismic concerns, emergency response time, limited access to the proposed development, etc., as well as sea level rise concerns. The BCDC sea level rise map shows the entirety of the site inundated by a one meter rise in sea level.

Consultants for the City of Newark are currently working on the DEIR for the proposed development project. The city expects the DEIR to be circulated in spring 2008. If you wish to be notified when the DEIR is released please contact Terrence Grindall at Terrence.Grindall@newark.org



Pintails in flight

By Sam High

Save Wetlands Winter 2007-2008

Patterson Ranch, Fremont, CA



Did you know there is a place in Fremont where you can hike amongst the marshes and in the stillness of the early morning hear nothing but the whistling of ducks wings or the scolding of a marsh wren? Coyote Hills Regional Park is that place. It is true you can walk through the marsh and lose yourself in the sounds of nature. Part of the reason for this sense of isolation is the buffer of undeveloped open space surrounding the park.

The Patterson Ranch lands to the west of Ardenwood Blvd. not only act as an important shield for the park against the relentless march of development, these lands have tremendous restoration value. Patterson Slough seen above as the upside-down and backwards —S shape now represents the eastern edge of what was once a significant willow grove. The historic willow grove stretched from the portion that now exists within the park, east to Patterson Slough and southeast almost all the way to the present day Ardenwood Historic Farm. The fragments of willow grove that exist within the park and on Patterson Ranch are the only remnants of this important habitat in the south and central bay. The undeveloped open space also provides important foraging and nesting habitat for raptors.

The area pictured on the aerial photograph above supports a tremendous diversity of habitats within a compact geographic

area and it's been called the —rarest of mosaics. This diversity of habitats is reflected in a tremendous diversity of plants, animals, and migratory and resident birds that can be found there.

Development proposals have been submitted several times since the early 1990's. Each time the community has risen up in protest. As of this date the current proposal contains 800 housing units and some retail to the east of Ardenwood Blvd. and at least one school, two churches, and an active sports park with ballfields, etc. with —possible night lighting to the west of Ardenwood Blvd. CCCR's position for the past seven years has been no development west of Ardenwood Blvd. and development to the east only in a density would not degrade the surrounding neighborhoods. This area of Fremont has for many years had the highest housing density in Fremont.

Consultants for the City of Fremont are in the process of preparing a DEIR that is anticipated to be released in early 2008. If you wish to be notified when the DEIR is released please contact Scott Ruhland at sruhland@ci.fremont.ca.gov

In addition to the Patterson Ranch development proposal, we have heard a development plan may be submitted to the City of Fremont by Cargill for the Fremont Coyote Tract.

Save Wetlands Winter 2007-2008



Information on mitigation parcels on the western shoreline of Palo Alto and down around through Alviso.

Submitted by: Emily Renzel, Philip LaRiviere and Libby Lucas.

Ravenswood Triangle was required as mitigation for wetlands loss due to the construction of the new Dumbarton Bridge circa 1982. About 5 acres of land are on one side of the railroad track and 70 acres on the bay side. Tig Tarleton, who owned wetlands adjoining the 5 acres threatened to sue if new tidal action were introduced onto his wetlands. Nothing has been done since the bridge was built. The only water entering the site is stormwater. **Faber & Laumeister Tracts** are owned by the City of Palo Alto and have been managed under an operating agreement by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service since about 1990. The Faber Tract, although initially planted with pickleweed has become a cordgrass marsh and Clapper Rail habitat due to the elevation of the land.

A pipe was installed for Lagoon Tidal Action in 1975 as mitigation for loss of 5 acres of wetlands to unauthorized landfilling by the City of Palo Alto. The object of this mitigation was supposed to be creation of a marshy fringe. Although the tidal exchange occurs, the soil along the edges is too compacted to support vegetation.

Yacht Harbor Point in Palo Alto is a marsh restoration project required as part of the final dredging of the Yacht Harbor in the early 1980's. It seems to be doing well.

Landscaping and irrigation was required as part of the Regional Water Quality Control Plant expansions in 1977 and 1986. Some of that landscaping is deteriorating due to irrigation failure. The RWQCP compliance officer is aware of this problem.

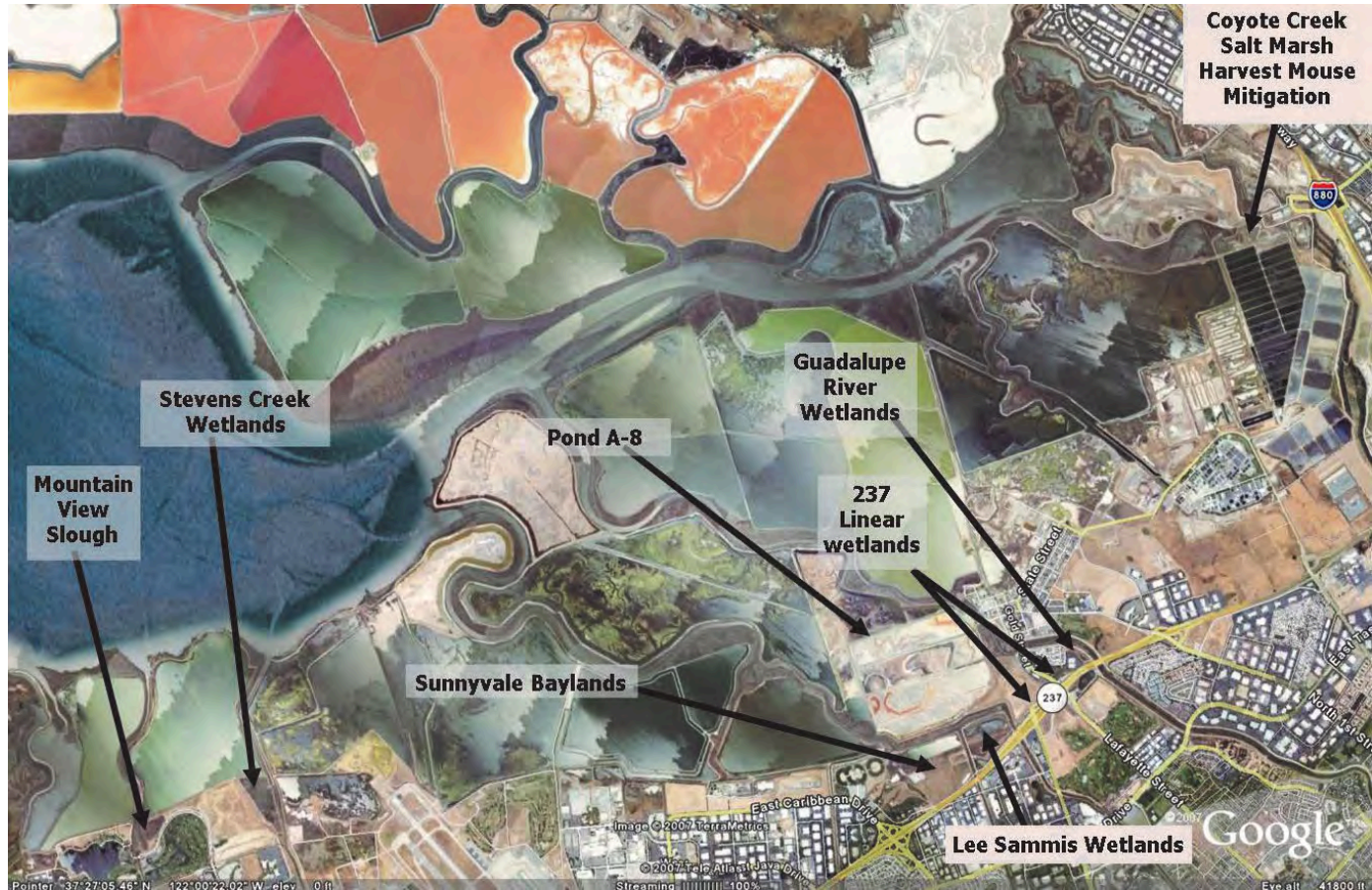
As mitigation for a 43 acre expansion of the Palo Alto Landfill into wetlands in 1975,

one of the 16 tide gates to the 600 acre Flood Control Basin was modified during planning with the object of improving dissolved oxygen in the flood basin and also expanding the marshy edges. Initially there were problems with the automated system, but that seems to have been resolved.

The **Renzel Wetland** was created about 1991 as a —beneficial use of treated sewage effluent. Formerly the ITT property was used as a radio signal bounce area and this had been a seasonal wetland with some healthy pickleweed and Salt Marsh Harvest Mouse habitat. Most of the site now has —fresh water in it year round, and part of the site is managed for the Salt Marsh Harvest Mouse by allowing very limited tidal fluctuation to come from the Bay. In the first year of the freshwater input, the site was colonized by food fish which were enjoyed by White Pelicans, diving ducks, and eventually sandpipers when the water level was drawn down for mosquito control. Two nesting islands were created but they rapidly developed heavy vegetation. The sides of



Dr. Howard Shellhammer- Marsh Ecology Short Class at Palo Alto Baylands



the freshwater area were made very steep in order to discourage cattails. That was unsuccessful and cattails are flourishing. The **11 acre Mayfield Slough remnant** was required to be maintained in its natural state as part of the 1975 landfill expansion. It is still there, but there is only seasonal rainfall in its hydraulic regime causing some habitat deterioration. The **Matadero Creek overflow channel** was built about 3 years ago (2004-1005). Large stands of eucalyptus trees were removed (causing the egret rookery there to move to the duckpond palm trees). Replacement vegetation is slowly taking hold, but is puny by comparison with the trees that were removed. The **13-acre Los Altos Sewage Treatment Plant site** was approved in 1999 for a garbage transfer facility on 6.5 acres and the remainder of the site was jurisdictional wetlands. The cities of Los Altos and Palo Alto are in negotiation for purchase by Palo Alto. Quite a long time ago, Palo Alto bought an undivided half interest and is trying to buy out Los Altos' remaining interest in the site. It will be important to protect the half of the site that is jurisdictional wetlands.

Charleston Slough was described in early Santa Clara County documents as the most beautiful 110 acres of cordgrass marsh in the South Bay. And it was—right up until the day in 1975 when Leslie Salt raised the intake culvert and reduced its size, turning the slough into a giant pond of water. BCDC exercised its jurisdiction after Leslie gave the slough to Mountain View and the city began its efforts to restore the illegally destroyed marsh. Numerous challenges have confronted restoration of this area which in turn could negatively impact the sailing lake which has relied on tidal waters. Other issues have stymied the revegetation

of the mudflats and most recently hybrid *Spartina* has been observed on the mudflats. So after some thirty years we are still awaiting restoration of this area.

Mountain View Slough and Stevens Creek Tidal Marsh a paltry fragmented total of 50 acres was court ordered to be restored as mitigation in 1987 after hundreds of acres of seasonal wetlands were filled with San Francisco's garbage on what is now Shoreline Park. Absolutely no monitoring or follow-up took place on the Mountain View Slough site, and for years the Stevens Creek site foundered until two culverts were installed in 1991. Since then the site has done nicely and even has four resident salt marsh harvest mice.

Sunnyvale Baylands supports mitigation uplands and wetlands for loss of Bay Marsh (105 acres COE and 30 acres of lake).

Lee Sammis Wetlands and Pond were mitigation for loss of wetlands for the Caltrans Hwy 237 upgrade from Mountain View to Alviso.

Hwy 237 Linear Wetlands Mitigation—San Thomas Aquino to the Guadalupe River for Highway 237 and Tasman Rail impacts.

Guadalupe River Wetlands Mitigation is another mitigation site for mitigation of Tasman Light Rail Transit Corridor impacts.

The **Pond A-8 Wetlands Mitigation site** is compensatory mitigation for the Guadalupe River Flood Control Project.

The **Coyote Creek Salt Marsh Harvest Mouse Mitigation Marsh** is located in the Coyote overflow channel to Coyote Slough and is compensation for impacts resulting from realignment of a reach of Coyote Creek. A —temporary haul road across the site was never removed as it should have been, and in fact has been paved. This requires follow-up.



Information on mitigation parcels on the shoreline of San Francisco Bay from San Leandro to Fremont
Submitted by: Janice and Frank Delfino and Margaret Lewis
San Leandro Dredge Disposal Site, 112 acres. 1973
 The site is mitigation for the loss of wetland habitat values resulting from the use of the site for the management of dredge material. When the site is not used to dry dredge material, it is wetland habitat for shorebirds. The levee within the dredge disposal site has been breached in several places creating islands on which birds can roost or nest. The site is disced once a year (September or October) to eliminate vegetation growth. The site is no longer used for dredge spoils. Recently the City of San Leandro had hoped to use the 112 acres for financial benefit. Citizens informed the city of the Corps and SFBRWQCB regulations. No other use than shorebird habitat! The site is maintained by the City of San Leandro.
Tidal Marsh Lands in the former Roberts Landing Area. North Marsh – Bunker Marsh – East Marsh – Citation Marsh. Mitigation of the Heron Bay Project (Citation Homes) 1996. Mitigation was accomplished by construction of wetlands, tidal wetlands, and upland or high ground for wildlife habitat. Heron Bay Maintenance Assessment District pays for maintenance and monitoring of these tidal marsh lands. Citizens had to notify the City of San Leandro that feral cats were roaming the area, and the cats were being fed by residents of Heron Bay. Non-native Spartina has invaded the marshlands. An eradication project was undertaken in 2006-07. A **Two Acre Pond** exists between San Lorenzo Creek and Oro

Loma Waste Water Treatment Facility, and is adjacent to the Shoreline Trail. The pond is owned by Alameda County Public Works – Flood Control District. The pond receives bay water at high tide from San Lorenzo Creek through a culvert and has islands on which shorebirds nest. Both pond and islands are in need of improvement and maintenance. Improvements to the area could be mitigation for damage done to the pickleweed marsh east of the pond.
Port of Oakland Mitigation Site, 13 acres. Located south of Bockman canal, west of Union Pacific Railroad Tracks, and adjacent East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) Oro Loma Marsh. EBRPD is managing the site in perpetuity with an endowment from Port of Oakland. An approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ **acre mitigation site** on EBRPD property at the end of West Winton Avenue. EBRPD office and building site. Hayward Shoreline. Mitigation for consolidation of the scattered small wetlands on the Eden Shores Development (Oliver Hayfield west of the railroad). Endowment to pay for monitoring, maintenance, and management. The site was originally a low area that ponded water in winter. This is a recent mitigation.
Eden Shores Development. One acre mitigation site at the north-west corner of Eden Shores. Condition unknown. Area set aside in 2002. Responsible agency is unknown.
49-acre Cargill Mitigation Site taken from Pond 1 south of Old Alameda Creek (Pond 1 is now E1). Non-native Spartina in the eradication project. Mitigation for Cargill's Corps levee maintenance permit. Impacts occur to tidal fringe marshes as the levee maintenance occurs.



Newark-Coyote Tract Wetlands Mitigation — Creation of damped tidal wetlands as mitigation for fill placed in wetlands for construction of a business park.
10-Acre Horse Pasture — Another site designated as mitigation for Newark Coyote Tract development. It was supposed to be wetlands and uplands. A channel was dug through the site and it was supposed to allow slough water to access the site through smaller channels. The site is high and dry. Whether the mitigation target was achieved is unknown and questionable. Also unknown is who is responsible for this failed mitigation.
Mayhews Landing — After the closure of the failed Silver Pines Golf Course the site was left unmanaged and it began reverting to marsh. In September of 1988 the landowner destroyed endangered species habitat and was required by the Corps of Engineers to restore the habitat. Unfortunately a large colony of burrowing owls living in the destroyed area never returned to Mayhews. Several development proposals were put forth but failed to gain approval. In late February of 1995, Mayhews Landing was finally sold to the Refuge. Restoration is in the works. Meadowsweet Dairy recently renovated an old silo to create habitat for bats, swallows, and swifts. Bad news for the mosquito population.
Plummer Creek — A mitigation bank owned and managed by Wildlands. It is a 26-acre site originally owned by Cargill Salt.

Whistling Wings & Pintail Duck Clubs — Cease and Desist Orders were issued by the Corps of Engineers on these sites in the early 1980's due to concerns about potential unauthorized fill in wetlands. The sites are now threatened by the potential development of an 18-hole golf course and executive homes. Several development plans for this marshy area have been floated over the years. They all sank. The fate of the latest scheme remains to be seen.
Pacific Commons Mitigation Site — A mitigation site of 391 acres, of which 137 acres is vernal pool habitat. The mitigation was for the placement of fill in vernal pool habitat that supports three (now) federally listed species, the vernal tadpole shrimp, Contra Costa goldfields, and California tiger salamander. Additional mitigation has occurred off-site. The Oakland A's are proposing to build a stadium, housing, etc. right next to this site.
Bayside Business Park Phase 1 Mitigation (Tidal Lagoon and Mouse Pasture) - Mitigation for Phase 1 construction of the Bayside Business Park. Since 1987 the Mouse Pasture had not achieved its goal of providing good habitat for the salt marsh harvest mouse. However, after installation of water control structures and changes in management of the water regime, the mitigation site appears to have finally achieved its goal and salt marsh harvest mice and other native species were found on the site in fall of 2006.



The Honorable Don Edwards is in his 90th decade, aware that he has made a contribution to the future that even members of congress seldom equal. In 1972 he shepherded a bill through congress that established a national wildlife refuge in an urban setting. A first. Then, in 1988, his legislative skills led to a doubling of the refuge size, up to 43,000 acres.

When I look at the original bill, I am struck by the fact that support did not depend on political party. Mr. Edwards, a democrat, was joined at once by Mr. Gubser and Mr. McCloskey, republicans. In those days, worthy ideas crossed party lines in a remarkable demonstration of inter-party friendship and cooperation .

I maintain my membership on the Board of Directors of the Blue Goose Alliance with enthusiasm. This group, made up mostly of Fish and Wildlife Service retired professionals, devotes enormous amounts of energy and thought to the serious problems of the National Wildlife Refuge System. A member of the group, William Reffalt, has shared some bothersome thoughts with us, excerpted below:

- * Recently the NWRS has faced nationwide personnel reductions of 20% to an admittedly inadequate workforce, while other FWS programs remained essentially unchanged,
- * Directives to —outsourcel refuge management, including transfer of major station funding and staff, in noncompetitive —contracts| with Indian Tribes that would violate Refuge System laws, and ultimately involve 80% of the land area of the System,
- * Internal efforts to open important refuge areas to destructive oil and gas developments by means of removing refuge lands and regulatory authority through land exchanges,
- * Attempts to direct incompatible developments into the midst of critical, internationally recognized wetland habitats used by species threatened or considered subject to serious depletion,
- * The FWS abruptly stops the implementation efforts begun in 1997 with passage of the —RefugeSystemOrganic Act| before the reforms intended to upgrade the System and bring needed benefits to all refuge areas could be achieved. By any reasoned standards of assessment, those and other recent agency actions constitute a failure to administer the System as Congress intended and the public expects.

Shocking affairs at Montana’s National Bison Range have focused our attention on a grave new threat to refuges and national parks. An impossibly structured management agreement between the government and the Consolidated Salish and Kootenai tribes has not been cancelled as announced last December, but may be reconstituted in spite of its failures. Our Freedom of Information Act request has supplied some information, but is woefully deficient in useful details. At this writing, it appears that only legal action can reverse this deadend course.

We feel that individual agency status is the only hope for the long range protection, enhancement and expansion of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

Thanks for the warmth and support you have given us all year.



Salt marsh harvest mouseartwork by SamHigh

Vindicated!

This Committee has long fought for proper appraisals of the properties we need to restore the functional magnificence of the wetlands of San Francisco Bay. The ability to acquire the appropriate lands for restoration hinges on legitimate appraisals. CCCR has supported John Hansen of Integrity in Natural Resources in his years-long drive to bring accountability to the appraisal process.

Our lonely standing on this issue has now been joined by the California Office of Real Estate Appraisers (OREA) and the California Legislative Analyst's Office (LOA). OREA pursued license violation charges and won against both of the appraisers who signed the Fish and Wildlife Service appraisal of the recent 16,500-acre Cargill ponds purchase.

The LAO cites the Cargill purchase as a perfect example of bad appraisal practices. Next, will Attorney General Jerry Brown seek to recover the public funds squandered on these submerged lands?

Forty Years Old and We’re Still Kicking But... Citizens Committee 1967—2007

When the first Refuge Committee was born forty years ago, wetlands destruction was rampant and there was a clear need for a concerted effort to protect wetlands not yet filled and restoration of wetlands that had been destroyed.

We have spent countless hours fighting to protect wetlands. We have done this because of our love of wetland habitats and the wonderful plants and animals that live in them. We believe future generations have the right to benefit from the functions these lands provide and the beauty they bestow.

Today, we can look out from the Don Edwards National Wildlife Refuge visitor’s center and enjoy the view of water birds instead of condominiums. It has been a constant struggle, but it is the price of all great achievements.

Now as we enter our 41st year, we cannot rest on past successes, but must ready ourselves for new battles. The south bay wetlands are under renewed assault reminiscent of when our organization first formed. This is not a battle for the inexperienced. If these battles are to be won, Citizen’s Committee has

an important role to play. If wetlands are to be preserved and the Refuge finally completed, we will need your support and help to continue the fight to protect these lands. Please join our group to protect wetlands for the next 40 years.

Florence LaRiviere

Please help us to carry on!

There is no other all-volunteer group on the Bay that has worked so diligently to keep our remaining wetlands in their natural state and to fight for the preservation and restoration of others in every case possible.

We have brought about the public acquisition of thousands of acres of Bay wetlands for the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge. **But**— there are many more sites to be obtained, namely the 1,433-acre Cargill ponds at Redwood City, and the eastshore ponds covering 9,700 acres, 7,000 acres of which are publicly owned but remain in salt production. Other lands in need of restoration include Patterson Ranch, Fremont Coyote, and the Whistling Wings and Pintail duck clubs on Mowry Slough.

So,we know times are hard, but if you are able, we would appreciate receiving your tax-free contribution of any amount. You know we have no paid employees and no office rental expense. Virtually all the monies received go to productive wetlands work. It has been said that we get more work done with less money than any other conservation organization on the Bay. Long live the Committee!
You continue to be wonderfully supportive.
We appreciate your continued generosity.
You have kept us going for the 21 years of our existence. Thank you!

- Remember our pledge...**
- We ask for contributions just twice a year through our newsletter.
 - We will not share our membership data base with anyone.
 - We will not bother you at dinner time or any other time regarding money.



Name_____Phone_____

Address_____

City_____State/Zip_____

Here is my contribution to help preserve our wetlands:

☐\$10☐\$20☐\$50☐\$100☐\$_____

I would like to help by writing letters to save wetlands. Please put me on the WETLANDS ALERT mailing list. Please add me to an e-mail ACTION ALERT LIST. My e-mail address is _____.

Please make your tax-deductible check payable to CCCR and mail your check and this form to the Committee at 453 Tennessee Lane, Palo Alto, CA 94306.

Thank you for your support —you make it all possible!

*Goldfields and
Downingia at
the Refuge
Warm Springs
Unit.
Photo by
Carin High*



JOIN A LOCAL GROUP!

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Save Wetlands is the Newsletter of the Citizens Committee to Complete the Refuge, an all-volunteer nonprofit public benefit corporation.

The mission of the Committee is to save the Bay's remaining wetlands by working to place them under the protection of the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge, and to foster worldwide education regarding the value of all wetlands.

Support is welcome from anyone interested in saving wetlands, for which a tax-deductible contribution of \$10 per issue would be appreciated.

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