

# San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy Program

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*Invasive Spartina Project*

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The

## **Eighth Year Report**

FY 2006-2007

prepared by the  
Bay Area Open Space Council and State Coastal Conservancy  
July 17, 2009

## **ABOUT THIS REPORT**

The San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy Program (Bay Area Conservancy Program) was established in 1997 through state legislation authored by Senator Byron Sher. The Bay Area Conservancy Program is administered by the California State Coastal Conservancy and received its first funding in July of 1999.

The Bay Area Conservancy Program provides a regional perspective and a coordinated funding approach. This report describes the projects that have been awarded funds in the eighth year of the Bay Area Conservancy Program. Grants have been awarded in all nine Bay Area counties that are within the jurisdiction of the Program, and for the full range of program responsibilities – regionally significant public parks, trails, natural habitat preservation and restoration, farmland protection, and hands-on environmental education. All acquisitions have been with willing sellers and have included public agencies and nonprofit organizations. All dollar amounts listed in this report are approximate and are subject to change as augmented with additional funds or reduced through cost-saving measures. Additionally, not all projects approved by the Conservancy will be implemented due to unforeseen design, funding, or acquisition-related complications.

Despite the diversity of grant recipients and project purposes, all of the funded projects share several characteristics: they are regionally significant; each achieves multiple goals; all are cooperative ventures bringing together many different agencies, organizations, and interests. They close institutional gaps and bring coherence and comprehensiveness to individual efforts. This report is not meant to be an exhaustive accounting of project financing. For more detailed project information please visit the Coastal Conservancy Board archives for FY 2006-2007 online at: <http://www.coastalconservancy.ca.gov/Meetings/boardpdfs.htm>.

This Report was produced by the Bay Area Open Space Council and the State Coastal Conservancy. Special thanks go to Matthew Isles, Elizabeth Adam, Suzanne Beahrs, and Ryan Branciforte for report preparation and to Conservancy project managers for review.



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## Funding Summary of Bay Area Conservancy Program Projects (FY 2006-2007)

<u>Grant Recipient/Project Sponsor</u>	<b>Bay Area Conservancy Program (a)</b>	<b>Additional Conservancy Funding (b)</b>	<b>Matching Funds (c) (some estimated)</b>
<i>Alameda County Resource Conservation District</i> 1) Alameda County Wildlife-Friendly Pond Restoration	\$50,000		\$82,100
<i>Alameda County Water District</i> 2) Alameda Creek Flow Studies	\$80,000		\$120,000
<i>American Rivers</i> 3) Marsh Creek Fish Ladder	\$100,000		\$140,000
<i>Bay Nature Institute</i> 4) San Pablo Baylands Restoration and Public Access Publication	\$15,000		\$11,500
<i>Berryessa Trails and Conservation</i> 5) Lake Berryessa Shoreline Trail Design	\$9,500		\$20,740
6) Lake Berryessa Shoreline Trail Design, Phase II	\$150,000		\$7,500
<i>California Department of Parks and Recreation</i> 7) Eastshore State Park Planning and Restoration Projects	\$120,000		\$160,000
<i>California State Coastal Conservancy</i> 8) Invasive <i>Spartina</i> Project Phase II - Control Program 2007 Implementation of Control Plan	\$949,907 \$1,250,868 <sup>d</sup>		\$327,150
9) Napa River Salt Marsh Restoration Project	\$187,000		
10) South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project	\$2,000,000		\$6,748,600
<i>California State Parks Foundation</i> 11) Yosemite Slough Restoration - Northern Area Construction	\$242,700 \$3,000,000 <sup>d</sup>		\$2,474,211
<i>Center for Ecosystem Management and Restoration</i> 12) Alameda Creek Flow Studies	\$40,000		
City of Oakland 13) Lake Merritt Bird Islands Restoration and Demonstration Wetlands	\$1,000,000 <sup>d</sup>		
<i>City of Richmond</i> 14) Canal Boulevard Bay Trail Gap	\$53,000 <sup>e</sup>		\$148,000
<i>County of Contra Costa</i> 15) Contra Costa County Historical Ecology Project	\$150,000		\$240,000
<i>County of Napa</i> 16) Milliken Watershed Ridge Trail Feasibility Study	\$60,000		\$42,400
<i>East Bay Regional Park District</i> 17) Eastshore State Park Planning and Restoration Projects	\$1,472,000 <sup>d</sup>		\$500,000
<i>Greenbelt Alliance</i> 18) San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy Program: Partnership Development	\$320,000		\$155,000
<i>Livermore Area Recreation and Park District</i> 19) Sycamore Grove Park Pond and Habitat Restoration Project	\$425,000		\$121,000
<i>Marin Agricultural Land Trust</i> 20) Tomales Farm and Dairy Conservation Easement	\$500,000		\$500,000
<i>Northern California Public Broadcasting, Inc.</i> 21) <i>Saving the Bay</i> Documentary	\$100,000 <sup>e</sup>		
<i>San Francisco Estuary Institute</i> 22) San Francisco Bay Non-Native Oyster Removal Project	\$25,000		\$58,000
<i>Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department</i> 23) Penitencia Creek Ridge Trail Relocation	\$50,640		\$137,625
<i>Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District</i> 24) Laguna de Santa Rosa Wetlands Trail	\$500,000		\$800,000
<i>Southern Sonoma County Resource Conservation District</i> 25) Adobe Creek Fish Barrier Removal	\$62,973		\$191,400
<i>University of California Press Foundation</i> 26) San Francisco Bay Environmental Primer	\$20,000		\$85,000

Urban Ecology

27) East Bay Greenway

\$35,000

Total Funds

\$12,968,588

\$0

\$13,070,226

Program Funding Leverage: BACP Funds/Matching Funds

50%

50%

**Bay Area Projects Funded with Additional Coastal Conservancy Funds (FY 2006-2007)**

**Grant Recipient/Project Sponsor**

*California Department of Parks and Recreation*

28) Pigeon Point Historic Light Station State Park Access Improvements

\$305,000

\$25,000

*City of Pacifica*

29) San Pedro Creek Fish Passage at Adobe Bridge

\$282,000

\$1,900,000

*County of Marin*

30) Kent Canyon Fish Passage Improvement

\$100,000

\$350,000

*County of San Mateo*

31) Fitzgerald Marine Reserve Coastal Trail and Beach Access Project

\$90,000

\$156,250

*Ecotrust*

32) San Francisco Fisherman's Wharf Sustainable Seafood Market

\$65,468

*Fort Mason Foundation*

33) Fort Mason Center Interpretive Program Plan

\$25,000

\$175,000

*Gold Ridge Resource Conservation District*

34) Salmon Creek Ranch Enhancement Plan Implementation

\$610,000

\$275,305

*Harmony Union School District*

35) Salmon Creek Falls Environmental Center

\$750,000

\$1,491,220

*Peninsula Open Space Trust*

36) Pillar Point Bluff Coastal Trail Project

\$377,000

*San Mateo County Resource Conservation District*

37) Frenchman's Creek Fish Passage

60,000

130,195

*Sonoma County Regional Parks Department*

38) Cheney Creek Bridge and Trail

305,000

40,000

*Sonoma Land Trust*

39) The Cedars Conservation Plan Project

\$23,000

\$19,500

**Notes:**

- a) Funds directly appropriated or granted to the Bay Area Conservancy Program
- b) Funds appropriated to the State Coastal Conservancy as an agency, of which some may be used in the Bay Area
- c) All other matching funds
- d) Funds provided by a grant from the Wildlife Conservation Board to the Bay Program
- e) Funds for mitigation required by the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission and provided to the Bay Program

# DESCRIPTION OF PROJECTS FUNDED BY THE BAY AREA CONSERVANCY PROGRAM (FY 2006–2007)

## Alameda County Resource Conservation District

### 1) Alameda County Wildlife-Friendly Pond Restoration

Location: Eastern Alameda County

- Bay Program Funds: \$50,000  
Matching Funds: \$82,100

Alameda County Resource Conservation District will assist with the restoration of a minimum of five livestock ponds pursuant to Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) wildlife-friendly design standards and specifications. Many of the estimated 650 ponds in Alameda County are artificial, installed in the late 1940s through the early 1960s to support cattle production. The ponds, designed to last 10 to 20 years, lasted well into the late 1980s, when siltation and spillway erosion began to threaten the integrity of the ponds. NRCS, with support from the other partners, has developed a wildlife-friendly pond restoration Conservation Practice designed to benefit the California red-legged frog and California tiger salamander. Landowners who choose this enhanced wildlife-friendly option will be required to restore and manage the ponds and the surrounding 300 acres of rangeland in accordance with the habitat needs of these two species. In return, they will receive up to 90% cost-share for the pond restoration, and Safe Harbor assurances from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (i.e., private landowners receive assurances that no additional regulatory restrictions will be imposed as a result of their voluntary conservation actions which benefit endangered and threatened species). The restoration projects will in turn make these lands more competitive for conservation easement dollars that would protect the habitat in perpetuity.



## Alameda County Water District

### 2) Alameda Creek Flow Studies

Location: Alameda Creek watershed, Alameda, Contra Costa, and Santa Clara Counties

- Bay Program Funds: \$80,000  
Matching Funds: \$120,000

Alameda County Water District (ACWD) and the Center for Ecosystem Management and Restoration manage and conduct technical studies of water flows necessary to restore steelhead fisheries to Alameda Creek, Alameda County. Significant anadromous fish runs once existed in Alameda Creek, the largest tributary to the San Francisco Bay outside of the Delta. Much of the upper watershed is protected open space with suitable fish rearing and spawning habitat. However, the past 80 years of urbanization, water diversions, and flood control projects have created migration barriers, changed the hydrology of the creek, and eliminated the fish runs. Despite these changes, anadromous fish, mostly steelhead, have been identified trying to migrate upstream in Alameda Creek nearly every year since 1998. Unfortunately, these fish are prevented from reaching available spawning habitat by a variety of obstacles. Since 1999, the Alameda Creek Fisheries Restoration Work Group, made up of local flood control

agencies, water supply agencies, state and federal resource agencies, and environmental groups, has been seeking ways to overcome these obstacles to fish migration. The Work Group's planning efforts to date have focused largely on barrier removal. However, while investigating barrier removal options, it has become clear to the Work Group that more information was needed about existing hydrologic conditions of Alameda Creek and how water management could be changed to benefit fishery and riparian resources. This information about existing and possible future water flows is needed for both final design of any passage structure but also to ensure that there are sufficient flows in the creek to provide suitable temperatures and habitat. Due to the complex nature of these technical studies, the flows studies have been broken into phases. In the first phase, the technical experts hired by ACWD will create a detailed scope for the work necessary to estimate the range, magnitude, timing, duration and frequency and location of flows necessary to restore steelhead fisheries (as well as other native fish and riparian species) while minimizing the impacts to water supply. In the second phase, the consultants will take advantage of the availability of extensive existing data and will summarize current hydrologic and geomorphic conditions in the watershed and collect necessary additional data. The purpose of this second phase will be to develop a common understanding of the existing conditions in the watershed that is agreed to by all the Work Group members. This shared understanding of the watershed conditions will lay the groundwork for the third, and last, phase of the flow studies. The final phase will consist of development and analysis of specific water management alternatives, including operational, engineering and natural resource strategies, that will allow the restoration of a steelhead fishery while minimizing the impacts to water supplies.

## American Rivers

### 3) Marsh Creek Fish Ladder

Location: Along Marsh Creek in the City of Brentwood, Contra Costa County

- Bay Program Funds: \$100,000  
Matching Funds: \$140,000

American Rivers will construct a fish ladder over a grade-control drop structure located approximately three miles from the mouth of Marsh Creek, in the City of Brentwood. Currently, the drop structure is completely impassable to fish, which is a concern because there are Chinook salmon spawning in lower Marsh Creek downstream from the drop structure. The proposed fish ladder will enable passage over this existing barrier and will provide access for Chinook salmon to an additional 7.5 miles of Marsh, Sand, and Deer Creeks, tripling the number of accessible stream miles in the watershed. In 2004, the Conservancy provided funding to the Natural Heritage Institute (NHI) to develop detailed engineering plans and complete environmental review for a fish passage project over the Marsh Creek drop structure. Following collaborative planning and hydraulic modeling of several alternatives, the planning team, comprised of NHI, Contra Costa County Flood Control District, the California Department of Water Resources, the City of Brentwood, and American Rivers, determined that a fish ladder is the most cost effective manner to provide passage and still meet flood control and channel stability management objectives. American Rivers will be responsible for managing the funds for the Marsh Creek Fish Ladder project. The County Flood Control District and NHI will assist American Rivers in the selection and management of a contractor to construct the fish ladder.



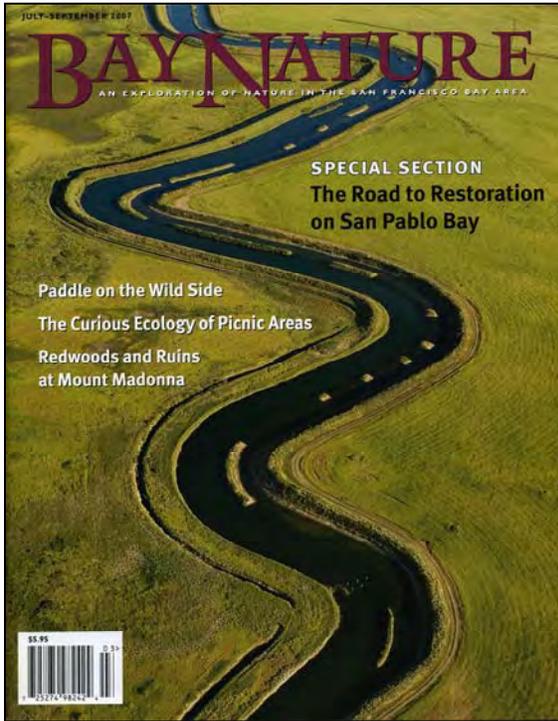
Photo: Betsy Wilson

## Bay Nature Institute

### 4) San Pablo Baylands Restoration and Public Access Publication

Location: San Pablo Baylands, Napa, Solano, Sonoma, and Marin Counties

- Bay Program Funds: \$15,000  
Matching Funds: \$11,500



Source: Bay Nature Magazine

Bay Nature Institute will produce a 16-page supplement for *Bay Nature* magazine on habitat restoration and public access in the San Pablo Baylands region of Napa, Solano, Sonoma, and Marin Counties. The science-based educational supplement will describe several multiple-partner restoration projects being planned and implemented to protect, restore, and enhance the unique and vital habitat in the San Pablo Baylands and adjacent uplands. It will also include brief descriptions of recreational opportunities and access points for public enjoyment of the area. The resulting product will evaluate, interpret, and synthesize for the public the value and accessibility of their investments in one of the most important environments of San Francisco Bay. Bay Nature Institute plans to publish this in-depth piece in the July-September 2007 issue of *Bay Nature* magazine in insert format, and print up to 10,000 additional copies (“overprints”) of the supplement to be distributed beyond the magazine’s subscription and news stand circulation of 7,500. Funding and partnering organizations will distribute the overprints to their constituencies and the

general public as well as to decision-makers at local and state levels. Copies will also be made available to the Novato and Vallejo chambers of commerce as part of their outreach for Highway 37, which traverses the wetland edge of the San Pablo Baylands between the two cities.

## Berryessa Trails and Conservation

### 5) Lake Berryessa Shoreline Trail Design

Location: Shoreline of Lake Berryessa, eastern Napa County

- Bay Program Funds: \$9,500  
Matching Funds: \$20,740

Berryessa Trails and Conservation will design two regionally significant trail segments, totaling approximately 6 miles, of the proposed 150-mile Lake Berryessa Shoreline Trail in the Lake District of eastern Napa County. The project will produce designs for approximately 2.1 miles of the North End Trail and 3 to 5 miles of trail through Smittle Creek and Oak Shores Park. The trail designs will extend existing trails, provide side trails to scenic viewpoints and realign existing trail sections that have become unsafe due to landslides or erosion. Following completion of this project, it is anticipated that the federal Bureau of Recreation (BOR) will contract with California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection crews to construct the trails as designed. The 28,000-acre Lake Berryessa Recreation area, consisting of a 19,000-acre lake and 9,000 acres around the entire shoreline, is federally-owned, public land administered by the BOR. The Lake Berryessa Recreation area averages 1.4 million visitors a year, primarily from the San Francisco Bay Area.



*Photo: Andrea Wolf*

### 6) Lake Berryessa Shoreline Trail Design, Phase II

Location: Shoreline of Lake Berryessa in eastern Napa County

- Bay Program Funds: \$150,000  
Matching Funds: \$7,500

In Phase II of this project, Berryessa Trails and Conservation will design approximately 135 miles of the proposed 150-mile Lake Berryessa Shoreline Trail in the Lake District of eastern Napa County. The project will produce trail designs, on-the-ground alignments, and construction cost estimates for the remaining segments of the Shoreline Trail that still need to be designed. In addition, other related trail planning would be included, such as seeking public access easements across private land that would enhance the trail or negotiating trail linkages with adjacent public land owning agencies.

## California Department of Parks and Recreation

### 7) Project: Eastshore State Park Planning and Restoration Projects

Location: West end of University Ave, City of Berkeley, Alameda County

- Bay Program Funds: \$120,000  
Matching Funds: \$160,000

The California Department of Parks and Recreation (State Parks) will design the “Brickyard” area to further implement the Eastshore State Park (ESSP) General Plan. The land for the ESSP was acquired by State Parks and the East Bay Regional Parks District in 1998; the ESSP holdings are managed by the District though an operating agreement. The land west of the ESSP includes the Berkeley Marina and Cesar Chavez Park, which is owned and

managed by the City of Berkeley. The grant to State Parks is for detailed planning and preliminary design of the park in the adjacent area known as “Brickyard”. This area, over 30-acres in size, is the area within ESSP planned for the greatest concentration of recreational improvements. This work is necessary to complete the design as envisioned in the General Plan to accommodate the park’s many recreational demands, improve trail connections, and enhance shoreline access and views.

## California State Coastal Conservancy

### 8) Invasive *Spartina* Project (ISP) Phase II-Control Program 2007 Implementation of Control Program

Location: The baylands and lower creek channels of the nine counties that bound the San Francisco Bay.

- Bay Program Funds: \$2,200,775  
Matching Funds: \$327,150

Note: \$1,250,868 of Bay Program funding for this project is from a grant by the Wildlife Conservation Board.



Since 1999, the Conservancy has managed the regionally coordinated effort to treat and control invasive *Spartina* and its hybrids within the San Francisco Bay Estuary, which is critical to the long-term health of the Estuary and to the species which inhabit and rely upon the salt marshes and tidal flats along its perimeter.

By treating 94% of the *Spartina* infestation in 2006 (halting seed production on the vast majority), the ISP’s efforts should reverse the expansion of non-native *Spartina* and gain control over the entire infestation. Therefore, future treatment seasons will focus on advancing beyond control to eradication by re-treating sites previously treated where necessary to maintain progress, and addressing all remaining untreated stands. Although the overall *Spartina* acreage in the Estuary is likely to significantly shrink as a result of the 2005/2006 control work, annual costs associated with continued control in 2007 will increase. Herbicide has represented roughly 60% of the costs for 2005 and 2006 treatment efforts, with labor and administration making up the remaining 40%. In subsequent treatment seasons, scattered, difficult-to-access populations of non-native *Spartina* will be the norm, necessitating increased labor costs associated with the extra time

involved in treating these areas. Building upon partnerships and the successful regional coordination in 2004 through 2006, ISP will continue the same aggressive strategy for 2007. This will involve coordination for re-treating the same sites where partial infestation may have returned, and adding a majority of the remaining phased sites for initial treatment. ISP consultants are working with all grantees to update the work programs under the Site-Specific Plans for the 2007 treatment season, evaluating experiences from 2005 and 2006, in order to improve what is planned for 2007, making presentations to regional stakeholders, obtaining necessary permits, completing ISP’s Water Quality Monitoring Plan, continuing the inventory monitoring and California clapper rail monitoring, coordinating restoration work at the sensitive Elsie Roemer marsh in the City of Alameda, and continuing to seek landowner permissions to work on sites where work has not previously been done.

## 9) Napa River Salt Marsh Restoration Project

Location: The northern edge of San Pablo Bay, bounded in the east by the Napa River and the west by Sonoma Creek, Napa County.

- Bay Program Funds: \$187,100

The Napa River Salt Marsh, which consists of nearly 10,000 acres of wetlands and associated habitats within the former Cargill salt pond complex in the North Bay, was acquired in 1994 and is owned and managed by the California Department of Fish and Game. The Napa River Salt Marsh is within the 38,000 acre Napa-Sonoma Marsh Complex, a resource of national importance due to its size and because it provides habitat for migratory waterfowl and shorebirds as well as threatened and endangered species, such as the California clapper rail and salt marsh harvest mouse. The Conservancy will develop 90% design documents and permit applications for Ponds 6, 6A, 7, 7A, and 8, which total 1,870 acres of the Napa River Salt Marsh Project. This project will produce 90% construction documents that clearly detail restoration project features for the project site. The construction documents will include construction plans, technical specifications, a cost estimate, and a design report. The Conservancy will also prepare the necessary permit applications and associated back-up materials for the necessary San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission and San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board permits. The proposed restoration work for Ponds 6-8 consists of improvements and repairs to water control structures and levee improvements. The Napa River Salt Marsh Restoration Project is supported by scientists and resource managers represented by over 15 agencies and other organizations involved in this project, and by State and Federal legislators representing this area, and is a recommendation of the San Francisco Baylands Ecosystem Habitat Goals Report. The project is expected to serve as a model for restoration of commercial salt ponds in the South San Francisco Bay, acquired by the state and federal governments in 2003.

## 10) South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project

Location: San Francisco Bay, South of the San Mateo Bridge, Alameda, Santa Clara, and San Mateo Counties.

- Bay Program Funds: \$2,000,000

Matching Funds: \$6,748,600

The Conservancy will complete, in 2008, the long-term restoration planning for 15,100 acres of former Cargill salt ponds in South San Francisco Bay. These funds are for 1) technical studies, environmental analysis, data collection and management, project design, public outreach, and project management work to complete the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project's long-term planning effort in early 2008 and 2) a grant to the Coastal Conservancy Association, which serves as a supporting non-profit to the Conservancy and will continue to participate in scientific activities for the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project through completion of the long-term plan. The Conservancy is working in cooperation with the California Department of Fish and Game and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the landowners, with the Santa Clara Valley Water District and Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, the local flood control districts, and with the Resources Legacy Fund, a nonprofit organization that is managing the private foundation funds contributed to the restoration planning by the Hewlett, Packard, and Moore Foundations, to develop a habitat restoration, flood management, and public access plan for the former commercial salt ponds acquired in 2003. The five-year planning stage, which began in 2003, involves data collection, technical studies, alternatives formulation, environmental analysis, and extensive public input. Technical consultants and scientists from nongovernmental organizations, universities, and public agencies are assisting with the planning effort, and numerous stakeholders representing a variety of interests are providing feedback throughout the planning process.

# California State Parks Foundation

## 11) Yosemite Slough Restoration—Northern Area Construction

Location: Yosemite Slough, Candlestick Point State Recreation Area, City and County of San Francisco

- Bay Program Funds: \$3,242,700  
Matching Funds: \$2,474,211

Note: \$3,000,000 of Bay Program funding for this project is from a grant by the Wildlife Conservation Board.

California State Parks Foundation will implement Phase 1 of the Yosemite Slough Restoration Plan. Phase 1 of the Plan involves restoring and enhancing 11.5 acres of tidal wetland, constructing a visitor center, and providing public trails and interpretive signage along

Yosemite Slough, located in the Candlestick Point State Recreation Area.

Additionally, the Association of Bay Area Governments and the Bay Trail Project will construct 1,130 feet of Bay Trail along Yosemite Slough connecting Candlestick Point State Recreation Area to Hunters Point using Conservancy funds previously authorized for San Francisco Bay Trail projects. When complete, the *full* restoration project will increase the existing tidally influenced area from nine acres to 20 acres, create



*Photo: Moira McEnespy*

two isolated bird nesting islands (including one designed specifically for special status species), provide nursery areas for fish and benthic organisms, transitional and upland areas to buffer sensitive habitats, create more than 5,000 feet of new interpretive trails with five vista points, an approximately 1,200 ft<sup>2</sup> multi-use interpretive center with restroom facilities, 2.5 acres of passive public use areas, parking for 30 vehicles and 2 buses, new access to the restored area, and additional amenities including fencing, lighting, benches and drinking fountains. The restoration design, which includes re-vegetation, also addresses soil contamination issues arising from previous fill activities that could affect human and wildlife health. The project is part of a comprehensive effort to restore wetlands and wildlife habitat and clean up chemically impacted areas in the park, while providing greater access to the park's waterfront. In addition to increasing access, the project will create high quality recreational and educational experiences for all park visitors and increase economic opportunities in the Bayview and Hunters Point neighborhoods. The restoration site is part of the Pacific Flyway and serves as important foraging habitat for migrating and wintering shorebirds. According to a wildlife study of Yosemite Slough conducted by Arc Ecology, Golden Gate Audubon and the University of San Francisco between January 2003 and April 2004, a total of 148 species inhabit the Yosemite Slough watershed, including 118 bird species. Uncommon Bay Area bird species include the red-throated loon, red-necked grebe, white-winged scoter, black oystercatcher, solitary sandpiper, wandering tattler, and spotted sandpiper.

## Center for Ecosystem Management and Restoration

### 12) Alameda Creek Flow Studies

Location: Alameda Creek watershed, Alameda, Contra Costa, and Santa Clara Counties

- Bay Program Funds: \$40,000  
Matching Funds: See Project #2 above

Description: See Project #2

## City of Oakland

### 13) Lake Merritt Bird Islands Restoration and Demonstration Wetlands

Location: Lake Merritt, City of Oakland, Alameda County.

- Bay Program Funds: \$1,000,000

Note: Bay Program funding for this project is from a grant by the Wildlife Conservation Board.

Lake Merritt is the centerpiece of downtown Oakland, with more than one million visitors each year. Created in the 1870s, Lake Merritt was the site of the nation's first wildlife sanctuary. The City of Oakland is undertaking the largest improvements to the 145-acre Lake since it was created. The City of Oakland is undertaking three activities at Lake Merritt: 1) Bird Islands: the City will restore roosting, nesting and foraging bird habitat on the lake's five bird islands; 2) Inter-Island Marsh Creation Study: the City will prepare designs and cost estimates, and an evaluation of the condition of lake bottom sediment for creation of inter-island marsh habitat; 3) Shoreline

Demonstration Marsh: the City will create a demonstration wetland along the lake's shoreline across from the islands. Once completed, these Lake Merritt projects will likely increase the numbers and diversity of birds utilizing the newly developed tidal marsh, mudflats, and upland riparian habitat. Shorebirds, herons, egrets, and ducks will benefit from new feeding areas at the demonstration marsh across from the islands and from enhanced nesting,



*Photo: Richard Bailev. Lake Merritt Institute*

roosting and foraging habitat on and between the Bird Islands. The improvements at the bird islands will also provide increased habitat for land birds.

## City of Richmond

### 14) Canal Boulevard Bay Trail Gap

Location: City of Richmond, Contra Costa County

- Bay Program Funds: \$53,000  
Matching Funds: \$148,000

Note: Bay Program funding for this project is from mitigation funds required by the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission and provided to the Bay Program.

The City of Richmond will prepare plans for a segment of the Bay Trail along Canal Boulevard. The plans will identify options for trail configuration along 465 feet of Canal Boulevard, connecting to existing Class I trail along Seacliff Drive. The Port of Richmond, a department of the City of Richmond, is starting design work now to complete the Bay Trail through the western side of the port's property. The specific improvements proposed for this project are required by a permit issued by the Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC) to Eagle Rock Aggregates, Inc. The permit required Eagle Rock to pay the Coastal Conservancy \$150,000 for this specific in-lieu public access improvement, which will close an existing gap in the Bay Trail. Funds not needed for the design phase of the project will be recommended for construction of the improvements, once environmental review has been completed. The gap along Canal Blvd. will be designed as part of this larger project, but the funding for it will come from the funds provided by Eagle Rock Aggregates, pursuant to the BCDC requirement.

## County of Contra Costa

### 15) Contra Costa County Historical Ecology Project

Location: Contra Costa County

- Bay Program Funds: \$150,000  
Matching Funds: \$240,000

Contra Costa County Community Development Department will implement a historical ecology project to provide information on the distribution, type and size of habitats found in Contra Costa County over the past approximately 150 years in order to guide the implementation of habitat and watershed protection, restoration and enhancement projects in this area. This historical ecology project will result in maps and documents describing how habitat patterns and their controlling physical processes have been altered in this area, which will be used to guide the design and implementation of locally appropriate habitat protection, restoration and enhancement projects. This historical ecology information is critical at this time, since it will support the implementation of the East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Communities Conservation Plan (HCP/NCCP). The HCP/NCCP calls for the expenditure of up to \$350 million from a variety of public and private sources to acquire and conserve approximately 30,000 acres in eastern Contra Costa County for 28 rare, threatened and endangered species, including the San Joaquin kit fox, Alameda whipsnake, California red-legged frog and California tiger salamander. The historical ecology project will also be used for the design of individual watershed restoration projects; it will provide information on the historic locations of stream channels, types of habitat and hydrologic connections. The Contra Costa County Community Development Department plays a lead role in organizing and supporting the Contra Costa Watershed Forum, which is viewed throughout the Bay Area as a model for watershed collaboration and communication.

## County of Napa

### 16) Milliken Watershed Ridge Trail Feasibility Study

Location: Milliken Watershed area, Napa County

- Bay Program Funds: \$60,000  
Matching Funds: \$42,400

The County of Napa will prepare a feasibility study for the development of a 3.2-mile segment of the San Francisco Bay Area Ridge Trail, a connector trail, and a staging area on the City of Napa's Milliken Watershed lands located in Napa County. Products of the study will include a trail alignment, a draft operations and management plan, and cost estimates for construction and management. The project will also include outreach to neighboring property owners and community leaders along adjacent and nearby segments of the proposed



Photo: Betsy Wilson

alignment of the Ridge Trail. The focus of the proposed study will be on the construction and operation of approximately 3.2 miles of Ridge Trail traversing the Milliken Watershed along the north-south tending ridge generally running along the eastern boundary of the City-owned lands. However, to ensure the trail is useful, both as a local trail and until such time as extensions can be constructed to the north and south of the public lands as part of the regional Ridge Trail, the study will also consider several options for connector trails to link the Ridge Trail segment to a usable loop trail system, staging area, and to a public road.

## East Bay Regional Park District

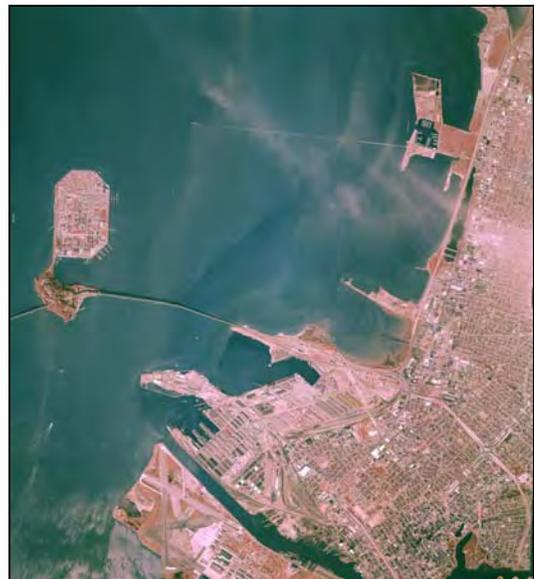
### 17) Eastshore State Park Planning and Restoration Projects

Location: West end of University Ave, City of Berkeley, Alameda County

- Bay Program Funds: \$1,472,000  
Matching Funds: \$500,000.

Note: Bay Program funding for this project is from a grant by the Wildlife Conservation Board.

The East Bay Regional Park District will construct the "Berkeley Meadow" restoration to further implement the Eastshore State Park (ESSP) General Plan. The land for the ESSP was acquired by State Parks and the District in 1998; the ESSP holdings are managed by the District through an operating agreement. The grant to the District will assist with the completion of detailed plans, design documents and construction of wetland enhancement features for the area known as the "Berkeley Meadow". This project will complete the third and final phase of the habitat restoration work following an approach that has been successfully carried out on adjacent areas within the Meadow site.



## Greenbelt Alliance

### 18) San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy Program: Partnership Development

Location: San Francisco Bay Area Counties

- Bay Program Funds: \$320,000  
Matching Funds: \$155,000

The Bay Area Open Space Council (under its fiscal sponsor, Greenbelt Alliance), will produce a plan for the protection of open space priority land in the San Francisco Bay Area and further the natural resource and recreational goals of the San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy Program, by working with a broad array of regional conservation and land management agencies, cities, counties, and non-profit organizations. The Council will expand and improve its capacity for regional data-sharing through technical upgrades to its website and more frequent updates to key land protection data sets that form the basis of much of the land protection planning in the Bay Area. The Council and Greenbelt Alliance have established a task force to guide the planning process with members representing diverse perspectives on land use and land protection methods. Called the Green Vision Group, they will use the San Francisco Bay Area Upland Habitat Goals project as the scientific foundation for their plan. Scenic, agricultural, historic and recreational lands will be integrated into the plan. This collaborative process will include data collection from all nine Bay Area Counties, the creation of a base map, identification of key conservation areas and regional priorities, assessment of funding needs, preparation of a plan discussing the conservation priorities identified, and release of the regional open space vision to the public. The Council proposes assessing the values that lie beneath public and private support for land protection efforts in the San Francisco Bay Area (economic sustainability and quality of life, for example) with the help of the Center for Whole Communities to formulate new, additional measures of success. This effort may be as important a step in planning for the protection of the next million acres as the more traditional approaches outlined by the Green Vision Group because it will take into consideration the social and cultural realities and development pressures of our region as they relate to implementing the Green Vision plan. It should result in the increased capacity of conservation organizations to collaborate with new and different partners in the accomplishment of mutual goals and to monitor their progress toward those goals. Under this grant, Council staff will continue its involvement in a regional effort to establish metadata standards that will accelerate information sharing on a regional basis. This metadata effort is part of a group called CalEDLN (California Environmental Digital Library Network) and is being led by the Sonoma Ecology Center, UC Davis Information Center for the Environment, and the California Resources Agency. Other project partners include the San Francisco Bay Joint Venture, San Francisco Estuary Institute, and the Institute for Fisheries Resources. Finally, the Council will continue to build regional partnerships and provide practical support for project implementation through the workshops and information exchange meetings that it facilitates, including bi-monthly meetings, annual reports on the accomplishments of the San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy Program, and its annual conference.

## Livermore Area Recreation and Park District

### 19) Sycamore Grove Park Pond and Habitat Restoration Project

Location: Southwest of the City of Livermore, eastern Alameda County

- Bay Program Funds: \$425,000  
Matching Funds: \$121,000

Livermore Area Recreation and Park District (LARPD) will restore and enhance a stock pond and 3.3 acres of riparian habitat in Sycamore Grove Regional Park located in east-central Alameda County. The proposed project implements recommendations identified in the Sycamore Grove Regional Park Resource Management Plan (RMP), which was developed by the LARPD in 2002 with assistance from the Conservancy. The project will reduce sedimentation, prevent over-flow, flooding, and potential dam failure, and enhance habitat for listed species including the California red-legged frog and the California tiger salamander. Sycamore Grove Regional Park, originally established in 1974, is

owned and managed by the LARPD. In its entirety, the park encompasses approximately 735 acres. The project site is contained within the 370-acre “upper” (southern) portion of the park, which was acquired in 1998 as a result of a transfer of density rights action taken by the City of Livermore. The upper portion of the park has been heavily grazed for over three generations. Consequently, many of the habitats have been severely compromised resulting in invasive plant and animal species taking over both natural and man-made habitats. The loss of habitat and the steady decline of riparian areas prompted the development of the RMP in 2002. The proposed Sycamore Grove Park Pond and Habitat Restoration project is one of the first major proposals designed to implement several of the highest priority recommendations identified in the RMP all within one major project. Stock Pond restoration will include drainage and dredging, constructing a sediment basin, and rebuilding the stock pond dam. Upper Drainage B restoration will include reducing drainage head-cuts through re-contouring and native plant restoration. When the dam is rebuilt, the trail/service road will be moved upslope to cross the dam, rather than traverse through the wetlands. A 10-foot wide by 15 to 20-foot long boardwalk will be constructed from the new trail on top of the dam out into the open water of the pond. Additionally, interpretive panels will be designed and installed either along the new trail on top of the dam and/or on the boardwalk.



*Photo: Betsy Wilson*

## Marin Agricultural Land Trust

### 20) Tomales Farm and Dairy Conservation Easement

Location: Tomales Farm and Dairy, southern edge of the unincorporated village of Tomales, West Marin County

- Bay Program Funds: \$500,000  
Matching Funds: \$500,000

Marin Agricultural Land Trust will acquire an agricultural conservation easement over a 178-acre portion of the Tomales Farm and Dairy property situated in Tomales village in west Marin County. The property is comprised of a total of 505.5 acres, owned by Tomales Farm and Dairy, LLC, and includes a homestead, worker residences, buildings associated with dairy operations, and pasture lands for grazing and small-scale crop growing. Of those 505.5 acres, 416 are undeveloped open space pasture. The remaining 89.5 acres consists of dairy operations



infrastructure and residential buildings. The sale of the easements will finance property improvements for reinstating dairy operations and livestock grazing, growing specialty crops on small tracts, and initiating a boutique industry to manufacture an aged hard cheese for distribution and sale. The owners are relying on the sale of an easement over the 178-acre eastern property to finance the start of their dairy operations. The purchase of the agricultural conservation easement over the eastern property will accomplish numerous goals including : 1) a longtime ranch property, important to the history and complexion of Tomales, will remain in production and become the initial stage in establishing a newly vitalized business in the area; 2) the aesthetic value of western Marin will be preserved; and 3) the natural resources and water quality of Walker Creek and Tomales Bay will be protected from increased runoff from development.

## Northern California Public Broadcasting, Inc.

### 21) Saving the Bay Documentary

Location: San Francisco Bay Area Counties

- Bay Program Funds: \$100,000

Note: Bay Program funding for this project is from mitigation funds required by the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission and provided to the Bay Program.

KTEH-TV Foundation will produce a public educational documentary about the history and development of San Francisco Bay. A televised documentary about the history of the bay will have wide public appeal, and be a very useful tool for educating viewers about the environmental issues confronting the bay now. While not exclusively focused on Conservancy projects, this documentary will nevertheless significantly increase the public's understanding of the importance of the Conservancy's efforts to expand public access and recreation and to preserve and restore bay habitats. KTEH-TV Foundation is producing a 4-hour public television program that will be aired in the Bay Area and nationwide in October, 2009. Episodes will cover the geological, cultural, and developmental history of San Francisco Bay and the larger northern California watershed from the Sierra Nevada mountains to the Farallon Islands in the Pacific Ocean. As the title implies, the documentary will explore the environmental degradation of the Bay, the movement that arose to slow and mitigate that process, and the ongoing efforts to restore the health of the Bay, improve public access, and balance the competing needs of human society and natural systems. Production of the program includes interviews with key individuals, historical research to find vintage photographs and film clips, filming current footage of the bay shoreline and landscape, and finally, editing it all into four one-hour segments that follow specific themes. Conservancy funds will be used for the final editing tasks.

## San Francisco Estuary Institute

### 22) San Francisco Bay Non-Native Oyster Removal Project

Location: San Francisco Bay Area counties

- Bay Program Funds: \$25,000  
Matching Funds: \$58,000

San Francisco Estuary Institute (SFEI) will undertake a project to remove non-native oysters, *Crassostrea gigas* (*C. gigas*), from San Francisco Bay and to perform related monitoring and analysis. The project will involve surveying for *C. gigas* along the shoreline and in deeper areas with hard structures such as bridge supports, pier pilings, bases of power towers and similar substrates in the Dumbarton Bridge and San Mateo Bridge areas. The Pacific oyster predominantly settles and grows on hard substrates such as those described above, but also has been found in San Francisco Bay



Photo: Abe Doherty

growing directly on the sediment. SFEI will lead these surveys in conjunction with volunteers or local agency staff. Any *C. gigas* seen will be removed by hand, using scrapers or hammers and chisels. Some of the oysters will be processed or retained for research or as voucher specimens, as needed; the rest will be disposed of. Depending on the availability of funds, analysis may be conducted to determine the age, origin, mechanism of introduction, reproductive status, and genetic diversity and history of the oysters, and to detect the presence of parasites or disease.

## Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department

### 23) Penitencia Creek Ridge Trail Relocation

Location: Penitencia Creek County Park, City of San José, County of Santa Clara

- Bay Program Funds: \$50,640  
Matching Funds: \$137,625

Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department will relocate an approximately 0.1-mile, paved segment of the San Francisco Bay Area Ridge Trail in Penitencia Creek County Park, City of San José. The Penitencia Park chain is a linear park encompassing an approximately four-mile incomplete trail adjacent to Penitencia Creek from the City of San José's Alum Rock Regional Park to near its confluence with Coyote Creek. The heavily used trail segment is a critical community link to surrounding city and county parks, educational facilities, community centers, youth facilities, and local and regional trail systems. The existing trail segment between Interstate 680 and Capitol Avenue is at the top of a severely eroding stream bank of Penitencia Creek, with an approximate 12-foot drop off along some parts of the trail. Portions of the trail have slid off into the creek and will continue to do so without intervention. The unstable condition presents a hazard to trail users and negatively impacts water quality by increasing the sediment load in Penitencia Creek. Consequently, it is necessary to relocate the trail by removing the existing trail segment and constructing a new segment away from the eroding stream bank.

## **Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District**

### **24) Laguna de Santa Rosa Wetlands Trail**

Location: A portion of the Laguna de Santa Rosa, east of the City of Sebastopol, Sonoma County

- Bay Program Funds: \$500,000  
Matching Funds: \$800,000

This project will result in the construction of 2.4 miles of trail, including a creek crossing, two staging areas and an overlook with interpretive signage, in the Laguna de Santa Rosa in Sonoma County. These public access improvements comprise Phase I of the Laguna de Santa Rosa Protected Lands Trails Plan adopted by the Sonoma County Agricultural and Preservation District in April, 2006. When the Trails Plan is fully implemented, 11 miles of trail and related amenities will be constructed east of Sebastopol on five protected properties known as the Alpha Farm, Brown Farm, Kelly Farm, Stone Farm and the Balletto Easement. The Laguna trails will allow the public to experience the rich biological diversity and outstanding scenic features of the area, while protecting important natural, agricultural and cultural resources. The District will construct Phase I of the Trails Plan on the Kelly Farm and the Balletto Easement properties. The trail will be open to pedestrian, bicyclists and equestrians on one section, and to pedestrians only on the remainder. It will connect with a loop trail on the Laguna Wetlands Preserve and to other regional trails in the vicinity, including the popular Joe Rodota Trail used by over 250,000 visitors a year. Other phases of the Trails Plan will be constructed as funding becomes available. The District's comprehensive Trails Plan for the Laguna implements recommendations of several regional conservation plans, including the District's Acquisition Plan, the Laguna de Santa Rosa Resource Atlas and Protection Plan, and the Laguna Ecosystem Restoration and Management Plan, as well as the 1989 Sonoma County General Plan. These plans identify the Laguna as a priority site for preservation, restoration, and public access consistent with the protection of the biological, cultural and agricultural resources of the area.

## **Southern Sonoma County Resource Conservation District**

### **25) Adobe Creek Fish Barrier Removal**

Location: Adobe Creek crossing, approximately 0.5-mile north of Petaluma Adobe State Historic Park and the northeast corner of the City of Petaluma, Sonoma County

- Bay Program Funds: \$62,973  
Matching Funds: \$191,400

This project of Southern Sonoma County Resource Conservation District will enable Central California Coast Steelhead to access spawning and rearing habitat along Adobe Creek, located approximately 0.5 mile north-northeast of the City of Petaluma, Sonoma County. The project is located on a section of Adobe Creek that passes through the Adobe Creek Vineyards property, owned by Fred and Nancy Cline. The site contains a wooden bridge with metal I-Beam supports that is perched on a concrete slab foundation. The in-stream concrete slab is a total migration barrier to fish passage. The project involves removal of these structures and replacing them with an 80-foot clear-span railcar bridge and new abutments that would be outside of the stream channel. This will facilitate upstream immigration of adult Steelhead and downstream emigration of juveniles by opening up 2.6 miles of spawning and rearing habitat upstream of the project site and 0.6 miles of downstream habitat. The project will be implemented by the United Anglers of Casa Grande High School, the NOAA Restoration Center, the California Conservation Corps, the landowners of the project site, and contractors hired by SSCRCD and the landowner.

## **University of California Press Foundation/Friends of the San Francisco Estuary Foundation**

### **26) San Francisco Bay Environmental Primer**

Location: San Francisco Bay

- Bay Program Funds: \$20,000  
Matching Funds: \$85,000

The Board authorized a grant to the University of California Press Foundation to develop an environmental primer on the San Francisco Bay as a part of the University of California Press's series of California Natural History Guides. Subsequent to Board approval, Friends of the San Francisco Estuary Foundation (Friends) were designated as a substitute grantee and the project will be carried out by Friends. The primer, which will be approximately 250-350 pages, will provide an introduction and overview of the Bay Area's rich natural and environmental history through the use of text, annotated color maps, and photographs. The primer aims to extend the public's general awareness of a scenic water body hosting beaches, islands, bridges, and piers. On the most basic level, the primer will help the reader understand what lives in the Bay and how the Bay's waters move and change, and also answer their questions about whether it is safe to swim in, drink or eat fish from the Bay. On a deeper level, the primer will give the reader an overview of the major environmental issues that have arisen in the Bay, how they might affect the reader, and what has been done to address them. The aim of the primer will not only be to inform and educate, but also to inspire further exploration and stewardship of the Bay.

## Urban Ecology

### 27) East Bay Greenway

Location: The City of Hayward to 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Oakland, along the corridor beneath the elevated track of the Bay Area Rapid Transit system, Alameda County.

- Bay Program Funds: \$35,000



*Photos: Urban Ecology*

The Conservancy amended a previous authorization to change the project description and add \$35,000 in grant funds. Urban Ecology, as now proposed, will reduce the extent of the planning for a proposed East Bay Greenway, an open space and public access corridor along the right-of-way beneath the elevated Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART), so that it will cover 12 out of the 30 miles of the East Bay Greenway - from Hayward north to Oakland - rather than the full 30 miles. Although Urban Ecology has raised and committed close to the expected match in funding (\$229,500), the full funding will go towards completing plans for the reduced scope of 12 out of 30 miles of trail. However, instead of producing just a conceptual plan, Urban Ecology proposes to increase planning activities to also prepare 35% engineering drawings for the 12 miles of trail. The reason for the decrease in the length of trail covered by the planning and the increase in planning activity is as follows. In the immediate future BART is undertaking retrofit of its tracks and facilities between Fremont and Oakland. The Greenway has been proposed by Urban Ecology as part of that retrofit. The 12 mile segment to which Urban Ecology now proposes to devote Conservancy and other matching funding consists of the elevated portion of the BART tracks targeted for the majority of retrofit work. BART is giving priority to

scheduling the planning for the retrofit of this segment as Phase I of its retrofit process. Urban Ecology recognizes that if the East Bay Greenway is to be incorporated within BART's work on the elevated Phase I segment, it needs to focus on meeting the BART imposed deadline for completing 35% engineering plans for the proposed trail beneath the 12 miles of tracks. This will enable BART to include the simultaneous implementation of the East Bay Greenway during the construction of the retrofit. Urban Ecology fully intends to continue renewed fund raising and eventually complete planning for the remaining 18 miles of the East Bay Greenway stretching south from Hayward to Fremont where BART runs underground. Although no longer part of the Conservancy funded project, the planning for the remaining 18 mile segment is expected to involve improvements to the city street network near the BART right-of-way, and connections to existing stations.

# DESCRIPTION OF BAY AREA PROJECTS FUNDED WITH ADDITIONAL CONSERVANCY FUNDS (FY 2006-2007)

## California Department of Parks and Recreation

### 28) Pigeon Point Historic Light Station State Park Access Improvements

Location: Pigeon Point, approximately 20 miles south of Half Moon Bay, San Mateo County

- Other Conservancy Funds: \$305,000  
Matching Funds: \$25,000

California Department of Parks and Recreation (State Parks) will construct a new parking lot for up to 27 cars and public access facilities including a new 2-unit bathroom, blufftop paths, and landscaping at the entrance leading to the Pigeon Point Historic Light Station State Park, San Mateo County's most scenic and popular coastal landmark. When completed, the parking lot will be more attractive and less visually obtrusive than the current haphazard parking arrangement, and will significantly enhance the aesthetics of the approach to the lighthouse complex and to the nearby blufftop and beach areas. State Parks will operate and maintain the proposed new public access facilities. These improvements will help to further establish the lighthouse as a hub for public access and recreation in the region, including access to the California Coastal Trail that is planned to extend north and south from the lighthouse to nearby State Park beaches at Bean Hollow, Gazos Creek and Ano Nuevo State Parks. The parking lot material will maximize rainwater percolation and minimize runoff, while providing a stable all-weather surface for parking with a rustic appearance consistent with the setting. In addition to constructing the parking and connecting pathways, the project will include restoration of the native coastal scrub landscape in areas currently occupied by non-native ice plant or denuded by previously uncontrolled parking.



*Photo: Timothy Duff*

## City of Pacifica

### 29) San Pedro Creek Fish Passage at Adobe Bridge

Location: San Pedro Creek, one mile upstream of Highway One, in the City of Pacifica, San Mateo County

- Other Conservancy Funds: \$282,000  
Matching Funds: \$1,900,000

The City of Pacifica will replace an existing box culvert with a free-span bridge at Adobe Road as part of its master plan to restore the watershed of San Pedro Creek in its entirety. The 50-foot-long culvert currently presents a velocity and jump barrier to most fish at low flows and a velocity barrier at high flows, which greatly reduces access to the upper watershed's spawning and rearing habitat. This is the fourth in a series of projects where the City has worked with the Conservancy and other agencies on San Pedro Creek to improve habitat for its native population of steelhead. The City will build a new bridge, remove the culvert, and reconstruct a natural creek bed where the culvert had once been. The bridge and the new creek bed will be built around and under the old culvert while it is still in place, in order to minimize disturbance to the water flow. The City will provide long-term maintenance of the new bridge and the weirs, and will monitor for post-project effectiveness for three years following completion.

## County of Marin

### 30) Kent Canyon Fish Passage Improvement

Location: Redwood Creek, tributary to the Pacific Ocean, near Muir Beach, Marin County

- Other Conservancy Funds: \$100,000  
Matching Funds: \$350,000

Marin County will build an important fish passage improvement project on Redwood Creek, a coho salmon bearing stream, at the intersection of Muir Woods Road. Doing so will improve access for spawning and rearing to one mile of former habitat. The purpose of this project is to improve fish passage in Redwood Creek where barriers to fish passage have resulted from the inappropriate design and construction of road crossings. The project will restore a natural stream channel in the project area, and thereby improve salmonid access to nearly one mile of the highest quality habitat within the watershed, thus facilitating the recovery of salmonids within the watershed. The proposed project will replace the existing culvert with an open-bottom culvert consisting of an aluminum arch set on concrete footings with an aluminum headwall and wingwall structures.

## County of San Mateo

### 31) Fitzgerald Marine Reserve Coastal Trail and Beach Access Project

Location: James V. Fitzgerald Marine Reserve, Moss Beach, San Mateo County

- Other Conservancy Funds: \$90,000  
Matching Funds: \$156,250



*Photo: Matthew Isles*

The County of San Mateo will design two trails at Fitzgerald Marine Reserve: 1) a quarter-mile section of the California Coastal Trail running the length of the Reserve, and 2) a new ramp to improve visitor access to the Moss Beach Reef, where the Coastal Trail meets the visitor center. Matching funds will support design and construction of the section of the Coastal Trail that crosses over San Vicente Creek, as well as a new stairway to Seal Cove Beach at the southern end of the Reserve. Together, the three projects will greatly improve public access through the entire Reserve. The 1,500-foot-long multi-use Coastal Trail through the Reserve will accommodate pedestrians,

people walking leashed dogs, bicyclists and equestrians. The proposed alignment will avoid conflicts between the protection of sensitive resources and the need for public recreation on the bluff, reef and beach areas. It will bypass a pre-historic midden and foundations of an old estate. Hikers will be able to connect to the rest of the Reserve's pedestrian-only trails to form a loop, taking in views of the ocean from the bluff top. Due to the natural sloughing of the bluff top, the trail will be aligned away from the edge.

## Ecotrust

### 32) San Francisco Fisherman's Wharf Sustainable Seafood Market

Location: Fisherman's Wharf, City and County of San Francisco

- Other Conservancy Funds: \$65,468

The San Francisco Crab Boat Owners Association (CBOA) initiated a partnership with Ecotrust to develop a fishermen's co-operative that would operate its own buying station, wholesale, and retail space onsite at Fisherman's Wharf in San Francisco—selling sustainable, locally caught seafood directly to consumers, retailers, and restaurants. The planned cooperative business will purchase seafood product directly from family-owned, commercial fishermen. The cooperative will create a marketplace for the general public and business to purchase product directly from the source: local independent fishermen that subscribe to sustainable fishing standards. It is intended that this cooperative will provide the public with the best local seafood product at competitive prices and provide independent, family fishermen with a



*Photo: Christine Blackburn*

mechanism to counter and survive anticompetitive market forces that threaten their continued existence. The proposed fish market will reverse the low value/high volume business model that can lead to over-fishing and promote destructive fishing practices. The cooperative will also educate consumers about sustainable fishing practices and may establish a trademarked or protected certification program for sustainable local seafood product. Depending upon which species are chosen to be sold at the market, the cooperative may include in its bylaws sustainable fishing practices to which fishermen must agree in order to sell their catch at the market. Building links directly with fishermen provides consumers with a way to directly support practices that reflect their values, as well as ethical and social concerns. As the first step towards creating such a market, Ecotrust, in cooperation with the CBOA, plans to carry out a feasibility study, examining the size of the market for local and sustainable seafood, the business environment, company strategy, financial viability and planning, implementation, risk assessment and mitigation strategy. Pending the outcomes of the feasibility study prepared in Phase 1, Ecotrust will undertake the second phase of the project, a full business plan that will include mission statement, executive summary, company overview, industry and market analysis, marketing plan, management and operations plan, financial plan (including capital requirements), and risk assessment and mitigation.

## Fort Mason Foundation

### 33) Fort Mason Center Interpretive Program Plan (Pier 2 Restoration Plan)

Location: The Fort Mason Center, City and County of San Francisco

- Other Conservancy Funds: \$25,000  
Matching Funds: \$175,000

The Conservancy, in November of 2006, authorized funding for the Fort Mason Foundation to develop an interpretive program for the 13-acre Fort Mason Center site along the southwestern Bay front in San Francisco. The interpretive program would have been designed to enhance public enjoyment and increase visitor use of the Fort Mason Center, which currently attracts approximately 1.6 million people each year. In 2009, the Conservancy modified the prior authorization, redirecting the grant funds from the Fort Mason Center interpretive program plan to plan preparation for improvements to Pier 2. The project now involves the preparation of plans for restoration of Pier 2, one of three piers that are part of the thirteen acre site known as the Fort Mason Center, located within Lower Fort Mason on the southwestern shore of San Francisco Bay (Exhibit 2). The Fort Mason Center is comprised of the piers and sheds originally built in 1912 to house U.S. Army supplies and to provide docking space for transport ships. In a highly successful conversion from military to civilian uses, the National Park Service took over administration of the site in the 1970's as part of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, now the most visited urban park in the country. Since 1976, the Center has become the home of nearly three-dozen creative and/or philanthropic nonprofit organizations. It houses the famous Green's vegetarian restaurant, as well as performance spaces, a large conference center, three museums, six theaters, and the City College of San Francisco's Art Campus. More than 15,000 events take place at the Center and more than 1.5 million people visit annually. Like all of the facilities at the Center, Pier 2 has been designated a National Historic Landmark. The pier contains 30,000 feet of exhibit space and provides visitors with public access to and views of the San Francisco Bay shoreline. The pier shed houses the 440-seat Cowell Theater, the venue for many popular cultural programs including dance performances, theater, film festivals, seminars, conferences and community activities. Surveys have revealed that the shed is in need of a significant amount of exterior and interior work. While the substructures of the piers remain a federal responsibility, the rest of the work, such as that proposed here, is the responsibility of the Fort Mason Foundation.

## Gold Ridge Resource Conservation District

### 34) Salmon Creek Ranch Enhancement Plan Implementation

Location: Salmon Creek Watershed, 3 miles north of Bodega Bay, Sonoma County

- Other Conservancy Funds: \$610,000  
Matching Funds: \$275,305

The Gold Ridge Resource Conservation District (RCD) will implement ranch resource enhancement plans in the Salmon Creek Watershed in western Sonoma County, and also adopt the mitigation monitoring and reporting program for the project. The project will remedy sources of erosion, restore healthy creek functioning and improve water quality for the benefit of salmonid habitat on nine agricultural and ranching properties along Salmon Creek and its tributaries. The RCD developed specific plans for each property working with the property owners and a consulting firm to design and engineer solutions for high sedimentation risk sites identified through the Salmon Creek Ranch Enhancement Plan project, funded in part by the Coastal Conservancy. The RCD is prepared to implement the road crossing improvements, gully stabilization, energy dissipation, native plant re-vegetation and other treatment solutions to counter erosion and reduce sediment flowing into Salmon Creek as soon as pending permits are secured. The proposed project will build on the previous planning and enhancement investments made by the Conservancy, the California Department of Fish and Game, the State Water Resources Control Board and members of the public are involved with the Salmon Creek Watershed Council in this important western Sonoma watershed. The Ranch restoration projects will provide treatment for multiple issues on nine properties assessed and evaluated through the RCD's Salmon Creek Resource Enhancement and Design project. Common elements to be addressed include eroding stream banks and lateral scour, incised roads leading to deepening gullies, aging culverts near the point of failing and hundreds of feet of gully walls eroding into the creeks of the watershed. In addition, a number of ranches have need for cattle control in the riparian area, improvement in storm flow management, and work to restore healthy creek meandering and complexity.

## Harmony Union School District

### 35) Salmon Creek Falls Environmental Center

Location: Occidental, Sonoma County

- Other Conservancy Funds: \$750,000  
Matching Funds: \$1,491,220

Harmony Union School District will construct an environmental center to include an environmental learning center, auditorium, cafeteria, habitat gardens, native species plantings, and solar energy panels at its Salmon Creek School. In 2003, the Conservancy authorized grant funding for Phase I of the Salmon Creek Green School project. Activities completed under Phase I included: construction of a creek observation deck that provides safe access for viewing and monitoring Salmon Creek and its fishery resources; construction of a "straw bale" working greenhouse and nursery that provides native plants for Salmon Creek and neighboring watersheds; construction of an outdoor classroom for classes, lectures, and forums; a trail study to assess the feasibility of connecting campus trails to other trail systems leading inland and to the coast; a



timber cruise that resulted in a forestry management plan for oak woodlands and redwood forest on the campus's eastern boundary; enhancement of the onsite wetland and the removal of invasive species; and development of the design, budget, and funding program for the Salmon Creek Falls Environmental Center – this phase of the project. At present, the existing environmental program serves the immediate school population and provides a school garden for plant propagation, a recycling program, worm bins, compost for the school site, an annual harvest celebration, and a yearly plant sale. The environmental center was designed to meet the rigorous Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) criteria, a program developed in 2000 by the U.S. Green Building Council to promote environmentally friendly construction methods throughout the construction industry. The facilities will continue to serve the existing K-8 local and county school population, but with the improvements high school students, college students, and nonprofit organizations could utilize the campus and surrounding natural areas.

## **Peninsula Open Space Trust**

### **36) Pillar Point Bluff Coastal Trail Project**

Location: Pillar Point Bluff, just north of Half Moon Bay, San Mateo County

- Other Conservancy Funds: \$377,000

The Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST) will construct nearly one mile of Coastal Trail and other connecting trails, a new small parking lot with restroom, and erosion control measures at Pillar Point Bluff, a property known for the views it provides of the unique reefs below and the famous Maverick's wave break offshore. The 119-acre property was acquired in 2004 by POST with partial support from the Conservancy. Funds to design this Coastal Trail project were included in the Conservancy's 2004 acquisition grant to POST, so that the development of these facilities would not have to wait until a public agency could acquire the property from POST. Since then, POST staff has worked diligently to complete the designs and the environmental review, and receive a Coastal Development Permit. Two trails will be built – one at a wheelchair-accessible grade and one with a more direct connection to the blufftop. POST will continue to manage the Pillar Point Bluff property for public use until it can be transferred to an appropriate entity for long-term stewardship. Given current budget constraints of public agencies, POST expects to own the property for the next few years. The County of San Mateo, which manages the parks at the nearby James V. Fitzgerald Marine Reserve and Pillar Point Marsh, has been seeking funds, with the hope of eventually acquiring the property from POST.

## San Mateo County Resource Conservation District

### 37) Frenchman's Creek Fish Passage

Location: Frenchman's Creek, near the City of Half Moon Bay, San Mateo County

- Other Conservancy Funds: \$60,000  
Matching Funds: \$130,195

The San Mateo County Resource Conservation District (RCD) will improve fish passage on Frenchman's Creek by replacing an existing perched culvert at an agricultural tractor creek crossing with a clear-span bridge and boulder cross-vane weirs. Current conditions prevent all steelhead migration above the culvert, which effectively eliminates access to the upper 2.1 miles of the creek – the most valuable spawning and rearing habitat within this stream system. When this barrier is removed, fish will have access to about 4.4 miles of the creek, from the ocean to a natural waterfall that blocks passage high in the hills. Designed in accordance with National Marine Fisheries Service and California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) guidelines, the project's work plan includes the following elements: submit and secure all permits, comply with pre-project monitoring requirements, implement plans for listed species removal and water diversion (conditions to be established by agency consultations and DFG streambed alteration permits), provide biological monitoring during construction, remove the existing perched culvert, install a clear-span bridge 12 feet wide and 65 feet long, sufficient for continued vehicular agricultural access for cultivation and harvest of crops. Current plans call for using a railcar with two spread-footing abutments to build the new bridge, which will be privately owned and used by the agricultural operators and landowners, construct approximately 8 cross-vane boulder weirs to stabilize the channel grade, grade channel banks to design slope, implement re-vegetation measures, and comply with post-project monitoring and evaluation requirements. The project also includes removing and eradicating invasive plant species (mostly Cape ivy) within the half-acre project area. The RCD will re-plant the site with native riparian species.



Before

*Photo: Janet Diehl*



After

*Photo: San Mateo County Resource Conservation District*

## Sonoma County Regional Parks Department

### 38) Cheney Creek Bridge and Trail

Location: Southern edge of Bodega Bay, Sonoma County

- Other Conservancy Funds: \$305,000  
Matching Funds: \$40,000

Sonoma County Regional Parks Department will connect the Bird Walk Coastal Access Park with Doran Beach Park by constructing a 110-foot bridge over Cheney Creek Gulch and completing 1,654 feet of California Coastal Trail. The project will provide a link between two valuable regional parks and close a gap in the California Coastal Trail by bridging Cheney Creek at the southern edge of Bodega Bay. The project will install a 110-foot, prefabricated metal bridge with 55-foot pilings and concrete landings over Cheney Creek. The existing 8'-wide crushed gravel trail at the Bird Walk Access will be extended by construction of an additional 340' of trail. On the Doran Beach side of Cheney Creek, an informal footpath along the creek will be improved to an 8'-wide trail with a crushed gravel surface for 1314' of trail to connect to Doran Beach trails. Best Management Practices will be utilized to limit erosion and storm water pollution during the project.

## Sonoma Land Trust

### 39) The Cedars Conservation Plan Project

Location: The Cedars, Sonoma County

- Other Conservancy Funds: \$23,000  
Matching Funds: \$19,500

Sonoma Land Trust (SLT) will develop a conservation plan including research, planning and landowner outreach in the Cedars area, and negotiation for the possible acquisition of the 520-acre Raiche-McCrory property within a 9 square mile area in western Sonoma County. The Cedars is a distinct area in western Sonoma County characterized by the presence of Sergeant cypress and large expanses of serpentine rock. It is a highly unique region with exposed mantle rock (peridotite and serpentine), high pH value natural springs, endemic plants and microbial resources. The proposed planning project will enable the SLT to develop a conservation plan for the Cedars area and to carry-out negotiations for potential acquisition of one 520-acre property within the Cedars. The SLT will conduct research on strategies for conservation, coordinate with potential funding partners and conduct outreach to property owners. The SLT will prepare all necessary documentation and negotiate the potential acquisition of the 520-acre Raiche-McCrory Property through this project. As the match to Conservancy funds, the SLT will provide an appraisal, Phase I Environmental Assessment, outreach with key neighboring property owners, and will allocate management and legal team resources toward the project.



*Photo: Deborah Hirst*

## Funding Summary of Bay Area Conservancy Program Projects Years One Through Eight

	Bay Area Conservancy Program (a)	Additional Conservancy Funding (b)	Matching Funds (c) (some estimated)
<b>Year One: FY 1999-2000 (42 Projects)</b>			
Total Conservancy Funds	\$9,722,126		\$17,990,159
	\$9,722,126		
Program Funding Leverage: BACP Funds/Matching Funds	35%		65%
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<b>Year Two: FY 2000-2001 (51 Projects)</b>			
Total Conservancy Funds	\$20,286,027	\$21,715,000	\$80,948,268
	\$42,001,027		
Program Funding Leverage: BACP Funds/Matching Funds	20%		80%
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<b>Year Three: FY 2001-2002 (41 Projects)</b>			
Total Conservancy Funds	\$16,082,196	\$5,130,000	\$57,034,781
	\$21,212,196		
Program Funding Leverage: BACP Funds/Matching Funds	22%		78%
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<b>Year Four: FY 2002-2003 (26 Projects)</b>			
Total Conservancy Funds	\$15,672,185	\$5,000,000	\$66,852,488
	\$20,672,185		
Program Funding Leverage: BACP Funds/Matching Funds	19%		81%
<hr/>			
<b>Year Five: FY 2003-2004 (35 Projects)</b>			
Total Conservancy Funds	\$17,256,585	\$544,381	\$52,371,386
	\$17,800,966		
Program Funding Leverage: BACP Funds/Matching Funds	25%		75%
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<b>Year Six: FY 2004-2005 (35 Projects)</b>			
Total Conservancy Funds	\$24,327,875	\$1,500,000	\$76,987,574
	\$25,827,875		
Program Funding Leverage: BACP Funds/Matching Funds	24%		76%
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<b>Year Seven: FY 2005-2006 (42 Projects)</b>			
Total Conservancy Funds	\$13,460,402	\$950,000	\$40,175,391
	\$14,410,402		
Program Funding Leverage: BACP Funds/Matching Funds	25%		75%
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<b>Year Eight: FY 2006-2007 (37 Projects)</b>			
Total Conservancy Funds	\$12,968,588	\$2,992,468	\$17,632,696
	\$15,961,056		
Program Funding Leverage: BACP Funds/Matching Funds	42%		58%

## Sum Total for Years One Through Eight

	Bay Area Conservancy Program (a)	Additional Conservancy Funding (b)	Matching Funds (c) (some estimated)
<b>Year One - Year Eight: FY 1999-2007 (309 Projects)</b>			
Total Conservancy Funds	\$129,775,984	\$37,831,849	\$409,992,743
	\$167,607,833		
Program Funding Leverage: BACP Funds/Matching Funds	24%		76%

**Notes:**

- a) Funds directly appropriated or granted to the Bay Area Conservancy Program
- b) Funds appropriated to the State Coastal Conservancy as an agency, of which some may be used in the Bay Area
- c) All other matching funds