

# San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy Program



*Mindego Hill, San Mateo County*

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The

## **Ninth Year Report**

FY 2007-2008

prepared by the

Bay Area Open Space Council and State Coastal Conservancy

January 29, 2010

## 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 ninth 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 2007-2008 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 Moira McEnespy, Matthew Isles, and Ryan Branciforte for report preparation and to Conservancy project managers for review.



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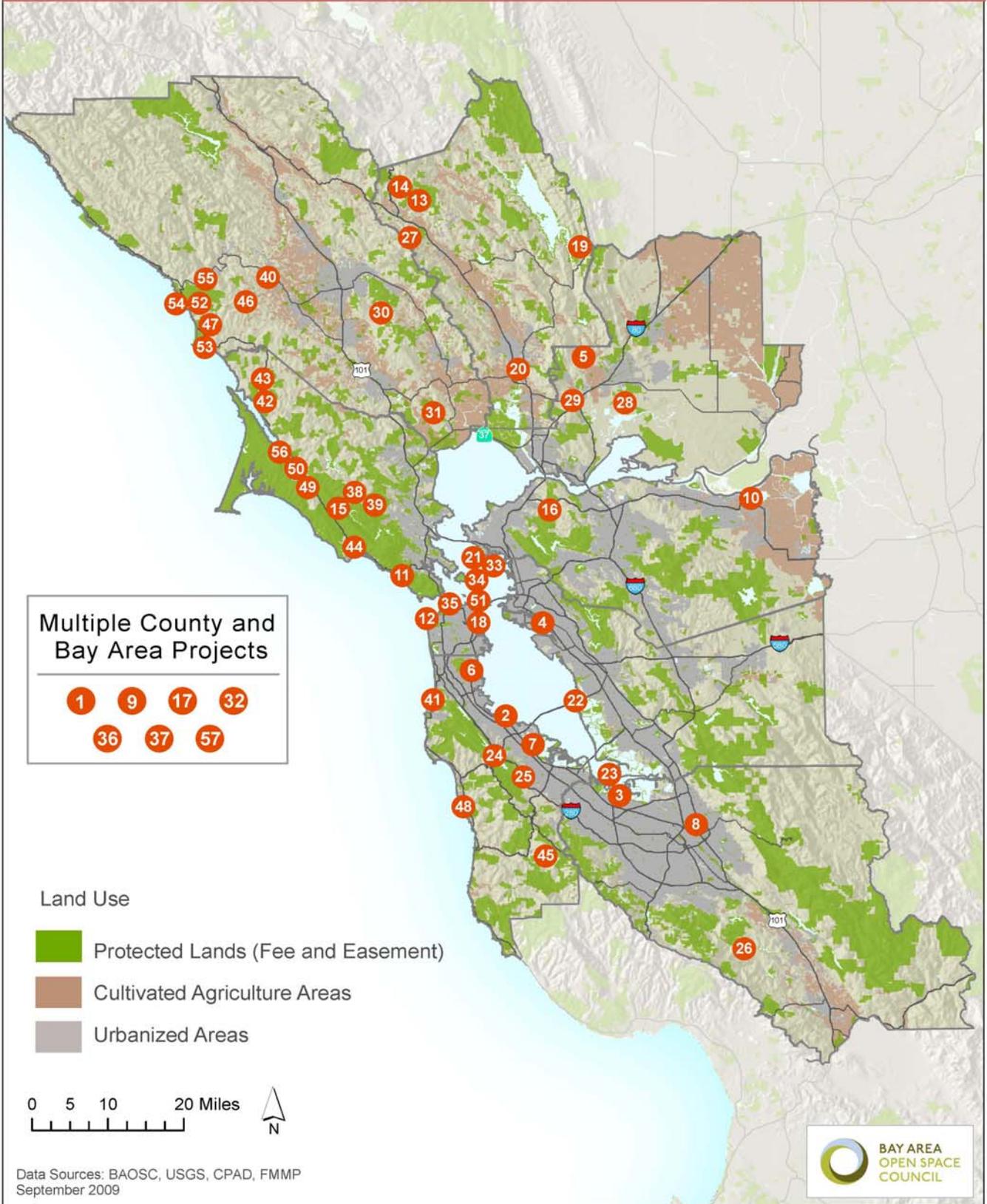
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## Projects Funded by Bay Area Conservancy Program (FY 2007-2008)

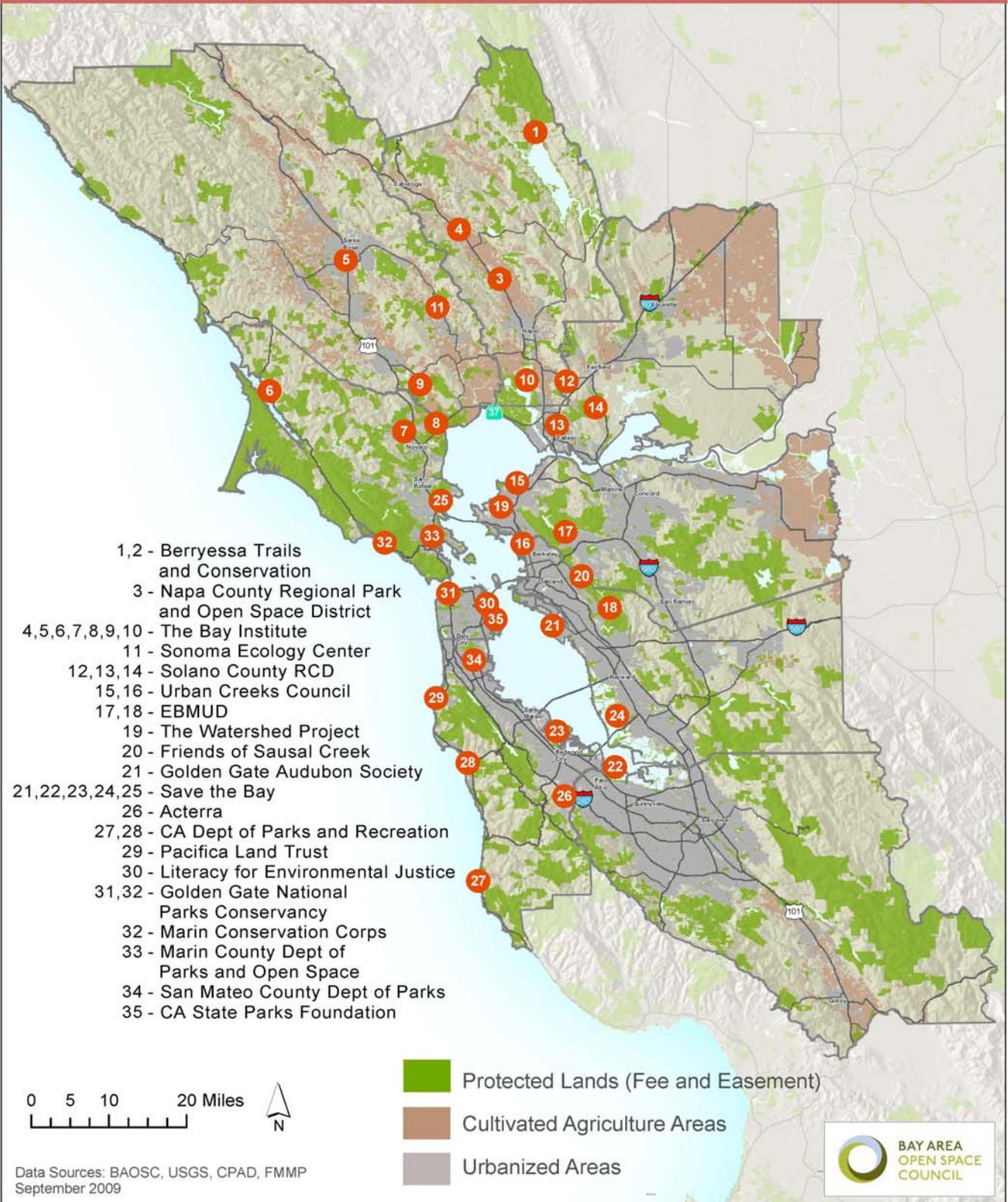
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# Map of Bay Area Conservancy Projects (FY 07/08)



# Map of Bay Area Conservancy Projects (FY 07/08) Hands On - Community Projects



## Funding Summary of Bay Area Conservancy Program Projects (FY 2007-2008)

<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>Association of Bay Area Governments</i>			
1) San Francisco Bay Trail Block Grant #4	\$3,000,000		\$12,720,000
2) San Francisco Bay Trail: Coyote Point Trail Construction (\$500,000 previously authorized via block grants)			\$1,329,442
3) San Francisco Bay Trail: Moffett Field Bay Trail Improvements (\$63,250 previously authorized via block grants)			\$134,750
4) San Francisco Bay Trail: Oakland Estuary Segments Construction (\$400,000 previously authorized via block grants)			
<i>California Land Stewardship Institute</i>			
5) Suisun Creek	\$350,000		\$580,000
<i>City of Brisbane</i>			
6) Brisbane Acres III Acquisition	\$242,500		\$244,500
<i>City of Redwood City</i>			
7) Redwood Shores Interpretive Center	\$150,000		\$142,000
<i>City of San José</i>			
8) Bay Area Ridge Trail: Penitencia Creek – N. King to Mabury	\$150,000		\$305,000
<i>Ducks Unlimited</i>			
9) San Francisco Bay Joint Venture-Implementation Strategy Update	\$20,000		
<i>East Bay Regional Park District</i>			
10) Big Break Regional Shoreline	\$400,000		\$569,877
<i>Golden Gate National Park Conservancy</i>			
11) Dias Ridge Trail	\$385,000		\$780,369
12) Land's End Coastal Trail	\$425,000	\$425,000	\$3,356,997
<i>Land Trust of Napa County</i>			
13) Duff Ranch Acquisition	\$1,000,000		\$3,320,000
14) Wildlake, Duff Ranch, Robert Louis Stevenson State Park Interim Management Plan	\$250,000		\$41,915
<i>Marin Municipal Water District</i>			
15) Mount Tamalpais Watershed Gateway Project	\$149,950		\$74,020
<i>Muir Heritage Land Trust</i>			
16) Fernandez Ranch Creek Restoration and Bay Area Ridge Trail Construction	\$515,000		\$2,529,716

## Funding Summary of Bay Area Conservancy Program Projects (FY 2007-2008)

<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>Point Reyes Bird Observatory</i> 17) San Francisco Bay Joint Venture-Habitat Restoration Project Design Review Program	\$60,000	\$11,633	\$561,400
<i>Port of San Francisco</i> 18) Pier 52 Boat Launch and Public Access	\$200,000		\$2,400,000
<i>Regents of the University of California</i> 19) Quail Ridge Reserve	\$485,000		\$485,000
<i>San Francisco Estuary Institute</i> 20) Napa Historical Ecology Atlas	\$25,000		\$65,000
21) San Francisco Bay Creosote Assessment	\$165,000		\$36,750
22) San Francisco Bay Non-native Oyster Eradication	\$225,000		\$320,500
23) South Bay Salt Ponds Restoration Plan (\$114,000 previously-authorized by BACP)			\$371,000
<i>San Francisco Public Utilities Commission</i> 24) Bay Area Ridge Trail: Southern Skyline Boulevard Extension	\$185,000		\$207,500
<i>San Mateo County Parks and Recreation Foundation</i> 25) Edgewood Park	\$250,000		\$92,000
<i>Santa Clara County Open Space Authority</i> 26) Blair Ranch Acquisition (BACP authorized \$4,340,000, \$2M of which was a loan)	\$2,340,000		\$4,353,000
<i>Save-the-Redwoods League</i> 27) Smith Madrone Acquisition	\$600,000		\$1,584,400
<i>Solano Land Trust</i> 28) Rush Ranch Marsh and Upland Restoration Design and Management	\$435,000		\$40,000
<i>Solano Transportation Authority</i> 29) Bay Area Ridge Trail: Jameson Canyon Plan	\$55,000		\$12,500
<i>Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District</i> 30) Sonoma Mountain Ridge Trail	\$575,000		\$538,853
<i>Sonoma Land Trust</i> 31) Roche Ranch Acquisition	\$3,000,000		\$10,000,000
<i>Stanford University</i> 32) San Francisco Bay Hydrodynamic and Sediment Transport Model	\$282,500		\$411,000

### Funding Summary of Bay Area Conservancy Program Projects (FY 2007-2008)

<u>Grant Recipient / Project Sponsor</u>	Bay Area Conservancy Program (a)	Additional Conservancy Funding (b)	Matching Funds (c) (some estimated)
<i>State Coastal Conservancy</i> 33) Invasive Spartina Project (BACP is also fronting \$249,425 of the matching WCB funds)	\$1,972,190		\$365,425
34) San Francisco Bay Water Trail Plan	\$40,000		
<i>The Exploratorium</i> 35) Wave Organ Access Improvements	\$204,000		\$80,000
<i>University of California, Berkeley</i> 36) San Francisco Bay Hydrodynamic and Sediment Transport	\$146,500		\$203,000
<i>Various Grantees</i> 37) Bay Area Community-Based Educational, Environmental Restoration and Trail Projects	\$1,774,681		\$13,104,491
<b>Total Funds: Bay Area Conservancy Program</b>	<b>\$20,057,321</b>	<b>\$436,633</b>	<b>\$61,360,405</b>

Program Funding Leverage: BACP Funds/Matching Funds = 1.0/2.66

### Bay Area Projects Funded with Additional Coastal Conservancy Funds (FY 2007-2008)

<u>Grant Recipient / Project Sponsor</u>	Bay Area Conservancy Program (a)	Additional Conservancy Funding (b)	Matching Funds (c) (some estimated)
<i>County of Marin</i> 38) San Geronimo Creek Watershed Enhancement		\$100,000	\$200,000
39) Woodacre Creek Fish Passage		\$185,000	\$210,000
<i>Gold Ridge Resource Conservation District</i> 40) Green Valley Creek Watershed Plan		\$125,000	\$259,239
<i>Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy</i> 41) Mori Point Coastal Trail		\$500,000	\$1,403,000
<i>Marin Agricultural Land Trust</i> 42) Poncia Ranch Easement Acquisition		\$750,000	\$1,250,000
43) Tomales Farm and Dairy Easement Acquisition		\$750,000	\$250,000
<i>Marin Resource Conservation District</i> 44) Pine Gulch Creek Watershed Enhancement: Instream Flow		\$275,000	
<i>Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District</i> 45) Mindego Hill Acquisition		\$7,500,000	\$15,000,000
<i>Occidental Arts and Ecology Center</i> 46) Salmon Creek Water Conservation		\$290,000	\$209,850

**Bay Area Projects Funded with Additional Coastal Conservancy Funds (FY 2007-2008)**

<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>Ocean Song Farm and Wilderness Center</i> 47) Coastal Prairie Enhancement		\$639,000	\$316,841
<i>Peninsula Open Space Trust</i> 48) Cowell-Purisima Coastal Trail		\$2,980,000	
<i>Point Reyes National Seashore</i> 49) Helping Hands Restoration Project		\$84,925	\$59,926
50) Giacomini Wetland Restoration		\$575,000	\$4,250,000
<i>San Francisco Maritime National Park Association</i> 51) Tall Ships 2008		\$150,000	\$550,000
<i>Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District</i> 52) Poff Property Acquisition		\$750,000	\$4,850,000
<i>Sonoma County Regional Parks Department</i> 53) Bodega Bay Trails Planning		\$100,000	\$150,000
<i>Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods</i> 54) Bilingual Rip Currents and Steep Beach Signs		\$21,925	\$31,335
55) Willow Creek Channel Restoration and Fish Passage Project		\$130,000	\$40,000
<i>Tomales Bay Watershed Council</i> 56) Third Valley Creek and Chicken Ranch Beach Restoration Plan		\$109,000	\$30,940
<i>Trout Unlimited</i> 57) Coastal Streamflow Stewardship Project		\$600,000	\$275,000
<b>Total Funds: Additional Coastal Conservancy</b>		<b>\$15,704,850</b>	<b>\$27,263,892</b>

**Total Funds Spent in Nine-County Bay Area (FY 2007-2008)**

<b>Total Funds-Bay Area Conservancy Program: \$20,057,321</b>	<b>\$20,057,321</b>	\$16,141,483	\$88,624,297
<b>Total Funds-Additional Coastal Conservancy: \$16,141,483</b>	\$20,057,321	<b>\$16,141,483</b>	\$88,624,297
<b>Total Funds-All Coastal Conservancy Combined: \$36,198,804</b>	<b>\$20,057,321</b>	<b>\$16,141,483</b>	\$88,624,297
<b>Total Funds-Leveraged: \$88,624,297</b>	\$20,057,321	\$16,141,483	<b>\$88,624,297</b>
<b>Total Funds-All Sources: \$124,823,101</b>	<b>\$20,057,321</b>	<b>\$16,141,483</b>	<b>\$88,624,297</b>

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) Matching Funds are all other funds, including grants to the Conservancy from the Wildlife Conservation Board, California Bay-Delta Authority, and others.

## **Description of Projects Funded by the Bay Area Conservancy Program (FY 2007–2008)**

### ***Association of Bay Area Governments***

The San Francisco Bay Trail Project is a non-profit that works with the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) to plan, promote, and implement the Bay Trail. The Conservancy provides block grants to ABAG for Bay Trail projects. Below are descriptions of the Bay Trail Block Grant and Bay Trail implementation projects approved by the Conservancy using these previously-authorized block grant funds; Bay Trail planning projects using the block grant do not need additional Conservancy authorization and are not included in this report.

#### **1) San Francisco Bay Trail Block Grant**

Location: Various location within the nine-county San Francisco bay area

Bay Program Funds: \$3,000,000

Matching Funds: \$12,720,000

In September 2007, the Conservancy authorized up to \$3 million to ABAG as a fourth "block grant" for the San Francisco Bay Trail. Through this grant, which will be administered by the Bay Trail Project, the Conservancy enables Bay Trail staff to plan and develop Bay Trail projects in the nine-county bay area, and directly manage individual grants with local government partners that are planning, designing and building the trail segments. This arrangement has worked well since 1999 to provide efficient allocation and management of nearly \$14 million in funding, resulting in the construction of over 35 miles of new Bay Trail.

#### **2) San Francisco Bay Trail: Coyote Point Trail Construction**

Location: Coyote Point Recreation Area, San Mateo County

Bay Program Funds: \$500,000

Matching Funds: \$1,329,442

In September 2007, the Conservancy authorized use of up to \$348,000 of previously-authorized Block Grant funds for San Mateo County to construct 1.2 miles of San Francisco Bay Trail improvements through Coyote Point Park, San Mateo County. Specifically, trail will be realigned, reconstructed and/or resurfaced to improve safety for pedestrians, bicyclists and motorists traveling through this heavily-used park. New signage and trail configurations at three intersections, the widening of the trail to 10 feet, and its re-alignment next to Coyote Point Drive will increase public safety and bring the trail into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. In April 2008, the Conservancy authorized use of an additional \$152,000 of Block Grant funds for this project.

### **3) San Francisco Bay Trail: Moffett Field Bay Trail Improvements**

Location: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Alviso pond complex, Santa Clara County

Bay Program Funds: \$63,250

Matching Funds: \$135,000

In April 2008, the Conservancy authorized use of up to \$63,250 of previously-authorized Block Grant funds for the San Francisco Bay Wildlife Society to improve approximately 2.4 miles of the San Francisco Bay Trail through the Alviso Pond Complex at the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge in Santa Clara County (the Moffett Field Bay Trail segment). The project consists of improving the Bay Trail along the Refuge's inner (landward) pond levee, linking the Sunnyvale Baylands with the Mountain View Shoreline. Opening a trail segment to fill this gap in the Bay Trail has been a priority for ABAG and the Bay Trail project since 1991, but until now has been infeasible due to adjacent salt-making activities and security concerns (the site is located adjacent to NASA property). In 2003, however, State and Federal agencies acquired 16,500 acres of former salt ponds from Cargill Salt Company, including the Alviso pond complex, launching the South Bay Salt Ponds (SBSP) Restoration Project and enabling new opportunities for public access. This project is a part of Phase I of the larger SBSP Restoration Project.

### **4) San Francisco Bay Trail: Oakland Estuary Segments Construction**

Location: Adjacent to the Cryer Boathouse, and from Derby Avenue to Lancaster Street, along the Oakland Estuary, Alameda County

Bay Program Funds: \$400,000

Matching Funds: \$3,866,000

In June 2008, the Conservancy authorized use of up to \$400,000 of previously-authorized Block Grant funds for the City of Oakland to construct two approximately 450-foot segments of the San Francisco Bay Trail along the Oakland Estuary in Alameda County: the Cryer Boathouse segment and the Derby Avenue-to-Lancaster Street segment.



The Cryer Boathouse Bay Trail segment will consist of a multi-use trail (18 feet wide, 450 feet long) with ADA-accessible ramps to ensure accessibility from the adjacent crosswalk, landscaping, a historic interpretive exhibit, and an ADA-accessible parking and staging area. When completed, the Cryer Boathouse segment will connect a continuous half-mile segment of the Bay Trail between the south end of Dennison Street and Union Point Park.

The Derby Avenue to Lancaster Street Bay Trail segment will consist of a 450-foot stretch of pile-supported concrete trail cantilevered over an existing rock slope, which will run behind the Oakland Museum Women's Board Warehouse, and an on-grade trail engineered on top of an existing sheet pile wall. Pile driving will be used to install this new segment. The design will incorporate landscaping, and site amenities will include vehicle barriers and interpretive signs.

## ***California Land Stewardship Institute***

### **5) Suisun Creek**

Location: Unincorporated Napa and Solano Counties

Bay Program Funds: \$350,000

Matching Funds: \$580,000

The 53-square-mile Suisun Creek Watershed in Napa and Solano Counties is 99% rural and, though degraded, supports a population of the threatened steelhead trout. With a \$350,000 grant from the Conservancy, the California Land Stewardship Institute will undertake measures to protect and restore Suisun Creek and two of its tributaries, White Creek and Wooden Valley Creek. The project includes the following elements: fencing and riparian revegetation on White Creek, removal of invasive non-native *Arundo donax* and replacement with native riparian vegetation on two to five linear miles of Suisun Creek, and preparation of the design, environmental review documents and cost estimates for removing a concrete barrier to fish passage.

This project is the second phase of implementing recommended restoration measures identified in the Suisun Creek Watershed Assessment and Enhancement Plan which was completed for the California Sportfishing Alliance in 2004 under a grant from the Coastal Conservancy. The first phase of implementation was funded by CALFED. All projects are being undertaken with the approval and participation of private landowners.

## ***City of Brisbane***

### **6) Brisbane Acres III Acquisition**

Location: Brisbane acres is located on the upper slopes of San Bruno Mountain, below and adjacent to San Bruno Mountain State and County Park, west of Highway 101 and east of Highway 280 in northern San Mateo County

Bay Program Funds: \$242,500

Matching Funds: \$244,500

The Conservancy granted \$242,500 from Proposition 40 to the City of Brisbane to acquire five parcels totaling 6.4 acres in Brisbane Acres, an area on San Bruno Mountain located adjacent to San Bruno Mountain State and County Park. San Bruno Mountain contains habitat for a number of rare plant and animal species, including three species of butterflies listed as federally endangered. Two of these species, the Mission Blue and the Callippe Silverspot, have been recorded on or near these parcels. Acquisition of these properties would complement the 40.6 acres of existing protected lands in the Brisbane Acres that the City has acquired since 1998 using a combination of funds from the Conservancy, US Fish and Wildlife, and City of Brisbane. Most of the land on San Bruno Mountain is included within the San Bruno Mountain Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP), a plan which provides for the protection and enhancement of habitat of federally listed endangered species. This was the first such plan in the nation and has served as the prototype for subsequent HCPs. Once the parcels are acquired, the nonprofit group, San Bruno Mountain Watch, will assist the City of Brisbane in restoring the habitat for the endangered butterflies.



## ***City of Redwood City***

### **7) Redwood Shores Interpretive Center**

Location: Redwood Shores, Redwood City, San Mateo County

Bay Program Funds: \$150,000

Matching Funds: \$142,000

The Conservancy provided a grant from Proposition 50 for the fabrication and installation of exhibits for a new Interpretive Center (the “Center”) located in the Redwood Shores Community



Library along Belmont Slough in San Mateo County. The Center will highlight the natural history of the southern San Francisco Bay through a series of interactive exhibits. The exhibits will feature three natural habitats of the San Francisco Bay - mud, water, and air - and will include information on resident species and biological concepts such as food webs and animal adaptations. The Interpretive Center is strategically located along the San Francisco Bay Trail on Belmont Slough and will include a deck and outdoor information panels placed along pathways that connect the Center to the Bay Trail. The Marine Science Institute and Sequoia Audubon Society will provide guidance on exhibit information and support for the Library's interpretive program related to the exhibit.

### ***City of San José***

#### **8) Bay Area Ridge Trail: Penitencia Creek – N. King to Mabury**

Location: North of intersection of N. King Road and Mabury Road, City of San José, County of Santa Clara

Bay Program Funds: \$150,000

Matching Funds: \$305,000

The Conservancy authorized a grant to the City of San José for its Department of Parks, Recreation & Neighborhood Services to construct approximately 0.3-mile of trail as part of the San Francisco Bay Area Ridge Trail along Penitencia Creek, within the City of San José. The Penitencia Park chain is a linear park encompassing an approximately 4-mile incomplete trail adjacent to Penitencia Creek from the City of San José's Alum Rock Regional Park to its confluence with Coyote Creek. The heavily used trail system is a critical community link to surrounding city and county parks, educational facilities, community centers, youth facilities, and local and regional trail systems.

### ***Ducks Unlimited***

#### **9) San Francisco Bay Joint Venture Implementation Strategy Update**

Location: Nine-county San Francisco Bay Area

Bay Program Funds: \$20,000

The San Francisco Bay Joint Venture is a partnership of twenty-seven public agencies, environmental organizations, the business community, local governments and landowners working cooperatively to protect, restore, increase and enhance wetlands and riparian habitat in San Francisco Bay watersheds. Ducks Unlimited will evaluate seasonal wetlands habitat goals in order to update the San Francisco Bay Joint Venture's implementation Strategy, *Restoring the Estuary, Implementation Strategy of the San Francisco Bay Joint Venture (January 2001)*.

## ***East Bay Regional Park District***

### **10) Big Break Regional Shoreline**

Location: City of Oakley, Contra Costa County

Bay Program Funds: \$400,000

Matching Funds: \$569,877

The Conservancy is providing a \$400,000 grant from Proposition 50 to the East Bay Regional Park District for the final design, construction and installation of interpretive exhibits at the Big Break Regional Shoreline in the City of Oakley in Contra Costa County.

These exhibits are designed to increase knowledge and awareness of natural and cultural resources within San Francisco Bay and the Sacramento-San Joaquin

River Delta. The outdoor educational exhibits will also enhance public access and recreation at the Big Break Regional Shoreline for casual visitors and organized groups to learn more about the Bay and Delta. The shoreline of Contra Costa County lacks a significant environmental education facility and citizens and groups have been working for over 15 years to develop such a facility at the Big Break Regional Shoreline. This site presents a rare opportunity for citizens to access the shoreline and have vistas of the surrounding sloughs and islands. The site will attract visitors from the broader area who are interested in experiencing the natural environment of this region, which has been subject to significant public policy discussion regarding water supply, levee failure, invasive species and endangered species. Partnerships between East Bay Regional Park District and Los Medanos College, the City of Oakley and other groups will ensure that the site and the interpretive exhibits will benefit a large number of people, including underserved populations. It is estimated that up to 25,000 students will visit the site annually as part of environmental education programs.



## ***Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy***

### **11) Bay Area Ridge Trail: Dias Ridge Trail**

Location: Near unincorporated Muir Beach, Marin County

Bay Program Funds: \$385,000

Matching Funds: \$780,369

The Conservancy will provide \$385,000 of Proposition 40 grant funds to the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy for public access and habitat restoration improvements of the Dias Ridge Trail, a segment of the Bay Area Ridge Trail, located in the National Park Service's Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA) in Marin County. The Dias Ridge Trail

connects the interior of the GGNRA with the coast, offering spectacular vistas of Mount Tamalpais and the Pacific Ocean. The existing trail is badly eroded in some areas and exceeds 25% grade in others. This grant will help develop 1.42 miles (5-6' wide) of the Dias Ridge Trail and will help decommission nearly one mile of existing deeply rutted, eroded and unsafe trail on GGNRA property. In addition, adjacent habitat lands within the Redwood Creek Watershed will be restored and revegetated to reduce sedimentation sources to Redwood Creek.

The project is a joint effort between the National Park Service, the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy, and the State Department of Parks and Recreation. The entire Dias Ridge Trail section is 2.8 miles in length, with 1.4 miles located in the GGNRA (federal land) and an additional 1.4 miles located in Mt. Tamalpais State Park (state land). The Conservancy grant is only being applied to work on the portion of the trail that is within the GGNRA boundaries. However, improvements to the trail as it crosses State property are planned as a future phase.

## 12) Land's End Coastal Trail

Location: Land's End, San Francisco

Bay Program Funds: \$850,000

Matching Funds: \$3,356,997

In December 2007, the Conservancy granted \$850,000 of Proposition 12 funds to the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy to make California Coastal Trail improvements at Land's End in San Francisco. Visited by more than one million people each year, Land's End overlooks the historic Sutro Baths and the Pacific Ocean, and provides sweeping views of the Golden Gate Bridge, Marin Headlands and San Mateo coast.



Coastal Conservancy funds will help make significant upgrades to the existing parking and trail facilities. Specifically, Conservancy funds will be used to construct an overlook and grand trailhead, both of which will be compliant with Americans with Disabilities Act standards. From the Land's End entryway, the 415-foot-long overlook will extend northward along the western edge of a newly-constructed parking lot to the grand trailhead. The grand trailhead will provide seating, interpretive signs, and maps of the Land's End trails, and will serve as a general visitor hub, meeting and resting spot.

## ***Land Trust of Napa County***

### **13) Duff Ranch Acquisition**

Location: Northeast of Calistoga and northwest of Angwin in Napa County

Bay Program Funds: \$1,000,000

Matching Funds: \$3,320,000

In April 2008, the Conservancy authorized disbursement of up to \$1,000,000 to the Land Trust of Napa County toward the estimated \$3,700,000-cost of acquiring the 1,000-acre Duff Ranch in Napa County near Calistoga. Acquisition of the Duff Ranch is a priority for Conservancy assistance because it is a large, scenic, biologically rich and diverse, strategically located property. The rugged landscape of the Duff Ranch rises from the foothills just east of



Calistoga, forming a prominent part of the viewshed for the City and for travelers on Highway 29. With its mosaic of seven habitat types and array of special status species, the Duff property has been identified by The Nature Conservancy as among the highest priority biodiversity targets in Napa County. The scenic and biological values of the property are amplified by its location as the link between 5,270-acre Robert Louis Stevenson State Park to the north and 3,045-acre Wildlake Ranch to the south.

### **14) Wildlake, Duff Ranch, and Robert Louis Stevenson State Park Interim Management Plan**

Location: Northeast of Calistoga and northwest of Angwin in Napa County

Bay Program Funds: \$250,000

Matching Funds: \$41,915

A Conservancy grant of \$250,000 to The Land Trust of Napa County (Land Trust) enables the Land Trust to prepare an Interim Management Plan (IMP) for the stewardship and management of the Wildlake and Duff properties, Robert Louis Stevenson (RLS) State Park, and other public and private lands in the vicinity. The purpose of the IMP is to provide recommendations to the Land Trust and California Department of Parks and Recreation (State Parks) for integrated management of these properties and addresses alternatives for resource management, public access, and financing of operations. The completed plan will include detailed information on vegetation (both native and non-native species), roads and trails, watershed and aquatic habitat protection and enhancement, and possible recreational uses. A planning grant to the Land Trust for the IMP will support the vision of the Land Trust and State Parks to integrate management of public and privately-owned lands in an area of high biodiversity, extensive natural resource values, and key regional trail connections.

## ***Marin Municipal Water District***

### **15) Mount Tamalpais Watershed Gateway Project**

Location: East of Calistoga and northwest of Angwin in the Eastern Mountains in unincorporated Napa County

Bay Program Funds: \$149,950

Matching Funds: \$74,020

The Conservancy is providing \$149,950 in Proposition 40 grant funds to the Marin Municipal Water District to undertake habitat restoration and protection, native plant revegetation, trail improvements, and public education and access improvements on its land along Lagunitas Creek in western Marin County. The project will result in 1-1/2 acres of restored habitat and a completely revitalized and expanded public entryway and trail supporting the most popular salmon viewing area in the San Francisco Bay Area.

The District will complete much of the project using its extensive volunteer program through a series of learning and service events. Volunteers will remove invasive plant species (vinca, broom, cape ivy), install 10,000 native plants, install permeable surface parking lot materials, install split rail fencing to protect sensitive habitat, construct a foot bridge over a restored creek channel to improve access to an “official” trail, and decommission destructive informal paths to restore creekside habitat. The project also involves public access improvements at the Leo Cronin Fish Viewing Area including the installation of a new kiosk for presentation of public information and educational material, replacement of signage, installation of barriers to redirect foot traffic away from sensitive habitat, and substantial parking lot improvements.

## ***Muir Heritage Land Trust***

### **16) Fernandez Ranch Creek Restoration and Bay Area Ridge Trail Construction**

Location: Fernandez Ranch, on Franklin Ridge and along Rodeo Creek near the City of Hercules, south of Highway 4 and west of Christi Road in unincorporated Contra Costa County

Bay Program Funds: \$515,000

Matching Funds: \$2,529,716

The Conservancy authorized up to \$515,000 of Proposition 40 funds to the Muir Heritage Land Trust (MHLT) to restore portions of Rodeo Creek, Fern Creek and Slot Creek on the Fernandez Ranch, and construct 1.4 miles of the Bay Area Ridge Trail and an associated staging area on the Fernandez



Ranch in Contra Costa County. Conservancy funding supports the Creek Restoration and Public Access Project underway by MHLT that when complete, will result in approximately a half mile

of stream restoration along portions of Rodeo, Fern, and Slot Creeks, 3.5 miles of new multi-use trail, and a public access staging area on the Fernandez Ranch property. The Conservancy previously funded planning of the stream restoration and trail construction and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) analysis. This \$515,000 grant to MHLT allows the Conservancy to realize prior goals by facilitating completion of the entire project from planning to construction. Stream restoration efforts will include work on Rodeo Creek and the tributaries of Fern Creek and Slot Creek that will reduce channel incision, stabilize failing creek banks, and generally improve the quality and diversity of the native riparian corridor. Public access improvements will accommodate equestrians, mountain bikers, and hikers. The new trails will connect to other trails on neighboring public lands and are designed to avoid impact to the sensitive resources on the property.

### ***Point Reyes Bird Observatory***

#### **17) Habitat Restoration Project Design Review Program**

Location: Within the nine-county San Francisco Bay area

Bay Program Funds: \$71,633

Matching Funds: \$561,400

The San Francisco Bay Joint Venture is a partnership of twenty-seven public agencies, environmental organizations, the business community, local governments and landowners working cooperatively to protect, restore, increase and enhance wetlands and riparian habitat in San Francisco Bay watersheds. Point Reyes Bird Observatory will assist Joint Venture staff in developing a wetland project design review program that will provide the following expertise: technical information and options during the design or adaptive management phases of wetland and riparian restoration or enhancement projects; recommendations on how to design well-functioning projects technically and biologically; recommendations on how projects can be designed to best accomplish Joint Venture habitat goals. This grant will support work to solicit projects for review, provide for experts to participate in project review panels, facilitate review sessions, document the recommendations and communicate the results of the project reviews.

### ***Port of San Francisco***

#### **18) Pier 52 Boat Launch and Public Access**

Location: Southeast San Francisco waterfront

Bay Program Funds: \$200,000

Matching Funds: \$2,400,000

In September 2007, the Conservancy authorized \$200,000 to the Port of San Francisco to construct a long-delayed boat launch facility at Pier 52. The project includes construction of a new two-lane boat launch ramp, plus a floating dock for kayaks and other hand-launched boats.



The existing boat launch at Pier 52 in Mission Bay is the only public boat launch in the City and County of San Francisco. Built in the early 1960s, it was seriously deteriorated, not suitable for launching modern boats, and had a dangerously steep slope. The Port worked diligently with the boating community to develop a design for a new launch facility that would meet the needs of a range of recreational boaters, including both motorized and non-motorized craft. The new facility will serve the growing demand for recreational boating access to the Bay, and will serve the Coast

Guard, police and Navy as well. The site is identified in the draft San Francisco Bay Water Trail program as an initial or “backbone” site.

## ***Regents of the University of California***

### **19) Quail Ridge Reserve**

Location: Quail Ridge peninsula located in the Lake Berryessa area of Napa County

Bay Program Funds: \$485,000

Matching Funds: \$485,000

The Conservancy is providing \$485,000 of Proposition 12 funds to the University of California to purchase approximately 157 acres (two parcels) above the south shore of Lake Berryessa in Napa County. The University is acquiring the property on behalf of the UC Natural Reserve System (UCNRS) and the property will be incorporated into the approximately 2,000-acre Quail Ridge Reserve, one of the 35 reserves in the system. The



Reserve is managed by the UC Davis branch of the UCNRS to accomplish two key functions: habitat protection for native plants and wildlife, and University-sponsored research and teaching.

The Quail Ridge peninsula sustains some of the last intact native grasslands in northern California, as well as oak woodlands and chaparral communities. The two parcels being acquired by the University possess significant populations of native grasses and an abundance of large native oaks. The two parcels will also serve as buffers from development and will enhance natural resource values of the current Reserve. Additionally, there is an existing residence on

one of the parcels which will provide additional research, teaching, and on-site caretaker facilities which are needed to accommodate increasing academic use of the Reserve.

The University previously worked with the Conservancy to purchase six parcels, totaling 549 acres, at Quail Ridge Reserve in 2001. Addition of these two additional parcels will continue the consolidation of University ownership on the peninsula, thereby protecting natural resource and management integrity.

## San Francisco Estuary Institute

### 20) Napa Historical Ecology Atlas

Location: Napa River Watershed, Napa County

Bay Program Funds: \$25,000

Matching Funds: \$65,000

The Conservancy is providing \$25,000 in Proposition 50 grant funds to the San Francisco Estuary Institute (SFEI) to prepare a Napa Historical Ecology Atlas. The Atlas will be a richly illustrated, 100-page publication making the findings of the multi-year Napa River Watershed Historical Ecology Study widely accessible. The Atlas will celebrate the natural heritage of Napa Valley, inspiring both increased stewardship and more accurate conservation planning.

In addition, the Atlas will address a number of information needs for important local projects, including the Rutherford Reach restoration project, the Oakville-Oak Knoll restoration project, the Napa TMDL, the Trancas Crossing Park, the Napa River Trail, and the oak management plan of the Napa County Open Space District. Information about native landscape conditions and historical change will be directly useful to the development of goals and indicators for assessing watershed health.

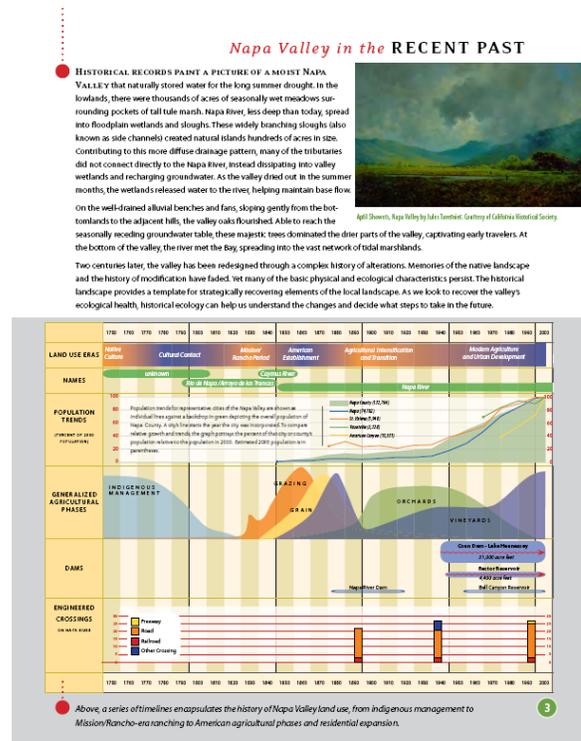
### 21) San Francisco Bay Creosote Assessment

Location: San Francisco Bay

Bay Program Funds: \$165,000

Matching Funds: \$36,750

The Conservancy is granting San Francisco Estuary Institute (SFEI) \$165,000 to conduct a creosote assessment in San Francisco Bay. Creosote has been used for many years in marine and estuarine waters as a wood preservative and pesticide. Recent studies have shown that creosote-



Source: SFEI

treated pilings and other structures pose a threat to marine organisms. In San Francisco Bay, herring spawn on creosote-treated pilings, resulting in deformities and reduced survival. Therefore, removal or remediation of creosote-treated pilings and other structures in San Francisco Bay is beneficial for herring and other estuarine organisms. It is anticipated that one of the subtidal restoration recommendations from the San Francisco Bay Subtidal Habitat Goals project will be to remove or encapsulate creosote pilings in the bay, especially those that are abandoned and are located in herring spawning locations. Removal or remediation of creosote-treated structures in the bay is also a potential mitigation project for the Cosco Busan Oil Spill, but planning and design work needs to occur in order for the creosote restoration project to be ready for implementation. This project provides funding to the San Francisco Estuary Institute to perform an assessment of the removal or remediation of creosote-treated pilings and other structures in San Francisco Bay. The feasibility analysis will include mapping, identifying the priority locations for removal or treatment of the structures, evaluating possible removal and treatment techniques, developing cost estimates, identifying likely permitting requirements and performing historical analysis of the significance of the structures. This project will also support the development of recommendations on reducing negative impacts from artificial substrates in San Francisco Bay, to help support the San Francisco Bay Subtidal Goals Project.

## 22) San Francisco Bay Non-Native Oyster Eradication

Location: Areas of intertidal hard substrate in San Francisco Bay in all nine San Francisco Bay Area counties

Bay Program Funds: \$225,000

Matching Funds: \$320,500

The Conservancy is granting \$225,000 for SFEI to continue its efforts to eradicate non-native oysters (*Crassostrea gigas* - *C. gigas*) from San Francisco Bay and to perform related monitoring and analysis. Data from previous surveying and removal efforts has shown that there is an immediate risk of permanent establishment of *C. gigas* with potential large-scale impacts in the Bay and that preventing the establishment of this species is essential to restoring habitats and wildlife in the Bay.



The work entails surveying all susceptible parts of San Francisco Bay and removing any non-native oysters found until re-surveys show densities below 10 oysters per kilometer of shoreline at all locations where *C. gigas* were discovered; conducting follow-up surveys at appropriate intervals until sufficient negative evidence is accumulated to conclude that *C. gigas* is likely eliminated from the Bay; and conducting associated research and public outreach. The project will also include expanded surveying and removal of *C. gigas* along the shoreline and in deeper areas with hard structures such as bridge supports, pier pilings and similar substrates in the Dumbarton Bridge and San Mateo Bridge areas.

The Conservancy is involved in efforts to restore native oysters in San Francisco Bay, to restore intertidal habitat and communities in salt ponds in the southern part of the Bay, and to develop subtidal and resource goals for the Bay. The establishment and spread of the exotic oyster *C.*

*gigas* could threaten species that are critical to these restoration efforts and to achieving subtidal goals by potentially depleting phytoplankton populations, altering food webs and competing with native oysters and other organisms. In regions where *C. gigas* has aggregated, including New South Wales in Australia, New Zealand, and the Dutch and German Wadden Sea, the oyster has smothered the native benthic species and adversely impacted habitats.

### **23) South Bay Salt Ponds Restoration Plan**

Location: San Francisco Bay, Santa Clara County

Bay Program Funds: \$114,000

Matching Funds: \$371,000

The Conservancy is granting an additional \$114,000 of previously authorized funds for SFEI's study of mercury bioavailability in South San Francisco Bay.



Acquisition of the South Bay salt ponds has provided an opportunity for landscape-level wetlands restoration, improving the physical, chemical, and biological health of the San Francisco Bay. Approximately 85% of the tidal marsh in the San Francisco Bay has been lost since 1850, leading to dramatic losses of fish and wildlife, decreased water quality, increased turbidity, and increased flooding hazards.

The Conservancy is facilitating long-term restoration, flood management, and public access planning. The Environmental Impact Report/Statement was published in December 2007 and construction design for Phase 1 projects is underway. The Conservancy is working closely with California Department of Fish and Game and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, is using consultants to assist with technical work and environmental compliance, and is engaging trustee and regulatory agencies, local governments, nongovernmental organizations, and the public in the restoration, flood management, and public access planning process. To date, the Conservancy has provided \$7.5 million from San Francisco Bay Program funds from Propositions 12, 40 and 50 for this planning and design effort. These funds have been matched by \$6.2 million for San Francisco Bay wetland restoration funds in Proposition 50 from the Wildlife Conservation Board, \$5.9 million from the Resources Legacy Fund, and \$4.6 million from the Santa Clara Valley Water District.

In a related effort, using a portion of the South Bay Salt Pond funds, the Conservancy has entered into a Feasibility Cost Share Agreement with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Santa Clara Valley Water District to conduct a Feasibility Study for the South San Francisco Bay Shoreline, with the Alviso Ponds and adjacent Santa Clara County shoreline lands as the first area of study. This study will assess the federal interest and potential cost-share in a flood damage reduction and ecological restoration project in the study area.

## ***San Francisco Public Utilities Commission***

### **24) Bay Area Ridge Trail: Southern Skyline Boulevard Extension**

Location: Peninsula Watershed, Upper Crystal Springs Reservoir, from Highway 92 south on the East side of Upper Skyline Boulevard (highway 35) for 4.7 miles to the boundary of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area's Phleger Estate, within San Mateo County

Bay Program Funds: \$185,000

Matching Funds: \$207,500

This project entails preparation of detailed plans, engineering designs and environmental documents for the Southern Skyline Boulevard Trail (Skyline Trail), a segment of the planned 550+ mile Bay Area Ridge Trail (Ridge Trail). This 4.7 mile trail will traverse lands east of Highway 35 within the Peninsula Watershed, Upper Crystal Springs Reservoir in San Mateo County which is owned by the City and County of San Francisco for water supply purposes. The Skyline Trail will be managed by the San Francisco Public Utility Commission (SFPUC) and will be open to hikers, bicyclists and equestrians. If a feasible staging area can be identified through the planning process, a portion of the trail will be wheelchair accessible.

The Skyline Trail will extend the Ridge Trail through the southern portion of the Crystal Springs Reservoir ridge lands. The public currently has access to the Watershed via two trails: the Sawyer Camp Trail and the Fitfield Trail. The Sawyer Camp Trail (a.k.a. Crystal Springs Trail) runs for six miles along the lowland adjacent to the fenced Crystal Springs Reservoir. This trail is maintained by the County of San Mateo in cooperation with the City of San Francisco and is one of the most popular trails in the County. The Fitfield-Cahill Ridge Trail (Fitfield Trail) extends for a ten mile stretch from Sweeney Ridge in the Golden Gate National Recreational Area (GGNRA) south to Skylawn Quarry at Highway 92. The trail is managed by the SFPUC. To protect the area from erosion and other negative impacts, the SFPUC uses a reservation system to limit the number of visitors and requires docent accompaniment.

Unlike the Fitfield Trail, the proposed Skyline Trail will not be restricted and will be open every day during daylight hours. The design will take advantage of particular topographical features to minimize negative impacts to biological resources and water quality.

## ***San Mateo County Parks and Recreation Foundation***

### **25) Edgewood Park**

Location: Near the intersection of Highway 280 and Edgewood Road in San Mateo County

Bay Program Funds: \$250,000

Matching Funds: \$92,000

A Conservancy grant of \$250,000 to the San Mateo Parks and Recreation Foundation will support the design, fabrication, and installation of environmental education exhibits at a new

Interpretive Center at the Edgewood County Park and Natural Preserve (Edgewood) in San Mateo County.

The purpose of the Interpretive Center is to have a place to introduce visitors to the elements of nature, human ideas, and recreational opportunities that are found outside in Edgewood. The exhibits and displays will convey information about Edgewood's unique features, geologic and biological significance, and the stewardship needed to maintain Edgewood's resources. The exhibits will also be designed with the needs of teachers in mind. In addition to text displayed on the panels throughout the center, the exhibits will encourage multi-sensory experiences appropriate for a wide range of visitors.



Source: Ron Yeo

Edgewood's location and unique natural and cultural resources provide a great opportunity for environmental education as it is within two to twenty miles of most schools in San Mateo County. In addition, the Friends of Edgewood Preserve, a community-based nonprofit organization, has an active School Outreach program that provides a hands-on experiential outdoor education program for students and teachers. The new Interpretive Center will be located at main entrance to the preserve.

## ***Santa Clara County Open Space Authority***

### **26) Blair Ranch Acquisition**

Location: On the southern boundary of San Jose near Morgan Hill in southwestern Santa Clara County

Bay Program Funds: \$4,340,000

Matching Funds: \$4,353,000

The Conservancy authorized \$4,340,000 of Proposition 84 funds to the Santa Clara County Open Space Authority to acquire the 868-acre Blair Ranch to protect existing natural resources and provide open space and public access. This acquisition is an important step in the long-term vision of open space in the southwestern Santa Clara County foothills, one of the most rapidly developing regions in the Bay Area. The addition of Blair Ranch to protected open space lands will add necessary recreational opportunities while also inhibiting habitat fragmentation. With increased development pressures on the agricultural lands between southern



San Jose and Morgan Hill, this area is under intensified threat. The property will become part of a complex of connected preserves that makes dramatic progress toward a proposed trail and wildlife corridor threading together Calero County Park, Uvas Reservoir County Park and Uvas Canyon County Park over miles of foothills. With this addition to existing connected open space preserves, Blair Ranch enhances a larger vision of protected lands and habitat that span from the western San Jose area to Morgan Hill. Protecting this signature property will provide for a future of sustainable land use that will benefit generations of Bay Area residents and the habitats that are directly impacted by human land use.

## ***Save-the-Redwoods League***

### **27) Smith Madrone Acquisition**

**Location:** In northwestern Napa County adjacent to Bothe-Napa Valley State Park, which is five miles North of St. Helena and four miles South of Calistoga

Bay Program Funds: \$600,000

Matching Funds: \$1,584,400

The Conservancy is granting \$600,000 to Save-the-Redwoods League for the acquisition of a conservation easement over the entire 120 acres of the Smith-Madrone property and, subsequently, for the acquisition of fee title to a 55-acre portion of the property. The purpose of this acquisition is to permanently protect and restore existing natural resources, protect existing agricultural lands but limit the expansion of vineyards on the property, and



provide public access. The Smith-Madrone Property is immediately adjacent to Bothe-Napa Valley State Park in northwestern Napa County. This property is primarily mature second-growth forest, including several stands of ancient redwoods, and is located in the headwaters of Ritchie Creek, which supports a healthy population of steelhead trout. Thirteen and a half acres of mountain vineyards are planted on the property. The League will initially protect the entire 120-acre Smith-Madrone property through acquisition of a conservation easement that limits development on the property to one residential building site in a prescribed area and a small winery, and prevents any further timber harvesting and any additional vineyards and roads. Subsequently, after a lot line adjustment, the League will acquire in fee a 55-acre portion of the Smith-Madrone property. The conservation easement will be recorded prior to the lot line adjustment in order to capture the decrease in overall land value due to the removal of two of the

three building rights allowed on the 120-acre property by Napa County zoning. In the near future, the League expects to transfer the 55-acre portion in fee to California Department of Parks and Recreation as an expansion of Bothe-Napa Valley State Park. The League plans to transfer the conservation easement on the remaining 65 acres to the Land Trust of Napa County for permanent monitoring and defense.

## ***Solano Land Trust***

### **28) Rush Ranch Marsh and Upland Restoration Design and Management**

Location: Suisun Marsh and the Potrero Hills, Solano County

Bay Program Funds: \$435,000

Matching Funds: \$40,000

The Solano Land Trust's 2,070-acre Rush Ranch in Suisun Marsh supports tidal marsh managed for fish and wildlife habitat and uplands devoted to grazing, hiking and environmental education. The largely intact, albeit degraded, 1,050 acres of brackish tidal marsh is among the few thousand acres that remain of the vast pre-European tidal wetlands of Suisun Marsh, most of the which have been converted to managed wetlands for duck hunting or to agriculture. The rolling grasslands above the marsh present opportunities for restoring plant communities and wildlife habitat. Moreover, the adjacency of tidal wetlands to undeveloped uplands provides a very rare opportunity to enable the marsh to migrate inward with rising sea level.



Under the grant of \$435,000 authorized by the Conservancy in November 2007, SLT will update and refine the 1990 and 1993 marsh and upland restoration and management plans using the large body of new field data that has become available and new projections for sea-level-rise; prepare detailed conceptual restoration designs for at least four priority project areas; and prepare environmental review documents.

## ***Solano Transportation Authority***

### **29) Bay Area Ridge Trail: Jameson Canyon Plan**

Location: The City of Fairfield and unincorporated Solano and Napa Counties

Bay Program Funds: \$55,000

Matching Funds: \$12,500

The Conservancy authorized a grant of \$55,000 to the Solano Transportation Authority to prepare a plan for regional trails along and across State Route 12 between Interstate 80 and State Route 29, in the Jameson Canyon area of Solano and Napa Counties. The plan and the process of preparing it are needed to obtain agreement among the local park and transportation agencies, Caltrans, and landowners about feasible routes for regional trail connections in the Jameson Canyon area and to identify the implementation costs, the relationships of trails to State and local transportation projects, and a funding strategy.

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

### **30) Sonoma Mountain Ridge Trail**

Location: Sonoma Mountain, southern Sonoma County

Bay Program Funds: \$575,000

Matching Funds: \$538,853

With a grant from the Coastal Conservancy of Propositions 40 and 84 funds, the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District ("the District") will construct a new 4.25-mile Bay Area Ridge Trail segment including improvements to an access road, development of a parking area and trailhead, and construction of two bridges. The new trail will greatly expand public use of Sonoma Mountain for hikers, cyclists, and equestrians on the mountain's North slope. The public will have the opportunity to enjoy the beautiful native grass meadows, oak woodlands, bay forests, redwood groves, and the spectacular views of northern Sonoma County. The new Ridge Trail segment will rise to a height of 1,800 feet and traverse four District-owned properties and one county-owned property extending to the western boundary of Jack London State Historic Park. The Conservancy previously funded the preparation of the trail plan and environmental documentation. This project is for implementation of these plans. Once the trail is completed the District will enter into an agreement with Sonoma County Regional Parks Department to perform long-term operations and maintenance.

## ***Sonoma Land Trust***

### **31) Roche Ranch Acquisition**

Location: In southern Sonoma County near the west side of Highway 121, North of Highway 37

Bay Program Funds: \$3,000,000

Matching Funds: \$10,000,000

The Conservancy provided \$3,000,000 of Propositions 12 and 40 to the Sonoma Land Trust for the acquisition of the 1,657-acre Roche Ranch in southern Sonoma County. Acquisition allows for the preservation and restoration of the entire main stem of the Tolay Creek watershed. It links Tolay Lake Regional Park, adjacent and upland from the property, to approximately 40,000 acres of protected lands to the south along the Sonoma, Napa and Marin baylands. This acquisition is a unique and unprecedented contribution to the integrity of key watershed habitats associated with both the San Francisco Bay and the headwaters of Tolay Creek.



Acquisition of Roche Ranch also results in nearly doubling the size of Tolay Lake Regional Park from 1,737 acres to 3,394 acres. The connections north and south of Roche Ranch allow for a 7-mile trail corridor from the Park south through Roche Ranch, ending with linkages to the San Francisco Bay Trail at the Conservancy-supported Sears Point Restoration Project on San Pablo Bay.

The Sonoma Land Trust will transfer the property to the Sonoma County Regional Parks Department between 2009 and 2012 to incorporate it into the adjacent Tolay Lake Regional Park. In the interim the Land Trust will complete a grazing management plan, a baseline study, cattle exclusion fencing and riparian plantings with a grant from the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation; and Regional Parks will conduct guided hikes from the Park onto the Roche Ranch Property.

## ***Stanford University***

### **32) San Francisco Bay Hydrodynamic and Sediment Transport Model**

Location: San Francisco Bay

Bay Program Funds: \$282,500

Matching Funds: \$411,000

The Ocean Protection Council authorized the Conservancy to provide a total of \$858,000 of Proposition 50 funds to the University of California, Berkeley (“U.C. Berkeley”) and Stanford University to develop a San Francisco Bay Hydrodynamic and Sediment Transport Model and a modeling framework for San Francisco Bay. Half of the funds are coming from the Bay Program and half from the Ocean Protection Council. The benefits of this modeling effort include:

- Reduced risk to San Francisco Bay resources from well-intentioned restoration actions. The Coastal Conservancy is currently working with a broad range of other public and nonprofit entities to plan or implement restoration of 35,000 acres of publicly owned baylands in various locations in San Francisco Bay to improve habitat for fish and wildlife, flood control capacity, and water quality. The proposed hydrodynamic and sediment model is crucial to evaluate various scenarios for restoration design and the potential effects of these restoration actions.
- Reduced costs of restoration project management by informing and improving future decisions.
- Improved understanding of the continually evolving San Francisco Bay and its inter-relationship with the near-shore Pacific Ocean.
- Improved management of San Francisco Bay’s bottom and shoreline. The San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission’s (BCDC) Strategic Plan, adopted on October 20, 2005, includes an objective to manage the extraction of mineral resources from the bay using the most up-to-date scientific information. BCDC’s Strategic Plan specifically identifies research on sediment dynamics in the bay as a priority task to assist with this objective.
- Improved ability to understand and respond to global climate change including sea level rise. The model will include upland areas that may be inundated in the future with sea level rise. The project will simulate changes in mean sea level rise to evaluate changes in inundation, salinity and rates of sediment accretion and deposition.

## ***State Coastal Conservancy***

### **33) Invasive Spartina Project**

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

Bay Program Funds: \$2,221,615

Matching Funds: \$116,000

The spread of introduced *Spartina* presents the most serious danger to ever



threaten the ecosystem of the 69,402 acres of San Francisco baylands. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Draft Recovery Plan for the Tidal Marshes of Central and Northern California ranks eradication of the exotic *Spartina alterniflora* as a number one recovery action needed to prevent listed species' foreseeable slide towards extinction. All wetland restoration projects in the south and central Bay had become infested with invasive *Spartina*. The 16,000-acre South Bay Salt Pond sites would also become covered with the invader if not eradicated through the Conservancy's Invasive *Spartina* Project (ISP).

The Conservancy established a region-wide coordination of research, mapping, monitoring, permitting and treatment. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the Conservancy prepared the Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement/Report and in September 2003 the Conservancy approved the EIR. In 2003/04 the Conservancy authorized 10 grants for control treatment at 14 demonstration sites covering 316 net acres of invasive *Spartina* throughout the Bay.

In 2004 ISP hosted the Third International Conference on Invasive *Spartina*. Scientists from the region and around the world expressed support for an aggressive control strategy that could result in eradication of the invader. In 2005, 2006 and 2007, the Conservancy provided Proposition 50 funds combined with grants from CALFED, WCB and USFWS, for management and aggressive eradication projects.

By fall of 2006, 1,750 net acres were treated and/or re-treated, the heart of the infestation came under control, and ISP and the Conservancy made considerable progress toward unifying the efforts of the various partners and 12 grantees around the estuary. In 2007 treatment reduced the infestation by 75% overall. It's anticipated that full eradication of the invasive *Spartina* will occur by 2011/2012, at an additional average cost of \$1.5 million annually.

### **34) San Francisco Bay Water Trail Implementation**

Location: San Francisco Bay Area

Bay Program Funds: \$40,000

The Conservancy authorized a grant of \$20,000 from Proposition 12 to augment a contract with Grassetto Environmental Consulting for the development of the programmatic Environmental Impact Report for the San Francisco Bay Area Water Trail (Water Trail) and a grant of \$20,000 to the Association of Bay Area Governments to conduct preliminary planning for future Water Trail signage.

The San Francisco Bay Area Water Trail (Water Trail) is envisioned to be a network of access sites or "trail heads" that will enable people in human-powered boats and beachable sail craft to safely enjoy single- and multiple-day trips around San Francisco Bay. It has been designed to increase boater safety, avoid impacts to wildlife and habitat, and enhance public access to and recreation on the Bay, both through education, outreach, and stewardship efforts and careful selection of trail heads.

The California legislature established the Water Trail in September, 2005 with the passage of the Water Trail Act (AB1296, 2005). This legislation culminated years of advocacy efforts by Bay Access, Inc., a nonprofit organization comprised of kayakers, windsurfers, and other non-motorized small boat recreationists who recognized the potential benefits of this regional trail in the Bay Area. The Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC) completed a draft Plan in 2007 to help guide the development of the Water Trail, with 112 “backbone” sites selected as potential trail heads.

With the submittal of the Plan to the legislature in January 2008, the Conservancy became the lead for the project and initiated a programmatic Environmental Impact Report for the Plan. The Conservancy is simultaneously planning for implementation by developing with public and private partners the education, outreach, and stewardship component of the project; a plan for



identification, wayfinding, and interpretive signs; various media to facilitate communication with the public about the trail, such as a website, brochure, guidebook, and maps; and other tasks related to navigational safety and avoidance of impacts to wildlife and wildlife habitat.

The Conservancy will work with the California Department of Boating and Waterways and others to help provide major funding for project implementation.

## ***The Exploratorium***

### **35) Wave Organ Access Improvements**

Location: End of the jetty that creates the San Francisco Marina Yacht Harbor, City and County of San Francisco

Bay Program Funds: \$204,000

Matching Funds: \$80,000

In June 2008, the Conservancy authorized disbursement of up to \$204,000 to The Exploratorium to improve an access path and construct an access ramp to the wave organ. Located at the end of the jetty that forms the San Francisco Marina Yacht Harbor, the wave organ is a unique wave-activated acoustic sculpture that is dependent on the site’s tides, weather and water conditions. The wave organ consists of a listening area with stone benches and steps, in which 25 pipes (PVC and concrete) are installed at various elevations. The impact of waves against the pipe ends, the subsequent movement of the water in and out of the pipes, and the pipes’ amplification

of the water's contact create subtle "organ" sounds. The wave organ is recognized in many guidebooks, and has been featured in local, regional, national and international press. The site also provides a place to enjoy spectacular views of the San Francisco skyline and bay, and the Golden Gate Bridge.

The Exploratorium now seeks to improve access to the wave organ as part of a larger restoration that includes restoring the pipes, and installing some native plants. Specifically, the Exploratorium will (1) upgrade an existing unpaved 720-ft path from the parking area to the site into an 8-ft-wide asphalt path, and (2) make the wave organ ADA-accessible by replacing the stairs leading to the organ's listening and seating areas with an ADA-accessible ramp. Upgrading the path to the wave organ will also result in an upgrade to the San Francisco Bay Trail, as this path is a spur segment of the Bay Trail alignment.



### ***University of California, Berkeley***

#### **36) San Francisco Bay Hydrodynamic and Sediment Transport Model**

Location: San Francisco Bay

Bay Program Funds: \$146,500

Matching Funds: \$203,000

See Project # 32 for details.

### ***Various Grantees***

#### **37) Bay Area Community-Based Educational, Environmental Restoration and Trail Projects**

Location: Various locations within the nine counties of the San Francisco Bay Area

Bay Program Funds: \$1,774,681

Matching Funds: \$13,104,491

In December 2007, the Conservancy authorized disbursement of up to \$1,774,681 to 20 different nonprofit organizations and public agencies for 21 community-based, educational, environmental restoration and/or trail building or enhancement projects. A number of nonprofit organizations

and public agencies working on restoration of and access to the San Francisco Bay Area's baylands, coastal habitats, creeks, rivers, and oak woodlands have sought ways to incorporate people such as students or community volunteers into habitat restoration and trail building or enhancement work.

Environmental restoration and trail work are often excellent forums for teaching people not only an appreciation for the natural world but also basic science and ecological concepts in a "hands-on" way. In addition, these projects empower people by offering opportunities to make positive changes to their local environment. All of the projects include habitat restoration and/or trail-building or enhancement activities appropriate for community volunteers or students, such as removal of exotic plants and propagation and planting of native plants or trail work using hand tools. The projects emphasize well-designed restoration and trail projects as the centerpiece of their environmental education programs.

The natural resources to be restored or enhanced reflect the diversity of habitat types in the Bay Area, including tidal wetlands, coastal scrub, riparian corridors, and oak savannah. The trail building or enhancement projects involve regionally significant trails or local trails connecting to regional trails.

Over 22,000 people will be directly served by these proposed projects, which are distributed throughout all nine Bay Area counties. All of the recommended applicants reach out to underserved communities.

Below follows a list of the organizations, funding amounts, project titles and brief descriptions of the "hands-on" projects:

- **Acterra – \$72,000**

Pearson-Arastradero Preserve Riparian Corridor Restoration Project: A diverse community of volunteers and students will restore the Arastradero Creek Riparian Corridor, including invasive plant control and revegetation, which will provide a healthy habitat link between Arastradero and The Bay Area Ridge Trail.

- **Berryessa Trails & Conservation – \$80,000**

Berryessa Community Projects: Local volunteers will remove invasive species and replant native species, clear trail corridors and construct trail segments within the Lake Berryessa Recreation Area.

- **California Department of Parks and Recreation – \$50,000**

San Mateo Coast Volunteer Restoration Program: Volunteers will increase native wildlife habitat and protect biological diversity by removing exotic plants, propagating native plants, and cleaning up the river and beach at Half Moon Bay State Beach and Pigeon Point Light Station.

- **California State Parks Foundation – \$60,000**

Bay Youth for the Environment - Yosemite Slough Wetlands Restoration: Students and volunteers will restore wetlands, involving collection/growing of native seeds for native grass restoration, transition zone re-vegetation, and tree plantings at strategic sites throughout Candlestick Point State Recreation Area.

- **East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) – \$50,000**  
Watershed Oak Savannah Restoration: Students and other community members will restore wildlife habitat and improve biodiversity along the Bay Area Ridge Trail by restoring oak savannah habitat in the flats surrounding EBMUD’s creek throughout their watershed lands.
- **Friends of Sausal Creek – \$32,000**  
Creating Regional Appeal and Environmental Educational Opportunities in the Sausal Creek Watershed: Volunteers will restore a section of Dimond Park along Sausal Creek, including planting California native plants and improving public access, recreation, and education along the creek.
- **Golden Gate Audubon Society – \$90,000**  
Eco-Oakland Program: Students and community members will reverse environmental degradation in East Oakland through restoration work and by engaging the community in protecting their local watershed. The focus will be on key habitats within the San Leandro Bay watershed, to clean and restore through trash removal, invasive plant removal, and planting of native species.
- **Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy – \$120,000**  
Hands-On Restoration at Redwood Creek and Presidio Trail Building: Students and volunteers will manage exotic vegetation, revegetate with natives, and control erosion at Redwood Creek, and will also renew and expand the system of trails in the Presidio to link key visitor venues, programmatic sites, and park landscapes.
- **Literacy for Environmental Justice – \$90,000**  
Educational/Community-Based Hands-On Habitat Restoration at Heron's Head Park: Community members and students will restore wetlands at Heron's Head Park by controlling invasives and revegetating to improve soil quality and habitat for wildlife, including nesting migratory bird populations.
- **Marin County Department of Parks and Open Space – \$36,100**  
Bothin Marsh Enhancement and Education Program: As part of a larger program to restore Bothin Marsh, students and community members will enhance existing habitat in the north basin through eradication of invasive plants and revegetation of upland cover on the outer levees. The project will include seed collection, invasive plant removal, plant propagation and revegetation.
- **Marin Conservation Corps (now named Conservation Corps North Bay) – \$120,000**  
Lower Redwood Creek Floodplain & Salmonid Habitat Restoration Project at the Banducci Site: The Conservation Corps North Bay and community volunteers will conduct instream and riparian habitat restoration to enhance critical habitat for endangered Coho salmon and other federally listed species in coastal Marin County.
- **Napa County Regional Park and Open Space District – \$100,000**  
Local Community Taking Action to Enhance the Napa River Ecological Reserve for Wildlife Habitat and Recreational Open Space: Community members and students will enhance and improve habitat and open space conditions at the under-utilized Napa River Ecological Reserve. Intensive habitat mapping, planning, and restoration will occur on the west side of the Napa River. Also, an existing trail at the site will be made accessible to persons with disabilities.
- **San Mateo County Department of Parks – \$38,122**  
San Bruno Mountain Volunteer Trail Project: Community volunteers will do hands-on trail work to rehabilitate two seriously neglected trails at San Bruno Mountain.

- **Save San Francisco Bay Association (“Save the Bay”) – \$125,000**

San Francisco Bay Community-Based Restoration Projects: Students and volunteers will revegetate and enhance tidal salt marsh vegetation diversity and abundance for the benefit of fish, shorebirds, and other wildlife for four well-developed wetland restoration projects.

- **Solano Resource Conservation District (RCD) – \$148,680**

Solano County Community Based Habitat Restoration & Environmental Education Program: Students and other community members will plant native shrub and trees, install irrigation, collect seeds, enhance native plant communities, reduce erosion, and implement stream bio-monitoring to protect and enhance the riparian and upland habitat on the Vallejo Swett Ranch, on the Lynch Canyon Property, and along Blue Rock Springs Creek.. Participants will also enhance a section of the Bay Area Ridge Trail.

- **Sonoma Ecology Center – \$118,879**

Community Hands On Nathanson Creek: Students, families, and other community members will restore a section of Nathanson Creek's riparian vegetation communities.

- **The Bay Institute – \$120,000**

North Bay Priority Riparian & Estuarine Natural Resource Restoration Project (Students and Teachers Restoring a Watershed [STRAW]): Students, teachers, and volunteers will conduct riparian and estuarine habitat restoration activities in the San Pablo Baylands, Laguna de Santa Rosa, Tomales Bay, and Napa River Watersheds.

- **The Pacifica Land Trust – \$97,900**

Pedro Point Headlands Invasives/Erosion Control and Trail Enhancement: A Pedro Point Headland volunteer-based stewardship program will be developed and implemented to solve Coastal Trail-access issues; make existing trails safe through rails, signage, etc.; prevent erosion; and enhance native habitat restoration. This will create an interim recreational use of the property compatible with a long term vision of a public open space network.

- **The Watershed Project – \$20,000**

Restoration and Stewardship of Riparian Ecosystems along the San Pablo Creek: San Pablo Watershed Neighbors Education and Restoration Society (SPAWNERS) will collect seeds, propagate plants, and create and install interpretive signs along a section of San Pablo Creek.

- **Urban Creeks Council – \$120,000**

Rheem Creek Restoration and Watershed Education Project: Students and other community members will restore native riparian habitat, including clearing invasive vegetation, controlling erosion, and installing plants along Rheem Creek.

- **Urban Creeks Council – \$86,000**

Codornices Creek Watershed Project: As part of a larger riparian and creek restoration effort, the Codornices Creek Watershed Council, project partners and volunteers will plant native vegetation and make trail improvements at Codornices Creek.

**Description of Bay Area Projects Funded with Additional Conservancy Funds**  
**(FY 2007–2008)**

***County of Marin***

**38) San Geronimo Valley Salmon Enhancement Plan**

Location: San Geronimo Creek Watershed, Marin County

Conservancy Funds: \$100,000

Matching Funds: \$200,000

An enhancement plan will be prepared to support restoration of natural biological and hydrological functions in the San Geronimo Creek Watershed in Marin County. The plan will serve as a pilot effort to provide guidance for the enhancement of Coho salmon and steelhead populations in watersheds throughout Marin. The plan will include designs for demonstration projects on private lands.

San Geronimo Creek is an un-dammed tributary to Lagunitas Creek that provides some of the best remaining habitat for Coho within the Lagunitas creek watershed. The Lagunitas creek watershed has been identified as one of the most important watersheds in the State for Coho recovery and also supports a significant population of federally threatened steelhead. This watershed has been the focus of salmonid restoration efforts for over 20 years, but there is no document to provide specific guidance for restoration actions on the private lands that make up the San Geronimo Valley floor.

The plan will include the following components:

- 1) An analysis of existing watershed information for the watershed that includes the identification and prioritization of data gaps.
- 2) Geomorphic and habitat assessments to fill high priority data gaps during the plan period.
- 3) An analysis of the following parameters as they relate to enhancement and restoration of salmonid habitat: geology, land use, current and historical hydrology, water quantity and quality, channel geomorphology, riparian habitat, biota, and watershed health.
- 4) Criteria for establishing degradation thresholds that relate to current and future land use trends.
- 5) Implementation goals and strategies, including a prioritized list for implementation.
- 6) Designs for demonstration projects on private lands.
- 7) A public outreach process to explain the purpose of the plan and to gather input on stakeholder enhancement priorities as well as implementation strategies.

### **39) Woodacre Creek Fish Passage**

Location: Woodacre Creek, tributary to Lagunitas Creek, in the town of Woodacre, Marin County

Conservancy Funds: \$185,000

Matching Funds: \$210,000

This project removed a fish passage barrier at Carson Road in Woodacre Creek, a key Coho salmon stream, replacing an existing double-barreled, undersized culvert with an open bottom arch. The new arch culvert matches the bank full channel width and accommodates 100 year peak flows. The old culverts were estimated to convey only the 10 year peak flow before becoming overtopped. The small, undersized culverts caused a serious velocity barrier to fish passage when fish attempt to enter the culverts. During low flows, salmon encountered difficulties with passage because of lack of depth.

The restored crossing provides a migratory corridor for Coho and steelhead, allowing access to an additional 3,800 feet of good quality upstream spawning and rearing habitat. Woodacre Creek is considered an important tributary to the recovery of Coho salmon in the Lagunitas Creek Watershed, which has been identified as one of the most important waterways left for wild California Coho salmon. This project is part of a comprehensive effort to remove all the significant barriers to Coho salmon on Woodacre Creek. Three fish passage barriers on Woodacre Creek have already been removed. Implementation of this project removed the last large significant barrier in the Woodacre Creek watershed, leaving only one small, less critical crossing on the East Fork of Woodacre Creek that will likely be removed by the County in 2010.

## ***Gold Ridge Resource Conservation District***

### **40) Green Valley Creek**

Location: Sonoma County

Conservancy Funds: \$125,000

Matching Funds: \$259,239

The proposed authorization would enable the Gold Ridge Resource Conservation District (GRRCD) to assess limiting factors for salmonids, conduct land owner outreach and prepare an integrated watershed plan to improve anadromous fish habitat in Green Valley Creek, tributary to the Russian River, in western Sonoma County. The Department of Fish and Game (DFG) identifies the Guerneville Hydrologic Sub Area (HSA), including Green Valley Creek, as having the highest possible rank for restoration and management potential in the Central California Coast Coho Evolutionarily Significant Units in the Recovery Strategy for California Coho Salmon (2004). Green Valley Creek is one of only five remaining streams where all three year classes of wild juvenile Coho are known to exist in the Russian River system. The proposed project will enable GRRCD to form a steering committee and produce an integrated watershed plan with specific recommendations for the enhancement of riparian areas and salmonid habitat, and the control of sediment. This integrated plan will incorporate the work of current and on-

going projects in the watershed being conducted by DFG, University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE), the Atascadero/Green Valley Creek Watershed Group (AGVCWG), the Sonoma County Water Agency (SCWA), Pacific Watershed Associates and Dragonfly Stream Engineering. The GRRCD will work with UCCE to collect and analyze stream flow and water quality data and produce a roads assessment and erosion source inventory for the Green Valley Creek watershed. The proposed project will also enable the GRRCD to promote fish-friendly land stewardship practices with landowners through outreach, educational workshops and program materials. As nearly all of the property in the Green Valley Creek watershed is privately owned, collaboration with landowners is crucial to the implementation of best management practices and improvements for the benefit of salmonids.

## ***Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy***

### **41) Mori Point Coastal Trail**

Location: Mori Point in the City of Pacifica, San Mateo County

Conservancy Funds: \$500,000

Matching Funds: \$1,403,000

Having funded both the acquisition and trail planning phases of the Mori Point project, the Coastal Conservancy granted \$500,000 of Proposition 40 funds to the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy to build the Coastal Trail and connecting trails over this spectacular 110-acre bluff. The Coastal Conservancy's grant is



being matched by about \$1.5 million of public and private funds to complete this innovative restoration and trail project, which combines the development of a safe and sustainable trail system with the protection and enhancement of vital habitat for the endangered San Francisco garter snake and the threatened California red-legged frog.

Before it became part of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area in 2002, Mori Point supported many intensive land use activities, including ranching, farming, limestone and sand quarrying and off-road vehicle racing. Damage from motorbike and non-designated trail usage only added to the property's severe erosion problems. The first step in developing a public access plan once the property was acquired by the Park Service was to make sure that the wetland and upland habitat for the critically endangered snake and frog was protected and enhanced. That's why the first phase of trail development included re-creating wetland habitat. Two new ponds were dug and an existing pond expanded, while at the same time, a hiker-only Coastal Trail path was built up the bluff.

The second phase of the project -- funded in part by the Coastal Conservancy -- includes building a wheelchair-accessible section of the Coastal Trail, from the parking area to the coast. Several connecting trails are being built as part of this phase, and excess "social trails" are being revegetated.

## ***Marin Agricultural Land Trust***

### **42) Poncia Ranch Conservation Easement**

Location: The Poncia Ranch is located three miles south of the town of Tomales in western Marin County, along Highway 1

Conservancy Funds: \$750,000

Matching Funds: \$1,250,000



The proposed authorization enabled the Marin Agricultural Land Trust to acquire an agricultural conservation easement over the 750-acre Poncia Ranch located three miles south of the town of Tomales in West Marin County. The Ranch was historically a dairy cattle operation, and its pasture was used for grazing. In 1992, the dairy operation ceased and since then the ranch has been used for grazing beef cattle and heifers. The owner is a fourth generation Marin County rancher who was born and has lived his entire life on the property. He inherited the property from his father and used the sale of a conservation easement to buy out his cousins, who were able to pull their equity out of the property. If the owner had not been able to secure 100% ownership, the property would have to have been put up for sale on the open market where there would have been no guarantees for its future uses. Through the sale of a conservation easement, the owner has consolidated 100% ownership and can stay on the land he loves, and ensure the continued agricultural use of the property.

The property drains to Walker Creek, a salmon and steelhead stream and significant tributary to Tomales Bay. The easement restricts certain activities over a majority of the property to protect the natural resources of Walker Creek and therefore Tomales Bay.

### **43) Tomales Farm and Dairy**

Location: Southern edge of the unincorporated village of Tomales in West Marin County, along the Tomales-Petaluma Road

Conservancy Funds: \$750,000

Matching Funds: \$250,000

The Conservancy provided \$750,000 of Proposition 84 funds to the Marin Agricultural Land Trust to acquire an agricultural conservation easement over the 243-acre western portion of the Tomales Farm and Dairy property in Tomales village in west Marin County along Highway 1. This was the second and final phase of the Tomales Farm and Dairy project, resulting in 416 acres of protected agricultural lands. The 243 acres are part of a total of 505.5 acres, owned by Tomales Farm and Dairy, LLC. The property consisted of several legal certificates of compliance parcels, with seven associated development rights. The easement extinguished six of these seven development rights thus eliminating significant development potential and protecting the Highway 1 scenic viewshed.

The property consists primarily of productive agricultural land with approximately fifty percent of the soils classified as Farmland of Local Importance by the California Department of Conservation. The property drains to Keyes Creek and an unnamed drainage, both of which drain to Tomales Bay through Walker Creek, major tributary to Tomales Bay.

Due to impaired water quality that threatens habitat for endangered fishes, reptiles and migrating birds, Tomales Bay has long been designated as impaired and is deserving of a high level of protection. Many threatened and endangered species inhabit the watershed, including California freshwater shrimp, Coho salmon and steelhead trout. It supports large numbers of wintering and migrating shorebirds and waterfowl, making it a significant habitat to preserve and protect from degradation.

Preventing subdivision of the property protects a working landscape and contributes to long-term protection of and improvement to the water and biological quality of a stream within the Tomales Bay watershed.

### ***Marin Resource Conservation District***

#### **44) Pine Gulch Creek Watershed Enhancement: Instream Flow Enhancement Project**

Location: Pine Gulch Creek, a tributary to Bolinas Lagoon, Marin County

Conservancy Funds: \$275,000

The Pine Gulch Watershed Enhancement Project, funded entirely with Prop 50 funds, is a voluntary and cooperative water conservation effort on the part of these participating organic farmers: Fresh Run Farms, Paradise Valley Farms, and Star Route Farms, whose historic riparian water use for crop production dates back several decades (riparian water rights are property rights that affix to the land adjacent to a water body). As a group, these Bolinas farmers form a vital component of West Marin agricultural production. Through this project, they propose to modify existing water operations to support sustainable agriculture and enhance aquatic habitat supporting Coho salmon and steelhead trout.

The participants intend to increase stream diversion levels when flows are high, and reduce and even eliminate stream diversions when flows are low. Doing so requires adjusting water use from year-round direct diversions to seasonal appropriation and storage of water for later use. Appropriative rights require a permit, but enable the holder to withdraw and store water for later

use for a period of greater than 30 days. The overall approach involves the appropriation of water to storage facilities during the winter season, limited riparian diversion between April and July 1, and no diversion between July 1 and December 15 of each year. This approach was developed in consultation with the California Department of Fish and Game, the National Marine Fisheries Service, and the State Water Resources Control Board. The farmers have received appropriate water rights, and plan to dedicate their existing summer diversions to instream flow for the benefit of stream habitat beneficial to coho salmon and other species.

## ***Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District***

### **45) Mindego Hill Acquisition**

Location: Near the town of La Honda in unincorporated San Mateo County

Conservancy Funds: \$7,500,000

Matching Funds: \$15,000,000

With the Conservancy's grant of \$7,500,000 from Proposition 84, the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District acquired the spectacular thousand-plus acre Mindego Hill property in the Santa Cruz Mountains near La Honda. Its ridge-to-ocean views, four miles of creek corridors, and excellent trail connections to the adjacent Russian Ridge Open Space Preserve made the Mindego Hill property a critical addition to the District's network of parks along Skyline Ridge. The District committed \$15 million of its own funds to this purchase.



The Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST) acquired the property in 2007, having identified Mindego Hill as one of its top five priorities for almost 30 years. Both POST and the District had been very concerned that the property would be lost to private development, once the family that owned it for more than 50 years was ready to sell. There were 27 density credits on the land that could have been subdivided and sold on the private market, according to a density analysis prepared by the county planning department. A more likely outcome of a private sale would have been a single buyer building a luxury estate and permanently closing off access to the land. To preclude such a scenario, POST raised private funds to cover the costs of property acquisition and management until the land could be transferred to public ownership. The District took title to the property in the summer of 2008, and is offering docent-led public hikes while developing a comprehensive access, grazing and management plan.

Few private properties were better suited for public enjoyment, as the Mindego Hill ranch road begins exactly where the hiking trail running through the Russian Ridge Open Space Preserve currently ends. Hikers will be able to continue on for miles, from Skyline Ridge to the 2,000-plus-foot summit of Mindego Hill, to gain a view of the Pacific and surrounding hills that is truly awe-inspiring.

### ***Occidental Arts and Ecology Center***

#### **46) Salmon Creek Water Conservation**

Location: Salmon Creek Watershed, Sonoma County

Conservancy Funds: \$290,000

Matching Funds: \$209,850

The Occidental Arts and Ecology Center (OAEC) will analyze water supply and demand in the Salmon Creek watershed; design a set of water conservation strategies to improve summer stream flows for juvenile salmonids and community water security; design and implement public outreach workshops and tours focused on water conservation strategies; implement water conservation demonstration programs tailored for small coastal communities and residents; and complete design and permitting for a large woody debris habitat enhancement project in the Salmon Creek Estuary in western Sonoma County.

The Conservation Strategy Modules are anticipated to focus on storm water recharge, agricultural use, rural residential resource use, community/public water system collaboration, hospitality industry patron outreach, and community metering/billing recommendations. Each Module will consist of specific recommendations, community-based implementation steps and outreach materials to promote conservation behavior.

OAEC will implement demonstration water conservation programs utilizing the Modules in five Salmon Creek watershed communities. These programs will explore rain catchment, seasonal storage and storm water recharge approaches targeted for the greatest leverage on summer instream water flows based on assessments conducted for these five communities. OAEC will raise awareness and encourage proactive conservation through two watershed-wide workshops, up to five community workshops, and tours of the demonstration projects working with agency and community leaders. The project will also provide for the design and permitting for four large woody debris structures in Salmon Creek Estuary for salmonid habitat enhancement, as recommended in the Salmon Creek Estuary Study (2006) completed with support from the Conservancy.

## ***Ocean Song Farm and Wilderness Center***

### **47) Coastal Prairie Enhancement**

Location: Sonoma and Marin Counties

Conservancy Funds: \$639,000

Matching Funds: \$316,841

Ocean Song Farm and Wilderness Center (OSFWC) will develop a coastal prairie habitat enhancement feasibility study for Marin and Sonoma Counties. The project will address three of the top priorities identified in the November 2006 Sonoma-Marine Coastal Prairie Workshop: mapping coastal prairie resources, finding restoration techniques to effectively counter invasive species, and coordinating communication on regional coastal prairie protection efforts. OSFWC will map high quality coastal prairie resources for approximately 100,000 acres of coastal terrace area in Sonoma and Marin using a method compatible with the DFG's State Vegetation database as well as national vegetation mapping systems. An estimated 90% of California's rare and endangered plant species live in grassland ecosystems and a mere 1% of California's native grasslands still survive.

Threat to coastal prairie from the invasive grass species holcus is great. Holcus moves toward 100% monoculture, changes the soil to the detriment of native species and is rapidly advancing on many of the resource protection areas of Marin and Sonoma. Project partners will test enhancement measures on 35 acres of coastal prairie habitat by treating holcus at low, medium and high levels of infestation with different primary techniques including sheep grazing, cattle grazing, mowing, hand-pulling, and use of an approved grass-specific herbicide in controlled areas followed by replanting with native species to clarify what Best Management Practices may stop its spread. Educational materials and a six-week volunteer training will be developed to support the project and increase regional awareness of coastal prairie resources.

OSFWC will organize a second Coastal Prairie Workshop in 2011 to present the Sonoma-Marine mapping data and invasive holcus management outcomes from this project, and will then produce a final report with initial recommendations for prairie resource management.

## ***Peninsula Open Space Trust***

### **48) Cowell Purisima Coastal Trail**

Location: Coastal Zone, approximately three miles south of the City of Half Moon Bay in unincorporated San Mateo County

Conservancy Funds: \$2,980,000



With close to \$3 million in Conservancy funds from Proposition 12, the Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST) will construct and operate a spectacular new three-mile segment of the Coastal Trail along the bluffs south of Half Moon Bay to be named the Cowell-Purisima Coastal Trail. Anticipated to be completed by the end of 2008, this Coastal Trail project is identified as a priority in the Conservancy's 2003 *Completing the California Coastal Trail Report*.

The northern trailhead will be accessed from the Cowell Ranch Coastal Accessway, an existing parking lot and trailhead owned by State Parks that currently provides public access to Cowell Ranch State Beach. From here the trail will extend southward two miles along the edge of the site's coastal bluffs and adjacent to irrigated farmland. The trail then crosses over Purisima Creek and extends for another mile along the bluff edge before terminating at a new parking lot next to Highway One.

When completed, the Cowell-Purisima Coastal Trail will be one of the state's most spectacular new additions to our system of coastal accessways, and is expected to serve thousands of visitors annually given its proximity to the large metropolitan populations of the Bay Area.

## ***Point Reyes National Seashore***

### **49) Helping Hands Restoration Project**

Location: Olema Pasture and Martinelli Ranch, Point Reyes, Marin County

Conservancy Funds: \$84,925

Matching Funds: \$59,926

The project addresses six potential sources of sediment, nutrient, and pathogen pollution to Tomales Bay and Olema Creek. The project will repair three headcuts (eroding gullies) and construct fencing to exclude livestock from a fourth headcut, a riparian area, and a salt marsh area on Point Reyes National Seashore (PRNS) lands within the Tomales Bay watershed. Headcut repair will be carried out partially by students from local schools through the Students and Teachers Restoring a Watershed (STRAW) program, and partially by volunteers. The headcuts and unfenced areas were identified by PRNS as top priorities to reduce sediment, nutrient, and pathogen influx into Tomales Bay from their rangelands.

While often perceived as pristine, Tomales Bay has been declared impaired under Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act by the San Francisco Regional Water Quality Control Board for excessive sediment, nutrients, pathogens, and mercury. Excessive sedimentation has reduced the surface area and depth of the bay, and diminished habitat for wildlife, including salmonids. Excessive nutrients also degrade aquatic wildlife habitat, and pathogen inputs pose health risks to recreational users of Tomales Bay and to consumers of shellfish grown in the Bay. In addition to benefiting water quality, wildlife, and human health, the project will serve as a demonstration of best management practices implementation on grazing lands.

## ***Point Reyes National Seashore Association***

### **50) Giacomini Wetland Restoration Project**

Location: Giacomini Ranch, Point Reyes, Marin County

Conservancy Funds: \$575,000

Matching Funds: \$4,250,000

The Conservancy granted \$575,000 in Prop 50 funds and \$1,000,000 in National Coastal Wetlands Conservation funds to the Point Reyes National Seashore Association, to implement the Giacomini Wetland Restoration Project. The Project restored natural hydrologic and ecological conditions to over 500 acres located at the head of Tomales Bay on the Giacomini Ranch and Olema Marsh. Wetlands restored through the project represent as much as 12% of the outer coastal wetlands along the central California coast. The low level of wetland function before restoration was due to the fact that much of Giacomini Ranch was managed for pasture for a herd of dairy cows.



Management for pasture

involved the construction of

levees and tidegates, which disconnected the project area from tidal influence. The project reconnected these wetlands hydrologically to tidal flows by removing levees, tidegates, and culverts, thereby dramatically increasing the level of function for flood control, water quality and wildlife. Restored wetlands on historic floodplain areas of Lagunitas, Tomasini, and other creeks filter and transform floodwaters and the sediment, nutrients and other pollutants they carry.

The project contributes to the health of the entire Tomales Bay watershed by improving downstream water quality. The hydrologic reconnection of the project area with Lagunitas Creek is also expected to decrease flooding within the local community. In addition, it has increased habitat and food resources for wildlife within the watershed, including four federally-listed fish species and one state-listed bird species, and will provide opportunities for public enjoyment and education through public access trails, viewing overlooks and platforms, and interpretive exhibits.

## **San Francisco Maritime National Park Association, Los Angeles Maritime Institute, and Maritime Museum of San Diego**

### **51) Tall Ships 2008**

Location: Ports of San Francisco, Los Angeles and San Diego

Conservancy Funds: \$150,000

Matching Funds: \$550,000

The Tall Ships Festival will be held in the Ports of San Francisco, Los Angeles and San Diego. The Conservancy provided funding in the amount of \$450,000 (which leveraged \$1,650,000 of matching funds) for the entire project (the three locations combined). Each festival will include a parade of tall ships from around the world, as well as recreational and educational activities, during a four to five day period in the summer of 2008. This project builds upon previous tall ships projects, including Tall Ships Exposition 2005, the reconstruction of the *Swift of Ipswich*, the *Californian*, and the *San Salvadore*. The festivals promote public access to these three important California waterfront locations.

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

### **52) Poff Property Acquisition**

Location: Bodega Bay, Sonoma County

Conservancy Funds: \$750,000

Matching Funds: \$4,850,000

Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District (SCAPOS) completed acquisition of the 1,235-acre Poff property in Western Sonoma County, with \$750,000 of Prop 50 funds from the Conservancy and \$4,850,000 in SCAPOS funds.

The Poff property has been identified as a priority area by regional plans including the Sonoma Land Trust's Sonoma County Coast Parcel Study (1999), The Nature Conservancy's "Conserving the Landscapes of Sonoma County" (2003), and the SCAPOS's "Connecting Communities and the Land, A Long Range Acquisition Plan" (2006). The property is also located within the Coastal Scenic Landscape Unit of the Sonoma County General Plan (1989). California Department of Parks and Recreation is highly interested in accepting the property as a critical addition to the Sonoma Coast Beach State Beach.



The property is the largest privately-owned, unprotected parcel between Bodega Bay and the Russian River. Its scenic value is readily apparent in its rolling, grassland-covered hills visible from Highway 1, and the panoramic ocean views down to Point Reyes from the property's highest point, Wright Hill. Wildlife and habitat are diverse on the property and the landscape includes coastal prairie, a redwood grove and mixed woodland forest.

The property is bordered on three sides by the protected lands of the Red Hill addition to Sonoma Coast State Beach and two conservation easements held by SCAPOSD on the Willow Creek "Seed Orchard" property and the Colliss property. As a result of the location, the property can provide spectacular open space, wildlife and trail connections with the California Coastal Trail and other regional trails. The property offers excellent opportunities for future camping, back-packing, horseback riding, other recreational access and historical interpretation for the 1900s-era ranch and barn structures.

## ***Sonoma County Regional Parks Department***

### **53) Bodega Bay Trail Plan Environmental Document (Revision)**

Location: Bodega Bay, Sonoma County

Conservancy Funds: \$100,000

Matching Funds: \$150,000

In September 2007, the Conservancy authorized up to \$100,000 to Sonoma County Regional Parks to complete a programmatic environmental document, the Bodega Bay Bicycle and Pedestrian Trail Plan, for 8.5 miles of future Coastal Trail and bikeways in Bodega Bay. Subsequent developments in countywide trails planning led to the current opportunity to meet the environmental review for the Bodega Bay Trail Plan within the review of a larger project undertaken by the County.

The revised project will enable Sonoma County Regional Parks to complete 1) an environmental document for the Unincorporated Sonoma Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan (USCBPP), and 2) site-specific environmental review and planning for a priority 1.2-mile segment of the California Coastal Trail identified in the Bodega Bay Trail Plan. The revised project will be completed with no new authorization of funds from the Conservancy.

The County anticipates the USCBPP will be completed and submitted to the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors in late spring 2010. This will accomplish the objective of the authorization while using only \$15,000 in Conservancy funds. With the remaining \$85,000, the revised project will enable the County to complete site-specific review for a 1.2-mile segment of the California Coastal Trail identified in the Bodega Bay Plan. The project will complete environmental review for the future implementation of 2,240 feet of improvements along Highway One and Smith Brothers Road to the west of the Highway and 1,050 feet of Tideland boardwalk. The segment will connect with access from Doran Beach Park, across the new pedestrian bridge at Cheney Creek, through Birdwalk Coastal Access Park and up through Smith Brothers Road at the southern edge of Bodega Bay in Sonoma County.

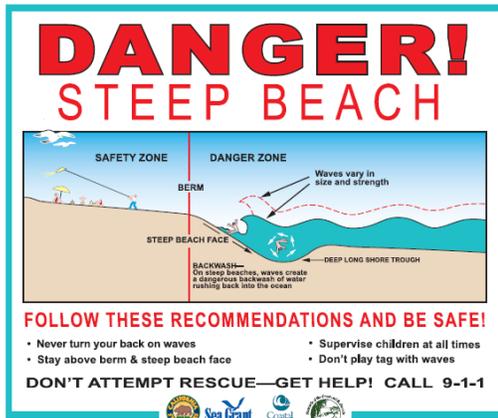
## Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods

### 54) Bilingual Rip Currents and Steep Beach Signs

Location: Coastal Beaches in Sonoma County and Statewide

Conservancy Funds: \$21,925

Matching Funds: \$31,335



Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods successfully produced 725 ocean safety warning signs and outreach materials in Spanish and English for local, state and federally managed beaches in Sonoma County and statewide, with \$21,925 in funding from the Conservancy.

The project provided for statewide use of Spanish and English versions of both a Sonoma area designed “steep beach” warning sign, and a “rip current” warning sign developed for a pilot project funded by California Sea Grant Extension. The rip current warning sign alerts the public to the danger of and technique to escape rip currents. Drownings and rescues are frequently reported along the coast and rivers in Sonoma County and across the state (California Department of Parks Aquatic Safety Report 2006). Locals as well as visitors can be taken off-guard by the steep beaches, rip currents and sleeper waves that characterize the coast, but are belied by tranquil ocean views and seemingly safe public access locations. Ocean drownings are preventable, particularly those where beach users underestimate dangers due to lack of ocean hazard signs or English-only signs. Tragically, rescue attempts can also lead to death as was the case recently when an off-duty fireman lost his life while attempting to save a distressed swimmer at Portuguese Beach in Sonoma.

The project funded the construction of 250 rip current signs in English and 175 in Spanish for state beaches and 50 in each language for federally and locally managed beaches. The project also provided 75 steep beach signs in each language for state and 25 each language for federal and local beaches. Sonoma Coast State Beach received 100 pads of quarter-page tear-off flyers for distribution by State Parks rangers, docents and lifeguards for this bilingual safety effort at

the coast and in the Russian River area. State Parks also provided additional staff support for beach outreach and sign installation.

### **55) Willow Creek Channel Restoration and Fish Passage Project**

Location: Willow Creek, Lower Russian River Watershed, Sonoma County

Conservancy Funds: \$130,000

Matching Funds: \$40,000

The project consists of identifying an engineered solution for a County road that crosses Willow Creek and currently impedes natural channel processes and impairs the biological productivity of salmonids within the watershed. Final work products will include a technically-detailed characterization of current hydrology, geotechnical considerations, and fish passage requirements; 90% technical designs; and permit application materials for a bridge solution that will pass adequate flow and re-establish channel formation processes at the location of the road crossing.



*Source: Prunuske Chatham, Inc.*

Stewards will also ensure completion of all necessary CEQA documentation, to the level needed to support an application for project implementation funding through the Department of Fish and Game's (DFG's) Fisheries Restoration Grant Program.

### ***Tomales Bay Watershed Council Foundation***

### **56) Third Valley Creek and Chicken Ranch Beach Restoration Plan**

Location: Lower Third Valley Creek and Chicken Ranch Beach, Inverness, Marin County

Conservancy Funds: \$109,000

Matching Funds: \$30,940

The project consists of preparing a restoration plan for lower Third Valley Creek and Chicken Ranch Beach in the town of Inverness on Tomales Bay. Plan objectives are enhancement of wetland function, water quality, flood control, and beach maintenance in the project area. Part of the historic marsh at the mouth of Third Valley Creek was filled in the 1950s with materials dredged from Tomales Bay. Removal of fill material and realignment of the creek would allow the creek to be reconnected to its floodplain, increasing wetland area and level of function. Water quality could be enhanced by increased tidal flushing of areas that are currently stagnant, notably a channel known as Channel B that was excavated by a landowner in 1998 without a permit, in order to protect upstream property from flooding. Channel B runs across the popular beach and

frequently violates water quality guidelines for bacteria, posing a public health risk. Flood control for adjacent areas could be enhanced by the restoration, and the need to periodically dredge the channel could be reduced. Because the channel has aggraded, it does not currently provide good drainage for surrounding areas. The project could result in improved drainage for adjacent properties and increased flood and sediment storage in restored wetlands. Beach erosion could be reduced by reducing or eliminating flows through Channel B.

The project would include an assessment of historical and current physical conditions and biological resources in the project area. This assessment will identify planning, land-use, and infrastructure constraints that may limit restoration opportunities. Public outreach will be conducted to gather input on desired restoration objectives and design features and to build support for the restoration plan. Restoration design alternatives will then be developed.

## ***Trout Unlimited***

### **57) Coastal Streamflow Stewardship Project: Feasibility Studies**

Location: Statewide

Conservancy Funds: \$600,000

Matching Funds: \$275,000

Trout Unlimited will prepare a feasibility study of water management projects in at least five key coastal watersheds to assist in the conservation of water and to encourage the protection and enhancement of anadromous fish and other aquatic resources. Recommended water management projects will provide for the maintenance of instream flows for anadromous fish resources while also providing for agricultural needs. Specific recommendations will include, but not be limited to, the design of water storage facilities, recommendation of appropriate pumping practices, the application of contemporary water conservation practices, and other measures.

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

	Bay Area Conservancy Program (a)	Additional Conservancy Funding (b)	Matching Funds (some estimated) (c)
<b>Year One: FY 1999-2000 (42 Projects)</b>	\$9,722,126		\$17,990,159
Total Conservancy Funds	\$9,722,126		
Funding Leverage: Bay Area Conservancy Program	35%		65%
Funding Leverage: Total Coastal Conservancy Funds (Bay and Additional)	35%		65%
<b>Year Two: FY 2000-2001 (51 Projects)</b>	\$20,286,027	\$21,715,000	\$80,948,268
Total Conservancy Funds	\$42,001,027		
Funding Leverage: Bay Area Conservancy Program	20%		80%
Funding Leverage: Total Coastal Conservancy Funds (Bay and Additional)	34%		66%
<b>Year Three: FY 2001-2002 (41 Projects)</b>	\$16,082,196	\$5,130,000	\$57,034,781
Total Conservancy Funds	\$21,212,196		
Funding Leverage: Bay Area Conservancy Program	22%		78%
Funding Leverage: Total Coastal Conservancy Funds (Bay and Additional)	27%		73%
<b>Year Four: FY 2002-2003 (26 Projects)</b>	\$15,672,185	\$5,000,000	\$66,852,488
Total Conservancy Funds	\$20,672,185		
Funding Leverage: Bay Area Conservancy Program	19%		81%
Funding Leverage: Total Coastal Conservancy Funds (Bay and Additional)	24%		76%
<b>Year Five: FY 2003-2004 (35 Projects)</b>	\$17,256,585	\$544,381	\$52,371,386
Total Conservancy Funds	\$17,800,966		
Funding Leverage: Bay Area Conservancy Program	25%		75%
Funding Leverage: Total Coastal Conservancy Funds (Bay and Additional)	25%		75%
<b>Year Six: FY 2004-2005 (35 Projects)</b>	\$24,327,875	\$1,500,000	\$76,987,574
Total Conservancy Funds	\$25,827,875		
Funding Leverage: Bay Area Conservancy Program	24%		76%
Funding Leverage: Total Coastal Conservancy Funds (Bay and Additional)	25%		75%
<b>Year Seven: FY 2005-2006 (42 Projects)</b>	\$13,460,402	\$950,000	\$40,175,391
Total Conservancy Funds	\$14,410,402		
Funding Leverage: Bay Area Conservancy Program	25%		75%
Funding Leverage: Total Coastal Conservancy Funds (Bay and Additional)	26%		74%
<b>Year Eight: FY 2006-2007 (37 Projects)</b>	\$12,968,588	\$2,992,468	\$17,632,696
Total Conservancy Funds	\$15,961,056		
Funding Leverage: Bay Area Conservancy Program	42%		58%
Funding Leverage: Total Coastal Conservancy Funds (Bay and Additional)	48%		52%
<b>Year Nine: FY 2007-2008 (57 Projects)</b>	\$20,057,321	\$16,141,483	\$88,624,297
Total Conservancy Funds	\$36,198,804		
Funding Leverage: Bay Area Conservancy Program	18%		82%
Funding Leverage: Total Coastal Conservancy Funds (Bay and Additional)	29%		71%

### Sum Total for Years One Through Nine

	Bay Area Conservancy Program (a)	Additional Conservancy Funding (b)	Matching Funds (some estimated) (c)
<b>Year One - Year Nine: FY 1999-2008 (366 Projects)</b>	\$149,833,305	\$53,973,332	\$498,617,040
Total Conservancy Funds	\$203,806,637		
Funding Leverage: Bay Area Conservancy Program	23%		77%
Funding Leverage: Total Coastal Conservancy Funds (Bay and Additional)	29%		71%

- 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