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***Coastal Conservancy Selects Executive Project Manager and Consortium of Local Firms to Lead Planning and Design of South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project***

*Oakland, CA — March 1, 2004* — The California Coastal Conservancy has taken two important steps towards restoration of the recently-acquired South San Francisco Bay salt ponds. The Conservancy has selected Steven Ritchie as Executive Project Manager to help guide and manage the project, and has selected a Bay Area-based environmental and engineering services team to assist the Conservancy and its project partners in preparing a plan for restoring the 15,100 acres of South Bay salt ponds to a combination of wildlife habitats, while providing flood management and wildlife-oriented public access and recreation. The team is led by the San Francisco environmental hydrology firm of Philip Williams and Associates (PWA), together with the San Francisco-based land planning and design firm, EDAW; South Bay biological company, H.T. Harvey and Associates; and Brown & Caldwell, civil engineers headquartered in Walnut Creek.

“We’re extremely pleased that we have been able to bring together such a talented group of individuals and companies to help us develop the best restoration plan possible,” said Amy Hutzel, the Coastal Conservancy’s Project Manager.

“This will be the largest wetlands restoration project on the West Coast – it’s an exciting challenge for us to apply our experience in restoration science to such an important initiative,” stated PWA’s project manager, Michelle Orr. “We’ll be working closely with South Bay cities and counties and the project’s Stakeholder Forum throughout the restoration planning process to develop a scientifically sound, publicly-supported plan.”

With the oversight of an internationally renowned science panel and the involvement of a science team made up of local experts, the consultant team will develop a plan integrating the complexities of ecological restoration, public recreation and access, and flood protection.

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The Coastal Conservancy, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the California Department of Fish and Game, the Santa Clara Valley Water District, the Alameda County Flood Control District, and the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, are collaboratively managing the restoration and will oversee the PWA team in its assignment to produce the overall plan.

Hutzel said, “We are very pleased that so many well-qualified firms were interested in the project. We selected the PWA team because of its strong expertise in wetlands restoration and its dedication to working with stakeholders.”

As the Executive Project Manager for the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project, Steve Ritchie will work closely with all of the partner agencies to manage this complex project, coordinate among various interests to resolve issues, and ensure that the project remains on schedule. “Steve’s knowledge of technical, environmental, and governmental issues in the San Francisco Bay-Delta, and his experience as a former director of both the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board and the CALFED Bay-Delta Program, will help to ensure the success of the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project,” noted Hutzel.

**About the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project:**

The South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project is the largest tidal wetland restoration project on the West Coast. When complete, the restoration will convert thousands of former commercial salt ponds to a mix of tidal marsh, mudflat, managed pond, and other wetland habitats. The project will also provide flood management and opportunities for wildlife-oriented public access and recreation. The 15,100 acre property was purchased from Cargill in March of 2003 using state and federal funds, as well as private funds from the Hewlett, Packard, Moore, and Goldman Foundations. The newly acquired lands are managed by the California Department of Fish and Game as part of the Eden Landing Ecological Reserve and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as part of the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge. For detailed information about the project, please visit:

[www.southbayrestoration.org](http://www.southbayrestoration.org).

**About Steve Ritchie:**

Steve Ritchie has a B.S. and M.S. in Civil Engineering from Stanford University. He has served as Chief Deputy Director and Acting Executive Director of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program (1998-2000), Chief of the Bureau of System Planning and Compliance at the San

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Francisco Public Utilities Commission (1995-1998), and Executive Officer of the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board (1988-1995). Since 2000, he served as Director of URS Corporation's Northern California Water and Wastewater Business. He also has served since 2000 on the Board of Directors of the San Francisco Estuary Institute.

**About PWA:**

Philip Williams & Associates, Ltd. (PWA) is a San Francisco-based environmental hydrology firm that provides professional services in watershed, river, estuary and coastal management. The firm has a 25 year experience in restoration planning and design and has played a key role in the implementation of projects like the Crissy Field wetlands, the Napa River Flood Management Project, the Sonoma Baylands tidal wetlands restoration and the Redwood Creek floodplain restoration. PWA is a recognized leader in the emerging practice of environmental restoration, integrating advanced hydrologic analysis with environmental resource management. The firm has had a long association with San Francisco Bay, working with Federal, State and local governments, research institutions and non-profits concerned with the future of the Bay. For more information, please visit [www.pwa-ltd.com](http://www.pwa-ltd.com).

**About EDAW:**

Founded in 1939, EDAW is one of the world's leading land-based planning and design firm. With over 1100 professionals providing a unique blend of landscape architecture, urban design, and environmental and economic planning services from offices across the globe, EDAW's collaborative approach to landscape urbanism enriches the solutions we bring to our clients. Their recent work includes London's East Side Regeneration; the Upper Truckee River Wetland Restoration, the Tallac-Taylor Creek Watershed Restoration, Ave Maria University and University Town in Collier County, Florida; and various Olympic projects, including the 2008 Beijing Aquatic Park. For more information, please visit [www.edaw.com](http://www.edaw.com).

**About H.T. Harvey:**

Since 1970, H.T. Harvey has provided expert ecological consulting services to furnish clients with sound scientific information as the basis for making responsible decisions involving land use and resource management. HTH has been an early leader in the practice of tidal marsh restoration, assisting PWA with the design and implementation of the first major tidal

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restoration project in the Bay Area, the 220-acre Warm Springs project in Fremont. For more information, please visit [www.harveyecology.com](http://www.harveyecology.com).

**About Brown & Caldwell:**

Founded in the Bay Area in 1947, Brown & Caldwell is a full-service consulting firm providing environmental and engineering solutions to clients across the U.S. Their expertise and capabilities encompass the entire “lifecycle” of water resource projects and they have successfully completed thousands of environmental improvement projects over the last 50 years. For more information, please visit [www.browncaldwell.com](http://www.browncaldwell.com).

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