



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

# Don Edwards National Wildlife Refuge

## *News Release*

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### **Operational Changes for Pond A16 and Pond A17**

Starting Thursday October 11, 2007 Pond A16 and A17 in Alameda County water levels will begin to be lowered to obtain a detailed topographic survey of the Ponds surface for use in successfully implementing the Alviso Pond A16 reconfigured managed pond restoration.

The Pond A16 restoration will enhance habitat for migratory shorebirds by creating nesting islands and shallow water foraging habitat. Creating the target shallow water habitat (depths of about 2 to 12 inches) is sensitive to the gentle slopes and microtopography within Pond A16. Pond topography is also important for determining the parameters of the construction contract, such as the volume of earthwork and construction access. Performing the topographic survey is a critical path item to meet the design and implementation schedule.

Draining Alviso Ponds A16 and Pond A17 this next several weeks would expose the pond bed and allow for aerial photographs to be flown and analyzed as part of a photogrammetric survey of the pond bottom. An aerial photogrammetric survey will provide the high spatial resolution needed for a successful design. This high resolution is not cost effectively available using hydrographic survey methods while Ponds A16 and A17 are ponded with several feet of water.

This temporary operation change will last anywhere from 3 to 6 weeks depending on how fast the Ponds drain. Once the Ponds are sufficiently surveyed, the Ponds will be restored back to normal operating water levels.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at (510) 792-0222.

Eric Mruz  
Wildlife Refuge Specialist