



Alviso Ponds/Santa Clara County Working Group

CHARTER (draft)

The **Alviso Ponds and Santa Clara County Working Group** will support both the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project and the South San Francisco Shoreline Study by providing ongoing input and advice to both projects.

Phase 1 of the SBSP project in the Alviso Ponds and Santa Clara County focuses on opening up some former salt ponds to the bay, and on expanding and improving public access. Simultaneously, the Shoreline Study is a multi-objective study, evaluating detailed plans for the long-term flood protection levees, wetlands restoration and other flood protection improvements.

Mission

The mission of the Working Group is to:

- Provide a forum for collaborative dialogue among community members and project managers in the Phase 1 restoration implementation and flood protection planning
- Help develop ways to more actively engage the general public in supporting future project funding needs.

Roles and Responsibilities:

The Alviso Ponds/Santa Clara County Working Group is a subcommittee of the Project's ongoing Stakeholder Forum. (The Stakeholder Forum is the principal public advisory body for the Project, and will continue to meet periodically through Phase 1.)

Over the next two years, Work Group members will:

- Provide feedback on the design for public access improvements at Pond A-16 and the new Bay Trail spine segment adjacent to Sunnyvale
- Provide feedback on the restoration actions at Ponds A-6, A-16 and Pond A-8
- Provide feedback on proposed Phase 1 research and applied studies
- Provide feedback on the Shoreline Study Problems, Opportunities, and Objectives and project alternatives as they develop
- Help foster local support for funding of Phase 1 and future activities
- Help identify public outreach opportunities to raise awareness of the Project throughout the Alviso and Santa Clara County area

Membership

Work Group membership consists of interested members of the public who live, work and/or recreate within the Alviso/North Santa Clara and South Alameda Counties. Members may represent the following organizations or interests:

- SBSB Project Stakeholder Forum
- Private industry and Chambers of Commerce
- Local elected officials and/or their staff from Fremont, Milpitas, Alviso, San Jose, Sunnyvale, Palo Alto and Mountain View
- Homeowners associations
- Environmental groups
- Municipal and county public works and planning departments/agencies
- State, Municipal, county and regional transportation and/or economic development agencies/organizations
- Private utilities, such as Pacific Gas & Electric Co. and retail water companies/agencies
- Recreational interests (e.g., fishing, boating, bicycling, hiking, birding, hunting)

The Chair of the Alviso Ponds and Santa Clara County Working Group is Clyde Morris, Manager of the San Francisco Bay Don Edwards National Wildlife Refuge.

Meeting Frequency

The Work Group will meet about two to four times a year. The meetings will be professionally facilitated, to help participants to provide focused review, discussion and input to the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project Management Team and to the Shoreline Study Management Team.

Timeframe

Phase I projects of the SBSB project are expected to be completed by the end of 2010. The Alviso Ponds and Santa Clara County Interim Feasibility Study (Shoreline Study) and Environmental Impact Statement/Report are expected to be completed by the end of 2010. Work Group members are encouraged to remain active through completion of the Shoreline Study's feasibility report.

Protocols and Decision-Making

The Working Group will provide input and feedback to the Project partners and to the Project Stakeholder Forum, and all recommendations stemming from the Working Group will be carefully considered by the project partners. Decision-making on any Phase 1 and future actions in the Alviso Ponds area resides with the project partners, and ultimately with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the landowning agency.

Working Group members will be expected to report back to their peers and constituent groups on a regular basis, and to bring forward any concerns from their communities to the Working Group.