



You are Invited:

Eden Landing Ponds Working Group

Lower Alameda Creek Stewardship Committee

The **South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project (SBSP project)** is the most ambitious wetlands restoration on the west coast of North America. The project's 50-year vision is restoration of 15,100 acres of former salt production ponds in San Francisco Bay to tidal and managed wetlands habitats. The project offers an opportunity to restore a huge percentage of tidal marsh lost in the Bay to promote recovery of several endangered species and to manage wetlands to benefit a suite of native species, while improving flood management, public access and recreational opportunities for the South Bay's three million residents.

Phase 1 of the restoration project calls for construction of new trails, kayak access and viewing platforms in the Eden Landing ponds complex. In addition, some of the existing ponds will be re-configured to encourage increased bird use for foraging and nesting. In forming the new Eden Landing Ponds Working Group, the project partners are seeking active input from members of the public on these ambitious activities.

This Working Group is being convened as a subcommittee of the Lower Alameda Creek Stewardship Committee, an ongoing group that advises the Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District.

What is the purpose of this Working Group?

The mission of the Working Group is to:

- Provide an active voice for community members in the Phase 1 restoration activities and public access improvements
- Develop ways to more actively engage the general public in supporting future project funding needs.

What will the Work Group do?

Over the next two years, Work Group members will:

- Provide input on the design of the public access improvements
- Provide input on the restoration actions in Ponds E-12 and E-13

- Provide feedback on the proposed research and monitoring studies to track wildlife response to public access in the Eden Landing area

Who Should Participate?

The project managers are seeking the active involvement of members of the public who live, work and/or recreate anywhere near the Eden Landing Ponds. In particular, they are seeking the participation of:

- Private industry and Chambers of Commerce
- Homeowners associations
- Environmental groups
- Regional, municipal and county parks, public works and/or planning departments/agencies
- Municipal, county and regional transportation and/or economic development agencies/organizations
- CalTrans
- Major private utilities, such as Pacific Gas & Electric Co
- Recreational interest groups (e.g., fishing, boating, hunting, bicycling, hiking, birding)

The project partners are also seeking the active involvement of local elected officials and/or their staff from cities in the area, including Hayward, Union City, and Fremont. Members of the SBSP project's ongoing Stakeholder Forum are also invited to actively participate in this Working Group.

The Eden Landing Ponds Working Group will be chaired by John Krause, California Department of Fish and Game.

How often will the Working Group meet?

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.

Working Group members will be expected to report back to their peers and constituents groups on a regular basis, and to bring forward any concerns from their communities to the Working Group as Phase 1 proceeds.

What is the timeframe for the Working Group?

Phase I projects of the SBSP project are expected to be complete by the end of 2010. Work Group members are encouraged to remain active through completion of Phase 1.

The kick-off meeting of the Eden Landing Ponds Working Group will be on Friday, June 27, 2007 from 2-5 p.m., at the Hayward Shoreline Interpretive Center, 4901 Breakwater Ave., in Hayward.

If you are interested in joining the Working Group, or would like more information, please contact Mary Selkirk, South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project at 510-527-7075, or

mseirk@ccp.csus.edu. For more information, please visit the SBSP project website at:
www.southbayrestoration.org

Background: Assessing the SBSP Project's Risks and Uncertainties

Along with this extraordinary opportunity to restore and manage tidal wetlands, improve flood protection and recreation opportunities, there are risks and uncertainties with this project that must be addressed, for example:

- *How will the projects take into account the effects of global climate change on the South Bay, in terms of the projects' shared purposes - restoration, flood protection and public access?*
- *How do we make sure that the restoration will accomplish its objectives, without causing unintended negative impacts? For example, how can we ensure that expanded public access will provide the types of planned high-quality opportunities without harming the wildlife we are trying to protect and revitalize?*

The Project has been designed to address these uncertainties, but project partners are seeking active involvement of the public to ensure these types of risks and uncertainties are being adequately discussed and understood.

Phase 1 (2008-2010) of the SBSP project will include wetlands restoration activities throughout the project area, which extends from Menlo Park on the west side of the Bay, to Hayward on the east side of the Bay. Phase 1 activities also include research, monitoring and applied studies, and ongoing public input to ensure that the project partners have all the information they need to measure whether the restoration is proceeding as expected and meeting project goals.

The project partners are convening Working Groups in each of the three pond areas: Alviso/Santa Clara County, Eden Landing (Hayward) and Ravenswood (Menlo Park). Each of these groups will provide an opportunity for interested members of the public to provide feedback and advice to project managers on Phase 1 of the restoration project. In addition, the Alviso Working Group will focus on the South San Francisco Bay Shoreline Study being conducted by the Army Corps of Engineers.