



An Invitation to Participate:

Ravenswood Working Group

The **South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project (SBSP project)** is the most ambitious tidal 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 wetlands habitat. The project offers an opportunity to restore a huge percentage of tidal marsh lost in the Bay, and to provide a home for several endangered species, while improving flood management, wildlife oriented public access and recreational opportunities for the South Bay's three million residents.

Simultaneous with tidal marsh restoration, opportunities for major flood protection improvement are currently under study through the **South Bay San Francisco Bay Shoreline Study (Shoreline Study)**. This study is a parallel project co-sponsored by the Santa Clara Valley Water District, State Coastal Conservancy, and the US Army Corps of Engineers.

Together, these two projects are working in tandem to address this extraordinary opportunity to shape the future of the South Bay's baylands. Many residents of the South Bay are already actively involved in the planning phase for the SBSP project, providing advice on every phase of the restoration plan development.

Through the newly forming Ravenswood Working Group, the project partners are seeking the active participation of the public to help shape long-term tidal marsh restoration and flood protection in the South Bay.

What is the purpose of this Working Group?

The Ravenswood Working Group will support both the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project and the Shoreline Study by providing ongoing, input and advice to both projects.

Phase 1 of the SBSP project in the Ravenswood ponds focuses on opening up some salt ponds to the bay, and on possible expansion to and improvement of public access. Simultaneously, the Shoreline Study is will be developing and examining the feasibility of developing detailed plans for ecosystem restoration and the long-term flood protection levees, and other flood protection improvements.

The mission of the Working Group is to:

- **Provide an active voice for community members in the SBSP Phase 1 restoration implementation, public access improvements and flood protection planning;**
- **Provide a forum for contributing to solutions to rising sea levels in the South Bay; and**
- **Develop ways to more actively engage the public in supporting future project funding needs.**

What will the Work Group do?

Over the next two years, Work Group members will:

- **Help design appropriate and wildlife-compatible public access improvements near Pond SF2 and overlooking Pond R4 in Bayfront Park;**
- **Provide input on the restoration actions at Pond SF2; and**
- **Review and provide feedback on the Shoreline Study Problems, Opportunities, and Objectives.**

Who Can Participate?

The project managers are seeking the active involvement of members of the public who live, work and/or recreate within the Ravenswood Pond complex area. In particular, the project partners are seeking participation from community members representing the following interests or organizations:

- Private industry and Chambers of Commerce
- Homeowners associations
- Environmental groups
- Municipal and county public works and/or planning departments/agencies
- Municipal, county and regional transportation and/or economic development agencies/organizations
- The scientific community
- Union Pacific Railroad
- CalTrans
- Major private utilities, such as Pacific Gas & Electric Co. and retail water companies/agencies
- Recreational interests (e.g., fishing, boating, bicycling, hunting, 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 Redwood City, Menlo Park, East Palo Alto, Palo Alto, and San Mateo County. Members of the SBSP project’s ongoing Stakeholder Forum are also invited to actively participate in this Working Group.

The Ravenswood Working Group will be chaired by Clyde Morris, Manager of the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge.

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 and to the Shoreline Study 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.

What is the timeframe for the Working Group?

SBSP Phase I projects of the SBSP project are expected to be completed by the end of 2010. The feasibility report and Environmental Impact Statement/Report for the Shoreline Study are expected to be completed in mid-2011. Work Group members are encouraged to remain active through completion of the Shoreline Study's feasibility report.

The kick-off meeting of the Ravenswood Ponds Working Group will be on Wednesday, July 11, 2007 from 2-5 p.m., location TBD.

If you are interested in joining the Working Group, please RSVP to Anna Schneider, California Coastal Conservancy, 510-286-0325, or aschneider@scc.ca.gov.

If you would like more information, please contact Austin McNerny at 510-981-1124, or amcinerny@ccp.csus.edu. For more information, please visit the SBSP project website at: www.southbayrestoration.org