



April 12, 2004

To: South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project Stakeholder Forum

From: Center for Collaborative Policy

Re: Outcomes from the March 18, 2004 Local Government Forum

Background: The first meeting of the Local Government Forum (LG Forum) was held on Thursday March 18, 2004 from 12:30 to 2:30 pm at Centennial Hall located in Hayward, California. This meeting was convened to:

- Update local government representatives on the work of the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project's objectives and accomplishments to date; and to
- Receive feedback from local representatives on areas of concern in the restoration planning and restoration processes as well to receive input on how to ensure an effective dialog with local government elected officials.

Meeting Attendance: Attachment 1 lists meeting participants.

Meeting Materials: In advance of the meeting, LG Forum invitees were provided a meeting agenda. At the meeting, copies of the slideshow, Project Frequently Asked Questions, and a public input opportunities timeline were also distributed. These items are available from the project website (<http://www.southbayrestoration.org>).

Substantive Meeting Outcomes:

1. *Welcome, Introductions, and Agenda Review*

Clyde Morris, Refuge Manger of the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge, welcomed everyone and asked participants to introduce themselves.

Austin McNerny (Center for Collaborative Policy) was introduced as the facilitator of the LG Forum. He provided an overview of the meeting's objectives:

- Provide Project Overview, Timeline, and Challenges;
- Identify Pressing Issues/Projects by Local Government Officials; and
- Discuss Best Methods for Informing and Involving Local Government Elected Leaders.

2. *Overview of Salt Pond Restoration Planning Effort, Timeline and Challenges*

Morris began his overview with the question: "Why Restore the Salt Ponds?" He explained that 85 percent of the San Francisco Bay's tidal wetlands have been lost in the last 150 years. 90 percent of commercial fish spend at least part of their lives in tidal wetlands and the loss of this

habitat has significant consequences. In accordance with objectives identified by the Habitat Goals Project, a goal of restoring two-thirds of the South Bay Salt Ponds to tidal marsh and retaining one-third as saline ponds, which are currently home to many species of migrating birds, is being considered. Morris also pointed out on a large-scale map, the areas that were purchased from Cargill Salt and that will be restored and managed by the California Department of Fish and Game and US Fish and Wildlife Service. Morris alerted participants that on March 17, 2004, the Regional Water Quality Control Board voted to approve waste discharge requirements for the areas to be restored. The project mission is to accomplish the long-term restoration planning of the salt ponds within five years and, thus, allow implementation to begin in 2008.

3. *Overview of Public Participation in Planning Process*

McInerny presented an overview of the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project Decision Making Structure*. McInerny also presented a flow chart for key decisions in 2004. Steve Ritchie, Executive Project Manager for the California Coastal Conservancy, recently developed this diagram to help identify the key opportunities for public input. This flow chart is provided as Attachment 2 to this memo.

4. *Questions/Discussion*

McInerny invited questions on the presentation to this point. Questions and responses were as follows:

- *What is the organization of the Stakeholder Forum?* The Center for Collaborative Policy (Center) was hired to design the public outreach process for the Project. The Center conducted an issues assessment of 70 people to understand the issues for the planning process. The Center recommended a core group to meet on a regular basis – the Stakeholder Forum – and that this group should be comprised for people with varied experiences and viewpoints. Interested parties were encouraged to apply for membership.
- *Who participates in the work groups?* The workgroups are open to the public. Any interested parties can attend and contribute.
- *Will the Project use principles of Adaptive Management?* Yes, adaptive management is an on-going process, which will be used measure success and readjust components of the restoration and monitoring plans.
- *Are you looking at upstream effects on the watersheds?* Yes, two examples of upstream impacts on the watersheds of great concern are mercury pollution from historic mercury mines in the South Bay and flooding in Alviso.
- *When will the project areas be transferred from Cargill management to Dept. of Fish and Game/U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service management?* Salt ponds will be transferred as soon as the ponds meet waste discharge requirements set by the Regional Water Quality Control Board.

* The Decision Making Structure is displayed and explained in greater detail at <http://www.southbayrestoration.org/Structure.html>. Detailed explanations of each component of the structure are available by clicking on the various boxes within the diagram.

- *Is there sufficient funding to accomplish Project goals?* A funding workgroup has been formed to look at the best methods for securing necessary funding, as currently there are no funds in place for project implementation.
- *Will you be creating wetlands?* Yes, a number of wetlands will be restored each year.
- *Is the Army Corps of Engineers involved?* Yes, the Restoration Project Management Team is working with the Army Corps of Engineers concerning flood protection and possibly wetland restoration. It is possible that the Corps will work with the local flood control agencies to take the lead in building necessary flood control levees.

5. *Identification of Most Pressing Issues/Projects*
 Morris kicked off this section of the meeting by distributing large "post-its." He encouraged participants to write their concerns/pending projects on the post-its, and to place them on the project map in the appropriate location. The following site-specific issues and projects were identified either in discussion or by post-it placed on the map:



- Alameda County Flood Control District (ACFCD) Channel Dredging – impacts from upstream and downstream projects need to be considered.
- Baumberg ponds – abandoned wells need to be properly and safely capped.
- Baumberg ponds – interface with the Eden Landing Ecological Reserve through Wildlife Conservation Board.
- Baumberg ponds – will the Bay Trail system proceed through or around the pond area? Is there an impact to the water that flows south?
- South of Dumbarton Bridge – proposal to restore Dumbarton Rail Bridge to accommodate six passenger trains in the morning and six passenger trains in the evening, connecting Union City train station with San Francisco and San Jose. Bridge will be seismically retrofitted; creosote piles will be replaced with concrete.
- Sunnyvale – concerned with odor control.
- Union Sanitary District – Who will be the contact this summer if there are odor issues? Is there any provision to deal with odor incidents?
- Guadalupe Creek and Coyote Creeks – need to integrate upstream planning efforts.
- East Bay Regional Parks District and Bay Trail – public access.
- Planning for sedimentation changes due to upstream actions and restoration actions
- Monitoring for toxic constituents.
- San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority (SFCJPA) upstream of South Bay Salt Pond Project area should be notified and included (650-330-6765).
- US Army Corps and SFCJPA have proposed flood control project for San Francisquito Creek.
- Menlo Park – planning for active recreational uses at Bayfront Park.
- Redwood City – is there a scientific connection to the Bair Island Restoration Project (i.e., flow/currents, rise in water level, cumulative greater impact/tidal influence, upstream, flooding)?

- 2020 Corridor study & Regional Transportation Plan 2030 – identifies potential traffic impacts and may provide for use of spoils from dredging projects for fill required for restoration projects.
- Santa Clara County Habitat Conservation Plan needs to be considered.
- Santa Clara Valley Water District is developing watershed stewardship plans for West Valley, Lower Peninsula, and Guadalupe & Stevens Creek areas. These plans need to be incorporated into the Salt Pond Restoration Project.
- Alviso – methylated mercury being released to the San Francisco Bay presents a health concern.
- Sunnyvale – potential availability of sediment/fill.
- ACFCD – District's existing storm water storage areas need to be noted.
- ACFCD – Would Salt Pond Restoration Project have a need for dredge spoils?
- ACFCD – Public access through and over District owned flood control levees needs to be evaluated.
- ACFCD – Mitigation banking: cash in lieu of actual mitigation from dredging from small flood control project impacts – what might the parameters be for considering this type of mitigation funding?
- East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) – need to make provisions for the Bay Trail in as many locations as possible.
- EBRPD – collaborative efforts for controlling Spartina should be encouraged.
- Fremont – Improvement of the channels going through Coyote Hills (cord grass, cattails, saline versus fresh water concerns).
- City of Mountain View – no access paths to:
 - inner Charleston Slough
 - Sailing Lake water supply
 - Mountain View Tidal Marsh
 - Stevens Creek Tidal Marsh
- Palo Alto – impacts to FEMA designated tidal flood plain (~4000 properties in Palo Alto) must be considered and evaluated.
- Bayfront Palo Alto – will restoration project create a need to upgrade bayfront levees in Palo Alto?
- Milpitas – minimized diked areas with or without tidal control structures; maximize tidal areas, dry areas, and open water areas.
- Milpitas – concerned with the potential upstream effects of restoration on the salt pond restoration.
- Some sources of mosquitoes include - Palo Alto flood control basin, NASA and mid Peninsula, Alviso marsh, New Chicago marsh, and Sunnyvale baylands.
- Multiple egress points are needed for maintenance and emergency access to the Bay Trail.
- Union Sanitary District – what effects, if any, might this project have on wastewater treatment plants, or on the Hayward marsh?
- What will construction activities look like and when will they start?

6. *Input on Involving Local Government Leaders*

McInerny requested comments on how to best involve local leaders. The following suggestions were offered:

- Offer Project "Road Show" at city council meetings and other local government venues.
- Get on Cable TV (City Council meetings are televised).

- Prepare summaries of LG Forum meetings and distribute them to local government leaders.
- Contact County Supervisors' Land Use Aides to target outreach to Supervisors
- Contact Regulatory Agency Staff who work with local agencies to encourage regulators to initiate discussions on the Salt Ponds Restoration activities.
- Make presentation to ABAG's Regional Planning Commission.

7. *Next Steps and Future Meeting Dates*

The next Stakeholder Forum meeting is April 15, 2004 at NASA Ames Facility in Mountain View. Information on all upcoming Work Group meetings and the next Local Government Forum meeting will all be posted on the project web site.

Attachment 1: Meeting Attendance

Project Management Team

Organization	Representatives
California Coastal Conservancy	Steve Ritchie
California Department of Fish & Game	John Krause
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Clyde Morris
Center for Collaborative Policy	Mary Selkirk, Austin McNerny, Jennifer Krebs

Participants

Organization	Representatives
Alameda County Flood Control District	Kwablah Attiogbe
Alameda County Water District	Jim Ingle
Caltrain	Erik Olafsson
City of Hayward	Gary Calame
City of Menlo Park	Diane Dryer
City of Mountain View	Kevin Woodhouse, Paula Bettencourt
City of Palo Alto	Joe Teresi, Karin D. North
City of Redwood City	Marilyn Harang
City of San Jose	Ann Stillman, Lindsey Wolf
City of Sunnyvale	Lorrie Gervin
City/County of San Francisco	Brian Swanson
County of San Mateo	Ann Stillman
County of Santa Clara, Environmental Resources	Dan Strickman
County of Santa Clara, Parks and Rec	Antoinette Ramos
County of Santa Clara, Planning Office	Steven Golden
East Bay Regional Park District	Carol Severin
Santa Clara Valley Water District	Beth Dyer, Sarah Young
Union Sanitary District	Sami Ghossain

Attachment 2 - South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project Opportunities for Stakeholder Input

