



Dear Local Government representative:

We are writing to provide you with an update on the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project (Project) and to invite you to join the managers from the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge at the Bayfront Park in Menlo Park on Thursday, June 17, 2004 at 9:30 am to learn more about the opportunities and challenges of restoring the salt ponds (directions provided below). This 90-minute tour will provide participants an opportunity to learn more about the technical issues and public access desires that have been identified so far in the planning process, as well as a chance to see some of the newly acquired ponds. Additionally, with key Project staff present, the tour will be an excellent time to voice your jurisdiction's relevant concerns and desires.

Over the past six months, the Project's Stakeholder Forum, a collection of nearly thirty representatives from local agencies, environmental organizations, public access organizations, local businesses, elected officials, and community representatives, has held a number of public meetings. The Stakeholder Forum has worked closely with a number of publicly comprised Work Groups (flood management, public access and recreation, and habitat restoration) to generate ideas and concerns to be addressed during the planning process. This work has been synthesized into a draft document, *The Alternatives Development Framework*, which was published on June 1, 2004 for public review and comment. This document describes the preliminary restoration objectives, alternative evaluation criteria, and the overall project development process. The draft document is available for download from the Project website (<http://www.southbayrestoration.org/>). Comments on the draft framework are being accepted until June 22, 2004. The next major steps in the project are to identify opportunities and constraints and develop initial project concepts for habitat restoration, flood management, and public access. The Stakeholder Forum and Work Groups will continue to hold meetings throughout 2004 to help guide the Project.

If you have any questions or would like more information about the Project, please contact Austin McInerny of the Center for Collaborative Policy at 510/981-1124, or amcinerly@ccp.csus.edu. Also, please be sure to let Austin know if you plan on attending the June 17 site tour.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Ritchie", written over a circular stamp or seal.

Steve Ritchie, Executive Project Manager

Directions to Bayfront Park: The entrance to the park is at the corner of Bayfront Expressway and Marsh Road just a block north of Highway 101 in Menlo Park. Tour will begin from the park restrooms located in the parking lot and attendees should bring walking shoes and a hat for the sun. Binoculars, camera, and water are optional.

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