



South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project

Restoring the Wild Heart of the South Bay

Alviso Update

July 2010

Vol. 1

News of the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project's Alviso Ponds Complex

Pond A8: Construction on Track, Barge Discovery

Construction of Alviso's first Phase 1 tidal restoration launched in January and is on track to introduce tidal flows this spring. Construction will connect 1,400 acres of ponds at A8, A7 and A5 to the Bay, create new marsh and shallow water habitat for pelicans, cormorants and ducks. An armored notch fitted with flashboards would allow the pond to be closed off again to Alviso Slough for flood management or if the change causes mercury problems.



Construction workers have uncovered an old barge in the slough pilot channel, and are removing pieces of the barge as needed to continue their work. The Santa Clara Valley Water District is providing funding and project management. Federal stimulus funds and state Proposition 40 monies have also helped.

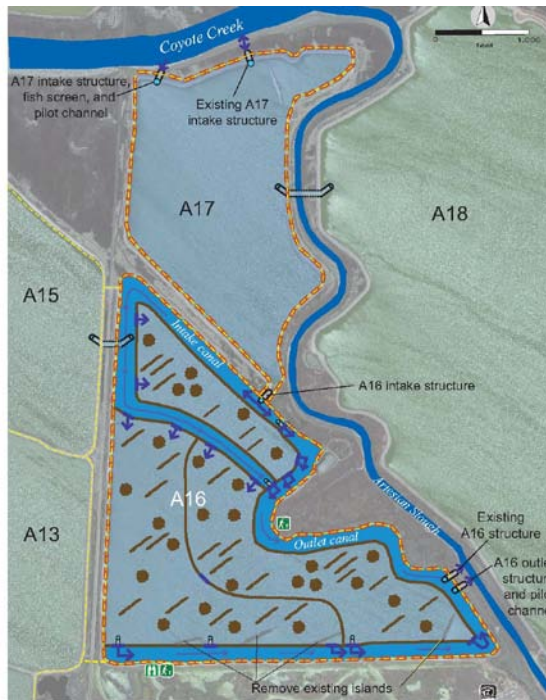
Working Group to Meet September 23rd

The Alviso Santa Clara Working Group will hold its annual meeting on Thursday, September 23 from 1-4 p.m. The meeting will be at the San Jose Santa Clara Water Pollution Control Plant, 700 Los Esteros Road, San Jose.

This Summer: A6 Duck's Head Pond Work

In further Phase 1 work, Ducks Unlimited will begin a 6-week construction project in late summer, once gulls have finished nesting, to restore this 330-acre pond to tidal salt marsh

and tidal channel habitat. Federal stimulus monies, through NOAA, are funding the work.



Pond A16/17: Moving toward 30% Design Phase

Final designs are moving forward again after the state bond freeze to enhance 240 acres of shallow ponds with 50 islands for high-quality shorebird nesting habitat and shallow water foraging habitat. Designs are expected to be completed in 2011. This project will also include a viewing platform and interpretive station.

Shoreline Study Moving Forward

Providing flood protection for upland urban areas is a key goal of the Project, and will allow for greater restoration of tidal marsh in the Alviso area. In the spirit of cooperation, the Coastal Conservancy has partnered with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Santa Clara Valley Water District to study potential flood impacts and

costs in the Santa Clara County portion of the Project area. Maps and an economic impact analysis of potential Silicon Valley flooding with existing salt pond levees, both now and 50 years in the future with sea level rise, are being completed and reviewed by Project partners as part of the Corps' South San Francisco Bay Shoreline Study, and are expected to be finalized in late summer.

Phase 2 Planning Begins

The Project Management Team has launched an internal planning process to consider possible restoration and public access options for Phase 2, which would begin construction in 2012. After developing a list of possible and feasible projects, the plan for Phase 2 will be shared with Project partners and the public to gather input and ideas.

The Salt Ponds restoration process is managed collaboratively by the [California State Coastal Conservancy](#), the [U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service](#), and the [California Department of Fish and Game](#). For more detailed information about the project (or to unsubscribe from this publication) please visit our web site at www.southbayrestoration.org.

Science Update: South Baylands Mercury Report Released

The final report of the South Baylands Mercury Project has been released. It is available on the Project website at http://www.southbayrestoration.org/documents/south-baylands-mercury/SBMP_Final%20Report%2010FEB2010.pdf