



April, 2005

Welcome to the seventh issue of the quarterly electronic newsletter of the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project (SBSP). The restoration process is being managed collaboratively by the [California State Coastal Conservancy](#), the [U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service](#), and the [California Department of Fish and Game](#). The purpose of this newsletter is to provide you with a brief update on our effort to restore more than 15,000 acres of former commercial salt ponds in the South Bay which were purchased by state and federal agencies in March of 2003. For more detailed information about the restoration project please visit our web site at www.southbayrestoration.org. If you would like to unsubscribe from this quarterly update please contact tcorrigan@scc.ca.gov.

1. Technical Committees and Consultants Hard at Work—Next Stakeholder Forum Meeting Scheduled for May 25th in Hayward

As California emerges from an intense season of winter rains, the South Bay Salt Pond Project is emerging from a period of deep study and behind-the-scenes activity on the part of consultants and technical committees. Over the past four months project scientists, local experts and some members of the Stakeholder Forum have been studying key issues related to the project including:

- The sediment dynamics of the Bay
- The specific habitat needs of different bird species
- The constraints and opportunities associated with restoring Pond A8 near Alviso
- The constraints and opportunities associated with restoring Ponds A19, A20, and A21, also known as the Island ponds.

The results of these conversations will be summarized and distributed to Stakeholder Forum members before their next meeting in May (see below) and posted on the project web site at www.southbayrestoration.org/Events.html. The next Stakeholder Forum meeting will take place from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm at Centennial Hall in Hayward. For details and directions please visit the project web site at www.southbayrestoration.org.

2. Calendar for Stakeholder Forum



Below is a revised calendar of the Stakeholder Forum meetings for 2005. The Stakeholder Forum and its associated Work Groups represent a variety of interests from environmentalists to local businesses to local community activists and recreation advocates. All meetings are open to the public. For a more detailed summary of Stakeholder Forum activities, notes from previous meetings and directions and agendas for upcoming meetings please visit the Events and Meetings section of the project web site at www.southbayrestoration.org.

2005 Calendar for Stakeholder Forum	
May 25 Hayward	Review Landscape Assessment and Review of New Data
June 7 San Jose	Perform Weighting and Ranking of Alternatives
September	Seek Consensus on Final Project Alternatives and Phase I Actions
December	Review Preliminary Monitoring and Adaptive Management Plan

3. Fish and Aquatic Habitats Workshop Scheduled for May 20



In January a group of about twenty biologists interested in fish populations in the South Bay met to discuss the effects of the salt ponds restoration project on local fish populations. The meeting, which was organized by Aquamarine Research, a local nonprofit, and hosted by Save the Bay, was a first step toward developing goals for fish populations as part of the planning phase of the restoration. The attendees discussed recommendations, research needs, and general concerns. The resulting recommendations were focused on creating new fish habitat, especially for species in decline, and developing techniques to monitor fish populations over time. Participants expressed concern about the potential for an increase in populations of non-native species as well as harmful exposure to increased contaminants and high salinities. The group also discussed the need for more information about fish populations and habitat in the South Bay, including the link between South Bay tidal marshes and salmonids. As a follow up to this meeting, a Fish and Aquatic Habitats Workshop will be held on May 20. For more information please contact Kate Schafer at (650) 940-1406.

4. Project Celebrates Opening of tide gates on Ponds A9 through A17, Prepares for Levee Breach at Eden Landing



On March 31st, the US Fish and Wildlife Service hosted a crowd of about seventy-five people to witness the launch of the next phase of the Initial Stewardship Plan for the project site. Under bright sunshine, CA Secretary of Resources Mike Chrisman, US Fish and Wildlife Service California/Nevada Operations Manager Steve Thompson and William and Flora Hewlett Foundation President Paul Brest opened the tide gates on a levee near Artesian Slough and Coyote Creek. Opening the gates marked the first step toward

linking water from ponds A9 through A17 to the Bay, an important part of the project's Initial Stewardship Plan.

The goal of the Initial Stewardship Plan is to gradually reverse the salt making process at the project site, in preparation for the launch of the first phase of restoration in 2008. The significant difference between Phase 2 of the Initial Stewardship Plan and Phase 1 (which started operating last July) is that Phase 2 will help create some higher salinity ponds for species like eared grebes and red-necked and Wilson's phalaropes which feed on brine shrimp and brine flies. The Initial Stewardship Plan calls for this higher salinity water to be discharged into batch ponds and mixed with lower salinity water so that it can meet the standard set by the Regional Water Quality Control Board before being discharged into the Bay.

On April 27th, the CA Department of Fish and Game will complete the first of three levee breaches required to introduce tidal action to 835 acres of the Eden Landing restoration site. The first breach will connect the south end of the North Creek channel to Old Alameda Creek, allowing water to flow from this channel through Old Alameda Creek and finally to the Bay. This will restore approximately one mile of historic slough, which will ultimately provide tidal action to the south half of the original 835-acre Eden landing restoration site.

More information about the status of Initial Stewardship Plan activities can be found by reading the Initial Stewardship Status Report at and the annual self monitoring reports prepared by the USFWS and DFG on the project web site at <http://www.southbayrestoration.org/Documents.html>.

5. Visit the New Interactive Map on the Project Web Site

In May, the project web site will offer a new feature for anyone interested in taking a closer look at some of the natural and manmade features of the project site. The site's new interactive map lets you use your web browser to explore the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project and surrounding lands. While viewing the map, you can choose from a number of themes including recreation, flood risk, habitats, historical landscapes and political jurisdictions. The interactive nature of the map enables viewers to zoom out for a regional overview, or zoom in to inspect a particular pond, slough, or other feature. Detailed aerial photography is available as an optional backdrop. Users can access the map directly from the project web site home page starting on May 15. Web site visitors who would like to be notified when new information (including the

interactive map) is posted to the web site please go to <http://mail.southbayrestoration.org/mailman/listinfo/webnews> and add your email to our electronic updates list.

6. Come to the Refuge for a docent-led tour and presentation about the restoration project

For those who would like a closer look at the restoration site, Wildlife Stewards continues to offer docent-led tours and slide presentations about the project. Participants can view a thriving tidal marsh and visit a portion of the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration site during a walking tour in Menlo Park. Wildlife Stewards also offers weekend slide presentations at the Refuge which review the history of the Bay and how the restoration project will transform the South Bay over the coming decades. Tours and presentations are free to the public and suitable for ages 12 years and older. Please call the Refuge Visitor Center at 510-792-0222 to reserve a spot on the tour or to RSVP for one of the presentations this month. The project also has staff and volunteers available to give slide presentations to your community group about the project. To schedule a presentation in the South Bay please contact Deborah Clark at 650-964-0110. For a presentation in the North Bay please contact Caroline Warner at 415-883-3854.

Docent Led Tours and Presentations at the Refuge in May			
What	Date	Time	Location
Presentation	May 7	1:00 – 2:00 pm	Fremont Visitor Center
Presentation	May 14	1:00 - 2:00 pm	Fremont Visitor Center
Tour	May 14	1:00- 3:00 pm	Menlo Park, Bayfront Park
Presentation	May 21	1:00 – 2:00 pm	Fremont Visitor Center
Tour	May 22	1:00- 3:00 pm	Menlo Park, Bayfront Park
Presentation	May 28	1:00- 2:00 pm	Fremont Visitor Center