



July, 2004

Welcome to the fourth 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. This update covers the following topics:

1. Stakeholder Forum and Work Groups Review Planning Framework; Move Forward on Other Components of the Restoration Plan
2. Local Leaders View Project Site at Second Local Government Forum
3. Bay Waters Begin Circulating Through the Salt Ponds In July
4. National Science Panel Makes Recommendations
5. Docent-Led Tours Adjacent to Project Site Now Available
6. Speakers Bureau Available to Make Presentations to Your Organization



1. Stakeholder Forum and Work Groups Review Planning Framework; Move Forward on Other Components of the Restoration Plan

During May and June, the Stakeholder Forum and its associated Work Groups met to finalize the Alternative Planning Framework which outlines a series of detailed objectives for the project and establishes a method for evaluating various restoration alternatives once they are released next year. In July, the Forum will focus on the next major step in the planning process: identifying physical and geographic opportunities and constraints that need to be considered during development of project alternatives.

A Draft of the Opportunities and Constraints Report will be available on the project web site by July 15th at <http://www.southbayrestoration.org>. If

you have trouble downloading the report, please contact Tim Corrigan at the California Coastal Conservancy at 510-286-0325. All of the Stakeholder Forum and associated Work Group meetings are open to the public and anyone interested in helping to plan the restoration is encouraged to attend. For a summary of the key milestones in the planning process and/or a list of upcoming Stakeholder Forum and Work Group meetings and agendas please visit the project web site at <http://www.southbayrestoration.org/Events.html>.



2. Local Leaders View Project Site at Second Local Government Forum

On June 17, 2004 approximately 35 local government representatives representing nine different jurisdictions assembled at Bayfront Park in Menlo Park for the second in a series of local government briefings about the restoration project. The Bayfront Park location provided a useful view of the West Bay Ponds and functioning wetlands in Greco Island, allowing

participants to see what could become of the salt ponds once restoration is completed. Executive Project Director Steve Ritchie, and USFWS management staff Marge Kolar and Clyde Morris provided a thorough briefing on the current status of the Interim Stewardship Plan, the overall restoration planning effort, and an overview of next steps. Government leaders expressed interest in a variety of project details, including, but not limited to, the types of public access and recreation opportunities the project might provide; how implementation of the project would be funded; and future opportunities for touring the actual project site. For more information on local government tours of the project site later this summer, please contact Tracy Grubbs (t.grubbs@sbcglobal.net). The next Local Government Forum will take place this fall before the preliminary project alternatives are released.

3. Bay Waters Begin Circulating Through the Salt Ponds This Month

As part of the project's Initial Stewardship Plan, USFWS managers will be opening gate structures at several ponds in the Alviso area to allow water from the salt ponds to begin mixing with the Bay. Opening these gate structures is the first step to halting the salt making process at the site and allowing the water in the ponds to begin taking on the same salinity as the Bay. Refuge managers will open the newly installed water control gates in mid July, completing one of many steps outlined in the Interim Stewardship Plan for the site. Additional Alviso and Baumberg ponds will be opened to the Bay in the Spring of 2005. The Interim Stewardship Plan is designed to protect the existing habitat values of the acquired ponds and to improve and to manage the property so that it can be restored once the long term restoration plan is completed.

4. National Science Panel Makes Recommendations

In April, the project's National Science Panel met to review the planning process and to provide comments on technical issues pertaining to the restoration plan design. The Panel produced a written summary of their recommendations in mid-June. The

recommendations address the role of the Lead Scientist, funding for science, preparation of a Science Plan, and issues related to adaptive management. Project Lead Scientist Dr. Lynne Trulio and other members of the Project Management Team are preparing a response to the panel's recommendations which will be presented to the Executive Leadership Group for consideration this summer. The Summary of Recommendations and the response should be available by the end of July.

5. Docent-Led Tours Adjacent to Project Site Now Available

The Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge is offering docent-led walking tours about the salt pond restoration during July and August. The tours are suitable for adults and youth age 12 and older. Docents conduct public tours about the restoration project from Bayfront Park in Menlo Park where participants can view West Bay Ponds 3, 4 and 5 and Greco Island. The tours are conducted on Saturdays and Sundays. Group tours and indoor presentations are available upon request. Please contact Carmen Minch at 510-792-0222, ext. 38 for more information.

6. Speakers Bureau Available to Make Presentations to Your Organization or Community

There are numerous ways for you to stay informed about the Restoration Planning Project. In addition to reading this newsletter and regularly checking the project web site for updates, we encourage you to attend monthly Stakeholder Forum Meetings and to join us this fall for the next set of annual public workshops. But if your schedule is already a little too full to participate in these activities or you would like a more general update about the project, consider inviting one of our speakers to give a presentation to the next your community group, service club or professional organization meeting. The San Francisco Bay Joint Venture is partnering with the restoration project to coordinate a Speakers Bureau. Speakers are available to present a 30 minute slide presentation about the project and to answer general questions. For more information please contact Caroline Warner at the Joint Venture office 415-883-3854 or cwarner@sfbayjv.org.