



Summaries of *Ad Hoc* Working Groups December 2004 – April 2005

Background:

Over the past five months, the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project partners have been hard at work refining the three proposed long-term restoration designs. These alternatives consist of three different long-term visions for transformation of the existing salt ponds, and were described in detail to the SBSP Stakeholder Forum at their meeting in December 2004. These alternatives were developed based on input from the project technical consultants, the Project Management Team, Science Team, the Project's National Science Panel, as well as the project Stakeholder Forum and members of the public.

Since the December Stakeholder Forum meeting, the project consultants have been busy refining these alternatives to ensure their soundness and their ability to achieve the project objectives. Over the past five months, several informal *ad hoc* Working Groups met to focus on certain specific scientific issues critical to the long-term restoration design. Five groups were convened for one to three meetings, on the following variety of topics:

1. Pond A-8 Working Group
2. Sediment Working Group
3. Birds and Habitat Working Group
4. Island Ponds Adaptive Management Working Group

Participants in these groups consisted of scientists, members of the Project Management Team, and interested stakeholders, including members of the Stakeholder Forum. A brief summary of each of these Working Groups is attached. Each summary describes the organization and make-up of each working Group, and any key outcomes, along with any proposed next steps pertinent to the long-term restoration plan.

Future Working Groups:

A second workshop on Birds and Habitat will be held on Monday, May 23, 2005. A third workshop on Sediments will be held on June 17, 2005.

Project Lead Scientist Lynne Trulio will also be convening an additional *ad hoc* working group on Fish and Subtidal habitats. This group will meet for the first time on Friday, May 20, 2005.

For more information about any of these Working Groups, please contact Mary Selkirk of the Center for Collaborative Policy at 510-527-7075 or mselectkirk@earthlink.net.