



ENCOURAGED STUDIES

The Project participants have identified a range of studies that are of interest to the Project, but may not bear directly on the Project's ability to achieve its Objectives. Although the Project may not be able to fund these studies, the Project Managers encourage researchers to consider conducting these studies or others that may lend themselves to the South Bay ecosystem. Research of interest to the Project Managers includes:

- Western pond turtles—A population of western pond turtles lives on the NASA Ames Research Center, which is adjacent to the Project in Sunnyvale. In particular, a section of the Bay trail will pass near turtle habitat. Managers would like more information about the ecology and habitat use of this population, as well as any information on how trail use might negatively affect the turtles.
- Invasive species other than *Spartina alterniflora* and California Gulls—Research on these known problem species is underway, but there may be other species, either native or exotic, that may pose a threat to the South Bay ecosystem.
- Restoration of native marsh plants—Little is known about the habitat requirements or restoration requirements of a number of native marsh species, such as *Cordylanthus maritimus* subsp. *Palustris* and *Suaeda californica*. Research on the distribution, ecology, and restoration potential for these species is needed.
- Benthic and epibenthic invertebrates in the ponds and Bay—While there is some information on the invertebrates that populate the ponds and the South Bay, more comprehensive research on species distribution and abundance is needed.
- Native oysters—A coordinated research effort to understand the distribution and restoration of the native Olympia oyster has been initiated by NOAA, Save The Bay, UC Davis, and San Jose State University. We encourage researchers to join this effort.
- Carbon sequestration in tidal wetlands—Preliminary data suggest tidal wetlands are efficient carbon sinks but more information is needed to characterize the ability of tidal wetlands to store carbon over time.