

**Regional Planning Documents and Studies Applicable to South San Francisco Bay Salt Ponds Restoration Project**  
5/30/03

<b>Document</b>	<b>Baylands Ecosystem Habitat Goals Report</b>	<b>Bay Plan</b>	<b>Basin Plan</b>	<b>Implementation Strategy</b>	<b>Invasive Spartina Project: Spartina Control Program (SCP)</b>
<b>Lead Agency or Organization</b>	<i>San Francisco Bay Area Wetlands Ecosystem Goals Project</i>	<i>SF Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC)</i>	<i>SF Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCBC)</i>	<i>San Francisco Bay Joint Venture (SFBJV)</i>	<i>Coastal Conservancy/US Fish &amp; Wildlife Service</i>
<b>Participants</b>	Approximately 100 scientists or resource managers from agencies, nongovernmental organizations, consulting firms, universities. Led primarily by U.S. EPA and SF Bay RWQCB. Other participants included DFG, San Francisco Estuary Institute, BCDC, DWR, Conservancy, Fish and Wildlife Service...	BCDC commissioners, 27 appointees from local, state and federal government adopt Bay Plan. BCDC assisted in development of Bay Plan by a 19 member Advisory Committee; consulting firms; city, county, state and federal agencies; university faculties; business organizations.	RWQCBC (9 members--governor appointees); RWQCB staff; public hearings.	SFBJV's Management Board: 27 public agencies, private and non-profit conservation organizations, business representatives and agricultural groups.	Coastal Conservancy, US Fish & Wildlife Service, and over fifteen individual scientists and consulting firms.
<b>Date</b>	1999, 2nd reprint in 2000	Oct-02	1995	2001	Apr-03
<b>Overview</b>	The report recommends the kinds, amounts, and distribution of wetlands and related habitats needed to sustain diverse and healthy communities of fish and wildlife resources in the SF Bay-Delta Estuary, including the baylands of Suisun and San Pablo Bay.	McAteer-Petris Act directs BCDC to issue or deny permit appls. for placing fill, extracting materials, changing us of any land, water or structure in area of jurisdiction, conforming w/ provision and policies of the Act and SF Bay Plan, guiding protection and development of Bay and its tributary waterways, marshes, managed wetlands, salt ponds, shoreline.	A master policy document containing descriptions of the legal technical, and programmatic bases of water quality regulation in the San Francisco Bay region, including 1) Statement of beneficial water uses the Regional Board will protect; 2) Water quality objectives needed to protect designated beneficial water uses; 3) Strategies/time schedules for achieving water quality objectives.	Responding to the loss of Bay Area wetlands, SFBJV built on the <i>Habitat Goals</i> report as a primary framework to devise a region-wide wetland restoration strategy incorporating both the biological needs of wetlands and issues of public health and safety.	The San Francisco Estuary Invasive <i>Spartina</i> Project (ISP) is a regionally coordinated effort of Federal, State and local agencies, private landowners etc., with ultimate goal of arresting and reversing the spread of non-native cordgrasses in the San Francisco Estuary.
<b>Goals/Objectives</b>	To use available scientific knowledge to identify the types, amounts and distribution of wetlands and related habitats needed to sustain diverse and healthy communities of fish and wildlife resources in SF Bay Area; to provide biological basis to guide a regional wetlands planning proces for public and private interests seeking to preserve, enhance, restore the egological integrity of wetland communities.	1) Protect the Bay as a great natural resource for the benefit of present and future generations; 2) Develop the Bay and its shoreline to their highest potential with a minimum of Bay filling.	Protect and maintain thriving aquatic ecosystems and the resources those systems provide to society, and to accomplish these in an economically and socially sound manner. <b>Narrative objectives:</b> a general description of water quality that must be attained through pollution control measures and watershed management. Numerical objectives: describing the maximum amount of pollutant concentrations that can remain in water column without causing any adverse effect on organisms using aquatic systems as habitat, on people consuming those organisms and water, and on other current or potential beneficial uses.	Secure, restore, and improve wetlands, riparian habitat, and associated wetlands by applying incentives and using non-regulatory techniques; strengthen and promote new sources of funding; improve habitat management on public/ private lands through cooperative agreements and incentives; support monitoring and evaluation of habitat restoration projects and research to improve future restoration projects.	Focusing geographically on nearly 40,000 acres tidal marsh, and 29,000 acres tidal flats, the ISP when implemented will provide opportunities to maximize resources, effectively disseminate information, facilitate regional monitoring, and reduce the occurrence of cordgrass reinfes-tation. To this end, the ISP proposes to employ a number of treatment techniques to eradicate the four invasive non-native cordgrass species--from mowing, pulling, and/or smothering plants to spraying w/ herbicides.
<b>Policies/ Recommendations/Alternatives</b>	<b>Region-wide goals are as follows:</b> Many large patches of tidal marsh connected by corridors to enabling movement of small animals and marsh-dependent birds; Several large complexes of salt ponds managed for shorebirds, waterfowl; Extensive areas of managed seasonal ponds; Large expanses of managed marsh; Continuous corridors of riparian vegetation along Bay's tributary streams; Restored beaches, natural salt ponds & other unique habitats; Intact patches of adjacent habitats, including grasslands, seasonal wetlands, forests.	<b>Bay Plan</b> has Findings & Policies on <u><i>The Bay as a Resource</i></u> : Fish, Other Aquatic Organisms and Wildlife; Water Quality; Water Surface Area and Volume; Tidal Marshes and Tidal Flats; Smog and Weather; Shell Deposits; Fresh Water Inflow; Subtidal Areas. (Continued below)	The <b>Basin Plan</b> defines <u><i>Beneficial Uses</i></u> and <u><i>Water Quality Objectives</i></u> for the SF Bay's surface and groundwaters. Beneficial Uses define the resources, services, and qualities of aquatic ecosystems that are the ultimate goals of protecting and achieving water quality, and consist of Agricultural Supply; Areas of Special Biological Significance; Cold Freshwater Habitat; Estuarine Habitat; Municipal and Domestic Supply; (Continued below)	To more than double tidal wetlands and more than triple riparian habitats around Estuary in the next two decades, the SFBJV recommends acquiring, restoring and/or enhancing acreage of bay habitats, seasonal wetlands, and habitats associated w/ creeks and lakes in the North Bay, Suisun, Central Bay, South Bay and San Francisco/San Mateo Coast subregions.	The SCP proposes three Alternatives for implementation: Alt 1 offers regional eradication using <b>all</b> available control methods; Alt 2 offers regional eradication using <b>only non-chemical</b> control methods; Alt 3 offers <b>no action</b> , but <b>continued limited, regional uncoordinated treatment</b> . The list of proposed treatments include hand-pulling/manual excavation; covering/ blanketing; flooding/drainage; burning; pruning, mowing & flaming; crushing/mechancial smothering; mechanical excavation/dredging; mechanical ripping/flailing/maceration; herbicide, ground or boat application; herbicide, aerial application.
<b>Policies etc.</b> (continued)	<b>Ecological design principles:</b> Center tidal marsh restoration, where possible, around existing populations of threatened and endangered species; Include restoration of tidal marsh along salinity gradients of Estuary & tributaries; Emphasize restoring tidal marsh along Bay edge and where streams enter baylands; Provide natural features--pans, large tide channels within tidal marshes; Reestablish natural transitions from tidal flat through tidal marsh to upland, and between diked wetlands & adjacent uplands; Provide buffers on undeveloped adjacent lands to protect habitats from disturbance. <b>There are specific recommendations for each region also (not listed here)</b>	Findings and Policies on <u><i>Development of Bay and Shoreline</i></u> : Safety of Fills; Protection of Shoreline; Dredging; Water-Related Industry; Navigational Safety and Oil Spill Prevention; Ports; Airports; Transportation; Commercial Fishing; Recreation; Public Access; Appearance, Design, Scenic Views; Salt Ponds & Other Managed Wetlands; Other Uses of the Bay and Shoreline; Fills in Accord with Bay Plan; Fill for Bay-Oriented Commercial Recreation and Bay-Oriented Public Assembly on Privately-Owned (or Publicly-Owned) Property; filling for Public Trust Uses on Publically-Owned Property Granted in Trust to a Public Agency by the Legislature; Mitigation; Public Trust.	Navigation; Industrial Process Supply; Preservation of Rare and Endangered Species; Water Contact Recreation; Noncontact Water Recreation; Shellfish Harvesting; Fish Spawning; Warm Freshwater Habitat; Wildlife Habitat. The Basin Plan describes specific actions to be taken by local public entities and industries to comply with the water quality policies and objectives, in order to protect Beneficial Uses.		

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<b>Document</b>	<b><u>Long Term Management Strategy for Dredge Material</u></b>	<b><u>CALFED ROD or EIR/S</u></b>	<b><u>CALFED ERP: Draft Stage 1 Implementation Plan</u></b>	<b><u>South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Feasibility Analysis</u></b>
<b>Lead Agency or Organization</b>		<i>CALFED Bay Delta Authority</i>	<i>CALFED Bay-Delta Authority</i>	<i>Stuart W. Siegel; Philip A.M. Bachand</i>
<b>Participants</b>	San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC), San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (CE), and the U.S. EPA, along with navigation interests, fishing groups, environmental organizations, other interested parties.	A cooperative, interagency effort of 18 State and Federal agencies with management or regulatory responsibilities for Bay-Delta, including representatives of agricultural, urban, environmental, fishery, business interests, Indian tribes and rural communities.	A cooperative, interagency effort of 18 State and Federal agencies with management or regulatory responsibilities for Bay-Delta, including representatives of agricultural, urban, environmental, fishery, business interests, Indian tribes and rural communities.	
<b>Date</b>	1998	Aug-00	Aug-01	Mar-02
<b>Overview</b>	The limited capacity for disposal of dredged material in the SF Bay and the controversies over environmental impacts highlighted the need for improved management of and alternative disposal options for the material. With the help of participants, the LTMS program for dredged material from SF Bay was formed.	To address the efforts of the Bay-Delta Program to manage California's water as a resource, the ROD sets out actions for employing Stage 1 of the 30 year Implementation Plan of the Ecosystem Restoration Program for the Bay-Delta Estuary, and representing the culmination of the NEPA/CEQA processes.	ERP is designed to maintain, improve, and increase aquatic and terrestrial habitats and improve ecological functions in SF Bay/Sacto-San Joaquin Delta supporting sustainable populations of diverse plant/animal species; to achieve recovery of at-risk species in Delta/Suisun Bay, and support recovery of at-risk species in SF Bay & watersheds.	A long-established goal of resource managers in San Francisco Bay Area has been to acquire the South Bay Salt Pond complex and return it to its pre-existing tidal marsh condition. A feasibility analysis was undertaken to determine the biological, physical and chemical conditions, as well as the wetland restoration potential of these ponds.
<b>Goals/Objectives</b>	Maintain in an economically and environmentally sound manner those channels necessary for navigation in San Francisco Bay and Estuary and eliminate unnecessary dredging activities in the Bay and Estuary; Conduct dredged material disposal in the most environmentally sound manner; Maximize the use of dredged material as a resource; and Establish a cooperative permitting framework for dredging and dredged material disposal applications.	The ROD reflects a final selection of a long-term Preferred Program Alternative (PPA) which lists specific actions, describing strategies for implementing the PPA, and identifying complimentary actions CALFED will pursue toward accomplishing the four-fold long term restoration of the Estuary: 1) restoring ecological health of fragile, depleted Bay-Delta Estuary; 2) improve water supply reliability for State's farms and cities drawing water from Delta/tributaries; 3) protect drinking water quality for Californians relying on Delta; 4) protect Delta levees ensuring integrity as conveyance and ecosystem.	1) Achieve recovery of at-risk species dependent on the Bay, Delta and Suisun as 1st step toward establishing large, self-sustaining populations, and minimize need for future endangered species listings; 2) Rehabilitate natural process in Bay-Delta system to support...natural aquatic and associated terrestrial biotic communities/habitats favoring native members; 3) Maintain/enhance populations of selected species for sustainable commercial/recreational harvest; 4) Protect/restore functional habitat types in Bay-Delta estuary/watershed for ecological & public values; 5) Prevent estab. of non-native species & reducing negative bio/economic impacts; 6) Improve/maintain water & sediment quality to support healthy, diverse ecosystems, and eliminating toxic impacts	To provide starting point to evaluate all topics relevant to purchase and restoration of some/all of South Bay Salt Ponds, primarily to evaluate the changes each restoration site undergoes to transform from salt pond to either tidal marsh, ponds or pannes (or combination of these), and the <i>rate</i> at which these ponds can be restored to tidal marsh, etc.
<b>Policies/ Recommendations/ Alternatives</b>			1) Prevent establishment of additional non-native species and reduce negative biological, economic, social impacts of established non-native species in Bay-Delta Estuary and watersheds. 2) Develop programs for Wildlife-Friendly Agriculture and conduct studies to better understand relationships between farming and wildlife habitat. 3) Implement environmental education actions throughout the geographic scope. 4) Ensure restoration and water management action through all regions can be sustained under future climatic conditions. 5) Ensure restoration is not threatened by degraded environmental water quality. 6) Ensure recovery of at-risk species by developing conceptual understanding and models of processes that cross multiple	1) Mix tidal marsh restoration and shallow open water management; 2) Resolve sediment deficit with phased restoration and/or dredged sediment reuse; 3) Dredged sediment reuse may be desirable and economically feasible; 4) Account for all bittern and hypersaline brine in the short and long term; 5) Commit to immediate and long-term operations, maintenance and monitoring (flood protection etc.); 6) Restoration needs to consider the many pressures on biological resources; 7) Beware of differential restoration feasibility (in other words, not all ponds can be restored with equal ease/cost).