

SOUTH BAY SALT PONDS RESTORATION PLAN

STAKEHOLDER ISSUES ASSESSMENT

What is a Stakeholder Issues Assessment — and what is its purpose for the South Bay Salt Ponds Restoration Planning project?

A stakeholder issues assessment is an information-gathering process conducted by a neutral professional (in this case, the Center for Collaborative Policy) to determine:

- ◆ Who should be involved in the planning effort?
- ◆ What are the central issues and concerns of South Bay stakeholders, as well as the broader Bay Area community?
- ◆ What kind of approach should the project partners (Conservancy, USFWS, DFG) consider in designing the public participation and decision-making processes?

What's involved in an assessment?

Typical steps in a stakeholder assessment include the following:

Decide Who Should be Involved

- ◆ Who may be affected by the final restoration plan?
- ◆ Who has a central interest in, or concern about, the plan?
- ◆ Key stakeholders will likely include such groups as environmental restoration advocacy organizations, recreational interests, local cities and other agencies, flood management districts, recreational fishing and hunting groups, public health interests, and others.

Conduct Confidential Interviews

- ◆ Create a standardized interview questionnaire that provides the framework for focused stakeholder discussion but allows for specific stakeholder interests to also be heard.

Conduct Confidential Interviews (Con't)

- ◆ Seek an understanding of the issues that are most important to each stakeholder.
- ◆ Look for areas of common interest, disagreement or concern.
- ◆ Solicit stakeholder views on how the planning process should be structured (e.g. what kind of public participation they recommend, what kinds of technical review should be built in to the process, how to ensure a transparent planning process, how to foster ongoing public support)

Analyze the Interview Findings

- ◆ Identify key interests and issues of concern for each stakeholder.
- ◆ Analyze stakeholders' incentives and willingness to collaborate with one another in good faith and throughout the duration of the planning process.
- ◆ Assess whether there are interests or goals that are in direct conflict with those of other stakeholders.
- ◆ Identify any potential barriers to successful collaborative planning.
- ◆ Evaluate the chances for a successful collaboratively developed restoration plan.

Recommend a Design Process

- ◆ Prepare a written summary of key findings and recommendations.
- ◆ Recommend an appropriate collaborative planning process design and identify the necessary resources to carry it out.