



*You are Invited:*

## Alviso Ponds & Santa Clara County Working Group

The **South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project (SBSP project)** is the most ambitious wetlands restoration on the west coast of North America. The project's 50-year vision is restoration of 15,100 acres of former salt production ponds in San Francisco Bay to wetlands habitat. The project offers an opportunity to restore a huge percentage of tidal marsh lost in the Bay, and to provide a home for several endangered species, while improving flood management, public access and recreational opportunities for the South Bay's three million residents.

Simultaneous with tidal marsh restoration, opportunities for major flood protection improvement are currently under study through the **South Bay San Francisco Bay Shoreline Study (Shoreline Study)**. This study is a parallel project co-sponsored by the Santa Clara Valley Water District, State Coastal Conservancy, and the US Army Corps of Engineers.

Together, these two projects are working in tandem to address this extraordinary opportunity to shape the future of the South Bay's baylands. Many residents of the South Bay are already actively involved in the planning phase for the SBSP project, providing advice on every phase of the restoration plan development.

**Through the newly forming Alviso Ponds/Santa Clara County Working Group, the project partners are seeking the active participation of the public to help shape long-term tidal marsh restoration and flood protection in the South Bay.**

### **What is the purpose of this Working Group?**

The Alviso Ponds and Santa Clara County Working Group will support both the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project and the Shoreline Study by providing ongoing, input and advice to both projects.

Phase 1 of the SBSP project in the Alviso Ponds and Santa Clara County focuses on opening up some salt ponds to the bay, and on expanding and improving public access. Simultaneously, the Shoreline Study is developing detailed plans for the long-term flood protection levees, and other flood protection improvements.

**The mission of the Working Group is to:**

- **Provide an active voice for community members in the Phase 1 restoration implementation and flood protection planning**
- **Provide a forum for contributing to solutions to rising sea levels in the South Bay; and**
- **Develop ways to more actively engage the general public in supporting future project funding needs.**

### **What will the Work Group do?**

Over the next two years, Work Group members will:

- **Help design the public access improvements at Pond A-18 and the new Bay Trail spine segment adjacent to Sunnyvale that will adjoin the existing trail along Stevens Creek;**
- **Provide input on the restoration actions at Ponds A-6, A-16 and Pond A-8**
- **Review and provide feedback on proposed Phase 1 research and applied studies**
- **Review and provide feedback on the Shoreline Study Problems, Opportunities, and Objectives;**
- **Review and provide feedback on the proposed Shoreline Study project alternatives as they develop**

### **Who Should Participate?**

The project managers are seeking the active involvement of members of the public who live, work and/or recreate within the Alviso/North Santa Clara and South Alameda Counties. In particular, the project partners are seeking participation from community members representing the following interests or organizations:

- Private industry and Chambers of Commerce
- Homeowners associations
- Environmental groups
- Municipal and county public works and/or planning departments/agencies
- Municipal, county and regional transportation and/or economic development agencies/organizations
- The scientific community
- CalTrans
- Major private utilities, such as Pacific Gas & Electric Co. and retail water companies/agencies
- Recreational interests (e.g., fishing, boating, bicycling, hiking, birding)

The project partners are also seeking the active involvement of local elected officials and/or their staff from cities in the area—including Fremont, Milpitas, Alviso, San Jose, Sunnyvale, Palo Alto and Mountain View. Members of the SBSP project's ongoing Stakeholder Forum are also invited to actively participate in this Working Group.

The Alviso Ponds and Santa Clara County Working Group will be chaired by Clyde Morris, Manager of the Don Edwards National Wildlife Refuge.

### **How often will the Working Group meet?**

The Work Group will meet about two to four times a year. The meetings will be professionally facilitated, to help participants to provide focused review, discussion and

input to the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project Management Team and to the Shoreline Study Management Team.

Working Group members will be expected to report back to their peers and constituents groups on a regular basis, and to bring forward any concerns from their communities to the Working Group.

### **What is the timeframe for the Working Group?**

Phase I projects of the SBSP project expected to be complete by the end of 2010. The feasibility report and Environmental Impact Statement/Report for the Shoreline Study are expected to be completed in mid-2011. Work Group members are encouraged to remain active through completion of the Shoreline Study's feasibility report.

**The kick-off meeting of the Alviso Ponds/ Santa Clara County Working Group will be on Wednesday, June 6, 2007 from 2-5 p.m., location TBD.**

If you are interested in joining the Working Group, or would like more information, please contact Mary Selkirk, South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project at 510-527-7075, or [mselkirk@ccp.csus.edu](mailto:mselkirk@ccp.csus.edu). For more information, please visit the SBSP project website at: [www.southbayrestoration.org](http://www.southbayrestoration.org) and the Shoreline Study website at: [www.southbayshoreline.org](http://www.southbayshoreline.org)

## **Background: Assessing the SBSP Project's Risks and Uncertainties**

*Along with this extraordinary opportunity to create new wetlands, improve flood protection and recreation opportunities, there are risks and uncertainties with this project that must be addressed, for example:*

- *How will the projects take into account the effects of global climate change on the South Bay, in terms of the projects' shared purposes - restoration, flood protection and public access?*
- *How do we make sure that the restoration will accomplish its objectives, without causing unintended negative impacts? For example, how can we ensure that expanded public access will provide the types of planned high-quality opportunities without harming the wildlife we are trying to protect and revitalize?*

*The Project has been designed to account for these uncertainties, but project partners are seeking active involvement of the public to ensure these types of risks and uncertainties are being adequately addressed.*

***Phase 1** (spring 2008-2011) of the SBSP project will include wetlands restoration activities throughout the project area, which extends from Menlo Park on the west side of the Bay, to the east Bay near Hayward. Phase 1 activities also include research, monitoring and pilot studies, and ongoing public input to ensure that the project partners have all the information they need to measure whether the restoration is proceeding as predicted.*

*The project partners are convening Working Groups in each of the three pond areas: Alviso/Santa Clara County, Eden Landing (Hayward) and Ravenswood (Menlo Park). Each of these groups will provide an opportunity for interested members of the public to provide feedback and advice to project managers on Phase 1 of the restoration project. In addition, the Alviso Working Group will focus on the Shoreline Study.*