



Dear Local Government Leader:

We are writing to invite you to the first South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project **Local Government Forum** meeting. You are invited because you either work with a governmental agency that borders the project site or has jurisdiction over some portion of the area. **The Local Government Forum's first meeting will be held March 18, 2004** at the Centennial Hall in Hayward, CA from 12:30-2:30pm. Centennial Hall is located at 22292 Foothill Blvd, Hayward, 94541.

The South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project is moving into high gear in planning for the long-term restoration of the recently purchased Cargill salt ponds. Critical to the success of the planning process is the active participation of the public at all steps of the restoration plan development over the next two years. The Project's Stakeholder Forum, a collection of nearly thirty state and federal agencies, environmental organizations, and community representatives has already held a number of meetings to begin providing input to the Project Management Team and its technical consultants on the restoration project's objectives and on elements of the restoration plan itself.

Local Government Forum meeting attendees will be provided with an overview of the restoration planning process, timeline, and initial opportunities and constraints. In addition, the meeting will provide an opportunity for local government staff to collectively discuss issues and concerns that must be addressed during the restoration planning process. We will also discuss what the best methods for involving and updating your jurisdiction's elected officials are. Lastly, depending on the level of interest, we may hold a short tour of the Baumberg Salt Ponds immediately after the meeting. Directions for the tour will be provided at the meeting. We anticipate holding Local Government Forum meetings approximately every 3-4 months over the duration of the multi-year restoration planning process.

In some cases, we have notified multiple individuals within some jurisdictions of this upcoming meeting. We ask that you discuss amongst your colleagues who should attend the Local Government Forum and notify Austin McNerny (contact info below) who will be attending and if you are interested in the Baumberg Salt Pond tour.

If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact Austin McNerny of the Center for Collaborative Policy at 510-981-1124, or amcinermy@ccp.csus.edu.

Yours truly,

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cc: Jim Fiedler, Santa Clara Valley Water District
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