



**February, 2005**

Welcome to the sixth issue of the quarterly electronic newsletter of the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project (SBSP). The restoration process is being managed collaboratively by the [California State Coastal Conservancy](#), the [U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service](#), and the [California Department of Fish and Game](#). The purpose of this newsletter is to provide you with a brief update on our effort to restore more than 15,000 acres of former commercial salt ponds in the South Bay which were purchased by state and federal agencies in March of 2003. For more detailed information about the restoration project please visit our web site at [www.southbayrestoration.org](http://www.southbayrestoration.org). If you would like to unsubscribe from this quarterly update please contact [tcorrigan@scc.ca.gov](mailto:tcorrigan@scc.ca.gov).



### **1. Stakeholder Forum Celebrates First Year of Work—Plans for 2005**

The Stakeholder Forum closed out 2004 after a solid year of work providing input and guidance to the Project Management Team and consultants as they develop the restoration plan. The Forum held its last meeting of the year in December with a review of their progress to date in establishing goals and objectives and providing detailed feedback on preliminary program alternatives for the project. The Forum will start work in 2005 with a workshop to review the landscape assessment currently being completed by project consultants and to review the results of numerous technical meetings taking place this month (see article below). In April, the Forum will take part in a weighting and ranking exercise to see how well each of the alternatives meets the original goals and objectives of the project. Here is a summary of the four program alternatives:

**No Action Alternative-** assumes that the early stages of the Initial Stewardship plan are completed, but no action is taken to restore habitat or halt the erosion of the existing levees.

**Alternative 1. Managed Pond Emphasis-** creates a 50:50 mix of managed ponds and tidal habitats with varying degrees of pond management and a phasing and evolution of habitats over time.

**Alternative 2. Mix of Managed Pond and Tidal Habitat-** creates a mix of 25% managed ponds and 75% tidal habitats with varying degrees of pond management and a phasing and evolution of habitats over time.

**Alternative 3. Tidal Habitat Emphasis-** creates a mix of 10% managed ponds and 90% tidal habitats with varying degrees of pond management and a phasing and evolution of habitats over time.

## 2. Calendar for Stakeholder Forum

Below is a summary of the Stakeholder Forum Schedule for 2005. The Stakeholder Forum and its associated Work Groups represent a variety of interests from environmentalists to developers to local community activists and recreation advocates. All meetings are open to the public. For a more detailed summary of Stakeholder Forum activities, notes from previous meetings and directions and agendas for upcoming meetings please visit the Events and Meetings section of the project web site at [www.southbayrestoration.org](http://www.southbayrestoration.org).

2005 Anticipated Calendar for Stakeholder Forum	
<b>March Joint Work Group Meeting</b>	Review Landscape Assessment and work of Science Team Technical Groups
<b>April Stakeholder Forum Meeting</b>	Perform Weighting and Ranking of Alternatives
<b>July Stakeholder Forum Meeting</b>	Seek Consensus on Final NEPA/CEQA Alternatives and Phase I Project
<b>Oct/ Nov Stakeholder Forum Meeting</b>	Review Progress Report on Adaptive Management Plan, Project Phasing and Shoreline Study



## 3. Science Team Convenes Technical Meetings

As the restoration planning process rounds the bend in 2005, the project Science Team headed by Dr. Lynne Trulio has been putting the finishing touches on the Science Plan. The Science Plan serves as the scientific foundation for a myriad of activities which will be included in the final restoration program. The Plan synthesizes existing information about nine key issues related to the restoration including how to recover special status or “indicator” species, techniques for reducing the impact of invasive and nuisance species and best practices for mitigating the effects of human related activities and infrastructure on the project.

The Science Team has also been convening a series of technical meetings with local experts and key members of the Stakeholder Forum. The purpose of the meetings is to

help shed new light on some of the intriguing questions facing the project including how sediment dynamics in the Bay will affect the restoration, how best to address the specific habitat needs of different bird species, and how to predict the effect of the restoration on sub-tidal habitat and fish populations. The Science Team is also examining opportunities and constraints associated with restoring Pond A8 near Alviso and proposing experiments and studies that could be included in the tidal restoration of Ponds 19, 20, and 21, also known as the Island Ponds. The Island Ponds will be restored as part of the Initial Stewardship Plan and could serve as early models for future tidal restoration of other ponds.

### 3. Come to the Refuge for a docent-led tour and presentation about the restoration project

For those who would like a closer look at the restoration site, Wildlife Stewards continues to offer docent-led tours and slide presentations about the project. Participants can view a thriving tidal marsh and visit a portion of the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration site during a walking tour in Menlo Park. Wildlife Stewards also offers weekend slide presentations at the Refuge which review the history of the Bay and how the restoration project will transform the South Bay over the coming decades. Tours and presentations are free to the public and suitable for ages 12 years and older. Please call the Refuge Visitor Center at 510-792-0222 to reserve a spot on the tour or to RSVP for one of the presentations this month. The project also has staff and volunteers available to give slide presentations to your community group about the project. To schedule a presentation in the South Bay please contact Deborah Clark 650-964-0110. For a presentation in the North Bay please contact Caroline Warner 415-883-3854.

<b>Docent Led Tours and Presentations at the Refuge in February</b>			
<b>What</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Location</b>
<b>Presentation</b>	February 5th	1:00 – 2:00 pm	Fremont Visitor Center
<b>Tour</b>	February 15th	1:00 to 3:00 pm	Bayfront Park Menlo Park
<b>Presentation</b>	February 20th	1:00 – 2:00 pm	Alviso Education Center



### 4. Project Continues to Work with Local Governments

The project hosted its third Local Government Forum in November last year at the City of Sunnyvale Council Chambers. The meeting provided the 25 local government representatives in attendance an update on the restoration planning process and the Initial Stewardship Plan and an explanation of the process for formulation of draft alternatives for EIS/EIR analysis.

In addition, attendees were able to review and discuss maps depicting the range of preliminary restoration options for the entire project area with Clyde Morris from the US Fish and Wildlife Service and John Krause from the CA

Department of Fish and Game. Attendees identified a number of issues and concerns which will be addressed by the Project Management Team including:

- the desire for more shoreline access
- the location of parking for public access
- the desire for more non-motorized boat access
- the need for more detail regarding the control of mosquitoes and invasive species
- the need for continued close coordination with South Bay governments particularly with regard to flood management issues

In 2005, the Project will expand outreach to local governments by coordinating local government forums with presentations to city councils, and one-on-one meetings with Project staff.