

October 26, 2004

Re: Outcomes from Pond Cluster Options Workshops (September 29 & 30, 2004)

Background: Two public workshops were held in late September 2004 to seek input on shaping the initial ideas for restoration alternatives at the pond complex level. Workshops were held at the following locations and times:

Eden Landing Ponds: Initial options for restoration alternatives
Wednesday, September 29, 2004 (1:30 to 4:30 pm)
Location: Marina Community Center, San Leandro

Alviso/Ravenswood Ponds: Initial options for restoration alternatives
Thursday, September 30, 2004 (1:30 to 4:30 pm)
Location: San Jose/Santa Clara Water Pollution Control Plant, San Jose

A third workshop will be held on October 27, 2004 at the Coyote Point Museum located in San Mateo to discuss initial options for restoration for the entire South Bay Salt Pond Project area. This third meeting will build on the outcomes from the earlier meetings.

Attendance at both workshops was strong with approximately 40 attending the Eden Landing workshop and nearly 50 individuals attending the Alviso/Ravenswood Ponds workshop.

Meeting Materials: In advance of the meeting, interested parties were sent a document entitled "Preliminary Options Considerations" that explained the set of criteria that helped guide where specific design elements (e.g., tidal habitat, managed pond habitat, flood management, public access/recreation) should most likely be located within a pond complex. This document was also available from the project website (<http://www.southbayrestoration.org>).

Substantive Meeting Outcomes:

1. *Welcome, Introductions, and Agenda Review*

At both workshops, Steve Ritchie, Executive Project Manager, welcomed everyone and asked attendees to introduce themselves. Ritchie provided an overview of the workshop objectives:

- Explore range of preliminary restoration options for each pond complex and build common understanding of what may be physically desirable/achievable.
- Identify what features and general considerations would be common to all pond complexes and which features would vary.

- Develop shared understanding of what a restoration option does and does not include and what level of detail is appropriate at this time in the overall restoration planning process.

He then explained that at this early time in the overall planning process, the Project Management Team is not looking for the public's preference of which option is most desirable, but rather, whether or not the options depict an adequate range of design options.

Mary Selkirk, facilitator from the Center for Collaborative Policy, explained that these workshops are configured to answer three questions:

- Do the options meet the project guiding principles, goals, and objectives?
- Do the options capture the range of reasonable possibilities?
- Is anything missing from the options and is there a fourth option?

2. *Project Schedule and Opportunities for Public Input*

Ritchie summarized an updated project schedule detailing the key restoration development milestones and upcoming opportunities for public input into the overall restoration planning process (updated timeline is available from the project website). Highlights included:

- November 2004: Formal scoping as required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) will be initiated. The joint federal NEPA leads for this process will be the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the US Army Corps of Engineers and the State of California CEQA lead will be the Department of Fish and Game.
- December 2004: Preliminary project alternatives will be sufficiently developed for public review and the Stakeholder Forum will hold a meeting December 15 to begin reviewing preliminary alternatives.
- April/May 2005: Public weighting and ranking of alternatives will be undertaken. Work Groups will be asked to vary the weighting of each objective in order to rank the performance of the various alternatives.
- June/July 2005: The Forum will seek consensus on the set of alternatives for detailed analysis in an Environmental Impact Statement/Report compliant with both NEPA and CEQA.

Ritchie also explained that *Bay Nature* has produced a project overview brochure that would be available in the near future. Ritchie encouraged the public to distribute the brochure widely to help educate the community about the project. Check the project website for copies of the brochure.

3. *Review of Project Mission, Guiding Principles, and Objectives*

Ritchie reviewed the overall project mission, guiding principles, and project objectives and explained that these statements had been developed with input from the Project Management Team, the Stakeholder Forum and were refined based on input from the public. He further explained that the Preliminary Options Considerations are informed by the guiding principles, and project objectives, as well as opportunities and constraints (PWA and others 2004) and

conceptual models of habitat restoration (in progress). The options that have been developed so far are designed to create a natural system that mimics what was historically present in the South San Francisco Bay.

4. *Overview of Preliminary Pond Cluster Options*

Michelle Orr (Phil Williams & Associates) presented an overview of the four preliminary options for restoration at the pond clusters. These options are:

- Option 0 – No Action / Interim Stewardship Plan
- Option 1 – Managed Pond Emphasis
- Option 2 – Mix of Managed Ponds and Tidal
- Option 3 – Tidal Emphasis

Orr explained that the preliminary options are intended to explore a range of possibilities and should be considered very flexible. The options vary in the relative extents of tidal and managed pond habitat, with the exception of the No Action option. Varying the options in this way allows the project to accommodate different resolution of key uncertainties without having to backtrack later in alternatives development. The key uncertainties are sediment availability and the importance of managed pond habitat in relationship to tidal flats and marshes to bird use of the South Bay. Uncertainties about sediment availability affect our ability to know where and to what extent tidal marsh can be restored, as well as how much existing and created mudflats there will be following project implementation. Uncertainties about bird use affect our ability to know the extent of managed pond, mudflat, tidal marsh and bay required to maintain current migratory bird species that use the South Bay.

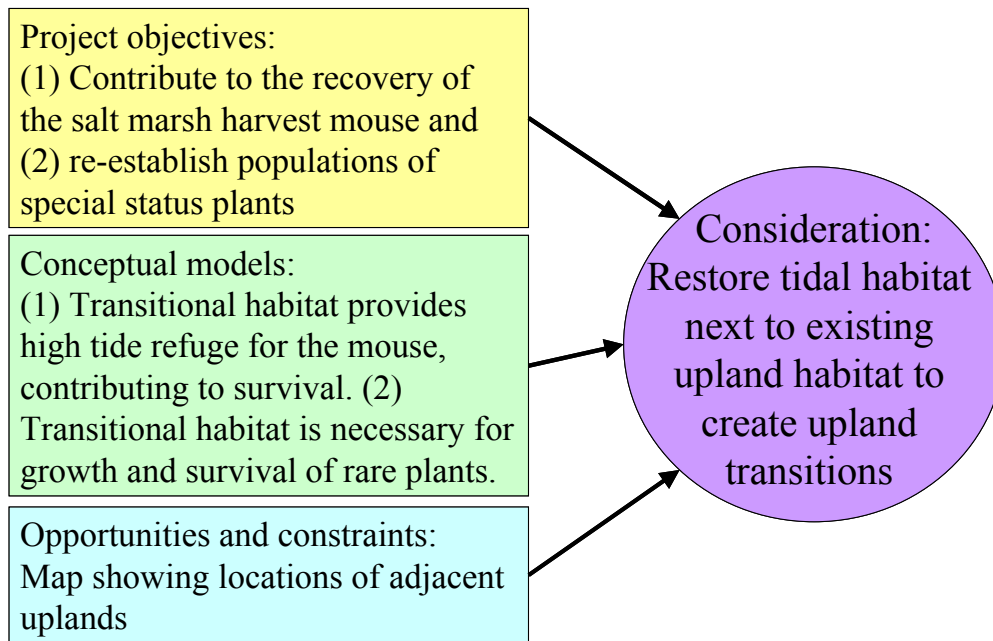
Orr further provided a number of definitions for key terms being used in developing the initial options:

- Tidal Habitat – is broadly defined to include tidal marsh, tidal mudflats, tidal channels, and marsh/upland transitional areas.
- Managed Ponds – includes islands for nesting and roosting, deep and shallow water, high and low salinities, year-round and seasonally ponded areas.

Orr explained that ponds will be designed and managed to significantly enhance shorebird and waterfowl foraging, roosting and nesting opportunities and that a higher level of management than currently undertaken for the salt ponds or ISP is anticipated. This level of management is comparable to other wildlife & refuge areas and is expected to provide more habitats in the same “footprint”.

Orr proceeded to explain that options were developed for each pond complex (e.g., Eden Landing Options 0, 1, 2, and 3) and that the options would be refined for the October 27 workshop based on input received at these early workshops and as additional baseline information and analysis becomes available. The alternatives for NEPA/CEQA will be formed by combining all or parts of pond complex options.

The options were developed by applying “considerations” – a set of criteria that guide where to locate design elements within the landscape. An example of this process is graphically illustrated below.



The considerations were developed with input from the Project Management Team and the consultant team, and will be refined in the future based on input from the public and the Science Team.

The considerations provide guidance, but do not dictate the answer. It is not unusual, and in fact expected, that design considerations conflict. Sometimes a given pond may be a great location for tidal habitat and also for managed pond, while another pond may not be an optimal location for either. The options represent different trade-offs between applications of the design considerations. The most significant considerations at this time are:

- Restore tidal habitat adjacent to the mouths of major creeks that currently experience flooding or are otherwise undersized (also benefits anadromous fish)
- Restore high elevation ponds to tidal habitat
- Restore moderate elevation (~MTL) ponds to managed ponds
- Create a tidal marsh corridor
- Create upland transitions
- Restore unique historic tidal habitats
- Create large tidal systems where possible to sustain high order channels and to isolate broad areas from human and predator access
- Restore antecedent drainage channels as possible
- Restore tidal preferentially in saline areas, versus brackish
- Enhance managed ponds near the historic salt works
- Enhance managed ponds in areas accessible for management (generally landward)
- Widely disperse ponds managed for breeding habitat
- Restore managed ponds in areas with relatively less adjacent managed pond habitat
- Close gaps in the Bay Trail
- Cluster public access uses to reduce habitat encroachment
- Provide public access to historic and cultural points of interest

- Coordinate public access (trails) with flood control levees as much as possible
- Spine trail(s) would be open all year; some spur trails may be closed seasonally

Orr explained that application of preliminary options resulted in different emphases for each complex. Maps were created for each of the pond options at each pond complex and workshop attendees were able to review the maps in detail.

Assumptions that were made in developing the options included:

- No relocation of major infrastructure (railroad, PG&E substation, etc.)
- Assumes PG&E towers can be raised or improved as needed and maintenance access can be accomplished via appropriate structures and permit conditions
- Fill available for levee construction and creation of significant transitional habitat
- Some outboard levees may need to be maintained until marsh corridor develops
- Tidal restoration adjacent to creek mouths will improve flood protection (habitats flexible until flood protection confirmed)
- Risk of mercury methylation to be evaluated in adaptive management experiments
- Ongoing mosquito management

Orr finished her presentation by asking attendees to review the maps in the breakout stations and provide feedback in response to the following questions:

- Do the options meet the project guiding principles, goals, and objectives?
- Do the options capture the range of reasonable possibilities?
- Is anything missing from the options and is there a fourth option?

5. *Public Questions and Discussion*

Following the presentation, workshop attendees raised a number of questions. The questions and answers, where provided, for both workshops are summarized below.

- *To what extent did the project team rely on the Habitat Goals Report?*
Response: A number of the original team members involved in developing the *Habitat Goals Report* are involved in the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project as well so the earlier process has been very helpful.
- *How does the sediment balance affect the development of the options?*
Response: Modeling is currently underway in order to gain a better understanding of the sediment situation. Weather and water conditions are presently suitable for accurate bathymetry studies to be undertaken and much necessary technical work will be completed in early 2005 to help better understand the sediment situation.
- *What about the existing and continuing salt pond production areas?*
Response: Assumption is that these areas currently leased by Cargill will continue to be used for salt production and that these areas do provide existing habitat values for some species. The design team is not considering restoration designs for the Cargill production ponds at this time.
- *Was cost considered in developing the initial options?*

Response: At this stage, cost considerations were only very generally applied. More detailed cost analysis will be completed at a later stage.

- *Are adjacent uplands protected lands or might these areas be developed?*

Response: Most of the adjacent upland areas shown on the Project Display Map are parks and/or open spaces that will not be developed. One exception is Turk Island, which is still being used by Cargill.

- *Do all the options meet all the objectives?*

Response: All options meet the objectives to varying degrees. At this time in the development process, the team is not eliminating options from consideration.

- *Will there be another Local Government Forum?*

Response: Yes, another Forum meeting will be held November 10 at a location to be determined.

- *Freshwater habitat does not appear to be on any of the option maps. Has freshwater habitat been considered in developing the options?*

Response: The team knows of three major sources of freshwater into the South Bay (San Jose, Sunnyvale, and Palo Alto water treatment plants) and is considering the effects of the freshwater on habitat values. However, the maps do not currently depict specific areas as freshwater habitat. The “blue (managed habitat) and green (tidal habitat)” areas on the maps will have to be further subdivided to show the varying types of habitats that may result. Freshwater habitat will be displayed differently.

- *How will funding be secured to implement project?*

Response: Funding will be spent in phases to insure project implementation. Each phase needs to be achievable and fully funded before construction begins. Proposition 50 funding does exist for a portion of Phase I.

- *At what time in the process will we understand what elements will be built first, second, and so on?*

Response: The restoration plan will include specific Phase I actions and schedule, and a programmatic level of detail (actions and schedule) for future actions. As an example, the programmatic level will indicate where a levee might be located while the phase-specific description of the levee will include where it is located and how it is constructed. By mid-2005 we will have a better understanding of what will constitute Phase I actions.

- *How “set” will option elements be once they are defined as alternatives?*

Response: By the December 2004 Stakeholder Forum meeting, we will have a set of preliminary alternatives that may include sub-alternatives. At that time, we will be able to describe how elements of each option may be changed as new information and data become available.

6. *Breakout Stations*

To allow closer review of the option diagrams and to interact with member of the Project Management Team and the consultant design teams, public attendees were invited to one of three breakout stations that included a full set of the options maps. Attendees were encouraged to use “post-its” to indicate specific questions and/or concerns they had directly on the diagrams. In

addition, staff were present in each breakout station to record comments on flipcharts. All comments received are included as an Attachment 1 to this memo.

7. Next Steps and Future Meeting Dates

- Entire Project Area Preliminary Options Workshop
Wednesday, October 27, 2004 (7:00 - 10:00 pm)
Coyote Point Museum, San Mateo
- Local Government Forum: November 10 (10:00 am - noon)
Location, TBD and announced via e-mail
- Stakeholder Forum: December 15 (1:00 – 4:00 pm)
Location, TBD and announced via e-mail

Information on all upcoming meetings will be posted on the project web site.

ATTACHMENT 1

Comments Received at Eden Landing (9/29) and Alviso/Ravenswood (9/30) Workshops

Note: Comments/questions from both workshops have been aggregated into topical areas for each of the pond clusters to assist the Project Management Team consider modifications to the initial restoration options. The topical areas are: 1) Habitat; 2) Public Access; 3) Flood Management and 4) General. Comments are presented for Eden Landing Ponds, Alviso/Ravenswood Ponds, Alviso Ponds, and the Ravenswood Ponds.

EDEN LANDING PONDS

Habitat

- At this stage, how have predator corridors/access and invasive plant species (as in prevention of spreading) been factored in?
- Has there been enough consideration given to migrating bird habitat in Option 3? The managed ponds are near access areas—how will this affect birds? Is this a realistic Option?
- Would this complex alternative support restoration of beaches that might not be possible at other complexes?
- Potential for unique tidal habitat features to provide mitigation for waterfowl habitat.
- Are the existing islands going to be left for nesting birds?
- In Options 2 and 3 for snowy plover nesting, will managed ponds be created?
Response: the snowy plover is very opportunistic and we are very optimistic that we can manage for them.
- Interim habitat should support final outcome if possible.
Response: planning approach accounts for expected/unexpected changes.
- Concern that interim tidal habitat might prohibit final habitat development.
- Extent of mudflats?
- Unique tidal habitat features? Not shown on maps.
- Tidal option here: more feasible to restore some of these unique features.
- Clarify habitat for migrating waterfowl: possible unique tidal option here could actually provide migratory habitat?
- Does proposed tidal emphasis option consider snowy plover habitat?
- What is the impact to snowy plovers in and around Pond E11 from all options?

- Eden Landing Ponds have provided high tide shorebird roosting habitat. How is this affected by proposed conversion to tidal marsh?
- What are the habitats for birds in managed ponds?
Response: historically, fed on mudflats and seasonal wetlands.
- We have the hydrologic but not the sediment component for upland transition. Need way of assessing/capturing the range.
- Is there enough upland transition and how can we augment it and have delta formation?
- What happens if Alameda Creek is truncated?
Response: upland transition key to protecting salt marsh harvest mouse.
- Is snowy plover preferred habitat adjacent to development?
- Does tidal emphasis disadvantage snowy plover and other bird species?
- Will there be enough upland/transition area? Need more information about hydrology/sediment linkage.

Public Access

- Consider creating a loop trail.
- Viewing platforms should be considered as an important public access feature. They should be high enough to give a broad view of the developing marsh and have binoculars for optimum viewing.
- What locations may be suitable for wildlife viewing platforms?
- Need more specificity on recreation and access.
- Highlight existing public access/recreational facilities and interpretive facilities on maps.
- Maximize these synergies/connectiveness.
- Mix and match recreational features among the options.
- Tidal habitat along creeks can cause decrease in trails.
- Will Eden Landing ponds accommodate increased hunting? Existing hunting lottery is extremely limited—would like to see increased hunting.
- Need for clarification regarding extent of hunting to be allowed.
- What are public access differences between Options 2 and 3?

- Many of the public access features seem interchangeable among options.
- Consider more loop trails in Eden Landing.
- What about boat launching facilities?
- At what point in the planning process will we know more about permitted levels of hunting?
- Shoreline access is desirable.
- The different options have some trails within and some outside of restoration areas.
- Can there be a more complete listing of recreational features on the maps?
Response: we're exploring what we want to restore and then bringing in public access and recreation; the trail plans are flexible with each option. Recreation will be complementary to restoration solutions.
- You're defining public access as trails—want to see the range of options including viewing and other activities.
- In Option 3, what about boat launching and water access?
- Will boaters be able to get into the flood channels and sloughs?
Response: yes.
- Let people know they can get out and enjoy these areas; need to have as much access as possible.
- Option 2 on the east side, would feel there's enough access. It would be good to mix and match recreational elements in different options.
Response: the goal is to be able to experience the whole area with flexible locations.

Flood Management

- Connect sloughs by cutting through levees to channels on the other side.
- Potential 4th option: make Alameda Creek flood control channel project an active component.
- Where will openings be along Alameda Creek?
- How will high flows be handled along Alameda Creek?
- Need better understanding of hydraulics in Alameda Creek.
- To what degree will Alameda Creek scour under different options?
- Which levees will be armored?

- Are remnant levees going to be retained?
- Need for close coordination with Alameda County Water District on maintenance projects.
- Where will levees be in Option 1? Along the outward portion? Between trails?
Response: does not have to be levee leveling.
- Have Alameda Creek moved into flood control channel. Is there enough consideration for sedimentation for transitional uplands?
Response: tidal areas used for flood control management.
- Has projected sea level rise been considered when planning levees?
- How will slough channels evolve?
Response: there are barrier beach formation, the pond formations are behind these and most channels tie into them.
- How much maintenance will the levees require?
Response: looking at barrier beach to provide protection from wave action.
- Upland transition will provide flood protection in back of whole areas. There will be opportunities to leave the levees as trails. Levees on the edges of slough channels naturally provide upland transition areas.
- Will remnant levees be left in place?
Response: we can lower the levees to high marsh elevation.
- Is there a way to incorporate sediment in flood control channels?
Response: the intent for is for slough locations to bring sediment down. Most of the ponds are not that subsided in Eden Landing. It will be a long time before the tides go over the levees.
- Has the preferred plan for Alameda flood control been taken into account? The breeches aren't shown.
Response: yes, we want to respect that.
- Consider: looped sloughs—feature to implement as part of old Alameda Creek/flood control channel; connecting old Alameda Creek to the flood control project; having more tidal connected sloughs to the Bay.
Response: looped sloughs are features of older marshes undergoing transition, ex: Bair Island.
- Incorporate some modeling for connections through the tidal channels; realign the flood control out toward the old creek.

General

- Is there any major piece of information missing that would cause these options to be altered to the extent of creating another option, e.g., the cultural resources survey may yield a number of cultural sites that would generate an expanded trail and interpretive program.

- None of your “options” includes landfills, sewage treatment plants, or auto wrecking yards—please add.
- Would the intermediate features allow capturing the unique ecological value of the remnant morphological features, e.g., ponds?
- What are the historical morphological features of Eden Landing (e.g., channel length or pond density) that are restorable here?
- Tell us about phasing: it makes sense to me to see the northern ponds restored and mercury monitored and then proceed south in accordance with adaptive management.
- Lay out sediment balance trade-offs—less sediment to restore tidal action, but likely erosion because of sediment balance.
- Range seems robust, but highlight what’s unique in each complex and how they achieve guiding principles/objectives: that will help us understand better the trade-offs across options.
- Add freshwater (treated wastewater) component as an option
- Include all old Oliver Salt Works complex (outside project area)—eligible for rural historic site.
- Will Americans with Disabilities Act be addressed?
Response: yes, especially for the spine trails (Bay Trail)
- Sea level rise and sediment interlinked. Levee heights will take sea level rise in account.
- How are abandoned wells addressed?
- Utilize Alameda County School Office of Education (Shelia Jordan, Superintendent) and Alameda County Library System (Linda Wood) Fremont.
- Below each option, show which objectives are addressed to help discussion of trade-offs.
- Emphasize trade-off opportunities.
- Green and blue colors don’t tell story of potential for unique tidal habitat to provide waterfowl habitat.
- Alameda Creek: old maps refer to as “Alvarado”.
- Do these options capture unique geomorphologic features of each complex?
- At what times of the year will managed ponds be dry, wet, other?
- To what degree will sediment need to be imported?
- Desire to better understand role that natural flows may play in moving sediment deficient areas.

- Need to project cultural resources in all options.
- Abandoned wells must be addressed before implementation. Wells must be properly destroyed to protect water quality and saltwater habitat. Have well locations been identified during pond planning?
- Have natural levees shown on the maps.
- How much has been planned out vs. what's on the maps?
- Sedimentation listed at different scales--is there enough sediment available?
- What role does adaptive management play over time? It seems like there will be a lot of monitoring and adjustments needed.
- How much mercury is there in Pond 11?

ALVISO/RAVENSWOOD PONDS

Habitat

- Can connectivity of habitat be improved by installing strategically placed culvert passages under H84?
- Change New Chicago Marsh into upland area.
- Consider shellfish habitat within managed ponds.
- Is habitat connectivity to resources not in this project?
Response: we have an existing habitat map with surrounding habitat and used it for developing the options.
- Are you going to maintain the hyper-saline ponds for snowy plovers?
Response: we haven't specified how different areas will be managed yet.
- Invasive species management is critical.
- Purposeful use of fresh water.
- The salinity levels of ponds are important for existing bird populations.
- A6 conversion would displace gulls—where will they go?
- Consider airplane-bird conflicts.
- Accommodate upland transition areas.

- Use fill to create habitat including burrowing owl.

Public Access

- Maps should show water recreation access and use areas better.
- Does tidal influence alter public access?
- Combine division of habitats in small areas close to public access.
- Look at staging area feasibility.
- Should be 24-hour access for public somewhere (speaking of water access).
- Show water access clearly especially in Alviso: specify types of access.
- Private access needs also to be shown.
- How to manage conflicts between hunting and public access?
- Will we incorporate Americans with Disabilities Act accessways?
- How would the Bay Trail work?
Response: Levee in the back of the ponds (new or improved flood control)
- Incorporate environmental education opportunities, i.e., managed ponds near highly used areas.
- There's a need for staging areas for public access and need for additional parking to allow increased access.
- Have we looked at whether Stevens Creek Trail would affect salt marsh harvest mouse?

Flood Management

- Wherever possible, remove old salt pond levees or create breaches in excess of 100 feet in length. Allows freer redistribution of sediment. Where PG&E needs access, possibly install bridges.
- Inboard levee is preferable to levees in former salt ponds. Inboard levee gives more flexibility within project itself.
- Show borrow channels within each salt pond (channel from which levee material removed). These will be a challenge to natural tidal flow.
- If managed ponds are incorporated in flood protection efforts, how is decision made as to who has precedent to management—flood or habitat agencies?

- Managed ponds will require discharge permits. Experience in the Initial Stewardship Plan (ISP), where discharges from five ponds were nitrated in July-August (these low-salinity ponds received variance from required initial discharge period of March-April) have yielded insight into water quality management challenges associated with pond discharges.
- One principle of design in the project options is to place managed ponds landward from the Bay to facilitate their management by wildlife agencies. This principle runs counter to a water quality management issue regarding dissolved oxygen, pH, and salinity management in discharges from managed ponds.
- The objective to maintain or improve flood control is too vague right now—will these options be flexible? Upstream development causes flood issues; these should be dealt with by the people who cause them, not grafted on to this project.
Response: the Alternatives Development Framework report is inclusionary for flood control.
- Option 0: Pond A8S—previously breached at high water.
- Option 2: There are huge sediment depositions in narrowed channels. How do we keep them open above new tidal marsh? Can gates be put above the marsh?
- Use channel sediments to fill ponds.
- How will managed ponds be managed?
Response: They will be kept mostly vegetation free.
- Option 3: A-16: How would it work as managed pond by itself?
Response to unknown question: Pond A4—future uncertainty, but we are looking at what’s best for the project.
- A8 flood protection—if it goes tidal (rather than holding water from Alviso Slough)?
Response: We’ll allow it to spread out through conveyance approach (we now have a little channel).
- How will levees affect sediment movement? We need to understand what type of construction will be used for levees and trails.

General

- The farther away from the Bay the managed pond is, the harder it is to get fresh water in and get pond waters out, without causing near field impacts related to dissolved oxygen, salinity and pH.
- “Mix” may be more appropriate if additional ponds, i.e., in E8 and E14.
- Show emergency access sites and roads for helicopter pads, service vehicles, etc. even if not located on project land.
- Pond A7 has similar Hg/salinity levels as A8; treat consistently.

- Light industrial building planned by the City of San Jose and Legacy Partners—coordinate with San Jose.
- When in the process will the USACOE become involved in planning for bay-front levees?
- Need Moffett Field levee alignment.
- For public relations, begin to stress environmental health benefits of project located in dense urban areas.
- City of Menlo Park planning athletic fields on flat, low areas in Bayfront Park.
- Current worst mosquito habitats: Palo Alto Flood Basin, Coast Casey Marsh (foot of San Antonio and Terminal Road), North end of Moffett Field, marshes surrounding Alviso, New Chicago Marsh, Newby Island (Dixon Landing Area).
- How will fish be managed in managed ponds? This is currently a problem in the Palo Alto flood basin, where vague concern with reoxygenation creates flooding in summer with creation of mosquito habitats.
- Install systems of fish refuge ponds in managed ponds. When water level is low, ponds provide a fish refuge. When water levels rise, channels allow fish to distribute themselves.
- The Bay's dissolved oxygen is controlled by tides. Dissolved oxygen in ponds and sloughs is more influenced by diurnal cycle of photosynthesis and respiration. Water quality is generally maximized by maximized tidal habitats.
- What about the maintenance roads?
Response: they won't be maintained.
- A project objective is that historical features are important. Do the options support access to them? Can this be addressed? There is no public access to shoreline areas.
Response: this is being considered, the cultural resources report is coming out in the spring.
- Some areas are not officially historic, but eligible.
- Are these considered as opportunities (historical areas)?
Response: the county has updated its historic inventory. We're looking at protection in the broad term right now — could just stay in place, for example
- What are the criteria for identifying where tidal ponds would be?
Response: Elevation, adjacent marsh, etc.
- Sequencing: how to decide what goes first (e.g., flood control, ease of conversion needs)?
- Consider management to create tidal marsh (e.g., New Chicago, deeply subsided).

- How will PG&E be provided access to its transmission towers for maintenance needs? There's a need for year-round access.
- If a goal is to have contiguous habitat, why are there discontinuous pieces?
Response: we wanted to add more managed ponds, and the biologists are recommending where to connect habitats.

ALVISO PONDS

Habitat

- What about pond A18? How will the City's plan for A18 be integrated into SBSP pond design?
- A2E levee configuration could be moved to provide for NASA Ames project.
- Consider other possible outer levee configurations along southern portions of project.

Public Access

- San Jose has approved a project to build light industrial area (near ponds). Will there be a trailhead and accessibility?
- The railroad tracks, Amtrak is thinking of doubling or tripling, we need to look at how this will impact the trail aspect.
- This needs to be considered, see the combined trail/levee options—there could be a new spine option or connection.
Response: this is outside the project area, it's owned by the City of San Jose. We're not sure they want trails around all their ponds.
- You could have a pedestrian bridge built there or along a long northern part of A8.
- Are you trying to preserve the Alviso Loop Trail? Other options? Some areas look fragmented.
- In Alviso, some people would like to see an active harbor; if the channel is deepened, is one option more compatible?
Response: it was deeper before because it had more tidal action—exactly how much we don't know yet.
- We need to plan for connectivity—does it require a trailhead, parking, etc? Ask San Jose if it's a possibility and if so, where to connect it?
- Alviso's tidal trails might be seasonal, we've tried to get access to the Bay.
- Option 1 is to have the levee moved out off of Moffett Field, split the pond and get a trail out there.
- Planning for connectivity of trails is important.

Response: May be able to connect water trail.

- Have launching areas been taken into consideration?
- Are canoeing, kayaking, etc. options?
Response: yes, EDAW has a report with more detailed recreational options.
- One part of the community may want more access to recreational boating.

Flood Management

- The diking that's proposed—will it take care of heavy water flow?
Response: there's an assumption that we'll have pump stations and/or larger channels and levees that continue up the streams.
- Is one option better than the other for flood control?
Response: protection is provided for Alviso and eventually hope will be up to FEMA standards in all options. We're trying to deepen Alviso Slough and get better flood conveyance. We plan to provide a comparable level of flood control in all areas and options.

General

- Concern about methylated mercury in Guadalupe Creek, are managed ponds preferred?
Response: Research and water source are the issues.
- Mercury levels in A8 – we need to better understand mercury situation in ponds around Alviso.
- What is the difference between A7 and A8 ponds' mercury levels?
- In Alviso Option 0, what are the red lines?
Response: those are ponds managed seasonally.
- In Alviso Option 2, is there a tidal corridor connection in the channel?
Response: No, we're not building, it's for clapper rails.
- In Pond A18 in City of San Jose—there are tradeoffs in the EIR—is there consideration that some managed ponds already exist?
Response: there are ponds, but they are not necessarily managed for specific species.

RAVENSWOOD PONDS

Public Access

- Spur trails may be closed seasonally due to bird nesting.
- Can levees for PG&E access be limited/prohibited to public access?
- Need convenient parking areas and safety concerns re: traffic.

- What about the entry into Sun's property, especially on weekends? Has that been worked out? Get their assistance.
- What are the trails marked outside the restoration area?
Response: want to identify opportunities to connect to Bay Trail, not part of project specifically.
- Will all trails accommodate bicycles and pedestrians?
Response: think that will work, maybe not on spur trails; we want to continue the Bay Trail spine.
- Regarding Ravenswood: ask Caltrain about the Dumbarton to U.C. connection; you could add another pedestrian walkway.
Response: yes, that could get you into other areas at both ends. It was considered at the beginning of the project.

General

- Need to integrate Menlo Park's plans for Bayfront Park into SBSP efforts.
- Has lead shot contamination been cleaned up from R3 and SF2 ponds?
Response: Yes, underway.
- What will happen to existing levees that are shown in proposed tidal areas? How will PG&E continue to access its towers? This appears to contradict project objective #6.
- Need for detailed analysis of which levees are necessary for PG&E access.
- PG&E boat requires 4-foot draft to access towers.
- How much is known about tidal prism in all areas?
- About Option 3 – why is SF2 left as an existing managed pond?
Response: Easy to manage because there is not much wave action, historically important shorebird ponds.
- Is the PG&E substation a factor?
Response: we assume it will stay there and have protected it.
- Will you need to protect it if it stays a pond?
Response: we need to make sure it has 100-year flood control protection.