

The South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project (www.southbayrestoration.org) is the largest wetlands restoration project on the West coast of the United States. It is unique not only for its size-- over 15,000 acres—but for its location adjacent to one of the nation’s largest urban areas, home to over 3 million people. The Project is intended to restore and enhance wetlands in South San Francisco Bay while providing for flood management and wildlife-oriented public access and recreation.

We have identified long-term alternatives for the Project, each representing a continuum toward different end-states: one end-state at 50% of the existing ponds converted to managed ponds for waterbirds and 50% restored to salt marsh habitat, and the other end of the continuum at 10% of the existing ponds converted to managed ponds and 90% restored to marsh habitat. The final ratio of managed ponds to salt marsh habitat will depend on the outcome of the Adaptive Management Plan, which will be implemented over the next 40 years. The Plan will allow for lessons learned from earlier phases and applied studies to be incorporated into subsequent stages as management objectives and designs of future actions are revised and implemented. The Project has completed most of the Phase 1 studies, and much has been learned about key uncertainties.

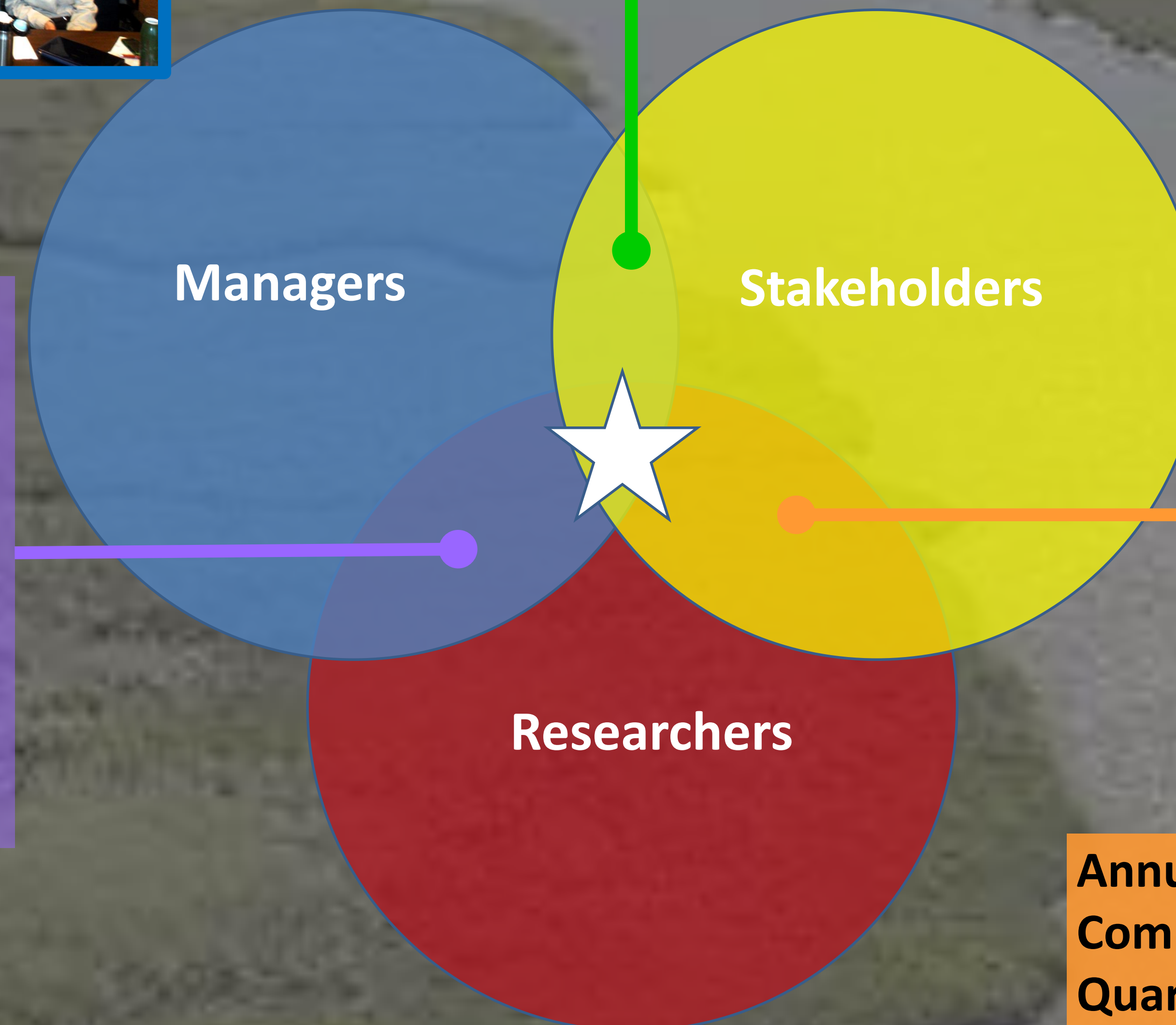
One of the challenges of such a large restoration project is how to communicate scientific findings and needs to Managers, Stakeholders, and Researchers. The Project has evolved multiple lines of communications between these groups – some within group communication, but most intersecting between two or more groups.



Media Events
Annual Regulatory Agencies Meeting – Science update
Meetings with individual Regulatory Agencies as needed



Annual Researcher/Manager Meeting
Pond Management Working Group
Mudflat Working Group
Mercury Working Group
Science Summaries via email
Webinars and conference calls
Website – Science page with Technical Documents archive
SF Bay Joint Venture



Annual Stakeholders meeting – Science update
Complex-level stakeholder meetings – Science update
Quarterly Newsletter – Science update
Website – summary information on key science findings
Docent lead trips
Summary notes from Annual Researcher/Manager Meeting



Science Symposium – Biennial event for 200 people: stakeholders, managers, researchers and media (remote access, video archive available on website)

