

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

To: All Interested Parties

Subject: Notice of Availability of a Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project, Phase 2, Eden Landing Ecological Reserve

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), partnering with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the California State Coastal Conservancy (SCC), have prepared a Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for Phase 2 of the South Bay Salt Pond (SBSP) Restoration Project at the Eden Landing Ecological Reserve (Eden Landing). We invite your comments on the content of the environmental information and the analysis in the document. For agencies, these comments should be limited to the environmental information which is germane to your agency's statutory responsibilities in connection with the proposed project, including your use when considering a permit or other approval for the project.

A description of the project, location, and environmental impacts are contained in the attached materials.

The Final EIR is available online at:

<http://www.southbayrestoration.org/planning/phase2/>

Copies of the Final EIR are available for review at the libraries and agency offices listed in the attached materials.

For further information or inquiries about the project please contact

phase2comments@southbayrestoration.org or

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PROJECT LOCATION

The SBSP Restoration Project, Eden Landing Phase 2, encompasses approximately 2,270 acres of former industrial salt production ponds in the South San Francisco Bay (map figures of the ponds are available at <http://www.southbayrestoration.org/maps>). Phase 2 activities would occur within eleven ponds (E1, E2, E4, E5, E6, E7, E1C, E2C, E4C, E5C, and E6C) located between Old Alameda Creek and Alameda Creek Flood Control Channel at Eden Landing. These ponds are part of the Eden Landing Ecological Reserve, owned and managed by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW).

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The SBSP Restoration Project is a multi-agency effort to restore and enhance tidal wetlands and managed pond habitats in South San Francisco Bay while simultaneously providing flood risk management and wildlife-oriented public access and recreation. Phase 2 actions presented and analyzed in this Final EIR are part of a long-term restoration plan that was described in the 2007 SBSP Restoration Project EIS/EIR. Previously, Phase 1 actions at Eden Landing focused on the ponds north of Old Alameda Creek and included tidal marsh restoration and enhancements to managed ponds to improve habitat conditions for various species while maintaining or improving flood risk management in the surrounding communities. The Phase 1 project at Eden Landing also included new public access, including year-round and seasonal trails with viewing areas and interpretive features, a kayak launch at Mt. Eden Creek and a boardwalk in the historic salt works. Phase 1 actions were complete in spring of 2016. Phase 2 of the SBSP Restoration Project similarly proposes habitat restoration activities and public access opportunities while maintaining or improving current levels of flood risk management in the surrounding communities.

Habitat restoration actions would include the following:

- Breaching levees at one or more locations to allow tidal action within the ponds
- Increasing habitat complexity by adding islands and upland transition zones
- Modifying pond bottom elevations or topography for tidal marsh restoration
- Using dredged or upland fill material to speed marsh vegetation establishment
- Installing water control structures to improve management in former salt ponds that will not yet be made subject to full tidal action.

Recreation and public access actions would include the following:

- Constructing or improving walking trails
- Installing viewing platforms and/or bridges or elevated boardwalks

Flood risk management actions would include:

- Raising or improving existing levees or berms or adding new levees as needed to maintain or improve current levels of flood risk management in the surrounding communities.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

This Final EIR is a project-level environmental document that tiers from the Programmatic actions described in the 2007 SBSP Restoration Project EIS/EIR. The Final EIR identifies the anticipated effects of the project alternatives (negative and beneficial), including the Preferred Alternative, and describes and analyzes direct, indirect, and cumulative potential environmental impacts of the project alternatives, including the No-Action/No-Project Alternative, in accordance with CEQA (14 CCR 15126.6(e)(3)(B)) and NEPA (40 CFR 1500-1508).

Results of the evaluation includes assessments of possible effects on environmental resources including hydrology; water quality; geology; biology; recreation; cultural resources; land use; public health and vector management; socioeconomic and environmental justice; traffic; noise; air quality; public services; utilities; visual resources; and greenhouse gases. The majority of impacts were determined to be less than significant. The analysis also determined that the Project could have significant unavoidable impacts on air pollutant emissions, traffic, and existing recreation and public access features during construction.

LOCATIONS OF REVIEW COPIES

The Final EIR is available for public review at the following public libraries and agency offices:

- California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Bay Delta Region, 2825 Cordelia Road, Suite 100, Fairfield, CA 94534.
- California State Coastal Conservancy, 1515 Clay St., 10th Floor, Oakland, CA 94612.
- Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center, 2 Marshlands Road, Fremont, CA 94555.
- California State University, East Bay Library, 25800 Carlos Bee Blvd., Hayward, CA 94542.
- Alameda County Library – Newark Branch, 6300 Civic Terrace Ave., Newark, CA, 94560
Fremont Main Library, 2400 Stevenson Blvd., Fremont, CA 94538.
- Hayward Public Library, Central Library, 835 C St, Hayward, CA 94541.
- Union City Library, 34007 Alvarado-Niles Rd., Union City, CA 94587.

Dated: 4-4-19



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