Background & Methods

• California Gulls (Larus californicus) nest in colonies on pond bottoms, levees and islands of the South Bay Salt Ponds.
• During peak incubation, we walk through each colony once and tally all active nests to estimate breeding population.

Population Growth

• In 1980, 24 birds first nested at pond A6.
• In 2015, 48,000 nested at 10 colonies (4 in South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project footprint).
• Currently largest colonies are at A9/10/11/14 and the PA Flood Control Basin (PAFCB).

<table>
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<th>Year</th>
<th>A6</th>
<th>A9/10/11/14</th>
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Ecological Impacts

• California Gulls consume eggs and chicks of terns and shorebirds.
• Initiate nests prior to other species and use the same nesting locations, displacing other species.

Response to Restoration

• In 2010, pond A6 (formerly holding on average 76% of the South Bay population) was restored to tidal.
• Colony growth and band re-sighting data show that the majority of the A6 nesting gulls moved to the A9/10/11/14 and PAFCB.

Research & Management Recommendations

• Continued gull monitoring and hazing to detect and prevent new/expanding colonies, particularly following restoration events.
• Continued monitoring of waterbirds affected by gull predation and colony encroachment.
• Further research on gull nest success and gull movements in San Francisco Bay.

Acknowledgements

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