

# Hamilton & Bel Marin Keys Unit V Wetlands Restoration Project Update

October 12, 2011 Handout

## Project Significance

The Project will:

### Environment

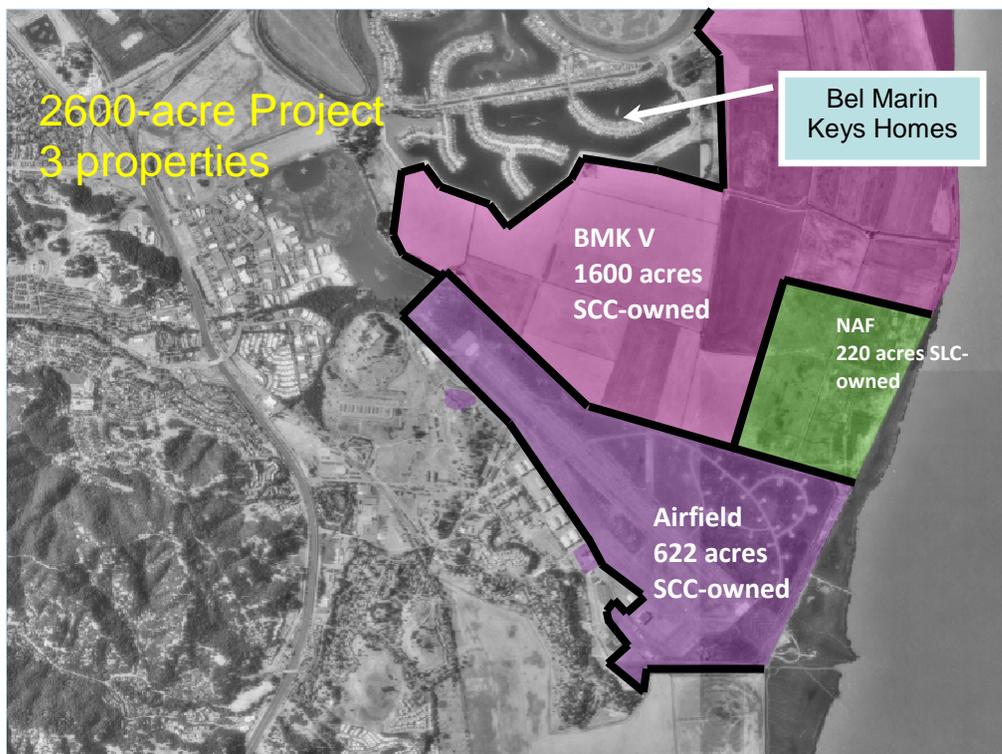
- Restore habitat for endangered and threatened species, including **king salmon, California clapper rail, black rail, brown pelican, and salt marsh harvest mouse**
- Create **tidal and seasonal wetlands** to support migrating shorebirds and waterfowl

### Public Access

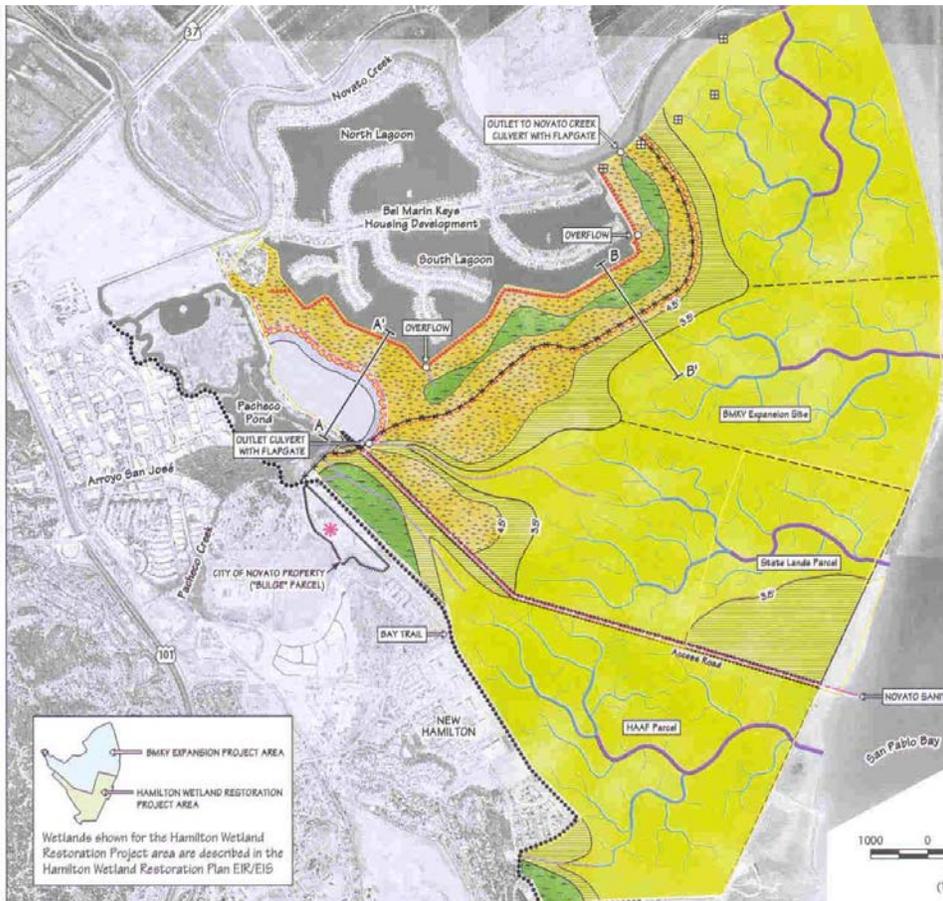
- Build a **perimeter trail to complete more than 3.5 miles of the San Francisco Bay Trail, viewing platforms, an interpretive center**
- Convert a former military base into a treasured public resource

### Economic

- Provide Bay Area ports and navigation interests with a **site to dispose of up to 24 million cubic yards of clean dredged materials**, thereby aiding commerce and the state economy.



# Hamilton & Bel Marin Keys Unit V Wetlands Restoration Project Conceptual Drawing of Completed Wetlands



## Project Sponsors:

The restoration is directed by the State Coastal Conservancy and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

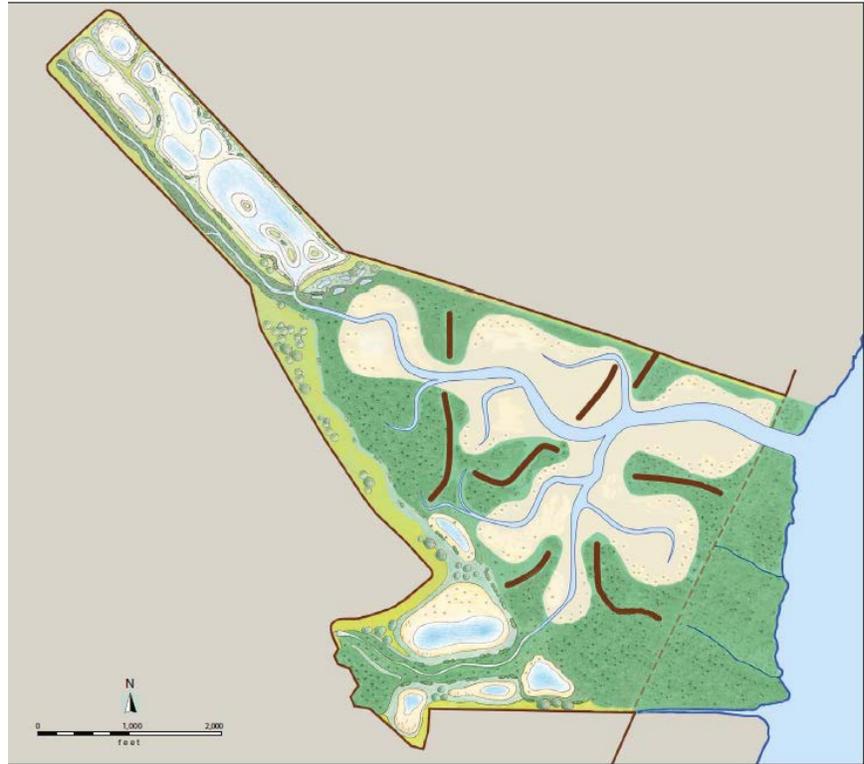
## Project Cost & Funding

- The Army and Navy conveyed Hamilton Field properties at no cost to the State. The total cost of restoring Hamilton Field and Bel Marin Keys had been estimated at about \$188 million. However, recent cost estimates show the entire project may cost between \$280-300 million.
- The Hamilton Field and other Bay Area wetlands projects are largely possible through overwhelming public support of state resources bond acts passed in the last several years, including Propositions 12 and 13 in 2000, Propositions 40 and 50 in 2002, and Proposition 84 in 2006.

# Hamilton Wetlands Restoration Project Update – Fall 2011 Activities

With placing of 5.8 million cubic yards of dredged material complete, the Corps is working on other site construction:

- **Plant Nursery Construction**
- **Shaping Seasonal Wetland and Wildlife Corridor**
- **Raising Levees**
- **Fall Planting**



## Contouring Designs



# Hamilton Wetlands Fall 2011 Activities

## Plant Nursery Construction

- Located at former Landfill Treatment Building
- Construction to include:
  - New fencing
  - Upgrade & connect utilities
  - Install greenhouses
- Future opportunities for volunteers

## Shaping Seasonal Wetland and Wildlife Corridor

- Purpose: contour and compact the placed sediments as template for seasonal wetlands
- Both northern and southern seasonal wetlands areas
- System to handle storm flows from existing pump stations

Timeframe: June-Nov – Contouring

November – Water management minor construction

## Raising Levees

- N1 and N2 levees separating airfield area from Bel Marin Keys area
- South levee near Bayfront
- Timeframe: Oct 1 – Nov 30, 2011

## Future Activities

- Nursery volunteer opportunities and plantings: Starting June 2012
- Site preparation for levee breach: Aug-Oct 2012
- Bay Trail construction: Sept-Oct 2012
- Levee breach: Nov 2012



Future Bay Trail Route

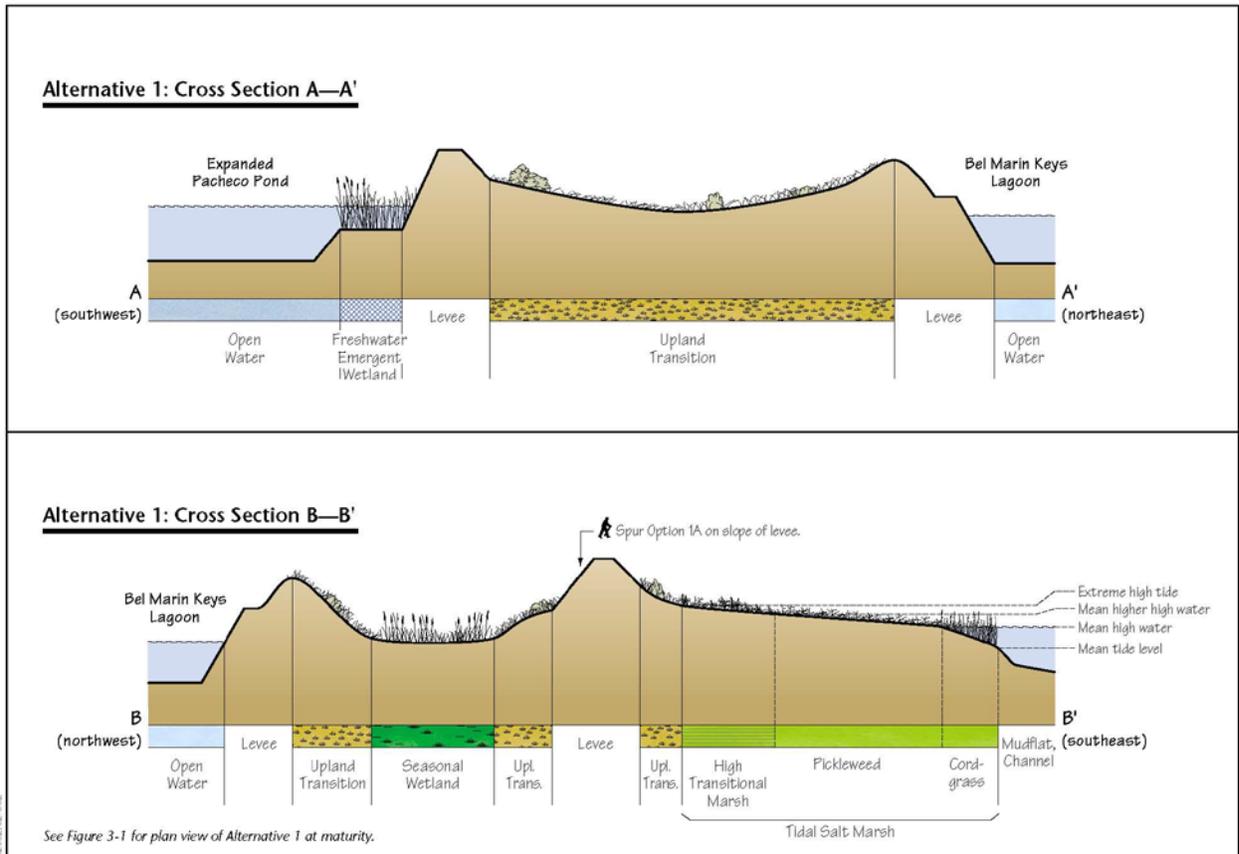
# Bel Marin Keys Unit V Wetlands Restoration Project Update

## Activities Underway:

- Design changes to reduce planned project construction costs
- Congressional legislation sought to clarify federal/state cost share for construction -- construction on hold pending resolution of this issue
- Exploring more cost-effective ways to deliver dredged sediment to the site (e.g., Aquatic Transfer)

## Key Design Features:

- Flood management levee will be built through the site to separate the tidal wetland portion from the seasonal wetland area and protect the Bel Marin Keys lagoon community from extreme tides
- Seasonal Wetlands on the inboard (west) side of the new levee; Tidal wetlands on outboard
- Tidal wetlands require placement of dredged sediment to bring up grade (see cross section B-B' below).
- Reexamining assumptions about NSD pipeline, phasing and volumes of sediment needed.



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