



United States Department of the Interior
U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Antioch Dunes, Marin Islands, San Pablo Bay
National Wildlife Refuges
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Mr. Gandesbery,

Since completion of the Sonoma Baylands Wetlands Restoration Demonstration Project in the mid-90's, the 322-acre wetland has evolved towards vegetated tidal salt marsh and associated sloughs and mudflats, providing habitat for endangered species, migratory birds, and other aquatic species. This collaborative effort between the State Coastal Conservancy and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has produced a fine wetland.

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service, National Wildlife Refuge System has agreed to accept the restoration site, and will add this wetland to the San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge. Since the restored wetland is within the acquisition boundary of the refuge, conveyance of this former hay farm is a fine addition of habitat for migratory waterfowl and shorebirds, and endangered species such as the Salt Marsh Harvest Mouse and California Clapper Rail.

The purpose of the transfer is to relieve the Conservancy of responsibilities associated with operating and maintaining the property while still protecting the natural resources, and public access opportunities. The Draft Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan and Environment Assessment for the Refuge will ensure this wetland is managed consistent with the Endangered Species Act and the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act. Resource protection and public access will continue.

The transfer of Sonoma Baylands Wetlands Restoration Demonstration Project is supported by the U.S.F.W.S., San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge.

Don L. Brubaker
North Bay Sub-Complex Manager
Antioch Dunes, Marin Islands, San Pablo Bay
National Wildlife Refuges