



The San Francisco Bay Area  
Conservancy Program

Celebrating Fifteen Years

15



The Conservancy is fortunate to work with fantastic partners. Our conservation and education goals could not be met without the hard work and expertise of partner organizations and agencies. The projects featured throughout this report have been accomplished thanks to the organizations and public agencies below, the recipients of Conservancy grants over the past 15 years.

**NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS**

Acterra  
 American Rivers  
 Arc Ecology  
 Bay Access, Inc.  
 Bay Nature Institute  
 Bay Area Open Space Council  
 Bay Area Ridge Trail Council  
 Berryessa Trails and Conservation  
 Blue Ridge Berryessa Natural Area Conservation Partnership  
 California Invasive Plant Council  
 California Land Stewardship Institute  
 California Sportfishing Alliance  
 California State Parks Foundation  
 California Wildlife Foundation  
 Carquinez Regional Environmental Education Center  
 Center for Ecosystem Management and Restoration  
 Circuit Rider Productions  
 Coastal Conservancy Association  
 Coastal Watershed Council  
 Conservation Corps North Bay  
 Coastside Land Trust  
 Delta Science Center  
 Ducks Unlimited  
 EcoCity Builders  
 EcoTrust  
 Fort Mason Foundation  
 Friends of the San Francisco Estuary  
 Friends of Five Creeks  
 Friends of San Francisco Parks and Recreation Department  
 Friends of Sausal Creek  
 Golden Gate Audubon Society  
 Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy  
 Greenbelt Alliance  
 GreenInfo Network  
 Island Conservation  
 KTEH-TV Foundation  
 Laguna de Santa Rosa Foundation  
 LandPaths  
 Land Trust of Napa County  
 Land Trust of Santa Clara County  
 Literacy for Environmental Justice  
 Marin Agricultural Land Trust  
 Marin Audubon Society  
 Martin Luther King Junior Freedom Center  
 Muir Heritage Land Trust  
 National Audubon Society  
 Natural Heritage Institute  
 Occidental Arts and Ecology Center  
 Ocean Song Farm and Wilderness Center  
 Oikonos Ecosystem Knowledge  
 Pacifica Land Trust  
 Peninsula Open Space Trust  
 PRBO Conservation Science  
 Point Reyes National Seashore Association  
 Rails-to-Trails Conservancy  
 San Bruno Mountain Watch  
 Sail San Francisco  
 Riparian Habitat Joint Venture  
 San Francisco Bay Joint Venture  
 San Francisco Bay Trail Project  
 San Francisco Bay Wildlife Society  
 San Francisco Estuary Institute  
 San Francisco Maritime National Park Association  
 San Francisco Parks Trust  
 San Francisco Planning and Urban Research Association  
 San Francisquito Watershed Council  
 San Mateo County Parks and Recreation Foundation  
 Save Mount Diablo  
 Save San Francisco Bay Association (Save The Bay)  
 Save the Redwoods League  
 Solano Land Trust  
 Sonoma Ecology Center  
 Sonoma Land Trust  
 Spanish Speaking Unity Council  
 Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods  
 Sustainable Conservation  
 The Bay Institute  
 The Exploratorium  
 The Nature Conservancy  
 The Watershed Project  
 Tomales Bay Watershed Council  
 Tri-Valley Conservancy  
 Trout Unlimited  
 Trust for Public Land  
 Urban Creeks Council  
 Urban Ecology

**BAY AREA CITIES**

Alameda  
 Albany  
 Benicia  
 Berkeley  
 Brentwood  
 Brisbane  
 Concord  
 East Palo Alto  
 El Cerrito  
 Fairfield  
 Half Moon Bay  
 Martinez  
 Oakland  
 Pacifica  
 Palo Alto  
 Petaluma  
 Redwood City  
 Richmond  
 Richmond Redevelopment Agency  
 San Francisco Public Utilities Commission  
 San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department  
 San Leandro  
 San Jose  
 San Mateo  
 Santa Rosa  
 Sausalito  
 Sebastopol

**BAY AREA COUNTIES**

County of Contra Costa  
 County of Marin  
 County of Napa  
 County of San Mateo  
 County of Santa Clara  
 County of Sonoma  
 Marin County Department of Parks and Open Space  
 San Mateo Environmental Services Agency  
 Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department  
 Sonoma County Regional Parks

**PORTS**

Port of Oakland  
 Port of Richmond  
 Port of San Francisco

**SPECIAL DISTRICTS AND JOINT POWERS AUTHORITIES**

Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District  
 Alameda County Resource Conservation District  
 Alameda County Water District  
 Bay Area Clean Water Agencies  
 Bay Area Toll Authority  
 Contra Costa County Resource Conservation District  
 East Bay Municipal Utility District  
 East Bay Regional Park District  
 Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District  
 Gold Ridge Resource Conservation District  
 Greater Vallejo Recreation District  
 Harmony Union School District  
 Livermore Area Recreation and Park District  
 Marin County Open Space District  
 Marin County Resource Conservation District  
 Marin Municipal Water District  
 Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District  
 Napa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District  
 Napa County Regional Park and Open Space District  
 Napa County Resource Conservation District  
 Novato Sanitary District  
 Richardson Bay Regional Agency  
 San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority  
 San Mateo County Resource Conservation District  
 Santa Clara County Open Space Authority  
 Solano Resource Conservation District  
 Solano Transportation Authority  
 Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District  
 Sonoma County Water Agency  
 Sotoyome Resource Conservation District  
 Southern Sonoma County Resource Conservation District  
 Zone 7 Water Agency

**COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS**

Association of Bay Area Governments

**STATE AGENCIES**

California Department of Parks and Recreation  
 California Department of Fish and Game  
 California Department of Water Resources  
 Delta Protection Commission  
 Wildlife Conservation Board

**FEDERAL AGENCIES**

National Park Service: Golden Gate National Recreation Area and Point Reyes National Seashore  
 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge  
 U.S. Geological Survey

**UNIVERSITIES**

California State University, Sacramento: Center for Collaborative Policy  
 Regents of the University of California  
 Stanford University  
 University of California, Berkeley  
 University of California Natural Reserve System

**CONTENTS**

Partners 2  
 Introduction 3  
 Who We Are 4

**Focus Areas**

The Greenbelt 6  
 Creeks and Rivers 8  
 Community Based Projects 10  
 Wetlands 12  
 Local Farms 14  
 Regional Trails 16  
 Urban Waterfronts 18  
 Education Centers 20  
 Conservation Planning 22

**Around the Bay**

San Francisco 23  
 North Bay 24  
 East Bay 26  
 South Bay and Peninsula 28

The Next 15 Years 30  
 Thanks 31

Cover photos: top © JITZE COUPERUS; bottom, 1 & 2 – ANNIE BURKE; 3 – JUDY IRVING © PELICAN MEDIA

Dear Friend:

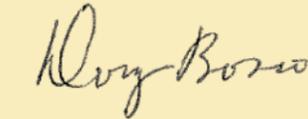
We are thrilled to be celebrating the 15th anniversary of the San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy Program. To those who established the Bay Program legislatively, delivered the projects funded by the Bay Program, provided matching funds or support, or simply enjoyed a new trail or park, we say Thank You!

The Coastal Conservancy, which houses the Bay Program, is proud of what we have achieved in our first fifteen years. This report outlines the major accomplishments in each program area and highlights exemplary projects in each of the Bay Area’s nine counties. The number of projects completed is staggering, and represents the hard work and commitment of both individuals and organizations to protect open space, restore habitats, preserve local farms and ranches, protect our waterways, and connect people to nature.

Our partners have included land trusts, open space districts, cities and counties, water districts, ports, fellow state agencies, federal resource agencies, environmental and community organizations, private foundations, and local universities. Working together, we have moved projects from dreams to reality, benefiting the people and wildlife of the Bay Area.

What’s next? We are in significantly tougher economic times right now, and for the foreseeable future we will not likely see a level of funding comparable to the Bay Program’s first fifteen years. Within the next two to three years our grant funds for new projects will be spent. However, the Conservancy will continue to dedicate staff time and resources to the projects we are currently leading. As new state or regional funds become available, the Conservancy will continue our work to ensure that the Bay Area remains among the best places on earth.

Sincerely,



Douglas Bosco  
 Board Chair

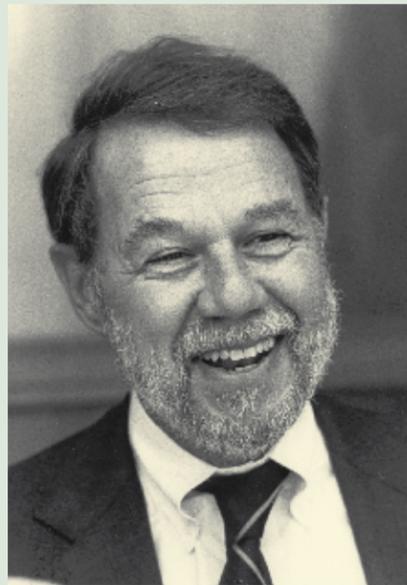


Samuel Schuchat  
 Executive Officer



CHARLOTTE FORBIO

# Who We Are



Fifteen years ago, State Senator Byron Sher, a champion of California's natural environment, introduced a visionary bill to establish the San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy Program. Signed by Governor Wilson later that year, the bill was both the culmination of years of work by the Bay Area Open Space Council and the beginning of an effective new program for open space protection, habitat restoration, and regional trails and recreation in the nine-county Bay Area.

Integrating the Bay Program into the existing structure of the State Coastal Conservancy meant that it could start funding projects right away. Over the past fifteen years, the Bay Program has implemented voter-approved state bond measures for clean water and safe parks, namely Propositions 12, 40, 50 and 84. These essential funds have been granted to local non-profits and public agencies to undertake projects and have been used by the Bay Program to manage projects.

The Conservancy works in each of the Bay Area's nine counties on regionally significant projects. We protect our greenbelt, provide new parkland, and preserve farming and ranching. We restore wetlands in San Francisco Bay and on the coast. We protect watersheds, improving fish passage and habitat on creeks and rivers. We provide access to natural areas for urban populations, construct educational and recreational facilities, and enhance our waterfronts. We plan and construct major regional trails — namely the Bay Trail, Ridge Trail, Coastal Trail, and the Water Trail — while connecting them to local communities.

We work with our partners using a host of strategies. We protect land by acquiring full ownership when needed to achieve public management goals, and by pursuing landowner agreements to conserve open space at a reduced cost while allowing ranchers, farmers, and others to continue to steward their lands. We often provide up-front planning and design support for public access and restoration projects, and then leverage other sources of grant funding to provide the construction financing to complete them. This has brought great dividends in expanding the reach of our funding, typically by a factor of three.

With fifteen years of proven success, we ask ourselves "What do the next fifteen years hold?" We have done so much to protect the Bay Area's wildlife habitats, working farms and ranches, creeks, rivers, wetlands, waterfronts, and parks, yet there is still much work to be done. With public health challenges facing our communities and climate change becoming a significant challenge for our region, we understand the importance of continued conservation and education work in the years to come.

"I'm gratified that my colleagues in the Legislature joined me in creating the Bay Area Conservancy Program. It has exceeded my expectations, advancing hundreds of projects and empowering citizens and local agencies to work towards a sustainable Bay Area."

Byron Sher, former California State Senator



CAPT HUBNIK Lightstorm

# 15

**Fifteen years  
Over 425 Projects**

- Protected Land: 83,772 acres**
- Wetland Projects: 34,793 acres**
- 4 Regional Trails: over 200 miles**
- 50 Creeks or Rivers**
- Conservancy Funding: \$316,879,524**
- Matching Funds: \$1,029,286,584**

### The Conservancy received \$63 million in grants for Bay Area projects over the past 15 years

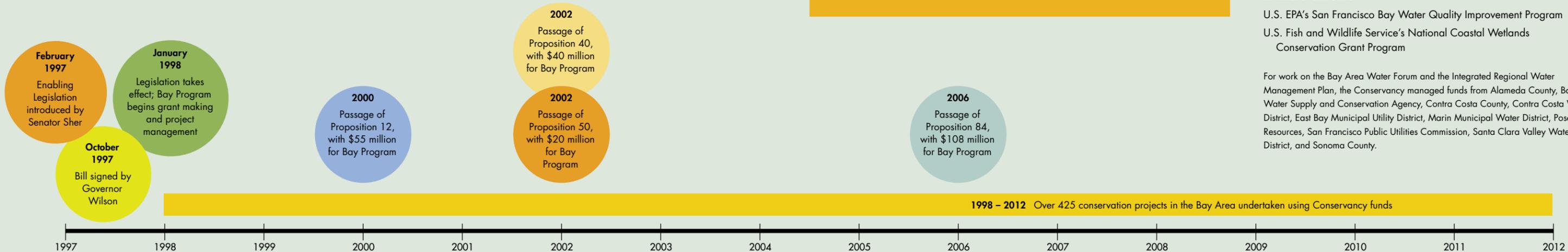
- Wildlife Conservation Board: \$40 million for Baylands Restoration CALFED's Ecosystem Restoration Program
- California Department of Water Resources' Integrated Regional Water Management Program
- Caltrans mitigation funds required by BCDC
- Caltrans' Transportation Enhancement Grants
- Coastal Impact Assistance Program through the Natural Resources Agency
- Ducks Unlimited
- Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation
- Marin Community Foundation
- NOAA's Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program
- NOAA's Fisheries Restoration Center: American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Funds
- Resources Legacy Fund
- San Francisco Public Utilities Commission mitigation funds required by BCDC
- San Francisco Foundation
- Santa Clara Valley Water District
- Trust for Public Land
- U.S. EPA's San Francisco Bay Water Quality Improvement Program
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program

For work on the Bay Area Water Forum and the Integrated Regional Water Management Plan, the Conservancy managed funds from Alameda County, Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Agency, Contra Costa County, Contra Costa Water District, East Bay Municipal Utility District, Marin Municipal Water District, Poseidon Resources, San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, Santa Clara Valley Water District, and Sonoma County.



### FUNDING

- Conservancy Bay Program Funding: \$193,106,715
- Other Conservancy Funding: \$123,772,809
- Matching Funds: Grants to Conservancy: \$63,795,563
- State Matching Funds: \$194,960,758
- Non-State Matching Funds: \$770,530,263



# The Greenbelt



Mindego Hill

AUDREY RUST

## The Bay Area's Greenbelt functions to protect all that we value in the Bay Area.

It provides clean air, clean water, recreation and education. It is the home for our wildlife, the spine of our skyline, and the space we play in.

The Conservancy and its partners have made significant strides towards permanently protecting the region's essential habitats, watersheds, and open spaces. Over a quarter of our region's 4.3 million acres are now protected, making the Bay Area one of the most "natural" urban landscapes in the world. Through 112 land acquisitions covering approximately 85,000 acres, the Conservancy, public land managers and land trusts have protected critical wildlife habitat and connecting corridors, secured open space and viewshed lands, and preserved the bay area's ranching and agricultural heritage.

### Mount Diablo

Rising above the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta, the ridges of the Coast Range and the Central Valley, Mount Diablo is at once a scenic landmark, a premier outdoor recreation area, and an island of biodiversity. It is home to 253 vertebrate animal species, while its 900 plant species — three quarters of which are native — represent one tenth of the native plants found in California. More than 150 species are rare or threatened, with 11 found only here.

Since the late 1990s, the Conservancy has partnered with Save Mount Diablo,

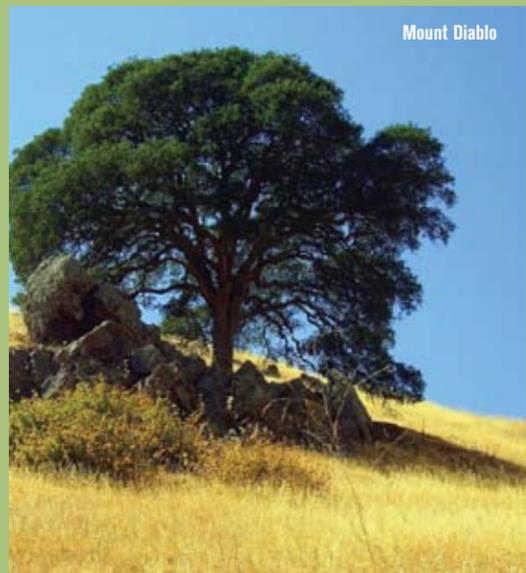
California State Parks, the East Bay Regional Park District, the East Contra Costa Habitat Conservancy and others to conserve portions of Mount Diablo under threat from encroaching development. We have provided funding assistance for the conservation of properties including Clayton Ranch, Silva Ranch, Wright Ranch, the Mount Diablo Gateway Parcel, Mangini Ranch, Chaparral Spring, and Bertagnolli Ranch. These properties total nearly 2,200 acres, significantly expanding the amount of essential protected lands on Mount Diablo.

### Mindego Hill

With ridge-to-ocean views, four miles of creek corridors, and excellent trail connections to an

adjacent preserve, thousand-acre Mindego Hill proved a critical addition to the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District's network of parks in the Santa Cruz Mountains. One of only 10 locations statewide known to provide habitat for a robust population of the endangered San Francisco garter snake, the property was purchased with Conservancy assistance in 2008. Protection of Mindego Hill has been a priority for the District and Peninsula Open Space Trust for over 30 years.

Since then, the District and POST have worked to plan for the property's future, raising funds to construct the necessary improvements to allow public access. The District expects to provide parking on adjacent property the District and POST acquired in



Mount Diablo



King Ranch

ANN BUELL

2011, partially funded with a grant from the Conservancy. The plan envisions a trail to the top of Mindego Hill, which will soon give the public a view of the Pacific Ocean and surrounding hills that is truly awe-inspiring.

### Tolay Creek

In 2003, the Sonoma Land Trust, over six hundred local donors, the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District, the Wildlife Conservation Board, the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, and the Conservancy successfully averted a very real threat — a major casino resort development at Sears Point along Highway 37. Thanks to this tremendous effort, the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria's generous cooperation, and two subsequent conservation acquisitions, Tolay Creek will now forever connect from its headwaters down through the watershed to a seven-mile stretch of protected baylands. The acquisitions of Sears Point, Roche Ranch, and Tolay Lake Ranch protected over 5,700 acres of wildlife habitat, including oak woodlands, grasslands, open meadows, riparian habitat, and wetlands, and secured access to panoramic views of the Bay and its surrounding peaks. Within these protected lands lies 200-acre Tolay Lake, the only remaining freshwater lake in the San Pablo Bay watershed and one of the most prolific sites in the country for Native American carved rock charmstones, used for ceremonial and other purposes up to 4,000 years ago.

### King-Swett Ranches

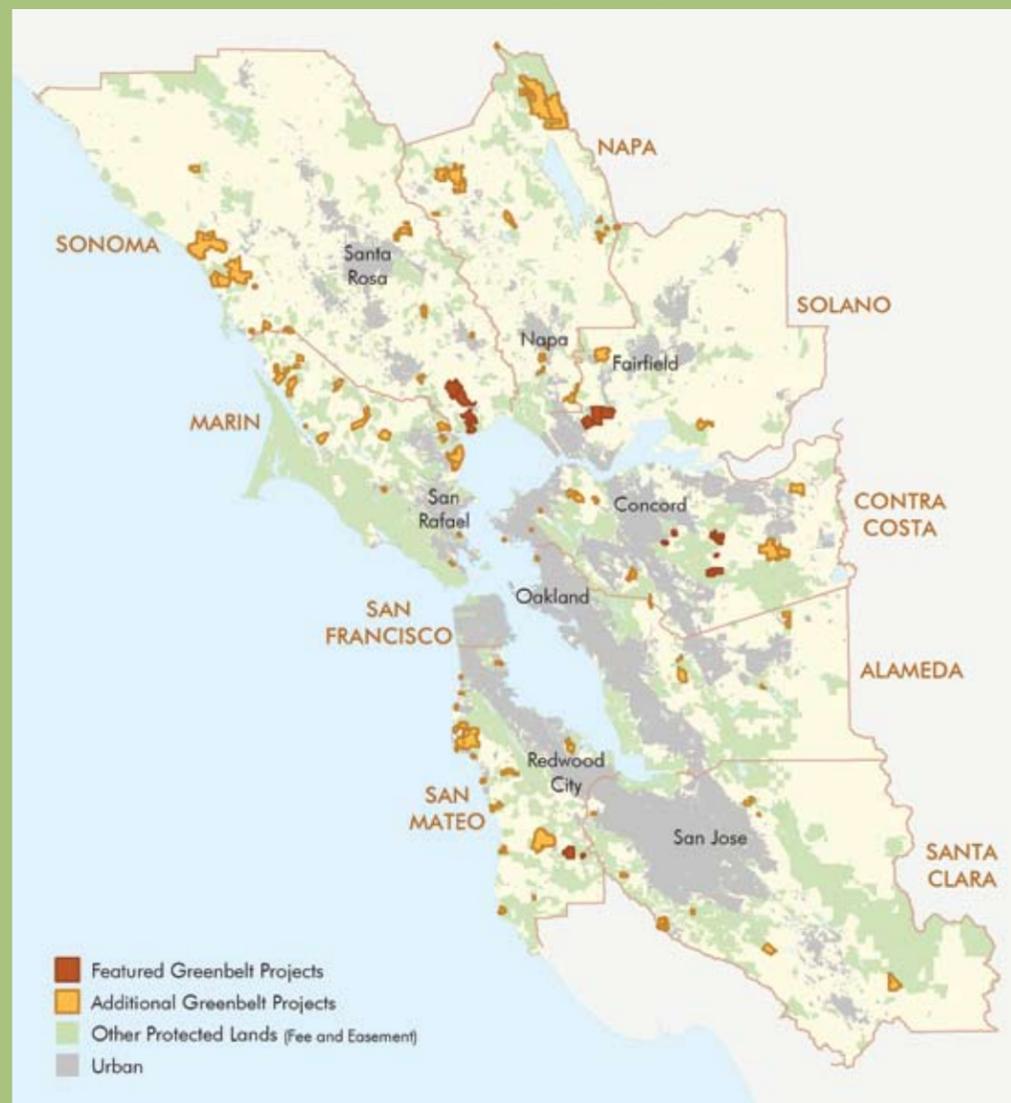
The steep grasslands, oak woodlands and riparian corridors of the Vallejo-Swett, King, and Eastern Swett Ranches form the 3,930-acre core of a band of protected open space, rich wildlife habitat, and rangeland between the cities of Benicia, Vallejo and Fairfield. This band of open space, known as the Sky Valley-Cordelia Hills Open Space, is located close to Interstates 680 and 80 and was identified by local planning groups in the early 1990s as an important urban buffer. In a series of acquisitions starting in the early 2000s, the Solano Land Trust purchased these three ranches from PG&E with funding provided by the Conservancy, the Moore Foundation, the Wildlife Conservation Board and Solano County. The Land Trust actively manages the three ranches and conducts guided hikes for the public.

"The legacy of our cooperative planning and the Conservancy's support will be generations learning to appreciate and sustain the unique natural, historical and cultural resources at Tolay Lake."

Greg Sarris, Chairman,  
Federated Indians  
of Graton Rancheria



Tolay Lake



- Featured Greenbelt Projects
- Additional Greenbelt Projects
- Other Protected Lands (Fee and Easement)
- Urban

# Creeks and Rivers

Creeks and rivers are the Bay Area's lifeblood, providing clean water to sustain the region's natural habitat and wildlife.

Historically impacted through channelization, water diversion and development, these waterways have become the focus of intensive efforts to restore riparian function as well as improve fish passage. The Conservancy has worked to enhance the functioning of the region's watersheds by providing restoration planning, design and construction assistance for 50 creeks and rivers to date.

## Ellis Creek Restoration

With Conservancy funds, the Southern Sonoma County Resource Conservation District successfully stabilized and re-vegetated an eroding half mile of Ellis Creek (a tributary to Sonoma Creek) in coordination with a California Integrated Waste Management Board project to remove thousands of tires placed in the creek decades ago for erosion control. Working with the landowner, the RCD planted riparian vegetation, installed streamside fencing, and implemented a solar-powered watering trough system. The farmer is now able to selectively graze the riparian corridor for invasive weed control while preventing soil loss and avoiding damage from year-round grazing access in this sensitive creek.

## Napa River

The Napa River runs along a fertile valley floor centered in a watershed of 450 square miles. Despite the pressures of urbanization, agriculture, and grazing, the watershed has high restoration potential. Recognizing the importance of this anchor watershed, the Conservancy has funded the following:

### ANCHOR WATERSHEDS

In 2007 the Conservancy funded a study by the Center for Ecosystem Management and Restoration, which evaluated the Bay Area watersheds having the highest restoration potential for steelhead trout. It identified eight as "anchor watersheds" accounting for three quarters of the region's habitat resources. These eight — the Guadalupe and Napa rivers, and Alameda, Coyote, San Francisquito, Corte Madera, Sonoma and Suisun creeks — have become a focal point for Conservancy restoration efforts. Restoration work on other creeks and rivers in the Bay Area remains valuable when it achieves a variety of objectives.

- The Napa River Rutherford Reach Restoration is a pioneering private-public partnership between local landowners, the Rutherford Dust Society, Napa County, and the Napa County Resource Conservation District to restore 4.5 miles of the main stem of the Napa River. Preliminary design for the entire project, funded by the Conservancy and Napa County, was completed in 2008, and phased construction is now underway.
- The retrofit of the historic Zinfandel Lane Bridge, completed in 2011 by Napa County in cooperation with the RCD, removed a crucial fish passage barrier on the Napa River. The project has immediately benefited Chinook salmon and steelhead trout by restoring access to 65 miles of habitat in the upper Napa River watershed.
- The Conservancy has also funded the RCD to assess high priority fish barriers in the Napa River basin and the San Francisco Estuary Institute for an historical ecology assessment of the Napa Valley — both efforts that provide a context for our ongoing restoration work throughout the watershed.



CAPT HUFNIK Light/Moon



## Suisun Creek

The mostly rural 53-square-mile Suisun Creek watershed drops down from southeastern Napa County into Solano County and drains into Suisun Marsh. In the late 1990s, a wide-ranging group of stakeholders, including ranchers and farmers, advocates for the restoration of native fisheries, the City of Vallejo, and resource agencies came together with a common vision of restoring the fishery and other natural resources in the watershed. The California Sportfishing Protection Alliance, with a grant from the Conservancy, prepared a Suisun Creek Watershed Assessment and Enhancement Plan. Then, with grants from the Conservancy and others, the Alliance and the California Land Stewardship Institute embarked on a long-term program of working with ranchers and farmers to eradicate extensive stands of non-native giant reed that clogged Suisun Creek and its tributaries, to restore native riparian vegetation, and remove other barriers to movement of the migratory steelhead.

## Alameda Creek

Significant steelhead trout and salmon runs once existed in Alameda Creek. However, 80 years of urbanization, water diversion and flood control projects have created migration barriers, reduced water flows in the creek and eliminated the fish runs. Despite these changes, much of the watershed still provides suitable fish rearing and spawning habitat, and steelhead trout have been seen trying to migrate upstream in Alameda Creek on many occasions since 1998. Unfortunately, these fish are prevented from reaching their available spawning habitat by a variety of obstacles. Since 1999, the Alameda Creek Fisheries Restoration Work Group, a consortium of a dozen state, local and federal partners including the Conservancy, has been seeking ways to overcome these obstacles to fish migration. The Work Group's planning efforts have focused on removal of fish barriers, studies to determine how to improve stream habitat and management of water flows, and adapting existing infrastructure to protect fish.

Restoring steelhead runs in this urban creek has wide-ranging benefits for the community, the creek, and the Bay itself.

## East Bay Creeks

The Conservancy has enhanced the natural and recreational resources of several major East Bay Creeks, including Arroyo Viejo, Sausal, and Codornices Creeks in Alameda County and Baxter, Cerrito, Marsh, Pinole, and Rheem Creeks in Contra Costa County. Grants to cities and nonprofit creek groups allowed for the planning and construction of regional trail connections that run along creek banks, the installation of interpretive signs and educational features, the removal of straightened concrete channels and culverts, the removal of dams and other fish barriers, and the restoration of native riparian vegetation. These projects benefit water quality, fish, and song birds, while greening our urban spaces and connecting East Bay residents to nature.

"We're already seeing a significant improvement in controlling erosion and soil loss from the enhancement project at Ellis Creek. The combination of the exclusionary fencing and new riparian plantings work together and it's a noticeable difference in just a couple of years."

Andrew & Nicholas Flocchini,  
Ranchers



Napa River: Zinfandel Lane Bridge

# Community-Based Projects

Hands-on projects provide excellent opportunities to learn scientific concepts and gain a greater understanding of the natural world.

These projects also empower people to make positive changes to their local environment, the first step to long-lasting, sustainable change within a community.

Many nonprofit organizations and public agencies working on restoration of and public access to the San Francisco Bay Area's baylands, coastal habitats, creeks, rivers, and oak woodlands have sought ways to include students, community volunteers, and residents in habitat restoration and trail building work. In 2003 and 2007, Conservancy staff solicited proposals for projects that would involve community members in the protection of the Bay Area's environment. The Conservancy provided approximately \$2.5 million to 28 different nonprofit organizations and public agencies for hands-on projects that involved over 50,000 people throughout the Bay Area, including many from underserved communities. Four of the projects are featured here, with the map showing the even wider reach of these grants.

## Students and Teachers Restoring a Watershed

Participants in Students and Teachers Restoring a Watershed, or STRAW, contribute to the protection and improvement of streams, aquifers, and terrestrial resources in the North Bay. Over 600 students, teachers, and volunteers participated in habitat restoration activities in the watersheds of San Pablo Bay, Laguna de Santa Rosa, Tomales Bay, and the Napa River. Their efforts stabilized eroding banks and restored functioning habitats to creek and wetland ecosystems to improve habitat for endangered and threatened species, and restored native vegetation to creek banks and wetlands. Through classroom activities and field studies, students learned about indicators of stream and watershed health, water quality, birds,

aquatic insects, native plants, and stream flow, and students gained confidence in analyzing environmental problems.

## Eco-Oakland Program

The creeks and wetlands of East Oakland are among the most important bird and wildlife habitats in the Central Bay. Unfortunately, many of these important habitats are degraded. Trash clogs the creeks that feed San Leandro Bay and there is significant erosion on the creek banks in East Oakland. Along the Martin Luther King, Jr. Regional Shoreline and within the greater San Leandro Bay watershed, invasive plant species have displaced the native vegetation that is crucial for wildlife habitat. The Golden Gate Audubon Society's Eco-Oakland Program connects underserved East Oakland schoolchildren and community members with their local environment — reaching roughly 3,000 community members annually. Students learned how their lives connect with and rely upon local ecosystems, starting with the most familiar habitats and extending throughout the San Francisco Bay watershed to the Pacific Ocean. Students took field trips to explore and restore creek and wetland areas within the San Leandro Bay watershed, where they investigated water quality, studied plants and invertebrates, and studied the role water plays in uniting the ecosystem.

## Pearson-Arastradero Project

Over 1,000 community volunteers helped to restore riparian habitat at the Pearson-Arastradero Preserve, a 13-acre park in Santa Clara County. A 1,100-foot section of the Arastradero Creek tributary, now known as Mayfly Creek, had been channelized through an underground concrete culvert. Sections of the concrete culvert were removed

to re-contour the meandering path of the historic stream. In December 2006, Acterra staff and volunteers began the process of recreating a seasonal stream corridor to support willows and other riparian plants and to provide habitat for California red-legged frogs, California tiger salamanders and other wildlife. The work involved volunteers in weed removal, habitat creation, installation of plants grown in Acterra's native plant nursery, and long-term monitoring to insure plant establishment and increased biodiversity.

## Save The Bay

As climate change progresses, healthy tidal wetland habitat will be a crucial tool in fighting sea level rise. Save The Bay conducted restoration and enhancement of tidal wetland habitat at four locations:

- Martin Luther King, Jr. Regional Shoreline, with East Bay Regional Park District.
- Eden Landing Ecological Reserve, with California Department of Fish and Game.
- San Francisquito Creek, with City of Palo Alto Baylands Nature Preserve.
- Bair Island, with Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge.

“One thing I found interesting was planting trees and going on a hike. I learned that you are always capable of learning new things. I loved this trip.”

Cindy, student from Oakland, participant in oak planting on EBMUD lands

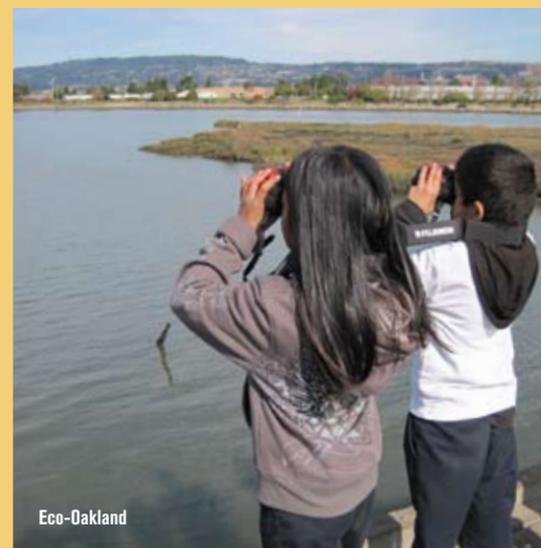


Save The Bay



San Pablo Creek Restoration

Conservancy funding enabled the removal of more than 41,500 pounds of invasive plants, followed by the planting of 48,000 native plants. All of the plants were propagated in Save The Bay's native plant nurseries. This work was completed with the help of over 12,400 volunteers — totaling over 41,400 volunteer hours. Within these sites, invasive plant coverage has decreased by an average of 63%. Save The Bay's strong partnerships with local schools, civic groups, businesses and resource agencies increase awareness of, support for, and participation in the protection and restoration of tidal wetland and estuarine habitat.



Eco-Oakland



Eco-Oakland



Pearson-Arastradero Preserve



Pearson-Arastradero Preserve



STRAW



STRAW



San Bruno Mountain



Eco-Oakland

# Wetlands

The San Francisco Bay is one of the most spectacular urban settings in the world, but it is also a threatened resource that has been subjected to degradation and habitat loss for over a century.

Tidal wetlands are crucial features of our landscape, providing a cost-effective, natural infrastructure for flood protection and water quality improvement. The Conservancy has been at the forefront of work to restore these benefits, participating in the planning or restoration of nearly 35,000 acres of wetlands. The following examples are part of over two dozen wetland initiatives that we have funded — efforts that have brought national attention and have been supported by Senator Feinstein, the San Francisco Bay Joint Venture, and many others.

## South Bay Salt Ponds

The South Bay Salt Ponds along the San Mateo, Santa Clara, and Alameda shorelines are the largest wetland restoration project on the West Coast. The 15,100 acres of ponds were acquired from Cargill in 2003 with funds from the Wildlife Conservation Board, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Goldman Fund, and the Hewlett, Packard, and Moore Foundations. Planning and implementation of wetland restoration, flood management, and public access has been facilitated by the Conservancy, in partnership with the Fish and Wildlife Service, California Department of Fish and Game, local flood management agencies, USGS, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and others. The project is being implemented over decades, with a strong emphasis on adaptive

management. The first phase of work includes the restoration or enhancement of 3,750 acres and 7 miles of new public trails, improving the South Bay for wildlife and people.

## Urban Wetlands

The Conservancy has a strong commitment to protecting and enhancing natural areas within urban communities to benefit both wildlife and people. The following projects involved significant community involvement and support.

- The Yosemite Slough project, currently under construction by the California State Parks Foundation in Candlestick State Park in Southeast San Francisco, includes habitat restoration for birds and other wildlife, cleaning of polluted urban runoff, neighborhood greening, and improvements to public access — including a Bay Trail segment.
- The Crissy Field wetlands were restored 10 years ago by the Golden Gate National Park Conservancy on National Park Service land. The 20-acre urban wetland and environmental education center is visited by thousands of residents and tourists each year, and has become one of the Bay Area's most important resources for understanding the interface between urban and natural areas.
- The Lake Merritt project includes several innovative actions to improve the nation's oldest wildlife sanctuary. The City of

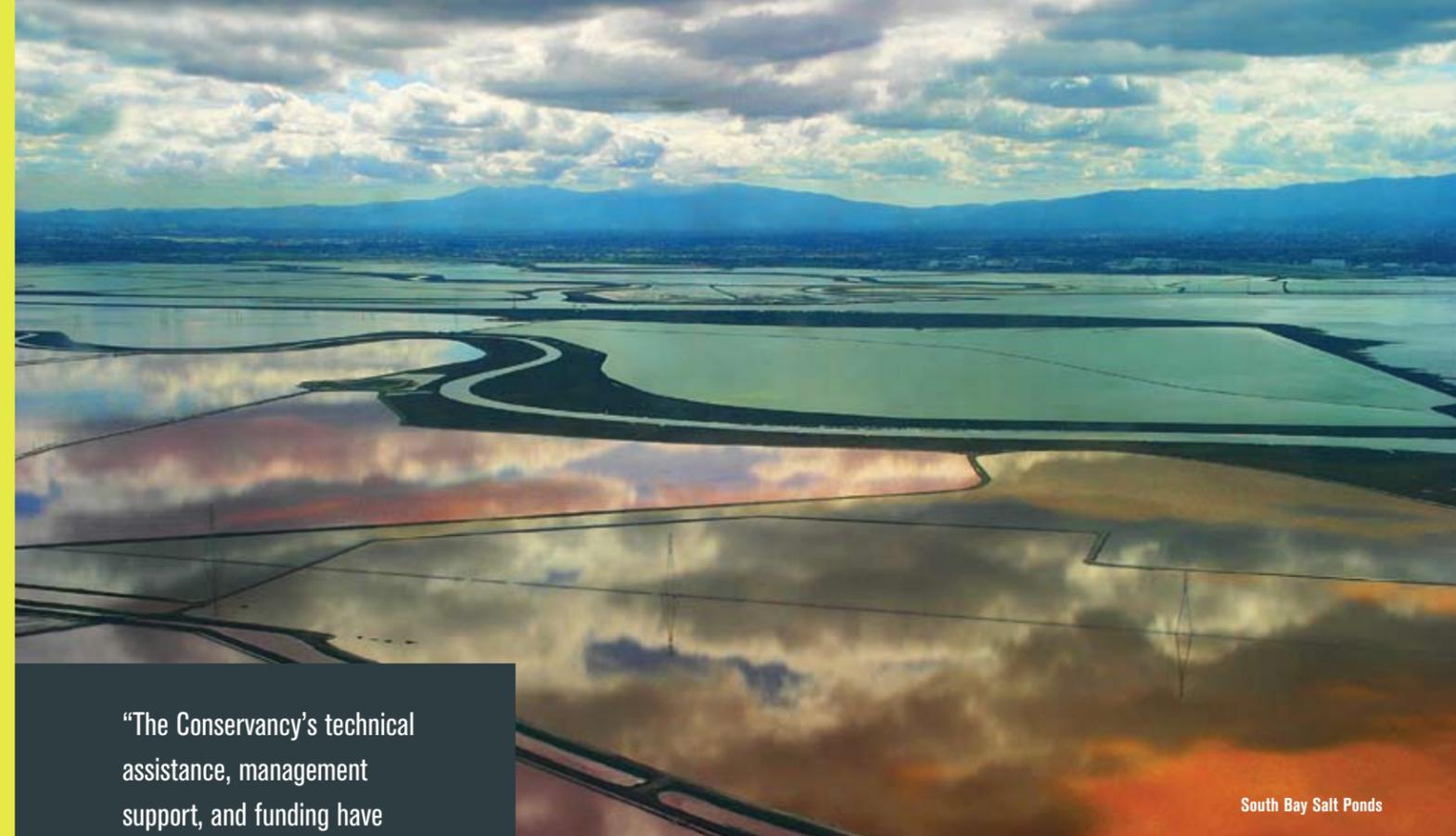
Oakland is installing equipment to remove pollutants, widening the channel between the Oakland Estuary and the lake, creating tidal marsh, increasing tidal fluctuations in the lake to create healthier habitats, and restoring several bird-roosting islands.

## Napa Sonoma Marsh

The Napa Sonoma Marsh Restoration Project involves the restoration of nearly 10,000 acres of salt ponds. The land was purchased from Cargill in 1994 and is now managed as part of the Napa-Sonoma Marshes State Wildlife Area by Fish and Game. Planning of the restoration work was facilitated by the Conservancy in partnership with the Corps of Engineers and Fish and Game. Restoration began in 2005 with \$15 million in funds from the California Bay-Delta Authority and the Wildlife Conservation Board, resulting in the enhancement of 1,700 acres of managed ponds for waterfowl and shorebirds and the restoration of nearly 3,000 acres to full tidal action — making it the largest completed tidal habitat restoration in San Francisco Bay to date. The completed work has significantly improved wildlife habitat and hunting and fishing opportunities, as well as wildlife viewing. The Corps of Engineers will soon start the restoration of the remaining ponds.

## Hamilton Airfield

The Hamilton Wetland Restoration Project's goals are four-fold: tidal and seasonal wetland restoration in the Marin Baylands; beneficial reuse of dredged sediment; the clean-up and reuse of a former military property; and completion of a segment of the Bay Trail. At 2,600 acres, Hamilton is the largest wetland restoration project in the United States to beneficially reuse dredged sediment. In 2003, the Conservancy acquired the 700-acre Hamilton Airfield at no cost from the Army Base Realignment and Closure program. Placement of dredged material from the Port of Oakland's harbor deepening project started in 2008 and the Airfield was filled with sediment by the end of 2010. The Corps of Engineers is currently grading the fill, preparing for installation of tens of thousands of native plants, and planning for construction of a Bay Trail segment. In 2013 the on-board levee will be breached to allow full tidal action. After completion of the Hamilton Airfield, the Conservancy and Corps plan to start the restoration of the adjoining 1,600-acre Bel Marin Keys.



South Bay Salt Ponds

JITZE COURENIS

“The Conservancy’s technical assistance, management support, and funding have been essential for regional coordination, vision, and the acceleration of the pace of wetland restoration in the Bay. We are truly in a wetlands renaissance.”

Beth Huning, San Francisco Bay Joint Venture



## Invasive Spartina Project

Invasive *Spartina* is a highly aggressive, non-native plant that significantly alters both the physical structure and biological composition of San Francisco Bay's wetlands. A region-wide eradication project led by the Conservancy and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has become a successful model for effectively treating an invasive species — with multiple landowners, non-profits, and agency stakeholders participating in the project. Since 2003, the total infestation of hybrid *Spartina* in the Bay has been reduced from a high of more than 800 acres to fewer than 85 acres in 2011.



Lake Merritt



JUDY IRVING © FELICAN MEDIA



JUDY IRVING © FELICAN MEDIA

Crissy Field



CHARLOTTE FIORITO

# Local Farms

The Bay Area is fortunate to have a remarkable diversity of food produced within close range, and few realize that over 40% of Bay Area lands remain as farms and ranches.

Over 170 farmers markets provide a “face” to our local food supply and a tangible connection to the land. The region’s wine, specialty produce and cheese have achieved international appeal, and our ranching heritage has been a foundation for long-term land stewardship. Nearly \$2 billion of economic value comes from these landscapes each year.

Yet because the Bay Area is also an urban region, farming and ranching are under continued and increasing pressures. High operating costs, competition and land values threaten many agricultural ventures. The Conservancy works with local and regional land trusts, county park and resource districts, and federal agricultural programs to promote agricultural sustainability through innovative land practices, conservation agreements, and direct planning assistance. The following highlight some of the many ways we can ensure that our landscapes remain not just green, but also productive in facilitating access to healthy, local food.

## Western Marin

Western Marin County boasts an abundance of highly productive agricultural lands, with 200 farms and ranches on 137,000 private acres whose products are valued at more than \$53 million annually. Products include dairy and beef cattle, field and nursery crops, aquaculture, organic fruit and vegetable crops, and more recently, viticulture. The Marin Agricultural Land Trust was formed in 1980 to permanently protect the land

from nonagricultural development, and has protected more than 44,000 acres. Since 1983, the Conservancy has granted MALT a total of \$9,705,100 for the acquisition of 21 easements totaling 13,594 acres. Along with the landowners, major partners include California Department of Conservation, the Wildlife Conservation Board, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Caltrans, and the Moore Foundation.

As consumers seek higher quality and locally grown foods, a growing number of ranchers and farmers are diversifying their crops and undertaking direct sales of their products. Ranches protected by Conservancy-funded easements include: Giacomini Ranch (its Point Reyes Farmstead Cheese Company produces Blue, Toma and white cheddar cheeses); Gale Ranch (grass-fed beef and heritage apples); Barboni Ranch (beef and lamb), and Grossi Ranch (beef and wine grapes).

## EcoVillage Farm

The Conservancy provided a grant to the Trust for Public Land to acquire a 5.6-acre property in the City of Richmond for the EcoVillage Farm

Learning Center. The property is now the site of a sustainable agriculture and environmental education program for regional youth, administered by Earth Island Institute. It is accessible by public transportation and has a rural feel despite its proximity to the cities of Richmond and San Pablo.

An “oasis of connectivity,” EcoVillage serves local schools, community groups, and non-profits. Workshops teach young people

how to restore, value, and protect ecological systems while growing crops for consumption and caring for farm animals. The program provides workshops on composting, water and energy conservation, understanding ecological systems, permaculture design, natural pest management, creek restoration and watershed protection, and organic gardening. The program also works with educators interested in developing school-based gardens.

## Brentwood

Irrigated farmlands near the City of Brentwood in eastern Contra Costa County provide fresh fruit and vegetables year-round for Bay Area population centers just minutes away. While some 12,000 acres of farmland just southeast of Brentwood’s urban limit line were recently designated “agricultural core” in Contra Costa County’s General Plan, explosive growth in and around Brentwood saw rapid conversion of prime farmland to urban uses during the late 1990s and early 2000s and City ballot initiatives have proposed additional conversion. Since the early 2000s, the Brentwood Agricultural Land Trust and the Agricultural Land Trust of Contra Costa County, working closely with the City, have acquired agricultural conservation easements over some 700 acres of strategically located properties. The Conservancy recently provided a grant to BALT to acquire an agricultural conservation easement over a 160-acre farm in the center of the agricultural core.

## Napa Valley

The Fish Friendly Farming™ Environmental Certification / Napa Green Program is a voluntary program for grape growers in the Napa Valley that enhances the Napa River watershed, improves water quality, and restores habitat with sustainable agriculture practices.

“The Conservancy grant made the difference in making the EcoVillage project a reality. It takes youth out of their day-to-day environment, allowing them to interact with nature. It’s an incredible amount of new knowledge they gain by learning how to grow food.”

**Shyaam Shabaka, EcoVillage Founder and Director**

With Conservancy support, the Napa County Resource Conservation District contracted with Laurel Marcus & Associates and worked with diverse stakeholders to develop a version of the Fish Friendly Farming program expressly for Napa County. The program helps land managers develop and implement farm-specific management plans for their properties. The program is now managed by the non-profit California Land Stewardship Institute in collaboration with the Napa Valley Vintners. Since its inception, approximately 50,000 acres have been enrolled in the program — more than 30,000 acres have been certified and thousands more are about to receive official certification. Ninety percent of the Napa River watershed is in private ownership, making this a vital component of natural resource protection efforts.

“Without the partnership and support from the Conservancy we simply could not have achieved the level of protection of Marin’s farms and ranches that we see today. We are very grateful that the Conservancy continues to believe in MALT’s mission by continuing to invest public funds to leverage the generous contributions from our donors and other funding partners.”

**Bob Berner, MALT**



# Regional Trails

While the Bay Area offers its residents many outdoor opportunities, none are more bold or inspiring than its set of regional trails linking people directly to the land and to each other.

The Conservancy has funded the development of four regional trail systems, each offering a unique experience of its own. Whether following the coastline or traversing ridge tops, skirting or floating the bay, we've helped plan, construct, and open dozens of access points and hundreds of miles of trails. Together, these linkages will one day provide over 1,000 miles of recreational opportunities for hikers, bikers, equestrians and non-motorized boaters throughout the region.

## San Francisco Bay Trail

The San Francisco Bay Trail is a vision for a shared-use bicycle and pedestrian path that will allow continuous travel around San Francisco Bay. Today, over 325 miles of trail are complete, providing active, accessible recreational opportunities for hikers, bicyclists and other outdoor enthusiasts, offering a setting for wildlife appreciation and environmental education, and promoting clean forms of transportation. The Bay Trail will eventually extend over 500 miles to link the shorelines of nine counties, passing through 47 cities and crossing seven major bridges. Administered by the Association of Bay Area Governments, the project is currently funded by the Conservancy and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission. Since 1999, ABAG and the Conservancy have awarded 120 competitive grants to local governments, special districts and nonprofit organizations for planning, design and construction of new Bay Trail segments and associated amenities. The program has resulted in significant progress: 57 miles of trail construction, new shoreline destination areas, interpretive signs, trail amenities, public outreach, regional trail analysis and project-specific plans for an additional 130 miles.

## Bay Area Ridge Trail

The Bay Area Ridge Trail is the region's premier long-distance hiking, biking and horse-riding trail ringing the ridgelines surrounding San Francisco Bay, linking people, communities, parks, open space and habitat corridors. The Ridge Trail offers breathtaking views as it winds 550 miles through open grasslands, forests, oak woodlands, cities and suburbs.

Any long-distance trail requires persistence and focus to achieve connectivity over time. Conservancy funds have supported land acquisition, planning, design, and construction for over a decade — leveraging federal, state, and local funds as well as individual, community, foundation and corporate funding. The Bay Area Ridge Trail Council provides vision, coordinating the work of many dedicated park and open space district partners, land trusts, and countless volunteers, all of whom help build, maintain and promote the trail. Since 1998, 130 miles of new Ridge Trail have opened, yielding nearly 340 dedicated miles in nine counties. An additional 50 miles of Ridge Trail are near completion, along with public facilities such as staging areas, trail bridges, signs, and restrooms. Set close to most Bay Area residents, the trail will provide benefits today and for generations to come.

## California Coastal Trail

The Conservancy is charged with completing the ambitious California Coastal Trail, a planned 1,200-mile route along the entire California Coast. Over 137 miles of the Bay Area's 170-mile segment are currently open to the public, extending through Sonoma, Marin, San Francisco, and San Mateo Counties, including the Golden Gate Bridge. Recent Coastal Trail Projects include:

- New trails near Salmon Creek and Bodega Bay developed by California State Parks, the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District, and the Sonoma County Parks Department.
- New and restored coastal trail along Lower Redwood Creek above Muir Beach, including a restored creek and adjacent floodplain, completed by the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy, National Park Service and the County of Marin.
- South of the Golden Gate, the Parks Conservancy has constructed new trails and overlooks in the Presidio, at Lands End, and further south at Mori Point in Pacifica. Today the Parks Conservancy and National Park Service are in the midst of planning future trail enhancements at Rancho Corral de Tierra, which the Conservancy helped acquire.

## Bay Area Water Trail

The San Francisco Bay Area Water Trail is a planned network of access sites that will allow people using non-motorized small boats or boards — such as kayaks, sailboards, dragon boats, and stand up paddleboards — to safely enjoy the historic, scenic, cultural, and environmental richness of San Francisco Bay. This regional program is being implemented under the leadership of the Conservancy in close collaboration with ABAG, the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission, and the Department of Boating and Waterways, along with an advisory committee representing a broad range of interests and expertise. The trail was created by legislation in 2005 as a voluntary program based upon the vision of the non-profit Bay Access, Inc. and a plan developed by BCDC. With site designation just begun, more than 100 potential trailheads are being considered for inclusion in the network. Designed to benefit site users, site owners, and the Bay environment alike, the Water Trail program will provide a website, maps, and brochures with information about facilities at designated landing and launching sites, safe and environmentally sound boating practices, and Bay wildlife and habitat.



San Francisco Bay Trail

BAY TRAIL PROJECT

“Today, Bay Area residents can hike, bike and ride to more treasures as a superb network of trails takes shape, thanks to the Conservancy's leadership and funding.”

Janet McBride,  
Bay Area Ridge Trail Council



Bay Area Water Trail

PENNY WEIS



Coastal Trail at Muir Beach



Ridge Trail

LARONNE NICOLAI



Ridge Trail

DENA JUSTICE



Coastal Trail at Cowell-Purisima

PAGIO VESCIA

# Urban Waterfronts

As industrial uses of the Bay shoreline have waned and most shipping has been consolidated in the large ports, many cities are realizing the value of an underutilized resource.

They are revitalizing their urban waterfronts and creating new jobs through a combination of private enterprises and public facilities that attract visitors. The Conservancy recognizes the lasting benefit of these renewed waterfronts and has provided funding and technical assistance to cities at all stages of urban waterfront restoration.

Rising sea level adds complexity to today's urban waterfront restoration planning. The Conservancy is helping cities determine how to design new shoreline improvements responsibly, and when to strategically invest scarce dollars to protect themselves from the rising Bay.

## Ocean Beach Master Plan

San Francisco's five-mile-long Ocean Beach could become one of the most spectacular metropolitan beaches in the world, but currently suffers from erosion and a lack of amenities. The Conservancy provided a grant to the San Francisco Planning and Urban Research Association (SPUR) to develop a Master Plan for Ocean Beach. Recently completed, the Master Plan achieved an unprecedented level of cooperation and consensus among management agencies and key stakeholders, as well as broad, enthusiastic public support. The recommendations address

major areas including climate change and sea level rise; erosion; natural resources protection; public access and recreation; vehicular, bicycle, and pedestrian access and circulation; and implementation, management and maintenance. Key to the plan is realignment of the Great Highway between Skyline Blvd. and Sloat Ave., an area of high erosion. This would allow for the implementation of several public access and shoreline management improvements, including a beautiful segment of Coastal Trail, a better connection between the San Francisco Zoo and the ocean, and a change in erosion control methods.

## Petaluma Trestle Rehabilitation

The City of Petaluma has a pressing need to restore public access to the 500-foot long historic train trestle along the Petaluma River in the center of downtown, now fenced off due to the deterioration of the wooden structure. Transportation and commerce along the river have been defining aspects of the character and identity of downtown Petaluma, and the trestle restoration offers a means of preserving Petaluma's urban waterfront. With support from the Conservancy and the Sonoma-Marine Area Rail Transit District, the City will design an effective rehabilitation of the Petaluma trestle and stabilization of the riverbank beneath. Designs for a segment of the Petaluma River Trail will also be completed as part of this project. Three of our regional trails — the Bay, Ridge and the Water Trails — have potential to link with the Petaluma River Trail and the trestle improvements. Potential also

exists to restore an historic trolley line through the main commercial area of Petaluma's historic waterfront to connect with the regional rail corridor being planned for Sonoma and Marin counties.

## Benicia Waterfront

The old boatyards, brothels and the shoreline railroad on the Carquinez Strait at the end of the First Street commercial district in the City of Benicia may be gone, but 15 acres of public land encompassing a fishing pier, a community green, disturbed wetlands, and sandy beaches lay ready for a new wave of restoration and urban uses. With a vision for multiple uses from a citizens' Waterfront Committee and a grant from the Conservancy, the City has embarked upon the preparation of an urban waterfront master plan to attract more visitors, protect and restore wetlands, alleviate localized flooding, adapt to rising sea level, and enhance this vibrant waterfront community.



© AECOM, PHOTOGRAPHER DAVID LLOYD



Ocean Beach

## Union Point Park

Vibrant and popular Union Point Park rose from a disused and contaminated industrial site on the Oakland Estuary, close to the low-income Fruitvale and San Antonio neighborhoods and about three miles south of Jack London Square. The Conservancy contributed funding for park planning, land acquisition and construction. Conservancy staff also worked for years with the City and Port of Oakland, the Spanish-Speaking Unity Council, and the Trust for Public Land to engage the community in park planning; to design a park that is visually exciting, fun for people of all ages and abilities to visit, and practical to maintain; and to surmount the

many obstacles that come with converting a former industrial site into a public park.

## Alviso Marina

Alviso Marina County Park, although relatively small in size, provides a wide array of recreational activities and educational opportunities. The only public boat launch in the far South Bay, it is an excellent staging area for the San Francisco Bay Trail as well as an access point to the adjacent Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge. The Conservancy granted

funds to the Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department for the planning, design, and construction of public access and recreation improvements including a new boardwalk through the marsh, tables, benches, viewing platforms, interpretive signage, native plantings, and an improved parking lot. The California Department of Boating and Waterways funded the new boat launch. The transformation from defunct marina to community asset in 2005 has greatly benefited both the waterfront community of Alviso and the South San Francisco Bay.

“The Bay Area Conservancy Program is a great model for how a regional government agency can work creatively with a broad spectrum of interests and get work done in a 21st century city.”

Gabriel Metcalf,  
SPUR



© AECOM, PHOTOGRAPHER DAVID LLOYD

Ocean Beach



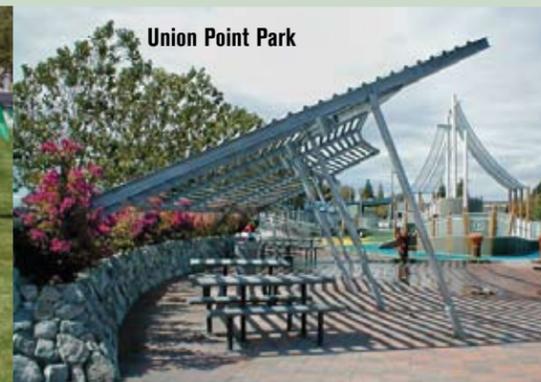
18



Petaluma Trestle



Union Point Park



Union Point Park



Benicia Waterfront



Petaluma Trestle

19

DEBORAH HIRST

# Education Centers

The Conservancy is committed to connecting the people of the Bay Area to the natural wonders of our home.

Education Centers allow children and adults to learn about wildlife habitats and our cultural heritage, creating a sense of stewardship that will protect the investments we have made in the future. Programs at the centers highlighted below involve people in science and restoration and empower our next conservation leaders.

## Heron's Head EcoCenter

Heron's Head EcoCenter is the Bay Area's first environmental justice education facility and is a model for alternative energy systems and cutting-edge sustainable design technologies. The "off-the-grid" EcoCenter is fully powered by solar and wind energy and includes an on-site wastewater treatment system. Literacy for Environmental Justice uses the center to foster youth empowerment in the Bayview-Hunters Point neighborhood in southeast San Francisco, reaching 1,200 young people each year. The Conservancy helped the Port of San Francisco transform a former landfill into Heron's Head Park with restored wetlands and trails in 1998, and provided funding for the development of the EcoCenter, which was completed on Earth Day in 2010.

## Año Nuevo Marine Education Center

The new Marine Education Center at Año Nuevo State Reserve is a state-of-the-art coastal education facility on the San Mateo coast that provides more than 200,000 annual visitors with hands-on opportunities to learn about the charismatic elephant seal and other marine wildlife. Partially funded by the Conservancy, the project was completed by the California State Parks Foundation in 2008. By upgrading the existing visitor center and providing new space for training the 220 volunteer docents who lead tours of the Reserve, the State Parks Foundation has enabled thousands more children each year to benefit from this invaluable educational resource — including students in underserved

communities throughout the greater San Francisco and San Jose metropolitan areas.

## Edgewood Park and Natural Preserve Nature Center

Edgewood Park and Natural Preserve is one of the largest serpentine grassland areas on the Peninsula and is known for its stunning spring wildflower displays. To date, approximately 500 different plant species have been identified at Edgewood, including rare, threatened, or endangered species. Efforts are underway to reintroduce the threatened Bay checkerspot butterfly that once thrived at the Preserve.

A Conservancy grant to the San Mateo County Parks Foundation has helped foster a greater appreciation and understanding of this park's fascinating natural history by supporting the environmental education exhibits at a new sustainably-designed interpretive center. Managed by San Mateo County, the Bill and Jean Lane Education Center was opened to the public in the spring of 2011. The exhibits were designed with the needs of teachers in mind, as the site is within 20 miles of most schools in San Mateo County. To date, hundreds of students have visited the Center, as have scout troops, summer camp groups, and visitors from throughout the Bay Area.

## Camp Berryessa

Camp Berryessa will be the first public environmental education camp in Napa County, and will be constructed with

sustainability as a guiding principle. Located on the shores of Lake Berryessa on approximately 10 acres of land owned by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, the camp will be managed by the Napa County Regional Park and Open Space District and will accommodate groups of up to 120 campers. The Conservancy provided funds to the District to design and construct approximately 30 tent cabins, a campfire amphitheater, swimming areas, a canoe and kayak launch, nature trails, and several other activity areas. Once the camp is operating, the District will seek funding to add a central dining and meeting facility. Construction began in early 2012 and the District anticipates that the camp will be open in the fall of 2013.

## Laguna Learning Center

The Laguna Learning Center is located on the City of Santa Rosa's 112-acre Stone Farm, bordering the Laguna de Santa Rosa, a



Camp Berryessa



Redwood Shores Branch Library



Edgewood Park

Ramsar Wetland of International Significance. The City acquired the property in 1985 and has leased a 6-acre portion of the site to the Laguna Foundation to house its headquarters and native plant nursery, and to construct the Laguna Learning Center. The Foundation renovated an historic Civil War-era farmhouse on the site into its headquarters. Conservancy funds were used for construction of the new Laguna Learning Center's building and grounds, which will educate the public about the neighboring ecosystem. The Center and its outdoor learning component will be used for educational programs for all ages — focusing on the Laguna's natural history and resources, local Native American history, conservation science, and restoration efforts. The barn-style building is designed to fit naturally into the site and honor its 140-year agricultural history.

## Redwood Shores Branch Library

The Interpretive Center at the Redwood Shores Branch Library features a large model of the abundant life within San Francisco Bay's mud. Located on the Bay Trail in Redwood City, the Interpretive Center is a strong draw for both children and adults. As families enter the library, the children run over to squirm through a tunnel, watch fish swim in the aquarium, or spin the dial on the tide video to make birds swim backwards. Adults are fascinated by the map showing how close they live to a waterway. The Conservancy funded the displays, which emphasize the benefits that wetlands provide. The smallest visitors can build a bird out of sticky heads, bodies, and feet or make bird footprints on a block of sandstone. Outside, nature lovers can learn to identify the birds that frequent Belmont Slough and even get the feel of how

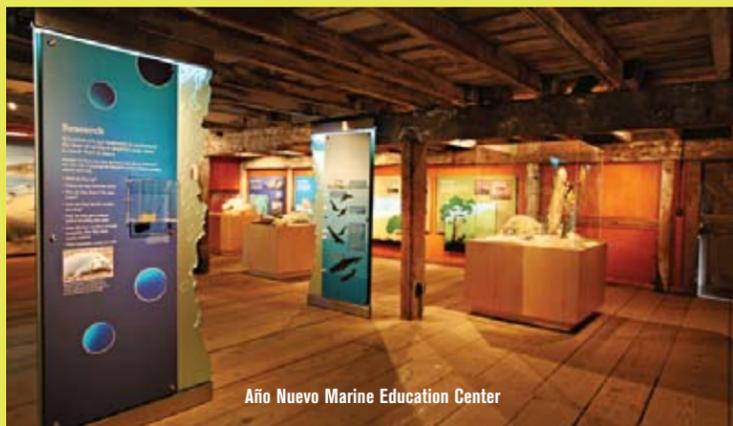
"I learned that we as humans got to start appreciating the earth more. We have to start living more mindful of what we do."

Reneka, Heron's Head Eco-Center student

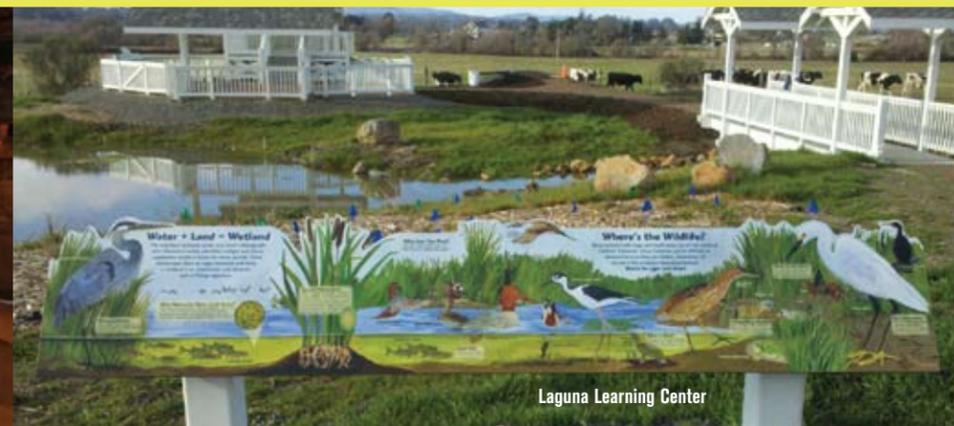
wings move in flight. Sequoia Audubon has offered additional experiential education through bird watching walks, and the Marine Science Institute offers an *After-school Ecology* program for 5th and 6th graders and monthly Seaside Storytimes, sometimes bringing in live animals.



Heron's Head EcoCenter



Año Nuevo Marine Education Center

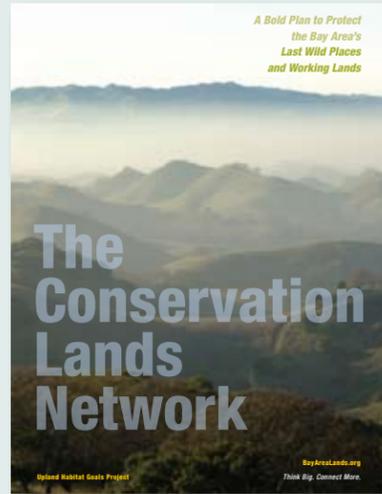


Laguna Learning Center

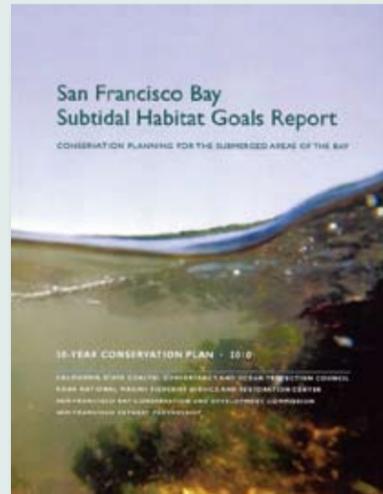


# Conservation Planning

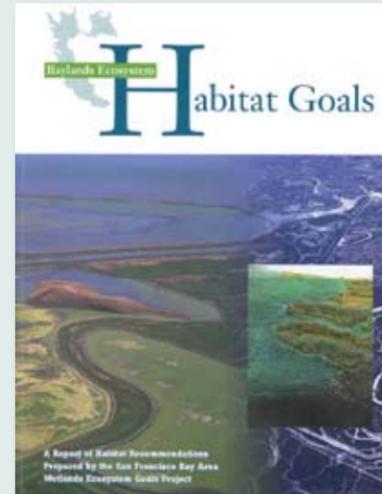
Together, the Conservation Lands Network, the San Francisco Bay Subtidal Goals Project, and the Baylands Ecosystem Habitat Goals Report represent a milestone in regional habitat planning for the San Francisco Bay Area. We now have a comprehensive ecosystem-based management vision for habitats ranging from the bay floor to the ridge tops to the edge of the Pacific shore. Each report recommends actions to preserve, restore, and protect these habitats, strategically guiding our investments.



This remarkable science-based study was led by the Bay Area Open Space Council. Over 125 organizations and individuals came together to identify the most essential lands needed to sustain the “natural infrastructure” of our region. Over 4.3 million acres and over 1,000 variables were considered — from redwood forests to California red-legged frog habitat, from climate change to migratory routes. The Conservancy was an early and ongoing supporter and funder of this effort with several other foundations and public agencies. The Conservation Lands Network map, report, and interactive on-line map were released in 2011 and are available to land managers, legislators and local planners to help them make informed and integrated decisions, and regularly assess the region’s progress towards these goals.



The *San Francisco Bay Subtidal Habitat Goals Report* was released in 2010, outlining a bold vision for a hidden part of the Bay Area. Led by the Conservancy with the Ocean Protection Council, Bay Conservation and Development Commission, NOAA Fisheries and Restoration Center, and the San Francisco Estuary Partnership, the 50-Year Report presents a strong, non-regulatory vision for how to move forward with science-based subtidal research, protection, and restoration. Marking the first time that comprehensive information about submerged areas in the Bay has been compiled, the report has inspired a variety of in-the-water restoration efforts, including oyster, eelgrass, and living shoreline projects that benefit aquatic fish, invertebrates, and wildlife.



The *Baylands Ecosystem Goals Report*, completed in 1999 by over 100 scientists and resource managers led by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Regional Water Quality Control Board, identifies the types, amounts, and distribution of bayland habitats needed to sustain diverse and healthy communities of fish and wildlife. The report succeeded in articulating a vision for protecting and restoring 100,000 acres of wetland habitat in the Bay, and has become a key tool to support wetlands restoration. The Conservancy is now working to produce a technical update to the report to incorporate an improved understanding of how climate change will affect the Bay’s wetlands. With the impending and significant effects that climate change will have, there is an urgent need to ensure that they can thrive in the future.

LORENZ & AVELAR



“The Bay Area is an international hotspot for biodiversity and with our regional conservation plans we have a science-based and collaboratively-created blueprint to protect it.”

Bettina Ring, Bay Area Open Space Council

# San Francisco

## Pier 14

The Port of San Francisco constructed the Downtown Ferry Terminal Public Pier, also known as Pier 14, between the recently expanded Ferry Terminal and the Bay Bridge with funds granted by the Conservancy and others, including the Wildlife Conservation Board. Pier 14 was built on top of a new breakwater that the Port constructed to protect ferry terminal boat traffic from waves during inclement weather. This easily accessible pier provides San Francisco residents and visitors with an opportunity to walk out over the Bay and enjoy spectacular views of the Bay Bridge, Treasure Island, and downtown San Francisco. The pier is accessible to people with disabilities and serves as an extension to the Bay Trail located on the Embarcadero Promenade.

## Lands End Coastal Trail

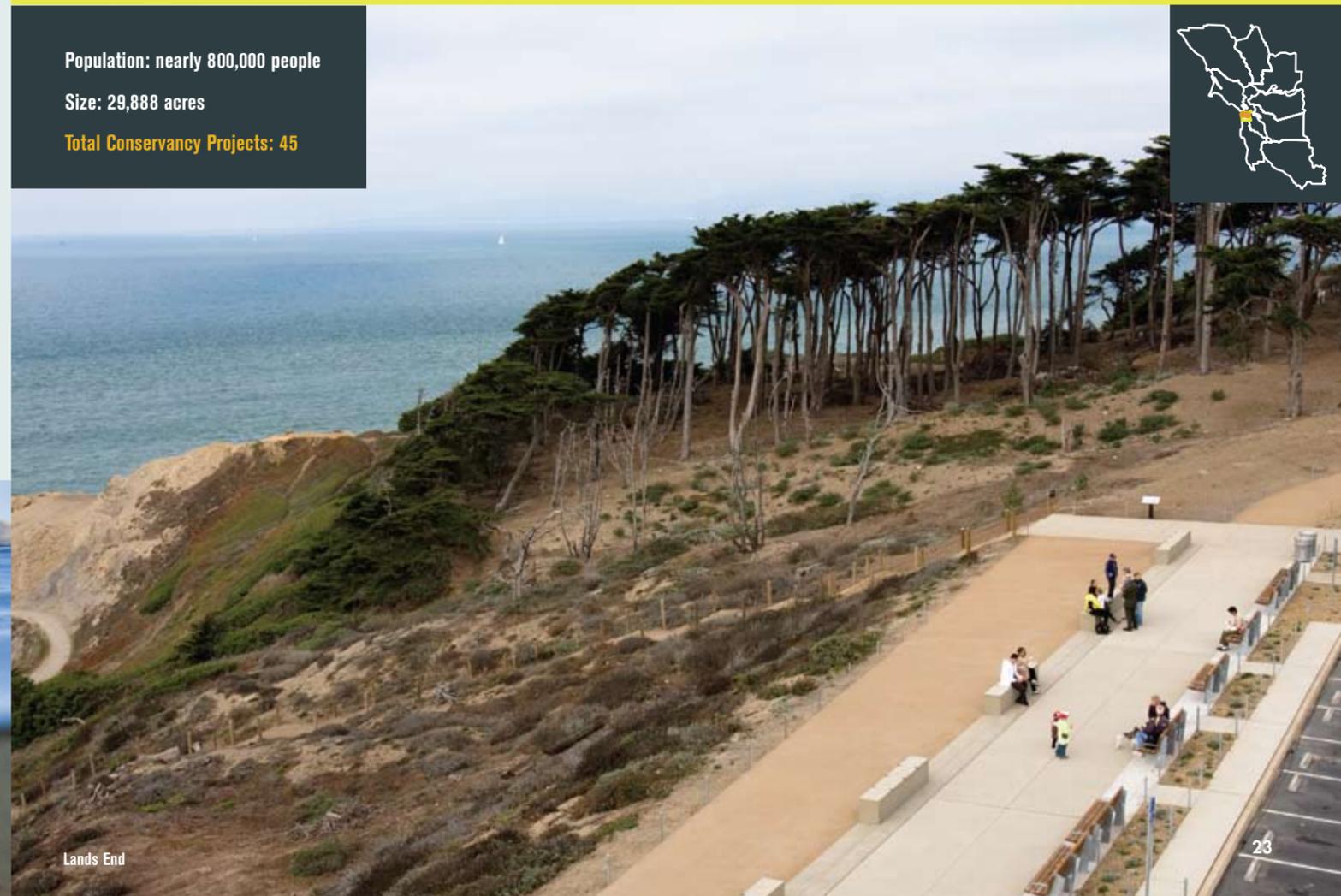
The nearly 2-mile link of the Coastal Trail at Lands End in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area is set on dramatic bluffs overlooking the historic Sutro Baths, the Farallon Islands and the Golden Gate Bridge. More than 1.4 million visitors a year take in its spectacular coastal views. The Conservancy provided funding to the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy for major improvements to the Merrie Way parking lot, which now provides a 415-foot promenade lined with wall seating and benches, a 2,000-foot segment of wheelchair accessible Coastal Trail, and terraced parking with landscape islands and sufficient space for tour bus drop-off, cars, bicycles and pedestrian use. This grand gateway serves as the main entrance to the Coastal Trail in San Francisco.



Population: nearly 800,000 people

Size: 29,888 acres

Total Conservancy Projects: 45



Lands End

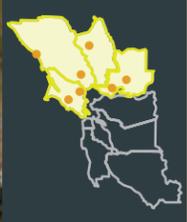
# North Bay



Jenner Headlands

**Marin, Sonoma, Napa, and Solano Counties**  
**Population: over 1.3 million people**  
**Size: 2,475,011 acres**  
**Total Conservancy Projects: 145**

AMY CHESTNUT



## Jenner Headlands

In 2009, the Sonoma Land Trust acquired Jenner Headlands to preserve its outstanding scenic, natural and public access resources after years of work and \$36 million in support from the Conservancy, the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District, the Wildlife Conservation Board, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and others. The Jenner Headlands' stunning 5,630 acres of rolling terraces and wooded slopes north of the Russian River are highly visible to drivers of this scenic stretch of coast. The acquisition will enable a suite of future trails including a 2.5-mile link in the California Coastal Trail. The property's cultural and historic resources offer opportunity for future education while its riparian areas, dense redwood and Douglas fir forest, oak woodlands, chaparral, meadows and coastal prairie are home to a diversity of plants, wildlife and fish — including steelhead trout and coho salmon. The property's size, variety of habitat and adjacency to nearly 25,000 acres of protected lands can aid future wildlife populations as they adapt to climate change.

## Bahia

The Conservancy provided funds to assist Marin Audubon Society in the acquisition of Bahia, a spectacular and diverse 632-acre site that is the only known location in the state

where tidal salt marsh directly abuts blue oak woodland. The acquisition protected wetland habitat and upland refugia for the endangered salt marsh harvest mouse and California clapper rail. The property's previous owner, who had planned to develop the upland portion of the site into an upscale residential community, ran into widespread community opposition. Marin Audubon stepped in to acquire the land for open space preservation and wetland restoration, after assembling funds from federal, state, and local agencies and from private contributors.

**“This grant from the Conservancy has fostered one of the most productive and high-functioning partnerships our office has ever had! All of us are extremely grateful for the funds that allowed us to really begin to work together to improve Vallejo watersheds.”**

**Amy King,**  
**Solano Resource Conservation District**

After acquisition, the upland portion was given to the Marin County Open Space District for inclusion in the Rush Creek Open Space Preserve and was opened for public use with three miles of trails. Bahia's wetlands were transferred to Fish and Game for inclusion into the Petaluma Marsh Wildlife Area, and a large portion was restored with funds from the Wildlife Conservation Board.

## Petaluma Marsh

The Petaluma River flows to San Pablo Bay through the largest ancient marsh left in the San Francisco Bay. Much work has been done to restore additional wetlands along the river. Marin Audubon Society, with assistance from the Conservancy, Caltrans, California Department of Fish and Game, and CALFED acquired and restored nearly 200 acres of historic tidal marsh. Located on San Antonio Creek, a tributary to the Petaluma River, this project expanded the size of the 5,000

acre Petaluma Marsh. The Conservancy also provided funds to the City of Petaluma for wetland enhancement on 336 acres south of the City along the Petaluma River. This restoration effort provided a diversity of habitats for special status species and added 3.5 miles of trail connecting to the popular 2.6-mile Shollenberger Park trail.

## Mt. Tamalpais Gateway

Lagunitas Creek is a major drinking water source in Marin and is home to the largest remaining wild run of coho salmon in Central California. With Conservancy funding, the Marin Municipal Water District conducted habitat restoration, native plant re-vegetation, trail improvements, public education and access improvements on creekside land in western Marin County. The project, carried out in various locations along a half-mile section of public trail, resulted in restored habitat and a revitalized and expanded public entryway and trail at the Leo Cronin Fish Viewing Area — the most popular salmon viewing area in the Bay Area, where endangered coho can be seen spawning.

The District's volunteer network removed invasive plant species such as broom and cape ivy, installed split rail fencing, and decommissioned paths to protect sensitive habitat and reduce disturbance of spawning salmon. Staff constructed a new foot bridge, installed a new entrance gate, and installed a pervious concrete parking lot to demonstrate rainwater infiltration and groundwater recharge. A public information kiosk replaced a failing structure, and signs were installed near prime fish viewing areas to interpret salmonid spawning activities to visitors.

## Rush Ranch

The Solano Land Trust's 2,070-acre Rush Ranch lies on the western flanks of the Portrero Hills and in adjacent Suisun Marsh — providing a continuum of brackish tidal wetlands to rolling grasslands that is now rare in the

San Francisco Bay Area. A part of the San Francisco Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, Rush Ranch supports 1,050 acres of marsh that is still tidal, unlike the bulk of historic wetlands in Suisun Marsh that have been converted into a patchwork of diked marshes managed for duck hunting. The Conservancy played a critical role in the original acquisition of Rush Ranch, previous to the formation of the Bay Program, and has since supported a range natural resource preservation and public use activities onsite. These include a 2006 grant for construction of a Nature and Education Center that includes a classroom, research facility, interpretive displays, a native plant patio, solar panels and a windmill, and a 2007 grant to update marsh and upland restoration and management plans, prepare conceptual restoration designs, and conduct environmental review.

## Wildlake and Duff Ranches

Spanning some 4,000 acres of rugged terrain on ridgetops and mountainsides overlooking Calistoga, the Wildlake and Duff ranches support 250 species of plants, over 95% of which are native to the area. The ranches also include the upper watersheds of several tributaries to the Napa River and nearly complete the conservation of 15 miles of natural areas and viewshed from Angwin to Robert Louis Stevenson State Park. The two ranches were acquired by the Land Trust of Napa County with funding assistance from the Conservancy, private donors, the Moore Foundation, the Packard Foundation, and the Wildlife Conservation Board. With further assistance from the Conservancy, the Land Trust is preparing a management plan that encompasses the ranches as well as the State Park. The Land Trust envisions providing the ranches, the management plan and an endowment to California State Parks and one day enabling public use on the entire 15-mile conservation corridor. In the meantime, the Land Trust conducts guided hikes onsite.

**“It has been a wonderful opportunity and pleasure to work with Sonoma's conservationists to protect the beauty and natural resources of our home county. I have also learned to deeply appreciate the work of the Coastal Conservancy as an essential partner in these efforts. Its commitment, investment and collaborative spirit have truly made a difference.”**

**Theodore L. Eliot Jr., landowner, lifelong birder, former U.S. Ambassador to Afghanistan**

## Solano County Community-Based Restoration

To further youth land stewardship, the Solano Resource Conservation District, Solano Land Trust, and the Center for Land-Based Learning have collaborated to engage high school students and volunteers in native habitat restoration along Blue Rock Springs Creek, in Lynch Canyon and on the Vallejo-Swett property. As part of the Center's Student and Landowner Education and Watershed Stewardship program, the students and their teachers receive classroom instruction about local ecology, habitat restoration, conservation and stewardship and then go into the field to remove invasive species and plant native vegetation. The Conservancy provided a grant to help fund these activities, as well as the monthly community work days of the Vallejo Watershed Alliance and the Land Trust's robust volunteer land stewardship program. Some 120 seventh- and tenth-grade students and 70 adult volunteers participated in habitat restoration activities. The project has invigorated the RCD's collaboration with local agencies, non-profits and civic institutions on other stream restoration and environmental education activities.



Mt. Tam Gateway



Wildlake



Rush Ranch



Petaluma Marsh

# East Bay

## Franklin Ridge

Located at the edge of the city of Hercules, Fernandez Ranch and the adjacent Franklin Canyon comprise 1,185 acres of scenic grassland hills, Coast live oak woodland, riparian habitats, and freshwater wetlands. These habitats support wildlife, including the Alameda whipsnake and California red-legged frog, and both properties provide a segment of the Bay Area Ridge Trail. In 2005, the Conservancy, in partnership with the Wildlife Conservation Board, the Moore Foundation, Caltrans, and private donors, helped the Muir Heritage Land Trust acquire the 702-acre Fernandez Ranch. In 2008, the Conservancy, with the Natural Resources Agency, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and several private foundations provided funding to restore riparian habitat, construct 1½ miles of Bay Area Ridge Trail, construct an additional 3½ miles of trails, and build a public staging area. Building on long-standing community support and efforts to preserve the open space character of Franklin Ridge (which includes other Conservancy-funded acquisitions, namely Gustin Ranch, Sky Ranch and Dutra Ranch), Muir Heritage Land Trust leveraged Conservancy and East Bay Regional Park District funds with private funds to acquire the adjacent 483-acre Franklin Canyon property in 2010.

## Eastshore State Park

Eastshore State Park is the result of decades of citizen efforts to protect the shoreline of San Francisco Bay. The Park totals 1,800 acres and covers eight miles of shoreline,

passing through the cities of Richmond, Albany, Berkeley, Emeryville, and Oakland. Much of the park is tideland with only 260 acres of terrestrial land. This scarcity of land was keenly noted during the master planning process as thousands of citizens called for diverse and sometimes conflicting uses for the area. The plan — developed by East Bay Regional Park District and State Parks with Conservancy support — was adopted in December 2002 and attempted to balance the public's demands while creating a "recreational facility harmonious with its natural setting" as called for in the park's founding legislation. The Conservancy has assisted East Bay Regional Park District, State Parks, and the City of Berkeley with several elements of the park plan:

- The acquisition of the North Basin Property allowed for the construction of the Tom Bates Regional Sports Complex.
- Berkeley Meadows is a 50-acre former landfill that was graded and planted with native plants to create habitat for native raptors and other wildlife.
- Brickyard Park is being designed as an entrance to the park, with stunning views of the Golden Gate Bridge and San Francisco skyline.
- Albany Beach is being designed to provide for shoreline improvements, dune preservation and restoration, and an enhanced area for visitors.
- The Bay Trail Extension will be a half-mile multi-use trail connection from the pedestrian bridge over the freeway, along University Avenue to the Berkeley Marina.

"The Bay Area's greenbelt got a big boost when the Bay Area Conservancy Program was created. Working together, we have protected significant portions of the Bay Area's iconic landscapes. These parks and open spaces make the Bay Area a healthy place to live."

**Robert Doyle, General Manager,  
East Bay Regional Park District**



## Dutch Slough and Marsh Creek

The Dutch Slough Project in eastern Contra Costa County will restore wetland habitats on 1,178 acres adjacent to the mouth of Marsh Creek near Oakley. The land was purchased in 2003 by the Department of Water Resources with funds from the Conservancy and CALFED. The project is a significant step in recovering the ecological health of the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta by restoring a mosaic of habitats that benefit native species, such as Chinook salmon, while also creating public access to the shoreline of the Delta. Planning has been facilitated by the Conservancy, in partnership with DWR, California Department of Fish and Game, California Bay-Delta Authority, City of Oakley, Ironhouse Sanitary District, Reclamation Districts 799 and 2137, and the Natural Heritage Institute.

The Conservancy has also funded two projects related to Dutch Slough:



- A fish ladder on Marsh Creek built by the Natural Heritage Institute and American Rivers, which will enable fall runs of Chinook salmon and steelhead to enter one of the East Bay's largest watersheds for the first time in 52 years.
- Interpretive exhibits at East Bay Regional Park District's Big Break Regional Shoreline, which will increase understanding and awareness of the natural and cultural resources within the Delta.

## Wildlife Friendly Stock Ponds

Through the Alameda County Wildlife-Friendly Pond Restoration Program, the Alameda County Resource Conservation District, in partnership with the Natural Resource Conservation Service, offers Alameda County ranchers matching funds and technical assistance for livestock pond restoration that is specifically designed to benefit the California red-legged frog and the California tiger salamander. As natural habitat is lost to development and climate change, stock ponds

provide important habitat for both of these federally-listed threatened species. Alameda County has over 800 stock ponds, yet many ranchers are deciding to abandon these ponds due to high repair costs and the burden of obtaining the required permits for repair work. Conservancy funds were used to support the initial round of the program, which resulted in the completion of five strategic pond restoration projects on private ranches in eastern Alameda County.

## Richmond's Bay Trail

The City of Richmond boasts over 31 miles of Bay Trail — the most of any city along the planned 500-mile San Francisco Bay Trail route. Portions of Richmond's formerly industrial shoreline are now spectacular places to walk, run, ride a bike, launch a kayak or birdwatch. Since 1999, fifteen Conservancy grants through the Bay Trail Project have moved the City closer to completion of the Trail within its boundaries. Current projects will close gaps and create new connections between Shipyard 3 and Point Richmond and

Alameda and Contra Costa Counties

Population: over 2.5 million people

Size: 952,320 acres

Total Conservancy Projects: 124

between Point Richmond and Point Molate. With the recent completion of the 2.8-mile Landfill Loop Trail connecting to the new .83-mile Wildcat Marsh trail, Richmond continues to open sections of the waterfront that have long been inaccessible to the public. The City of Richmond, Port of Richmond, Richmond Redevelopment Agency, East Bay Regional Park District and private landowners have all contributed to knitting together a continuous bicycle and pedestrian network connecting shoreline parks. A local trail advocacy organization, the Trails for Richmond Action Committee, has been instrumental in securing funding and mobilizing public support.

## Pleasanton Ridge

Pleasanton Ridge Regional Park, a 7,500-acre regional park running along the undeveloped Sunol and Pleasanton Ridges of Alameda County, separates the East Bay cities of Hayward and Union City from the Amador Valley cities of Dublin and Pleasanton. In 2011, East Bay Regional Park District expanded Pleasanton Ridge Regional Park by acquiring the 955-acre Owen property using District, Conservancy, and Moore Foundation funds. The Owen property features relatively level areas adjacent to Palomares Road that will be developed into a staging area to allow access into the park from the west. The stunning property is steep and rugged with riparian woodlands, coastal scrub, windswept grasslands, and spectacular views along the ridgetop. The Owen property built on the 106-acre Vinson property that the Conservancy helped the District acquire in 2005, improving public access and protection of a wildlife corridor at the northern end of the park.

BETH WITROGEN



Dutch Slough

Wildlife Friendly Stock Pond



ALAMEDA COUNTY RCD



Eastshore State Park

TOM GANDESBERY



Bay Trail in Richmond

BRUCE BEYEART



Fernandez Ranch

# South Bay & Peninsula



Blair Ranch



## Rancho Corral de Tierra

One of the largest tracts of privately owned, undeveloped land on the peninsula — the 4,262-acre Rancho Corral de Tierra in coastal San Mateo County — was acquired by the Peninsula Open Space Trust for \$30 million. A \$9 million grant from the Conservancy in 2003, as well as \$5 million from the California Wildlife Conservation Board, helped POST hold and manage the property until it was conveyed to the National Park Service in late 2011. The Rancho's ridgetops, free-flowing streams, miles of trails and old farm roads are now part of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area. Just north of Half Moon Bay and within 10 miles of an urban population of over seven million people, Rancho Corral de Tierra forms the centerpiece of nearly 30,000 acres of contiguous protected natural land. 316 acres of the Rancho that were in agricultural production were retained by POST, which intends to protect their

agricultural heritage with conservation easements and sell them to a farmer.

## San Mateo Coastal Trail

The San Mateo coast is home to several new sections of Coastal Trail, allowing residents and visitors to enjoy beautiful, rugged vistas. From north to south, the Conservancy has helped with the following projects:

- A spectacular addition to the Coastal Trail will take place at Devil's Slide between Pacifica and Half Moon Bay following completion of the tunnel. San Mateo County will install access improvements and restrooms for the new Devil's Slide Coastal Trail.
- A partnership between San Mateo County and POST led to new parking and a mile-long trail along the bluffs at Pillar Point, just north of Half Moon Bay.
- San Mateo County completed the land purchase and new bluff trail construction at nearby Mirada Surf, which filled a gap in the Coastal Trail between El Granada and Miramar.
- POST opened the Cowell-Purisima Coastal Trail, a three mile bluff trail adjacent to farm and ranch lands just south of Half Moon Bay, with spectacular views of the

ocean, inaccessible pocket beaches, and the gently sloping foothills of the Santa Cruz Mountains.

- To the south at Pigeon Point Lighthouse, partnerships with POST and California State Parks have improved the visitor experience at this popular lighthouse through new parking, restrooms, blufftop paths, and beach access stairs.

## Guadalupe River Park

The Guadalupe River Park is a three-mile ribbon of parkland that runs along the banks of the Guadalupe River in the heart of downtown San Jose from Highway 880 to Highway 280. The Conservancy provided a grant to the City of San Jose for the creation of this outstanding urban park, the most visible



JITZE COUPERUS

part of a flood protection project with riparian habitat built by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Santa Clara Valley Water District. The park provides downtown San Jose residents, workers, and visitors a spacious, green oasis in an otherwise urbanized area. This project, which integrates flood protection and the development of an urban greenway, creatively provides recreational amenities as part of a multi-objective project. The park, completed in 2004, receives over one million visitors annually.

## Blair Ranch Acquisition

The Santa Clara County Open Space Authority acquired the 865-acre Blair Ranch, adjacent to the Rancho Canada del Oro Open Space Preserve, in order to protect existing natural resources and provide open space and public access. Additional funding for the acquisition was provided by the Conservancy, the Moore Foundation, and the Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department. POST facilitated the purchase, an important step in the long-term vision for protecting open space in the rapidly developing southwestern Santa Clara County foothills.

Blair Ranch adds needed recreational opportunities while also preventing habitat fragmentation. The property is now part of a complex of connected preserves that will facilitate a proposed trail and wildlife corridor connecting Calero County Park, Uvas Reservoir County Park and Uvas Canyon County Park over miles of foothills. With this addition to existing connected open space preserves, Blair Ranch enhances a larger vision for protecting lands and habitat that span from western San Jose to Morgan Hill.

## Sierra Vista Ridge Trail

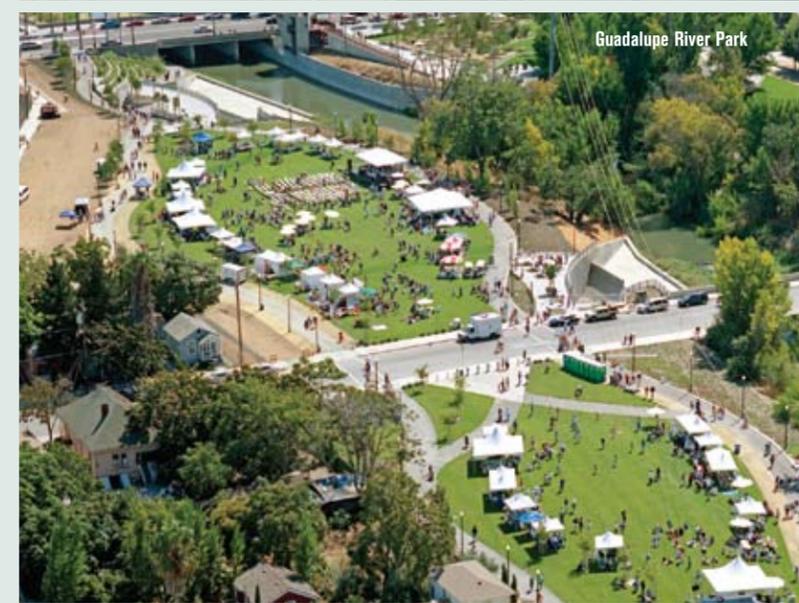
In 2011 the Santa Clara County Open Space Authority and Bay Area Ridge Trail Council realized a long-held goal of opening nearly six miles of new Ridge Trail to allow public access to the entire Sierra Vista Open Space Preserve for the first time. A grant from the Conservancy allowed for completion of over one mile of new trail and the installation of two pedestrian bridges to connect the existing Boccardo Trail to the Preserve's trails, thereby providing access to the ridgetops above San Jose's Alum Rock Park and closing nearly half the gap in the Ridge Trail leading to park lands to the south. Running along prominent ridgelines surrounding the Penitencia Creek Canyon trail on Open Space Authority lands and easements, the route allows hikers to walk from a beautiful low-elevation riparian corridor within Alum Rock Park to spectacular vistas over 2,500 feet in elevation. The trail provides sweeping views of San Francisco Bay, the South Bay, the Peninsula and the Santa Cruz and Hamilton mountain ranges.

"I'm so grateful to live in a place where I can travel for miles and miles along an undeveloped coast, with beautiful open space, agriculture and public trails at every turn. I have the Conservancy to thank for that – for their critical partnership with POST over the years, for their contributions to the Peninsula, the Bay Area and across our beautiful state."

Walter Moore, POST



Sierra Vista Ridge Trail



Guadalupe River Park



Pigeon Point Lighthouse

JITZE COUPERUS

Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties

Population: over 2.4 million people

Size: 1,179,665 acres

Total Conservancy Projects: 117

# The Next 15 Years

In the fifteen years since the San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy Program was established, much has been accomplished.

With our partners, the Conservancy has worked to protect, restore, and expand trails, wetlands, creeks, farms, and parks, and connect urban populations to the amazing open space resources of the Bay Area. From the northern tip of Napa County to the far South Bay, from Eastern Alameda County to the Sonoma Coast, the Conservancy has supported over 425 projects, from conceptual planning through construction. Several Park and Water bonds passed by California voters over the past decade have brought more than \$300 million in direct assistance to the Bay Area through the Conservancy.

What does the future hold? The Conservancy has distributed nearly all of the available State Bond funding for the Bay Area, and the outlook for new state revenue is not encouraging, at least in the short term. The Conservancy is aiming to find creative, cost effective ways to accomplish our objectives. We know that investing in the Bay Area's natural infrastructure is one of the most cost-effective means of meeting climate and public health challenges. On some of the large projects we have been leading, such as

the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project and the Invasive Spartina Project, we plan to continue to provide staff assistance and seek external funding. There may be a delay in our ability to complete other large projects, such as Bel Marin Keys. Our grantgiving for the projects being undertaken by our partners will decline significantly. Hard choices about where to spend our limited staff time and funding will be made.

The Conservancy will continue to work with our partners, including the Bay Area Open Space Council and the San Francisco Bay Joint Venture, to ensure the success of conservation efforts in the Bay Area. We are also currently participating in work by the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority to determine the potential for a regional funding measure for restoration of San Francisco Bay.

We are cautiously optimistic that the San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy Program will celebrate as many significant successes on our 30th anniversary as we are celebrating this year. We hope to see the Bay Trail, Ridge Trail, Coastal Trail, and Water Trail completed, tens

**“The Coastal Conservancy has been the venture capitalist of the coastal and Bay Area conservation community. Almost every innovative, big, and precedent-setting project has their fingerprints all over it. Our success is directly tied to their continued participation in this future work.”**

**Reed Holderman,  
Sempervirens Fund**

of thousands of acres of wetlands restored in San Francisco Bay, hundreds of thousands of acres of wildlife habitat and linkages protected, our farms and ranches supported, and the people of the Bay Area even better connected to the natural world around us.

Those are our goals. We look forward to continued work with all of our partners to achieve them.

...not just to residents but to businesses, visitors, and a broader state and national constituency. The high quality of the region's environment and its long history of investment in natural infrastructure have made it one of the most competitive job and residential markets in the nation.

These assets extend beyond the landscapes themselves — the Bay Area's natural resources community is itself a unique regional resource. Just as Silicon Valley is a national hub for high tech innovation, the Bay Area's natural resources community is a leader in conservation science. Local construction jobs in a number of trades have been created by our wetland and creek restoration projects and construction of education centers and trails. Our investments in agriculture have supported farmers and ranchers in their efforts to sustain and grow their operations.

The local food we grow, the skylines we save, and the water and wildlife we protect have all become hallmarks of the Bay Area's way of life — one that its citizens and institutions remain committed to — both for its natural resource benefits and its value to the economy as a whole. The positive return on investment in our natural resources keeps a wide spectrum of government, business and commercial interests engaged in re-investment.

The Conservancy has been proud to play a role in this investment by evaluating the strategic benefits of potential projects and leveraging funding for maximum benefit. We intend to continue to expand this role in the future, by developing innovative mechanisms for continuing our work in partnership with the region's civic, community, and industry leaders.

Thanks to the individuals who have made this report and our 15 years of success possible.

#### Board

Douglas Bosco, Chairman  
John Laird, Secretary for Natural Resources  
Alternate: Bryan Cash  
Mary Shallenberger, Coastal Commission Chair  
Alternate: Susan Hansch  
Ana Matosanto, Department of Finance Director  
Alternate: Karen Finn  
Marisa Moret, Public Member  
Ann Notthoff, Public Member

#### Legislative Oversight Members

Senator Anthony Cannella  
Senator Noreen Evans  
Senator Joe Simitian  
Assemblymember Luis Alejo  
Assemblymember William Monning  
Assemblymember Das Williams

#### Executive Officers

Sam Schuchat  
Nadine Hitchcock, Chief Deputy  
Mary Small, Deputy

#### Regional Managers

Amy Hutzal, Bay Area  
Matt Gerhart, Deputy, Bay Area  
Karyn Gear, North Coast  
Trish Chapman, Central Coast

#### Bay Area Project Managers

Lisa Ames  
Michael Bowen  
Ann Buell  
Brenda Buxton  
Su Corbaley  
Melanie Denninger  
Janet Diehl  
Tim Duff  
Tom Gandesbery  
Joel Gerwein  
Deborah Hirst  
Peter Jarausch  
Marilyn Latta  
Jeff Melby  
Anna Schneider  
Betsy Wilson

Thanks also to legal, accounting, contracts, and support staff.

#### Key Partners

Bettina Ring, Bay Area Open Space Council  
Beth Huning, San Francisco Bay Joint Venture  
Judy Kelly, San Francisco Estuary Partnership  
A special thanks to all the members of these three organizations.

#### Report Preparation

Thanks to the Conservancy staff listed above who wrote this report and to our partners who provided photos and reviews. Special thanks to:

Elizabeth Adam  
Annie Burke  
Sam Jenniches  
Ellen Toomey  
Bay Area Ridge Trail  
Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy  
GreenInfo Network  
Inkworks  
San Francisco Bay Trail  
San Francisco Estuary Institute  
Save the Redwoods League  
Sonoma Land Trust

## Jobs



JUDY RING © PELICAN MEDIA

The Bay Area's natural resources are in many ways its true economic engine, providing recreational, habitat, and open space benefits, and food...



JACOB DAVIES



**“Congratulations to the Coastal Conservancy’s Bay Area Program for their remarkable accomplishments – made possible by their work with scores of private and public partners – to protect the region’s outstanding natural and scenic resources and make these resources accessible to this and future generations.**

**Special thanks to the Conservancy for its leadership in planning and successfully implementing the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project, one of my highest priorities and proudest accomplishments.”**

**The Honorable Dianne Feinstein,  
United States Senator for California**