Climate Resilience for Highway 37 and the San Pablo Baylands: State Route 37 – Baylands Group Update

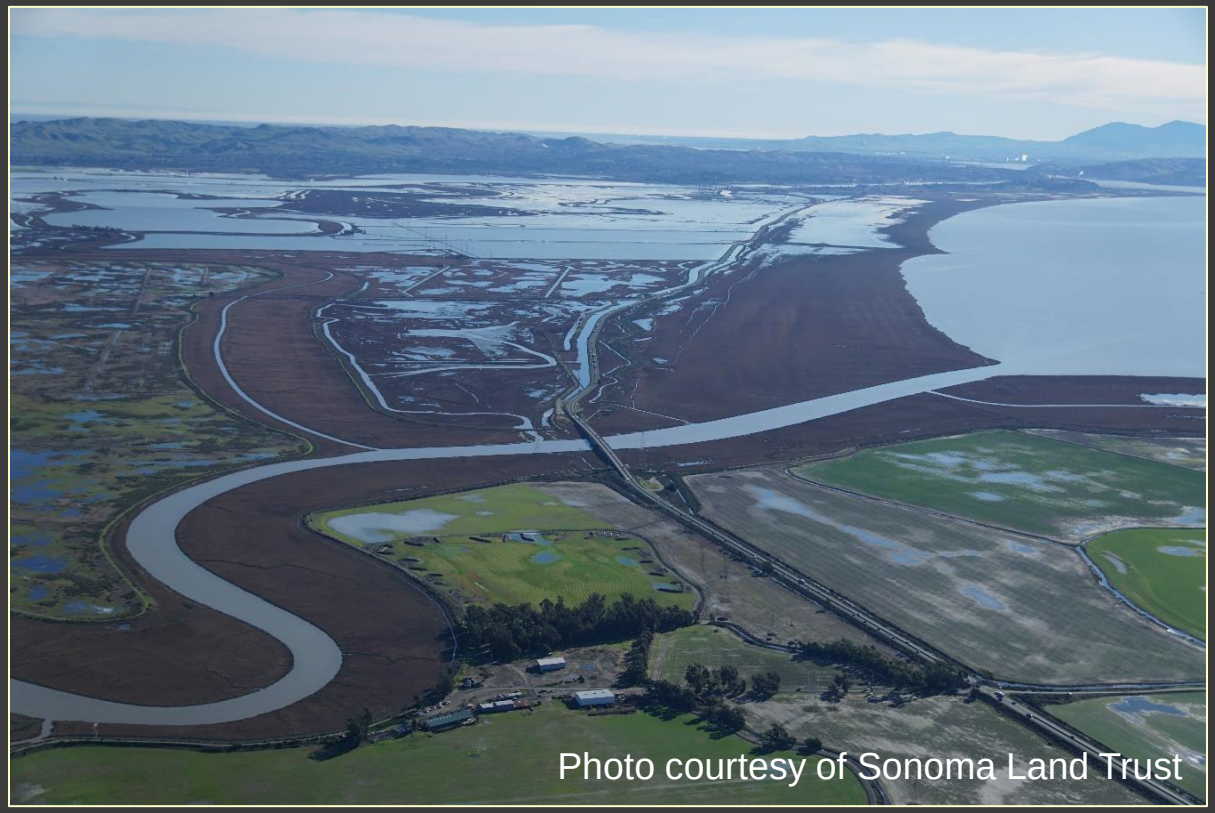


Photo courtesy of Sonoma Land Trust

Jessica Davenport, State Coastal Conservancy
State Route 37 – Baylands Group
Presentation to Napa-Sonoma Marsh Restoration Group
December 7, 2017

Coastal Conservancy

Presentation Outline

State Route (SR) 37 – Baylands Group

- Who We Are
- Vision Statement and Guiding Principles
- Progress to Date and Next Steps

SR 37 – Baylands Group formed in June 2017

Responding to accelerated action due to flooding by the SR 37 Policy Committee (local officials)

Photo courtesy of The Press Democrat

SR 37 – Baylands Group: Who We Are

- North Bay wetland land managers
- Ecological restoration practitioners, and
- Other stakeholders with a long-term interest in the conservation and restoration of the San Pablo Baylands

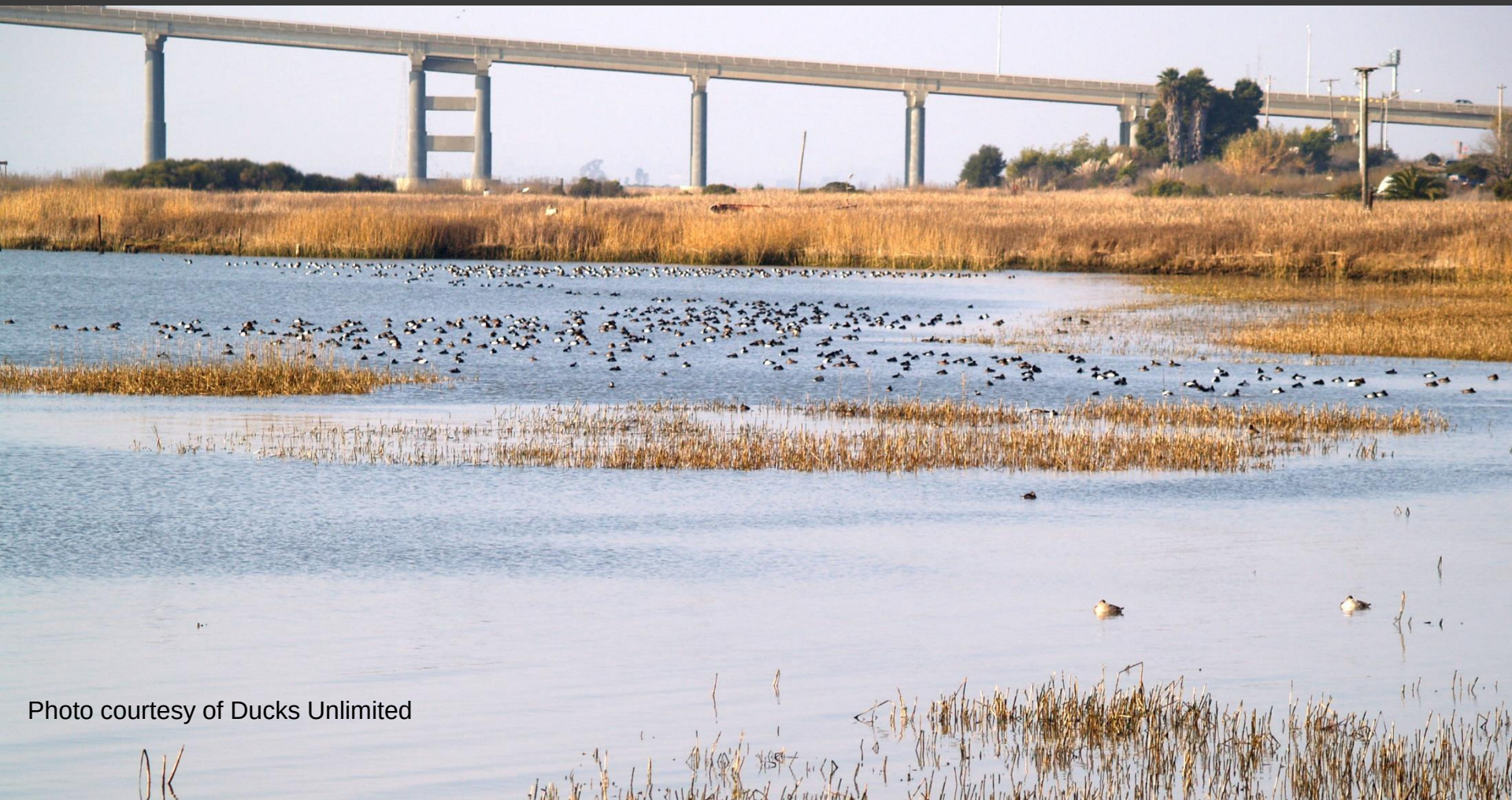


Photo courtesy of Ducks Unlimited

State Coastal Conservancy's Role

- Long-term funder of San Pablo Baylands restoration
- Coordinator of the SR 37 – Baylands Group
- Promoting collaboration with transportation and regulatory agencies
- Funded Baylands Goals Science Update 2015

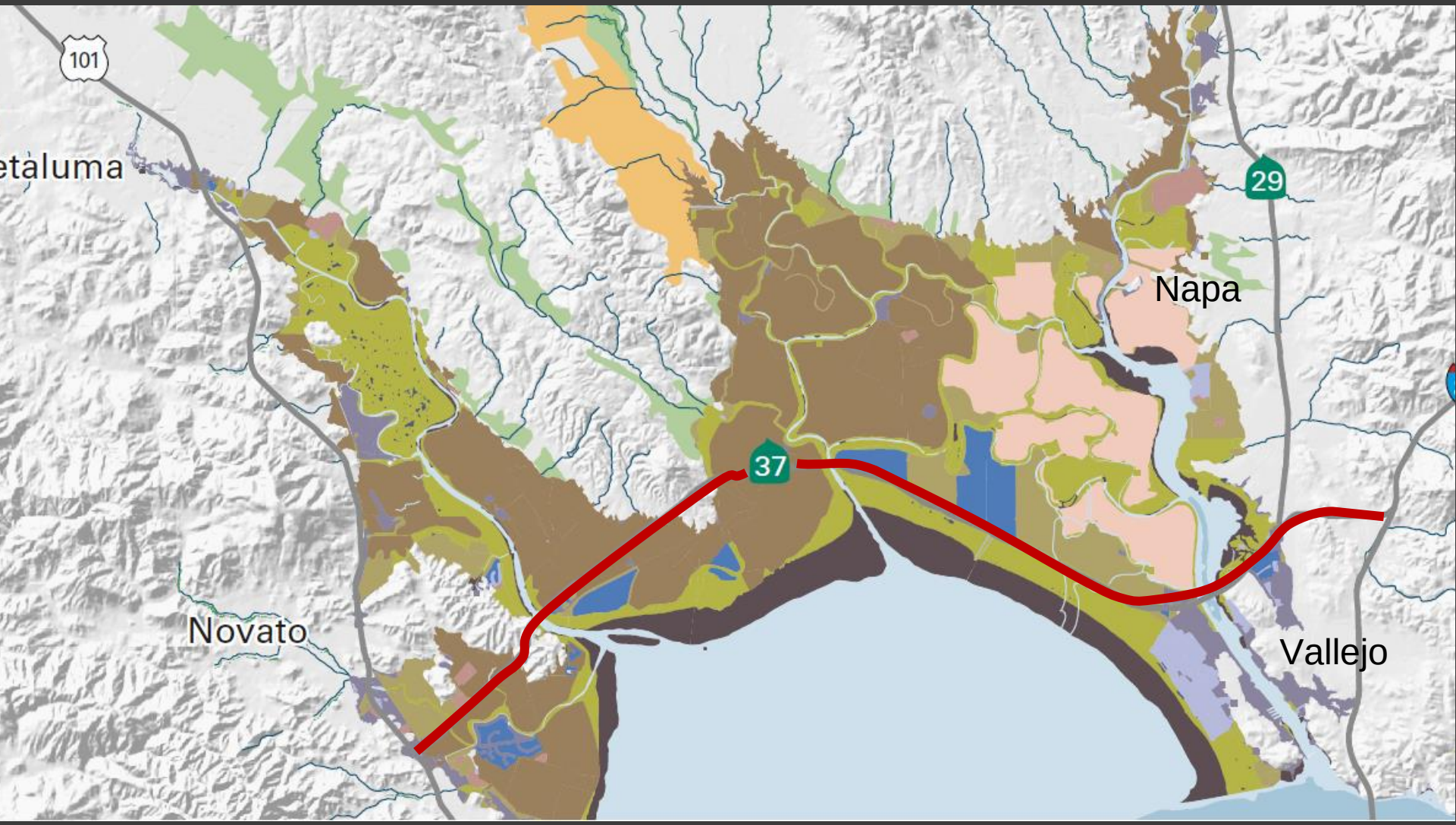
Coastal Conservancy

Vision: Integrate, Don’t Mitigate

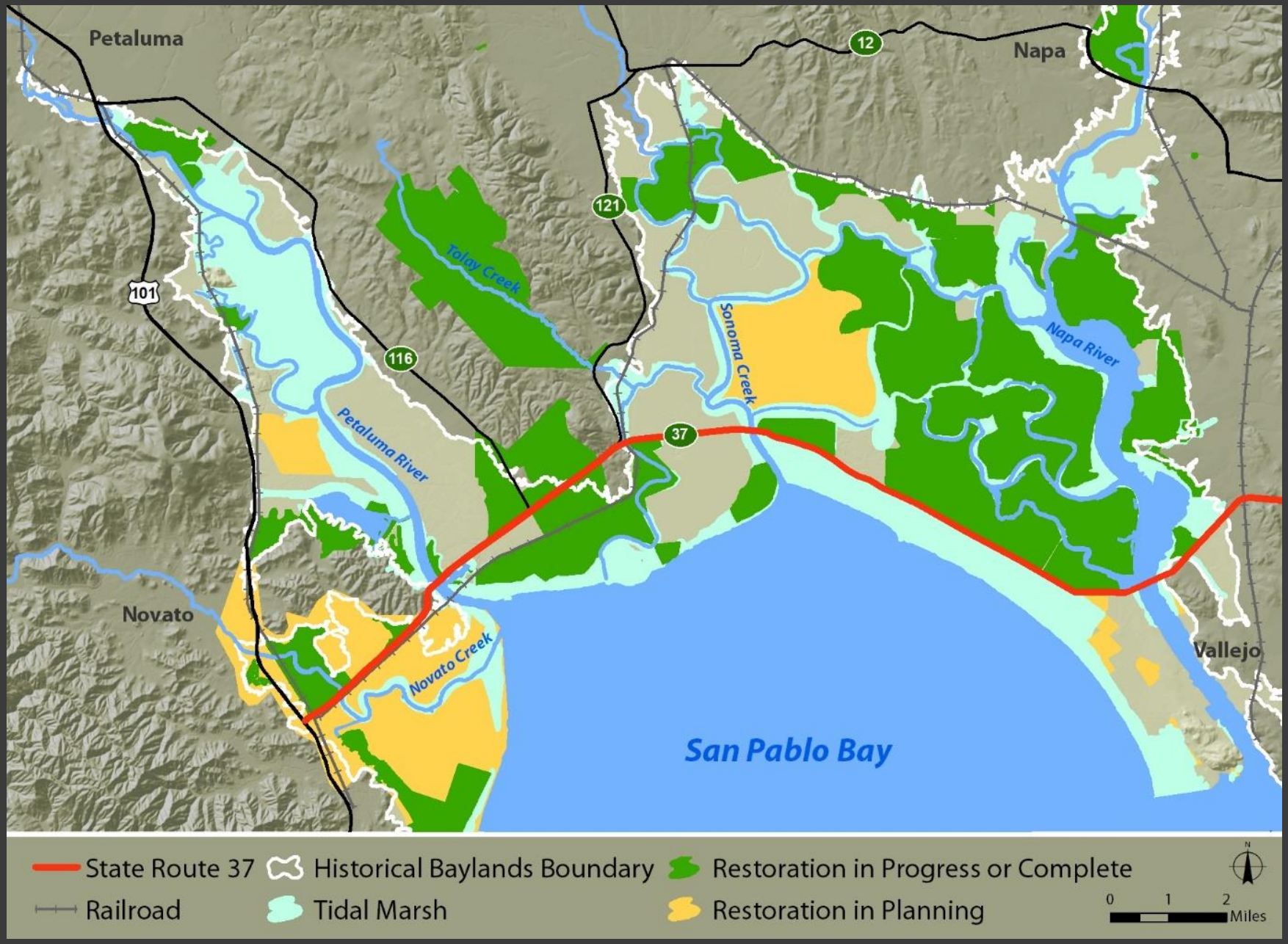
Integrate **infrastructure improvements** for SR 37 with existing and future **habitat** planning, conservation and restoration to ensure **healthy ecosystem function** and **resilience** to landscape scale change of the San Pablo Bay.

Baylands Goals are the Blueprint

Baylands Habitats, 1998



Restoration to Date and Planned



TODAY

- SR 37 elevation at or just above sea level
- Mostly within San Pablo Baylands historical marshes
- Surrounded by ~30,000 acres of protected and restored habitat
- Investment in ecosystem exceeds $600 million for conservation and restoration

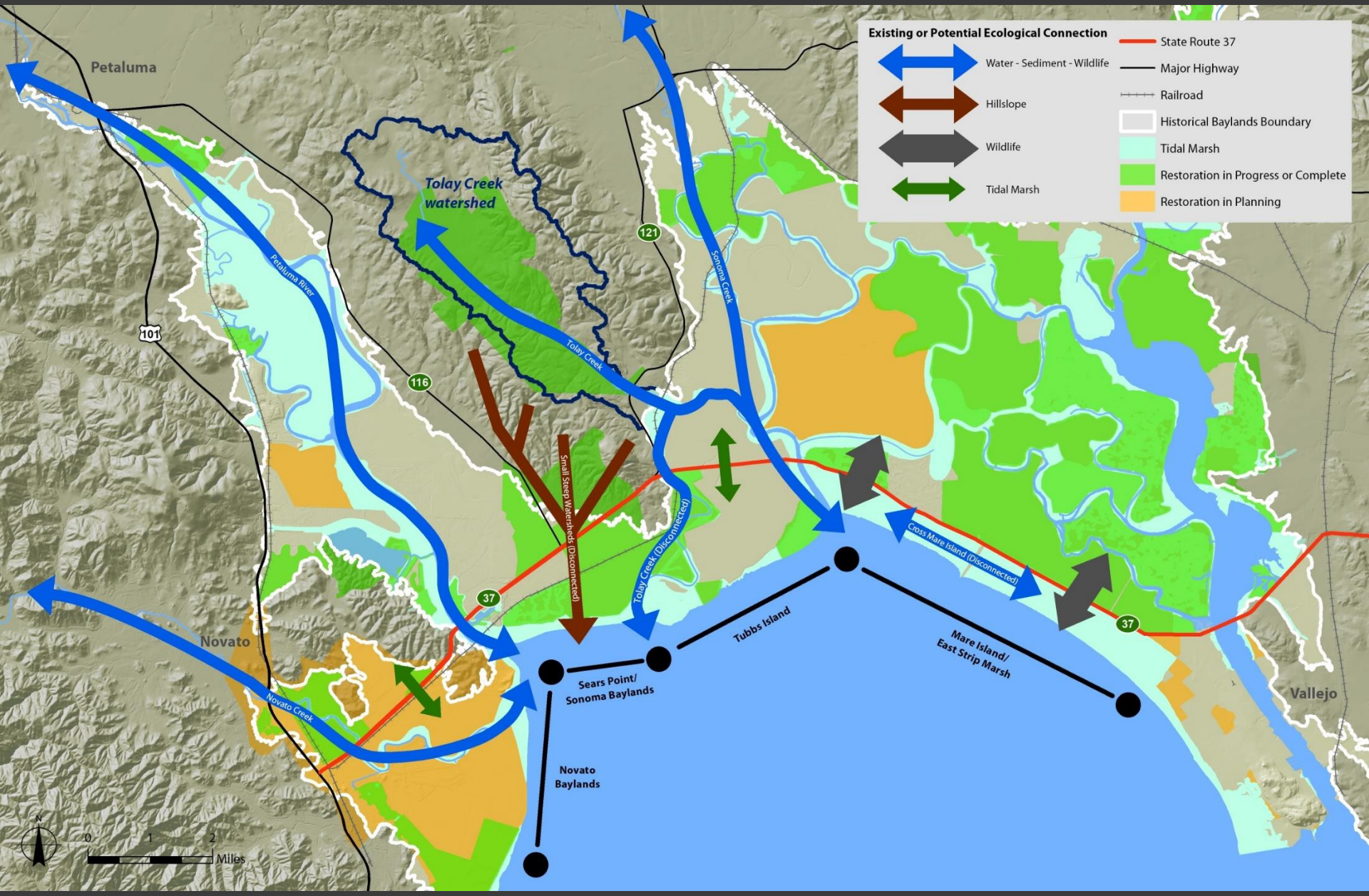
***Baylands Goals, 2015*:**

“Elevate Highway 37…

to allow the full passage of

sediment, water and wildlife.”

Improve Ecological Connectivity



From Uplands To The Bay

Avoid or Minimize
Direct Impacts To Habitats And Wildlife

SR 37 – Baylands Group:
Progress to Date and Next Steps

June 2017

Nineteen agencies and NGOs meet and form Baylands Group

Aug. – Oct. 2017

Develop white paper and comment on Draft Corridor Plan

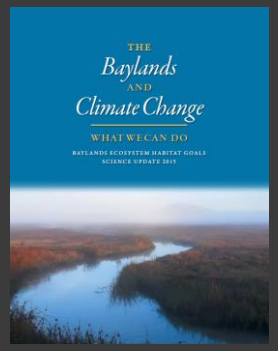
Oct. 2017 –Mar. 2018

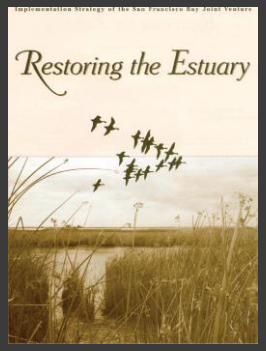
Collaboration with transportation agencies on "Resilient 37" workshop series

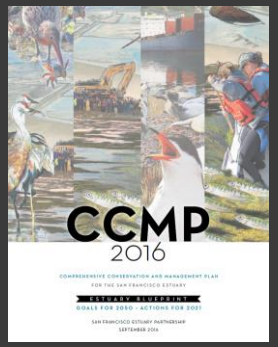
Expected Outcomes:

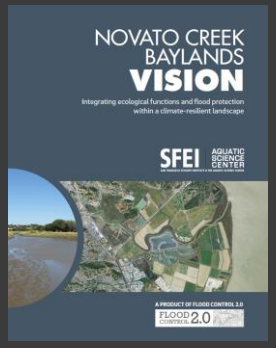
1) Improved design alternatives for CEQA process

2) Preliminary Landscape Vision









Questions?

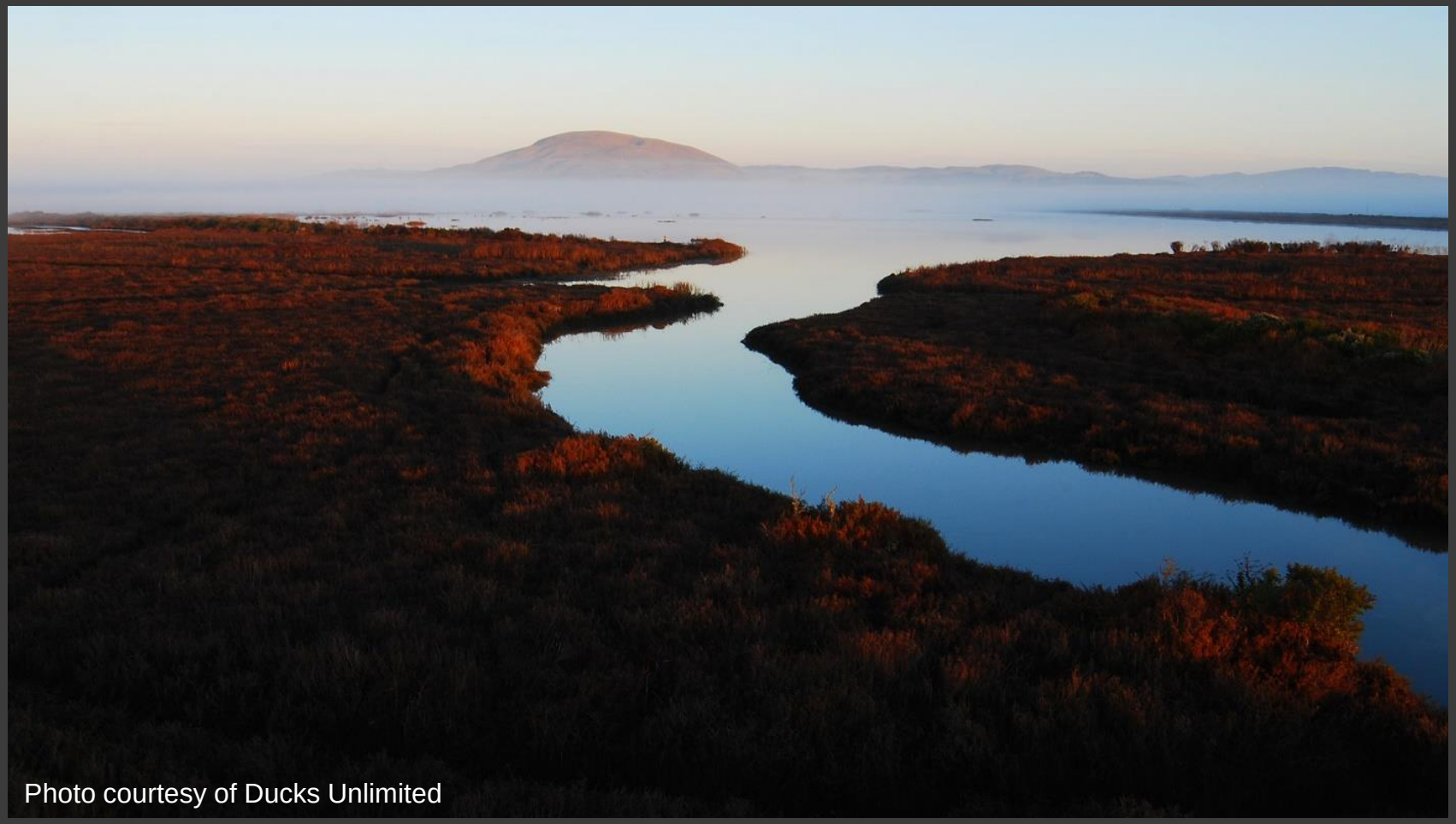


Photo courtesy of Ducks Unlimited

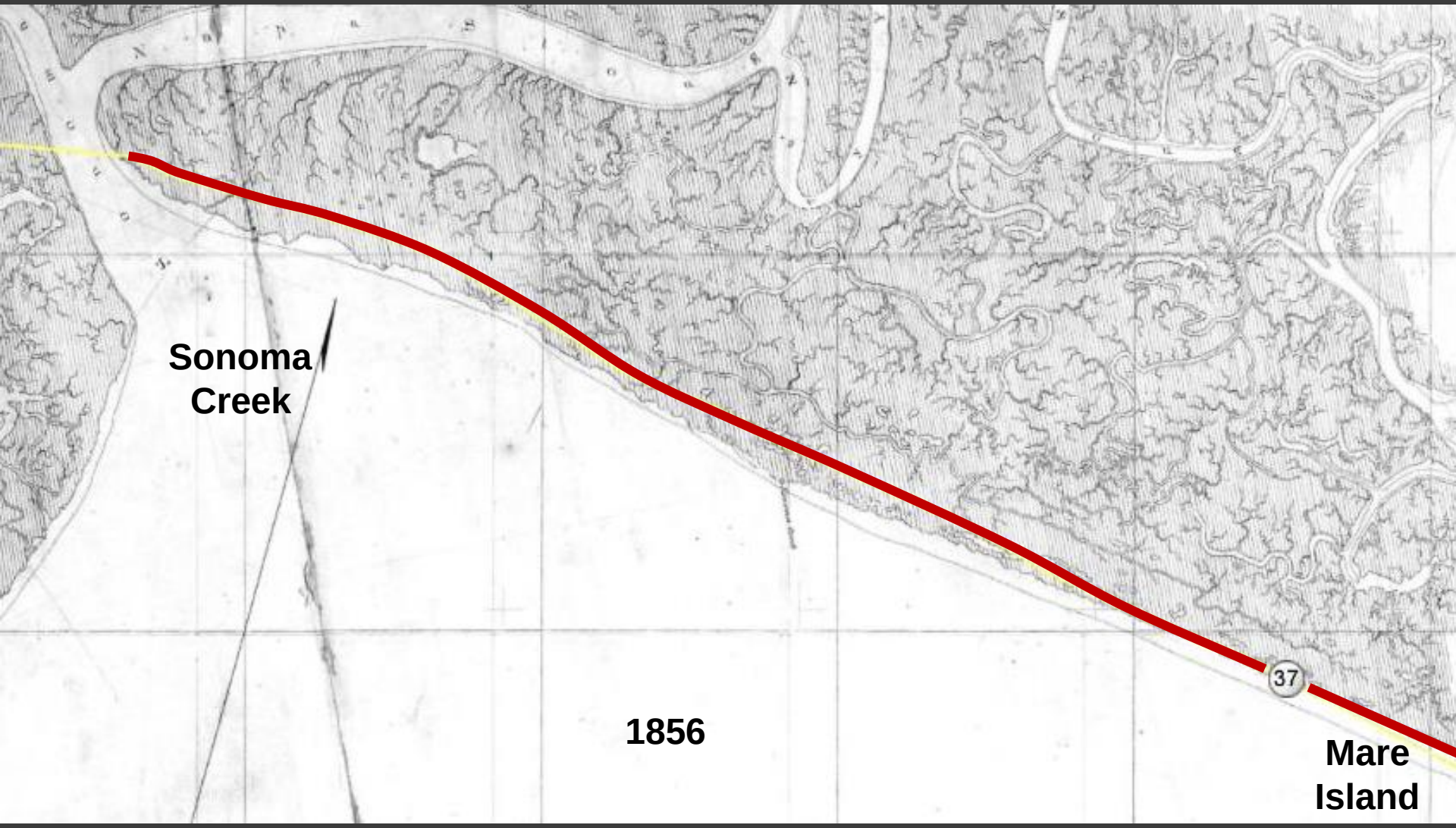
Technical Questions

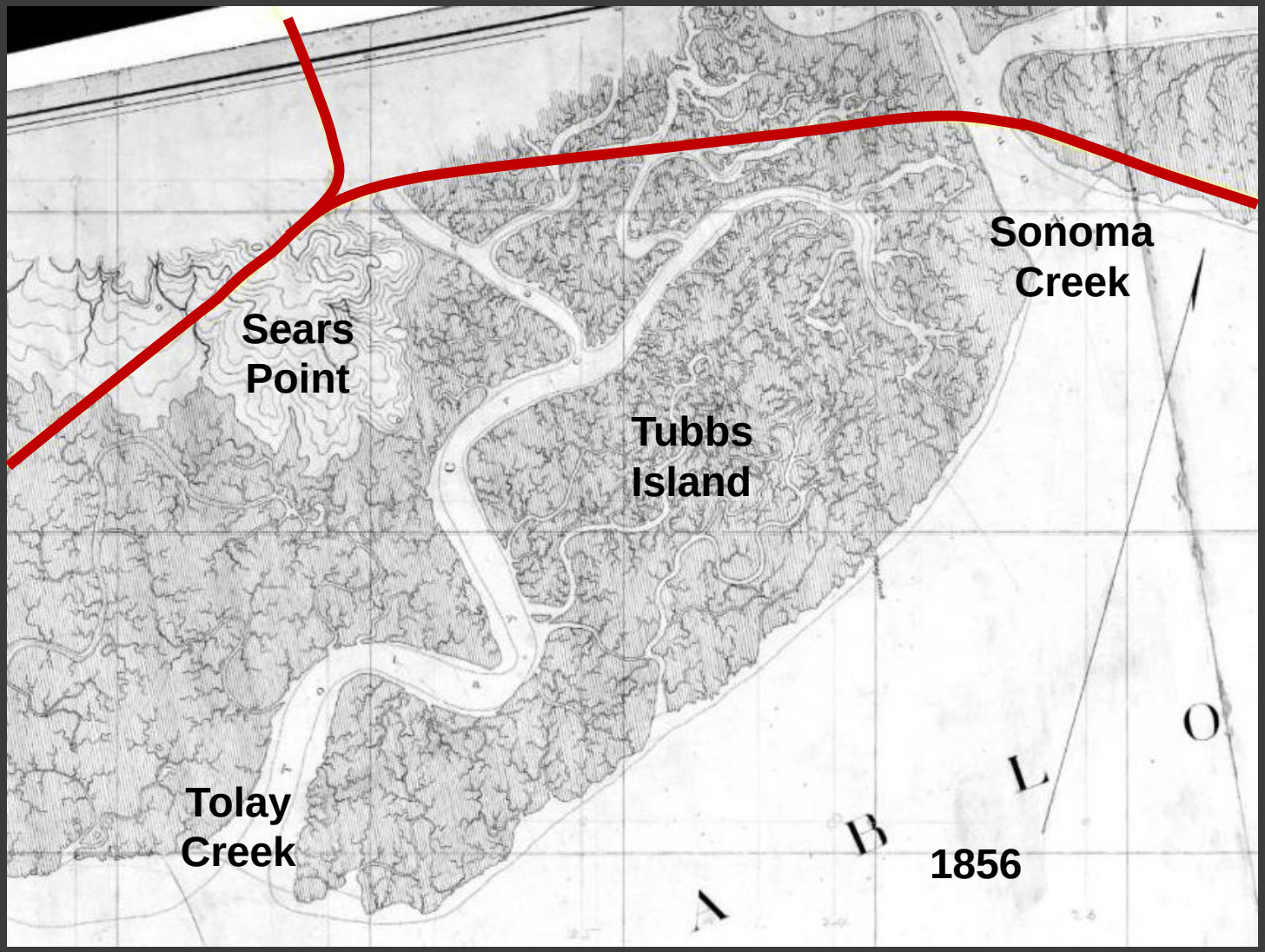
1. How wide do the floodplain and channels of current or potential future tidal creeks need to be?

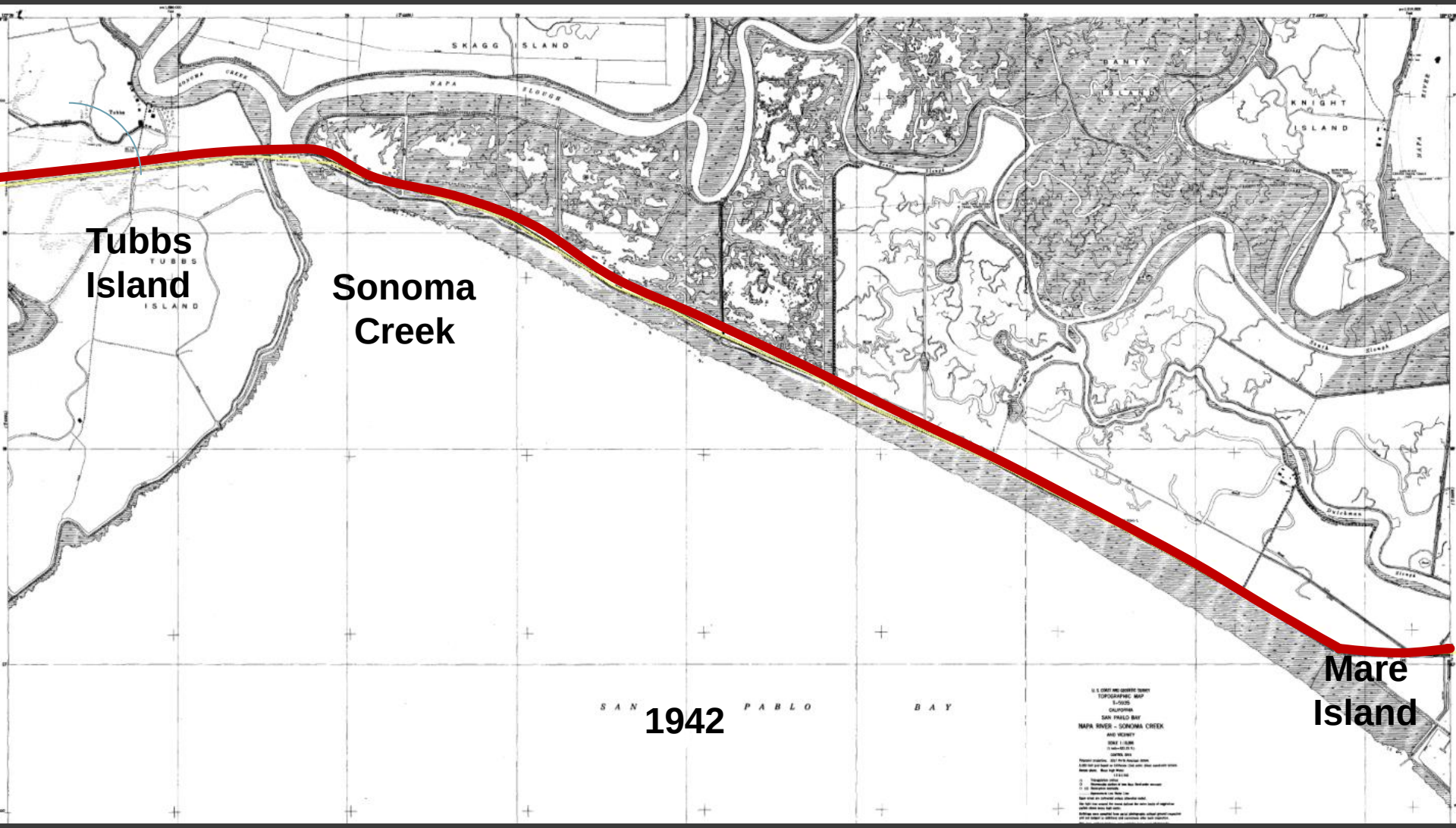
2. What is the nature of connectivity across SR 37 – where does water, sediment, animals need to pass from one side of the road to the other?

3. What is the likely geomorphic evolution of the surrounding wetlands and creeks over the next century as sea-level rises?

4. What is the preferred alignment of the road for widening and raising?


Sonoma
Creek
1856
37
Mare
Island


Sonoma
Creek
Sears
Point
Tubbs
Island
Tolay
Creek
1856


Tubbs Island
Sonoma Creek
Mare Island
1942
SKAGG ISLAND
NAPA SLOUGH
DANTY ISLAND
KNIGHT ISLAND
SAN PABLO BAY
TOPOGRAPHIC MAP
CALIFORNIA
SAN PABLO BAY
NAPA RIVER - SONOMA CREEK
AND VICINITY