

Fact Sheet: Sonoma Creek Baylands Strategy



San Francisco Bay
Restoration Authority

Grantee: Sonoma Land Trust

Amount: \$150,000

Location: Lower Sonoma Creek, Sonoma County, North Bay Region

Project Phases Funded by this Grant:
Planning

Measure AA Program Categories:
Vital Fish, Bird and Wildlife Habitat Program; Integrated Flood Protection Program; Shoreline Public Access Program

Partners: Sonoma Resource Conservation District

Summary:
This project funds Sonoma Land Trust (SLT) to develop a strategy for landscape-scale restoration, flood protection and public access in the Lower Sonoma Creek portion of the San Pablo Baylands.



The Strategy will provide guidance in achieving the core goal of the "Recovery Plan for Tidal Marsh Ecosystems of Northern and Central California" (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service): comprehensive restoration and management of tidal marsh ecosystems to lead to the delisting of the listed species in the plan, such as the salt marsh harvest mouse and Ridgway's rail. It will also ensure that wetland restoration projects are designed from the start to provide flood management and public access benefits.

The Strategy is needed because multiple opportunities exist to accomplish large-scale restoration on properties owned by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, as well as through new acquisitions. Funding for acquisition and restoration is limited and priorities must be developed with an emphasis on understanding how restoration of one parcel might affect another, particularly with respect to the existing constraints of flooding and salt water intrusion, reduced availability of sediment, public infrastructure such as State Route (SR) 37 and the Sonoma-Marin Area Rail Transit (SMART) railroad, and sea level rise. Once the Strategy is developed, it will allow SLT to accelerate current land protection and habitat restoration projects in the area.

Community input will be essential to the development of the Strategy. The Sonoma Creek Baylands community is in an unincorporated area of Sonoma County that is disproportionately exposed to the environmental hazards associated with sea level rise and impacts of upstream development. SLT conducts one-on-one outreach and works extensively through networking and word of mouth.