

Fact Sheet:

South Bay Salt Ponds Restoration Project, Phase 2



Grantee: Ducks Unlimited, Inc.

Amount: \$6,221,730 to Ducks Unlimited, Inc. for planning and construction and \$1,200,000 to the California Wildlife Foundation for adaptive management monitoring and studies

Location: Southern San Francisco Bay below San Mateo Bridge, Ravenswood and Alviso Pond Complexes. West Bay, South Bay and East Bay Regions.

Project Phases Funded by this Grant:
Planning; Permitting; Design; Construction/Implementation;
Monitoring

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

Partners: California Wildlife Foundation, US Fish and Wildlife Service, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, State Coastal Conservancy, South Bay Salt Ponds Restoration Project partners, Save the Bay

Summary:

This project will provide the final funding necessary to complete Phase 2 of the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project (Phase 2) in the Ravenswood and Alviso Ponds and launch the next phase of the adaptive management science program.

One of the largest wetland restoration projects in the United States, the South Bay Salt Pond (SBSP) Restoration Project is a multiagency effort to restore 15,100 acres of former salt evaporation ponds in South San Francisco Bay in phases over a 50-year period.

Ducks Unlimited, Inc. (DU) will construct Phase 2 actions in the Ravenswood Ponds in order to create a 355-acre mosaic of tidal wetlands, upland transition zone, and managed pond habitats. In the 295-acre Pond R4, DU will breach levees, install ditch blocks, dredge pilot channels, and construct 15 acres of gently sloping upland transition zone along the edge of an existing landfill. DU will breach and lower the A19 berm in additional locations in order to improve tidal circulation in the 265-acre A19. By improving the connection to Bay's waters and sediment, tidal vegetation in A19 is expected to substantially expand, providing additional habitat to the endangered and threatened species that have re-occupied A20 and A21.

This project includes \$1,200,000 million for the California Wildlife Foundation (CWF) to oversee the applied studies and monitoring identified in the SBSP Restoration Project's Adaptive Management Plan (AMP). The AMP outlines how the SBSP Restoration Project will implement the project in phases and learn from the results in order to better understand the significant scientific uncertainties associated with a project of this scale and to avoid undesirable environmental impacts.

