Projects Funded

Projects in the Second Grant Round that were Awarded Funding in FY 18/19

A. Tiscornia Marsh Restoration and Sea Level Rise Adaptation

Marin Audubon Society  Amount: $968,916

With this funding, Marin Audubon Society and its partners, including the Multicultural Center of Marin, will prepare technical studies, refine designs, and conduct CEQA review and public outreach for marsh restoration and sea level rise adaptation actions at Tiscornia Marsh in San Rafael. When complete, the project will expand marsh habitat, increase flood protection, and provide public access at the mouth of the San Rafael Canal. Marin Audubon Society will oversee the development of 30% preliminary design and the CEQA review process, with the City of San Rafael as the lead agency, using Authority funding.

B. South San Francisco Bay Shoreline Project

Santa Clara Valley Water District (Valley Water)  Amount: $61,466,079 ($4,439,406 in the first grant round, $57,026,673 awarded in the second grant round to be allocated over 5 years)

The South Bay Shoreline Project is a multi-benefit flood protection project that will restore 2,900 acres of former salt evaporation ponds and improve public access to the bayshore in the Alviso area of the South San Francisco Bay. The Authority directed $4.4 million in funding to this project in Round 1 and a further $57 million in Round 2, to be paid out over the next five years. This funding will support the design and construction of a flood protection levee and ecotone transition slope between the levee and tidal marsh, opening the former salt ponds to tidal action, and completing the public access improvements. After several years of studying the site and developing plans, in Summer 2019 Valley Water began importing material to the site for use in levee construction. The construction of the first levee segment will begin in Spring 2020.

C. South Bay Salt Ponds Restoration Project, Phase 2

Ducks Unlimited, Inc.  Amount: $8,021,730 ($6,221,730 to Ducks Unlimited, Inc. and $1,200,000 to the California Wildlife Foundation in the first grant round, $600,00 granted to Ducks Unlimited in the second grant round)

This grant provided the final funding necessary to complete Phase 2 of the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project (SBSRP) (Phase 2) in the Ravenswood and Alviso Ponds and launch the next phase of the project’s adaptive management science program. One of the largest wetland restoration projects in the United States, the SBSRP 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 has completed 90% level of design for Island Ponds tidal wetland enhancement, 60% level of design for the Ravenswood Ponds project, and has kicked off Eden Landing Ponds design by undertaking initial site surveys as part of the implementation of Phase 2. In support of the project’s adaptive management, the California Wildlife Foundation has managed surveys of nesting water-birds in the South Bay, assessed migratory bird use in the project area, mapped South Bay wetland habitats using satellite imagery, and initiated a 10-year trend analysis of bird use in the project area. The Authority Governing Board approved a $600,000 augmentation for final construction planning and design of the Eden Landing portion of this project in June 2019.
PROJECTS FUNDED

Updates on Projects Awarded Funding in the First Grant Round

Deer Island Basin Tidal Wetlands Restoration Project

*Marin County Flood Control District*  **AMOUNT:** $630,000

The Authority made this grant in the first round of funding for the preparation of detailed designs, permit applications, and environmental documentation for the Deer Island Tidal Basin Wetlands Restoration Project.

**FY 18/19 Update:** The Authority authorized $630,000 toward this project, $520,000 of which was awarded for planning and CEQA development. In November of 2018 the Marin County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to execute the $520,000 grant disbursement agreement to pursue project design. The final $110,000 may be made available to Marin County to pursue final design if and when the Marin County Board of Supervisors adopts a final CEQA document, and the Authority’s Governing Board concurs at a future meeting.

Restoring Wetland-Upland Transition Zone Habitat in the North Bay with STRAW

*Point Blue Conservation Science*  **AMOUNT:** $2,661,264

This grant was authorized to fund Point Blue Conservation Science to restore approximately 1.3 linear miles of critical wetland-upland transition zone habitat in the North Bay, engaging over 5,000 STRAW (Students and Teachers Restoring a Watershed) participants at four sites over the course of five years.

**FY 18/19 Update:** Multiple planting, restoration and maintenance days have been completed by staff and volunteers at the San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge site. The 524 linear feet of wetland-upland transition zone habitat installed during the planting season represents 8% of the total that will be restored during the project.

Sonoma Creek Baylands Strategy

*Sonoma Land Trust*  **AMOUNT:** $172,500

This authorization funds the 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.

**FY 18/19 Update:** SLT entered into a contract with the San Francisco Estuary Institute and its subcontractors to develop the strategy. In addition, the Authority amended the grant agreement to add $22,500, matched by $25,000 from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, to model two additional alternatives, one that maximizes tidal restoration and one that maximizes non-tidal options for the landscape. These alternatives will be used to develop a hybrid strategy that maximizes the Sonoma Creek Baylands’ connectivity to adjacent uplands.
Montezuma Wetlands Restoration Project, Phase 1

**Montezuma Wetlands LLC**  **AMOUNT:** $1,610,000

Funding for this project supports tidal and seasonal wetland restoration on approximately 630 acres of currently diked baylands along Montezuma Slough and enhancement of adjacent uplands in Suisun Marsh.

**FY 18/19 Update:** Construction of the project began in September 2018 and continued through October 2018. By the end of October, approximately 17% of the planned ecotone slope was finished and 35% of the flood protection levees were constructed. Invasive plant removal work and wetland surveys were also completed.

Encinal Dune Restoration and Public Access

**East Bay Regional Park District**  **AMOUNT:** $450,000

This funding supports the East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) implementation of the Encinal Dune Restoration and Shoreline Stabilization Project which will remove invasive ice plant, a rusting barge and other debris, and restore dune habitat at Encinal Beach.

**FY 18/19 Update:** The EBRPD entered into an agreement with the Authority in May 2019. Permits are nearly complete and construction of the project is expected to begin in Summer 2020.

San Leandro Treatment Wetland for Pollution Reduction, Habitat Enhancement, and Shoreline Resiliency

**City of San Leandro**  **AMOUNT:** $539,000

The Authority made this grant to fund the preparation of detailed designs, permit applications, and environmental documentation for the restoration of a 4.3-acre wastewater storage basin to create a multi-benefit treatment wetland at the City of San Leandro’s Water Pollution Control Plant, and develop a community-based shoreline resiliency and tidal marsh restoration vision for the surrounding area.

**FY 18/19 Update:** The San Leandro Treatment Wetland project was authorized for funding and the City entered into an agreement with the Authority in February 2019. The project team is finalizing selection for a design and permitting consultant. Several community outreach events have been hosted to inform community members about the project.

900 Innes Remediation Project

**City/County of San Francisco, Recreation and Park Department**  **AMOUNT:** $4,998,600

This funding will enable the City and County of San Francisco, Recreation, and Park Department to remediate and restore soft-bottom intertidal and subtidal habitat, restore wetland functions, improve ecosystem services, and enhance recreation at the 900 Innes site, located in the Bayview-Hunters Point neighborhood.

**FY 18/19 Update:** The 900 Innes Remediation Project, the final project selected from the first round of grant applications, was awarded funding by the Governing Board of the Authority in February 2019. The City/County entered into an agreement with the Authority in September 2019 and planning work will begin shortly.