

WATERSHED

The Newsletter of Save The Bay

Autumn 2002

Salt Ponds on Way to Becoming Wetlands Restoration Planning Could Begin Early Next Year

Almost on cue, a flock of pelicans flew overhead at the May 29 press conference with Governor Gray Davis, Senator Dianne Feinstein and Save The Bay's Executive Director David Lewis. The group convened to announce the unprecedented plan to acquire over 16,000 acres of the Cargill salt ponds for restoration.

"There was no swap... the deal we put together does not include the airport's runways."

Senator Dianne Feinstein

The dozen or more press photographers on hand were quick to turn their cameras away from these distinguished speakers to catch images of the flock's exquisite flight. Their timely visit represented the hundreds of bird, fish and wildlife species that this remarkable purchase will benefit. The transformation of these artificially salty ponds will revitalize bird and fish populations throughout the region, including young steelhead trout, oysters, California least terns and snowy plovers.

The restoration of the South Bay salt ponds will represent the largest wetlands restoration ever attempted in the United States—only the efforts to restore the Florida Everglades are larger.

Thanks to the support of thousands of Save The Bay members, we have played an integral role in the development of this framework agreement. Save The Bay worked diligently to ensure that the deal excluded any "trade-offs," such as linking the proposed San Francisco Airport runway expansion to the salt pond purchase.

**VOTE BAY
November 5**

YES on Prop 50

\$3.5 Billion Water Conservation Bond

Proposition 50 emphasizes greater water conservation measures and restoration funding for river parkways, estuaries, bays and mountain lakes. Nearly \$200 million would be available for San Francisco Bay area wetland and watershed protection, including salt pond purchase and restoration.

SAVE THE BAY

Save San Francisco Bay Association

**Statement of
David Lewis, Executive Director, Save The Bay
South Bay Salt Pond Acquisition Press Conference May 29, 2002**

The Bay is our greatest natural treasure, yet too often we take it for granted.

Today, we are reminded why the Bay we love is still here, why some of its splendor and wildlife have survived in the midst of a huge and growing urban center.

This Bay is still a Bay, and not just a narrow river, because people took up the cause forty years ago and convinced their leaders to halt the landfill that was choking it.

This national wildlife refuge exists because people took up the cause and inspired Congressman Don Edwards to provide the leadership that created it twenty years ago.

This agreement validates years of hard work by many citizens and a few key leaders, who wanted this refuge expanded and improved, bringing Don Edwards' vision closer to reality.

Reclaiming these salt ponds for the Bay and restoring them to provide habitat for fish and wildlife has been a dream of many people for half a century. But it is happening now because you, Senator Feinstein and Governor Davis, and state and federal officials, and leading Bay Area foundations, are giving the Bay your voices.

You have made the Bay's preservation and restoration your cause. You have fought for the funding to get these properties back in the public domain, to protect them in perpetuity, to restore them to fertile habitat, to ensure that they are here

for future generations to enjoy.

The Bay does not have a voice unless people and courageous leaders lend the Bay their voices. We salute you for your efforts, and we stand ready to work with you on the challenges ahead:

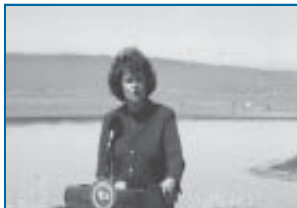


David Lewis

First—to plan and execute the restoration of these ponds. We believe that goal is feasible, cost-effective and fundable, and will benefit greatly from early public input. We can turn salt into gold for the Bay.

Second—to acquire, protect and restore those remaining areas, here within our sight and throughout the estuary that can be reclaimed and restored to support endangered fish and wildlife, improve water quality, and provide recreation for all our citizens.

It is a miracle that we still have this enormous opportunity to restore the Bay's health, permanently protect open space, and re-create fertile habitat in the midst of a metropolis. We thank all of you for seizing this opportunity now.



“Senator Feinstein and the agencies have hit a home run for the bay. And California voters have been willing to vote billions of dollars for environmental projects. It proves that we don't need to destroy other parts of the bay in order to reclaim tidal wetlands. That's what the airport has been trying to convince people.”

Canoe Program Gears-Up for Another Great Year on The Bay

As Bay Area students head back to their classrooms, Save The Bay is also gearing up for an exciting year of watershed education. This fall marks the sixth year of Save The Bay's Canoes In Sloughs program, which offers middle and high school students a unique opportunity to bring their classroom science lessons alive with exciting field trips throughout the Bay Area.

Our program includes pre-trip classroom visits and instruction, a canoe trip filled with information on the Bay ecosystem and its history, and discussions about the value of wetland habitat to the Bay's health. Under staff guidance, students experience the Bay by using water quality kits, dip nets, maps, and field guides. They also gain self-confidence and a new attitude to in-class instruction for science and ecology. This year, many schools are choosing to participate in a Community-Based Restoration project as a follow-up stewardship activity.

Canoes In Sloughs is designed to meet California State Science Standards and is greatly valued by local teachers. As one

teacher shared, "Students had a great time – they were engaged and asked questions – they said it was the best field trip they have ever been on!"

Save The Bay helps to underwrite the cost of these trips for every student, and we seek funding

for tuition for any students who are unable to pay. Since we launched our first canoe, we have provided Canoes In Sloughs programs for over 15,000 students and teachers. 40% of our students are from low income/underprivileged areas and over 50% of our students come from communities of color.

Would you like to send a young Bay Area student on one of these exciting, fun-packed and educational trips? A \$30 gift to Save The Bay will cover a scholarship trip for one student. A gift of \$300 will help us send ten students. With a gift of \$900, you can send an entire classroom on the trip of a lifetime. For more information about how you can help inspire a new generation of Bay stewards, please contact:

Eliza Dexter
Save The Bay's
Development Director
(510) 452-9261, or
edexter@savesfbay.org



Save The Bay's Canoes In Sloughs Education programs in 2001 - 2002 (clockwise, beginning with upper left-hand photo: Listening to wildlife deep inside a marsh, Looking for aquatic organisms in a sample of Bay water, Students load their canoes after a wetlands adventure, Canoes In Sloughs watershed education instructor.

"My students had a great time – they were engaged and asked questions – they said it was the best field trip they have ever been on!"

A Participating Teacher

The Bay Area's underserved communities benefit from Save The Bay's Scholarship Programs— your generous support will help us continue to reach underserved students. Thank you!

SFO Still Pushing Bay Runways

SFO has spent approximately \$70 million on its Airfield Development Bureau, which coordinates the runway expansion project. The S.F. Board of Supervisors in July appropriated \$6.2 million of the \$11.2 million that SFO had requested for the runway planning and placed \$5 million on reserve, citing questionable spending by the Bureau on lobbyists and public relations consultants.

San Francisco Mayor Willie Brown and SFO officials have vowed to push ahead with runway expansion. They will ask the S.F. Board of Supervisors to release \$5 million more for plans to pave the Bay despite strong public opposition and serious fiscal problems at SFO.

SFO is in a State of Fiscal Crisis. The airport is over \$4 billion in debt and half of its annual operating budget—\$300 million per year—goes to service debt payments.

Despite the fiscal crisis, SFO continues to spend tens of millions of dollars annually on high-priced lobbyists, public relations firms and consultants for its Bay runways proposal.

Independent Audit of Runway Spending. The San Francisco Board of Supervisors has directed the City Budget Analyst to perform a management audit of the San Francisco International Airport's Airfield Development Bureau as the next priority assignment. The Board requested a focused audit of the Bureau to inform any future consideration of appropriations, and to ensure that current and past spending at the Bureau is appropriate.

Supervisor Aaron Peskin spurred the effort which should be completed in early 2003.

Water Board Fines SFO for Polluting Bay.

After SFO's aging sewage plant spewed sewage, cyanide and other pollutants into San Francisco Bay for more than seven years, the Regional Water Quality Control Board fined the airport and again ordered a plant upgrade. Credit should go to the regulatory agencies, anti-pollution advocates and the San Francisco Board of Supervisors for forcing the airport to begin construction of a new plant.

Help Save The Bay fight fill in the Bay. Call Jen Jackson to volunteer (510) 452-9261, or check our website www.savesfbay.org to learn how you can help.

Volunteer to be a Bay Spokesperson

Save The Bay's volunteer Speakers' Bureau has openings for our January training. Learn to give lively and informed talks to community associations, civic groups, environmental clubs, boating clubs, or any organization concerned about the Bay.

Our Speakers' Bureau can provide speakers for groups of 25 or more people. For more information, e-mail jjackson@savesfbay.org, or call Jen at (510) 452-9261.



Shorebirds forage at the mouth of Stevens Creek, north of Moffett Field

TAKE ACTION FOR MOFFETT WETLANDS

The Navy must clean up Superfund Site 25 which includes restorable wetlands at Moffett Field to the level necessary to support fish and fish-eating birds. Any lower cleanup standard will preclude future restoration of these wetlands and their reconnection to the Bay. Congresswoman Anna Eshoo supports tidal restoration of these wetlands and is urging the Navy to do a full cleanup. Let her know you support her and want to see the Navy do the right thing for the Moffett wetlands.

Tell the US Navy to do a full cleanup at Moffett Field

**Write: Congresswoman Anna Eshoo
698 Emerson Street
Palo Alto, CA 94301**

Reclaiming the South Bay Shoreline: Moffett Field

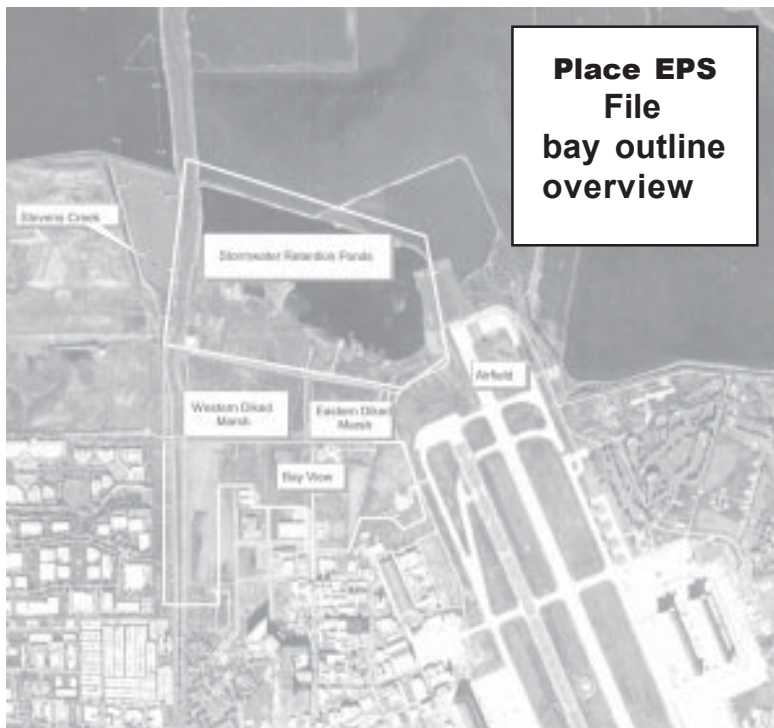
The Moffett Field wetlands are part of what was once a continuous band of tidal marshes and seasonal wetlands at the southern end of San Francisco Bay. Today, much of this habitat has been altered or destroyed, often filled and replaced by urban development.

A new report by Save The Bay charges the U.S. Navy with failing to adequately clean up contaminated wetlands at Moffett Field. The former tidal marsh—now freshwater ponds used to collect stormwater runoff—is adjacent to Bay salt ponds slated for inclusion in the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge. The lower cleanup standard the Navy is advocating would allow contaminants toxic to fish and fish-eating birds to remain in the pond sediments. Save The Bay’s report urges NASA and the Navy to take action that will allow wetland restoration in the future. Full restoration to tidal function cannot occur unless the contaminants are completely removed.

The report—*Reclaiming the South Bay Shoreline: A Vision for Wetland Restoration at Moffett Field*—claims that restoring tidal wetlands at Moffett

“At least 260 acres of former Bay wetlands and 95 acres of adjacent upland at Moffett Field offer excellent opportunities to protect and restore South Bay habitat.”

Briggs Nisbet, Save The Bay
Restoration Campaigns Manager



Potential Wetland Restoration Sites at Moffett Field

Field in Novato, Mare Island Naval Shipyard in Vallejo, and the Alameda Naval Air Station have accommodated development and wetland habitat protection or are preparing to do so. Over the past 150 years nearly 95 percent of San Francisco Bay’s historic tidal wetlands have been destroyed by diking, draining, and filling-in of these extremely productive habitats, resulting in wildlife losses, water quality reductions, and decreased natural flood control.

Reclaiming the South Bay Shoreline: A Vision for Wetland Restoration at Moffett Field—is available at:
www.savesfbay.org/moffett.html (510) 452-9261

Field would aid recovery of endangered species, improve Bay water quality, and reconnect this shoreline to nearby communities.

The City of Mountain View and Congresswoman Anna Eshoo have urged NASA to pursue remediation of Site 25 to allow tidal marsh restoration there, joining environmental groups and community leaders who find the Navy’s current cleanup plan inadequate.

NASA has resisted appeals from community leaders to modify development plans so they enhance the region’s quality of life with wetland restoration, open space preservation and the recreational opportunities they provide – a progressive vision championed by Save The Bay.

NASA could learn from the successful cleanup and restoration being achieved at other military bases throughout the Bay Area. Hamilton

Restoring The Bay

Restoring Native Oysters Around The Bay Partnerships Working to Monitor and Restore Habitat

Save The Bay's Community Restoration Coordinator Marilyn Latta and Restoration Specialist Anya Perron-Burdick have been working with many community partners to monitor oyster populations and water quality at five historic Bay oyster sites:



Marilyn Latta holds oyster "shell string" at the Alameda Estuary site.

Richardson Bay, Coyote Point, Redwood Creek, Sausal Creek, and Point Pinole.

Save The Bay has focused on community outreach to involve student and adult volunteers in scientific education, monitoring, and restoration of native oysters (*Ostrea lurida*), which were once abundant in many estuaries along the West Coast, including a large population in San Francisco Bay documented from extensive Ohlone Indian shell middens.

Loss of habitat, over-harvesting and degraded water quality almost completely depleted the Bay's native oyster population, reducing a once-dominant local fishery resource to a few scattered, remnant populations. Because oyster reefs function as essential bottom communities in the Bay, this oyster decline led to the loss of extensive

three-dimensional habitat utilized by myriad fish and invertebrates. The loss

of oyster reefs caused a cascading series of impacts to Bay food webs. Also lost was the ecological role oysters play as filter feeders, transferring phytoplankton and other suspended solids from the water column to the sediments, enabling nutrient transfer and increased water clarity. Save The Bay teaches community volunteers about native oyster history and ecology and then trains them to monitor "shell strings," 10-foot lengths of rope with oyster shells attached (see picture). These shell strings are hung in the water at each site, and volunteers pull them up once a month to record the settlement of oysters and other species on the shells. Volunteers also monitor water quality parameters at each site, including temperature, salinity, pH, dissolved oxygen, nitrates, and phosphates. This data will help us learn more about the suitability of conditions of conditions in the Estuary for native oysters.

Site Partners Include:

- Friends of Sausal Creek
- Friends of San Pablo Creek
- Richardson Bay-Audubon
- Coyote Point Museum
- Marine Science Institute

For more information about the Oyster Project, contact Anya at (510) 452-9261 or anya@savesfbay.org. Also check the Save The Bay website: <http://www.savesfbay.org/cbrmain.html>

Help Us Restore Native Oysters at These Sites:

Sausal Creek: Oyster monitoring with the Friends of Sausal Creek, 1st Saturday of every month from 9 AM to 12 noon. For more information contact Marilyn Latta at Save The Bay (mlatta@savesfbay.org), or Charlotte Bell with the Friends of Sausal Creek (bell_charlotte@hotmail.com).

Coyote Point: Oyster monitoring with Coyote Pt. Museum volunteers, last Friday of every month at 2 PM. For more information contact Marilyn at Save The Bay (mlatta@savesfbay.org) or Holly Harris with SF State (g2h2@earthlink.net).

Richardson Bay: Oyster monitoring with Audubon Bayshore Studies docents, 2nd Tuesday of every month from 1-3 PM. For more information contact Marilyn at Save The Bay (mlatta@savesfbay.org), or Meryl Sundove at Richardson Bay Audubon Center (msundove@audubon.org).

San Pablo Creek: Oyster monitoring with SPAWNERS, 2nd Saturday of every month at 9:30 AM. Contact Marilyn Latta at Save The Bay (mlatta@savesfbay.org) or Martha Berthelson at the Aquatic Outreach Institute (marth@aoinstitute.org).

Redwood Creek: Oyster monitoring with the Marine Science Institute the 4th Tuesday of each month at 2 PM. Contact Marilyn Latta at Save The Bay (mlatta@savesfbay.org) or Marilou Seiff at the Marine Science Institute (marilou@sfbaymsi.org).

In Memoriam

Save The Bay lost several dedicated and beloved friends over the summer. Dwight Steel and Mary Lee Jefferds both held remarkable records of public service on behalf of the environment, and both were early leaders of Save The Bay.

Dwight C. Steele – labor lawyer and environmental activist

Dwight Steele, 88, championed environmental causes from the San Francisco Bay to Lake Tahoe, and headed both the boards of Save The Bay and the League to Save Lake Tahoe. He was a pillar of Bay protection efforts for decades, helping to found and build Save The Bay.

Dwight took up environmental causes in the late 1960s, when planned development threatened to turn San Francisco Bay into a river. He pushed for legislation to create the Bay Conservation and Development Commission, the first coastal protection agency in the United States. He also was a leader in the effort to establish the Eastshore State Park between Oakland and Richmond.

Mary Lee Jefferds – environmental educator

Mary Lee Jefferds, 81, was a life-long environmental educator and a long-time member of the East Bay Regional Park District’s board. She was the first woman to serve as president of the board, a position she held for four terms.

In preparation for the first Save The Bay organizational meeting in 1961, Mary offered her *Rolodex* of names to help the cause. She was present at that famous first meeting 41 years ago.

We express our condolences to the families and friends of Mary and Dwight. We are grateful and inspired by all that they did to make the world a better place in which to live.

Gifts in Memory of...

January 1, 2002 – September 12, 2002

Leonard V. Martin:

Ms. Victoria Briant and Mr. Malcolm Misuraca
Mr. and Mrs. Fred E. Croshaw
Mr. and Mrs. Boris H. Gregory
Passion Vietnamese Cuisine
Mr. William A. Stone

Michael H. Nurre:

Dr. and Mrs. Samuel B. Aronson
Roberta F. Borgonovo
Ms. Victoria J. De Goff
Miss Pauline A. Kilkelly
Mrs. Charlotte Nurre
Mrs. Jane H. Nurre
Mrs. Helen O'Brien
San Mateo High School
Department of Special Education and Reading

Mary Lee Jefferds:

Ms. Leona O. Coles
Mrs. Afton E. Crooks
Ms. E. Frances David

Herbert Matthews:

Jim and Astrid Reedy

Dr. Alan C. Nixon:

Sylvia C. McLaughlin

Dwight Steele:

Mrs. John P. Austin
Mrs. Ralph O. Beck
Mr. and Mrs. Edward L. Bennett
Mrs. Patricia M. Everett
Mr. Joseph C. Houghteling
Mr. Robin L. C. Leong
Ms. Rosie C. Motta
Mr. and Mrs. Charles E. Townsend
Don and Kim Weden
Mr. and Mrs. Harold P. York

Irene Gregory:

Ms. Elaine P. Chen-Ramirez
Ms. Elfrida Hudson
Mr. James W. Kearney
Don and Olive McCallum
Mr. and Mrs. John P. Milton
Mr. and Mrs. Jim A. Prine
Mrs. Stanford Shane

Gifts in Honor of...

January 1, 2002 – September 12, 2002

Birthday of Mary Blair

Ms. Angel Keleher

Birthday of Patricia Kay

Ms. Angel Keleher

Birthday of Clark Knowlen

Ms. Angel Keleher

Birthday of Michelle Knowlen

Ms. Angel Keleher

60th Wedding Anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Guggenheim

Mrs. Stanford Shane

60th Wedding Anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Hernandez

Mrs. Stanford Shane

SAVE THE BAY

Save The Bay has been working for four decades to celebrate, protect, and restore the San Francisco Bay-Delta and to improve public access to its shoreline. We are committed to keeping the Bay alive, healthy, and beautiful.

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You can put a student in one of these canoes. Turn to page 3 to learn why this is important and how you can help.

SAVE THE BAY

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OAKLAND, CA 94612

510-452-9261 Phone
510-452-9266 Fax
www.savesfbay.org

Don't Miss Our AUTUMN Discover The Bay Schedule.

Here's a sampling of some of our exciting upcoming trips:

October 20

Brooks Island Kayak Discovery
9 AM – 4:30 PM

October 26

Gaslight Schooner Sailing trip
4 PM – 7 PM

November 9

Emeryville Shoals Kayak "Tea"
6 PM – 10 PM

November 16

Sandhill Cranes on the
Cosumnes River
9:30 AM – 3 PM

For a complete schedule of all our Bay outings,
call Sarah at (510) 452-9261,
or check our website at:

<http://www.savesfbay.org/Discover.html>

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