

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA
CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGION**

**STAFF SUMMARY REPORT (Keith Roberson
and Mark Johnson)
MEETING DATE: November 28, 2011**

ITEM: 8

SUBJECT: Cleanup and Restoration of Baylands in the Southwest Bay - Status Report

DISCUSSION: Four adjacent bayland sites located at the southwestern end of the Dumbarton Bridge have been, or are in the process of being, cleaned up under Board oversight and restored to improved environmental conditions. The sites include, from north to south, the former Cargill Salt Pond SF-2, the former Peninsula Sportsmen's Club site, the former Cooley Landing Salt Pond, and Cooley Landing (see Appendix A – location maps).

Salt Pond SF-2, a 237-acre former salt pond located just south of the Dumbarton Bridge, has been fully restored and incorporated into the Don Edwards National Wildlife Refuge. The southern portion of this pond was contaminated with lead shot from gun club activities at the Peninsula Sportsmen's Club site, which is separated from the pond by a levee. Cleanup of the affected portion of the pond was completed under Board oversight in 2006. Following cleanup, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service accepted ownership of Pond SF-2 and converted it into a managed-tidal pond that includes a number of man-made islands to provide nesting habitat for native shorebirds such as avocets, sandpipers and plovers. The Service completed this conversion in September 2010 as part of the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project.

The *Peninsula Sportsmen's Club* site is a 30-acre parcel of land owned by the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission. The property was leased to the Peninsula Sportsmen's Club and used for skeet- and trap-shooting from 1939 to 1994. Operation of the gun club resulted in extensive lead contamination of site soils in the former firing ranges and in the adjacent salt pond. Cleanup and restoration of the site took ten years (2000 to 2010) and cost over \$20 million to complete. A tentative order to rescind the 2001 site cleanup order for the site is on the uncontested calendar as Item 6A for this Board meeting.

The former *Cooley Landing Salt Pond*, now known as the Ravenswood Open Space Preserve, is located between the Peninsula Sportsmen's Club site and Cooley Landing. This former 130-acre salt pond's restoration to tidal marsh began in the late-1990s under Board oversight as mitigation for three acres of wetlands lost as part of the cleanup activities related to the nearby 1990 Bay Road site. Since the breaching of the pond's levees in 2000 and reconnection of the pond to tidal flow, the once salt-encrusted surface has now been re-established with tidal marsh vegetation.

Cooley Landing was developed in the mid-1800s as a wharf extending out past the marsh to the Bay. Over the decades a land mass was formed by filling that created a small island, with a small road connecting it to the shore. From the 1930s until the mid-1950s, Cooley Landing was used as a county burn dump. The dump was then closed and the burn ash covered with fill. The property then operated as a boatyard until the late-1990s. Now, after more than 15 years of work, Cooley Landing is being cleaned up and converted into a bayside park. Board staff approved a cleanup plan earlier this year for the site. The cleanup was started this month, and multiple phases of park development will occur over the next few years.

The cleanup and restoration of these four adjacent bayland sites will create contiguous high-value habitat that extends from the Dumbarton Bridge south into the Don Edwards National Wildlife Refuge and complements the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project. This large-scale habitat restoration will benefit a wide variety of species, including the endangered California Clapper Rail and Salt Marsh Harvest Mouse. In addition to the restoration and creation of wildlife habitat, the cleanup overseen by the Board has also enhanced public access to wetlands and the Bay.

RECOMMENDATION: No action needed on this informational item.

APPENDIX A: Location Maps

APPENDIX A – LOCATION MAPS

Location



Cleanup & Restoration Sites

