SAN FRANCISCO WILL SOON TRANSFORM the 500-acre former Hunters Point shipyard into a mixed residential and commercial development that will include 10 acres of open space and restored wetlands. Governor Davis signed legislation approving the deal this fall while the Navy reached an agreement with the city to provide $50.6 million for cleaning up contaminants from the shipyard, closed since 1974.

THE EUREKA CITY COUNCIL may intervene in a lawsuit by the Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen’s Associations and the Northcoast Environmental Center against BurRec over its 10-year plan for the Klamath River. The suit claims the plan violates the Endangered Species Act and will harm coho salmon. The City of Arcata and the County of Humboldt have already agreed to support the suit (for more on Klamath River issues, see page 5) because of the economic importance of the fishery. Meanwhile, 10 environmental groups have sued U.S. Fish & Wildlife over its practice of leasing refuge lands to irrigated agriculture in the Klamath Basin. The groups want 20,000 acres restored to wetlands, which they say will free up 60,000 acre-feet of water demand on the river and improve water quality by filtering pollutants.

CHINOOK SALMON PERSEVERE this year in the Russian River despite a 60% cut in the river’s flows by the Sonoma County Water Agency to conserve water. Some 5,000 fish have reached spawning grounds above Healdsburg, delighting the water agency, which was worried that the reduced flows might restrict spawning. Although this year’s run is the largest on record, biologists have only been monitoring the river’s Chinook for five years, after discovering the fish to be a distinct population.

Lethal and Legal Sting?

The West Nile virus—the mosquito-transmitted disease that caused sparrows, crows, hawks, and owls to drop dead on the streets of New York City in 1999—is heading west. That it will reach California is a virtual certainty; that there are mosquito species here that can transmit it is a fact. The slowly insect may soon be reviled locally while its habitat—everything from seasonal ponds to freshwater wetlands and stormwater catchment basins—faces considerable scrutiny.

That’s why the Contra Costa Mosquito and Vector Control District convened the “Wetlands Without Mosquitoes” workshop this fall for wetland designers and managers. The district’s Karl Malamud-Roam told the group that recent legislation now makes it illegal to “grow” mosquitoes. “If you do, you’re liable,” said Malamud-Roam. Local agencies and municipalities holding stormwater permits or constructing and managing wetlands could all get stung.

The workshop made it clear that not all wetlands are mosquito factories. Salt marshes host few mosquitoes: the tidal to-and-fro flushes out eggs and larvae, disrupts egg conditioning and permits more predators. Freshwater wetlands produce more mosquitoes, but seasonal wetlands, which get wet, hold water for 10 days or so, dry out, then get wet again, offer even better conditions for the insect. One helpful hint for wetland managers is that mosquitoes like vegetation but not wind, waves, or currents. Creating openings in vegetation that face prevailing winds discourages reproduction; so does reducing vegetation.

Malamud-Roam admits that some solutions—installing plumbing, moving water into and off of a site quickly, and reducing vegetation—will compete with other wetland objectives. The district, whose mission is to protect public health, may find itself at odds with some agencies, although Malamud-Roam assured attendees that the district will work with them.

Tom Huffman with Cal Fish & Game is undaunted by managing marshes for multiple objectives. His agency consults with mosquito districts before doing any work in or designing a wetland. He also manages vegetation with the pests (mosquitoes, not districts) in mind. “If I’m going to flood an area full of dense vegetation, I mow first,” he says.

Wetland managers won’t be the only ones impacted by the new regulations. For example, the Contra Costa Clean Water Program’s municipal stormwater permit, up for amendment, essentially mandates creation of mosquito habitat by requiring on-site water retention features like catchment basins and swales. The vector control district has proposed that the amendment be deferred, but the S.F. Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board’s Christine Boschen says the agency is unwilling to do so. The Board is considering making some mosquito-related changes based on comments filed by the district and others.

At the workshop’s close, Malamud-Roam recommended what the district had been practicing all day: productive public relations. West Nile virus is not a huge threat to human health. The number of people who pick it up is likely to remain small, and 80% of those who do will develop immunity without even feeling ill. Only the elderly and immunocompromised are at risk for the severe neurological damage the disease can cause. Horses are also susceptible, but neither they nor humans appear to be reservoir hosts (capable of carrying the virus at high enough levels to pass it on), as birds are.

Malamud-Roam pledged to hold follow-up meetings with sewer, stormwater, waterfowl, and marsh managers. One uninvited party may be present too: the mosquito.

Contacts: Karl Malamud-Roam (925)685-9301x107; Christine Boschen (510)622-2346 AH
INVASIONS

SPARRING WITH SPARTINA

Mowing, pruning, blanketing, digging, hand-pulling, and applying herbicides are just some of the means being used to rid the Estuary of invasive Spartina, the monster cordgrass threatening intertidal mudflat habitat. Where there once were only four invasive Spartina species competing with the native S. foliosa, now there are many transgressive hybrids—which produce more seed and pollen than either parent—marching up and down the tidal gradient. These hybrid swarms grow fast and large, produce more pollen than the native species, and can self fertilize, transforming mudflats into monocultures of dense grass, according to U.C. Davis ecologist Don Strong. Unchecked, they could destroy foraging areas crucial to shorebirds and other species, he says.

The California Coastal Conservancy is leading the battle against the invasion with a $2 million CALFED-funded program that earmarks $500,000 for eradication. The Invasive Spartina Project (ISP) Programmatic EIS/R due out by year-end will help coordinate manual and mechanical excavation and evaluate eradication methods, such as dredging, burning, flaming, drowning and draining, and applying herbicides.

The ISP will also look at an umbrella permit for herbicide use according to ISP’s Peggy Olofson. The current permitting process has been a costly stumbling block for some agencies and landowners. As it stands now, Natural Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits issued by the S.F. Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board require that glyphosate (aka Rodeo, Aquamaster), the only EPA-approved aquatic herbicide and allegedly non-toxic, must undergo standardized toxins testing and monitoring. Winds, tides, and endangered species concerns, such as the California clapper rail breeding season, restrict the timing of herbicide use.

“We don’t like to spray, but it’s the only proven effective method at this time,” says Hayward Regional Shoreline’s Mark Taylor. “We have some of the earlier infestations in our parks—they’re growing as we speak—and we can’t get out there to do any control work. We hope the EIR will help us because Spartina exploded on us last year, and it’s too far gone to do by hand.” A new herbicide, imazapyr (Arsenal), being tested in Washington state, may prove less toxic and offer better control than glyphosate, according to Taylor.

While the EIR is being finalized, the East Bay Regional Park District is working with CALTRANS in the Emeryville and Albany mudflats to mow and pull seedheads, and Hayward Regional Shoreline has purchased an amphibious vehicle it hopes will facilitate future mechanical control and spraying.

“We’ve held off using our new machine until the EIR comes out and we hear from the agencies involved,” says Taylor, who would like to get to work on Spartina in the 364-acre Oro Loma Marsh. The 250-acre Cogswell Marsh is also fully infested, he says.

The City of Palo Alto Baylands Nature Preserve overcame permit problems and is using glyphosate, having found mowing too labor-intensive. Future methods may include tarping, which resident naturalist Deborah Bartens says is not ideal because it covers and kills everything, and because the sediment deposited in just one season by the tides can make the tarps too difficult to remove. Taylor says tarps placed nearly a decade ago along the Hayward shoreline are covered by a foot of mud, with cordgrass and pickleweed growing on top. At Point Reyes National Seashore, S. alterniflora in Drake’s Estero was successfully trampled, then covered with geotextile fabric to prevent regrowth. A lone S. alterniflora clone in Bolinas Lagoon was dug out with shovels and removed by the Marin County Open Space District and Audubon Canyon Ranch biologists.

ISP biologists are hoping that all these efforts will hold the line against the invader. Says ISP’s Katy Zaremba, “We’re trying to prevent seed spread into outer-coast marshes and the un-invaded reaches of the Bay.”

Contact: Katy Zaremba (415) 868-1518; Don Strong drstrong@ucdavis.edu; Mark Taylor hayward@ebparks.org; Peggy Olofson ispolofson@aol.com

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WREN WORRIES

The salt marsh song sparrow, a Bay Area native listed as a California Species of Special Concern, may be having trouble coping with the rapid changes occurring in its tidal salt marsh home due to the invasion of Atlantic cordgrass (Spartina alterniflora), according to recent research by U.C. Berkeley behavioral ecologist Dr. Cully Nordby. Nordby, who began her study in 2001 under a National Science Foundation award to the San Francisco Estuary Institute, is assessing how S. alterniflora is affecting both song sparrow and marsh wren populations in Bay salt marshes. The study is examining nesting habits, foraging behavior, and competition between the two birds in order to understand the impacts of the invasive cordgrass on native animal populations.

Prior to the exotic cordgrass invasion, the song sparrow nested and lived as the main resident of the open-canopied marshes natural to the Bay. Now, with its familiar habitat changing into tall, dense cordgrass meadows, the song sparrow is struggling to find a pretty strong correlation.”}

Contact: Dr. Cully Nordby (510) 643-3946; nordby@nature.berkeley.edu
SMELT TUG OF WAR

Few fish have caused more angst than the Delta smelt. Its addition to the federal list of threatened species in 1993 is credited with forcing California’s commercial, municipal, agricultural, and environmental interests to set aside traditional enmities to find a solution to the state’s chronic struggles over water allocation. The result was CALFED, the multi-billion dollar, multi-year program that marked a historic shift in California’s attitude toward water.

CALFED may be sailing smoothly, but the smelt are making news again. Recent talk by the California Farm Bureau and downstream water users about removing protection for the smelt has agency officials and enviros worried. This October, the smelt met the criteria set for recovery by a scientific team back in the early 1990s, even though the number of fish caught by researchers was the fifth-lowest since 1967. To enviros, a worst-case scenario is that the smelt could lose federal protection, and measures taken to restore it be rescinded. One of the most significant measures was a reduction in the percentage of freshwater pumped by state and federal water projects, from a high of 70% to 35%. These cutbacks stay in place from February to June, when smelt tend to congregate near the pumps.

The same scientists who established the recovery criteria are now calling them into question. Because of the difficulty in tracking the elusive, unpredictable fish, the current standards merely provide a rough gauge of the species’ health by comparing the number of smelt caught at specific locations over the years. Nobody knows how many smelt actually live in the Delta. Estimates range from several hundred thousand to 12 million, depending on which scientist one listens to.

"In hindsight, I’m uncomfortable with the targets," says Bruce Herbold of the U.S. EPA. "At the time, we were trying to be reasonable and not rely solely on the luck of the draw. But I’d probably do things differently now."

Starting in 1967, Cal Fish & Game has trawled for smelt and other fish at 120 locations, from San Pablo Bay to Prisoner’s Point on the San Joaquin River. Since the smelt received protection in 1993, data from these fishing expeditions have been used to determine whether the smelt is meeting criteria set for recovery under the federal Endangered Species Act. The smelt met that criteria by the narrowest of margins for the first time this year. But that doesn’t necessarily mean the species is in good shape, scientists say. In fact, trawlers came up with only 33 fish this year. If the trawlers had caught two fewer fish, the smelt would have failed to meet the recovery standards.

The smelt met the recovery standard this year because extraordinarily high numbers of fish—more than 300—were caught last year. This year’s dramatic drop may have been caused by dry weather in the spring, a crucial time for smelt. But last year’s number was so high that the average of the two years met recovery standards.

The Bay Institute’s Tina Swanson believes the agencies need to take another look at the recovery standards to see whether they provide the most reliable gauge for the health of the species. This year’s low catch could mean the smelt is in the midst of a population crash rather than a recovery, says Swanson, who thinks recovery standards failed to adequately take into account the boom-and-bust water supply in the Delta. The annual fresh-water runoff to the Delta averages about 23 million acre-feet. But the real numbers vary dramatically from year to year, ranging from six million acre-feet to 60 million acre-feet.

Swanson says California’s wildly gyrating weather may be influencing Delta smelt abundance. "These were the first dry years we’ve seen since the recovery criteria were developed and instituted, and the numbers have plummeted. If someone were to suggest that this is a recovery, it isn’t very durable."

On the other side of the issue, downstream water users and the California Farm Bureau are insistig that U.S. Fish & Wildlife officials conduct a review of the smelt, which is required every five years under the Endangered Species Act. Dan Nelson, executive director of the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority, cites a recent study estimating that the actual number of smelt is between one million and 12 million. "We think there’s a good chance it will show Delta smelt are in a lot better shape than they were 20 years ago and that they’re out of danger," says Nelson.

Herbold says that there simply isn’t enough information to come up with an accurate count. "I don’t think it’s a game worth playing," he warns. "I think there are fewer than the study number, but we lack some essential information that would allow us to know. I don’t fire up my little spreadsheet and say, no, there are 60,000."

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CONSERVATION

TAKING FOLSOM’S MEASURE

Folsom voters proved defiant on election day, eschewing federal law to approve a ballot measure prohibiting the city from charging residents for the amount of water they use and preserving a flat-rate fee. Supporters of Folsom’s Measure P maintain that it was mainly about keeping the city from passing the $4.9 million cost of retrofitting more than 6,600 homes with water meters on to residents. The installation of the meters—and the reading of them—are key components of a long-term regional water use plan that went into effect in 2000.

"The federal government has required meters not to punish folks but because we live in a water-short state and need to pay for what we take," explains BurRec’s Tom Aiken.

Currently, Folsom residents pay $16.80 a month for unlimited water use. Those with swimming pools pay an additional $2.20 a month, and residents in an annexed area on the east side of town pay a surcharge of $11.75 to cover expenses incurred when the city had to get a new source of water for the development.

At issue in Measure P is 8,200 acre-feet of water from the CVP, 7,000 of which the city contracted from BurRec in 1999 to serve new developments on its east side. Measure P also contains a provision for new developments on its west side and requires that the city use water from the Central Valley Project (CVP) to meet new development needs.

"The city made a very big blunder when obtaining 7,000 acre-feet [of CVP water] for one development in one part of town," explains Myers, a one-time Folsom city council member and former BurRec spokesperson. "[The CVP water] is not really being tapped into as the community expects." Aiken believes this cutback should come as no surprise since BurRec renegotiated its water contract with the San Juan Water District in 1995 to reflect the changes in the 1992 federal law. At the time, Aiken says, the San Juan district was financially unable to meet the five-year metering requirement, so BurRec granted it 10 years within which to comply with the law.

Another aspect of Measure P is that it will likely require an amendment to the Water Forum Agreement the city signed in 2000. The agreement—a non-legally binding contract signed by 40 cities and other municipalities, water suppliers like BurRec, developers, and environmental organizations—has the dual aim of ensuring a safe, secure water supply while protecting the lower American River.

The lengthy agreement grants permission to the various signatories for projects in return for a show of support. In Folsom’s case, the city agreed that in exchange for expanding its water treatment facilities it would implement a water conservation plan. A key element to conservation is water meters, says the city’s Gordon Tomberg. "We won’t be able to live up to our agreement under the Water Forum without meters, but even if we get them, we won’t be allowed to use them," says Tomberg.

Conservation looms large in the Water Forum Agreement. Estimates for total water usage took into account all participating cities’ and municipalities’ growth projections to the year 2030. In light of the Water Forum’s goals, the aims of Measure P appear shortsighted, says the forum’s executive director Leo Winternitz.

"The problem now is that you plan for the future," Winternitz explains. "If Folsom loses [CVP water] now, chances are they aren’t

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MANAGEMENT

CHAOS AT THE CONfluence

The catastrophic dieoff of 30,000-plus fish this past September caused a tsunami-sized riple in the debate over how the Klamath River and its troubled tributary, the Trinity, are being managed. Critics blame the dieoff on the Department of the Interior’s export of full water deliveries this year to over 200,000 acres of irrigated farmland in the upper Klamath Basin, an act that cut flows for salmon on the main stem river. Some say that had there been more water in the Trinity, fewer fish would have been killed since all the fish died just downstream of the Trinity-Klamath confluence. Electronic tags recovered on the fish also showed that many of them were returning to the Trinity to spawn.

"There’s no doubt in my mind that there would have been less mortality if there was more flow in the Trinity," says Tom Stokely of the Trinity County Planning Department. Stokely cites a June 2001 draft U.S. Fish & Wildlife report that concluded that increased releases from the Trinity August through September would have lowered temperatures in the Klamath by at least one degree Celsius, making a big difference for fish.

The fish kill struck a nerve with restorationists, resource managers, fishers, and the Hoopa Valley and Yurok tribes who have all been waiting for the flows agreed upon in the Trinity Record of Decision (ROD) signed by Bruce Babbitt in 2000 to finally be given back to the river. The ROD was based on years of careful studies, and under it, Trinity flows could have been managed to help fish while still allowing Central Valley Project (CVP) diversions of more than half of the river’s flow to downstream ag and hydropower, according to the Resources Agency’s Tim Ramirez.

But farmers in the Westlands Water District, the Sacramento Municipal Utility District, and the Northern California Power Agency (which includes such cities and agencies as Palo Alto, Santa Clara, Alameda, the Port of Oakland and BART)—filed a lawsuit in early 2001 over the ROD asking that the new and higher instream flow schedule for the Trinity be not implemented for two reasons. First, they argued, diverting less water from the Trinity to the Sacramento River (Trinity water is sent to the Sacramento via a tunnel in the Coast Range) could harm downstream Delta smelt, Sacramento splittail, and winter-run Chinook salmon; and second, the impacts on hydropower production needed to be further analyzed. The judge agreed, and directed that a supplemental EIS (SEIS) be prepared by BurRec, the Hoopa Valley Tribe, and U.S. Fish & Wildlife. He also ordered that flows in the Trinity be capped at the lowest levels allowed under the driest conditions in the ROD until the SEIS is completed.

But the SEIS is stalled, frustrating river advocates and resource managers. According to a strongly worded letter sent in October by California Secretary for Resources Mary Nichols to Gale Norton, Secretary of the Interior, BurRec is attempting to go beyond the scope of what the judge required in an apparent attempt to delay implementation of the ROD. The Nichols letter asks that BurRec complete its work on the SEIS so that the ROD can be implemented during the next water season.

"Implementing the Trinity River ROD will also benefit the lower Klamath River, as the Trinity is its largest tributary," writes Nichols.

Stokely puts it more directly. "Officially, there have been no overt attempts to delay, but it took BurRec nearly a year after

TRINITY RIVER DIVERSION

THE MONITOR

BOARD TESTS BUGS

In May 2000, shortly after the release of new protocols for assessing streams using aquatic insects, Andree Breaux of the S.F. Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board waded into the East Bay’s Wildcat and San Leandro creeks to collect bugs, the start of a five-year study to track macroinvertebrates and determine whether or not bioassessment is a reliable water quality assessment tool.

Breaux says bugs can answer questions about land use impacts that other forms of monitoring can’t. But the SEIS is stalled, frustrating river advocates and resource managers. According to a strongly worded letter sent in October by California Secretary for Resources Mary Nichols to Gale Norton, Secretary of the Interior, BurRec is attempting to go beyond the scope of what the judge required in an apparent attempt to delay implementation of the ROD. The Nichols letter asks that BurRec complete its work on the SEIS so that the ROD can be implemented during the next water season.

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Contact: Andree Breaux (510)622-2324

AH
MANAGEMENT - CONTINUED

the judge’s initial ruling to hire a contractor to do the SEIS. Clearly, any delay in preparing the SEIS gives Westlands and others that many more years of benefits from Trinity water and more opportunities to derail the ROD in the courts or in Congress."

When the fish dieoff began, the Trinity Management Council (of which the Hoopa Valley tribe is a member) asked the Secretary of the Interior to increase flows in both the Klamath and the Trinity. BurRec was the only member voting against the motion, Stokely points out. BurRec claimed that extra releases into the Trinity were prohibited under the lawsuit filed by Westlands, et al., and initially refused to release more water into the Klamath. Later, the agency released a two-week “pulse” of water down the Klamath, but it was too little, too late for the fish. This debacle is symbolic of the way BurRec has mismanaged the Klamath-Trinity system over the past several decades, say Stokely and others.

But not everyone is convinced that low river flows caused the catastrophe. Says Westlands’ Thomas Birmingham, “The fish kill was certainly unfortunate, but before people start pointing fingers, it’s important to determine the cause.” Birmingham is waiting for the results of a study on the cause of the dieoff. Other downstream users—such as the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority—claim that the same amount of water was released in the Trinity this year as would have been under the ROD.

Technically that may be true, says Ramirez, but under the ROD, there is room for more flexibility in implementation than BurRec allowed.

“The volume is firm, but the schedule is flexible,” explains Ramirez. “The river gets so much water, but the intent is to manage the system adaptively.”

In April, spurred by BurRec’s delay in conducting the SEIS, the Hoopa Valley and Yurok tribes asked the judge to release more water into the Trinity as outlined in the ROD. The judge, apparently annoyed by the delays with the SEIS, held a summary judgement hearing in August 2002, but the parties are still waiting for his written opinion, which will almost certainly be appealed by one side or the other.

And the fight over flows doesn’t stop there. Environmental Defense has sent a letter signed by a dozen environmental groups asking the members of the Northern California Power Agency and SMUD to drop their lawsuit. The hydropower benefits to cities like Santa Clara and Palo Alto would be reduced by a very small percentage, according to Environmental Defense’s Sprech Rosekrans. California congress-man Mike Thompson recently jumped into the pool of controversy, introducing legislation to boost flows in the Klamath and to provide emergency assistance to tribes and fishers hit hard by the fish kill. That legislation, too, is likely to be opposed by farmers, with the Klamath Water Users Association claiming that the science being used to justify the higher flows is flawed. But Ramirez is worried that “science” is being twisted to make policy calls.

After the 2001 drought left farmers in the Klamath Basin without any water from the Klamath, the Department of Interior asked that the National Research Council (NRC) review the material used by BurRec and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to develop an operations plan for 2002. In a controversial interim report, the NRC panel found no scientific support for increasing minimum flows, as recommended by NMFS. However, as Ramirez points out, the interim report also found that there was no scientific support for reducing main stem flows, as proposed and implemented by BurRec. “We have advocates for the fish and the farmers both pointing to the NRC report saying, ‘See, the science supports our position.’ But that’s not the role of science. Science doesn’t make policy; it informs policymakers. And as much as people might like it to, science doesn’t eliminate uncertainty; it narrows the gap in knowledge. That’s why we need to manage adaptively and learn from our decisions,” Ramirez says.

Stokely says adaptive management is exactly what didn’t happen this past fall at the confluence of the two rivers. He remains bitter over the fish kill—and feels that, contrary to popular opinion, California water wars have not ended—but just begun. “There was very little in Prop 50 for the North Coast or the Trinity,” says Stokely, referring to the $825 million voters just gave CALFED (the cooperative state-federal effort to balance the state’s competing demands for water) in November. He says support for CALFED on the North Coast has been jeopardized by Westlands’ actions related to the Trinity: “Their predatory tactics have upset the delicate balance between environmental and other consumptive uses of CVP water and undermined the CALFED baseline for the Trinity and B2. This threatens forward movement on CALFED because all parties aren’t getting better together, and there are redirected impacts of Delta exports. The dead fish are a redirected impact.”

Contact: Tom Stokely (530)628-5949; Tim Ramirez (916)653-5656; Thomas Birmingham (530)224-1523

PER CAPITA ANNUAL HYDROPOWER BENEFITS FOR NCPA CITIES ($/YEAR)
(UNDER TRINITY RIVER RESTORATION PLAN)

[Graph showing PER CAPITA ANNUAL HYDROPOWER BENEFITS FOR NCPA CITIES ($/YEAR)]

Clearly, any delay in preparing the SEIS gives Westlands and others that many more years of benefits from Trinity water.
**HANDS ON**

**CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT**
- **Topic:** 103rd season that Audubon citizen scientists inventory bird populations in their communities
- **Location:** throughout Bay Area (contact sponsor)
- **Sponsor:** National Audubon Society  
  [www.audubon.org/bird/cbc](http://www.audubon.org/bird/cbc)

**WETLANDS RESTORATION**
- **Topic:** Restore East Bay wetlands
- **Sponsor:** Save the Bay
- **Location:** Martin Luther King Jr. Shoreline, Oakland  
  [www.savesfbay.org/calendar.html](http://www.savesfbay.org/calendar.html)

**SOLSTICE PADDLE**
- **Topic:** Welcome migrating shorebirds back to the Bay Area
- **Sponsor:** Save the Bay
- **Location:** Arrowhead Marsh, Oakland  
  [www.savesfbay.org/calendar.html](http://www.savesfbay.org/calendar.html)

**HOLIDAY PADDLE**
- **Topic:** Enjoy the peace of the wetlands as you paddle around Hook Island
- **Sponsor:** Save the Bay
- **Location:** Palo Alto  
  [www.savesfbay.org/calendar.html](http://www.savesfbay.org/calendar.html)

**SALMON WALK**
- **Topic:** Observe salmon habitat
- **Sponsor:** Save the Bay
- **Location:** Alameda Creek  
  [www.savesfbay.org/calendar.html](http://www.savesfbay.org/calendar.html)

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**SMALL GRANTS AWARDED**

The San Francisco Estuary Project is pleased to announce the following awards from its new Small Grants Program. A total of $111,507 will be used to improve water quality and natural habitat throughout the Bay Area, thanks to an allocation from the U.S. EPA. For more information, call Carol Thornton, (510)622-2419.

Joyce Blueford, Ph.D.  
Community and Industry Awareness of Ecological Indicators along Mud Slough, Southern S.F. Bay, $5,000

Friends of Five Creeks  
Restoration of Cerrito Creek at El Cerrito Plaza, Maximizing Volunteer Involvement, $3,000

Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society  
Wetlands and Woodlands Discovery Program, $3,900

Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society  
Stormwater Erosion Elimination Program (SWEET), $5,000

Urban Creeks Council  
Urban Creek Restoration Environmental Education Program, $9,150

City of Fremont  
Silvers Lagoon Educational Enhancement Project, $6,667.42

S.F. Bay Bird Observatory  
Birds and Bioaccumulation in the Bay, $10,000

Friends of Orinda Creeks  
Flood Design Adequacy Evaluation, $10,000

Friends of Corte Madera Creek  
Watershed Plan Restoration of College of Marin Ecology Study Area, Environmental Outreach, $6,000

Dept. of Health Serv., Environmental Health Investigation Branch  
S.F. Bay Fish Outreach and Education Project, $10,000

Alameda Creek Alliance  
Alameda Creek Steelhead Restoration Project, $3,000

Strawberry Creek Lodge Foundation  
Strawberry Creek Restoration and Outreach Project, $4,800

The Bay Institute  
Publication: Bay-Delta Ecological Scorecard, $10,000

Alhambra Creek Watershed Action Group  
Watershed Map to Promote Awareness and Stewardship, $7,490

Save the Bay  
Canoes in Sloughs Watershed Education Program, $3,000

Bay Area Open Space Council  
Research and Education Strategy for Reducing Water Quality Impacts of Surface Runoff from Transportation Facilities, $5,000

Golden Gate Audubon Society  
Alameda National Wildlife Refuge Stewardship Education Program, $7,500

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**NOW IN PRINT & ONLINE**

CVPIA Land Retirement Demonstration Project  
The U.S. Department of the Interior CVPIA Land Retirement Program.  

Draft Economic Analysis on Critical Habitat for Coastal Plants.  
[www.fws.gov](http://www.fws.gov)

Draft Economic Analysis on Proposed Critical Habitat for Vernal Pool Species.  
[www.fws.gov](http://www.fws.gov)

Draft Program EIR: Expansion of Ferry Service in the San Francisco Bay Area.  
Public comment period extended through Jan. 30.  
www.watertransit.org

Evaluating the Ecological Condition of the South Bay: A Potential Assessment Approach.  
www.cemar.org or (510)420-4565

[www.cal-waterfowl.org](http://www.cal-waterfowl.org) or (916)648-1406

Oak Woodland Bird Conservation Plan.  
2002. California Oak Foundation. (510)763-0282  

American Rivers/Natural Resources Defense Council/Smart Growth America.  
[www.amrivers.org](http://www.amrivers.org) or (202)737-6307

The State of the Nation’s Ecosystems.  
[www.heinzcenter.org/ecosystems](http://www.heinzcenter.org/ecosystems) or (202)737-6307

[www.water.usgs.gov/outreach/OutReach.html](http://www.water.usgs.gov/outreach/OutReach.html) or (888)ASK-USGS

A Year in the Life of Lake Merritt.  
October 2002. Lake Merritt Institute. (510)238-2290
CONSERVATION CONTINUED

going to get it back, and they'll have to have it to meet their projected planning water needs in 2030."

Myers is mostly undaunted at the prospect of losing the CVP water. Nonetheless, she is thinking about other water sources for the Ashland area. "If the city was creative, it would make a deal with private well owners to serve Ashland if they chose to do it," Myers says.

Developing a private well for public water use is complicated, explains Tornberg. It requires checking to see whether there's an adequate sanitary seal, whether groundwater is adequate, and whether treatment is needed, among other things. But figuring out how to deal with water supply in a post-Measure P world is equally complex and will require much attention in the coming months.

Contact: Gordon Tornberg  
(916)355-7370; Sara Myers (916)988-8298;  
Tom Aiken (916)988-1707

REGULATION CONTINUED

The dearth of hard information suggests that removing the smelt from the federal threatened species list would be premature, according to Kevin Fleming, a biologist with Cal Fish & Game. "Once you delist, you lose any hammer," says Fleming.

After U.S. Fish & Wildlife reviews the smelt's status, water users may have cause to recall the old adage "Be careful what you wish for, you just might get it." In addition to determining whether the species is still in trouble, scientists may re-think the criteria for recovery. This may not necessarily mean more water for the pumps. "They darn well better re-think, especially if they're going to have any integrity about using science," says Swanson.

Contact: Bruce Herbold (415)972-3460;  
Tina Swanson (415)721-7680

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