San Francisco Bay Area Wetlands Restoration Program
Design Review Group

Project Summary Outline

The project proponent desiring to have a project considered by the Design Review Group (DRG) shall provide the following information in full. The summary itself should not exceed a length of four pages. Please include a map and **the titles** of all available information, reports, and documents in the provided checklist. If the project is selected for review, additional information, including hard copies of project documents, may be requested from the proponent.

1. **Project Name:** Coyote Hills Wetland Enhancement and Drainage Improvement

   Project Proponents:
   - **a. Alameda County Public Works Agency (ACPWA):**
     Rick Baker, Hank Ackerman, Fred Wolin.
   - b. **East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD)**:
     Joseph DiDonato, Jerry Kent
     Consultants: Joshua Collins (SFEI), Phillip Williams & Associates

2. **Project Objectives** There has been a substantial increase in the availability of surface water in the Coyote Hills Regional Park in Fremont, CA. The increase seems to be a lasting effect of changes in land use around the Park. The proponents are developing alternatives for both long-term wetland enhancement and floodwater management to accommodate these changes in water supply.

3. **Status of Project Planning**: The project is still in the stage of conceptual design. To inform these designs, ACPWA has surveyed several segments of the area gathering information on water surface elevations and invert elevations of channels and culverts. ACPWA has also designed and mapped alternative channels for floodwater conveyance, and reviewed the historical use patterns of the site. The EBRPD has compiled past conceptual plans, historical photographs and construction documents, mapped the vegetation and water management structures in the marsh, reviewed past reports, and has initiated a groundwater monitoring project.

   In the short-term, there are drainage inhibitions on the site that need to be corrected for the sake of adjacent land uses. For example, EBRPD has contracted to mow cattails along the southern segment of one of the main drainage channel (the P line) that cuts across the Park, and the ACPWA has contracted to use an Aquamog to remove vegetation from that section of the P line, in order to improve flow through the line during this year.

   The proposed timeline for construction of new alternatives for habitats and floodwater management has not been established but preliminary intentions are to start construction of the preferred alternatives in fall of 2004.

Sources of funding are being sought from within the two agencies and also through grants, outside mitigation funds and potentially, fine money.

4. **Project Description**: Coyote Hills Regional Park is located In Fremont, CA, north of HWY 84, along the San Francisco Bay shoreline (see map). The Park is approximately 1000 acres and contains about 500 acres of wetlands and 500 acres of upland habitat. The park is jointly owned by the EBRPD and the ACPWA. The wetlands within the park are part of a managed storm water flood basin. Of the 512 acres of wetlands, approximately 300 acres are perennial wetlands dominated by cattails (typha spp.). Storm waters are conveyed through several key channels within the park to empty into the Alameda Creek flood control channel. Invasion of cattails into these channels has reduced their capacity and ability to convey floodwaters. Cattails and other freshwater wetland plants have spread across large areas that used to be seasonal and salt-influenced. There is a proposal to develop the private property to the east of the Park Into residential housing.

5. **Special Features or Issues:** The site enjoys abundant public use for passive recreation. There are several public access trails and a public Visitor Center. The Park exists where the historical grassy plain met tidal marsh at the base of the Coyote Hills. Asa part of the original park design, freshwater perennial wetlands were excavated and supplied with groundwater within the historical reach of tidal marsh. Much of the seasonal wetlands in the park correspond to the historical upland transition from tidal marsh to grassland. There are Indian shellmounds within a remnant of a large willow grove in the park. The marsh supports two listed species: the salt marsh harvest mouse and CA black rail. One concern is that seasonal wetlands are being converted into perennial wetlands due to the increase in water supply. This is reducing the overall diversity of the wetlands mosaic in the Park.

6. **Available Information** – See attached checklist.

7. **Desired Feedback** – The proponents are seeking advice and feedback on some basic overall habitat design concepts. Some questions that might be addressed are listed below.

   General questions

   What should be the mosaic of wetland habitat types at the park?

   Should we attempt to restore seasonal wetlands that have been converted to perennial wetlands?

   Should the restoration of tidal action be considered?

   More specific questions

   Is the plan for a flow-through system of perennial ponds at the base of hills, a mosaic of seasonal-fresh wetlands to the east, and seasonal-saline wetlands to the north, suitable?

   If it turns out that surface discharge of groundwater is more plentiful and dependable, how should it be incorporated into the mosaic?

Should the p-line be maintained, abandoned, re-routed?

Information Type	Date	Document/Item Description

Available Information for

PROJECT NAME: Coyote Hills Wetland Enhancement and Drainage Improvement
Date: 1-30-03

Completed by: Joseph DiDonato, EBRPD

Information Type	Date	Document/Item Description
Project Plans:		
Conceptual	Jan-03	Power Point presentation for the DRG
Preliminary	x	
Final		
Other:	Feb 1987	Proceedings of the Coyote Hills Workshop
Consistency with Habitat Goals Report Recommendations for your part of the Bay:		The site falls within the South Bay subregion
Photographs:		
Aerial		Numerous historical aerial photographs of the region and several recent aerials Including orthophotographs encompassing the site
Ground		Many recent and historical oblique photos covering the area, including time-series through the seasons.
Topography:		
Topographic Map		Several sources of topographic maps from ACPWA and EBRPD. Also, some recent topographic maps from consultants working on adjacent properties
Geodetic Elevation Survey Report		
Hydrology:		
Tidal Elevation Survey:		Past surveys for the Alameda Flood Control Channel levees. NOS benchmarks occupied in 1977 exist within a mile of the site.
Groundwater Height:		Recent consultants reports on near-surface groundwater.
Wetland Delineation		A formal wetland delineation has not been done for the site. The site is dominated by freshwater wetland, and includes seasonal wetland and perennial wetlands. Approximately 512 acres of wetlands occur within the site.
Soil Characterization		There are alluvial soils, colluvial soils, historical salt marsh and brackish marsh soils, historical tidal marsh panne soils, and historical

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		vernal pool soils. There are seeps and springs at the base of the hills.
Biological Surveys:		
Vegetation Maps		Recent vegetation maps produced by EBRPD
Listed Species		The site contains (nesting) habitat for the State & Federally endangered Salt Marsh Harvest Mouse, the State-threatened CA Black Rail, the salt marsh yellowthroat and white-tailed kite. The site serves as foraging grounds for the peregrine falcon and numerous other raptors listed by the state as Species of Special Concern.
Invasive Species Presence		The site has historically had red foxes breeding. An active predator management plan is maintained by EBRPD. There are many invasive plant species.
Invasive Spartina presence?		There is no S. alterniflora within the site but the plant occurs in the Alameda Creek Flood Control Channel, just outside the project site.
Birds		The site serves as nesting, foraging, resting and a migratory stopover for numerous bird species especially wading birds, shorebirds and waterfowl. Terrestrial species utilize the site extensively.
Fish		The site supports little fish activity with the exception of mosquito fish and carp which have been introduced into the waterways.
Invertebrates		While the site contains many invertebrate species, there are no listed Invertebrates known to occur on site.
Mammals		The site contains the salt marsh harvest mouse
Please List Any Additional Pertinent Information, Items, Reports:		
		The park has been used extensively through the years for ecological and archeological/anthropological research. Numerous reports and published papers exist. EBRPD has a record of most of these.
		The Park includes the Demonstration Urban Stormwater Treatment marsh (DUST marsh) for which there are data on water quality.