

## **Geographic Scope**

The geographic scope of the WRMP is the entire San Francisco Estuary plus the watersheds that drain to the Estuary within the nine-county San Francisco Bay Area.

*The WRMP will initially focus on the tidal baylands of the Estuary. The baylands consist of the mudflats, tidal marshes, diked historical tidal marshes, and other lands that would be tidal in the absence of existing levees, sea walls, tide gates, and other water control structures. The tidal baylands consist of the mudflats and tidal marshes.*

By starting with the tidal baylands, the WRMP is taking a logical next step in regional monitoring that has begun in the estuarine straits and bays and should eventually extend through the baylands into watersheds. The tidal baylands are transitional environments between local watersheds and bays. They link bays and watersheds together. They can therefore serve as the venue for coordinating different scientific programs that focus on watersheds, rivers and streams, or aquatic habitats of the Estuary.

The geographic scope of the program should be broadened in the future to include all the different kinds of wetlands in the region. The WRMP should be coordinated with other monitoring programs for comprehensive and consistent monitoring of wetlands throughout the San Francisco Estuary and all of its watersheds.