

Abstract
Oakland Museum Lecture

The Baylands: Past, Present, and Change

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This lecture will focus on the lands between the tides in the San Francisco Estuary. The major fauna and flora will be reviewed in relation to a new typology of baylands habitats. Climate, topography, freshwater flows, native land use, agriculture, mining, logging, and urbanization will be shown as ecological controls for mudflats, marshes, the tidal reaches of rivers and creeks, and diked baylands. New regional maps of unprecedented detail will be used to show how the baylands have changed since European contact, how they have remained the same, and what might be their future.

Dr. Collins is an Environmental Scientist at the San Francisco Estuary Institute, where he coordinates science support to develop ecological goals and monitor the health of wetlands and watersheds in the Bay Area. He received his Doctorate in Entomological Sciences and conducted post-doctoral research in Geography and Ecology at the University of California, Davis and Berkeley campuses. His published research is about the hydrology, geomorphology, and plant-animal interactions of wetlands in the western United States.