

**Wetland restoration, SLR and CC messaging – Outreach Messages** (developed in 2012)

- **Healthy, restored wetlands can protect our communities from flooding due to sea level rise and extreme storms during high tides.**

- Wetlands serve as buffers between open bay waters and our homes, roads and businesses.
- Wetland restoration offers a natural defense against sea level rise which is already occurring. Scientists predict an additional two-foot rise in sea level over the next 40 years.
- The sooner we restore wetlands, the sooner they will establish themselves and absorb increasing water levels.
- Restoring wetlands is a cost-effective way to create resilient coastal and Bay Area communities.

- **Wetlands are important to wildlife and people**

- Many species of wildlife including both common and endangered birds, fish, and mammals need wetlands to survive. This includes the California Ridgway Rail, salt marsh harvest mouse, herring, salmon, steelhead, and anchovy.
- Healthy wetlands filter pollution out of the water that drains from our streets and neighborhoods.
- Healthy wetlands also protect our homes and roads against storms, provide a nursery for young fish, and are places where many of the 7 million people in the Bay Area hike, bike, and watch wildlife.
- Healthy wetlands take in excess carbon from the atmosphere, helping to reduce future climate change impacts

- **Wildlife need habitat now—and into the future.**

- Restoring wetlands now will help plants and animals survive as the climate changes and sea levels rise.

**WHAT WE/YOU CAN DO**, by audience

**Community members**

- Give money to organizations that are restoring wetlands! For links to a variety of groups visit <http://www.yourwetlands.org/support.php>
- In 2016, voters passed a ballot measure that will directly fund bay area wetland restoration and science. Continue to follow the funding and see where it goes, and support other federal, state and local measures that will generate needed income for ongoing restoration efforts.
- Write your representatives and ask that they support the San Francisco Bay Restoration Act!
- Volunteer to help with a restoration project <http://www.yourwetlands.org/support.php> and stay informed.

**The restoration community**

- We need to restore wetlands now. Restoring tidal marshes through levee breaches and opening diked areas gives us the best chance at having sustainable marshes in the future.
- Remove levees and other barriers to tidal action now so that marshes can start to recover immediately, giving them a better chance at keeping up with rising sea levels in the future.

- Wherever possible, ensure that there is undeveloped upland habitat available next to existing marshes to enable marshes to migrate upslope as sea levels rise.
- Investigate placement of non-polluted bay mud from harbors and boat channels) at subsided or at-risk sites to raise wetland elevations and/or enhance local sediment supplies.
- Use available sea level rise planning tools to pinpoint important uplands that could become marsh and identify and remove barriers to marsh migration.
- Plan restorations with climate change in mind.
- Join the BAECCC listserv to get latest information –email: andy@cemar.org (Andrew Gunther)

### Science community

- Bring the message home – show how your science findings relate to people locally
- Use these messages when you talk to the media or write a press release, etc.
- Learn from the [Baylands Goals Update \(2012-2015\)](#).
- Share your findings with other scientists
- Make yourself aware of the questions facing natural resource managers and landowners so that your research and analysis informs public decision-making
- Wetland ecologists should work with economists to quantify the value of the ecosystem services provided by wetlands
- Be aware of and use the latest tools available (climate commons link)
  - [“Future San Francisco Bay Tidal Marshes – a Climate Smart Planning Tool” \(PRBO\)](#)
  - [NOAA viewer](#)
  - [OCOFC - our coasts our future](#)
  - [CADS](#)
- Contribute your work to existing data portals
  - [CALADAPT](#)
  - [CA Commons](#)
  - [Pt Blue Avian Data Center](#)
  - [EcoAtlas Wetland Tracker](#)

### Elected officials

- Funding of scientific research and monitoring has been a vital role of government, with great potential dividends where planning for sea level rise and creating resilient communities is concerned.
- The SF Bay Joint Venture and partners have a plan to restore wetlands for the near and long term.
- Restoration projects that have the best chance of success as climate changes have been prioritized.
- Help us conserve and restore wetlands as sea level rises by:
  - Expediting permitting processes for restoration projects
  - Continuing to protect open spaces and undeveloped areas around the Bay
  - Supporting early regional planning for sea level rise
  - Supporting funding for federal and state agencies that restore and manage wetlands
  - Helping to facilitate the re-use of dredge materials in the Bay

### What does it take to restore wetlands in the SF Bay Area? (or What makes restoration work in SF Bay?)

- Funding from public and private sources

- Smooth permitting processes for restoration and enhancement
- Availability of non-polluted dirt/sediment from harbors and flood-control channels, or from construction sites, for use in restoration projects. These sediments are needed at the Bay shoreline and we should not pay to take them to landfills or dump them in the ocean. This requires permits and systems that make re-use easy and possible.
- We need to capture the available mud essential to restoring marshes now and is already in the system, since established marshes have a better chance of adapting to sea level rise in the future.
- Equipment sharing between large projects and small projects. Often, small projects can't afford to restore on their own.
- Sedimatch/Flood Control 2.0 – learn about the outcomes of this effort to bring the dredging community with those who need mud for wetland restoration and innovative and cost-saving channel re-design projects.
- Community support through volunteerism or school involvement in restoration.
- **SPEAK UP!** - write a letter to your representative and demand funding for wetland restoration!

[www.yourwetlands.org](http://www.yourwetlands.org) has a support page with links to partners that have climate change info by subject, or visit the Bay Area Ecosystems Climate Change Consortium <http://baecc.org/links.php>