



Baylands Ecosystem

Species and Community Profiles



**Life Histories and Environmental Requirements
of Key Plants, Fish and Wildlife
Prepared by the San Francisco Bay Area
Wetlands Ecosystem Goals Project**

Baylands Ecosystem

Species and Community Profiles

Life Histories and Environmental
Requirements of Key Plants, Fish and Wildlife



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San Francisco Estuary Project
c/o S.F. Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board
1515 Clay Street, Suite 1400
Oakland, CA 94612
(510) 622-2465

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Michael Monroe
Carl Wilcox

Resource Managers Group Co-Chairs
San Francisco Bay Area Wetlands
Ecosystem Goals Project

Credits

Editor

Peggy R. Olofson — San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board

Authors

| | | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| David G. Ainley | Leora Feeney | Robert E. Jones | Thomas P. Ryan |
| Joy D. Albertson | Steve Foreman | Kurt F. Kline | Michael K. Saiki |
| Janice M. Alexander | Stephen L. Granholm | Brita C. Larsson | Howard S. Shellhammer |
| Peter R. Baye | Brenda J. Grewell | Robert A. Leidy | Ted R. Sommer |
| Dennis R. Becker | Janet T. Hanson | William Z. Lidicker, Jr. | Lynne E. Stenzel |
| William G. Bousman | Laura A. Hanson | Kevin MacKay | John Y. Takekawa |
| Andrée M. Breaux | Elaine K. Harding | Wesley A. Maffei | Robert N. Tasto |
| Michael L. Casazza | Bruce Herbold | Lt. Dante B. Maragni | Scott Terrill |
| Steven C. Chappell | Catherine M. Hickey | Carolyn M. Marn | Lynne A. Trulio |
| Howard L. Cogswell | Kathryn A. Hieb | Michael F. McGowan | David C. VanBaren |
| Ron Duke | Glen Holstein | A. Keith Miles | Nils Warnock |
| Jules G. Evens | Mark R. Jennings | Michael R. Miller | Sarah E. Warnock |
| Phyllis M. Faber | Michael L. Johnson | Gary W. Page | Frank G. Wernette |

Report Production

Report Design &
Layout: Peggy Olofson

Cover Design: Nina Lisowski

Computer & GIS
Support: Jeff Kapellas

Text & Copy Editing: Cristina Grosso (lead)
Elisa Gill
Terra Hendrich
Harini Madhavan
Michael Monroe
Dewey Schwarzenberg
Jill Sunahara

Additional Assistance

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- | | |
|--|--|
| Peter Baye | Dr. J.L. King |
| Berkeley Digital Library | Peter LaTourrette <i>www.birdphotography.com</i> |
| Nancy Black, Monterey Bay Whale Watch <i>www.gowhales.com</i> | Denise Loving <i>snakelady@home.com</i> |
| Ted Brown, California Academy of Sciences | Wesley Maffei <i>midge@lanminds.com</i> |
| Mia Bruksman | Peter Moyle, from <i>Inland Fishes of California</i> , copyright 1976. Permission by the Re- gents of the University of California |
| California Dept. of Fish and Game (CDFG) | Ruth Pratt |
| Les Chibana <i>les@auc.com</i> | T. Douglas Rodda <i>sawwhet@ix.netcom.com</i> |
| Citizens' Committee to Complete the Refuge | M. Roper, Aquatic Research Organisms, Hampton, NH (1991) |
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| Dr. Richard B. Forbes | U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) |
| Dr. Allan Francis <i>garter.snake@virgin.net</i> | U.S. Geological Survey, National Biological Service (USGS/NBS) |
| Rick A. Fridell <i>nrdwr.rfridell@state.ut.us</i> | Staffan Vilcans |
| S.H. Hinshaw | Jens V. Vindum, California Academy of Sciences |
| Dan Holland | Bob Walker |
| Jimmy Hu <i>www.silcom.com/~njhua/otter/otter.html</i> | Peter S. Weber <i>www.wildbirdphotos.com</i> |
| Marshall Iliff <i>miliff@aol.com</i> | Zoological Society of Milwaukee County, Wisconsin <i>www.zoosociety.org</i> |

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Introduction

The San Francisco Bay Area Wetlands Ecosystem Goals Project began in 1995 as a cooperative effort among nine state and federal agencies and nearly 100 Bay Area scientists. The Project's purpose was to develop a vision of the kinds, amounts, and distribution of habitats needed to sustain healthy populations of fish and wildlife in and around San Francisco Bay (**Figure 1**). This vision was presented to the public in the Goals Project's final report, the *Baylands Ecosystem Habitat Goals*¹.

Developing the Habitat Goals involved several steps, many of which were carried out by teams of scientists. First, each team selected "key" animal species (or plant communities, in the case of the Plants Focus Team). Then they compiled available information regarding each species' historic and modern distribution, use of habitats, migration, relationship and interaction with other species, conservation and management issues, and research needs. When time and data were available, some team members compiled additional information on life history and other relevant topics. The teams then discussed the habitat needs of their species and developed initial habitat recommendations. Ultimately, the habitat recommendations of all the teams were integrated to form the Project's final recommendations.

Compiling the information on key species and plant communities into "profiles" was a crucial step in developing the Habitat Goals. Sharing these profiles enabled team members to better understand the habitat needs of a large proportion of the bayland's flora and fauna. It also facilitated the development of more balanced and diverse habitat recommendations.

When Project participants began sharing the profiles, they realized that much of the information had never before been compiled. They also recognized that, although some of the profiles were not comprehensive, other researchers interested in the Bay and its watersheds might find them useful.

The intent of this report is to provide useful information to those working to restore the baylands ecosystem. However, because the profiles were compiled to inform a specific process, this report should not be considered a complete treatise. Rather, it should be seen as a reference and a starting point. Contact information for the profile authors is included in **Appendix A** for the reader who would like additional information or clarification, or who would just like to continue the process of scientific discussion and discovery.

¹ Copies of the Baylands Ecosystem Habitat Goals report may be obtained from the San Francisco Estuary Project at the address indicated in the front of this report.

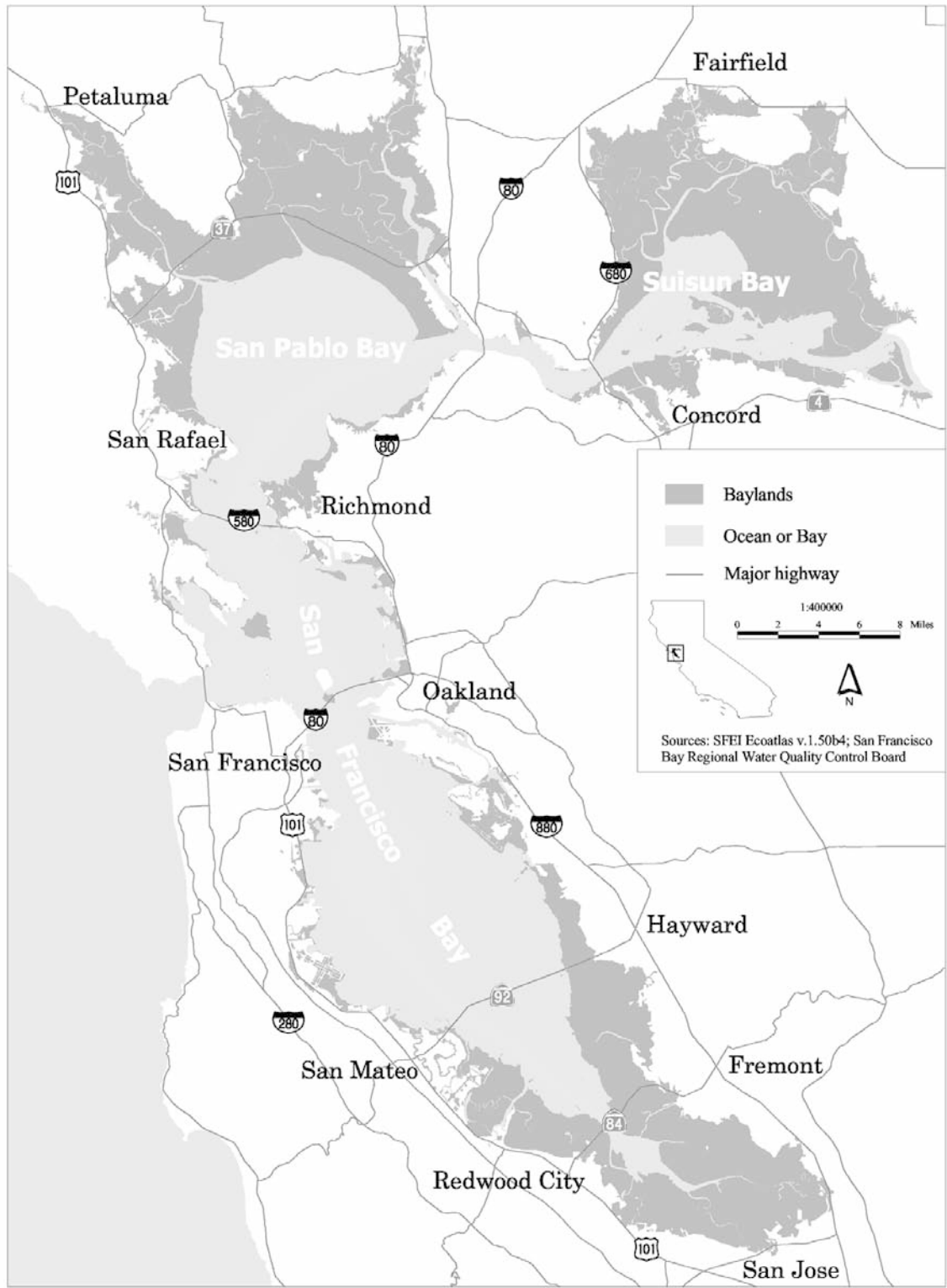


Figure 1. The Project Area of the San Francisco Bay Area Wetlands Ecosystem Goals Project – The baylands and adjacent and associated habitats of the San Francisco Bay-Delta Estuary, downstream of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta