

# San Francisco Estuary National Estuary Program



The **San Francisco Bay-Delta Estuary** was designated an estuary of national significance and entered the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's National Estuary Program (NEP) in 1987.

Established under the 1987 Clean Water Act Amendments, the NEP is a unique voluntary program that operates through partnerships with EPA and other public and private sector entities. Each NEP operates via an inclusive, collaborative decision-making process to deliver on-the-ground results, making the NEP a leading model of watershed management.

## Protection and Restoration

The San Francisco Estuary Project (SFEP) provides leadership and coordination to restore and maintain the water quality and ecological integrity of the San Francisco Bay-Delta Estuary. Between 2000 and 2006, the program and its partners protected or restored 84,139 acres of important habitats, including tidal wetlands, freshwater marshes, grassland, and riparian areas. These habitats help protect San Francisco Bay water quality and improve the condition of shellfish, fish and wildlife. They also promote the local and regional economies that increasingly rely on tourism, commercial and recreational fishing, commercial shipping, boating and other water-dependent industries.

## Funds Leveraged

One major aspect of SFEP's leadership is its effective use of funds provided by EPA to leverage additional support. For example, during the period 2003-2006, the SFEP used its annual NEP grant to secure an additional \$32.8 million in leveraged resources from public and private funders. The resources were used to help address Bay-Delta priority problems, including: aquatic invasive species (AIS); wetlands loss; pollution from urban, industrial, and agricultural runoff; freshwater inflows; dredging; fish population declines; PCB and DDT contamination; and sea level rise.

## Accomplishments

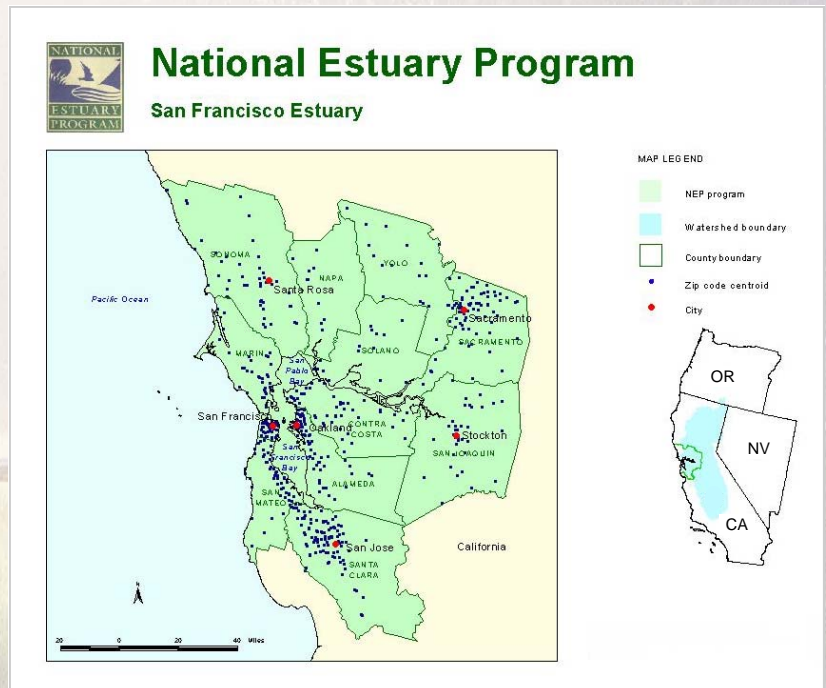
Major accomplishments and environmental results of SFEP and partner efforts include:

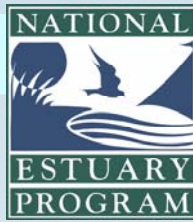
- Developing the California AIS Management Plan, which identifies partner roles and resource commitments to address AIS and qualifies the State for additional Federal funding for AIS prevention, control, management, and education.
- Controlled hybrid invasive cordgrass that recently occupied 20 acres of shoreline along one stretch of the Bay. By December 2007, the Invasive Spartina Project, an SFEP partner, will have eradicated the 20 acres of cordgrass and implemented a plan based on frequent monitoring and immediate actions to control future infestations. This is the first successful invasive cordgrass eradication effort in California.

- Sponsor erosion control workshops for developers, construction workers, municipal officials, and regional water quality managers to learn about the impacts of sediment erosion on water quality as the result of certain construction practices. The workshops also highlight techniques for erosion control.



<http://sfep.abag.ca.gov/sfep.html>





## What has the NEP accomplished?

*The 28 National Estuary Programs are demonstrating success in improving environmental conditions, securing and leveraging funds, and improving public education and citizen participation. All this has been done in close partnership with many Federal, State, and private entities.*

### Environmental Results

The NEPs have protected or restored over one million acres of habitat since 2000, through activities such as land acquisition, installation of fish passages, repair of tidegates, enhancement of shellfish beds, and removal of invasive plants. The types of habitats protected and restored include tidal wetlands, forests, meadows, and streambanks, among many others.

### Reaching and Involving the Public

Informing and educating the public about estuaries, and including them in the decision-making process is a strong underpinning of the NEP and essential to the continued improvement of these vital resources. Each NEP has engaged community members through a variety of means such as:

- 1) public meetings to define problems and design actions,
- 2) hands-on involvement in volunteer water quality monitoring or restoration, or
- 3) "State of the Estuary" conferences to provide information on progress being made by the NEP to improve conditions in the estuary.

### Leveraging Funds

By developing strategic alliances, the NEPs have leveraged approximately \$16.50 for every dollar of EPA funding. As a result, nearly \$1.11 billion through individual, private, local, State and Federal partnerships over the past few years (2003-2006) has been generated. These additional resources have been used primarily for wastewater treatment and land acquisition projects.

Office of Wetlands,  
Oceans, and Watersheds  
EPA842-F-07-026  
[www.epa.gov/owow/estuaries](http://www.epa.gov/owow/estuaries)  
March 2007

## NEP Websites

### Albemarle-Pamlico Sounds

<http://www.apnep.org>

### Barataria-Terrebonne

<http://www.btnep.org>

### Barnegat Bay

<http://www.bbep.org>

### Buzzards Bay

<http://www.buzzardsbay.org>

### Casco Bay

<http://www.cascobay.usm.maine.edu>

### Charlotte Harbor

<http://www.chnep.org>

### Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries

<http://www.cbep.org>

### Delaware Estuary

<http://www.delawareestuary.org>

### Delaware Inland Bays

<http://www.inlandbays.org>

### Galveston Bay

<http://www.gbep.state.tx.us>

### Indian River Lagoon

<http://www.sjrwmd.com/programs/outreach/irlnep/index.html>

### Long Island Sound

<http://www.longislandsoundstudy.net>

### Lower Columbia River Estuary

<http://www.lcrep.org>

### Maryland Coastal Bays

<http://www.mdcoastalbays.org>

### Massachusetts Bays

<http://www.massbays.org>

### Mobile Bay

<http://www.mobilebaynep.com>

### Morro Bay

<http://www.mbnep.org>

### Narragansett Bay

<http://www.nbep.org>

### New Hampshire Estuaries

<http://www.nhep.unh.edu>

### New York-New Jersey Harbor

<http://www.seagrant.sunysb.edu/hep>

### Peconic Estuary Program

<http://www.peconicestuary.org>

### Puget Sound

<http://www.psat.wa.gov>

### San Francisco Estuary

<http://sfep.abag.ca.gov/sfep.html>

### San Juan Bay

<http://www.estuario.org>

### Santa Monica Bay

<http://www.santamonibabay.org>

### Sarasota Bay

<http://www.sarasotabay.org>

### Tampa Bay

<http://www.tbep.org>

### Tillamook Bay

<http://www.tbnep.org>