



Environmental Enhancement Fund Quarterly Report: 2nd Quarter, 2017 (April to June)

Active Projects:

1. Peyton Slough Hydraulic Relief Project, Martinez
2. Habitat Restoration of Coastal Strand, Dune, and Lagoon Ecosystems; Manchester SP
3. Restoration of Coastal Native Plant Communities & Seabird Habitat, Santa Cruz CA

Pending/Scheduled Projects:

1. Morro Dunes Natural Preserve Restoration
2. Restoration of Priority Freshwater Wetlands for Endangered Species, Consumnes River Preserve (Conditional: pursuing remaining funding by January 17, 2018)

Completed Projects

1. Point Arena II Resource Lands Conservation, by The Trust for Public Land (September 2013)
2. McDaniel Slough, Arcata (June 2014)
3. Pioneering and Innovative Oyster Restoration at Elkhorn Slough (August 2014)
4. Sears Point Tidal Restoration Project (October 2015)
5. Sonoma Creek Tidal Marsh Enhancement Project (June 2016)
6. Dune Restoration at Morro Strand State Beach (June 2016)
7. Community Based Restoration on the Fort Ord Dunes State Park (September 2016)
8. Complete Restoration of Point Reyes North Great Beach Critical Dune Habitat (January 2017)
9. Restoration of Salt Marsh-Upland Transition, Tijuana Slough National Wildlife Refuge (January 2017)

Active Projects

The following grants are currently being funded from the EEF, with a brief update for each:

1. Peyton Slough Hydraulic Relief Project, Martinez

- **Grantee:** Dorothy M. Sakazaki Environmental Endowment Fund
- **Term:** 07/01/2015 – 08/31/2018
- **Dollar amount authorized by EEC:** \$415,500
- **Invoiced to date:** \$0
- **Work completed:** 30% design

2nd Quarter Update: CDFW has processed a one-year no-cost extension for this EEF grant, extending the term of it to August 31 2018. Water board support for the project was confirmed but progress was delayed about 6 months. In May 2017 HDR was approved to resume work on final design and CEQA. Permitting aspects were awarded to Ducks Unlimited in June 2017. This project is still searching for sufficient funding to complete the work with the help of Ducks Unlimited.

2. Habitat Restoration of Coastal Strand, Dune, & Lagoon Ecosystems; Manchester SP

- **Grantee:** CA Department of Parks and Recreation
- **Term:** 07/01/2015 – 06/30/2018
- **Dollar amount authorized by EEC:** \$106,711
- **Invoiced to date:** \$6,521.60
- **Work completed:** Mapping work and pre-project monitoring, and initial herbicide application.

2nd Quarter Update: All pre-project monitoring task work has been completed. Since the April 2016 Quarterly Report, the herbicide application on 28-30 acres of European Beach Grass occurred. An additional herbicide application will follow in the 3rd quarter of 2017. Final hand removal of stems is expected in the 4th quarter of 2017.

Picture to right: A portion of the 12-person crew applying herbicide along the foredunes; May 10, 2017; Manchester State Park.



3. Restoration of Coastal Native Plant Communities & Seabird Habitat, Santa Cruz, CA.

- **Grantee:** Social and Environmental Entrepreneurs
- **Term:** 05/15/2016 – 06/30/2018
- **Dollar amount authorized by EEC:** \$82,400.37
- **Invoiced to date:** \$70,891.22
- **Work completed:** Seed collection, planning, ice plant removal, plantings, monitoring.

2nd Quarter Update: Groudswell staff continued to work with citizen scientists to recorded seabird breeding population numbers and onsite reproductive success. Time series for Brandt's cormorant colony nest and fledgling numbers are shown in Figures 2 and 3 where the restoration action is providing additional habitat.

Cormorants continue to move between the shrinking islet and the restoration site. Successfully breeding black oystercatcher and western gull were also observed in the restoration site in 2017. Since May 2017 they report four site maintenance visits to remove invasive plants from the restoration area.

Native plant survivorship is high. Aerial flights were conducted to assess vegetation cover and volumetric changes over time; preliminary results are expected by late September 2017. Transect data will be collected in Fall 2018 to evaluate restoration success.

Seed collection and propagation is nearing completion for 2017. Over 60 species of native coastal plants were collected and germination flats of 33 species are in preparation for 2017 planting. A second phase of invasive plant removal and transplanting will begin in late fall.

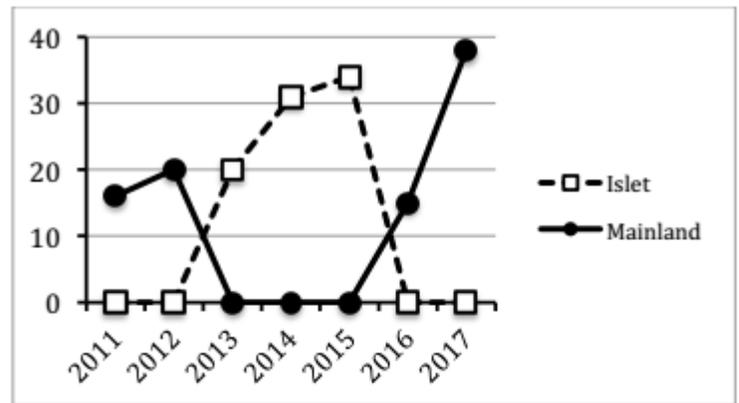


Figure 2. Number of Brandt's cormorant nests on the shrinking offshore islet and the recently cleared mainland ledge.

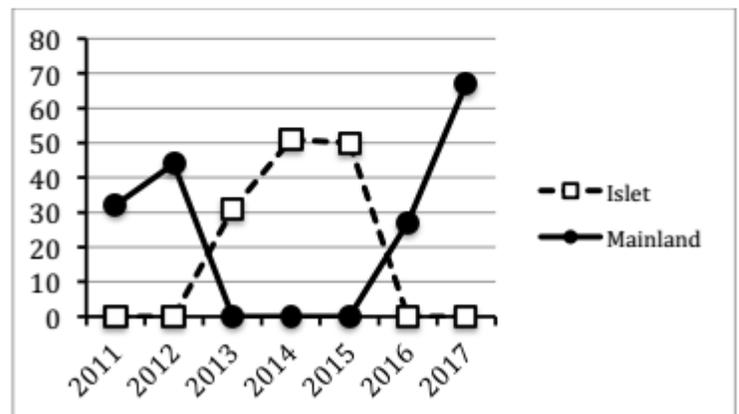


Figure 3. Annual number of Brandt's cormorant fledglings on the shrinking offshore islet and the recently cleared mainland ledge.