

# COSCO BUSAN OIL SPILL TRUSTEE COUNCIL

*News Update, January 2020*





## BACKGROUND

Settlement funds from the 2007 Cosco Busan oil spill continue to be spent on restoration projects. To date, nearly **\$23 million** of the \$30.5 million settlement has been allocated to over **60** projects designed to enhance and restore beaches and habitats around the San Francisco Bay Area and beyond.

This newsletter highlights a few of those projects. You can find more information about the spill, the settlement, and the restoration plan at [wildlife.ca.gov/OSPR/NRDA/cosco-busan](http://wildlife.ca.gov/OSPR/NRDA/cosco-busan).



## ALBANY BEACH RESTORATION AND PUBLIC ACCESS

Albany Beach, located at McLaughlin Eastshore State Park in Albany, California, one of the few remaining sandy beaches in the East Bay, has been modified to prevent erosion, expand its dunes and wetlands, remove nonnative weeds, and establish vegetation native to the area. The expanded dunes provide habitats for the reintroduction of coastal plant species such as yellow sand verbena, coast buckwheat, and beach salt bush, which have few places remaining to take root along the urban East Bay shoreline. The new wetland, where native plants yerba mansa, alkali heath, and pacific swampfire were planted, naturally filters stormwater runoff, preventing pollutants from entering San Francisco Bay. The project includes design elements that account for rising sea levels to ensure bird habitats will endure and public enjoyment of the beach will continue for decades. Construction is expected to be completed by March of this year when the San Francisco Bay Trail portion of the project is completed. The project is being implemented by the East Bay Regional Park District with funding from the District and other sources.





# NATIVE OYSTER REEF CONSTRUCTION RICHMOND

*A San Francisco Bay Living  
Shoreline Project*

Native oysters are an important species that supports fish, crabs, birds, and other wildlife populations impacted by the Co-sco Busan oil spill. Last spring, 350 oyster reef structures were placed in the water near Giant Marsh at Point Pinole Regional Shoreline to create a “living shoreline” of natural elements that support growth. Eelgrass beds were planted next to the reefs a few weeks later to create additional habitats for Olympia oysters and other native aquatic species.

## BEFORE

*Oyster reef structures placed in the water near Giant Marsh in Richmond last spring provide a habitat for oysters, which support fish, crabs, birds, and other local wildlife. The reef structures were made of native sand and oyster shells mixed with cement. Photos by California Coastal Conservancy*



## AFTER





*Workers with contractor Triton Marine lower one of 350 oyster reef structures into the water near Giant Marsh to create a “living shoreline” supporting local fish and wildlife. Photo by California Coastal Conservancy*

The \$3 million project is partially funded through the Cosco Busan settlement and by the State Coastal Conservancy, the Ocean Protection Council, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The Giant Marsh project is one of a number of living shoreline projects in the San Francisco Bay, but it is the only one that connects

underwater habitats with adjacent wetlands and upland plant communities.

The project will be monitored by the Coastal Conservancy; San Francisco State University; the University of California, Davis; the Smithsonian; and Ducks Unlimited to gather data on the success of native oyster establishment and future eelgrass plantings,

and to guide the construction of additional tidal marsh and upland transition zone plantings.

The building of oyster reefs and living shorelines is a key recommendation of the San Francisco Bay Subtidal Habitat Goals Project ([sfbaysubtidal.org](http://sfbaysubtidal.org)) and the Baylands and Climate Change report ([baylandsgoals.org](http://baylandsgoals.org)).





Berkeley Mayor Jesse Arreguin, third from right, and other city officials mark the grand re-opening of the Berkeley Marina South Cove parking lot and restrooms May 31, 2018. Photo by D. Sheils

## RECREATIONAL USE PROJECTS

Thirty-seven recreational use projects, funded fully or in part by the Cosco Busan Spill settlement, have been completed in the Bay Area since the spill, and another nine recreational use projects are underway. Recently, Cosco Busan settlement funds, administered through the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), were used to install a new restroom, upgrade the surrounding parking, and renovate the adjacent windsurfing staging area at Berkeley's South Sailing Cove. Other funding partners included the State Coastal Conservancy, Department of Boating and Waterways, and City of Berkeley.



A sign at the new Berkeley Marina South Cove restrooms recognizes the various funding sources for the recent renovations. Photo illustration by R. Miller



Renovations to the Berkeley Marina South Cove East Parking Lot include improved asphalt, drainage, and striping. Photo by D. Sheils





## BERKELEY PIER BIRD PLATFORMS

*Design Phase*

## FARALLON ISLAND NEST SITE IMPROVEMENTS

*Ongoing*



## EELGRASS RESTORATION

*Ongoing with over 9 acres  
restored*

## ROCKWEED RESTORATION

*Ongoing with over 700  
lineal meters of shoreline  
restored*



## EDEN LANDING SALT POND RESTORATION

*Ongoing maintenance  
and monitoring*





## COSCO BUSAN TRUSTEE COUNCIL BUDGET

**Amount Received** **\$30,506,000**

### Allocations to Date

Berkeley Pier Nesting and Roosting Habitat	\$80,000
Farallon Island Nest Site Improvements	\$106,545
Eden Landing Salt Pond Restoration	\$774,797
Marbled Murrelet Restoration	\$918,613
Surf Scoter Restoration	\$270,956
Eelgrass Restoration	\$2,002,477
Aramburu Island Restoration	\$1,000,754
Muir Beach Dune Restoration	\$175,000
Albany Beach Restoration	\$1,300,000
Native Oyster Restoration	\$520,101
Rockweed Restoration	\$447,871
Recreational Use Projects/NPS	\$7,905,559
Recreational Use Projects/State	
Projects completed and ongoing	\$6,772,852
NFWF administrative charges	\$612,067

AGENCY OVERSIGHT \$1,474,663

TOTAL ALLOCATED \$24,362,255

**Total Amount Remaining** **\$6,143,745**

## NATURAL RESOURCE TRUSTEE AGENCIES

California Department of Fish and Wildlife

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

United States Fish and Wildlife Service

California State Lands Commission

National Park Service



## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

[wildlife.ca.gov/OSPR/NRDA/cosco-busan](http://wildlife.ca.gov/OSPR/NRDA/cosco-busan)

[darrp.noaa.gov/oil-spills/mv-cosco-busan](http://darrp.noaa.gov/oil-spills/mv-cosco-busan)