



Sears Point Restoration: Bay Trail: Final Programmatic Report (AMENDED)

Recipient Organization/Agency: Sonoma Land Trust

Date Submitted: 3/16/2016, Revised May 25, 2016

Project Period: 9/03/2013 to 4/20/2016

Award Amount: \$110,000

Matching Contributions: \$110,000

Total Disbursements: \$110,000

Project Number: #8006.12.033157

1. Summary of Accomplishments

On October 25, 2015, Sonoma Land Trust (SLT) breached the 120-year old earthen levee separating the Sears Point property from the San Francisco Bay, allowing tidal waters to reoccupy nearly 1,000 acres of diked agricultural baylands. Sears Point is located in southern Sonoma County on the north shore of the Bay. Over the coming decades this site will evolve into a vital and functioning tidal marsh supporting endangered species, buffering infrastructure from climate change, sequestering carbon, and filtering pollutants that enter the Bay. This multi-faceted project includes many innovative features intended to increase its resilience in anticipation of a changing climate. One of these features is a “habitat” levee that provides both traditional flood protection as well as habitat through its gently sloping bayward side that is planted with native vegetation and will provide high tide refugia for marsh wildlife during extreme tides and storms.

With funding from the Cosco Busan Recreation Use Grant Program and other partners, SLT constructed a beautiful new 2.5-mile section of the Bay Trail on top of the new levee to enable the public to witness the transformation of this site from a private ranch and hunting club to a publicly accessible restored wetland and recreation area (see map).

The Bay Trail is a planned 500-mile walking and cycling path around the entire San Francisco Bay running through all nine Bay Area counties, 47 cities, and across seven toll bridges. The Bay Trail connects communities to parks, open spaces, schools, transit and to each other, and also provides a great alternative commute corridor. The ultimate goal of the Bay Trail is to build a continuous shoreline bicycle and pedestrian path for all to enjoy. The 2.5-mile Sears Point segment brings the total length of completed Bay Trail segments to 350 miles.

The trail officially opened on May 15, 2016 with a ribbon cutting ceremony. Coincident with the opening, SLT transferred the property to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for incorporation into the San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge.

The new 2.5-mile trail segment includes several other features that were funded by other partners. These include twelve benches, nine interpretive signs, a public railroad crossing, a parking lot, and a kayak ramp.

2. Project Activities & Outcomes

Activities

Funds from the Cosco Busan Recreational Use Grant Program were used to partially fund construction of a 2.5-mile ADA compliant section of the Bay Trail. The trail is surfaced with quarry fines.

There were no discrepancies between the grant application and the completed project.

Benefits

The project is complete and the public has access to the new 2.5-mile trail seven days a week from sunrise to sunset. It is a sensational new access point to the San Francisco Bay.

3. The Future

This project is complete.

4. Lessons Learned

The process of obtaining approval for a public railroad crossing from the State of California can be a multi-year process.

5. Project Documents

- Media coverage of the May 15, 2016 “grand opening” of the 2.5-mile trail extension:
 - [The Press Democrat](#)
 - [The Marin Independent Journal](#)
- Media coverage of the Sears Point project at [ABC7 News – KGO](#) that mentions public access enhancements
- [Video](#) of levee breach including discussion of trail (by The Kairos Productions):
- Figures and photographs included below.

POSTING OF FINAL REPORT: *This report and attached project documents may be shared by the Foundation and any Funding Source for the Project via their respective websites. In the event that the Recipient intends to claim that its final report or project documents contains material that does not have to be posted on such websites because it is protected from disclosure by statutory or regulatory provisions, the Recipient shall clearly mark all such potentially protected materials as “PROTECTED” and provide an explanation and complete citation to the statutory or regulatory source for such protection.*

Figures and Photographs



Figure 1: Map of trail and surrounding infrastructure



Photograph 1: Ribbon cutting for opening of new segment of the Bay Trail (Photo by Melania Mahoney)



Photograph 2: ADA compliant Bay Trail (Photo by Melania Mahoney)



Photograph 3: Trail with restored wetland in foreground and Mt. Tamalpais in background (Photo by Melania Mahoney)



Photograph 4: End of new trail



Photograph 5: Evening on the new Bay Trail



northern shoveler

A Dream REALIZED

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world."

—Margaret Mead

SAVING SEARS POINT took over 10 years of effort and millions of dollars. The Sonoma Land Trust spearheaded a campaign to both purchase the land and restore nearly 1000 acres to tidal marsh. Thanks to the help of many partners and citizen donors, Sears Point now protects endangered wildlife and offers the public a premier access point to San Pablo Bay.



THE VALUE OF WORKING TOGETHER

Partners and contributors in purchasing and restoring Sears Point include:



art and design for these displays
created by Blumenshain
artist Faith Roman



river otter

Enjoying THE REFUGE

Following these regulations helps protect wildlife, their habitat, and you!

Hours: Sunrise to Sunset

For emergencies call 911 or US Park Police at 415-561-5510

PERMITTED



Wildlife Observation
and Photography



Hiking on trails only



Bicycling



Kayak and Canoe

PROHIBITED



No Swimming



No Fishing



No launching
motorized watercraft



No unmanned
aircraft systems

Please stay on designated trails, and thank
you for helping us protect endangered
species and migratory birds.

16 USC 668dd Title 50 Code of Federal Regulations



steelhead trout

Figure 2: Sign located at entry kiosk acknowledging all sources of funding, including NFWF.