

Casey Property Restoration

Organization: East Bay Regional Park District

Project Period: March 2018 – December 2020

Amount: \$190,696

Location: Byron Vernal Pools Regional Preserve, Contra Costa County

Project Description: In October 2017, East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) purchased the 320-acre Casey property located at the Byron Vernal Pools Regional Preserve with contributions from CDFW-OSPR. This project proposes to conduct initial habitat improvements as part of a long-term management plan to provide more and improved foraging and breed habitat for avian species, particularly raptors. This property offers several habitats that are known to support raptor species, including annual grassland, alkali grassland, alkali wetland, and a seasonal creek. Avian survey data from the surrounding area suggests that up to 17 species of raptors utilize this corridor during all seasons of the year for foraging, breeding, nesting, and migratory stopover. This project will remove debris materials from the property as well as install fencing and signage indicating new ownership. Project tasks, such as restoring a well and cattle troughs for clean water, will prepare the property for a grazing regimen to restore native grass heights and allow for raptor prey populations to re-establish. This project will also begin weed control on the property which will reduce the large biomass of perennial pepperweed and other invasive species on the land. The proposed project tasks are necessary precursors for future wetland and seasonal stream restoration plans.

Progress: In 2019, fencing for the site was completed with Conlin Fencing Company, and EBRPD boundary signs remain on site. Installation of a solar powered well, storage tanks, and concrete troughs for cattle access has been completed. Hazardous material and debris removal have been initiated and final site clean-up is anticipated to be complete early 2020. Additional cattle grazing and remediation actions are expected in 2020.



EBRPD Boundary Sign Installed.