



# Casey Property Habitat Restoration Project *(amended)*

Recipient: East Bay Regional Park District

Project Period: 03/01/2018 – 9/15/2021

Project Costs: \$143,248.75

Project Number: #8006.18.060458

## Summary of Accomplishments

The project accomplishments include the initial habitat improvements as part of the long-term habitat management plan for the Casey property at Byron Vernal Pools Regional Preserve. The final site clean-up was completed between December 2019 – January 2020. Funds were used to install signage, remove and replace 7,920 linear feet of fence, remove and replace up to two gates, site remediation and clean-up, well restoration, and weed abatement.

## Project Activities & Outcomes

- 1) Installation of signs to prevent trespass and mark East Bay Regional Park District ownership.
- 2) Removed and replaced 7,920 linear feet of fence along the southern and eastern boundaries. This was essential to protect the property from trespassing and control livestock movement once a grazing regime is established.
- 3) Removed and replaced up to two gates, including the front entry gate and second gate on the southern boundary.
- 4) Site remediation and clean-up included the removal of accumulated debris and hazardous materials (e.g. wood, metal unmarked hazardous material contained, propane tanks, two pit latrines, discarded equipment, water windmill, and old cattle lick tanks).
- 5) Well restoration included the installation of a new tank, pipes, pump, and two troughs which provides a clean water source for livestock.
- 6) Weed abatement of perennial pepperwood and other invasive plant species. The grant funded the first two annual treatments. The Park District will continue local treatment on an annual basis now.
- 7) A Residual Dry Matter (RDM) report has been attached in easygrants (see first tab of excel sheet). There is no RDM data prior to 2020. The second tab is the AUM and grazing months data. Cattle were on the Casey property from January 2020 - May 2020. There were no livestock on Casey from June-December 2020 due to the drought. Cattle were on Casey from January 18<sup>th</sup>-April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021. If adequate forage is available this fall (or later in the season), livestock will likely return.

## Outcomes

The short-term output of the activities described above is a project site that is now 1) safe and secure

from trespass, vandalism, and used prohibited under the Preserve Management Plan; 2) prepared for grazing; and 3) beginning to see reduced invasive cover. The long-term output of the tasks is the restoration of the habitat for the benefit of raptors and other special status raptors. The ultimate outcome of the project is the overall reduction in the mortality rate of raptors, creation of data and knowledge that can be used to educate park users of the importance of habitat protection for raptors and the transfer of knowledge to other agencies.

The Park District had considered installing livestock panels around two storage tanks and the blacksmith shop to protect from cattle once a more secure enclosure was designed. The Park District estimates having the livestock panels installed by the end of September 2021.

## Lessons Learned

Due to two incidences of theft between October-November 2019, Park staff and police patrols were conducted to prevent future theft.

## Dissemination

No dissemination of lessons learned or other project results.

***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.*

## Project Photos



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*Image 1: Before – project site location before clean-up of old barn and cattle processing area*



*Image 2: After – project site location after clean-up of debris from old barn and cattle processing area was completed*



*Image 3 & 4: After – boundary signs installed at the entrance to the property and along the fence line at the northern border of the property.*



*Image 5: After – solar panel installation at the project site located at the base of an old windmill pump that was cleaned up. The restored cattle well is located behind the black pole mounting the solar panel.*