

## 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 2018, EBRPD installed boundary signs around the property. Two contracts for site remediation and clean-up of debris and hazardous materials were executed this year. The final clean-up of the site should be complete by May 2019. EBRPD has also selected a contractor for the well restoration work, including installation of solar powered well, two storage tanks, and concrete troughs. The well restoration work is expected to begin at the end of 2018. A fencing contractor was also selected with fence construction expected to begin November 2018.



Well to be restored and debris to be removed.