



## **Quarterly Report to Environmental Enhancement Committee: 1st Quarter, 2018 (January-March)**

### **Active Projects:**

1. Peyton Slough Hydraulic Relief Project, Martinez
2. Habitat Restoration of Coastal Strand, Dune, and Lagoon Ecosystems; Manchester SP
3. Restoration of Coastal Native Plant Communities & Seabird Habitat, Santa Cruz CA
4. Morro Dunes Natural Preserve Restoration, Los Osos, CA
5. Restoration of Priority Freshwater Wetlands for Endangered Species, Consumnes River Preserve

### **Completed Projects**

1. Point Arena II Resource Lands Conservation, by The Trust for Public Land (September 2013)
2. McDaniel Slough, Arcata (June 2014)
3. Pioneering and Innovative Oyster Restoration at Elkhorn Slough (August 2014)
4. Sears Point Tidal Restoration Project (October 2015)
5. Sonoma Creek Tidal Marsh Enhancement Project (June 2016)
6. Dune Restoration at Morro Strand State Beach (June 2016)
7. Community Based Restoration on the Fort Ord Dunes State Park (September 2016)
8. Complete Restoration of Point Reyes North Great Beach Critical Dune Habitat (January 2017)
9. Restoration of Salt Marsh-Upland Transition, Tijuana Slough National Wildlife Refuge (January 2017)

## Active Projects

The following grants are currently being funded from the EEF, with a brief update for each:

### 1. Peyton Slough Hydraulic Relief Project, Martinez

- **Grantee:** Dorothy M. Sakazaki Environmental Endowment Fund
- **Term:** 07/01/2015 – 08/31/2018
- **Initial Dollar amount authorized by EEC:** \$415,000
- **Current Dollar amount authorized:** \$201,000
- **Invoiced to date:** \$0
- **Work completed:** 30% design
- **More information available at:** Request full quarterly report from Daniel Orr.

**1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Update:** This quarter the Grantee increased the budget for contractors to modify design and complete CEQA review for the project. The Grantee continues to pursue potential funding sources but the project remains underfunded. As of April 15, 2018 the first \$214,000 of funding was scheduled to revert to the EEF. The remaining \$201,000 will be available through the end of the contract term this August.

### 2. Habitat Restoration of Coastal Strand, Dune, & Lagoon Ecosystems; Manchester SP

- **Grantee:** CA Department of Parks and Recreation
- **Term:** 07/01/2015 – 12/31/2018
- **Dollar amount authorized by EEC:** \$106,711
- **Invoiced to date:** \$10,919.47
- **Work completed:** Mapping work and pre-project monitoring, initial herbicide application, hand removal of beachgrass, post treatment monitoring, secondary hand-treatments.
- **More information available at:** Request full quarterly report from Daniel Orr.

**1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Update:** Since the December 2017 Report, hand crews returned to areas where previous herbicide treatment resulted in lower die-off of European beachgrass rates than expected. State parks provided additional funding for the follow up work so that remaining EEF funds work can be used to augment the final herbicide treatments. Three additional days of herbicide treatment and two weeks of hand crews are scheduled in June 2018. A no cost extension to the grant contract was executed to provide time for the additional treatments.



**Picture to right:** California Conservation Corps crew hand pulling beachgrass in area with native plants.

### 3. Restoration of Coastal Native Plant Communities & Seabird Habitat, Santa Cruz, CA.

- **Grantee:** Social and Environmental Entrepreneurs
- **Term:** 05/15/2016 – 06/30/2018
- **Dollar amount authorized by EEC:** \$82,400.37
- **Invoiced to date:** \$70,891.22
- **Work completed:** Seed collection, planning, ice plant removal, native plantings, monitoring.
- **More information available at:** No additional information at this time.

**1st Quarter Update:** EEF staff visited the project site to April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2018. The primary project appears to have been successful. Ice plant has been removed along the cliff providing a ledge which is heavily used by nesting cormorants. No cormorants previously nested at the site. Ice plant was also removed from the bluffs and replaced with native plants.

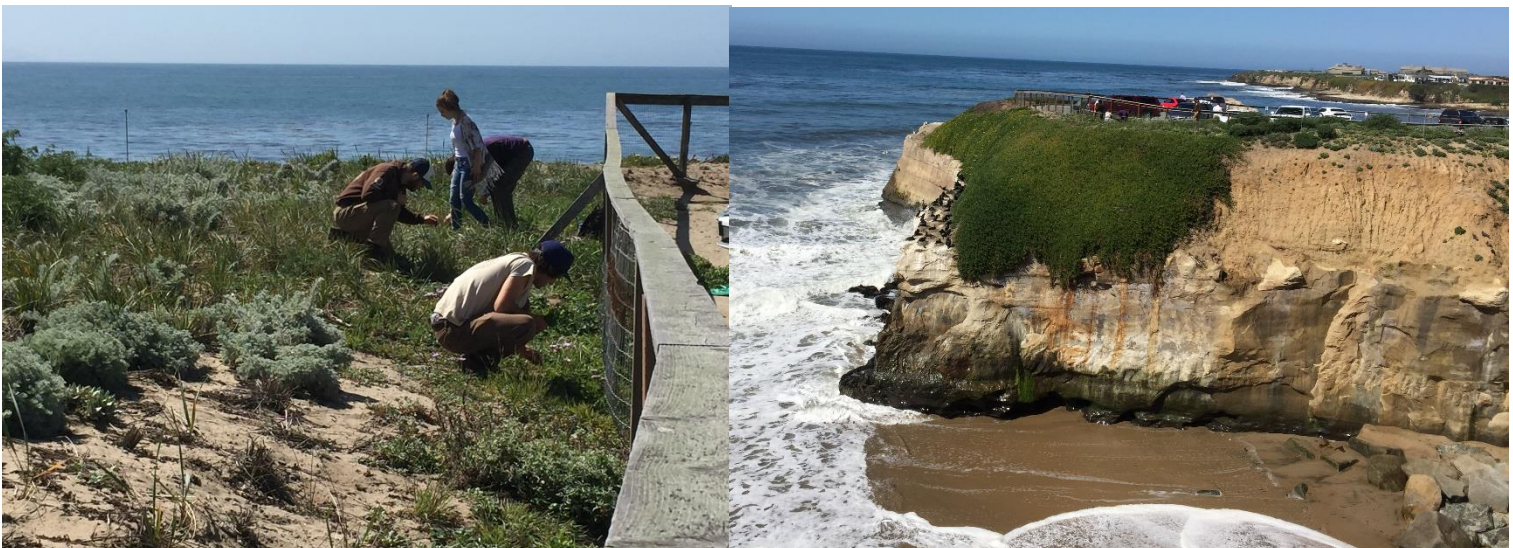


**Photo to right:** Cormorants nesting on cleared cliff edge at Natural Bridges State Park.

The project has taken an unusual, and apparently successful, tactic of prioritizing restoration in heavily visited locations. High visibility to the public helps generate large amounts of volunteer work. Continued volunteer work will be essential as the project requires continued weeding and future ice plant removals to maintain the restored areas. Volunteers continue to use a greenhouse constructed for the EEF project to provide plant stock to other nearby projects.

**Photo below, left:** Local volunteers hand-pull invasive weeds from restored areas of the bluff.

**Photo below, right:** The restoration site was selected immediately adjacent to a heavily visited road and park bringing the benefits of restoration into public eye.



#### 4. Morro Dunes Natural Preserve Restoration, Los Osos, CA.

- **Grantee:** California Department of Parks and Restoration
- **Term:** 07/21/2017 – 06/30/2020
- **Dollar amount authorized by EEC:** \$180,000.00
- **Invoiced to date:** \$0
- **Work completed:** Determination of monitoring plots, mapping of treatment areas, dune stabilization, contracting.
- **More information available at:** None available at this time

**1st Quarter Update:** Since the January 2018 report State Parks began has completed contracting with a local resource conservation district (RCD). The RCD contract pools funds from EEF with \$100,000 from other sources for herbicide treatment of ice plant. The RCD has selected a small business to complete the applications starting later in 2018.

#### 5. Restoration of Priority Freshwater Wetlands for Endanger Species, Cosumnes River Preserve

- **Grantee:** California Department of Parks and Restoration
- **Term:** 09/20/2017 – 06/30/2020
- **Dollar amount authorized by EEC:** \$89,900.00
- **Invoiced to date:** \$15,581.72
- **Work completed:** Project design, baseline monitoring, permit applications, contracting, and tree planting.
- **More information available at:** Request full 1st quarter update and baseline reports from Daniel Orr

**1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Update:** Since the December 2017 report the Grantee has completed contracting agreements with U.S. Bureau of Land Management, the local school district, and a drone pilot. Baseline Valley Oak Tree surveys, waterfowl surveys, aquatic prey species surveys, and watershed assessments were completed. Giant garter snake surveys and trapping efforts were sent out to bid. In the first of three tree plantings, 80 oak trees were installed along the southern rookery tree line. Biological monitoring teams installed drone location markers that will be used for aerial surveys of rookeries and tree planting intended to increase available canopy. The project is currently on schedule with some portions significantly ahead of schedule.



Priority Freshwater Wetlands for Endangered Species at the Cosumnes River Preserve. **Photo above:** Drone imagery from March 19, 2018 at the Horseshoe Lake rookery showing two eggs in a nest (suspected great blue heron eggs), double-breasted cormorant (Black), Great egret (white with several in courtship displays), great blue heron (gray, white and black near top of canopy), and black-crowned night heron (black and white lower in canopy) in nests. **Photo below:** Restoration of Valley oak plantings (n=80) along the eastern shoreline of Horseshoe lake at the Consumes River Preserve.



Tom Palmer  
Mar 30, 2018

## **Completed Projects**

- 1) Point Arena II Resource Lands Conservation
- 2) McDaniel Slough Tidal Restoration
- 3) Pioneering and Innovative Oyster Restoration at Elkhorn Slough
- 4) Sears Point Tidal Restoration Project
- 5) Sonoma Creek Tidal Marsh Enhancement Project
- 6) Dune Restoration at Morro Strand State Beach
- 7) Community Based Restoration on the Fort Ord Dunes State Park
- 8) Restoration of Point Reyes North Great Beach Critical Dune Habitat
- 9) Restoration of Salt-Marsh-Upland Transition, Tijuana Slough National Wildlife Refuge