



## **Quarterly Report to Environmental Enhancement Committee: 3rd Quarter, 2019 (July-September)**

### **Active Projects:**

1. Habitat Restoration of Coastal Strand, Dune, and Lagoon Ecosystems; Manchester SP
2. Morro Dunes Natural Preserve Restoration, Los Osos, CA
3. Restoration of Priority Freshwater Wetlands for Endangered Species, Consumnes River Preserve
4. Año Nuevo Island Seabird Habitat Enhancement Project
5. Baker Creek Streamflow and Habitat Enhancement Project, Inyo County
6. Restoration of ecosystem functions to benefit threatened and endangered amphibians at elkhorn slough, Elkhorn Slough 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)
10. Restoration of Coastal Native Plant Communities & Seabird Habitat, Santa Cruz CA (2018)

## Active Projects

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

### 1. 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:** \$106,007.78
- **Work completed:** Invasive species treatment and monitoring. Final Report received, awaiting final invoice.
- **More information available at:** Request final report from Daniel Orr.

**3rd Quarter Update:** Since the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter the Final project report was received. Overall the project resulted in high success rate for removal although invasive turf has yet to fully decompose. Some of the most coastal areas will require follow-up treatments utilizing equipment purchased through EEF funds.

**Picture above:** Example of beach grass die-off showing minimal regrowth



## 2. 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, initial and follow up herbicide treatments.
- **More information available at:** Request treatment maps and contracts from Daniel Orr

**3rd Quarter Update:** Since the last report the snowy plover season came to a close and follow up treatments have resumed in Phase 1 and begun in Phase 2 areas. Follow up treatments have begun in Phase 1 area and will continue soon in areas outside of Snowy Plover

**Map to Right:** Track Lines from summer 2019 treatments in Phase 1 area.



**Photo Below:** Native dune scrub species regenerating in treated area of Phase 1 – some small patches of ice plant about to be retreated are visible.



### 3. Restoration of Priority Freshwater Wetlands for Endangered 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:** \$87,622.81
- **Work completed:** Project design, baseline monitoring, permit applications, contracting, tree planting, construction, and invasive species control.
- **More information available at:** Request full quarterly update and baseline reports from Daniel Orr

**3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Update:** The construction phase is complete, invasive species treatments are ongoing, and the project is on schedule. During this quarter post-project surveys were conducted, weed treatments occurred throughout the lakebed focusing on Uruguayan primrose, and watering of oak seedlings continued. Weed treatments covered 6.25 acres within the restoration site avoiding waters edge to maintain cover required for Giant Garter Snake. Primrose cover within the lakebed is now very low demonstrating successful control but native vegetation cover is lower than desired. Upcoming work will focus on promoting native vegetation cover and expanding area of primrose removal for long-lasting control. Additional weed treatments are planned for 2020 to include 15 to 30 acres of lakebed and South fork of Badger Creek. Native plantings will occur in December 2019 and spring 2020.



**Photo above:** 2019 Uruguayan water primrose treatment at the Cosumnes River Preserve's Horse Lake Restoration Project site.

#### 4. Año Nuevo Island Seabird Habitat Enhancement Project, Santa Cruz

- **Grantee:** Oikonos Ecosystem Knowledge
- **Term:** 09/01/2019-06/30/2022
- **Dollar amount authorized by EEC:** \$69,796.00
- **Invoiced to date:** \$0.00
- **Work Completed:** Project planning and transportation of materials for nest protection platforms to the island.
- **Further information:** Visit Oikonos website for illustrated stories and updates on past Año Nuevo Island work  
<http://oikonos.org/ano-nuevo-island/>



**Photo above right:** An aerial photo of Año Nuevo Island. Project area is central part of the island bounded by fences.

#### 5. Baker Creek Streamflow and Habitat Enhancement Project,

- **Grantee:** Sanctuary Forest Inc.
- **Term:** 09/01/2019-06/30/2022
- **Dollar amount authorized by EEC:** \$203,683.10
- **Invoiced to date:** \$0.00
- **Work Completed:** Grant agreement executed on 8/6/2019

#### 6. Restoration of Ecosystem Functions to Benefit Threatened and Endangered Amphibians at Elkhorn Slough; Moss Landing

- **Grantee:** Elkhorn Slough Foundation
- **Term:** 09/01/2019-06/30/2022
- **Dollar amount authorized by EEC:** \$166,524.05
- **Invoiced to date:** \$0.00
- **Work Completed:** Contract for tide gate repair executed with Wetland Construction. EEF staff visited the project site on October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019 to discuss modification of project timeline and budget to allow for tide gate repair to proceed.

#### 7. Restoring Coastal Dune Ecosystem Health and Resilience at Salina River State Beach, Moss Landing

- **Grantee:** Coastal Conservation and Research, Inc.
- **Term:** 09/27/2019-06/30/2022
- **Dollar amount authorized by EEC:** \$104,892.85+
- **Invoiced to date:** \$0.00
- **Work Completed:** Grant Agreement completed

## **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
- 10) Restoration of Coastal Native Plant Communities & Seabird Habitat, Santa Cruz CA

## **Other EEC/EEF Updates:**

**The Fund:** As of June 2017, the fund balance was reported to be \$855,879. Changeover of California Department of Fish and Wildlife accounting systems has delayed final reporting of fund condition.