

## Habitat Restoration for Recovery of Federally Listed Species at Black Lake Ecological Area

Organization: The Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo

Project Period: May 2020 – February 2024

Amount: \$94,758

Location: Black Lake Ecological Area, San Luis Obispo County

Project Description: The primary purpose of this project is wetland habitat restoration within the main portion of coastal freshwater marsh onsite that feeds Black Lake to recover federal and state endangered marsh sandwort and federal threatened and state species of special concern California red-legged frog. The main wetland habitat restoration activities include: sediment removal and re-contouring, hydrophytic vegetation management within the marsh, invasive species removal in immediately surrounding upland areas, and outplanting of marsh sandwort (*Arenaria paludicola*).

Project Progress: Since Funding Agreement execution, this project has received a National Coastal Wetland Conservation (NCWC) grant to expand the project. The current funding will support the planning and permitting phase, while the NCWC grant will support the construction phase. In the past year, the Land Conservancy has worked with several contractors to create initial engineering designs, a geotechnical report, and an archaeological survey for permitting needs and began CEQA with the County. They hope to secure all necessary permits for this project to begin construction in September 2022. Plants for outplanting have been secured, propagated, and cared for at UCSB's Cheadle Center for Biodiversity and Ecological Restoration.



***Black Lake***



***Project Site in January 2021. Bulrush will be removed to create open water and diverse wetland habitat***



***Marsh Sandwort at Oso Flaco Lake***