

McNabney Marsh Enhancement



McNabney Marsh is a 137-acre marsh that is part of the Peyton Slough Marsh complex. Peyton Slough is the hydrological connection between McNabney Marsh and the Carquinez Straits. Over the past 150 years, the natural tidal regime of McNabney Marsh has been altered by numerous human activities. Those activities resulted in a marsh that had poor drainage and reduced tidal fluctuations, resulting in desalination, low vegetation cover, and a change in plant species composition. Consequently, there was a reduced habitat suitability for the salt marsh harvest mouse and other tidal marsh wildlife species.



Operating tide gate

McNabney Marsh is owned by the East Bay Regional Park District and Mountain View Sanitary District (MVSD). The marsh is managed by MVSD. The Department of Fish and Game, Office of Spill Prevention and Response supported MVSD's efforts to enhance the marsh. These efforts included channel dredging to remove sediment for 3 main waterways in the marsh, and installing water control gates so that the hydrologic regime can be managed. The gates allow water levels to be lowered in the late winter and spring to expose nesting refuge for waterfowl. In early summer the water is drawn down further and then flooded with salt water to better control the encroaching cattail population. In late summer, the gates are opened to flood the marsh, providing resting and forage areas for migratory birds. The new gates help to provide the best habitat for a greater diversity of species living in the marsh.