



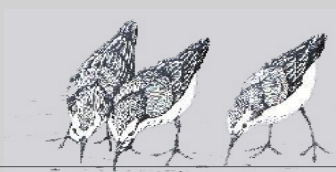
Proposed Marin Baylands National Wildlife Refuge

Planning Update 1, November 2000

Greetings!

This is the first in a series of updates from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service designed to inform and involve you in planning the proposed Marin Baylands National Wildlife Refuge in Marin County, California.

These planning updates will keep you informed as development of the Environmental Assessment, Land Protection Plan, and Conceptual Management Plan progresses, and announce opportunities for you to become directly involved in the planning process.



The endangered California clapper rail would benefit from National Wildlife Refuge protection. The tidal salt marsh habitat in the proposed Marin Baylands Refuge would provide a protected area for rails to nest and forage.



Help the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Plan the Proposed Marin Baylands National Wildlife Refuge

Planning for the proposed Marin Baylands National Wildlife Refuge has just begun. A study area has been delineated that is approximately 17,600 acres, see the map on page 3. Our next step is to provide you with an opportunity to help us identify key issues and concerns relative to the proposed refuge and to answer any questions. Your participation is vital to the planning process. Information on the opportunities you will have to participate is provided on pages 4, 5, and 6.

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Announcement!

Open House Scheduled

Date: Thursday, November 30, 2000

Time: 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Location: Hamilton Officers Club
203 El Bonito, Novato, California


(Details and Directions on Page 4)

Where is the Study Area?

The study area is located on the west side of San Pablo Bay and San Francisco Bay from the Petaluma River to an area south of the city of Mill Valley. The Marin Baylands are part of the diked baylands which form the northwestern boundary of San Pablo Bay. Once subject to tidal inundation, these baylands, were diked off for agricultural use more than 100 years ago. Approximately 85 percent of the marsh lands that once surrounded San Francisco Bay are gone. This loss has severely reduced the estuary's ability to support fish and wildlife populations, maintain active floodplains, and insure water quality. Other habitats within the study area include tidal marsh fringes along the baylands, seasonal wetlands, fresh/brackish creeks and associated riparian habitats, open Bay water, and in some cases adjacent uplands including grasslands and mature oak woodlands.

Most of these areas provide essential wintering habitat for migratory shorebirds and waterfowl, including curlews, dunlins, sandpipers, mallard, teal, pintail, canvasback, and scaup. The tidal salt marshes are essential to sustain the Federally endangered salt marsh harvest mouse and California clapper rail.

The proposed Marin Baylands National Wildlife Refuge would protect and conserve important tidal marsh, seasonal marsh, and uplands. Enhancement and management of these tidal marshes and diked baylands would greatly enhance the recovery prospects for several Federally listed threatened and endangered species and would also improve habitat for migratory shorebirds. New opportunities for the public to enjoy the natural resources of the Marin Baylands would be created.



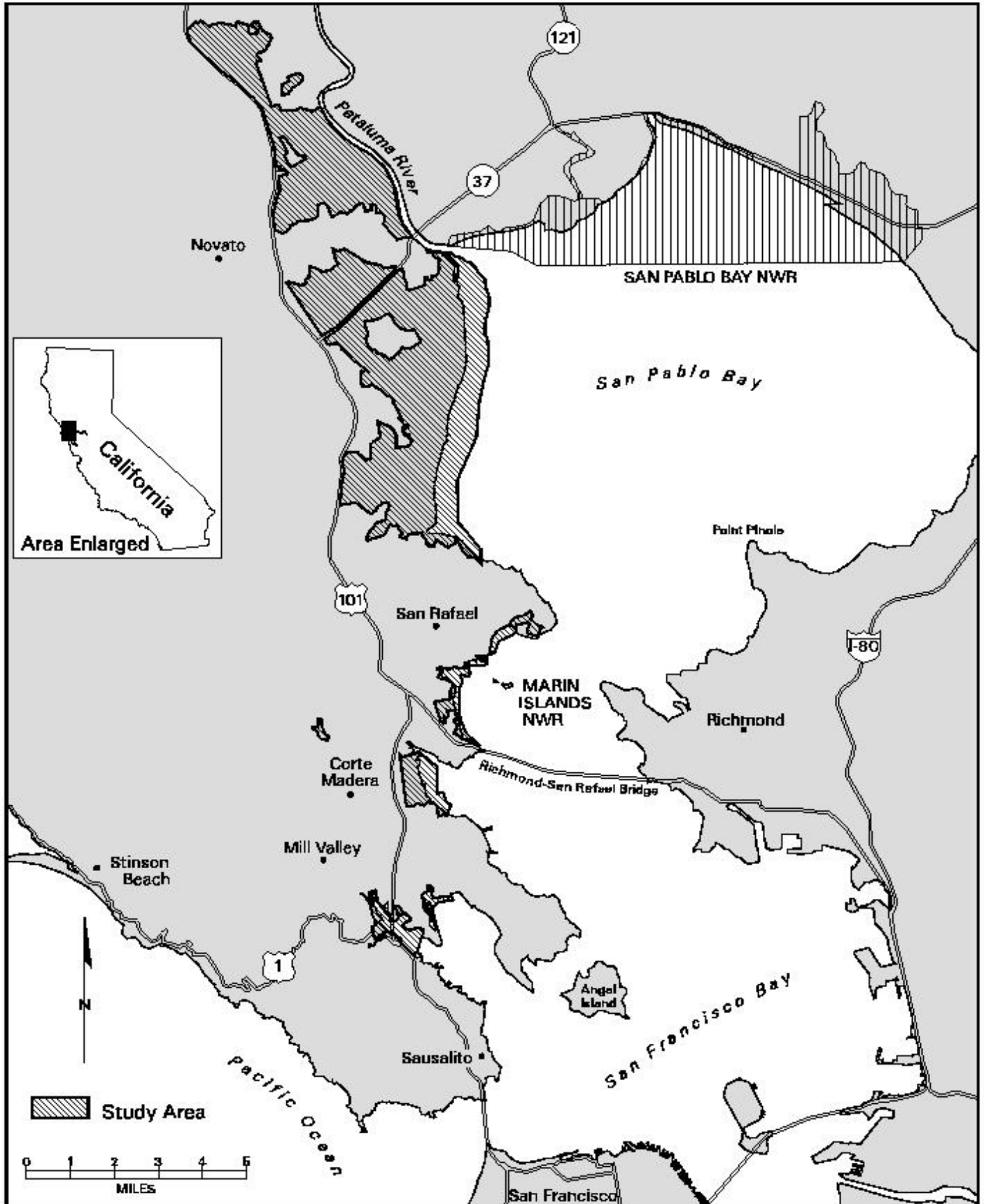
The proposed Marin Baylands National Wildlife Refuge would protect the endangered salt marsh harvest mouse and its habitat.

Photo © Tom Tutt, SJSU Instructional Resources



PROPOSED MARIN BAYLANDS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Study Area



Your Input is Important!
Help us Plan the
Proposed Refuge.

To Learn about the Proposed Refuge Come to our Open House

You are invited to attend an Open House on November 30, 2000, to learn about the proposed Marin Baylands National Wildlife Refuge. This meeting will provide you with an opportunity to meet representatives from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and to learn more about the proposed Refuge. Because we are in the earliest stages of refuge planning, the Open House is designed to offer you an opportunity to ask questions and get answers, and comment on the issues and scope of the proposal in an informal setting. Your comments and questions will be considered in future planning documents.

The Open House will begin with greetings and sign-ins from 7:00 p.m. to 7:15 p.m. At 7:15 p.m., the Service will give a brief overview of the proposed Refuge and planning process. Then at 8:00 p.m. participants will be encouraged to talk directly to Service staff who will be available at tables set up in the meeting area. The tables will have signs identifying staff members' areas of expertise such as land acquisition, the planning process, and habitat management. Service staff will listen and record questions and comments. Details and directions follow.

Proposed Marin Baylands Refuge Open House

Date/Time: Thursday, November 30, 2000, from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Location: Hamilton Officers Club, 203 El Bonito, Novato, California

Directions:

Traveling south on Highway 101 beyond Highway 37

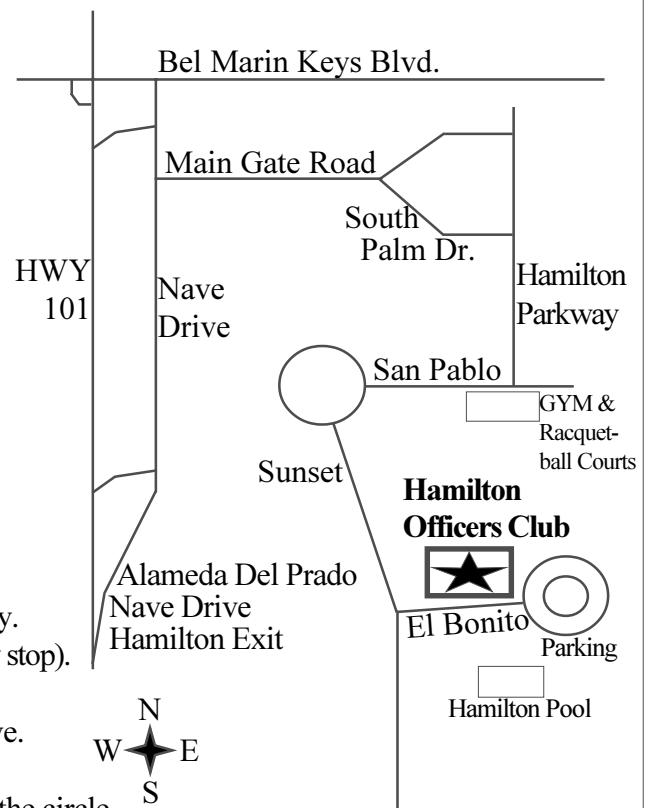
Exit at the Nave Drive/Bel Marin Keys/Hamilton Field Exit.
Head east over Highway 101 on Bel Marin Keys Blvd.
Turn right immediately onto the Nave Drive frontage road.
Proceed south 0.8 miles to Main Gate Road.
Turn left onto Main Gate Road . . .

Traveling north on Highway 101 beyond the Marinwood Exit

Exit at the Hamilton Field/Nave Drive Exit.
Bear right on Nave Drive frontage road
Follow Nave Drive for 0.5 miles to Main Gate Road.
Turn right onto Main Gate Road. . .

. . . Proceed through the large archway over Main Gate Road.

Take the third right onto South Palm Drive.
Follow South Palm Drive to the stop sign at Hamilton Parkway.
Turn right on Hamilton Parkway and proceed to San Pablo (3-way stop).
Turn right on San Pablo.
Go right, around the traffic circle and turn right on Sunset Drive.
Proceed to the top of the hill and turn left onto El Bonito.
The Officers Club entrance is on the left with main parking in the circle.



What Happens After the Open House?

A schedule of key planning steps is included below. Based on the issues and concerns raised at the public meeting and in your letters and e-mail messages received during the Issue Identification Period, we will develop alternative proposals for Refuge boundaries. These proposals will be described in the following planning documents.

- An Environmental Assessment (EA) will evaluate the potential effects that each alternative would have on the physical, biological, and social and economic environment.
- A Conceptual Management Plan (CMP) will describe potential management activities being considered for the proposed Marin Baylands National Wildlife Refuge as well as public uses and their compatibility with the purpose of the refuge.
- A Land Protection Plan (LPP) will describe resource protection needs and the proposed Refuge boundary, and identify and prioritize tracts of lands that may be acquired from willing sellers.

You will have an opportunity to review and comment on these planning documents. Their availability will be announced in a future planning update. Service officials will review these and other compliance documents and will decide what course of action to take. If Service officials approve the designation of a refuge boundary, the Service can implement the selected alternative.

An approved refuge boundary does not grant the Service jurisdiction or management control over lands within the boundary, nor does it make lands within an approved refuge boundary part of the National Wildlife Refuge System. Lands do not become part of the National Wildlife Refuge System until they are acquired from willing participants or placed under an agreement with the individual landowner.

Proposed Planning Schedule

Planning Update #1 Issued _____ November 2000
 Public Open House _____ November 30, 2000
 Issue Identification Period Ends _____ December 14, 2000
 Draft LPP, CMP, and EA Released _____ April 2001
 Comment Period Ends _____ May 2001
 Notice of Decision _____ August 2001

Please note this schedule is tentative and will change as planning progresses and issues are identified. We will keep you informed of the changes.

**Submit Written
Comments To:**

Cathy Osugi
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
(NWRS/RPL)
911 NE 11th Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97232-4181
Fax: (503) 231-6161

How Do I Provide Comments?

If you have questions or concerns, talk to Service representatives at the Open House, or call us, write a letter, or send an e-mail message, addresses and phone numbers are listed on this page. If you are unable to attend the Open House, you may send written comments or questions until December 14, 2000. If you would like to receive future planning updates, please contact us to be added to the mailing list.

Who Do I Contact?

For Information on Proposed Refuge Management:

Marge Kolar, Project Leader
 San Francisco Bay NWR Complex
 P.O. Box 524
 Newark, California 94560
 (510) 792-0222; fax (510) 792-5828

Bryan Winton, Refuge Manager
 San Pablo Bay NWR
 P.O. Box 2012
 Vallejo, California 94592
 (707) 562-3000; fax (707) 562-3001

For Information on Land Protection Planning

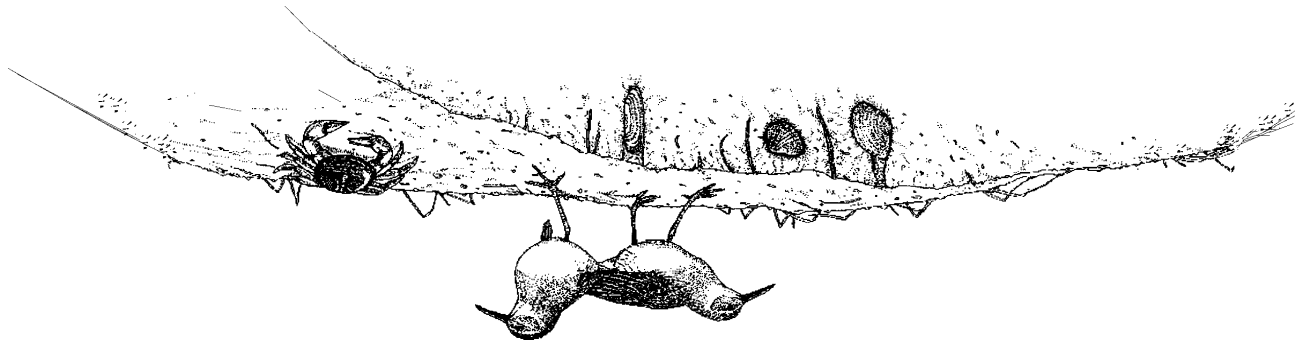
Cathy Osugi, Wildlife Biologist
 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (NWRS/RPL)
 911 NE 11th Avenue
 Portland, Oregon 97232-4181
 (503) 231-6838 or (800) 662-8933; fax (503) 231-6161

For Information on Land Acquisition

Steve Dyer, Realty Specialist
 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
 2800 Cottage Way, W-2610
 Sacramento, California 94825
 (916) 414-6445; fax (916) 414-6462

For Planning Information On-Line: Check out the Refuge Planning home page. We'll be offering electronic versions of some of our planning documents at www.r1.fws.gov/planning/plnhome.html. E-Mail Address: FW1PlanningComments@fws.gov (For e-mail messages, please type "Marin Baylands" in the subject line.)

Let us know if you have a change of address or would like to add or delete an address. Unless we hear from you, your name will remain on the mailing list for all future Planning Updates. Call 800-662-8933 for changes and additions.



Proposed Marin Baylands National Wildlife Refuge
Planning Update 1 - Correction Notification
Reminder - Comments are due
December 14, 2000



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Fish & Wildlife Service
Attn: NWRS/RPL
911 NE 11th Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97232-4181
Address correction requested

Correction Notification for the Proposed Marin Baylands National Wildlife Refuge Planning Update 1

Planning Update 1 for the Proposed Marin Baylands National Wildlife Refuge was mailed to you on November 9, 2000. An incorrect e-mail address was published in that Planning Update and the details for submitting written comments were not clear. We sincerely apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused you. Comments are due December 14, 2000. The e-mail address correction and instructions for submitting written comments follow.

E-mail Address Correction: FW1PlanningComments@fws.gov

If submitting comments via e-mail, please type "Marin Baylands" in the subject line.

Submit Written Comments To: Cathy Osugi

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (NWRS/RPL)

911 NE 11th Avenue

Portland, Oregon 97232-4181

Fax: (503) 231-6161