

## **Albany Salt Marsh Expansion** Albany, California

**Description:** The proposed project will expand and enhance an existing salt marsh located immediately northwest of the intersection of Buchanan Street and Highway 80, and north of the Golden Gate Fields racetrack. The existing salt marsh, which is approximately 2 acres, would be expanded into land owned by Golden Gate Fields that is used partly for parking and for maintenance and corporation yard purposes.

Through grant opportunities, Friends of Five Creeks (a non-profit group), commissioned the following studies to evaluate the feasibility of this salt marsh expansion. Thus, in 2001, a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment was conducted by Levine-Fricke to determine subsurface conditions of the area. As a result of this assessment, there were no documented sources or specific areas of potential hazardous material releases identified at the site. However, the assessment recommended that if the site is excavated for conversion back into a salt marsh, that additional subsurface soil and groundwater assessment be conducted. In 2002, Balance Hydrologics conducted a hydrologic feasibility assessment of wetland restoration for the site. A combined program of measuring and modeling tidal water levels was used and two alternatives were modeled. The study found that the tidal regimes in the Albany Mudflats and the existing Salt Marsh make it conducive to restore and expand the salt marsh wetland. The report also recommended the desired elevations (through excavation) that would be needed to create the desired habitat.

**Cost:** The estimated cost to restore and expand the Albany Salt Marsh is \$2,000,000.

**Benefits:** The site was historically part of a submerged tidelands system that was prevalent around the San Francisco Bay. Much of the tidelands in the area of the Albany Salt March were filled and virtually all that remains is this 2-acre marsh. Enhancing this salt marsh, and expanding its size to approximately 4 acres, will benefit fish and bird wildlife species, and serve to help mitigate some of the impacts to wildlife caused by the Cosco Busan oil spill of November 2007.

**NATURAL RESOURCE DAMAGE ASSESSMENT**  
**RESTORATION PROJECT INFORMATION SHEET**

Organization:		Project Name:	
Organization Web Page:		Project Location:	
Contact Name:		County & Watershed:	
Contact Title:		Latitude / Longitude:	
Contact Address:		Contact E-mail:	
Contact Phone:			
Contact Fax:			

**Restoration Activity**

Resource/Habitat/Service	<input type="checkbox"/> Marine/Estuarine Wetland	<input type="checkbox"/> Freshwater Wetland	<input type="checkbox"/> Rocky intertidal	<input type="checkbox"/> Biological	<input type="checkbox"/> Eelgrass	<input type="checkbox"/> Recreational	<input type="checkbox"/> Sandy beach
Restoration Result	<input type="checkbox"/> Creation	<input type="checkbox"/> Rehabilitation	<input type="checkbox"/> Enhancement	<input type="checkbox"/> Protection	<input type="checkbox"/> Other	Project Size: <input type="text"/>	Affected Area: <input type="text"/>

**Project Status (please provide as much information as is currently available)**

Activity	Funded?			Completed?			Additional Notes
Planning/Design/Permitting:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Maybe	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Maybe	
Property or Resource Acquisition:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Maybe	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Maybe	
Construction:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Maybe	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Maybe	
Maintenance & Future Activities:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Maybe	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Maybe	
Future Construction & Oversight:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Maybe	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Maybe	
Restoration Monitoring:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Maybe	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Maybe	
Conservation Servitude/Easement:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Maybe	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Maybe	
Other (_____):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Maybe	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Maybe	

Restoration Description & Benefits (use separate sheet if necessary):	
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**Project Partners**

Organization	Contact Information	Project Involvement

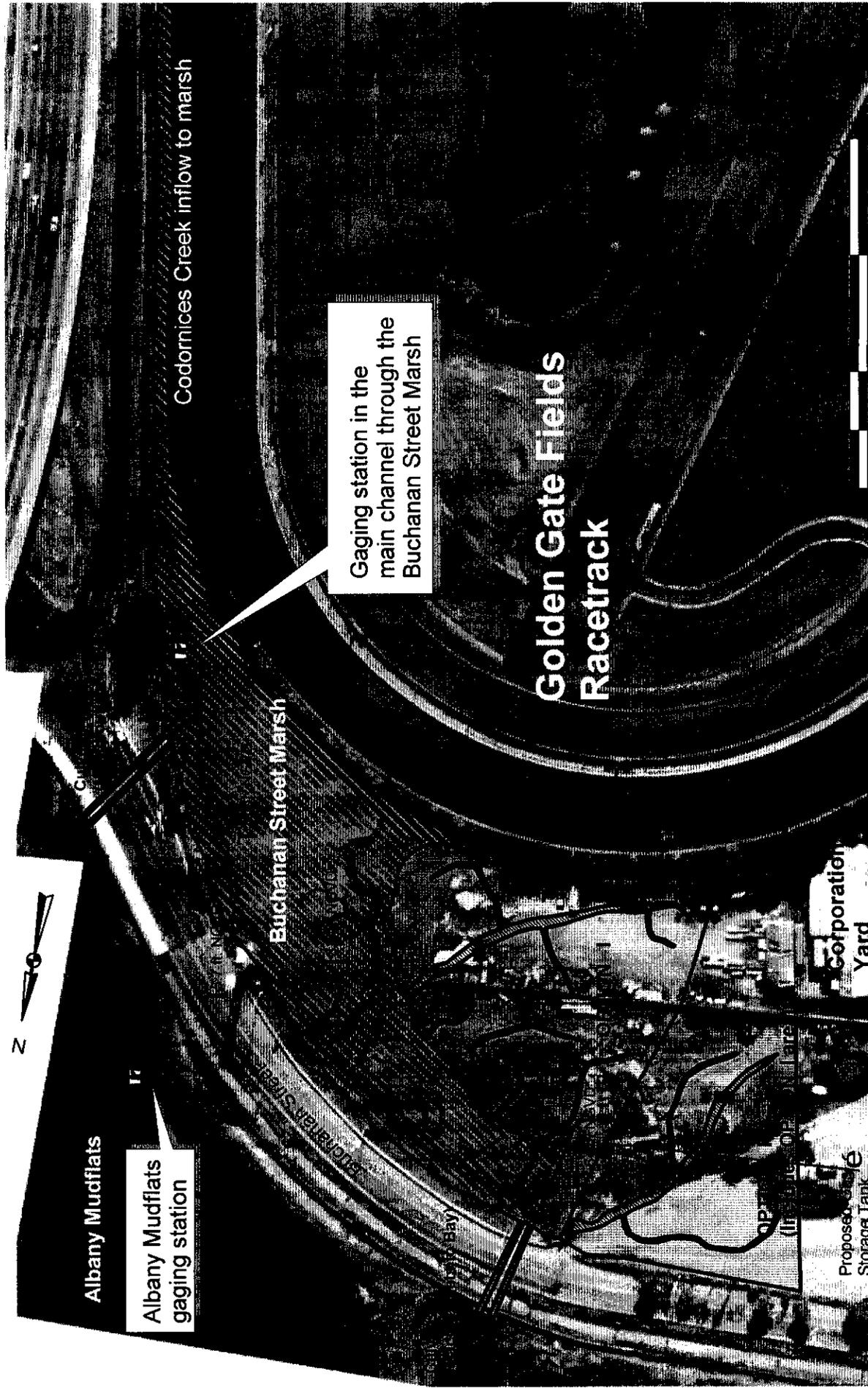


Figure 2. Buchanan Street Marsh, showing the existing marsh and options for expansion, Albany, California