



CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Awards for Outstanding Environmental Projects

Friends of the San Francisco Estuary is seeking nominations of outstanding environmental projects that benefit the San Francisco Bay-Delta Estuary and its watersheds. Awards will be presented to 4-6 exceptional projects at the twelfth biennial [State of the Estuary Conference](#), September 17-18, 2015, at the Downtown Oakland Marriott Hotel. Visit <http://sfestuary.org/soe> for information about the conference.

Criteria for Eligibility

Nominated projects must significantly benefit the Estuary; be completed or show measurable results, and should not have been externally mandated (for example, to resolve an enforcement action). Projects should represent diverse locations, environmental categories, and project sponsors.

Nominated projects must fall into one or more of the project categories in the Estuary Partnership's Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan, the Bay Area's blueprint for a healthy and resilient Estuary:

- Aquatic Resources
- Wildlife
- Wetlands Management
- Water Use
- Pollution Prevention and Reduction
- Dredging and Waterway Modification
- Land Use and Watershed Management
- Public Involvement and Education
- Research and Monitoring

Nominations should be 1-2 pages in length, and include the following information:

- Project name and location
- Project category/ies from list above
- Name of implementing organization
- Project representative (name, address, phone number, email)
- Brief description of the project and how it benefits the Bay-Delta
- Name and contact information of the person making the nomination

Mail or e-mail nominations to:
San Francisco Estuary Partnership
attn: Darcie Luce
1515 Clay Street, Suite 1400
Oakland, CA 94612
(510) 282-1254 (cell)
friendsofsfestuary@gmail.com

Nominations must be received by 5:00 PM, Tuesday, June 30, 2015.

Past Outstanding Environmental Projects – 2013

US RAMSAR CONSERVATION LANDS

Officially known as the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, Ramsar is the only inter-governmental treaty devoted to a particular habitat, the protection and wise use of wetlands through voluntary measures. The treaty was signed in 1971 in Ramsar, Iran. To be designated a “Wetland of International Importance,” a site must meet one of nine criteria. San Francisco Bay met all nine. On February 2, 2013, World Wetlands Day, San Francisco Bay officially became the 35th US Ramsar site and the 6th in California.

BIG BREAK VISITOR CENTER AT THE DELTA

The newest East Bay Regional Park District visitor center is located at Big Break Regional Shoreline in Oakley. Completed in 2012, the 5,500 square foot building is certified 3 Green Globes by the Green Building Initiative for green building design, engineering, construction and facility operations. The visitor center is staffed by Park District naturalists who provide visitor orientation and interpretive programming highlighting the Delta, its ecosystems, and wildlife. The Delta Discovery Experience expands use outdoors with a covered amphitheater and exterior exhibits, including a 1,200 square foot interactive map of the local Delta water system. Big Break also offers trails, picnic and meadow areas, boat and kayak launch facilities, and an observation/fishing pier.

TIDEWATER SERVICE AREA OUTREACH PROJECT

In 2011, East Bay Regional Park District opened the Tidewater Boating Center, overlooking San Leandro Bay and the Oakland Estuary Channel. The Tidewater Service Area Outreach Project was launched with the opening of the center to ensure that the youth of East Oakland were taking full advantage of the recreational and interpretive programs in their watershed and estuary. In an effort to provide much-needed services to the community, the park district created partnerships with public charter schools, community-based organizations, low-income housing developments and other non-profits to educate and empower youth, specifically on how to keep the Bay-Estuary clean and healthy.

YOSEMITE SLOUGH WETLANDS RESTORATION NORTH SIDE, PHASE I

Located on the western shoreline of South San Francisco Bay, the Yosemite Slough Wetlands Restoration Project, when complete, will restore 34 acres of natural habitat, including 10 acres of tidal wetlands, mudflats for shorebirds, and nesting islands for special status birds. The project’s first phase was successfully completed in June 2012.

WESTERN RECYCLED WATER COALITION

The Western Recycled Water Coalition is a successful collaboration among 22 districts, cities, and an investor-owned water utility. Having previously secured \$34.7M in federal funding to build 8 projects, current members have secured an additional \$3.4M to plan recycled water projects that will develop 120,000 acre-feet of reliable, local water supplies for agriculture, industry, wetlands, and urban landscape. These 25 projects provide multiple benefits, helping to preserve overdrawn river and groundwater supplies, and protecting the sensitive Bay-Delta. This innovative partnership approach to funding projects will help to develop a sustainable water supply solution across the watershed while directly supporting a healthy and resilient San Francisco Estuary.