

About the Project

In partnership with the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Program, the West Coast's largest marsh restoration project, the Calabazas/San Tomas Aquino Creek-Marsh Connection Project aims to restore creek-marsh connections and tidal flows to establish 1,800 acres of tidal marsh in A8 Ponds and Pond A4. The restored tidal marsh is expected to keep pace with sea level rise, providing resilient flood protection. The realigned creek channels will have improved flow lines, reducing the need for future channel maintenance. The project is located at the southern end of San Francisco Bay and the northern shoreline of Santa Clara County and will benefit the cities of Sunnyvale, Santa Clara, and San Jose, including the community of Alviso.

Objectives

- Ecologically restore and enhance the tidal and freshwater marsh and river habitat at the project area.
- Provide resilient flood protection that will adapt to projected sea level rise.
- Reduce maintenance needs for lower Calabazas and San Tomas Aquino creeks.
- Provide enhanced public access and trail improvements.

A8 Ponds and Pond A4

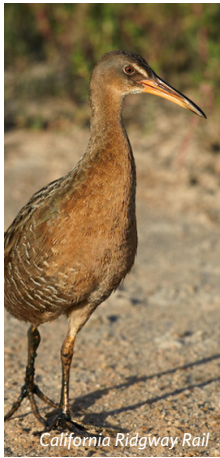
A8 Ponds (A5, A7, A8 and A8s Ponds collectively) and Pond A4 were once tidal marshes that were converted to salt production ponds and blocked off from the bay close to a century ago. Calabazas and San Tomas Aquino creeks were realigned to bypass the ponds and diverted directly into Guadalupe Slough. This diversion resulted in unnatural flow lines with sharp bends that constricted the flow in the creeks creating larger deposits of sediment in the channels. To decrease flood risks for local communities, Valley Water periodically removes the accumulated sediment. Valley Water's project focused on connecting Calabazas and San Tomas Aquino creeks to the A8 Ponds and Sunnyvale East and West channels to Pond A4 to create a tidal marsh habitat.



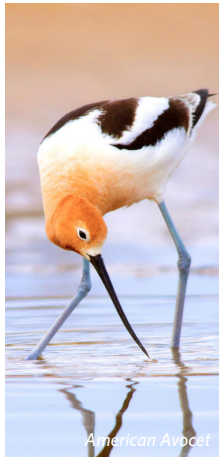
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Ecological Goals

The Calabazas/San Tomas Aquino Creek-Marsh Connection Project will restore up to 1,800 acres of tidal marsh habitat at the A8 Ponds and Pond A4, enhance about 50 acres of freshwater and brackish marsh habitat at Harvey Marsh and improve more than four miles of riparian habitat. The restored and enhanced habitat will benefit endangered and threatened wildlife such as the salt marsh harvest mouse and migratory birds such as the California Ridgway's rail, California Least Tern, and American Avocet.



California Ridgway Rail



American Avocet



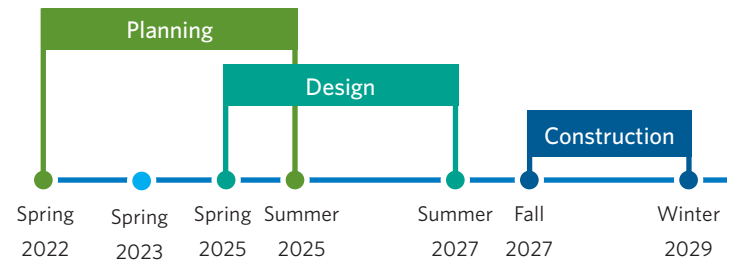
California Least Tern

Supporting the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration

The Calabazas/San Tomas Aquino Creek-Marsh Connection Project supports the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project by restoring natural connections between the watershed and the San Francisco Bay. The South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project is the largest tidal wetland restoration project on the West Coast. When complete, the project will restore 15,100 acres of industrial salt ponds to a rich mosaic of tidal wetlands and other habitats. The project has opened thousands of acres so nature can build new salt marsh, enhanced hundreds of acres of ponds to benefit bird life and laid multiple miles of new trails.

Visit the website at southbayrestoration.org for more information

Projected Timeline



Stakeholder and Funding

The Calabazas/San Tomas Aquino Creek-Marsh Connection Project has many stakeholders including the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), California State Coastal Conservancy, Caltrans, the County of Santa Clara, and the cities of San Jose, Santa Clara, and Sunnyvale.

The project has received \$7.67 million in grant funding.

- \$500,000 from California Department of Fish and Wildlife Proposition 1
- \$3.37 million from San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority Measure AA
- \$3.8 million from U.S. Environmental Protection Agency San Francisco Bay Water Quality Improvement Fund (*grant agreement has yet to be finalized*)



*USEPA grant agreement to be finalized



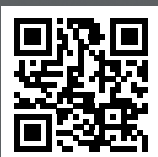
SAN FRANCISCO BAY RESTORATION AUTHORITY

More Project Details

For information about the Calabazas/San Tomas Aquino Creek-Marsh Connection Project, please contact Senior Water Resource Specialist Judy Nam at jnam@valleywater.org or visit valleywater.org.

CONTACT US

To find out the latest information on Valley Water projects or to submit questions or comments, use our **Access Valley Water** customer request system at access.valleywater.org.



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