

**NAME:** Sears Point Tidal Restoration Project

**LOCATION:** Near Petaluma, CA, in the San Pablo Bay and Tolay Creek Watersheds

**ACRES:** 960 acres; 10 miles of tidal channel

**NON-FEDERAL SPONSOR:** Ducks Unlimited

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

Sears Point, the proposed project site, consists of approximately 960 acres of diked agricultural baylands. A dual function flood control and habitat levee would be constructed at the northern edge of the site to protect existing infrastructure and residences. Specific project elements that will be funded through this proposal include: site preparation, tidal channel excavation, and professional services associated with oversight for each of these elements. Outputs include restoration of 960 acres of estuarine habitat comprised of deep and shallow water habitat, mudflats, salt marsh, and wetland-upland transition habitat, and excavation of approximately 10 miles of tidal channel habitat.

**EXPECTED BENEFITS:**

The objectives of this project are to restore estuarine habitat to the site, providing the last link to form a large continuous band of tidal marsh along the bayfront between Petaluma River and Tolay Creek, to establish a natural wetlands-uplands transition that will be resilient to climate change, and to benefit Federal Trust species as well as other at risk fish and wildlife species. This project will reunite the fragmented tidal marsh communities in northern San Francisco Bay, and integrate large blocks of recently restored tidal marsh. This would also provide a major step towards uniting the pre-historic Petaluma Marsh, the largest intact (undiked) tidal marsh in the San Francisco Estuary, with the large tracts of recently restored marsh along Sonoma Creek and the Napa River.

**STATUS:** Planning and Design