California Department of Fish & Wildlife Eden Landing Ecological Reserve

San Francisco Bay Conservation & Development Commission - Material Amendment to O&M Permit (Application No. 2003.007.07)

DAVE HALSING (SOUTH BAY SALT POND RESTORATION PROJECT); NICK TORREZ (DUCKS UNLIMITED); ON BEHALF OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH & WILDLIFE

OCTOBER 16, 2025

Current Status

- Existing O&M permit valid
- Need more total fill than authorized
- Current limit of 10,000 ft^2 in Bay jurisdiction
  - Was set to stay under CCR definition of "minor repairs or improvements"
- Phase 2 of SBSP Restoration Project delayed
  - Alameda County Flood Control District concerns
- Two locations need time-sensitive levee repair; anticipated future repairs elsewhere
- Material amendment now
- Phase 2 permitting and project still to come

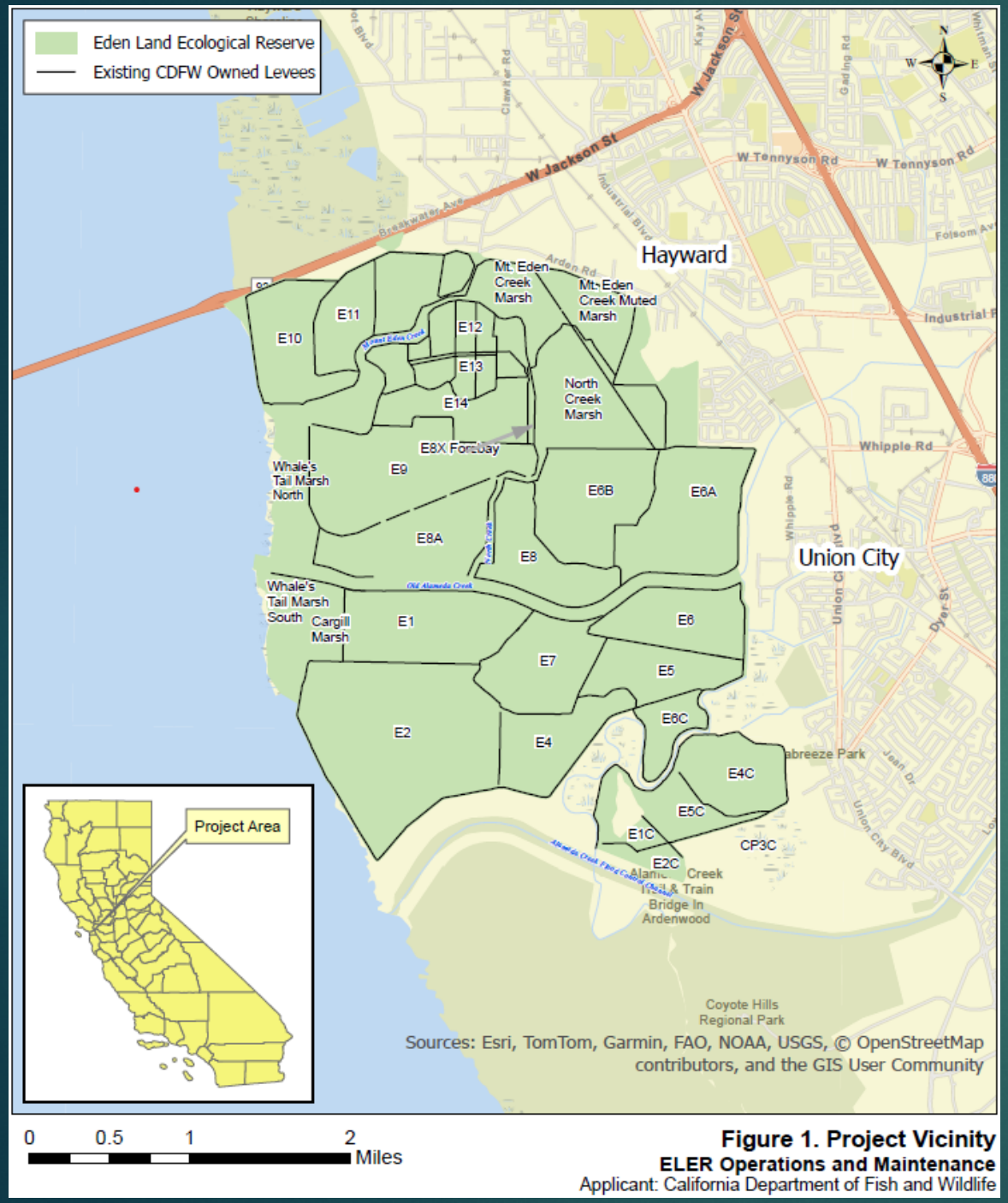


Figure 1. Project Vicinity
ELER Operations and Maintenance
Applicant: California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Eden Landing Ecological Reserve

6,400 acres; mix of restored marshes, managed ponds, & areas yet to be restored

General O&M Activities

- Manipulating water levels in managed ponds
- Surveys & monitoring of birds, fish, vegetation, etc.
- Daily trail use except on 10 days per year for waterfowl hunting
- Invasive vegetation removal
- Water control structure repair, replacement, cleaning
- Levee repairs to fix erosion; importing fill, compacting, etc.
- Annual reports on plans and activities performed

Those to remain as they are; 2 areas need urgent attention

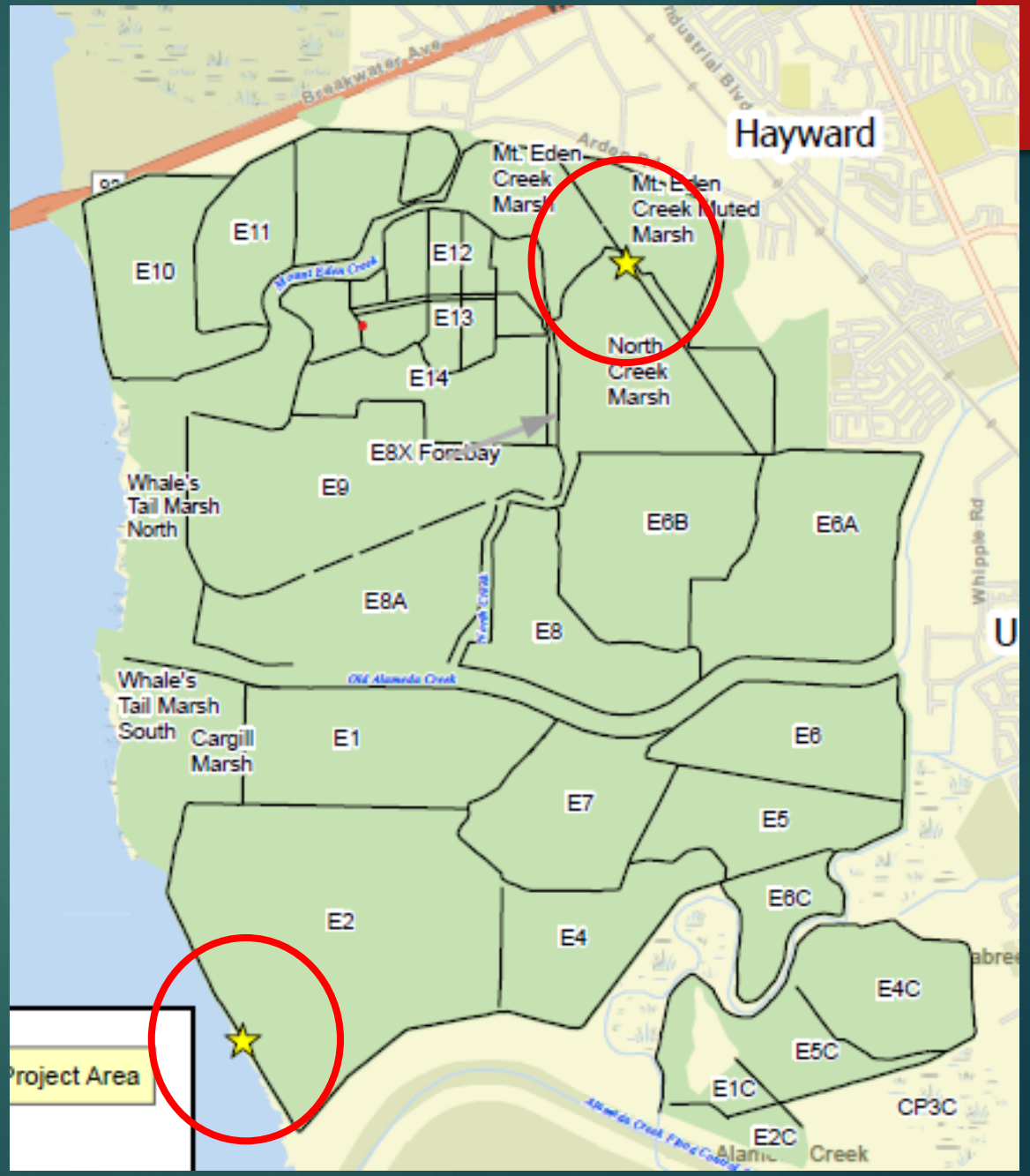
Two Areas of Time-Sensitive Repairs

- Pond E2 outer levee
  - Erosion due to loss of fringe marsh & SLR
  - Risk of failure & increased flood risk
  - Loss of habitat mgmt ability
  - Impairment of SBSPRP-Phase 2 construction
- North Creek Marsh levee
  - Near EBDA pipeline
  - Has already breached; scouring toward pipeline
  - Repair before damage occurs

Time-Sensitive Repairs:

E2 Bayfront levee

North Creek Marsh levee



Access Route to E2 Bayfront Levee

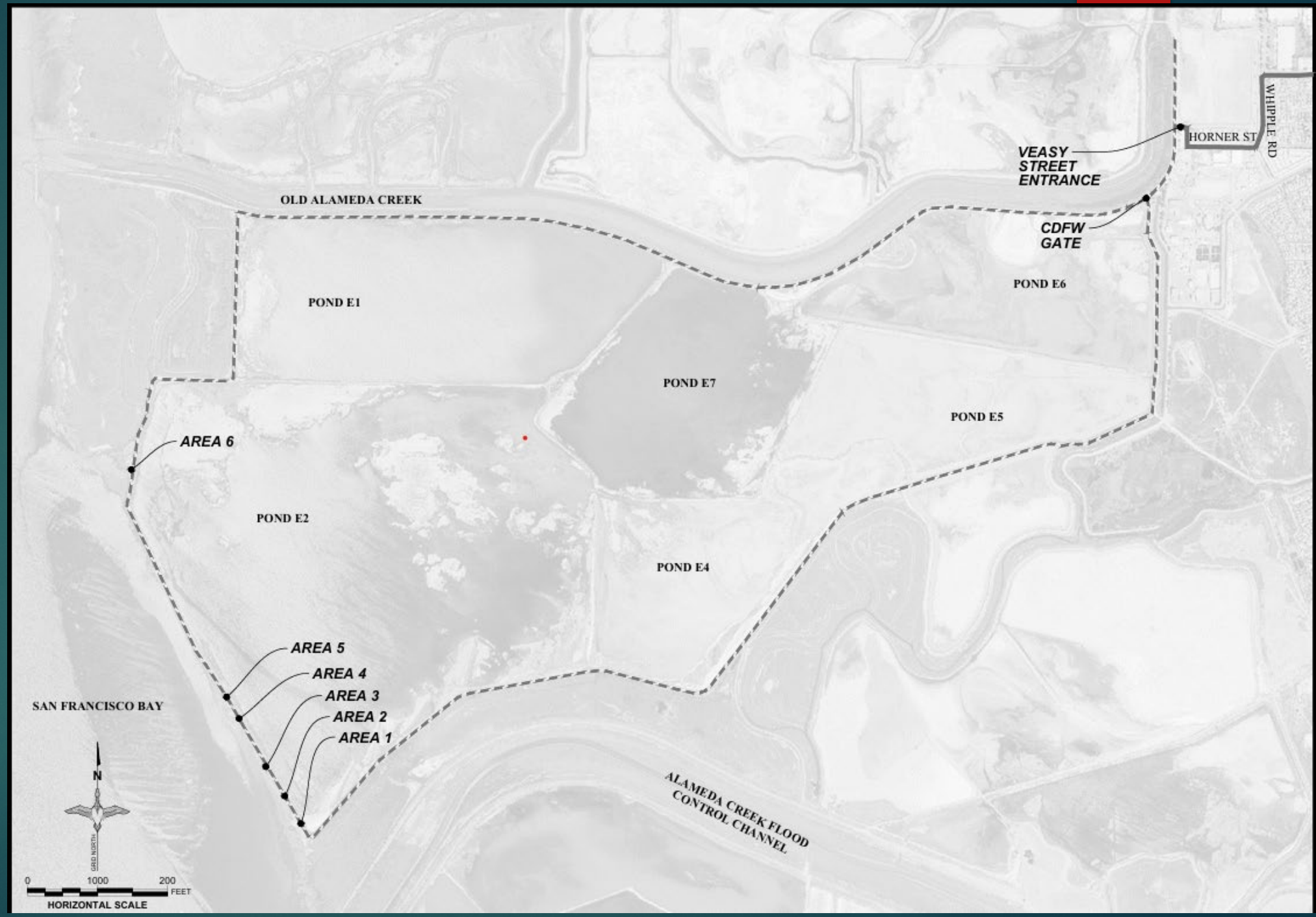


Figure 3. Bayfront Levee Damaged Areas
SBSPRP, ELER, Phase 2 and O&M

Pond E2 Levee

- Six total areas
- Mix of earthen fill & rip rap
- ~500 truckloads to deliver
- Total area = 37,000 ft^2 (0.85 ac)
- Total volume = 7,100 yd^3
- 20 days of construction
- No existing public access

Pond E2 Levee Repairs

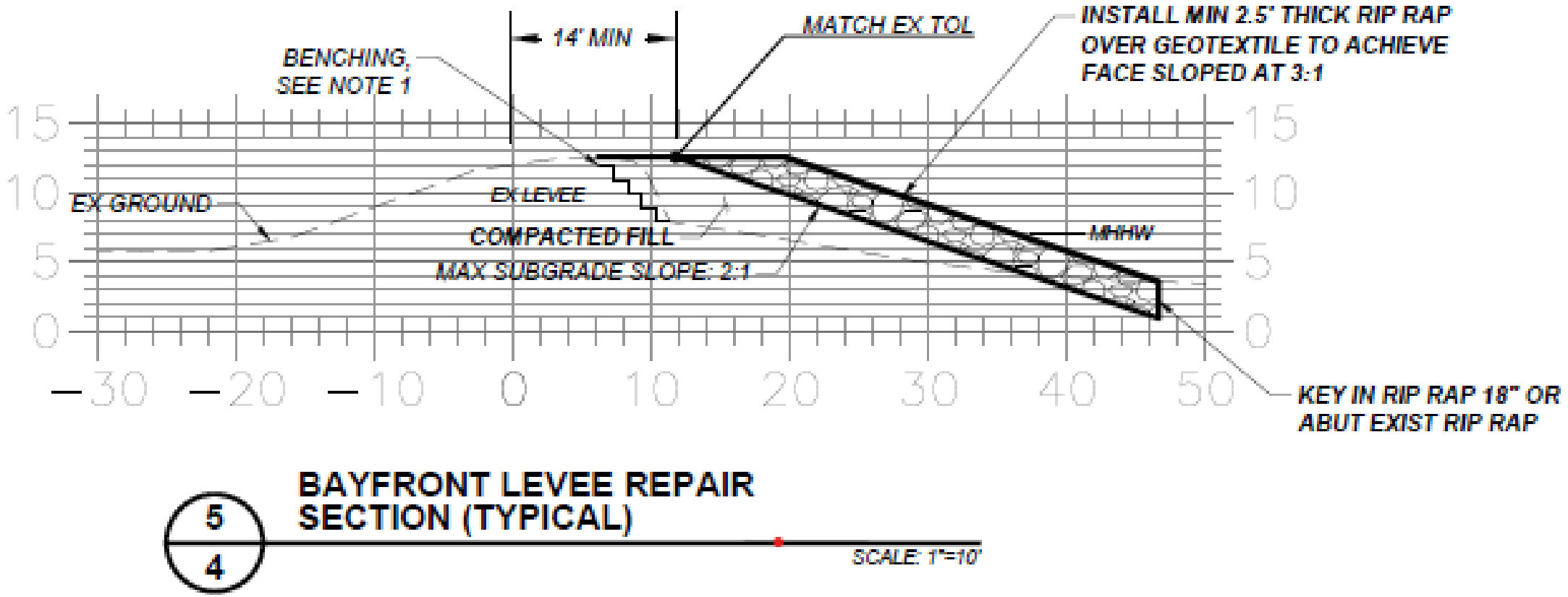


Figure 4. North Creek Marsh Levee Damaged Area
SBSPRP, ELER, Phase 2 and O&M

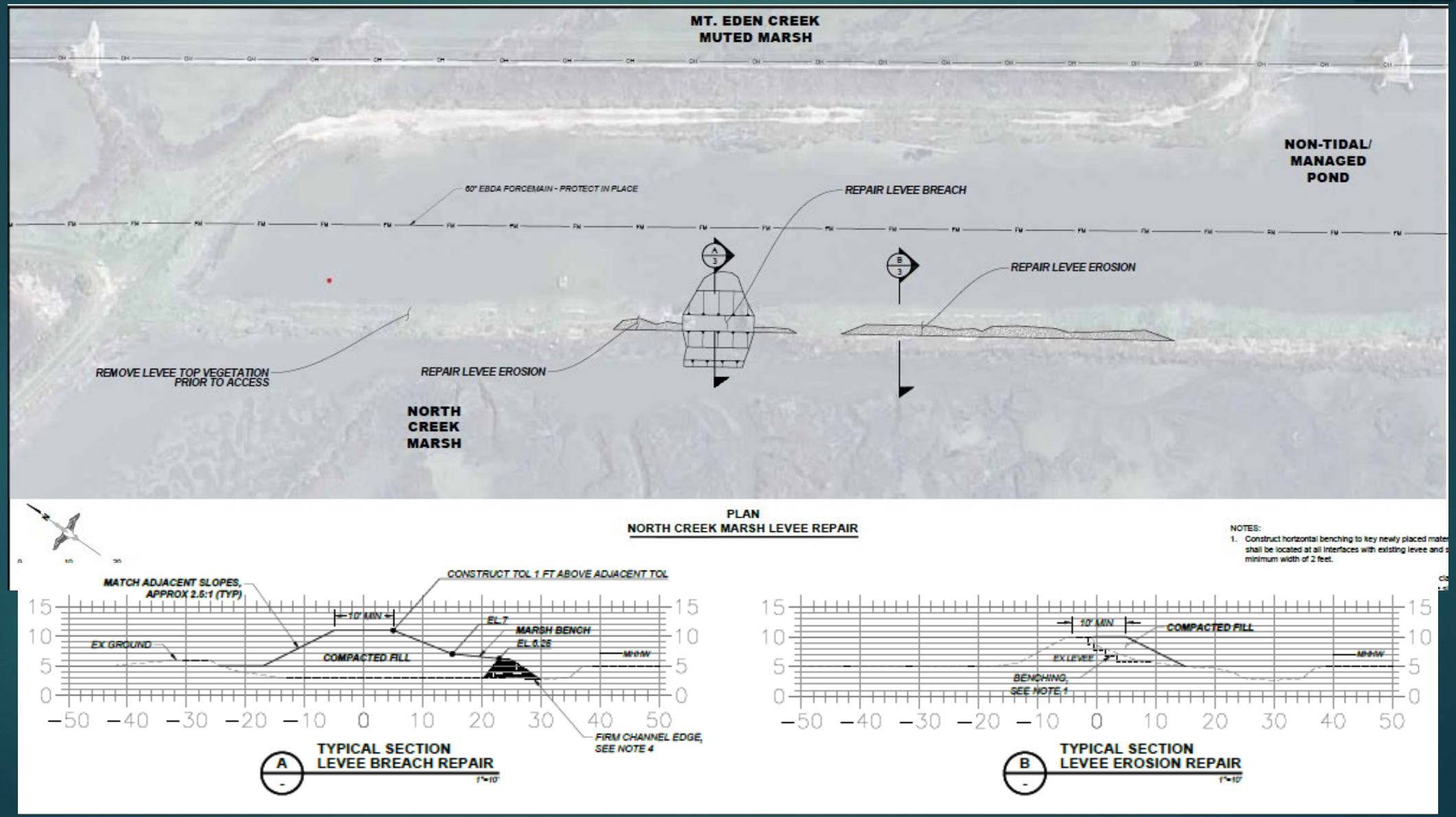
North Creek Marsh Levee

- One recent breach
- Several eroded areas
- Risking damage to EBDA pipeline
- BCDC's Bay jurisdiction
  - Creek and marsh tidally influenced
  - Though 2-3 miles from "Bay"

North Creek Marsh Levee Access Route

- Earthen fill only; no rock
- 10-15 days of construction
- Total area = 7,200 ft^2 (0.17 ac)
- Total volume = 1,250 yd^3
- 150 truck loads to deliver
- Access uses some levee-top trails
  - Dashed yellow line

N. Creek Marsh Levee Repair Designs



Additional Anticipated Repairs

- Erosion rates are increasing with sea-level rise
- More repairs expected within 5-year permit period
- Avoid re-amending permit
- Authorize added fill limits on bay-facing levees
- Total area = 5,800 ft^2 (0.13 ac)
- Total volume = 1,200 yd^3
- CDFW to provide details as developed

Minimizing Impacts on Public Access

- Neither time-sensitive repair in or on existing public access
- Only hauling to deliver material
- Brief trail interruptions to deliver material & equipment
  - North Creek only
- Flaggers, signage, etc. to protect public
- Signs in parking lot and at trail crossings
- Notice on SBSPRP website

So. Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project

- True O&M activities; would be needed without SBSPRP
- Phase 2 project would have addressed scour along Pond E2 levee
  - Making increased fill in Bay jurisdiction part of Phase 2
  - A voluntary, net beneficial restoration & habitat enhancement effort
- Challenges w/ Alameda County Flood Control District delayed that
  - Allowing erosion to proceed, necessitating repairs & amendment
- Failed levees would impair that project, increase risk, cost, environmental impacts

Summary

- Major amendment to CDFW's existing permit for O&M
- Raising limits on areas and volumes of fill
- Two known & time-sensitive levee repairs
- Additional increase in limits for anticipated repairs in permit period
- Minimal impacts on public access
- Avoids increases in risks to flood risk, WQ, habitats
- Phase 2 permitting and construction to follow

Proposed Increases in Fill Limits

Location	Material Type(s)	Area (ft^2)	Area (acres)	Volume (yd^3)
Pond E2 Levee	Earthen fill & rip rap	37,000	0.85	7,100
North Creek Marsh Levee	Earthen fill	7,200	0.17	1,250
Anticipated Future Levee	Earthen fill & rip rap	5,800	0.13	1,200
Totals		50,000	1.15	9,550

* All fill would be permanently placed in BCDC's Bay jurisdiction for the purposes of levee repair

Discussion & Contact Information

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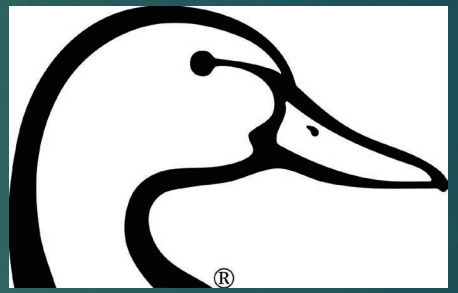

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