

Share ideas to help wetlands survive rising sea levels

Sonoma Baylands: 1993



Sonoma Baylands: 2024



In the 1800s, 350 acres of the Sonoma Baylands were disconnected from the Bay, turned into farmland, and fell below sea level (left). Using sediment from the Petaluma River and Oakland Harbor, the land was elevated and then connected to the Bay which transformed all 350 acres into healthy wetland (right).

The Bay Area's wetlands need urgent help – you're invited to share your ideas. If the region's wetlands aren't elevated in the face of sea level rise, flooding could put communities, habitat, and infrastructure behind them at risk. Because the region discards most of the sediment (mud and sand) that's removed from the Bay, we're working on changing policies to direct more sediment to wetlands in a process called beneficial reuse. The photos above show the power of beneficial reuse.

What you can do

Learn about our policy project and share your perspective.

- Attend BCDC's public [Environmental Justice Advisors](#) meeting on Thursday, August 13, 2026, from 12:30–2:30 PM ([Register here](#)).
- Email rachel.cohen@bcdc.ca.gov to join the project mailing list and be invited to participate in a future public hearing.

What we do

BCDC has a program called the [Sediment for Wetland Restoration Project \(SWAP\)](#) that is working on updating BCDC's policies to increase sediment reuse for wetland restoration.

If you're interested in learning more, contact Rachel Cohen, Coastal Planner, at rachel.cohen@bcdc.ca.gov.

Who we are

The [San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission \(BCDC\)](#) is the state agency responsible for protecting and enhancing the San Francisco Bay and surrounding shoreline. BCDC also regulates dredging in the region, including how dredged sediment is used.



**San Francisco Bay
Conservation and Development
Commission**

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