

San Leandro Treatment Wetland: for Pollution Reduction, Habitat Enhancement, and Shoreline Resiliency

The City of San Leandro Water Pollution Control Plant has a unique opportunity: an underutilized water storage basin right next to the San Francisco Bay. While this might not sound like much, in 2017, we realized this would be a perfect place to install a Treatment Wetland – a biologically based treatment process that cleans contaminants normal plant process can't, provides wildlife habitat and helps protect against rising sea levels.



In 2018, the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority awarded San Leandro a \$540,000 grant to pursue this vision in their first round of funding through the Measure AA grant program. This enables the City to design and permit the conversion of this 4.3-acre our storage basin into a multi-benefit treatment wetland.



The City hopes to break ground on the project by 2021. This will cost-effectively modernize the plant to meet future water quality regulations, enhance habitat and provide a resource to the community.

What is the Project?

Currently, 5-7 million gallons of treated wastewater is sent from the City to a pipe operated by the East Bay Dischargers Authority each day. This pipe receives treated wastewater from much of the East Bay and sends it into the middle of San Francisco Bay. This treated wastewater is generally safe, yet contains contaminants like nitrogen, phosphorus, and pharmaceuticals that most treatment plants are not designed to remove.



This project involves utilizing an underutilized wastewater storage basin and converting it to a treatment wetland. Current estimates indicate 10-20% of the City's treated effluent can be 'polished' in the pond, prior to direct discharge to the Bay. Using techniques developed by UC Berkeley researchers, the City hopes to nearly eliminate nitrogen and phosphorus (which are "nutrients" that can cause algae blooms and other problems in the Bay) and other contaminants from this portion of its wastewater stream.

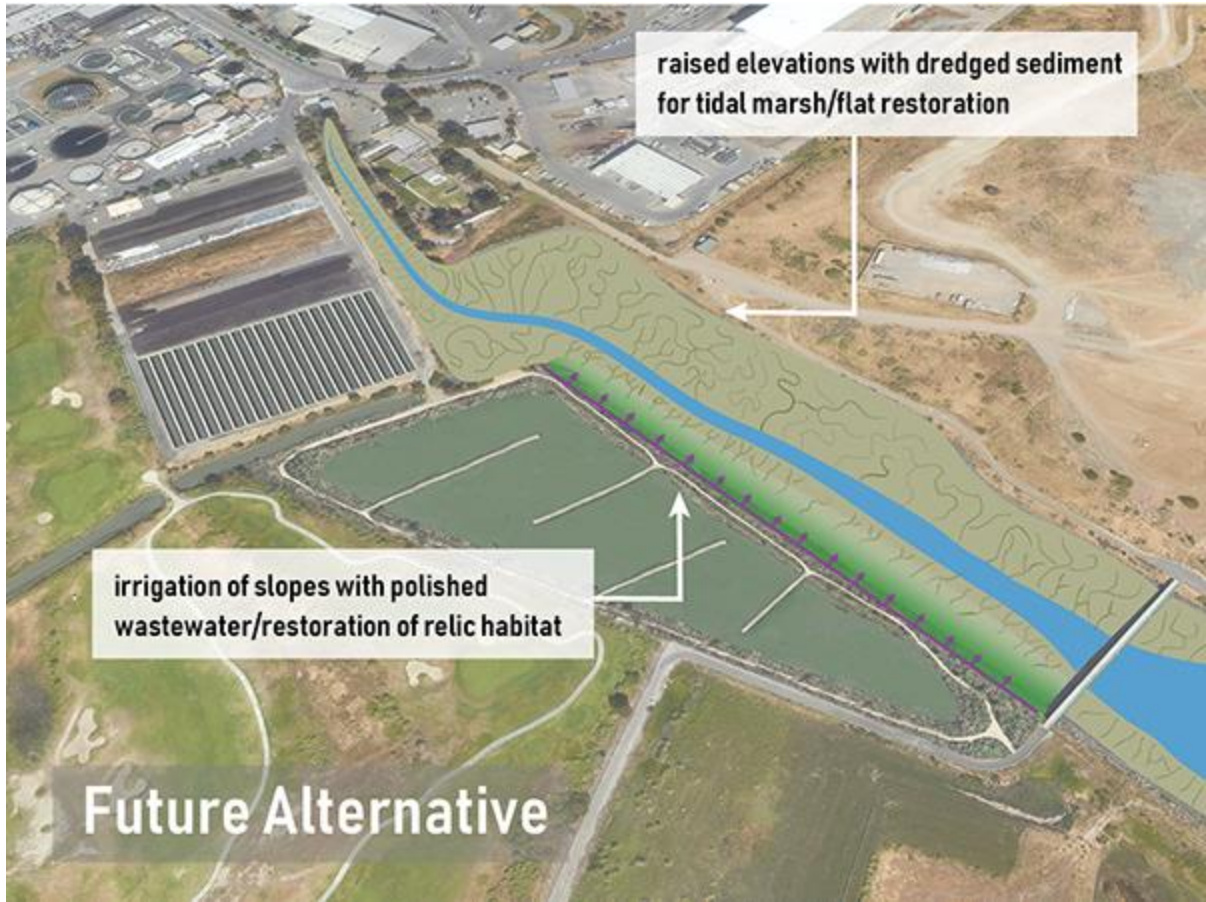


This helps reduce stress on the Bay and enables the City to cost-effectively implement nutrient reductions in advance of regulations under consideration. It will also provide wildlife habitat and an educational resource for schools and the community - with easy access from the Bay Trail and Davis Street.

This project is part of an emerging trend in the region to use natural systems to enhance our urban environment and treat our waste in a more sustainable manner. Learn more from the San Francisco Estuary Partnership, a key partner on this project.

Visions for San Leandro's Shoreline

San Leandro's Water Pollution Control Plant, built in 1939, is one of the oldest East Bay wastewater treatment facilities and 82% of the city's wastewater infrastructure is exposed to flooding from just 16 inches of sea level rise. Sensitive industrial sites and ecological resources along the City's shoreline also face increasing flood risk over the coming decades. This project most closely focuses on the creation of a multi-benefit wastewater treatment wetland. Yet an additional objective is to develop a community-based vision for how the City interacts with and utilizes its bayfront spaces.



If you're interested in helping shape this vision please sign-up for updates.



Site plan for the proposed project