

Bolinas Lagoon Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Project



Marin County Open Space District

February 2006

The Marin County Open Space District is pleased to release for public review a draft report regarding the evolution of Bolinas Lagoon. The report consists of the following documents:

- “Projecting the Future of Bolinas Lagoon”
- “Recent (1850-2005) and Late Holocene (400-1850) Sedimentation Rates at Bolinas Lagoon”
- Peer review comments on the above studies and responses to those comments by the report preparer
- Conceptual Littoral Sediment Budget

Public comments on the report are welcome. The deadline for comments is March 31, 2006. Please send comments to:

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Bolinas Lagoon Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study
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Suite 415
San Rafael, CA 94903
Or email: scrubjay@sbcglobal.net

Report Availability

The report is available in multiple formats:

- The report may be read and downloaded from www.marinopenspace.org
- CDs are available on request by writing to the address or email above.
- Hard copies of the report are on loan at the following locations:
Marin County Library Branches: Bolinas, Stinson Beach, Civic Center, Fairfax, Inverness, Marin City, Novato, Pt. Reyes Station, & San Geronimo Valley.
City Libraries in Marin County: Belvedere-Tiburon, Larkspur, San Anselmo, San Rafael, Sausalito, and Mill Valley.

Project Background

Bolinas Lagoon is a 1,100-acre tidal estuary managed by the Marin County Open Space District (MCOSD). The lagoon provides critical habitat for hundreds of resident and migratory bird species as well as marine mammals, fish and invertebrates.

Public concern that significant ecological values in the lagoon could be threatened by the accumulation of sediment led the Open Space District to partner with the United States Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) in 1998 to conduct the Bolinas Lagoon Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study. The draft study, accompanied by a draft Environmental Impact Report/Statement, was released in 2002 and proposed a multiple year dredging program to restore the lagoon's ecosystems. As a consequence of public concern related to the impacts of dredging and the need for intervention, MCOSD coordinated a rigorous scientific review of the ACOE plan and a study of the lagoon's ecological and hydrological evolution.

This work was conducted by the consultant team of Philip Williams & Associates (PWA) and Wetland Research Associates (WRA). Additional sediment studies were conducted by Dr. Roger Byrne of the University of California - Berkeley and incorporated into the report. A Technical Review Group (TRG) and a Project Reformulation Advisory Group (PRAG), both of which are composed of scientists with expertise in relevant scientific disciplines, provided peer review of the consultants' work. The report has been revised based on comments from these groups.

Project Schedule

Note: Dates are subject to change.

Date	Milestone
February 10, 2006	Marin County Open Space District (MCOSD) distributes Philip Williams Associates (PWA) revised report, including responses to Technical Review Group (TRG) and Project Reformulation Advisory Group (PRAG) comments, to public. Begin 45 day public comment period
March 31, 2006	End of public comment period. Project Manager and PWA organize and prepare responses to comments. PWA commences revising report, if necessary.
April 14, 2006	PWA completes final report with responses to TRG, PRAG and public comments, sends to Project Manager. MCOSD distributes final report.
Week of May 1, 2006	Public Meeting. PWA presents report, describes responses to TRG, PRAG, and public comments and how they affected conclusions.
Week of May 15, 2006	Special Bolinas Lagoon Technical Advisory Committee (BLTAC) Meeting. PWA gives short presentation regarding responses to TRG, PRAG, and public comment. PRAG makes recommendation to BLTAC re: acceptance of final report by Board. BLTAC considers recommendation.
June 6, 2006	MCOSD Board of Directors Meeting. PWA presents final report. Board considers acceptance of final report.
Mid June 2006	Executive Committee Meeting to discuss possible intervention alternatives to be presented to the public.
Late July 2006	Public Meeting sponsored by Executive Committee to solicit public comment regarding intervention
September 12, 2006	MCOSD Board of Directors Meeting. Board considers options related to completion of the project's feasibility phase and gives direction to staff.

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