



GOALS

- Ensure the permanent protection of bayland sites as habitat.
- Promote maximum restoration and enhancement of seasonal and tidal wetland values and functions consistent with the needs of the estuary ecosystem and species that depend on the ecosystem.
- Maintain and enhance wetland values on lands remaining in agriculture.
- Avoid flooding, pollutants, seismic, and other adverse impacts by preserving baylands.

ORGANIZATION: HOW WE WORK Marin Baylands Advocates is an all-volunteer organization, which meets monthly. Marin Baylands Advocates works jointly with its fiduciary agent, Marin Audubon Society, to acquire and restore bayland properties. Marin Audubon Society is Marin Baylands Advocates' fiscal sponsor through its 501(c)(3) designation.

While Marin Baylands Advocates works on public outreach, fundraising, and developing strategies to purchase sites, Marin Audubon Society applies for large grants, takes title, assumes insurance and other ownership costs, and oversees habitat restoration and/or enhancement as needed. Title to many sites is transferred to public agencies, such as the Marin County Open Space District or the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, for permanent protective ownership.

Assistance with bayland acquisitions is needed, and appreciated. Donations to the Marin Baylands Fund may be sent to:

Marin Baylands Advocates
P.O. Box 2598
Mill Valley, CA 94942



Campaign *for* Marin Baylands



Marin Baylands Defined

Baylands are lands that are subject to tidal action, or that once were subject to tidal action before they were diked for agriculture or filled for development. Comprised of tidal and seasonal wetlands, lagoons, low-lying grasslands and their associated uplands, these lands are all that remain of the extensive tidal and seasonal marshes that once lined the Bay.

Marin baylands consist of more than 10,000 acres along the shores of the San Francisco and San Pablo Bays and Estuary. They support a broad variety of plants and animals and supply areas for feeding, breeding, roosting and refuge for birds and mammals as well as spawning, nursery and feeding areas for fish. Providing crucial habitat for the Estuary's endangered species such as Ridgway's Rail and Salt Marsh Harvest Mouse, baylands are overwintering and migratory habitat for the hundreds of bird species using the Pacific Flyway and nesting and foraging habitat for native wildlife.



Individual bayland properties are unique. Their combined, contiguous mass supports biological diversity and provides floodplain benefits, which smaller, fragmented habitats do not. They are a buffer against sea level rise, contribute to water quality by filtering runoff before it reaches the Bay and Estuary, recharge ground-water stores, and moderate the effects of floods by ponding and absorbing runoff, thus reducing flood crest elevations. Bayland vegetation also contributes to air quality by sequestering carbon and releasing oxygen.

Protecting baylands from development contributes to public safety, reduces vulnerability associated with sea level rise and seismic events, preventing the effects of differential settlement, such as broken pipes, and sidewalks and streets pulling away from buildings.

Baylands contribute to our regional economic vitality, and they provide opportunities for recreational activities such as birding, hiking and biking, photography, and education on a variety of topics. Further, they enhance the quality of life of Bay Area residents with their beauty.



*Red-winged Blackbird,
a common baylands breeder*



MARIN BAYLANDS CAMPAIGN The Campaign for Marin Baylands began in 1994 when representatives of leading Marin environmental organizations formed the Marin Baylands Advocates to focus on protection of the County's baylands. The timing was crucial, as several major bayland sites were under imminent threat of development at that time.

Marin Baylands Advocates founders began by creating educational materials and organizing and conducting informational tours for agencies, foundations, elected officials and others. Thirty-eight bayland sites in private ownership were identified as targets for protection. The Hamilton Wetlands Restoration, completed by the California Coastal Conservancy and Army Corps of Engineers, became the keystone of the Campaign's vision for restoring contiguous habitat along the Bay.

MISSION STATEMENT

THE MISSION OF THE MARIN BAYLANDS ADVOCATES IS TO ASSURE THE PERMANENT PROTECTION, RESTORATION AND BIOLOGICAL ENHANCEMENT OF MARIN BAYLANDS AS PART OF THE ECOSYSTEMS OF SAN FRANCISCO AND SAN PABLO BAYS.

MARIN BAYLANDS ADVOCATES SUCCESSES

- 1 **TRIANGLE MARSH:** a 34-acre site purchased in 2000 for \$750,000. The filled portions of the site were restored to tidal marsh and transition/refugia habitat in 2004.
- 2 **CORTE MADERA:** a 5.2-acre historic bayland site, surrounded on three sides by the Corte Madera Ecological Reserve, was purchased in 2015 for \$1,075,000. After restoration to tidal marsh, it will be added to the Reserve.
- 3 **CAL PARK:** this small parcel in the former tidal marsh area of Cal Park in San Rafael was purchased in 2014.
- 4 **TISCORNIA MARSH:** a 20-acre tidal marsh at the mouth of the San Rafael Canal donated to Marin Audubon in 2008.
- 5 **BEL MARIN KEYS UNIT 5:** in 2001, Marin Baylands Advocates raised funds toward the purchase of this 1,613-acre bayland. When restored, this site, with the Hamilton Wetlands, will create a 2,500-acre wetland.
- 6 **SIMMONS SLOUGH CORRIDOR:** the Novato properties listed below comprise the Simmons Slough corridor. The Natural Resource Conservation Service holds an easement and funded enhancement of seasonal wetlands.
 - **ATHERTON AVENUE BAYLAND:** an 84-acre site in unincorporated Novato purchased in 2000 for \$380,000.
 - **MISSION VALLEY BAYLAND:** a 60-acre parcel donated to Marin Audubon Society by Mission Valley Properties in 2003.
 - **OLIVE AVENUE WETLAND:** a 19-acre site purchased in 2001 for \$315,000 was donated to the Marin County Open Space District after restoration.
- 7 **BAHIA:** one of Marin County's environmentally significant properties, with 340 acres of diked bayland plus 302 acres of associated upland and seasonal wetlands. Bahia was purchased in 2003 for \$15.8 million. After purchase, 362 acres were transferred to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and 208 acres to the Open Space District. Marin Audubon retains 72 acres.
- 8 **PETALUMA MARSH:** this 180-acre parcel was purchased in 2003 from Waste Management Inc. Marin Audubon has restored 100 acres of diked baylands to tidal marsh.
- ★ **TAX DEFAULT PROPERTIES:** fourteen small wetland and associated upland properties on which owners had defaulted on property taxes have been purchased.

MARIN BAYLANDS ADVOCATES

