



## **Butano Channel Restoration and Resilience Project**

The County of San Mateo (SMC) seeks State assistance for the implementation of a regionally significant coastal resource project to restore Butano Channel fish passage and address factors contributing to flooding on Pescadero Creek Road in the unincorporated South Coast of San Mateo County working with the San Mateo Resource Conservation District (SMRCD). SMRCD coordinates a Technical Roundtable with representatives from natural resource agencies including California State Parks (CSP) and the State Coastal Conservancy (SCC) to benefit State resources and address community concerns for Butano Creek and Pescadero Marsh.

### **Butano Channel Resilience Project**

The Butano Channel project will enable SMRCD to remove excess sediment now blocking fish passage in the historic Butano Creek Channel and contributing to recurring fish kills in California State Parks' Pescadero Marsh Natural Preserve. Approximately 45,000 cubic yards of sediment will be dredged from the channel and then redistributed within the marsh to address land use impacts pre-dating the 1974 State Parks' ownership, and improve habitat for endangered and threatened species including Coho salmon, Steelhead trout, California garter snake, and red legged frog. The 8,000-foot dredge will also contribute to relief from flood water elevations blocking access to the community of Pescadero in small storm events.

SMRCD has led the development of an "integrated solution" approach to work necessary upstream, downstream, and at the Butano Creek Bridge adjacent to Pescadero Marsh to help alleviate flooding which closes Pescadero Creek Road. The concept of a dredge in the marsh was one of the potential solutions modeled in the County-supported report completed by SMRCD with significant public engagement, *Solutions to Flooding on Pescadero Creek Road* (cbec 2014). The Butano Channel Restoration and Resiliency Project is a critical component of an integrated solution for habitat restoration and relief from elevated water levels, which cut off Pescadero from the existing County Fire Station #59, safe access to Highway 1, and impede economic sustaining tourism and travel to/from the community of Pescadero.

The total estimated cost of this project is \$5 million: \$1 million in San Mateo County funding (Fall 2017); and \$4 million in State Coastal Conservancy (SCC) funding. The proposed \$4 million in State funding will enable SCC to prioritize the dredge project costs and continue working with the SMRCD, CSP, and SMC on related integrated solutions to prevent sediment from rapidly refilling the dredged channel in the marsh. Dredge project costs will also be prioritized if a pending National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) grant application is successful and/or if cost savings can be maintained through final permitting of the Butano Channel Resilience project as a self-mitigating restoration project, including beneficial reuse of dredge materials within the marsh. With funding and permits approved as proposed, SMRCD anticipates completing the project by fall 2018.

The final design and permitting of the project will be completed by SMRCD with a separate allocation of \$150,000 in funding from SMC in Summer/Fall 2017. In addition, SMC has

authorized a total of over \$10 million for projects related to Butano/Pescadero area flood resilience and emergency infrastructure including SMRCD’s *Solutions to Flooding at Pescadero Creek Road* report, 2 D modeling of water and sediment dynamics in the marsh, and the Pescadero Fire Station Replacement project which will enable SMC to remove an outdated fire station from the floodplain of Butano Creek adjacent to Butano Creek Bridge and west of the frequently flood-blocked section of Pescadero Creek Road. As a part of the integrated solution work to address flooding, SMC removed 1,800 cubic yards of sediment from the Butano Creek Bridge County Right-of-Way in 2016 at a cost of over \$1,000,000. SMC is committed to near-term coastal flooding solutions, as well as extending the Vulnerability Assessment for Sea Level Rise effort to the South Coast in 2018 ([www.SeaChangeSMC.com](http://www.SeaChangeSMC.com)).

There is widely shared community support for a dredge on State Parks’ property. At a recent Pescadero Community Advisory Council (PMAC) meeting, SMRCD and SMC Supervisor Don Horsley received strong positive feedback and CPS Superintendent Chris Spohrer received a standing ovation for the proposed project. The open coast of San Mateo is protected as a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration National Marine Sanctuary and improvements to water quality, salmonid habitat, and coastal marsh habitat in Pescadero will add to the regional significance of resource protection along the South Coast of San Mateo.

SMRCD has completed numerous successful projects in the Pescadero area including fish passage improvements and water storage projects in San Mateo County Parks as well as the development of the integrated solutions approach with local, state, and federal agency partners.

**BUTANO CHANNEL RESTORATION AND RESILIENCE PROJECT**

<b>Proposed Revenue Sources</b>	<b>Amount</b>
State of California Request	\$4,000,000
San Mateo County (anticipated Fall 2017)	\$1,000,000
<b>TOTAL SOURCES</b>	<b>\$5,000,000</b>

<b>Expenditures</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Implementation/Butano Channel Integrated Solutions	\$5,000,000

<b>SMC Butano Resilience Expenditures for Context*</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Butano Channel 100% Designs	\$150,000
Solutions to Flooding at Pescadero Creek Road Report	\$194,000
Butano Bridge/Causeway Feasibility Study	\$611,875
2D Modeling for Pescadero Marsh	\$105,546
Butano Bridge Sediment Removal in County ROW	\$1,050,000
Pescadero Fire Station Replacement Project	\$8,000,000
Coastal Working Group/County and RCD	\$105,000
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$10,216,421</b>