

Bolinas Lagoon Ecosystem Restoration Project - Executive Committee  
 Steve Kinsey, District 4 Supervisor, County of Marin  
 Frances Brigmann, General Manager, Marin County Open Space District  
 Andrea di Marco, Chair, Bolinas Lagoon Technical Advisory Committee  
 Ed Ueber, Sanctuary Manager, Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary  
 Lt. Col. Timothy S. O'Rourke, District Commander, United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)  
 Aris Rokstins, Deputy District Engineer for Project Management (USACE)  
 Tom Kendall, Chief, Planning Branch, USACE

Marin County Open Space District • 3501 Civic Center Drive • San Rafael • CA • 94903



## Public Meetings

### IT'S OURS TO SAVE!

Please attend one of the two upcoming public meetings advertised below to learn more about the Bolinas Lagoon Restoration Project. Representatives from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the County of Marin, the Marin County Open Space District, and the Bolinas Lagoon Technical Advisory Committee will explain the restoration alternatives currently being considered, and will answer any questions you may have about the process.

Your participation will ensure that the process remains open, fair, and responsive to local needs and concerns. We look forward to seeing you.

#### Meeting 1

Thursday, November 30, 2000  
 Stinson Beach Community Center  
 7:00pm

#### Meeting 2

Saturday, December 2, 2000  
 Bolinas Community Center  
 2:00pm

For more information, please call the Marin County Open Space District at (415) 499-6387

# BOLINAS LAGOON

## Restoration Project

**B**OLINAS LAGOON IS RECOGNIZED BY LOCAL, STATE, NATIONAL, AND INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES AS A SPECTACULAR COASTAL RESOURCE WORTHY OF PRESERVATION. IT IS AN IMPORTANT COASTAL ENVIRONMENT FOR FISH, BIRDS, AND MAMMALS THAT IS UNPARALLELED ALONG THE NORTHERN CALIFORNIA COAST BETWEEN SAN FRANCISCO AND HUMBOLDT BAYS. IN A COOPERATIVE EFFORT BETWEEN THE MARIN COUNTY OPEN SPACE DISTRICT AND THE UNITED STATES ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, NINE ALTERNATIVES FOR RESTORATION OF THE LAGOON ARE NOW BEING STUDIED AND ARE DESCRIBED IN THIS NEWSLETTER.

#### DOES THE LAGOON NEED HELP?

Yes! The health of Bolinas Lagoon is directly related to the amount of water that enters and leaves the Lagoon each day. The daily tidal flow flushes the lagoon with fresh seawater and carries sediment back to the sea. Over the past 140 years, human activities around the lagoon have interfered with this process, resulting in an accelerated sedimentation rate.

As sediment builds up in the lagoon, the amount of water that can move in and out is reduced. The lagoon has become shallower and more and more area remains permanently above the tide line. Recent analyses conducted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers suggest that if no restoration options are pursued, the lagoon's mouth could close intermittently by 2035 and the lagoon itself would eventually be transformed into a salt marsh and then a meadow.

#### WHY IS BOLINAS LAGOON SPECIAL?

Bolinas Lagoon provides habitats needed by native fishes, water birds, and marine mammals. Due to the quality and diversity of habitats, Bolinas Lagoon received international recognition as a "Wetland of International Importance," the only tidal wetland to receive this distinction on the west coast. It is also a Marin County Open Space Preserve, and is an integral part of the following jurisdictions: Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary, Pt. Reyes National Seashore, Golden

Gate Recreation Area, Central California Coast Biosphere Reserve, and Audubon Canyon Ranch.

#### WHAT DID HUMANS DO TO CREATE THIS PROBLEM?

Many human activities have contributed to reducing tidal circulation:

- Placing fill into the lagoon to build shoreline roads, turnouts, and causeways.
- Logging and overgrazing the lagoon watershed, resulting in more erosion and sediment reaching the lagoon.
- Diverting and manipulating watercourses that enter the lagoon.
- Development in the watershed.

#### WHAT'S BEING DONE ABOUT THE PROBLEM?

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, with the support of the Marin County Open Space District, is currently preparing a Feasibility Study that evaluates nine possible restoration alternatives. The Feasibility Study is part of a four-step process to restore the lagoon. The four steps include: (1) a Reconnaissance Study prepared for Congress in 1996 that confirmed there is a Federal interest in restoration of the lagoon; (2) the Feasibility Study currently underway; (3) Preconstruction engineering and design of the chosen alternative(s); and (4) Implementation of the chosen alternative(s), scheduled for 2004. The goal of the project is to restore lost tidal volume and increase tidal circulation in the lagoon, which will save the lagoon's important habitats.

#### BOLINAS LAGOON FACTS - HABITAT CHANGE OVER TIME

YEAR	Upland Habitat	Tidal Habitat	Sub-tidal Habitat
1968	158 ac.	883 ac.	222 ac.
1998	264 ac.	841 ac.	158 ac.
2058	343 ac.	788 ac.	132 ac.

ac: acres

Upland - always above water

Tidal - under water at high tide

Sub-tidal - always under water

Background photo: Bolinas Lagoon c. 1850