



# South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project

*Restoring the Wild Heart of the South Bay*



**John Bourgeois, Executive Project Manager  
South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project**



**SOUTH BAY CIRCA 1850**

- Deep bay / channel
- Shallow bay / channel
- Tidal flat / intertidal channel
- Beach
- Tidal marshland with channels and pannes
- Tidal marshland with less detail
- Willow grove (sausal)
- USGS topographic maps, circa 1900
- 19th-century landing
- Creek
- Dihlone shellmounds (approximate locations)
- Tribal regions

1 : 62,500 SCALE  
approximately 1 inch per mile

**SOUTH BAY**

**SALINAS BECOME SALT PONDS**

Salt farming was originally a small-scale, traditional activity. First the Ohlone, then the Spanish, and later the Americans, harvested salt for local use and regional trade. The salinas (large natural salt ponds, including the famous Crystal Salt Pond, shown on map at left) were gradually subdivided and expanded, transforming a large marsh with scattered ponds (1857) into large ponds with fringing marsh (1906). The salt works of the late nineteenth century (1878 and 1896 images), demonstrate an intermediate level of management, with a mix of managed ponds and tidal marsh. The channel meander circled in red provides a common reference point between images.



from Thompson and West, 1878; USGS 1857, 1896; both courtesy NOAA, 1996; photos courtesy BCCDC and NOAA



**LIFE BETWEEN TWO SLOUGHS**

When the South Pacific Coast Railroad crossed Co... Mud Sloughs in 1877, the railroad built bridges as sloughs. The bridges swung open to allow the p... schooners carrying produce and goods to San Fr... A small community called Drawbridge develop... acres, straddling both sides of the railroad tracks... there were two hotels and almost 100 cabins buil... piling, connected by wooden walkways. Besides... full-time residents, Drawbridge attracted weeken... hunters, fishermen, and boaters. The area is now... Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife



Photographs courtesy of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



**CONVERSION TO SALT PONDS, 1850s to 1950s**











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## 2002 Salt Pond Acquisition Area

- California Department of Fish & Game
  - U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
- Lands Retained or Sold to Other Entities
- Cargill retains land for salt production
  - Cargill retains land for other purposes
  - Cargill has sold or proposes to sell to local government agencies

## Reference Features

- Highways
  - Railroad
- 0 1000 2000 4000 Meters  
0 1 2 4 Miles

