

State Route 37 – Baylands Group: Promoting Integration of Ecological and Transportation Planning for the North Bay



Photos courtesy of



Jessica Davenport, State Coastal Conservancy
Presentation to League of Women Voters Bay Area
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Objective: Integrate, Don't Mitigate

Improvement of the SR 37 transportation corridor must be compatible with and advance the habitat conservation and restoration goals for the San Pablo Baylands



Presentation Outline

SR 37 – Baylands Group

- Who We Are
- State Coastal Conservancy's Role
- Baylands Ecosystem Habitat Goals
- Flood Control 2.0 as a Model for Collaborative Design



Background

- SR 37 elevation at or just above sea level for much of its length
- Mostly within San Pablo Baylands historic marshes
- Surrounded by ~ 30,000 acres protected and restored habitat
- Investment in ecosystem exceeds \$200 million



SR 37 – Baylands Group formed in response to accelerated action due to flooding

“Flooded Highway 37 to remain closed, snarling North Bay commuter route”

–*Press Democrat Feb 10, 2017*



Angry commuters, unhappy elected officials, anxious agencies

The multi-million dollar “fix” was hardscape, a response to crisis

SR 37 – Baylands Group: Who We Are

- North Bay wetland land managers
- Ecological restoration practitioners, and
- Other stakeholders with a long-term interest in the conservation and restoration of the San Pablo Baylands



State Coastal Conservancy's Role

- Long-term funder of San Pablo Baylands restoration
- Coordinator of the SR 37 – Baylands Group
- Promoting collaboration with transportation and regulatory agencies
- Funded Baylands Goals Science Update 2015



THE
Baylands
AND
Climate Change

WHAT WE CAN DO

BAYLANDS ECOSYSTEM HABITAT GOALS
SCIENCE UPDATE 2015



- Ecological goals
- 200+ scientists, land managers, regulators
- 26 agency steering committee

State of California

Coastal Conservancy



BAYLANDS GOALS 2015

- Science synthesis
- Effect of future change, especially climate and sediment supply, on the Baylands
- Goal is healthy ecosystem, providing a resilient shore for people and wildlife
- Recommendations and landscape visions for the next century





why do we care about
TIDAL MARSHES?

clean water

flood control

food web and wildlife

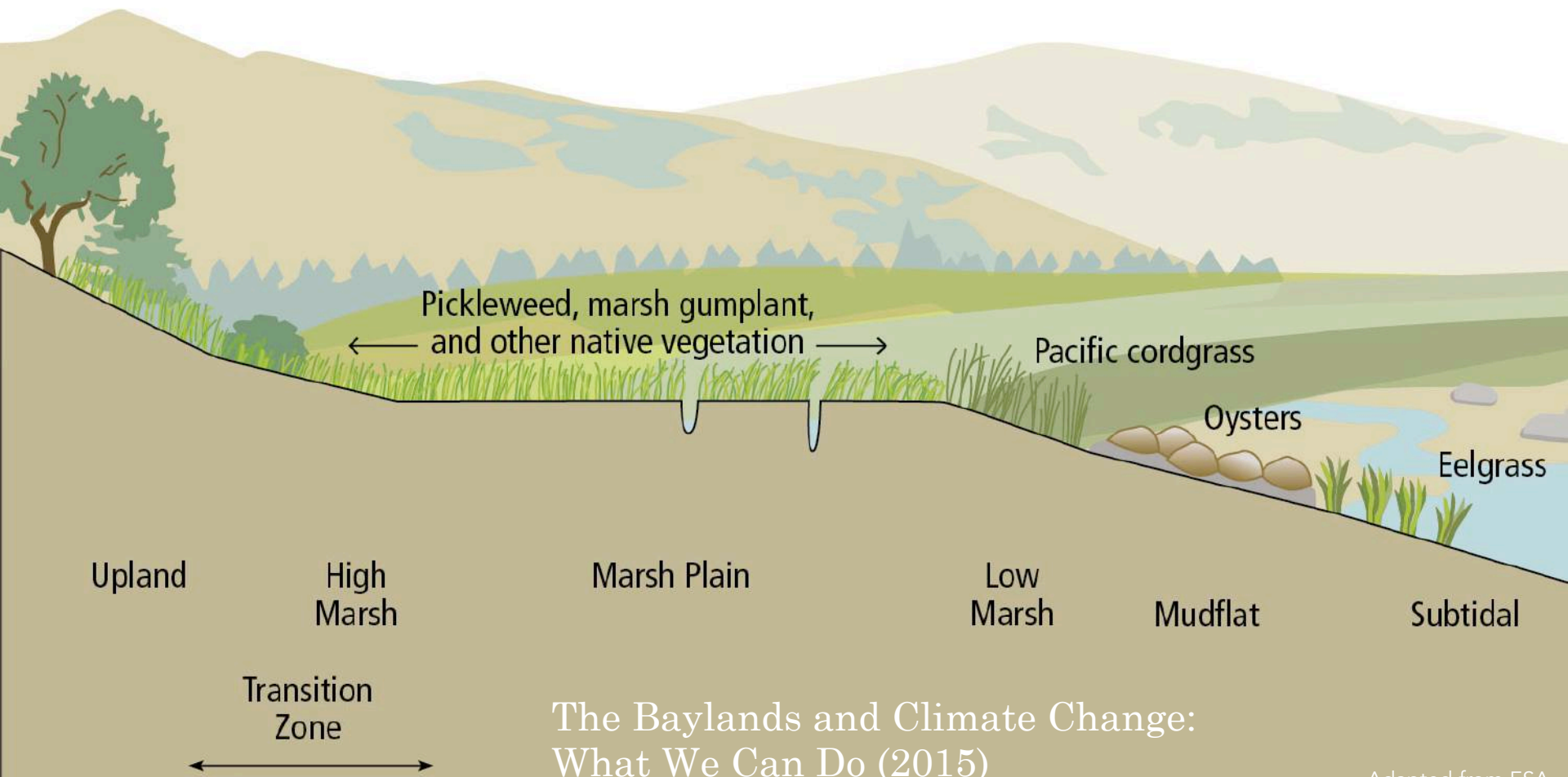
recreation and scenery



WHAT WE CAN DO

Shira Beal

Restore COMPLETE SYSTEMS



The Baylands and Climate Change:
What We Can Do (2015)