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Carpinteria Conservation Project Receives Award

The Carpinteria Salt Marsh is one of the largest and most ecologically important coastal estuaries in the California, and in 2008 the Carpinteria Salt Marsh Restoration Partners completed an extensive restoration project begun in the fall of 2004 to provide better wildlife habitat, opportunities for scientific research, and ways for the people to visit and learn about the coastal environment.

Coastal America is presenting a special award to the organizations responsible for this successful conservation effort:

Wednesday, May, 2009 from 3:00-4:00pm at the Carpinteria Salt Marsh

Coastal America is a partnership among federal, state and local governments and private alliances to address environmental problems along our nation's coasts. The federal partners are: Executive Office of the President, Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Defense, Energy, Health and Human Services, Homeland Security, Housing and Urban Development, Interior, Justice, Labor, State, Transportation, Environmental Protection Agency, National Aeronautics and Space Administration and The National Science Foundation.

Amongst the speakers at the award ceremony will be Salud Carbajal, County Supervisor, 1st District; Virginia Tippie, Director, Coastal America; Michael Feeney, Executive Director of the Land Trust for Santa Barbara County and Sam Schuchat, Executive Officer of the California Coastal Conservancy, a state agency that helps to purchase, protect, restore, and enhance coastal resources, and to provide access to the shore.



Growing community awareness and voter support for state conservation bonds helped to save the marsh—a special, threatened ecosystem home to rare birds and plants, and important breeding grounds to a variety of fish and marine invertebrates. In the late 1970s, the University of California acquired about half of the marsh and created the Carpinteria Salt Marsh Reserve. Since that time, the Land Trust, UCSB, the City of Carpinteria, County Flood Control and other agencies, along with the support of adjacent homeowners and their associations have made great progress in managing and restoring portions of the marsh.

Land Trust executive director Michael Feeney states, “Thanks to the cooperative spirit of neighboring residents, public and private landowners and supportive government leaders, the Carpinteria Salt Marsh is a safer and more attractive place for those living nearby, for those who come to learn about nature, and for the wildlife that rely on this rare coastal habitat.”

Restoration Funding Partners:

Work was funded in part by more than \$100,000 in community donations while the following agencies provided over \$1,950,000 in grants to the Land Trust for ecological restoration of Basin 1 and South Marsh in 2003-2006.

State Coastal Conservancy
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
County of Santa Barbara
National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration



Restoration Project:

The Land Trust for Santa Barbara County designed its Basin 1 and South Marsh Restoration Project to provide lasting environmental and community benefits. Working with the Santa Barbara County Flood Control District and the University of California Natural Reserve System, the project:

- Restored historic tidal circulation channels to provide expanded breeding habitat for a variety of fish and invertebrates such as the California oyster.
- Reduced the build-up of silt and algae in tidal channels.
- Created new submerged cobble beds in for shellfish colonization.
- Removed non-native and invasive vegetation such as ice plant, castor bean and mustard that crowd out beneficial natives.
- Planted over 18,000 native wetland and upland plants, vastly improving the appearance and habitat quality for birds, including the endangered Belding’s savannah sparrow.
- Expanded the range of two rare wetland plants, the salt marsh bird’s beak and salt marsh goldfields.
- Provided managed public access via a new pedestrian only bridge cross Franklin Creek from the City Nature Park to a 1,200 foot interpretive path on the north of Basin I.

Coastal America Award Recipients:

The Land Trust for Santa Barbara County
Santa Barbara Flood Control District
City of Carpinteria
University of California Natural Reserve System—Carpinteria Salt Marsh reserve
California Coastal Conservancy
United States Fish and Wildlife Service
NOAA Restoration Center
County of Santa Barbara
The Lennox Foundation
Sandyland Cove Homes Association
Sandyland Protective Association