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### **Baylands and Creeks of South San Francisco Bay: A Publicly Accessible Map Reveals the Landscape and Cultural Context for Restoration**

The restoration of South San Francisco Bay involves re-establishing a diverse range of wetland habitats to create a resilient, functional South Bay Landscape. Yet many of the individual habitats of interest have not been seen within the region in significant size for generations. As result, information about landscape-level patterns -- such as habitat mosaics, subregional variation, and the relationship between Baylands and watersheds -- has been limited.

As part of the Oakland Museum of California's *Creek and Watershed Map Series*, we produced a foldout, poster-size, double-sided map synthesizing geographic, ecological, and historical information about the South Bay past and present. One side presents new wetlands mapping of the South Bay below Dumbarton Point conducted by SFEI as part of the National Wetlands Inventory. The map also includes recent mapping of creeks, storm drains, and watersheds by William Lettis and Associates, and extensive place name annotation.

The reverse side of the map, titled "South Bay Landscape through Time," presents the South Bay circa 1850 and explores the changing human relationship to the South Bay Baylands since European contact. The map provides a view of the complex patterns of tidal channel networks and marsh pannes that emerge within large tidal marshlands. These data were compiled from precise historical maps by the United States Coast Survey. The map also illustrates tribal regions, Ohlone shellmounds, 19th-century commercial landings, historical place names, and adjacent creeks and willow groves.

Since successful restoration of the South Bay will also involve restoring cultural connections to this largely unfamiliar landscape, the map explores the ways that people in the South Bay have intimately interacted with this broad transitional environment between dry land and open bay. We illustrate how particular tidal channels became corridors for commerce, the remarkable shellmounds of the Bay shore, waterfowl hunting in the "sloughs", and the expansion of salt harvest from a small-scale traditional activity to an industrial operation. The map is available at local environmental education centers and through the Oakland Museum at [www.museumca.org/creeks](http://www.museumca.org/creeks).

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