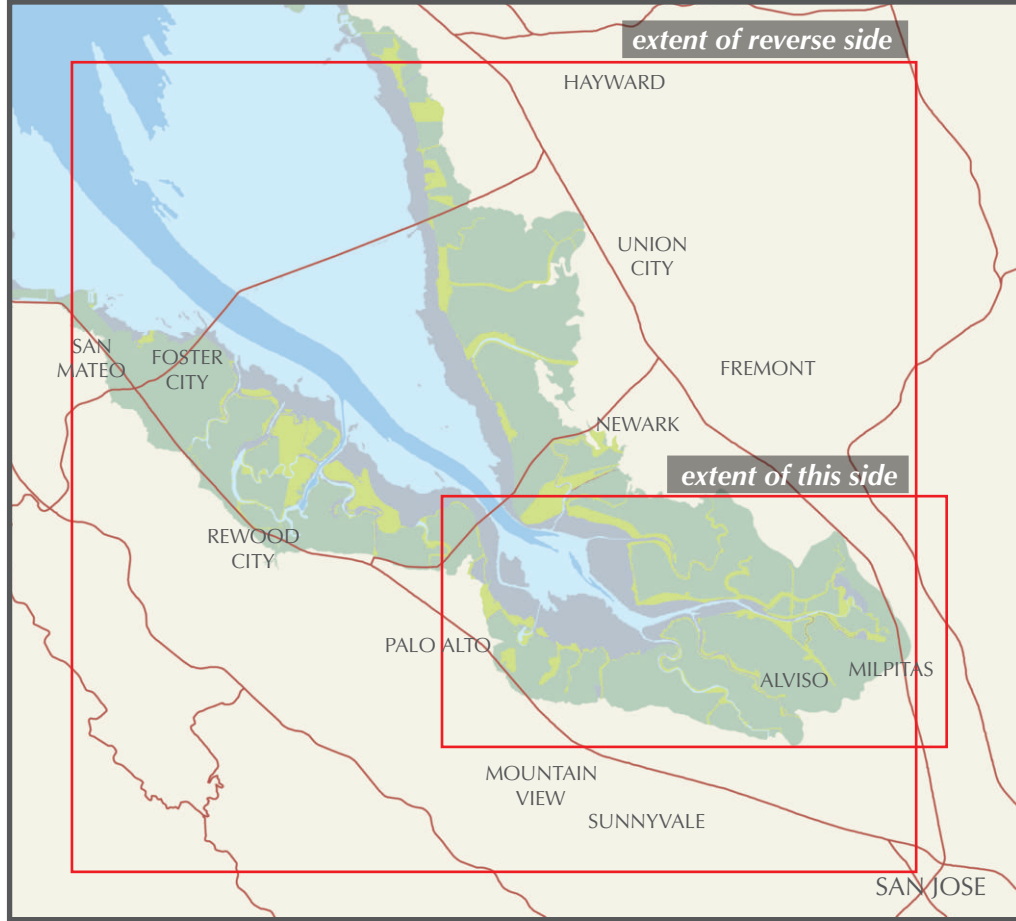


BAYLANDS & CREEKS of South San Francisco Bay

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Wetland data developed by Josh Collins & Kristen Larned, SFEI
Creek & watershed data from William Lettis & Associates, Inc.



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At the southern end of San Francisco Bay, a large, rarely seen landscape of bay and wetland habitats persists alongside the populous cities of the Santa Clara Valley. The map above shows the baylands at low tide, when broad tidal flats emerge from the bay waters, providing habitat for thousands of shorebirds. Salt evaporation ponds form large areas of diked habitat between major sloughs, while fringing marshes line the outside of the salt pond levees. Many of the salt ponds have recently been acquired for the public trust to be managed for wildlife, wetland restoration, flood protection, and recreation. These are identified as Managed Ponds. Diked marsh, seasonal and perennial wetlands, flood basins, and wastewater treatment basins also occupy substantial areas. Areas of landfill can be identified inside the boundary of historical tidal marsh. In the adjacent lowlands, red lines show the extensive artificial drainage network created to reduce flooding. Many of the local creeks did not naturally continue across the lowlands, but were extended via artificial channels into the baylands as early as the mid-nineteenth century (the timing, where known, is shown below the creek name). The location of former *sausals*—large willow marshes associated with seeps and springs—is also shown.

Present-day characteristics can be compared with the historical conditions illustrated in the map on the reverse side (see locator map at left), revealing the combination of natural and human-made patterns shaping the modern landscape.

Credits. Watershed boundaries, culverts, storm drains, channels, and creeks are from William Lettis and Associates. Wetlands habitats were mapped by SFEI based upon 2002/2004 aerial photography, fieldwork, and review by local experts, as part of the National Wetlands Inventory. More information on San Francisco Bay wetlands, including the most up-to-date mapping and information about restoration projects, can be found at www.wetlandtracker.org. Base map from U.S. Geological Survey.

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