

Working Together for a Resilient North Bay Landscape



Photo courtesy of Sonoma Land Trust

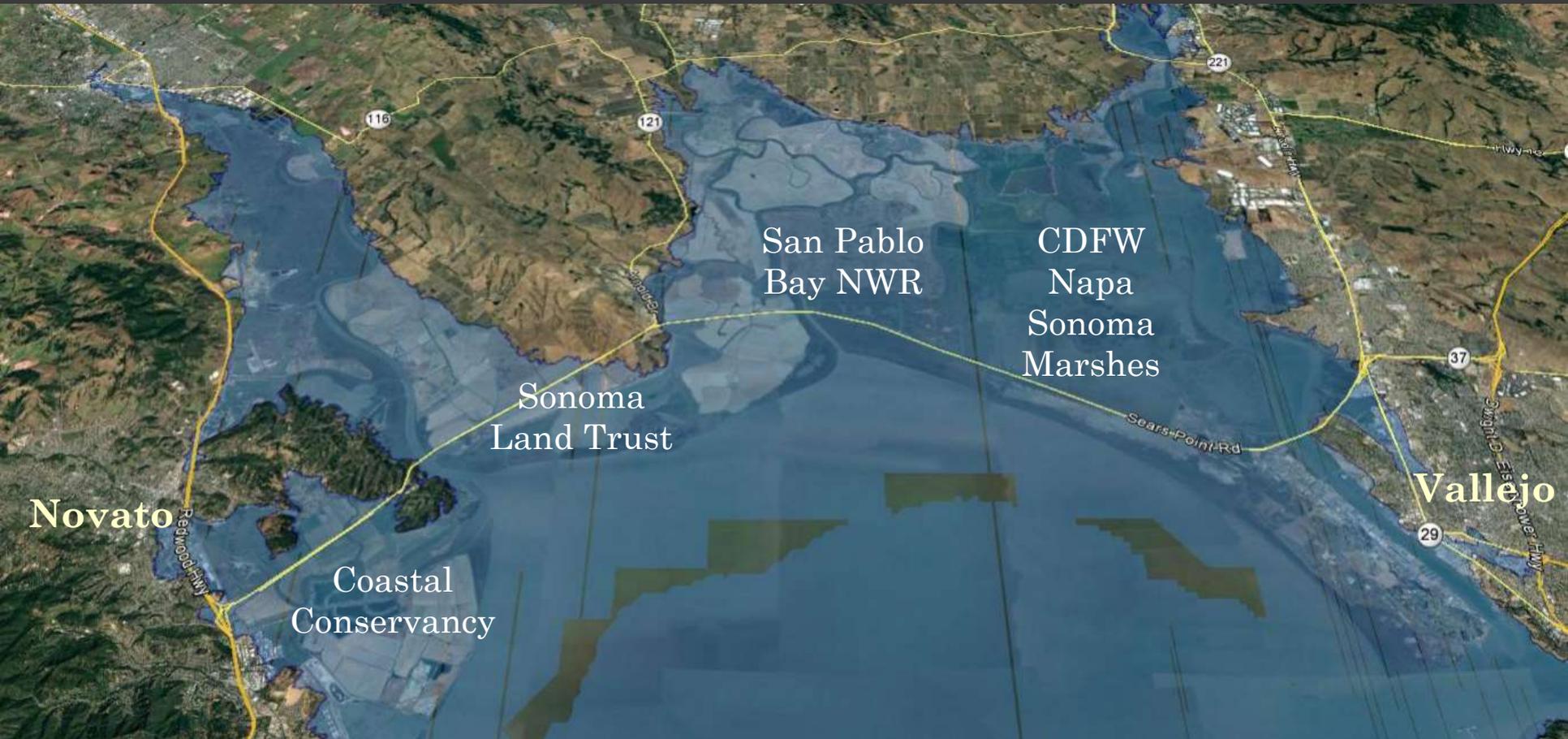


Jessica Davenport, State Coastal Conservancy
SR 37 – Baylands Group
Presentation to State Route 37 Policy Committee
November 2, 2017

Presentation Outline

SR 37 – Baylands Group

- Who We Are
- Vision Statement and Guiding Principles
- Flood Control 2.0 as a Model for Collaborative Design



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



Photo courtesy of The Press Democrat

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



Photo courtesy of Ducks Unlimited

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





Why CARE ABOUT WETLANDS?

Tidal marshes like Cullinan Ranch and those in the Napa-Sonoma Marshes Wildlife Area play a critical role for life on Earth. They provide vital wildlife habitat, protect shorelines, clean pollutants, buffer the impacts of floodwaters and rising sea level, slow climate change by storing carbon, and offer a wealth of public recreation opportunities.

Waterfowl CAN'T SURVIVE WITHOUT WETLANDS
Every species of duck, goose, and swan in North America depends on wetland habitat throughout their life cycle.

Endangered Species DEPEND ON WETLANDS
Almost half of America's threatened and endangered species need wetlands for survival at some point in their lives. Over a third of these species live only in wetlands.

"Wetland Soup" FEEDS YOUR FOOD WEB
A nutritious broth of insects, invertebrates, bacteria, algae, and decaying wetland plants feeds a web of life that provides meals for a rich diversity of species - including us!



Boost Your Wellness WITH WETLAND RECREATION
Hiking, bird watching, boating, fishing, hunting, and other outdoor recreational activities available at wetlands can enrich your quality of life and improve your physical and mental health.

Wetlands Improve WATER QUALITY
Household waste, toxic chemicals, fertilizer runoff, and other human-caused pollutants can be trapped or broken down in wetlands where plants and bacteria break it down into less harmful substances.



Got Crab? Or Salmon? THANK A WETLAND!
Dangerous crabs, salmon, striped bass, clams, and oysters need wetlands during part or all of their life cycles. So do many other commercially and recreationally important seafood species.

Image courtesy of Ducks Unlimited

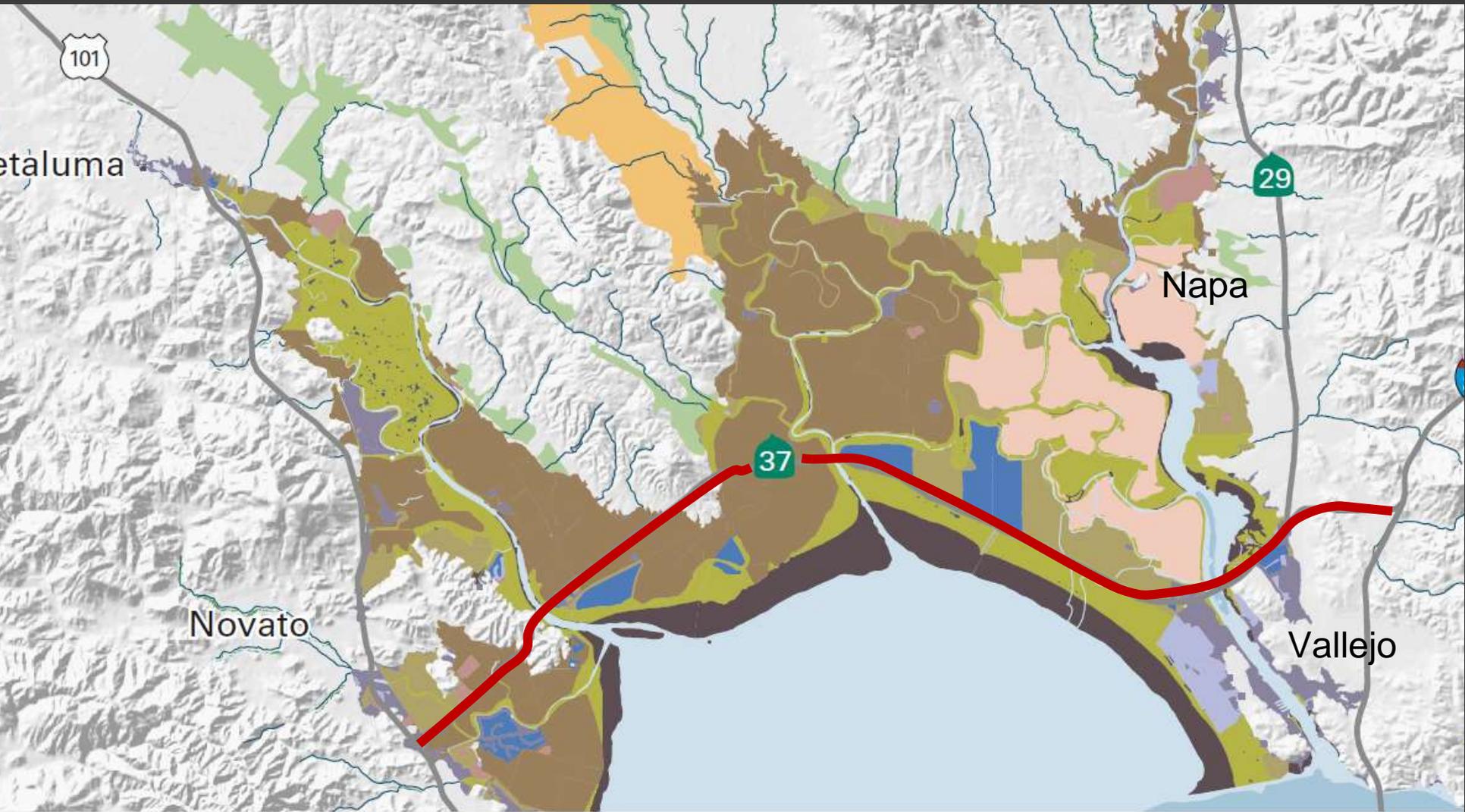
Vision: Integrate, Don't Mitigate

Integrate **infrastructure improvements** for SR 37 with existing and future **habitat** planning, conservation and restoration to ensure **healthy ecosystem function** and **resilience** to landscape scale change of the San Pablo Bay.

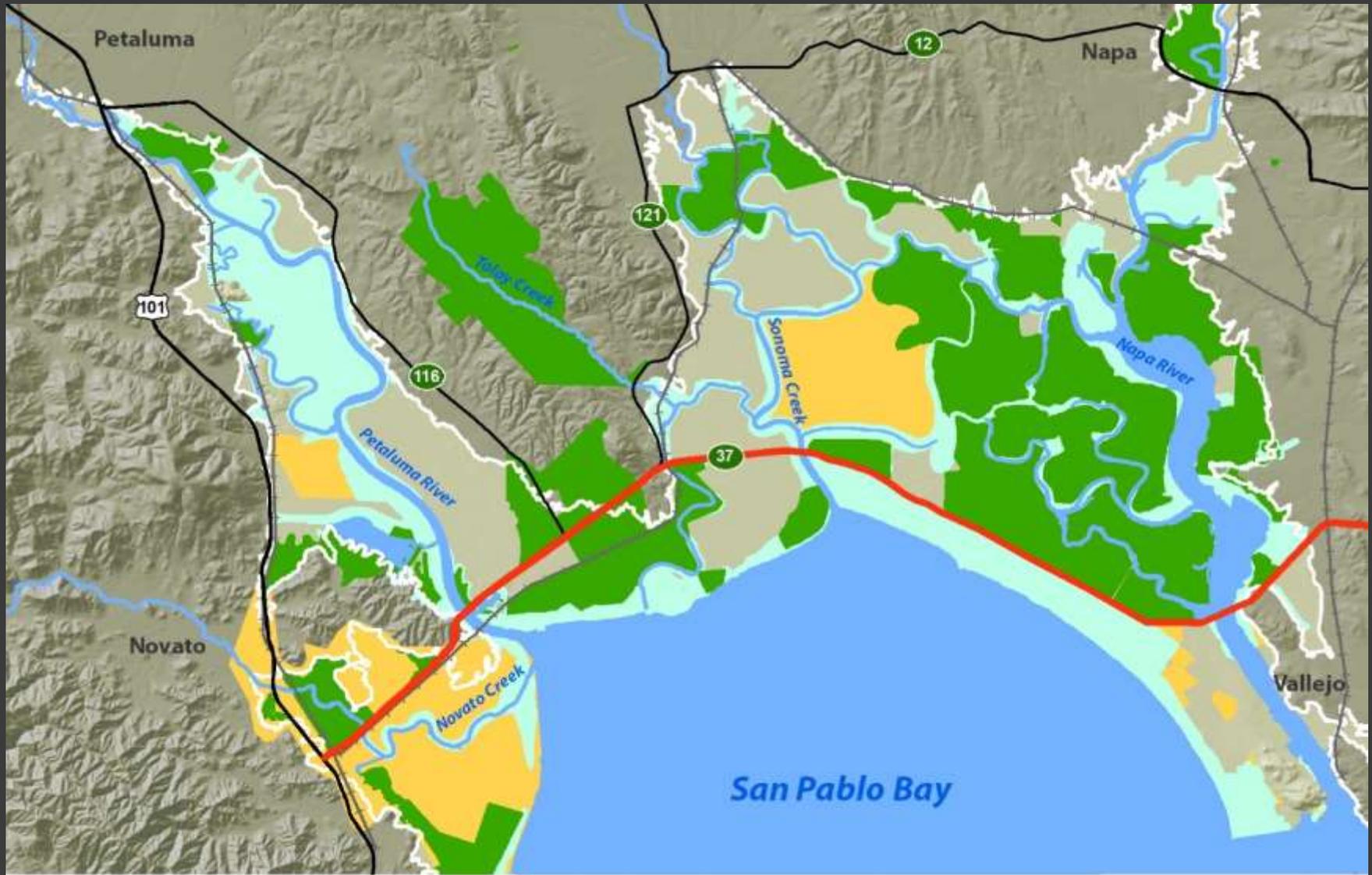
Baylands Goals are the Blueprint



Baylands Habitats, 1998



Restoration to Date and Planned



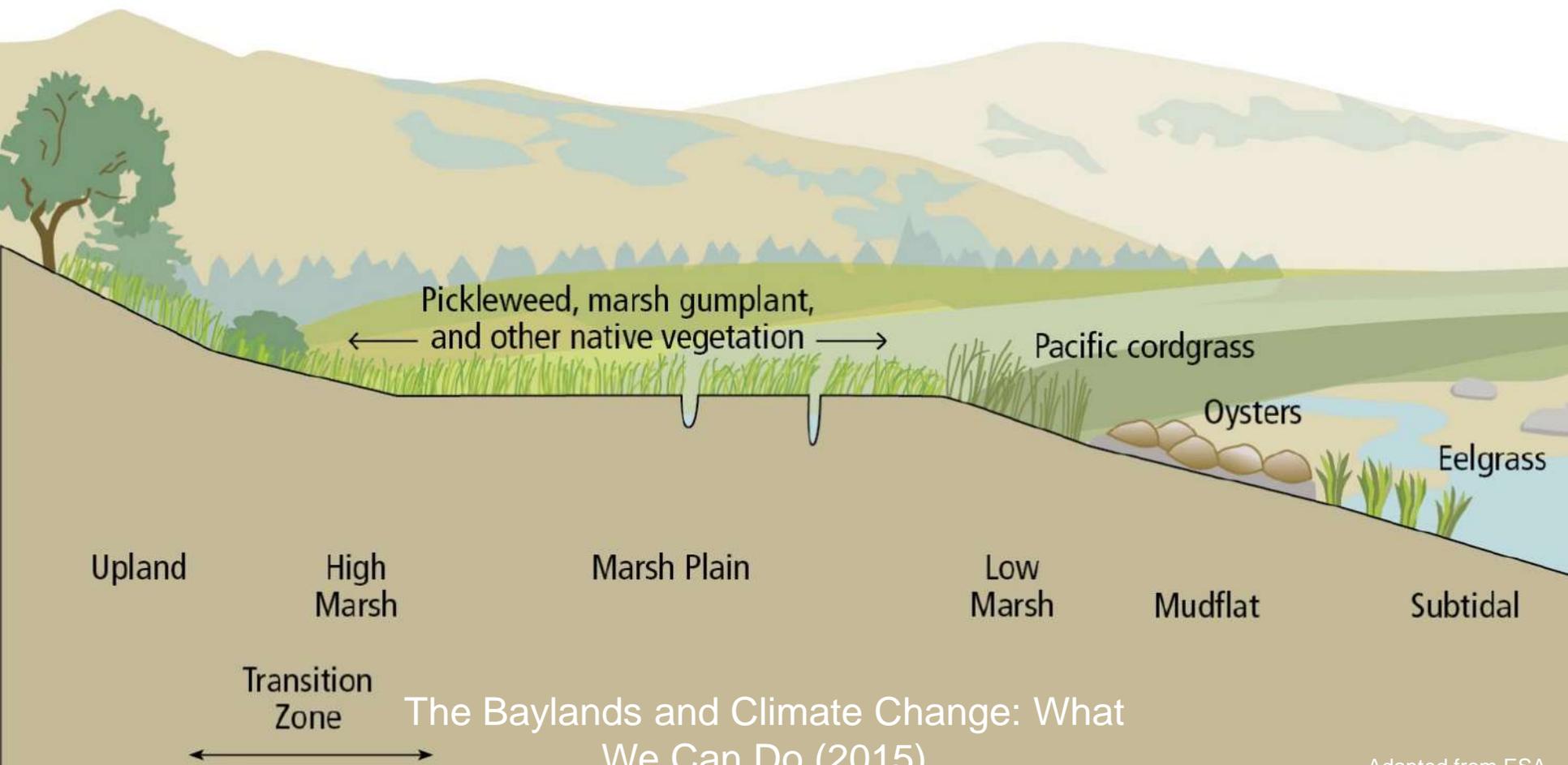
- State Route 37
- Historical Baylands Boundary
- Restoration in Progress or Complete
- Railroad
- Tidal Marsh
- Restoration in Planning



TODAY

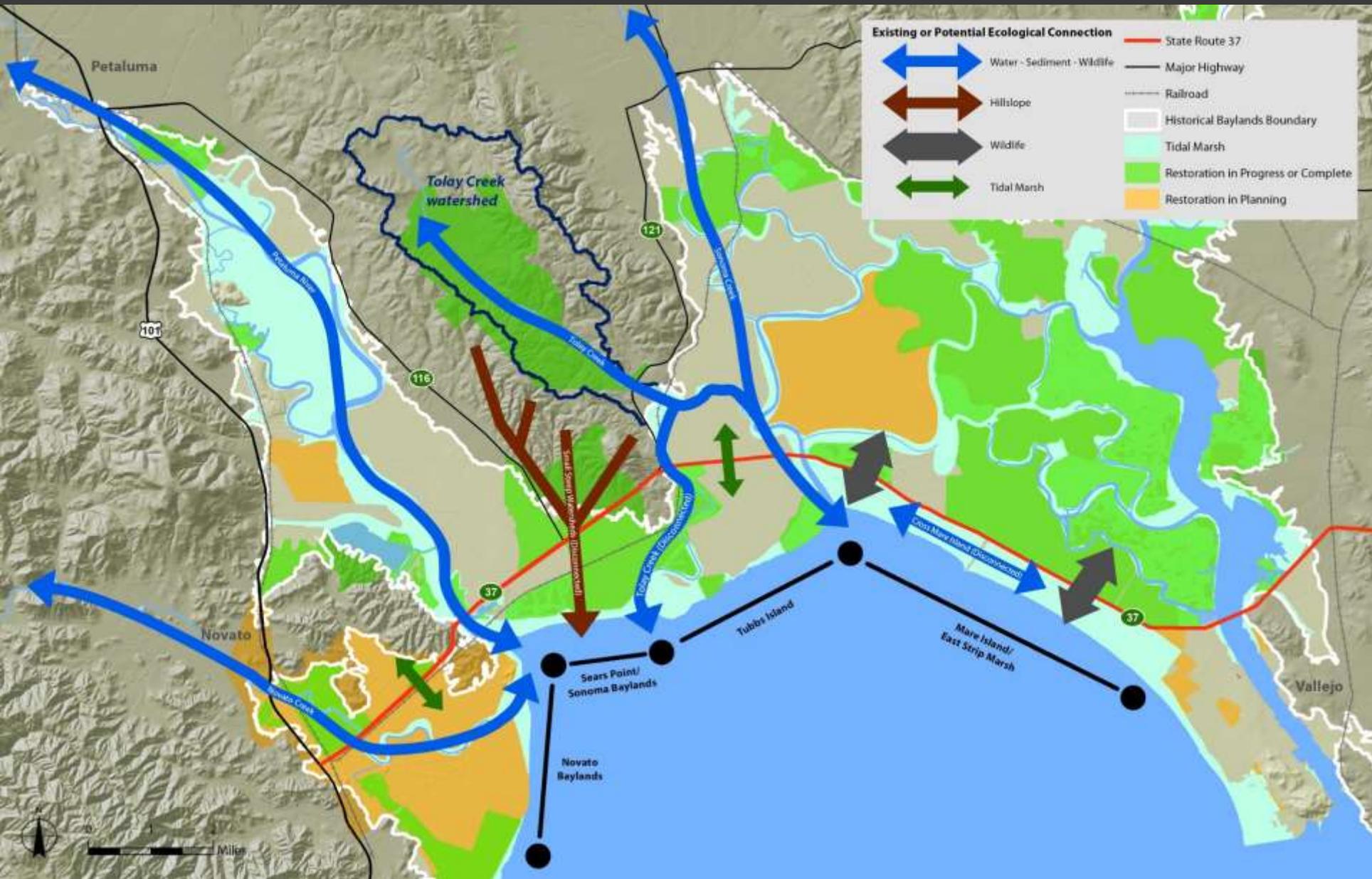
- SR 37 elevation at or just above sea level
- Mostly within San Pablo Baylands historical marshes
- Surrounded by ~30,000 acres of protected and restored habitat
- Investment in ecosystem exceeds \$600 million for conservation and restoration

Restore COMPLETE SYSTEMS



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

Improve Ecological Connectivity



From Uplands To The Bay



PLAN FOR THE BAYLANDS TO *migrate*



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

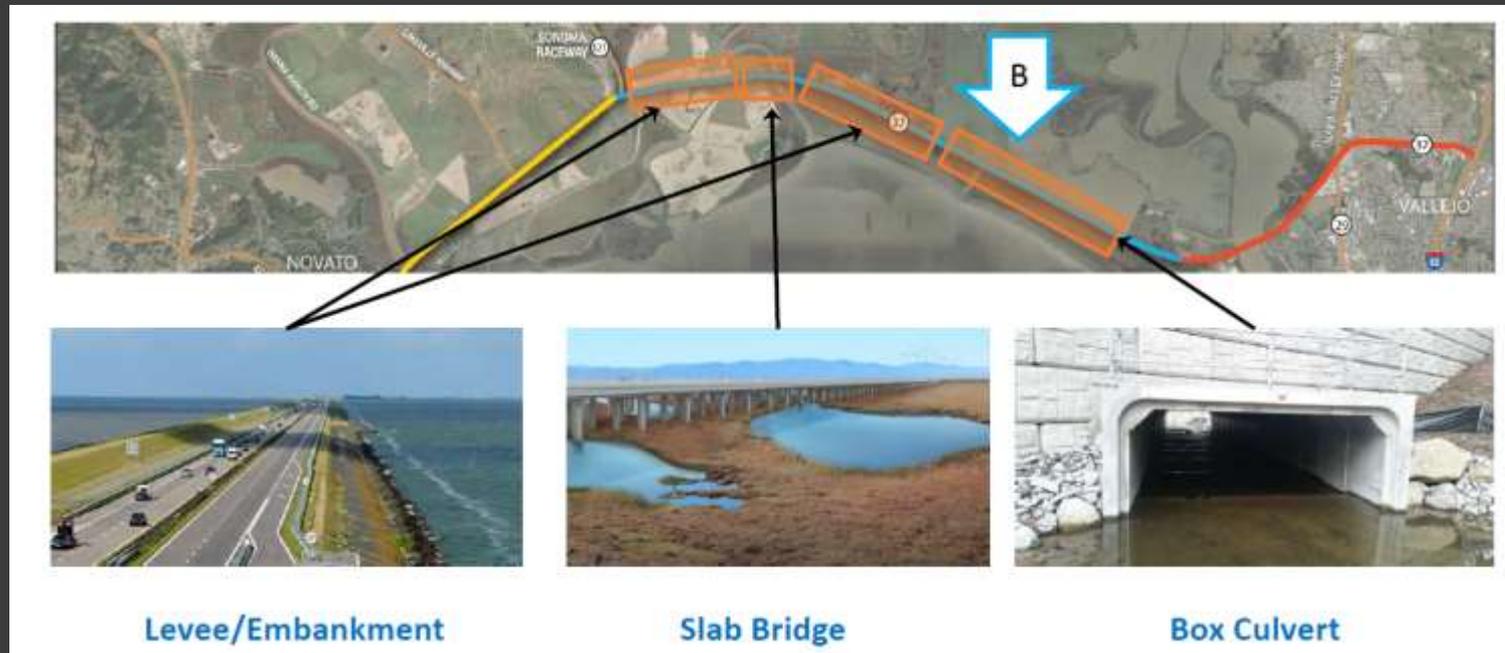
Accommodate Future Sea Levels, River Flows, and Floodplains



Avoid or Minimize Direct Impacts To Habitats And Wildlife



Seeking solutions that elevate SR 37 and allow for full passage of sediment, water and wildlife



- Raised roadbed with a combination of embankment, box culverts, slab bridge

SR 37 – Baylands Group Work Plan

June 2017

Nineteen agencies and NGOs meet and form Baylands Group

Aug. – Oct. 2017

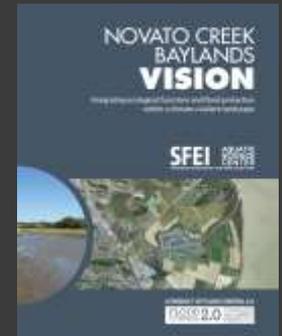
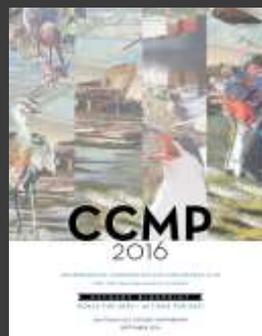
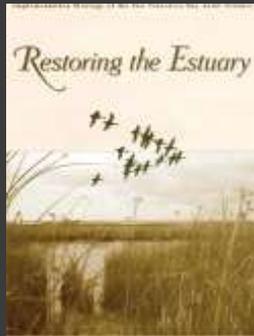
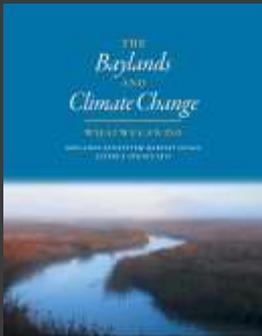
Develop white paper and comment on Draft Corridor Plan

Aug. – Oct. 2017

Collaborate with MTC to design env. workshop series

Oct. 2017 –Mar. 2018

Collaboration on DAA through Environmental Working Group



Flood Control 2.0 as a Model Process: Novato Creek Baylands Vision

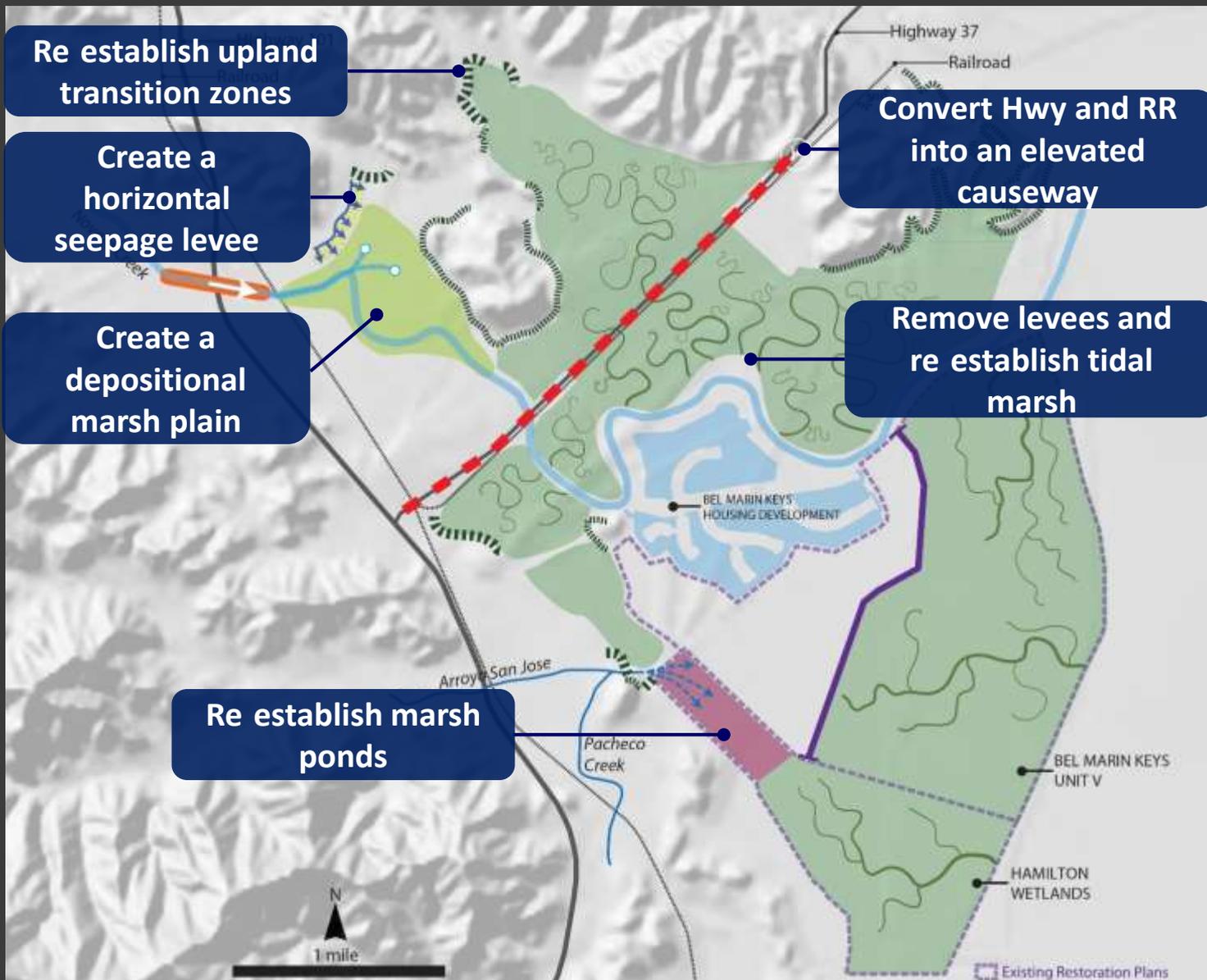
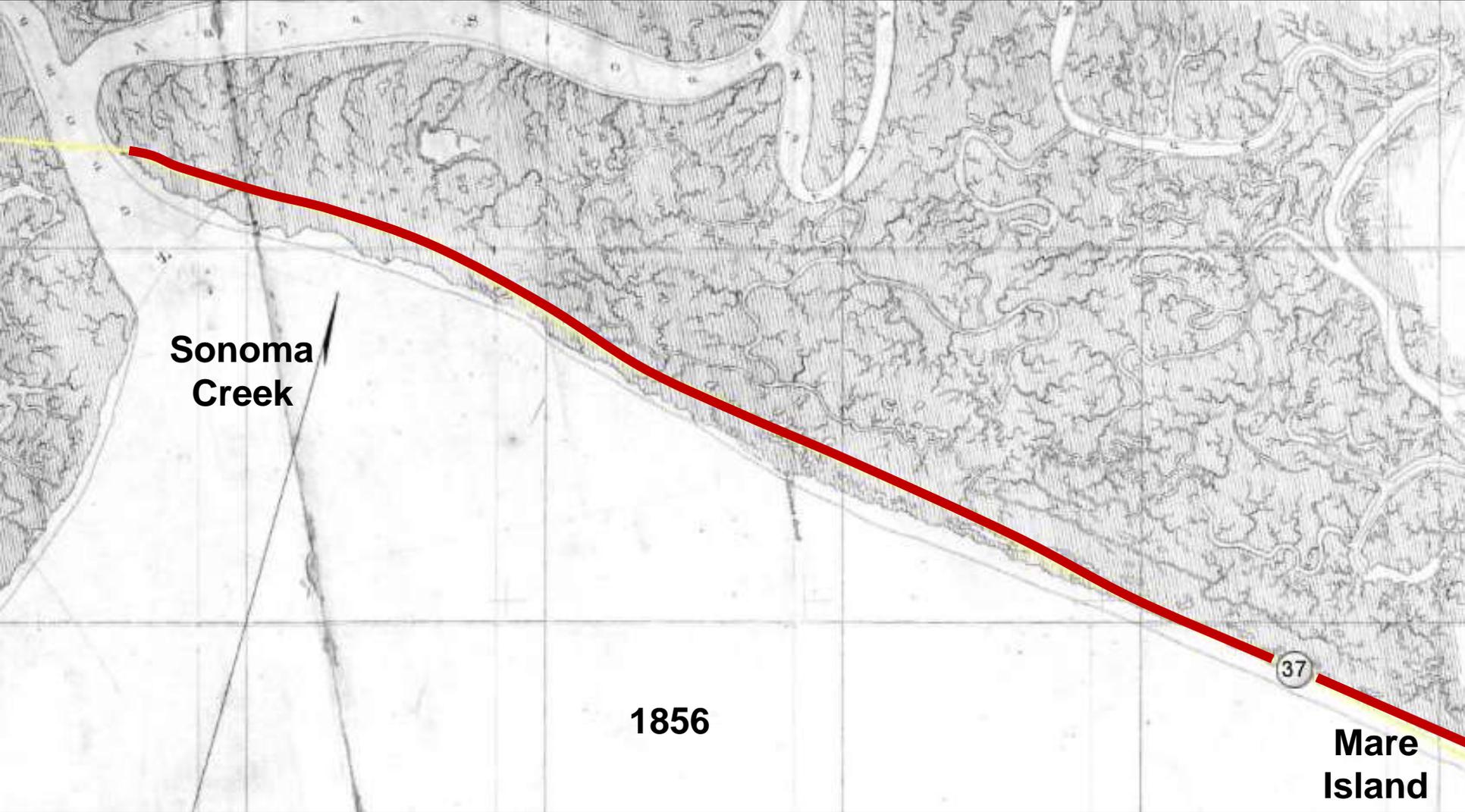


Image courtesy of San Francisco Estuary Institute

Questions?



Photo courtesy of Ducks Unlimited

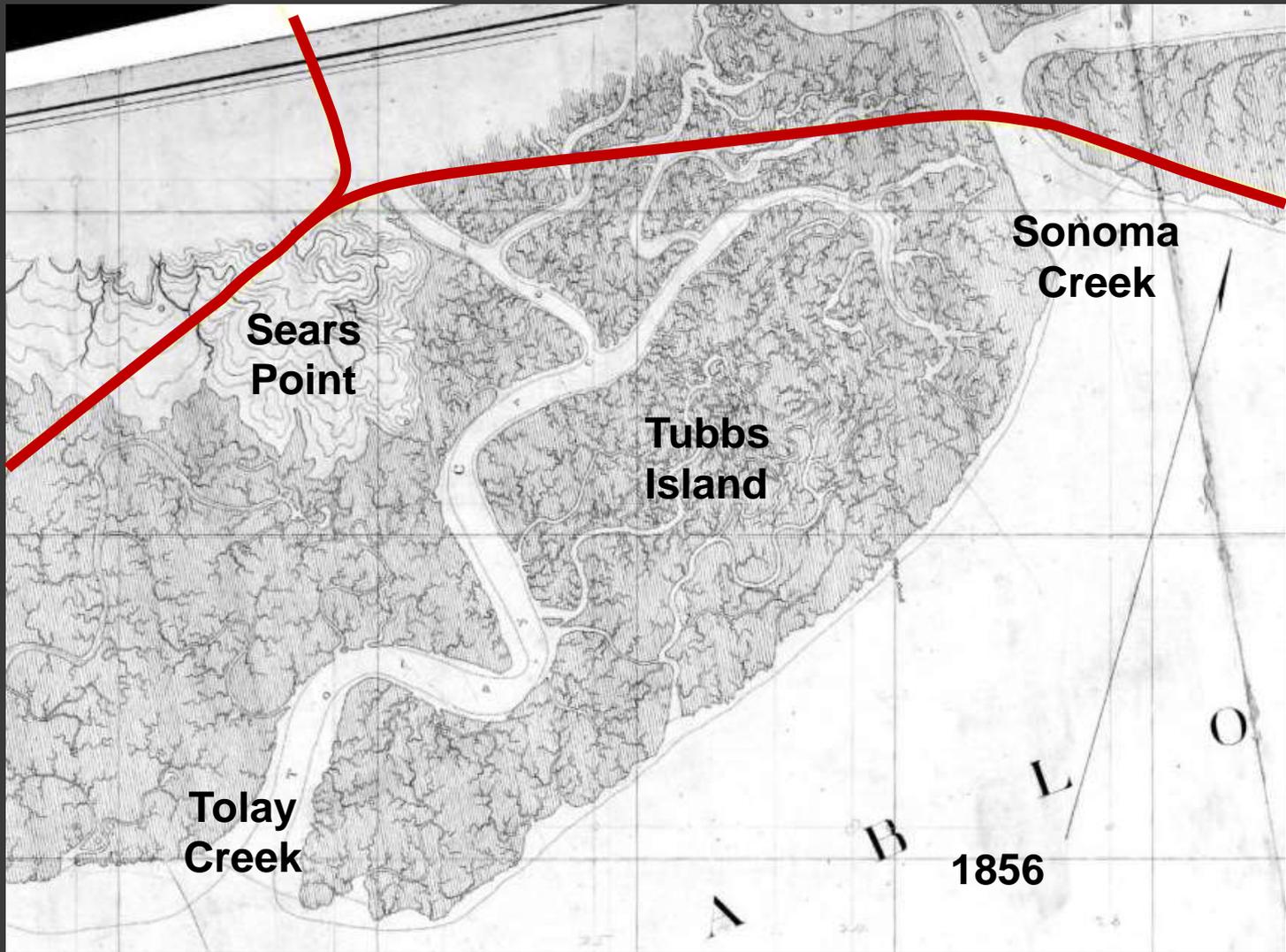


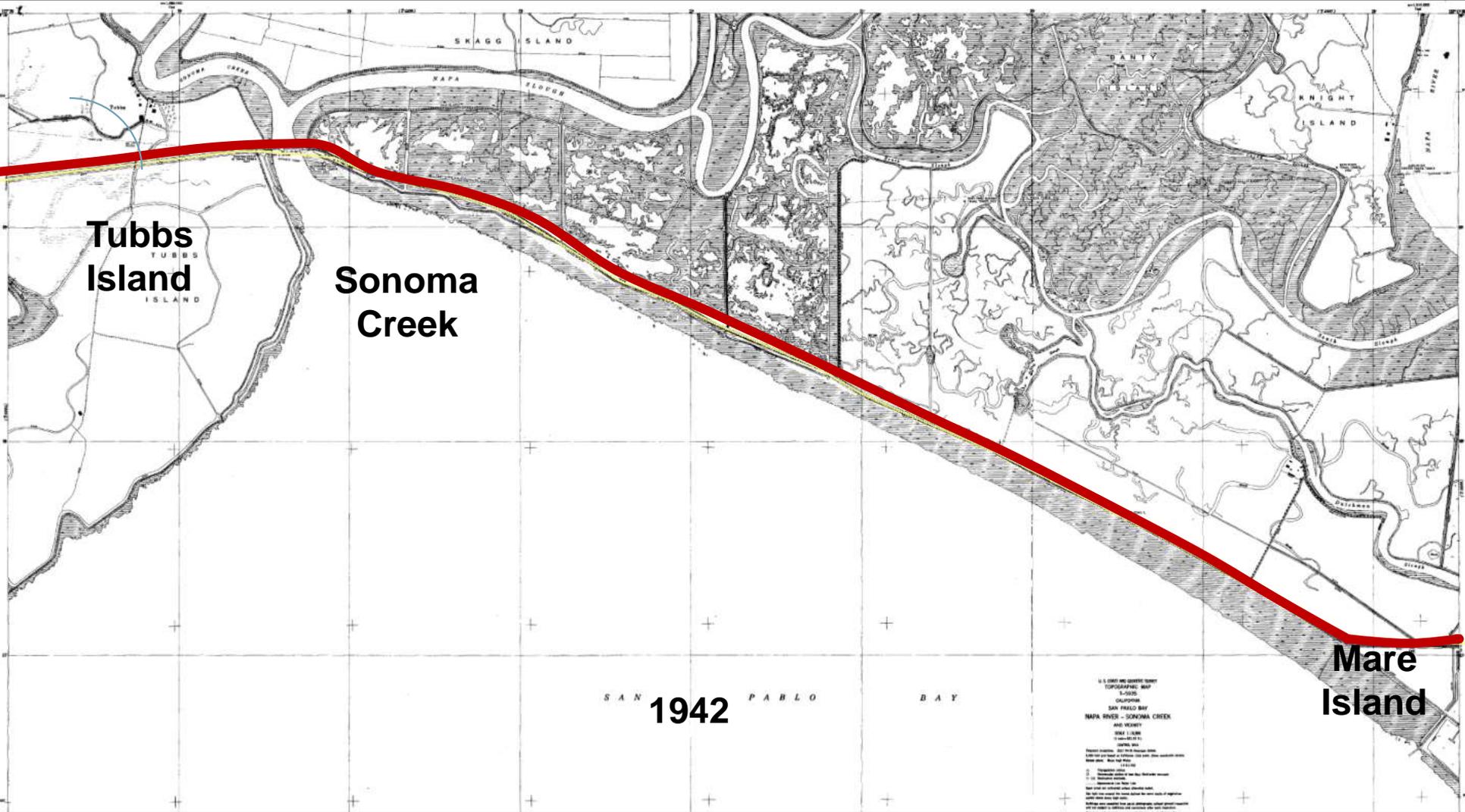
**Sonoma
Creek**

1856

37

**Mare
Island**





**Tubbs
Island**
TUBBS
ISLAND

**Sonoma
Creek**

SAN PABLO BAY
1942

**Mare
Island**

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
TOPOGRAPHIC MAP
SCALE
CALIFORNIA
SAN PABLO BAY
NAPA RIVER - SONOMA CREEK
AND VICINITY
SIXTY FOUR
1:50,000
1942
This map was prepared by the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, San Francisco District, from aerial photographs taken in 1941 and 1942. It is based on the map of the same area published in 1938. The map is published by the U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C., and is available for sale to the public. The price of this map is \$1.00. It is also available for sale to the public at a special rate of \$0.50 per copy. The map is published by the U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C., and is available for sale to the public. The price of this map is \$1.00. It is also available for sale to the public at a special rate of \$0.50 per copy.