

The Hayward Shoreline Marsh restoration project is one of the largest of its kind on the West Coast, consisting of 400 acres of salt, brackish, and freshwater marshes. The fresh and brackish water marsh system is unique in that its freshwater source is partially-treated wastewater, with the marsh completing the water-treatment process.

Threatened by Invasive Vegetation

EBRPD has been attempting to improve these wetlands to provide better habitat for



Colonies of invasive smooth cordgrass

the endangered California clapper rail and salt marsh harvest mouse. To do this, the EBRPD must control non-native vegetation, including smooth cordgrass (*Spartina alterniflora*), which has invaded the restored wetlands. Smooth cordgrass is an invasive species that outcompetes desired native plant species and alters ecological processes in marshes. It forms a dense mat of vegetation, restricting water movement and trapping sediment, eventually turning lowland marshes into cordgrass meadows. It colonizes mudflats and estuaries and eliminates key habitat for waterbirds and fish. It is currently classified in the “most invasive and

damaging” category of regional pest plants by the California Exotic Pest Plant Council.



An amphibious vehicle was purchased to combat the invasive cordgrass.

Project Activities

For the Hayward Regional Shoreline Cordgrass Control Resource



Birds feed on the shores of the beautiful Hayward Marsh.

Enhancement Project, Bay Cove LLC endowed the EBRPD with \$50,000 to help eradicate non-native smooth cordgrass at Oro Loma Marsh. Bay Cove LLC’s donation is intended to mitigate the effects of an infill residential housing project that will eliminate 7,229 square feet (0.17 acres) of wetlands. The funding was used to purchase an amphibious vehicle, fund staff and material costs to apply herbicide to the cordgrass, and conduct post



Clapper rail in cordgrass.

application monitoring and control of resprouts. The herbicide breaks down quickly in nature and is safe for use in wetland environments. Cordgrass is resistant to almost all other practicable elimination methods.

This public-private partnership allows the mitigation money donated by Bay Cove LLC to benefit wetlands much larger than those affected by the development. While the construction fills 0.17 acres of wetlands, the contribution allows the EBRPD to protect a much greater area from a significant threat.

Quick Facts

Action: Control invasive species
Acres: 5
Funding: \$50,000
Provided by: Bay Cove Development
Completed: [In progress]
Target habitats: tidal marsh
Target species: clapper rail, salt marsh harvest mouse