

Martin Luther King, Jr. Regional Shoreline is a 739-acre area of shoreline and wetlands that lie along the southern edge of San Leandro Bay. The Arrowhead Marsh is a portion of the shoreline that was restored from developed land to wetlands in 1997. Recently, the East Bay Regional Park District (District) has been working to provide better habitat for the endangered California clapper rail and salt marsh harvest mouse at this marsh by combating a problem that has arisen.



Carey Knecht

Left unchecked, the bright green smooth cordgrass could block the creek mouth

### Threatened by Invasive Vegetation

To provide quality marsh habitat, the District must control non-native smooth cordgrass (*Spartina alterniflora*), which has invaded the restored wetlands. Smooth cordgrass is an invasive species that out competes desired native plant species, alters ecological processes in marshes, and reduces the habitat of native species. It is currently classified in the "most in-vasive and damaging" plant category by the California Exotic Pest Plant Council. Cordgrass forms a dense mat of vegetation that traps sediment, raising ground levels too high for marshes to receive the water inflows they need, eventually turning them into meadows.



Brad Olson

MLK Shoreline at Arrowhead Marsh

### Project Activities

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Regional Shoreline Resource Enhancement Project is a marsh



Beth Stone

MLK Shoreline at Arrowhead Marsh

improvement funded by a \$30,000 donation from Millenium Holdings. The donation is part of Millenium's clean-up of polluted properties near the Oakland Coliseum. Polluted ground- water has been leaching a small amount of zinc into the San Leandro Bay. Since wetlands are believed to naturally

remediate the waters of the bay, Millenium Holdings provided \$30,000 to the District to enhance the Arrowhead Marsh.



Joe DiDonato

The funding is being used to regrade portions of the marsh, maintain native vegetation, control non-native plants, and monitor water quality. \$5,000 was used towards purchasing an amphibious vehicle for cordgrass control.

This project reflects an increased awareness that the ecological health of all upstream properties affects the health of the San Leandro Bay. It also affirms marshes' important ecological function as a filter of pollutants and a tool for protecting water quality.

### Quick Facts

Action: Control invasive species  
Acres: 40 acres  
Funding: \$30,000  
Provided by: Millenium Holdings  
Completed: [In progress]  
Target habitats: tidal marsh  
Target species: California clapper rail, salt marsh harvest mouse  
Improvements: Remove invasive species, regrade marsh