**TIDAL MARSH: A PRECIOUS HABITAT**

The tidal marsh exists at the edge of land and sea. It is shaped by the daily tides, which bring sediment, nutrients and seed to perpetuate its growth. From the time of the earliest peoples, the bay and its marshes have nourished life and provided an abundance of food and habitat for humans, animals and plants.

Background Photo: Marshes protect against flooding by slowing waves and absorbing water, buffering against the rising seas.

Pickleweed is a main source of food and shelter for the endangered salt marsh harvest mouse.

Marsh vegetation filters pollutants before they reach the open water.

The flat lands along the marsh provide open, accessible space for recreation.

**THIS HABITAT WAS NEARLY LOST...**

Starting in the late 1800s, the marshlands of the bay were drained and converted to farmlands, cities and salt ponds. At one point, only 10 percent of the original habitat remained and we lost much of the vital functions of the marshes.

Today, thousands of acres of marsh habitat, including what you see here, are being restored and protected by the nonprofit Sonoma Land Trust, the San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge and others.

In October 2015, the old levee at the Dickson Ranch Unit was breached, returning the tides to 1000 acres of former marshland.

Marsh restoration in the Sonoma Baylands Unit began in 1996 (vegetated area on right in photo) and in the Dickson Ranch Unit in 2015 (center of photo).

**HELP RESTORE THE MARSH!**

By 2030, sea level rise will accelerate. The more marsh we restore now, the greater its chance of survival into the future. Be a part of this opportunity. Join us at sonomalandtrust.org today!