

# The Bay Institute

2001 Annual Report

## Environmental Security

Security concerns, be it airports, economics, energy, drinking water or al Qaeda, continue to grab headlines around the state and nation. For example, the governing board of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California recently voted to spend an additional \$5.5 million to protect its reservoirs from potential terrorists.

Although fully responsive to the reasoning behind these concerns, The Bay Institute would like to see an increased focus on security of another sort. Call it environmental security. The idea being that in the long run a nation's ultimate security rests on the well being and health of its natural environment.

Which is why we believe the work of The Bay Institute, its board, staff and partners, to be increasingly crucial, especially in San Francisco Bay, the Delta and the watershed from the Sierra to the sea. Our mission to restore and protect these valuable resources is particularly important at a time when less environmentally enlightened policy makers strive to weaken environmental safeguards and open our remaining wild and sacred places to damaging exploitation.

In the coming year, The Bay Institute and its supporters, through our San Pablo Bay Restoration Program, our Rivers and Delta Program—including re-watering the San Joaquin River—and the award-winning Watershed Education Program, will be working even more diligently to ensure the continuation of the basic linchpin of the web of life...a healthy and viable environment.

Yours,

Robert J. Erickson

*Chairman  
Board of Directors  
The Bay Institute*



*TBI Watershed Education Coordinator Chris Choo (center) directs Fresno Central High School Students at cottonwood planting on the San Joaquin River.*

Photo George Snyder

## TBI Programs in 2001

### BAY RESTORATION PROGRAM

#### San Pablo Bay Watershed Restoration

Work has begun on Phase II of the San Pablo Bay Watershed Restoration Program. TBI is helping conduct a public San Pablo Bay watershed education project, working with local entities to develop environmental restoration projects, and coordinating with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the California Coastal Conservancy to prioritize and fund restoration projects.

#### Napa-Sonoma Marsh Restoration Project

TBI continued its key role in pushing the use of reclaimed water to help desalinate former salt ponds for restoration. The effort has stimulated the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Board and the Napa-Sonoma Marsh Restoration team to emphasize restoration designs with a strong reclaimed water use component. TBI is helping to investigate the feasibility of using reclaimed water to restore wetlands on 9,000 acres of salt ponds in Napa, Sonoma, and Solano counties.

Farmers are also being interviewed to assess potential demand for reclaimed water for crop irrigation.

#### Skaggs Island Restoration

A major advance occurred in the effort to return Skaggs Island to its historic status as tidal wetlands. The California Department of Transportation (CalTrans) provided \$8 million dollars as a condition to rebuild the San Francisco/Oakland Bay Bridge. The money will pay for demolition of abandoned military buildings on the 3,000-acre site.

Demolition enables the San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge to take title to the property after years of delay. TBI was a leader in working out a final solution to what had been an environmental impasse.

### RIVERS AND DELTA PROGRAM

#### TBI's Healthy Ecosystems Initiative

In 2001, TBI's efforts to develop indicators of environmental health entered a new phase with the launching of the Bay-Delta Ecological Scorecard project. The Scorecard, slated for completion in 2002, will offer the public the first annual assessment of the estuary's condition. Working with the University of California, TBI also initiated the development of specific indicators for managing and restoring the state's wetlands. Last year, TBI released the first annual report on the CALFED Program's Environmental Water Account. The report evaluated the EWA's first

year performance and offered detailed recommendations for improving the EWA in 2002.

TBI staff played a leadership role in advising CALFED on issues including development of an environmental water purchase program, selection of specific ecosystem restoration, water quality and conservation projects for funding, and adoption of rules for new groundwater storage and banking programs. TBI was named to the California Bay-Delta Public Advisory Committee, and will co-chair the Ecosystem Restoration Subcommittee.

#### Restoring The San Joaquin River

For the third consecutive year TBI helped lead a successful effort by environmental interests and eastside San Joaquin water users to release flows from Friant Dam to establish and maintain riparian vegetation in stretches of the river made dry by water diversions.

Under TBI's leadership, the search has begun for water supplies for permanent dedication to river restoration. The water will anchor a long-term plan now being developed by TBI and the Natural Resources Defense Council to restore flows and fish to the San Joaquin River. Friant water users agreed to adopt the plan—as part of a litigation settlement—by the end of 2002.



*The San Joaquin River.*

Photo: TBI

### WATERSHED EDUCATION PROGRAM

#### STRAW

The STRAW (Students and Teachers Restoring A Watershed) Project, a joint program of TBI and Berkeley's Center for Ecoliteracy (CEL), supports a network of teachers, students, community members and restoration professionals in implementing riparian studies and restoration projects.

STRAW partners include the Marin County Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program (MCSTOPPP), Prunuske Chatham, Inc., Marin Conservation Corps and the Marin and Southern Sonoma County Resource Conservation Districts. The Point Reyes Bird Observatory and STRAW provide a bird program. Other support is also given for water quality studies, mapping, and aquatic insects.

# The Bay Institute of San Francisco — Financial Report

## Statement of Financial Position

December 31, 2001

### ASSETS

Cash	\$283,006
Grants receivable	15,738
Inventory	142
Deposits	4,000
Property and equipment, net	<u>17,822</u>

Total assets 320,708

### LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

#### Liabilities:

Accrued vacation:	92,260
Accounts payable	<u>20,966</u>

Total liabilities 113,226

#### Net assets:

Unrestricted	106,892
Temporarily restricted	<u>100,590</u>

Total net assets 207,482

Total liabilities and net assets 320,708

(Audited)

## Statement of Activities

For the Year Ended December 31, 2001

### CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

#### Revenue:

Grants and contracts	\$1,306,635
Donations	27,680
Events and merchandise	33,924
In-kind contributions	4,246
Interest and other	<u>4,270</u>

Total revenue and support 1,376,755

#### Expenditures:

Program	1,215,968
General administration & development	<u>138,843</u>

Total expenditures 1,354,811

INCREASE IN NET ASSETS 21,944

NET ASSETS, JANUARY 1, 2001 185,538

NET ASSETS, DECEMBER 31, 2001 207,482

## The Mission of The Bay Institute of San Francisco

The Bay Institute is dedicated to the protection and restoration of the ecosystems of San Francisco Bay, the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, and the rivers, streams, and watershed tributary to the estuary.

### The Bay Institute

is a 501(c)(3) non-profit research, education, and advocacy organization.

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### Bay Institute Staff

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Ruth Hicks *Watershed Education Liaison*

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**Government and Partner Agencies**

California Coastal Conservancy  
 California Department of Education,  
 Office of Environmental Education  
 California Resources Agency,  
 Department of Water Resources  
 County of Marin  
 County of Sonoma  
 Marin Wildlife and Fisheries Advisory Committee  
 National Fish and Wildlife Foundation  
 Sonoma County Fish and Wildlife Advisory Board  
 Sonoma State University  
 United States Army Corps of Engineers  
 United States Bureau of Reclamation  
 United States Environmental Protection Agency  
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**\$200-\$499**

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