



# The Bay Institute

## 2005 Annual Report

### Rivers and Delta Program

The Bay Institute's (TBI's) Rivers and Delta Program employs scientific and policy expertise to secure reforms in the way California manages its water supplies. The program also works to protect the ecological values of the San Francisco Bay-Delta Estuary and its watershed.

As a leader in the effort to restore the endangered native species of the estuary, in 2005 TBI negotiated an innovative package of flow and habitat protections that would preserve the Yuba River's fall-run chinook salmon and other anadromous fish populations. TBI developed and promoted a comprehensive set of recommended improvements to the state's Clean Water Act requirements to protect estuarine habitat, fish migration, and water quality. Perhaps most excitingly, TBI continued its key role in providing technical and policy support to our plaintiff coalition's litigation effort to rewater the San Joaquin River below Friant Dam. This effort won a second court decision, this time finding the dam in violation of the Endangered Species Act.

As part of our Ecological Scorecard Project to measure the ecosystem's health and management, TBI released the second *San Francisco Bay Index* in 2005. The Index revealed that restoration gains in the lower Bay were being undermined by deteriorating conditions in the freshwater-influenced upper Bay and Delta. Extensive press coverage helped highlight the alarming collapse in the upper estuary's food web and fish populations.

Also during 2005, TBI worked with state and federal legislators, agency directors, and the Little Hoover Commission to review the status of and develop

improved procedures for oversight and governance of Bay-Delta habitat restoration and water management programs; promoted land retirement and source control approaches as the key components in the federal government's court-mandated plan to solve the San Joaquin Valley's toxic agricultural wastewater problems; and helped produce the first in a series of maps in a collaborative initiative to highlight the natural and engineered hydrology of the Bay's watersheds.



### Bay Restoration Program

TBI's Bay Restoration Program works to build partnerships and leverage resources for wetland restoration projects throughout the Bay-Delta region, with a particular focus on San Pablo Bay.

As of this year, almost 4,000 acres of former salt evaporation ponds along the Napa River have been reconnected to San Pablo Bay for the first time in as much as 100 years. The salt pond complex was acquired by the California Department of Fish & Game (DFG) in 1994 from Cargill Salt Co. TBI worked with a number of project partners, including DFG, the California State Coastal Conservancy, and the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers to prepare the restoration plan, calling for returning the flow of tidal waters across much of the 9,000 acre complex. Tidal restoration will enable mudflats and cordgrass marshes to reestablish vibrant wetlands that provide habitat for endangered plants and animals, including the California clapper rail.

Also in 2005, Congressman Mike Thompson and U.S. Senator Diane Feinstein introduced legislation that would establish a program of large-scale use of reclaimed water for North Bay agriculture. TBI co-facilitated meetings of North Bay sanitation districts to help develop the water reuse program, which would

## The Bay Institute's Programs in 2005 *continued...*

deliver as much as 30,000 acre-feet of water to vineyards and grasslands throughout the region, thereby reducing the demand for already overdrafted ground and surface water supplies. If the bill becomes law, Congress will provide \$50 million to start Phase I of the project.

TBI also served on a legislative advisory panel that developed new standards to vastly reduce the number of invasive species that are discharged into California coastal waters each year. Species such as the Asian clam, released into San Francisco Bay in the late 1970s through the discharges of ballast water from ocean-going vessels, have had disastrous impacts on the San Francisco Bay ecosystem. State Senator Joe Simitian introduced a bill with the recommended standards this summer.

### Watershed Education Program

In 1998, building on the success of the six-year-old Shrimp Club, TBI established the Students and Teachers Restoring A Watershed (STRAW) Project in order to integrate our water policy concerns with local, on-the-ground community restoration and education efforts. Through its collaboration with local partners, STRAW provides students, teachers, and other community members with the scientific, educational, and technical resources to conduct hands-on watershed studies, including ecological restoration of riparian corridors.

During the 2005-06 school year, 1,822 K-12 students plus 551 parents and community volunteers planted native plants at 25 restorations, revegetating approximately 8,704 linear feet of riparian corridor, or just over 5 acres. Students and teachers were provided with

restoration presentations in their classrooms as well as training at the site. The STRAW team and partners maintain every site for three years. In addition, this year STRAW instituted quantitative analysis of plant monitoring data and photo documentation at restoration sites.

Restoration work is complemented by classroom watershed studies. STRAW works with about 70 classes in 30 schools in the North Bay. Upon request, classes are provided with aquatic insect studies, water monitoring, mapping, and bird studies (through project collaborator PRBO Conservation Science).

In 2005 STRAW initiated a partnership with the San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge and Mary Collins School in Petaluma. Programs offered at the refuge included the Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping of non-native plants, water monitoring, and other plant and animal studies.

STRAW looks for opportunities to work with whole school staffs to create effective change in education. Varied internships from high school to university to Americorps are provided. In addition, STRAW continues to facilitate SEEC-SF (Stewardship and Environmental Education Collaborative of San Francisco), a network of environmental education providers in San Francisco.

STRAW aims to provide yearlong education and support for participating schools. Each year begins with Watershed Week, STRAW's teacher-training institute. This year STRAW staff worked with Native American instructors to design and facilitate a three-day training for almost 100 participants.

### The Bay Institute

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

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# The Bay Institute of San Francisco — Financial Report

## Statement of Financial Position

December 31, 2005

### ASSETS

Cash	\$133,721
Grants receivable	265,226
Prepaid expense and other current assets	9,388
Property and equipment, net	5,419
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>413,754</b>

### LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

#### Liabilities:

Accounts payable	115,032
Accrued vacation	33,817
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>148,849</b>

#### Net assets:

Unrestricted	35,303
Temporarily restricted	229,602
<b>Total net assets</b>	<b>264,905</b>
<b>Total liabilities and net assets</b>	<b>413,754</b>

(Audited)

## Statement of Activities

For the Year Ended December 31, 2005

### CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

#### Revenue:

Grants and contracts	\$925,870
Pass-through revenue	50,000
Donations	474,575
Events and publications	122,806
In-kind contributions	77,234
Interest and other	425
<b>Total revenue and support</b>	<b>1,650,910</b>

#### Expenditures:

Program	1,209,371
General administration & development	239,526
<b>Total expenditures</b>	<b>1,448,897</b>

INCREASE IN NET ASSETS 202,013

NET ASSETS, JANUARY 1, 2005 62,892

NET ASSETS, DECEMBER 31, 2005 264,905

## Our sincere thanks to our generous supporters during 2005.

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 California Bay-Delta Authority  
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 through a subcontract with the Marin  
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 East Bay Municipal Utilities District  
 East Bay Regional Park District  
 Marin County Stormwater Pollution  
 Prevention Program  
 Marin County Wildlife &  
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### Funding Partners

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