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<https://www.nacpro.org/award-recipient>

Park & Recreation Facility- Class II

Nominee: Shoreline Public Access, Sea Level Rise, and Habitat Restoration Projects

2021 Awardee Nominee's Organization: East Bay Regional Park District, CA

Population: 2.8 million

The East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD), located in the San Francisco Bay Area, completed three projects in 2020 to provide public access, mitigate sea level rise, and restore wildlife habitat. These project sites are in the cities of Bay Point, Albany, and Oakland. These projects are exceptional examples of forward-thinking endeavors that thoughtfully constructed sustainable public access for the entire SF Bay area and especially for the adjacent communities.

The Bay Point Regional Shoreline Restoration Project included enhanced amenities such as ADA restrooms, drinking water, and shade structures. This project incorporated an innovative adaptive-retreat design to address projected sea level rise. Diverse habitats and structures were created including transition zones, tidal channels, and other marsh features which facilitated tidal exchange and controlled seasonal inundation.

The Albany Beach project closed the last critical gap in the SF Bay Trail between Emeryville and Richmond, added new amenities, and habitat improvements on the beach area and dunes. The completion of this project follows decades of planning, community and stakeholder engagement, and overcoming challenging engineering design to successfully construct portions of the trail cutting into a steep rock slope.

The Judge John Sutter Regional Shoreline project is the culmination of 50+ years of diverse community engagement and regional collaboration among nine agencies. This 22.47-acre park is located along at the foot of the eastern span of the SF-Oakland Bay Bridge. The project was funded and constructed by Caltrans in partnership with EBRPD. The 600' observation pier, built using re-purposed old bay bridge footings, provides waterfront access with unique views of the bay. Park amenities included ADA restrooms, security lighting, and interpretive panels with the region's rich transportation history. A trail connects to the bridge, providing a four-mile link from Emeryville to Yerba Buena Island.

Primary Contact

Katy Hornbeck
East Bay Regional Park District
2950 Peralta Oaks Ct,
Oakland, CA 94605-0381

2021 NACPRO Awards Presentation

August 6, 2021

About NACPRO

Since 1964, NACPRO has been dedicated to advancing county and regional policies that promote three main areas:

PARKS | RECREATION | CONSERVATION

Our annual awards program recognizes and honors those who display excellence in supporting this mission.

Welcome to the 2021 National Association of County Parks and Recreational Officials' Awards

Park & Recreation Facility – Class I

Awardee:
Three Shoreline Projects in Bay Point, Albany, and Oakland to Provide Public Access to the Bay, Mitigate Sea Level Rise, and Restore Habitat

Awardee's Organization:
East Bay Regional Park District, CA

Bay Point Regional Shoreline Restoration and Public Access Project

Resilient Accessible Harrier Trail

- **Accessibility:** Provide access for persons with disabilities on Harrier Trail.
- **Environmental Education:** Install interpretive panels to enhance educational programs such as climate science and shoreline restoration.
- **Public Use:** Provide services (1 mile paved loop trail to facilitate hobby activity outdoors).
- **Sustainability:** Design trails and habitat to accommodate up to 3.3 feet of sea level rise. Establish drought tolerant native landscaping.
- **Visitor Facilities:** Install shade structures at picnic areas, flush toilets, benches, and overlooks for

Tidal Marsh

- Tidal marshes will be restored and comprised of low marsh and high marsh.
- Low marsh marsh (temporarily lower elevation) is important to provide habitat for the least grebe, California least grebe, and
- High marsh marsh (low frequency and occurs above mean high water) provides habitat for a variety of birds and mammals including the western Gull, least grebe and the least grebe.

3 Transitional and Upland

- Composed of coastal grassland and scrub areas, transitional and upland areas between marshes and uplands.
- Provide edge habitat for marsh wildlife species during high tides, accommodate marsh restoration, provide wetland benefits and provide a buffer between public and sensitive wildlife activity areas.