

Tottino Ponds

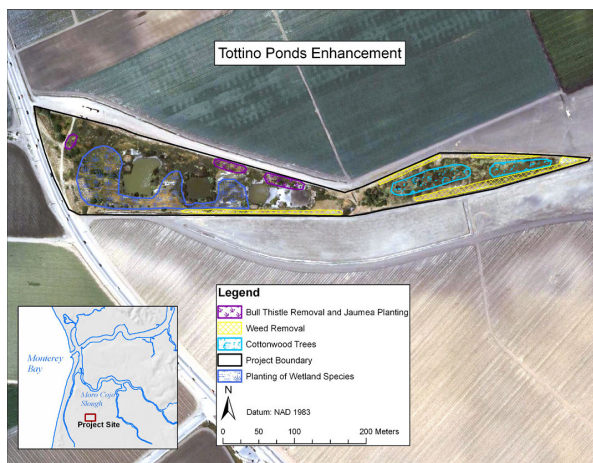
Moro Cojo Restoration Project

Previous Restoration: 1999-2003

Partners Involved: Coastal Conservation and Research, PG&E, Sea Mist Farms

Previous Work Performed

The original site had been flat land covered with annual non-native plants. It had to be disced regularly and baited with poison to prevent the rodent population from getting out of control and invading the nearby crops. Five ponds were created in 1999 by making shallow basins and pumping water. Water is pumped to the ponds using the purple pipe system which brings recycled water to farms. An additional 6th pond was created in 2002 adding another 2 acres of wetland. Weed removal was done by mowing, weed whipping and hand removal as well as flooding of terrestrial species. In total, 550 trees and 60 shrubs were planted as well as seeds drilled or broadcast across 12 acres of the 14 acre site.



Tottino parcel enhancement plan



View of Tottino property from the freeway post restoration and enhancement, 2006

Enhancement Performed

Over the past ten years this site has shown a dramatic transformation from a barren field to a fully functioning wetland ecosystem complete with breeding birds, threatened amphibians and a diverse freshwater invertebrate community.

Ongoing weed management is needed to maintain the dominance of native plants. This is especially true along the edges, which comes into contact with farm equipment. The newer ponds at the eastern end of the site had become overrun with rushes. These rushes die each year and had created a dense mat of dead vegetation, ideal for rodent communities. We replaced some of the rushes with cottonwood trees. This provides more habitat for birds, and reduces available habitat for rodents, which have been singled out in the current food safety situation as one of the potential vectors of pathogens to crops.

Restoration Success

2000



2009



2005

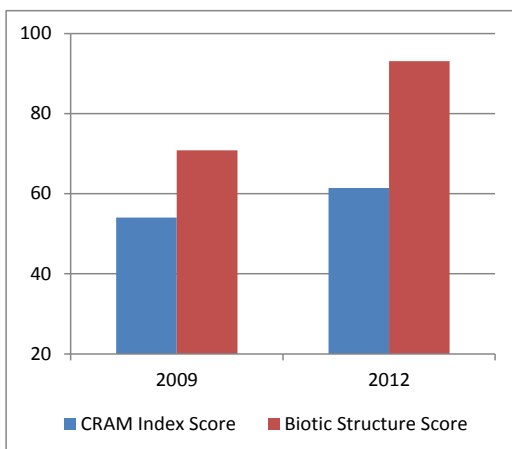


2012



CRAM Scores

Perennial ponds



Seasonal pond

