

# California Clapper Rail Surveys for the San Francisco Estuary Invasive Spartina Project 2006



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**October 31, 2006**

This report was prepared for the California Coastal Conservancy's San Francisco Estuary Invasive *Spartina* Project with support and funding from the following contributors:

California Coastal Conservancy

California Resources Agency

CALFED Bay-Delta Program (Interagency Agreement No. 4600001875)

California Wildlife Conservation Board (Memorandum of Agreement No. WC-30322)

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# 1.0 INTRODUCTION

Eradication of invasive *Spartina* from the San Francisco Estuary has been identified as a critical component of ecosystem recovery and endangered species protection by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), California Coastal Conservancy, and many environmental groups and scientists. The urgency of this issue was recently affirmed by international *Spartina* and invasive species experts at the Third International Conference on Invasive *Spartina*, held in San Francisco, November 8-10, 2004.

A major issue facing the Invasive *Spartina* Project (ISP) and others attempting to control invasive *Spartina* in the San Francisco Estuary is that the endangered California clapper rail (*Rallus longirostris obsoletus*) has been found to use invasive *Spartina* for cover and nesting. In fact, clapper rails have colonized marshes created by invasion of non-native *Spartina*, and the assumption is that removal of that *Spartina* will result in localized loss of clapper rail habitat. The ISP has been working extensively with USFWS and other biologists to develop strategies that will allow control of invasive *Spartina* while minimizing impacts to the clapper rail.

This report provides results of breeding season surveys for California clapper rails conducted by Olofson Environmental, Inc. in 2006 for the ISP. These surveys were conducted for the ISP to provide information on clapper rails at invasive *Spartina* treatment sites to inform treatment strategies, monitor potential changes in clapper rail populations, and assess compliance with requirements of the USFWS Biological Opinion (2005).

## 2.0 STUDY AREA

Call count surveys were conducted at 38 sites located in the Central San Francisco Bay in the counties of Alameda, San Francisco, San Mateo, and Santa Clara, with clusters in Alameda, San Leandro Bay, and Hayward (**Figure 1, Table 1, Table 2**). These sites were a subset of sites slated for non-native *Spartina* treatment in 2006. Surveys for clapper rails at other project sites were conducted by Avocet Research Associates (ARA, under funds provided by the ISP and other grants), U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, PRBO Conservation Science, and H.T. Harvey and Associates.

Most surveys were conducted at sites where rails had previously been documented, but there were also several sites where rail use was probable but unknown due to lack of previous survey data (e.g. West Point Slough near Bair Island in Santa Clara County). Several sites were also surveyed for the presence of potential clapper rail habitat to determine whether clapper rail surveys were warranted (e.g. San Francisco International Airport).

## 3.0 METHODS

### 3.1 FIELD SURVEY METHODS

California clapper rail surveys were conducted between January 15 and April 15, 2006, using standardized survey protocols approved by the USFWS. Two types of surveys were conducted: call count surveys and habitat assessment surveys (details below).

### 3.1.1 Clapper Rail Breeding Season Call Count Surveys

**Protocol “A”.** Protocol “A” is the standard “walking transect” survey protocol written by USFWS biologists and used by researchers throughout the San Francisco Estuary to document California clapper rail presence during the breeding season and to calculate rail relative abundance and/or density. Within each survey site, survey stations were established 200 meters (m) apart, primarily on peripheral footpaths, levees, and boardwalks (rather than within marsh vegetation) where possible, to minimize disturbance to habitat and for observer safety. The number of survey stations established at each site varied due to site size, configuration, and accessibility. Sites were visited three times during the season, with at least seven days between visits. During the first two rounds, a trained observer stood at each point for 10 minutes, recording all rails detected visually or aurally. For each bird or pair of birds detected, the observer recorded the number of birds, call type, distance and angle on a pre-printed datasheet and plotted the approximate location on an aerial photo. Pre-recorded clapper rail vocalizations were used at survey stations on the third visit to elicit response from rails if no rails were detected during the two previous passive surveys (or during the first five minutes during the third survey) within 200 m of the survey station. The full protocol and datasheets are included in Appendix 1 (the “official” draft clapper rail protocol document furnished by USFWS Endangered Species Office); Appendix 2 (an expanded version created by ISP containing more detailed descriptions of data collection and interpretation methods); and Appendix 3 (clapper rail call count survey datasheet).

**Protocol “C”.** A modified protocol for clapper rail call count surveys was developed by USFWS and ISP staff to maximize the chances of detecting rails in invasive *Spartina* treatment areas deemed beforehand to have a low (but non-zero) likelihood of supporting clapper rails (using habitat assessment protocol “F”, below). These sites are typically isolated, small marsh patches that to a clapper rail biologist appear to be marginal to poor habitat. Sites where rail presence is determined during habitat assessment to be extremely highly unlikely would not be surveyed further. Sites where rails are determined to be absent can be treated during the rail breeding season, maximizing the potential window of time available for treatment.

Protocol “C” allows permitted biologists to play pre-recorded rail vocalizations during the first (and subsequent) visits to a site, unlike protocol “A” which requires two passive surveys with no detections before a tape can be played. If a rail is detected, the recording must be immediately switched off and cannot be played again within 200 m of the detection. To determine with sufficient certainty that no rails are present three visits with no rail detections are required.

If rails were detected using this survey protocol in 2005, we used the standard “A” protocol in 2006.

### 3.1.2 Clapper Rail Habitat Assessment: Protocol F

This protocol was developed by ISP staff, in association with Jules Evens (ARA) and Joy Albertson (USFWS), to determine whether apparently marginal habitat meets a suggested minimum set of criteria for likely clapper rail use. These criteria include restoration status, salinity, tidal regime, marsh overall size and configuration, levee configuration, marsh elevation, presence of upper marsh vegetation, degree of non-native *Spartina* invasion, distance from the nearest marsh with known clapper rails, degree of channelization, and amount of open water (ponding). If at least four criteria related to probable clapper rail presence were met, there was sufficient probability that clapper rails were present, and a recommendation was made for further call count surveys, usually protocol “C”. If these criteria were not met, the site was assumed to not support clapper rails, no further clapper rail surveys were recommended, and the site was proposed for early treatment. Appendix 4 includes the detailed survey protocol and field datasheet.

### **3.1.3 Vegetation Surveys & Invasive *Spartina* Inventory Data**

The ISP *Spartina* Inventory Program conducted a complete inventory of invasive *Spartina* in the estuary in 2005, using a combination of field surveys and remote sensing techniques (see Zaremba in prep., for methods). We also collected a suite of vegetation data in the field in the fall of 2005 for a separate study of clapper rail habitat use. In order to describe general site characteristics, we report here the cover of non-native *Spartina alterniflora* hybrids (from inventory data) and overall vegetation cover data (from field-collected data) for each survey site, where available.

For habitat use studies, we randomly selected 2 - 16 sampling points within the survey area in each marsh, the number of points depending on marsh size. In the field at each sampling point, we recorded the relative percent cover of all plant species (of overall vegetation) within 50 m. For this report we calculated the mean cover for each species at each site.

We then calculated the overall cover of invasive *Spartina* for each survey area by intersecting the rail survey area and *Spartina* inventory polygon data in ArcView 3.2. These data are absolute percentages: percent cover of *Spartina* of the entire marsh area (including channels and ponds, and other unvegetated areas). Thus the cover of invasive *Spartina* calculated from inventory data is likely to be lower than the percent invasive *Spartina* of the vegetation (as recorded at random points for the habitat study), especially at sites where there are large unvegetated areas, such as restoration sites.

## **3.2 DATA COLLECTION AND MANAGEMENT**

Most clapper rail survey point locations used in 2006 were established in 2005. Points were established in the field, recorded with a Trimble hand-held GPS unit, post-processed for maximum accuracy, and converted to a GIS shapefile in ArcView GIS 3.2. Points added in 2006 were established in ArcView 3.2 using aerial photos, before going into the field. All points were navigated to during surveys using either a Garmin GPS 76 hand-held unit or a Magellan Meridian Platinum GPS unit (with WAAS satellite reception enabled and an accuracy of  $\leq 10$  m).

All survey data were entered in the field on pre-printed datasheets. Clapper rail survey data were entered on datasheets developed by Avocet Research Associates (Appendix 3) and habitat assessment data were entered on datasheets developed by ISP staff (Appendix 4). Maps for recording clapper rail locations were generated in ArcView GIS 3.2 using recent high resolution (pixel size  $< 1$  m) USGS digital ortho-quarter-quads (DOQQs) or digital geo-referenced and rectified images created from aerial photography generated for invasive *Spartina* inventory mapping in 2005.

We entered survey detection data and habitat assessment data into an Access database, which had been developed by PRBO Conservation Science and modified by the ISP. We also developed a database in ArcView GIS 3.2 to record detection locations, and to aid interpretation and triangulation of data collected by multiple observers or from multiple transects (see below).

Data were entered and proofed against original datasheets for accuracy. We examined all fields for obvious outliers and checked these against the original data. We performed additional QA/QC by comparing the rail counts determined by surveyors in the field with those calculated within the Access database.

## **3.3 SITE-LEVEL SPATIAL DATA: GIS**

To calculate the relative abundance of clapper rails at each site (expressed in birds per hectare and also generally referred to as “density”), we calculated the area of each site that was surveyed in ArcView GIS 3.2. or ArcGIS 9.0.

First, site boundaries were digitized (heads up method, i.e., tracing over a digitized image on the computer monitor with a mouse or digital pen on a digitizing tablet) using recent high resolution (pixel size < 1 m) USGS DOQQs or digital geo-referenced and rectified images created from aerial photography generated for invasive *Spartina* inventory mapping in 2005. Channels > 10 m wide and ponds were digitized so that their areas were excluded from calculations of marsh area.

Second, site survey boundaries were calculated using the site boundaries, above, intersected with a 200 m buffer around survey stations. This 200 m distance is the approximate maximum distance for most clapper rail detections under moderate survey conditions. For most sites the area surveyed was the same as the entire site area, but for some large sites the survey area was smaller than the entire site area, e.g., Citation and Oro Loma East, where points were placed only along one side of the marsh, and only rails in that portion of the marsh were likely to be detected.

### **3.4 DATA INTERPRETATION AND ANALYSIS**

Standardized methods for interpreting field data were developed in association with ISP collaborators (Appendix 2). Additional techniques for improving accuracy of data collected by multiple observers, or triangulating observations of a single observer, were developed by ISP (Appendix 5).

For each detection, we made assumptions about the number of birds represented. For instance, one bird calling alone could represent a single unmated bird or a pair, and thus was recorded as a range of 1 to 2 birds. For smaller sites with low to moderate clapper rail density, calculating the number of birds detected was relatively straightforward, and could be done accurately immediately following the field survey. For other sites, particularly high density sites where multiple transects with multiple observers were used, or where birds were detected from multiple points by a single observer, it was not always immediately clear if particular birds were detected from more than one point. In these cases, we made assumptions in the field about which birds were detected from multiple points and made preliminary estimates of the number of birds detected. Later, we plotted bird locations, using distance and detection data recorded in the field, with Distance and Azimuth Tools v. 1.6 (Jenness 2005) in ArcView 3.2. We first plotted locations separately for each observer's transect, using detections from multiple locations to more accurately estimate placement of individual birds. For sites with multiple observers, we then re-examined the data to confirm whether birds detected at a point were likely to be the same as those detected from other points by other observers. In some cases two observers each estimated the location of a bird in such close proximity to each other that it was highly probable that both observers detected the same bird. In other instances, it was not clear whether observers detected the same bird, or whether there were actually two different birds in the same area. To reduce the probability of over-estimating the number of birds at a site, it was assumed that observers closer to a given area were more likely to estimate the number and location of birds accurately than a farther observer, and the data recorded by the closer observer were used.

We estimated the total minimum and maximum number of birds detected for each survey at each marsh. We examined the range in the number of birds estimated across all surveys for each site, and presented the highest low and highest high as the range in the minimum number of clapper rails likely present at that site. We calculated minimum and maximum relative abundance (i.e., density) using these numbers divided by the area surveyed (described above in the GIS site data section).

We graphed (in Microsoft Excel 2000) the minimum and maximum abundance indices calculated for each site for both 2006 and 2005. OEI previously reported clapper rail data collected in 2005 (Spautz 2005). Where OEI did not conduct surveys in 2005, we present data provided by research collaborators (ARA, PRBO, and EBRPD) for comparison. We recalculated and re-interpreted

2005 data, including that provided by PRBO and EBRPD, when original data were available, using the same methods we used in 2006. In the future, we will conduct statistical analyses to determine whether there was a statistically significant change in clapper rail abundances between years, and help assess whether any of those changes could be attributable to invasive *Spartina* removal. For these analyses we will need to assess intra- and inter-year variability in survey results, and determine the level of real differences in bird numbers detectable using the existing survey methods. For present purposes we present 2005 and 2006 data for preliminary visual interpretation only. Where there is an overlap in numbers across years, we cannot detect any difference. Where there is a large difference between years, and the minimum and maximum numbers do not overlap at all, there is a higher probability that the numbers represent a real change. However, until we quantify the variability as described above, we cannot say with certainty in these cases that the numbers changed across years.

## 4.0 RESULTS

Three rounds of clapper rail surveys were completed at 35 sites covering 528.4 hectares (ha) of tidal marsh habitat. Habitat suitability surveys were completed at three sites (**Tables 1, 2 & 3**).

The regional mean abundance index (birds/ha) for all sites surveyed in 2006 by ISP was 0.61 to 0.91 birds/ha (mean: 0.75 birds/ha or 0.30 birds/acre). In 2005 the values for these same sites (including sites surveyed by others) was 0.43 – 0.65 birds/ha (0.54 birds/ha or 0.22 birds/acre). At most sites, the number of rails detected and the associated relative rail abundance in 2006 were similar to those calculated for 2005. At some sites, the number of rails appears to have increased significantly since 2005. There is no evidence of a significant increase or decrease in numbers at any 2005 invasive *Spartina* treatment site, except Oro Loma East. At that site, two birds were detected in 2005 and none in 2006; however, the area surveyed in 2006 was smaller than that surveyed in 2005, so some birds may have been missed in 2006 (see below).

Following are clapper rail survey results and a description of habitat at each of the sites surveyed. We also present a comparison of 2006 survey results with 2005 results, where data are available. In most cases surveys were completed by OEI staff both years, but at sites managed by East Bay Regional Parks District (EBRPD), most surveys were completed in 2005 by EBRPD staff. Differences in rail numbers among years are potentially due to several factors:

1. Real differences in population size and/or distribution, potentially caused by changes in processes at the site such as predation of adults, juveniles and nests, tidal flooding of nests, disease, and inter-marsh movements.
2. Differences in observer abilities to detect rails by sight or sound, or to estimate detection distances.
3. Differences in area covered by surveys.
4. Differences in clapper rail vocalization rate due to weather or reproductive status.
5. Differences in survey protocol.
6. Differences in data interpretation techniques.

## 4.1 CALIFORNIA CLAPPER RAIL CALL COUNT SURVEY RESULTS

### 4.1.1 Alameda/San Leandro Bay Complex

This complex includes 9 subsites (subsites 17a, b, d, h, and j-m) surveyed by OEI/ISP and two sites surveyed by EBRPD (subsites 17a & 17c): Arrowhead and Elsie Roemer (the latter also surveyed by ISP). Arrowhead has the highest number of clapper rails in this complex, and one of the highest densities in the East Bay: an estimated 64 birds at the site in 2005<sup>1</sup>. The San Leandro Bay area is highly invaded by *Spartina alterniflora* hybrids.

Clapper rails have been previously documented in all sites surveyed in San Leandro Bay. There were 77 - 109 clapper rails detected during surveys conducted by OEI staff. If EBRPD detected approximately 64 birds at Arrowhead again in 2006 (based on 2005 winter high tide surveys estimates), there were approximately 141 - 173 birds in all of San Leandro Bay. In 2005 OEI & EBRPD staff detected 113 - 150 clapper rails, including 64 at Arrowhead. The locations of birds were similar in 2005 and 2006, but the number of birds appears to be higher in 2006 than it was in 2005 (**Table 2, Table 3, Figure 2.a - 2.e, Figure 5.a., 5.b.**). In 2005 the mean abundance index (based on all sites but Arrowhead) was 0.92 - 1.40 birds per ha; in 2006 the range was 1.09 - 1.58 birds per ha (**Table 3**). Because numbers appear to have increased in San Leandro Bay, and conditions have not significantly changed (in spite of some *Spartina* treatment) we suspect that 2005 may have been a very good year for clapper rail recruitment (i.e., birds hatched in 2005 and surviving to breeding maturity in 2006).

The clapper rail abundance indices for sites in this area are the highest in all of the East Bay. This high concentration of rails may be due to the quality of the rail habitat throughout the area, or it may be driven primarily by the high quality of Arrowhead marsh, which may be the source of the population in the region (i.e. birds may be successfully breeding there and the young dispersing out to adjacent more marginal marshes). However, until we have estimates for the number of birds at EBRPD, and more is known about reproductive success at Arrowhead relative to the rest of the area, we cannot know for sure what is driving this high population concentration.

**Elsie Roemer Marsh** (site 17a; **Figure 2.b.**) is one of the three most developed marshes in San Leandro Bay, in terms of marsh width and the presence of high marsh; but it has less high marsh than Arrowhead and MLK Shoreline. The vegetation at this site in 2005 was approximately 80% *Spartina* hybrids, with < 5% cover each *Salicornia virginica* (synonym for *Sarcicornia pacifica*, perennial pickleweed), *Jaumea carnosa*, *Distichlis spicata* (salt grass), and wrack (dead vegetation deposited on a high tide). Invasive *Spartina* was treated in two areas (approximately 1/2 of the site area) in late 2005, but treatment efficacy was low: in 2006 non-native *Spartina* was growing as vigorously in most treated areas as in untreated areas. EBRPD staff conducted rail surveys at this site in 2005, and detected a range of 11 - 24 rails during three rounds of "A" surveys. During our 2006 surveys, we detected 11 - 18 rails during 3 rounds of "A" surveys (**Table 2; Figure 5.a.**). The most likely number of birds is 12, or 6 pairs. In both years, most of the detections were in the western portion of the marsh where the marsh is widest. There was significant overlap in the estimates of birds, and we don't believe there has been a significant change in the number of birds between 2005 and 2006 surveys.

Tidal marsh at **Bayfarm Island** (site 17b; **Figure 2.b.**) is a narrow strip adjacent to a housing development, approximately 5 - 20 m wide. In 2005, *Spartina* hybrids composed approximately 50% of the vegetation along with 15% *Salicornia virginica*, 9% *Grindelia stricta* (gumplant), 10% *Distichlis*

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<sup>1</sup> EBRPD estimates were based on winter high-tide airboat surveys for clapper rails. They have not yet calculated minimum and maximum estimates of the number of birds detected during 2005 and 2006 call count surveys.

*spicata* and 8% wrack. *Spartina* hybrid areas were treated in 2005. Prior to 2005 no rails had been reported in this area, and were not expected because the marsh was so narrow and there were no tidal channels. However, because there was some high marsh, and it was so close to Arrowhead and Elsie Roemer marshes where rail densities were high, a “C” survey was conducted in 2005; 4 – 5 birds were detected during one “C” survey. In 2006, three rounds of standard passive “A” surveys were conducted and 5 – 10 birds were detected (most likely only 5 – 6 birds, or 2 – 3 pairs; **Table 2**). Both years, most birds were detected in the eastern portion of the marsh, where the marsh tends to be wider and there is more high marsh. There may have been an increase in the number of birds in 2006, but because there was overlap in the estimates, it is probable that the same number of birds were present in 2005 and 2006 (**Figure 5.a.**). At adjacent **Bayfarm Island Bridge South marsh** (17b), at the southern end of Bayfarm Island Bridge, no clapper rails were detected during one “C” survey in 2005 and three rounds of “A” surveys (including a final round with tapes played) in 2006. However, rails from the main part of Bayfarm Island marsh may use this small area for foraging at times. It is not likely to be used for nesting.

On **Alameda Island East** (site 17m, **Figure 2.c.**), surveys were conducted at the north end of the Bayfarm Island Bridge, at the Aeolian Yacht Harbor and at three points on the Alameda Island eastern shoreline. The eastern shoreline is lined with riprap and the vegetation was 100% *Spartina* hybrid in 2005, except at Aeolian Yacht Harbor and the adjacent area of the shoreline where *Grindelia* comprised approximately 10% of the vegetation; overall invasive *Spartina* cover was approximately 75%. No formal vegetation surveys were conducted for species other than non-native *Spartina*. *Spartina* hybrid areas were treated in 2005. When we examined this area in 2005 we thought it was unlikely to support rails due to the lack of high marsh for nesting. One round of “C” surveys was conducted in 2005 and one female responded to the taped vocalizations to the east of Aeolian Yacht Harbor. Because she was giving the repeated “kek-burr” call typically associated with unmated females, we thought it likely that she did not have a breeding territory, but we still assume there were 1 – 2 rails present. During three rounds of “A” surveys in 2006, with vocalizations broadcast at all points on the final round, no rails were detected at the Bridge or Yacht Harbor. One pair near shoreline survey point 2 responded by duetting (**Table 2; Figure 5.a.**). This pair was in approximately the same area as the bird detected in 2005, and we suspect it was a breeding pair.

**Fan Marsh** (site 17j; **Figure 2.c.**) is separated from the Airport Channel and the rest of the bay by Doolittle Drive. As the name implies, it is fan-shaped, and has a dendritic channel system with muted tidal action (SFEI 1999) with sufficient high marsh to support clapper rails. In 2005, Non-native *Spartina* hybrids comprised 54% of the overall cover; there are no other available vegetation data. There is a small, square, diked marsh to the south comprised primarily of *Salicornia virginica*. *Spartina* hybrid areas were not treated in 2005. Three rounds of “A” surveys were conducted from points along Doolittle Drive in 2005 and 2006. In 2005, 7 – 8 rails were detected, while in 2006, there were 6 – 12 rails (**Table 2; Figure 5.b.**). There was no indication of a significant change between years.

Marsh habitat in the **Oakland Airport Channel** (site 17k; **Figure 2.c. & 2.e.**) lies in a narrow band formed on the outboard edge of a rip-rapped shoreline, and is continuous with Arrowhead Marsh on the east side. Much of the channel is unvegetated. Although the vegetation is predominantly *Spartina* hybrids (80% in 2005; or 49 – 57% overall cover), there are small patches of *Salicornia virginica*, *Grindelia stricta* and *Distichlis spicata*, all indicative of high marsh. *Spartina* hybrid areas were treated in 2005. In 2005 we conducted one round of “C” surveys around the entire perimeter of the channel. In one round 8 – 10 birds were detected. In 2006 we conducted three rounds of “A” surveys at the same survey stations and detected 7 – 10 birds (**Table 2; Figure 5.b.**). Al-

though the locations of the birds were somewhat different between years, the numbers were virtually identical.

**Doolittle Pond** (site 17l; **Figure 2.c.**) is continuous with Airport Channel. It is joined to the Bay by two rip-rapped openings that are high enough so that even during the lowest tides, the pond does not drain and the level of water in the pond is equivalent to high tide. A narrow strip of marsh has formed on the inside perimeter of the pond, with about 15% *Spartina* hybrid cover, estimated in 2005. There were also significant patches of *Grindelia stricta* and *Salicornia virginica*. Formal vegetation surveys were not conducted for plants other than non-native *Spartina*. *Spartina* hybrid areas were not treated in 2005. Although the muted tidal action probably reduces habitat quality for clapper rails, there is sufficient high vegetation and proximity to documented rail habitat (Arrowhead and Fan marshes) that a “C” survey was warranted in 2005. Two to three clapper rails were detected within the site, which was not expected. The birds responded to taped vocalizations by calling and walking virtually the entire interior perimeter of the site. In 2006 we conducted three rounds of “A” surveys and detected 1 – 2 rails (**Table 2; Figure 5.b.**). The birds detected both years may have a breeding territory within the pond, or they may have walked over from the adjacent fully tidal habitat in Airport Channel. There was no indication of a change in numbers between years.

**Martin Luther King, Jr. (MLK) Shoreline Marsh** (site 17d; **Figure 2.d. & 2.e.**) is a heterogeneous grouping of narrow marsh strips along rip-rapped portions of the shoreline, including Oakland Coliseum channel mouths (see below), and two larger areas of marsh, one north of the mouth of Damon Slough (Damon Marsh) and one north of the mouth of East Creek. In 2005, *Spartina alterniflora* hybrids comprised approximately 41% of the cover. There are no other vegetation data available for this site. *Spartina* hybrid areas were not treated in 2005. EBRPD surveyed Damon marsh in 2005 and detected 6 – 7 rails. In 2006 we surveyed the entire stretch from the southern end of Oakland inner harbor to the northern end of San Leandro Creek, at the mouth of Elmhurst Canal, including Damon Marsh, and detected 18 – 20 rails (**Table 2; Figure 5.b.**). Of those rails, 14 – 18 were detected in the area surveyed by EBRPD in 2005, indicating a probable significant increase between years.

**Oakland Coliseum Channels** (site 17i; **Figure 2.d.**) extend from the MLK Shoreline Marsh eastward under Highway 880, next to highly urbanized industrial streets and up around the Coliseum. There are three channels, from north to south: East Creek, Damon Slough and Elmhurst Canal. Vegetation cover data are not available, but *Spartina* hybrids comprise the dominant vegetation, particularly near the channel mouths. In 2005 we conducted “C” surveys along most of the stretch of channels, focusing on areas with densest vegetation, and detected no rails. In 2006 we detected 4 – 6 clapper rails at the mouth of the channels (**Table 2**). These birds were in habitat continuous with the MLK Shoreline Marsh managed by EBRPD and could be nesting on either side of the property boundary. We show the data both together and separately for Coliseum Channels and Shoreline marshes in Table 2, and grouped the data in the graph (**Figure 5.b.**).

**San Leandro Creek** (site 17e; **Figure 2.e.**) is virtually continuous with Arrowhead and MLK Restoration Marsh, separated from MLK Restoration Marsh by a 12 m pedestrian trail. Much of the creek is lined with rip-rap and marsh habitat is confined to several narrow patches. The best habitat is in the area north of Hegenberger Road where there is some high marsh. In 2005, *Spartina* hybrid cover was approximately 35%, *Salicornia virginica* cover was 21%, and *Distichlis spicata*, *Grindelia stricta* and *Jaumea carnosa* were each 15 – 18%. *Spartina* hybrid areas were not treated in 2005. In this area in 2005, one clapper rail was detected during the third round of surveys, after it responded to a taped vocalization. It was less than 50 m north of Hegenberger in a clump of *Grindelia*. Many rails were heard from San Leandro Creek, in Arrowhead, at the northern end of Martin Luther King marsh, and at the mouth of Elmhurst Canal (part of the Coliseum channel complex). In 2006,

there were numerous spontaneous rail vocalizations and several visual detections along this northern stretch of San Leandro Creek. We estimated there were 4 to 5 birds, including 2 to 3 pairs (**Table 2; Figure 5.b.**). These birds may be breeding in the marsh on San Leandro Creek or they may have breeding territories in MLK Restoration Marsh (where the number of rails also appears to have doubled since 2005 surveys; see above) and fly or walk over into San Leandro Creek to forage. Either way, the use of San Leandro Creek by clapper rails in 2006 appears to be higher than in 2005. South of Hegenberger, the vegetation is sparser and channel banks are gravelly (not likely to be good for clapper rail foraging activities), and the habitat is less likely to support clapper rails. In 2005 *Spartina* hybrid cover was 73% of the vegetation, and 12% of overall cover. In 2005, three “C” surveys were conducted and no clapper rails were detected. In 2006, three rounds of “A” surveys were conducted (with taped vocalizations played on the final round) and again no rails were detected.

**Martin Luther King, Jr. Restoration Marsh** (site 17h; **Figure 2.e.**) was opened to tidal action in 1998 (Siegel 2003) and in 2005 was approximately 55% vegetated (OEI unpubl. data). Vegetation cover in 2005 was approximately 37% *Spartina alterniflora* hybrids, 37% *Salicornia virginica*, and 21% *Salicornia europea* (annual pickleweed). *Spartina* hybrid areas were not treated in 2005. In 2005 this site was surveyed by EBRPD. In 2005 and 2006, three rounds of “A” surveys were conducted by EBRPD and OEI, respectively. In 2005, 12 – 16 rails were detected, and in 2006, 23 – 30 rails (**Table 2; Figure 5.b.**). This is a near doubling of rail numbers between years. This may be due to a real change in numbers or to differences in survey techniques, but the reasons are unknown.

#### 4.1.2 San Leandro/Hayward Shoreline

The San Leandro/Hayward shoreline includes a cluster of large, relatively recent restoration sites at Roberts Landing, plus the mouth of San Lorenzo Creek (sites 20c – 20l, in the City of San Leandro and northern San Lorenzo), Oro Loma restoration marsh (San Lorenzo; sites 07a & 07b), Cogswell marsh (20m – 20o; also a restoration site), and several creek mouths (Hayward and Johnson’s Landing, sites 20k & 20l, in the City of Hayward; **Table 2; Table 3**).

**Bunker Marsh** (20g; **Figure 2.f.**), like other marshes at Roberts Landing, was restored in 1995, but it is fully tidal and is more vegetated than the other marshes (Siegel 2003, SFEI 1998): in 2005 it was 76 – 86% vegetated (OEI unpubl. data). This site is highly invaded with hybrid *Spartina*: 51% of vegetation or 38% of the entire site in 2005. Other vegetation measured in 2005 included 46% *Salicornia virginica* and 6% *Grindelia stricta*. *Spartina* hybrid areas were not treated in 2005. Three rounds of “A” surveys were conducted in both 2005 and 2006. In 2005, 8 – 10 rails were detected and in 2006, 7 - 12 were detected (**Table 2; Figure 5.c.**). There was no evidence of a change between years.

**Citation Marsh** (site 20d; **Figure 2.f.**) is at the northern end of Roberts Landing. In 1999 the site was restored as mitigation for the adjacent Citation housing complex (Siegel 2003). The site receives muted tidal action (SFEI 1998). It was approximately 54 – 64% vegetated in 2005 (OEI unpubl. data). *Spartina* hybrids are relatively sparse: 6.4% of the vegetation or 11.8% of the entire site, measured in 2005; the primary plant species is *Salicornia virginica*, with smaller amounts of *Salicornia europea* and *Frankenia salina*. Three rounds of “A” surveys were conducted in 2005 and 5 - 10 clapper rails were detected. The rails appeared to be associated with high-elevation internal levees. In 2006, three rounds of “A” surveys were again conducted and 4 – 6 birds were detected (**Table 2; Figure 5.c.**). This is a decrease of almost 25%, but because there was some overlap in the estimate range, the difference was probably not statistically significant. Invasive *Spartina* was not treated at this site, or within Roberts Landing at all in 2005, so any change was due to some other unknown factor(s).

**Dogbone Marsh** (site 20c; **Figure 2.f.**), also known as North Basin and South Basin wetlands, is at the northern end of Roberts Landing next to the Tony Lema Golf Course. The marsh has muted tidal action and water appears stagnant. It was opened to tidal action in 1991 (Siegel 2003, SFEI 1998). Hybrid *Spartina* is the dominant plant species (41% of marsh area in 2005; no other vegetation data are available). *Spartina* hybrid areas were not treated in 2005. The habitat is marginal, and no rails were previously reported, but it is continuous with North Marsh, which was known to have clapper rails, so we elected to perform one round of “C” surveys in 2005. No rails were detected. In 2006, we decided to conduct “A” surveys because we realized it was likely that rails were using the site because it was continuous with rail-occupied marshes at Roberts Landing. Three rounds were conducted and on the third round, one pair of rails responded to recorded vocalizations at the far southern end of the site (**Table 2; Figure 5.c.**). These birds may have had a breeding territory within Dogbone Marsh or may have crossed over from North Marsh. This is potentially an increase in rail use between years, however, since only one round of surveys was conducted in 2005, it’s not clear that rails were truly absent at that time.

**East Marsh** (site 20e; **Figure 2.f.**), also known as the Roberts Landing Shoreline Marshlands Enhancement, was restored in 1995 (Siegel 2003), but is still at least partly diked. *Spartina alterniflora* hybrids comprised only 1% of the site area in 2005 (no other vegetation data are available). As mentioned above, *Spartina* hybrid areas were not treated in 2005. Three rounds of “A” surveys were conducted in 2005 and 1 – 2 clapper rails were detected. In 2006, we conducted three rounds of “A” surveys but did not cover points along the east side of the marsh that were surveyed in 2005. We again detected 1 – 2 rails (**Table 2; Figure 5.c.**). These birds were associated with the channel system in the southwestern portion of the site. There was no evidence of a change between years.

**North Marsh** (site 20f; **Figure 2.f.**), also known as the Roberts Landing Shoreline Marshlands Enhancement, was also opened to tidal action in 1995 (Siegel 2003), but tides are still muted (SFEI 1998). In 2005 it was 52 – 61% vegetated (OEI unpubl. data). This site is more highly invaded than Citation or East marshes, with 12% *Spartina alterniflora* hybrids in 2005 (of total vegetation). *Salicornia virginica* and *Salicornia europea* were dominant. *Spartina* hybrid areas were not treated in 2005. Three rounds of “A” surveys were conducted and 7 - 12 clapper rails were detected. In 2006, 15 – 25 rails were detected, double the numbers found the previous year (**Table 2; Figure 5.c.**). The potential cause of this increase is unknown.

**San Lorenzo Creek** (site 20h; **Figure 2.f.**) is continuous with the Roberts Landing sites. The creek mouth is highly invaded (invasive *Spartina* was 77% of the vegetation, or 62% of the site in 2005). The vegetation along the creek narrows east of a pedestrian bridge; in this area the vegetation was approximately 10% invasive *Spartina* (or 4% of the site), with *Salicornia virginica* dominant. *Spartina* hybrid areas were not treated in 2005. In 2005 three rounds of “A” surveys were conducted at the mouth and along the Creek, and 5 – 10 clapper rails were detected. In 2006, three rounds of surveys at these same points resulted in detections of 7 – 10 rails, a virtually identical number (**Table 2; Figure 5.c.**). Most of the birds detected were in the same general area in both years, with most birds found at the creek mouth.

**Bockmann Channel** (site 20i; **Figure 2.g.**) is continuous with San Lorenzo Creek to the north and Oro Loma Restoration Marsh to the south. The vegetated portion of the channel is less than 200 m long, and is comprised primarily of *Spartina* hybrids (visual estimate; no other vegetation data are available). *Spartina* hybrid areas were treated in 2005. Two rounds of “C” surveys were completed in 2005 and three rounds of “A” surveys in 2006 (with taped recordings on the last visit). No clapper rails were detected either year (**Table 2; Figure 5.c.**).

**Oro Loma Marsh** (sites 07a & 07b; **Figure 2.g.**) is a relatively new restoration site managed by EBRPD and was opened to tidal action in 2000. There are two distinct areas with separate channel systems. Oro Loma East (07a) is less invaded by *Spartina alterniflora* hybrids than Oro Loma West (07b), and it is also less vegetated: *Spartina* hybrid cover relative to all vegetation in Oro Loma East was 6% in 2005 (the site was 41-54% vegetated in 2005) while Oro Loma West was 79.1% (the site is 28 – 39% vegetated; OEI unpubl data). Other plant species at both sites were predominantly *Salicornia virginica*, *Salicornia europea*, *Jaumea carnosa* and *Frankenia salina*. All invasive *Spartina* at this site was treated in fall 2005, and efficacy was apparently high, approaching 90% (ISP preliminary estimates). The number of birds detected by EBRPD in Oro Loma West in 2005 (14 – 22 birds; three rounds “A” surveys) was similar to the number detected in 2006 (12 – 24 birds; three rounds “A” surveys) (**Table 2; Figure 5.d.**). The abundance index in 2006 was 0.22 – 0.44; compared to other sites in the East Bay and to the overall mean, this is relatively low. Oro Loma East contrasts sharply with Oro Loma West in that only 2 birds were detected in 2005 and none were detected in 2006. Oro Loma East was surveyed only from its western edge both years, thus the survey was not thorough. It is recommended that a thorough survey of both east and west sides be completed in 2007. Although Oro Loma was treated with good efficacy in 2005, there does not appear to be a significant change in rail distribution or numbers, except for the potential reduction in the east plot.

**Hayward Landing** (site 20k; **Figure 2.h.**) is one kilometer (km) south of Oro Loma Marsh, and 0.5 km north of Cogswell Marsh. Hayward Creek channel is dominated by hybrid *Spartina*, but it covered only 9% of the site in 2005 (no other vegetation data are available). *Spartina* hybrid areas were treated with high efficacy in 2005. Two rounds of “C” surveys were conducted in 2005, and rails were not detected. In 2006, we conducted three rounds of “A” surveys and detected one rail along the Hayward channel, and 3 – 4 rails in a muted tidal pickleweed marsh immediately to the south, **Triangle marsh**, which was not previously surveyed (**Table 2; Figure 5.d.**). This appears to be a significant increase from 2005 numbers.

**Johnson’s Landing** (site 20l; **Figure 2.h.**) is at the southern end of Cogswell Marsh. Invasive *Spartina* covered 12% of the site in 2005 (no other vegetation data are available). *Spartina* hybrid areas were treated in 2005. In 2005 one round of “C” surveys was conducted but no rails were detected. In 2006, three rounds of “A” surveys were conducted (with broadcast vocalizations on the final round) and no rails were detected (**Table 2; Figure 5.d.**). However, detections in the site during the winter during previous years (H. Spautz, pers.obs.) and the site’s proximity to Cogswell Marsh indicate that rails are likely to be present, if only foraging.

**Cogswell Marsh** (sites 20m – 20o; **Figure 2.h.**) lies north of the Hayward- San Mateo Bridge and is part of a mosaic of wetlands managed by EBRPD and the City of Hayward. Cogswell was opened to tidal action in 1980 (Siegel 2003). Cogswell A (north-western segment) was 81 – 93% vegetated in 2005, while Cogswell B (eastern segment) was 70 – 80% vegetated (OEI unpubl data). No data are available for Cogswell C, but it appears to be similar to A and B. In 2005, Cogswell A vegetation included approximately 34% *Spartina alterniflora* hybrids and approximately 76% *Salicornia virginica*. Cogswell B vegetation included 57% *Spartina alterniflora* hybrids and 62% *Salicornia virginica*. In fall 2005, invasive *Spartina* was treated in the southern portion of segment B, and a few clones around the central breach area. Efficacy appears to have been high. EBRPD conducted three rounds of “A” surveys in 2005 and detected two rails in Cogswell A, 27 – 28 rails in Cogswell B, and 11 – 13 rails in Cogswell C. These numbers are preliminary, however, and have not gone through the ISP’s standard interpretation process. In 2006 we detected 25 – 26 rails in Cogswell A, 28 – 38 rails in Cogswell B, and 13 – 20 rails in Cogswell C (**Table 2; Figure 5.d.**). The number of rails was significantly higher in all areas, particularly in Cogswell A, with a potential change from two birds in 2005 to 25 – 26 birds in 2006. However, the data interpretation methods differed

among years, so the differences may not indicate a real increase in bird numbers. Cogswell exhibits the highest concentration of rails in the East Bay south of San Leandro Bay, with an abundance index (based on 2006 data) of 0.65 – 1.9 birds/ha, while the remaining sites have a mean of 0.55 – 0.72 birds/ha (mean: 0.26; **Table 3**).

### 4.1.3 Other East Bay Sites

**Newark Slough** (Site 05c; **Figure 2.i**) is located in the City of Newark within the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge (NWR). *Spartina alterniflora* hybrids comprised approximately 0.3% of the cover in 2005; no hybrids were counted within sample plots. The dominant plant species cover in 2005 was: 64% *Salicornia virginica*, 15% *Distichlis spicata*, 13% *Grindelia stricta*, and approximately 2% *Spartina foliosa* (native California cordgrass). *Spartina* hybrid areas were treated in 2005. In 2005, PRBO (H. Spautz was contracted by PRBO) conducted three rounds of “A” surveys and detected 2 – 4 rails. In 2006 we detected 5 – 10 rails, an apparent increase of more than 100% (**Table 4; Figure 5.d**). The reason for this increase in rails is unknown, but it is in parallel with the increases in the region. Invasive *Spartina* has been regularly treated at this site, but the cover is very low and the effects of treatment on rail habitat value are assumed to be low.

**Emeryville Crescent West** (Site 06b; **Figure 2.j**) is located just north of the Bay Bridge toll plaza and is managed by EBRPD. Here, also, *Spartina* hybrid cover was low in 2005: < 1%. Dominants were *Salicornia virginica* (78%), *Distichlis spicata* (15%) and *Spartina foliosa* (10%). *Spartina* hybrid areas were treated in 2005. The eastern portion of the site was not surveyed for clapper rails. EBRPD conducted three rounds of “A” surveys in 2005 and detected two rails adjacent to the toll plaza. In 2006 we conducted three rounds of surveys and detected 6 – 10 rails (**Table 2**). Because it is not clear how many points EBRPD surveyed and what area they covered, we don’t know if this increase in numbers between years is real. We believe they surveyed only one point near the toll plaza, and if so, their area of coverage was much smaller than the 2006 survey.

### 4.1.4 West Bay

West Bay marshes include several large marshes within the NWR: Greco Island North (site 02f); Outer Bair B2 North and South (sites 02c & 02d), and West Pt Slough (sites 02e & 02f); plus two smaller, more isolated marshes to the north: Seal Slough (site 19p) and Sanchez Marsh (site 19k; **Figure 1; Table 2**).

Rail abundance indices at these sites tended to be lower in 2006 than the regional mean: 0.30 – 0.49 rails per hectare vs. 0.5 – 0.75 overall. Overall numbers were significantly higher in 2006 than in 2005, when the abundance indices were 0.12 – 0.21 (**Table 3**).

**Outer Bair Island – B2 North** (Site 02c; **Figure 2.k**) is at the northeastern end of Bair Island. Overall *Spartina* hybrid cover was 13% in 2005. Invasive *Spartina* was treated in the Bair-Greco complex in fall 2005, but the area treated was relatively small and efficacy was relatively high. In 2005, PRBO conducted three rounds of “A” surveys at 10 points distributed throughout the marsh and detected 11 - 18 birds. In 2006, we conducted three rounds of “A” surveys entirely from a levee dividing B2 North from B2 South (focusing primarily on B2 South), and detected 11 - 18 rails. However, these rails were primarily within the area closest to the aforementioned levee, a much smaller area. The abundance index in 2005 was 0.13 – 0.21 rails per hectare, while in 2006 it was 0.67 – 1.10 rails per hectare (**Table 2; Figure 5.e**). This amounts to greater than 400% increase. The potential reasons for this increase, if real, are unknown.

**Outer Bair Island – B2 South** (Site 02d; **Figure 2.k**) is just to the southeast of B2 North. There are two segments: a fully tidal area in the north, and an area that receives muted tidal flow through a relatively recent breach in the south. The more fully tidal segment of B2 South is the most highly

invaded area in the Greco-Bair complex: *Spartina alterniflora* hybrids amounted to approximately 35% of the total area or 28% of the vegetation in 2005. The dominant plant species is *Salicornia virginica*. As mentioned above, *Spartina* hybrid areas were treated in 2005. In the muted tidal marsh section, hybrids amounted to less than 1% of the overall cover. PRBO conducted three rounds of “A” surveys in this area in 2005; they detected no rails in the fully tidal section, and 2 – 4 rails in the muted tidal marsh. In 2006, we detected 6 – 10 rails in the fully tidal section and 3 – 6 rails in the muted tidal marsh section (**Table 2; Figure 5.e.**). In the muted tidal section the numbers are very similar across years. However, in the fully tidal section there was an apparent increase in birds between years. The potential reasons for this increase are unknown.

**Greco Island North** (Site 02f; **Figure 2.l.**) is a large area of primarily native marsh, separated by West Point Slough from Cargill salt processing ponds to the south. In 2005, *Spartina alterniflora* hybrid cover was 2%, and *Salicornia virginica* was dominant; there was approximately 10% *Spartina foliosa* cover. *Spartina* hybrid areas were treated in 2005. PRBO conducted three rounds of “A” surveys at 16 points in 2005, and 20 – 33 rails were detected. In 2006, we surveyed eight points, covering a smaller area, and detected 14 – 22 rails (**Table 2; Figure 5.e.**). The abundance index was virtually the same across years, and there was no evidence of change.

**West Point Slough NW and SE** (Sites 02e & 02g; **Figure 2.l.**) is a very wide slough, ranging from 40 to 150 m wide. Greco Island lies to the north, and on the southern edge of the slough is a relatively narrow strip of marsh that developed on the outboard edge of a levee enclosing salt evaporation ponds. West Point Slough marsh is the name of the narrow strip on the southern edge of the slough. *Spartina alterniflora* hybrids comprised approximately 8% of the cover in this marsh in 2005. *Spartina* hybrid areas were treated in 2005. We are not aware of formal clapper rail call count surveys conducted at this site prior to our 2006 surveys. We conducted three rounds of protocol “A” surveys at eight points spread along the length of the slough, most of which were separated by over 200 m. We detected no rails.

**Sanchez Marsh** (Site 19k; **Figure 2.m.**) is at the western end of Burlingame Lagoon, in the City of Burlingame. The marsh apparently receives slightly muted tidal action. This site is not highly invaded by *Spartina alterniflora* hybrids (4.6% of the area in 2005). It is the only site in the South Bay with the non-native *Spartina densiflora* (< 1%), which has primarily invaded the Corte Madera Creek area in Marin County. Other dominant plant species in 2005 were: 25% *Salicornia virginica*, 18% *Distichlis spicata*, and 25% *Jaumea carnosa*. This marsh appears to be highly disturbed. Highway 101 lies to the south, a recreation area to the north, and the marsh edges are dominated by invasive plants. During point count surveys conducted in 1999 – 2001, no native marsh birds were detected at all, even the Alameda song sparrow, *Melospiza melodia pusillula*, which is typically ubiquitous in pickleweed marshes in the south bay (PRBO unpubl. Data) ARA conducted one round of “C” surveys in 2005 and detected no rails, but suspected they might be present. We conducted three rounds of “A” surveys in 2006, with pre-recorded vocalizations on the final round, and detected no rails (**Table 2; Figure 5.e.**)

**Seal Slough Marsh** (Site 19p; **Figure 2.n.**) is an isolated marsh at the mouth of Seal Slough in Foster City. It is highly invaded, with 71% *Spartina alterniflora* hybrid cover and approximately 21% *Salicornia virginica* cover in 2005. ARA surveyed the site once from three points in 2005 and detected 3 – 6 rails. In 2006 we conducted 3 rounds of “A” surveys at six points and detected 18 – 28 rails (**Table 2; Figure 5.e.**). Because a smaller area was surveyed in 2005 and it was only surveyed once, we cannot say for sure if the higher abundance index we calculated for 2006 indicates a real increase in rail numbers.

## 4.2 CALIFORNIA CLAPPER RAIL HABITAT ASSESSMENT SURVEY RESULTS

### 4.2.1 San Francisco International Airport

On February 16, 2006, we conducted a habitat assessment survey (protocol “F” survey) to evaluate the potential for California clapper rail habitat provided by the marsh fragments bordering the San Francisco airport (SFO; ISP site 19h). Each fragment was labeled with a section letter (A through G, **Figure 3.a.**). The entire length of the approximate 10 km of shoreline along SFO was visited. Sections A through C required an escort in an airport vehicle, while sections D through G were accessible by public road. Specific evaluations and recommendations for further surveys for clapper rails for each section follow below.

**SFO, Section G (Figure 3.b.):** Section G is a medium-sized marsh (about 2.5 ha). It is dominated by invasive *Spartina* in the lower marsh and by ice plant in the upper marsh. The patch contains no apparent channels and is 60 m across at its widest. On its own, section G might be classified as marginal to poor habitat. However, the Sam Trans Peninsula Marsh, with a known high density population of clapper rails, is less than 200 m away, and this increases the likelihood that clapper rails could use section G. Thus, a follow-up “C” call response survey is recommended to determine whether the California clapper rail is present in this section of the SFO marshes before considering early invasive *Spartina* treatment. We did not have time to complete clapper rail surveys at this site.

**SFO, Sections E & F (Figure 3.c.):** Sections E and F are both small marsh fragments (0.11 ha and 0.15 ha, respectively). The substrate is riprap and the vegetation is composed of non-contiguous *Spartina* clones. Neither patch has any channels. The nearest marsh with a known clapper rail population is less than 1 km away. The combination of poor habitat and moderate isolation make it highly unlikely that clapper rail would use these isolated *Spartina* patches. No further surveys are recommended.

**SFO, Section D (Figure 3.d.):** Section D is a linear marsh, about 1.3 ha in size. It is dominated by invasive hybrid *Spartina*, with a strip of *Salicornia virginica* and ice plant in the upper marsh zone. Section D is very isolated: the nearest marsh patch is about 900 m away and the nearest marsh with a known clapper rail population is greater than 1.5 km away. The combination of poor habitat and moderate isolation make it unlikely that this section of SFO would be used by clapper rail and no further surveys are recommended.

**SFO, Sections A & B (Figure 3.e.):** Both sections A & B are small fragments (about 0.25 ha each) of marsh vegetation colonizing riprap, composed nearly entirely of invasive hybrid *Spartina*. The two marsh patches are bordered by the bay edge on one side and the airfield on the other, and are no wider than 20 meters. Neither patch has any channels. The nearest marsh with a known clapper rail population is the Sam Trans Peninsula, about 2.5 km away. The poor habitat and high level of isolation make it highly unlikely that clapper rail would use these patches. No further surveys are recommended.

**SFO, Section C (Figure 3.f.):** Section C is a medium-sized, linear marsh of about 9.9 ha adjacent to the southern edge of the SFO airfield. The marsh is mostly at low elevation, dominated by *Spartina foliosa* with discrete patches of the invasive hybrid. In February, when the “F” survey was conducted, all *Spartina* plants were short and sparse and there was only a small, exposed strip of upper marsh present, providing little apparent cover for clapper rails. The marsh has no obvious

channels and, at its widest, is no greater than 100 meters across. The nearest marsh with a known clapper rail population is almost 3 km away. Section C is marginal habitat, and could warrant a subsequent visit in 2007 if the *Spartina* hybrid invasion progresses and the marsh grows in size and vertical structure.

#### **4.2.2 Candlestick Cove, Yosemite Slough and Hunters Point Naval Shipyard**

The Candlestick area is highly urbanized, and tidal marsh habitat is found only in tiny patches with high levels of invasive *Spartina* hybrids (**Figure 4.a**). California clapper rails have not been previously documented in this area, but because *Spartina alterniflora* hybrids have increased the marsh area and added structure not previously present, we considered it important to formally assess the habitat suitability before making plans to treat the *Spartina* during the clapper rail breeding season. The site is more than 4 km from the nearest potential clapper rail habitat in Oyster Cove, to the south, and over 6 km from the nearest documented breeding populations at San Bruno marsh and Colma Creek. Due to the poor quality of the habitat patches examined, we don't believe that clapper rails are likely to set up breeding territories in the Candlestick Cove area. We didn't think it necessary to conduct clapper rail call count surveys. We believe it will be safe to treat the entire during the clapper rail breeding season.

The tidal marsh on the edge of the **Hunters Point Naval Shipyard** (Site 12d; **Figure 4.b**.) was examined through binoculars from Candlestick Cove (see below). It is approximately 0.40 hectares. It appears to consist entirely of *Spartina alterniflora* hybrids and is so narrow that it is highly unlikely to support clapper rails. Because it looked like such poor habitat we didn't attempt to gain access to the site to examine it more closely.

**Yosemite Slough** (Site 12e; **Figure 4.c**.) is a narrow, sparse marsh bordering a disturbed riprapped shoreline. It is approximately 1.33 ha, the largest of the marshes in this area. *Spartina alterniflora* hybrids comprise approximately 75% of the vegetation and there are small amounts of *Salicornia virginica*, *Distichlis spicata*, *Grindelia stricta* and *Jaumea carnosa*. The upper marsh edge is covered with grasses, *Carproprotus edulis* (iceplant) and other non-native plants. The area is so small, isolated, and disturbed that it is highly unlikely to support clapper rails and no further surveys were determined necessary.

Marsh habitat at the **Candlestick Cove State Recreation area** (Site 12e; **Figure 4.d**.) consists of two tiny, sparse patches of vegetation, primarily *Spartina alterniflora* hybrids (73%) with small amounts of *Distichlis spicata* and *Salicornia virginica*. The total area is 0.26 ha. One of the patches has developed in riprap, while the other has a densely vegetated upland edge. Due to the small size and high level of isolation, clapper rails are highly unlikely to set up breeding territories. We believe that it is safe to treat this area during the clapper rail breeding season.

The marsh at **South Candlestick Cove** (Site 12f; **Figure 4.e**.) is best-looking marsh in the area, although it is adjacent to Highway 101 and is lined with riprap. *Spartina alterniflora* hybrids comprise approximately 50% of the vegetation (or 15% of the site), and there is significant *Salicornia virginica* and *Distichlis spicata* cover. It is approximately 0.80 ha, which is relatively small. However, the area appears to be non-tidal and the upper marsh edge is unvegetated on one side. The area is highly unlikely to support clapper rails, so we believe it is safe to treat the area during the clapper rail breeding season.

#### **4.2.3 Hayward Shoreline Bayfront Mudflat *Spartina* Clones**

**Bayfront outlier *Spartina* clones** (Site 20p) are found in clusters near San Lorenzo Creek and Hayward Landing. Because these mudflat clones are increasing in size, and developing sufficient high marsh for *Salicornia* to establish, we wanted to check to see if there was a possibility that any

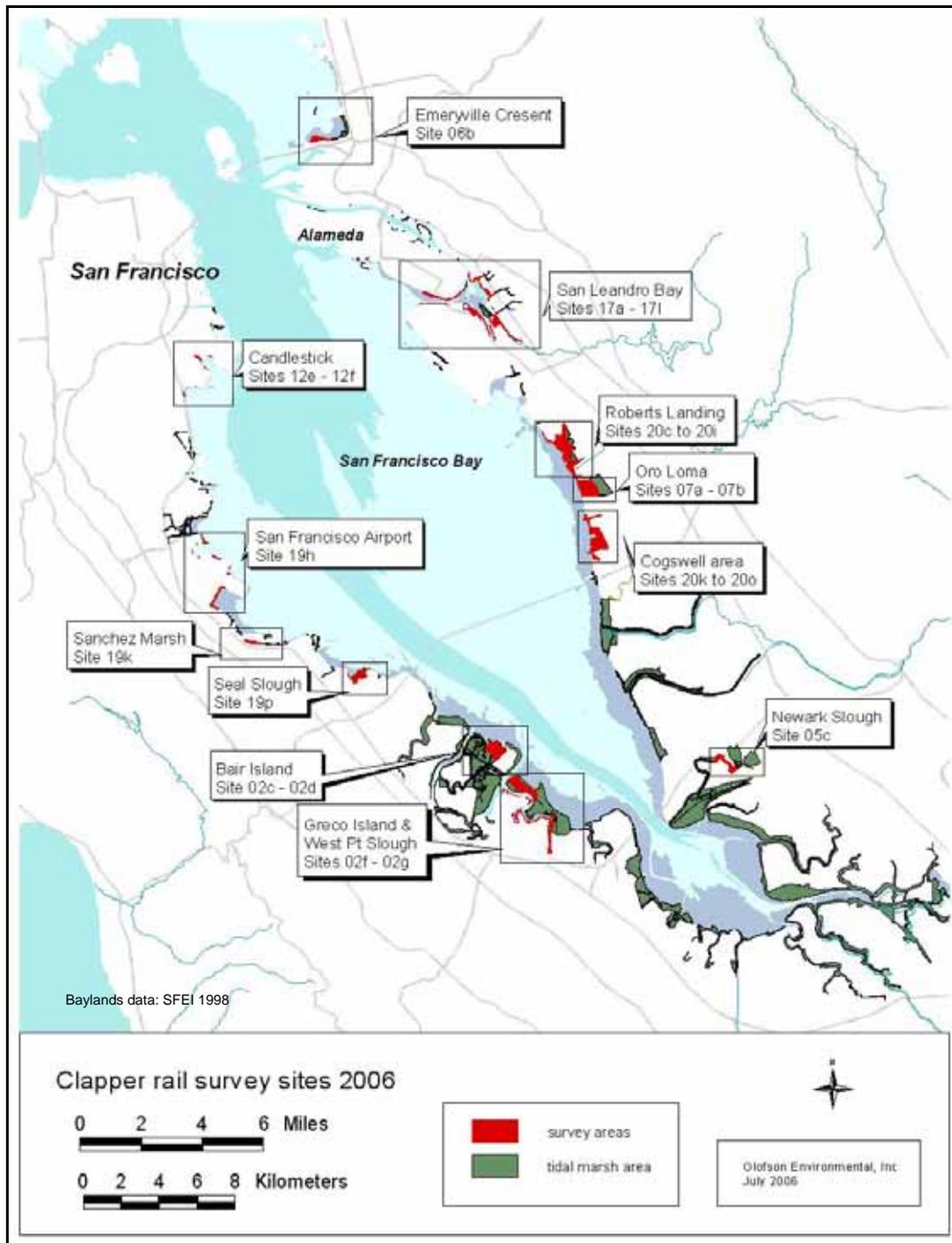
of them were large enough or high elevation enough to potentially support clapper rails. We examined the entire shoreline between Cogswell and Roberts Landing in 2005 and 2006 from the shoreline footpath with binoculars. Even the largest clones are sufficiently submerged during high tides, and so buffeted by waves, that they are not appropriate for clapper rail nesting. Clapper rails were not detected calling from any of these clones during surveys at San Lorenzo Creek or Hayward Landing. However, because these clones are very close to documented clapper rail habitat, they could be used for foraging during low tides. We believe that there is such low probability that rails will use the areas for nesting that treatment during the rail breeding season is probably safe. Treatment via helicopter is the preferred method in the area, due to high rail numbers, and this method could also be used safely on the mudflat clones.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

A. Nelson, A. Robinson, K. Zaremba, D. Kerr, E. Grijalva, and L. Grenier provided field assistance, and A. Nelson and A. Robinson provided assistance with data management. J. Evens (Avocet Research Associates), J. Albertson (USFWS), K. Zaremba, and P. Olofson contributed to project development and assisted with protocol refinement. Survey data from 2005 included for comparison purposes were provided to the Invasive *Spartina* Project by J. Evens (ARA) and M. Herzog (PRBO Conservation Science). Permission for site access was granted by East Bay Regional Park District, the City of San Leandro, San Francisco International Airport, and Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge. Surveys were conducted under the authority of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service permit TE118356-0 and a Memorandum of Understanding with the California Department of Fish and Game.

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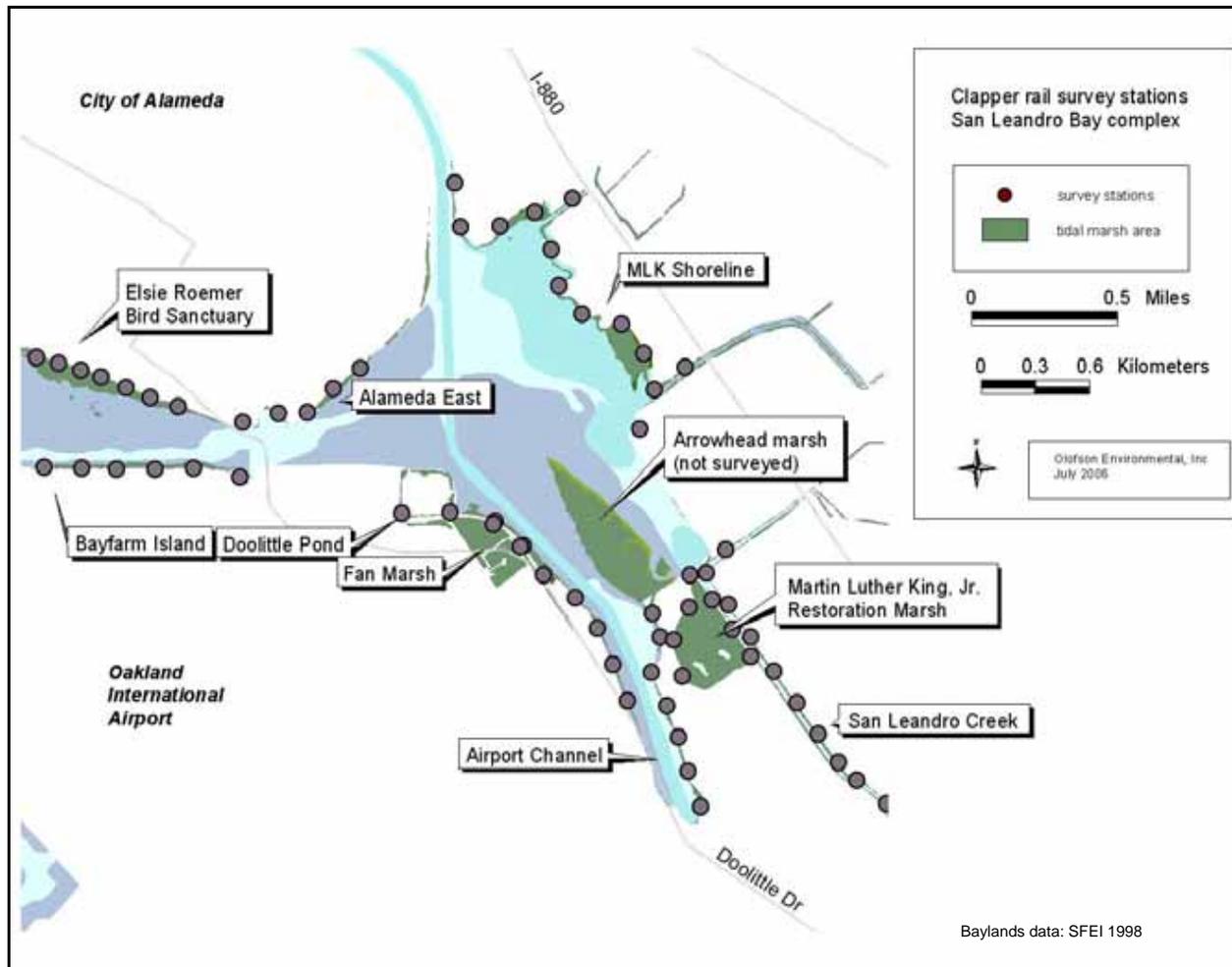


**Figure 1. California clapper rail survey sites, 2006.**

Invasive *Spartina* treatment sites in Central San Francisco Bay, Alameda County, where California clapper rail surveys were completed in 2006 by Olofson Environmental, Inc., staff. Background Baylands data sources: SFEI's EcoAtlas (1998) and Invasive *Spartina* Project.

**Figure 2. California clapper rail survey stations and locations of individuals detected.**

We visited each site at least three times, surveying the marsh from each survey station shown. We mapped the locations of birds detected during each survey round (see text for field and GIS methods). The area surveyed included the entire marsh area, except where survey area boundaries are explicitly shown including only a portion of the habitat (black outlines). Background aerial photography: USGS (2004) and Invasive *Spartina* Project. Baylands data: SFEI (1998; marsh polygons south of Calaveras Point only, and water) and Invasive *Spartina* Project (all other marsh polygons).



**Figure 2.a. San Leandro Bay sites.**

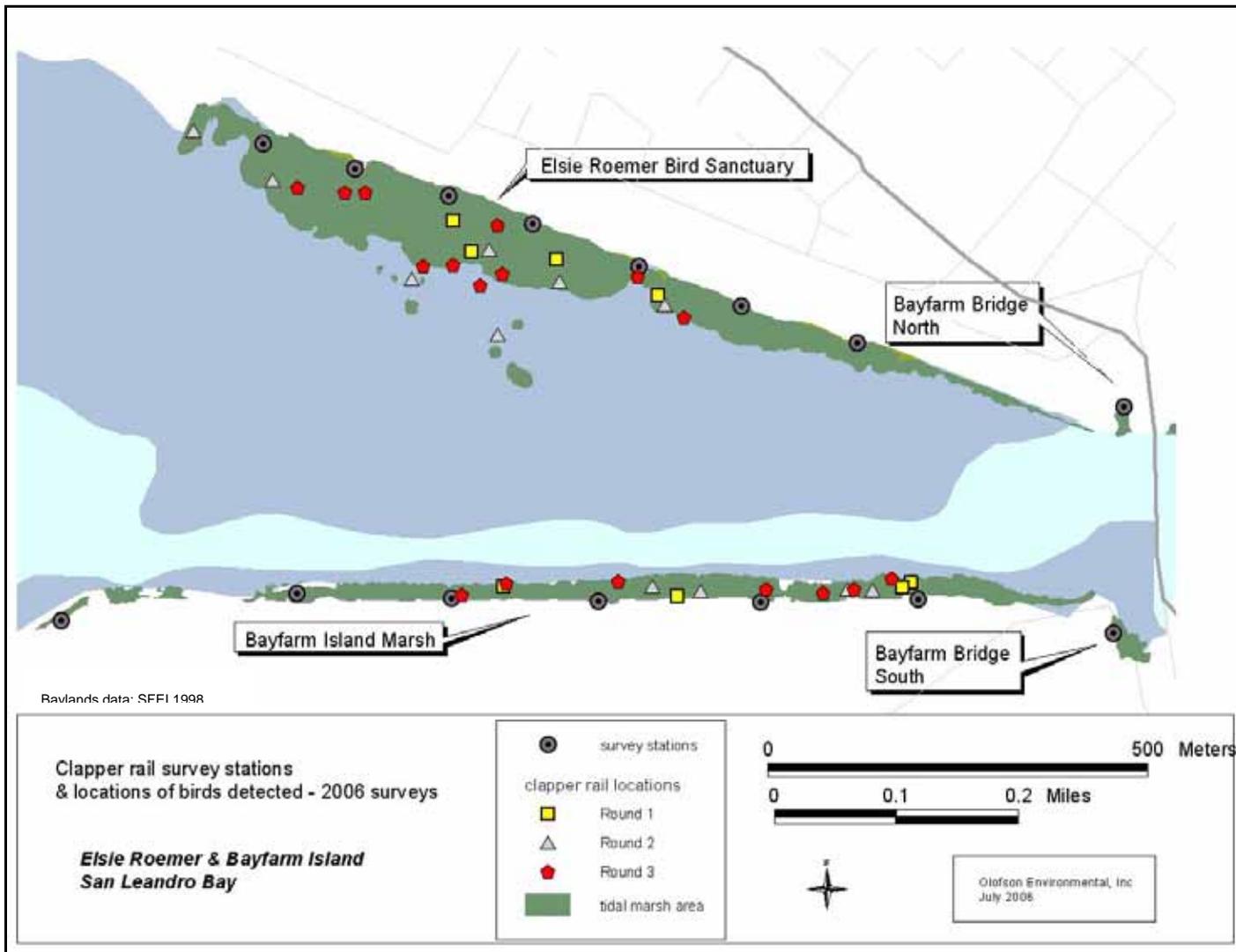


Figure 2.b. Elsie Roemer and Bayfarm Island marshes.

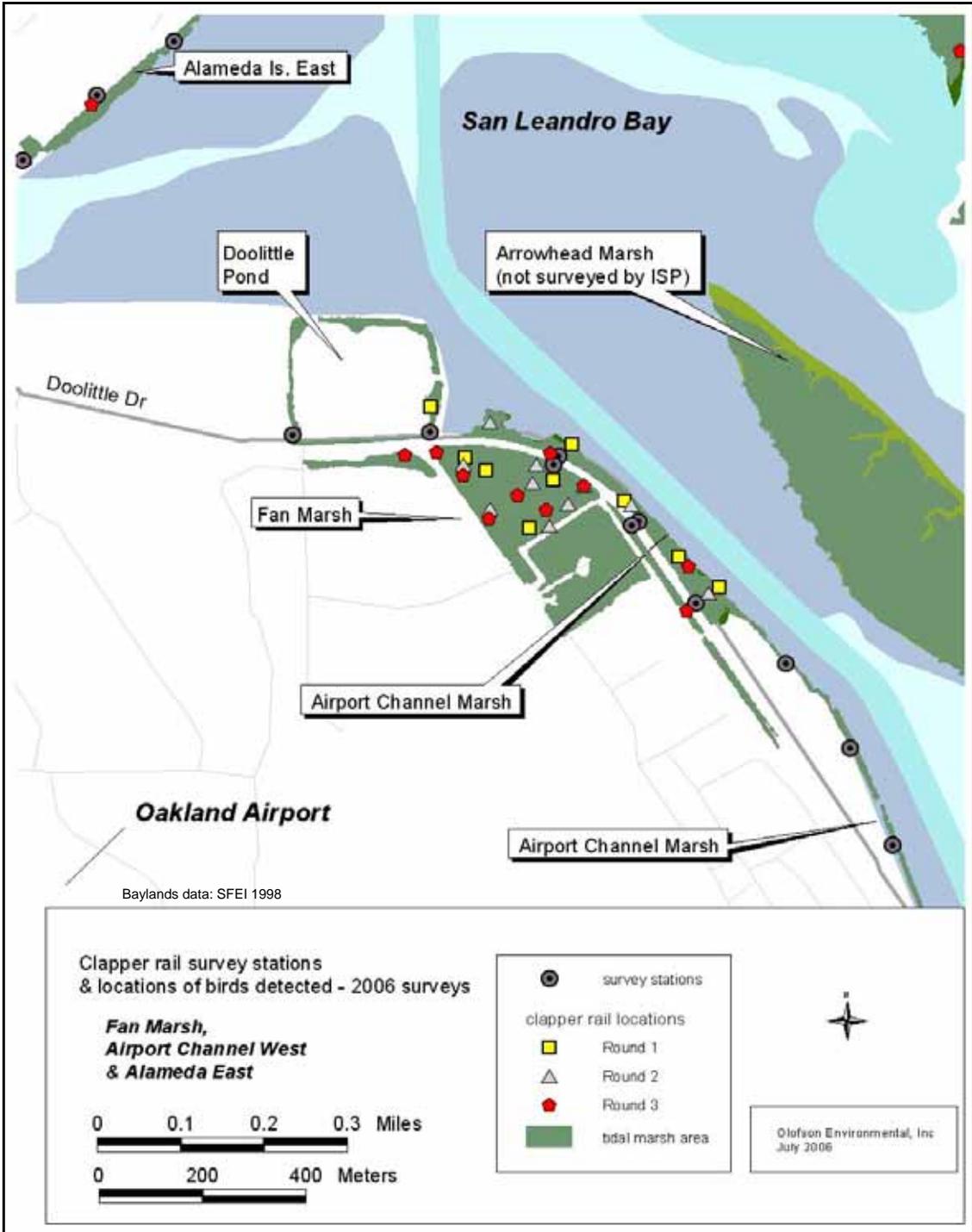


Figure 2.c. Alameda Island East, Fan Marsh, Doolittle Pond & Airport Channel

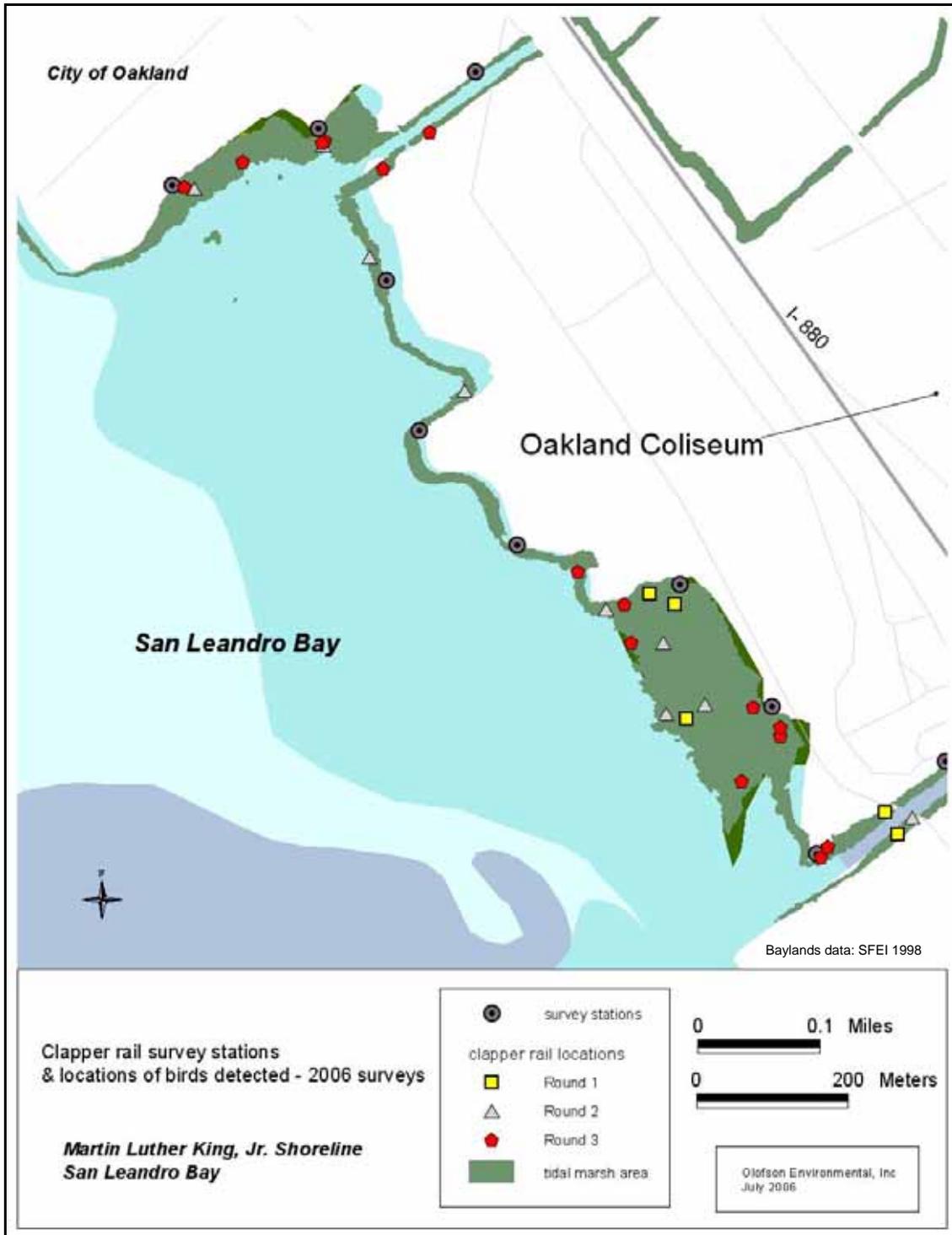


Figure 2.d. Martin Luther King, Jr. Shoreline area.

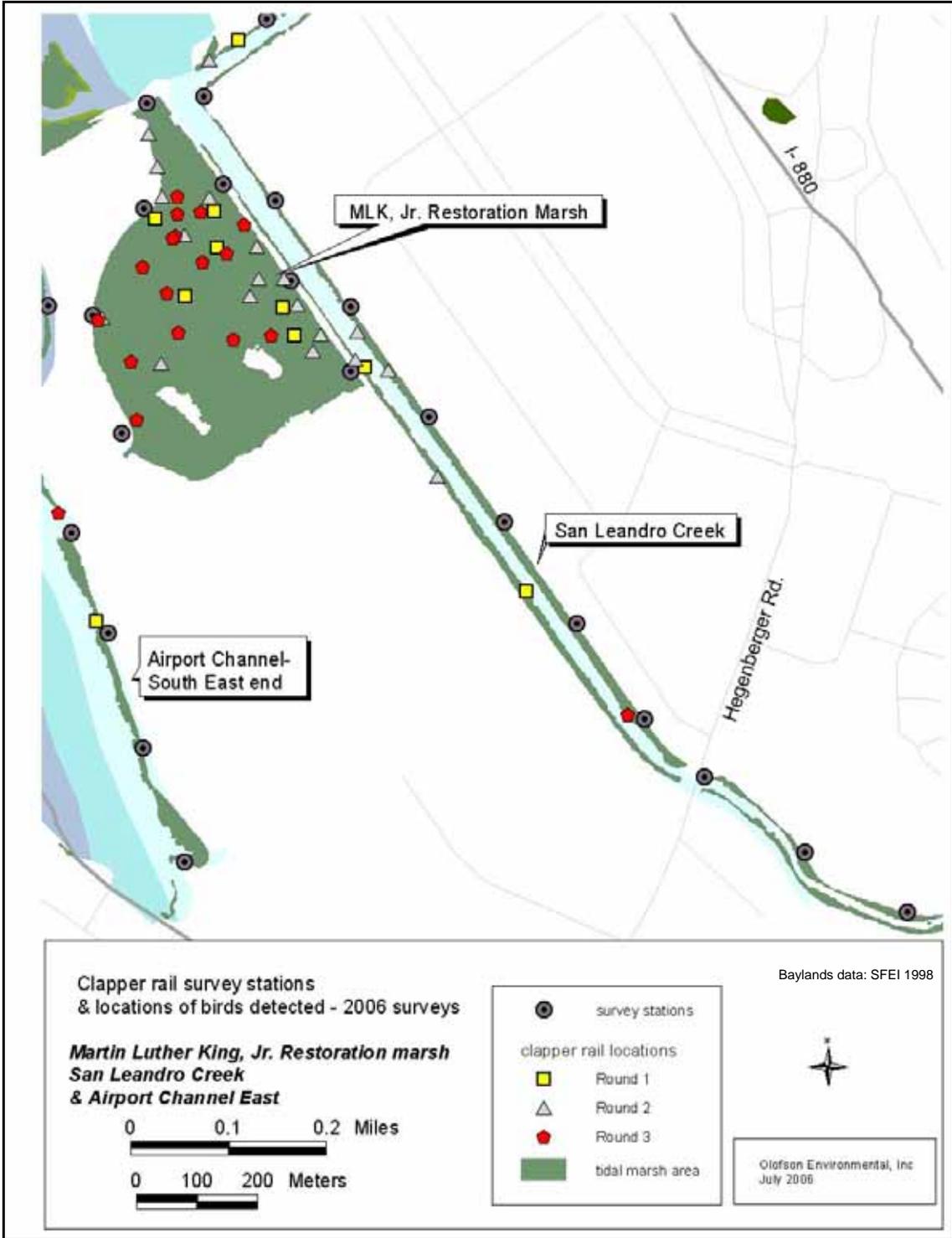


Figure 2.e. Martin Luther King, Jr. Restoration marsh, San Leandro Creek & Airport Channel marshes.

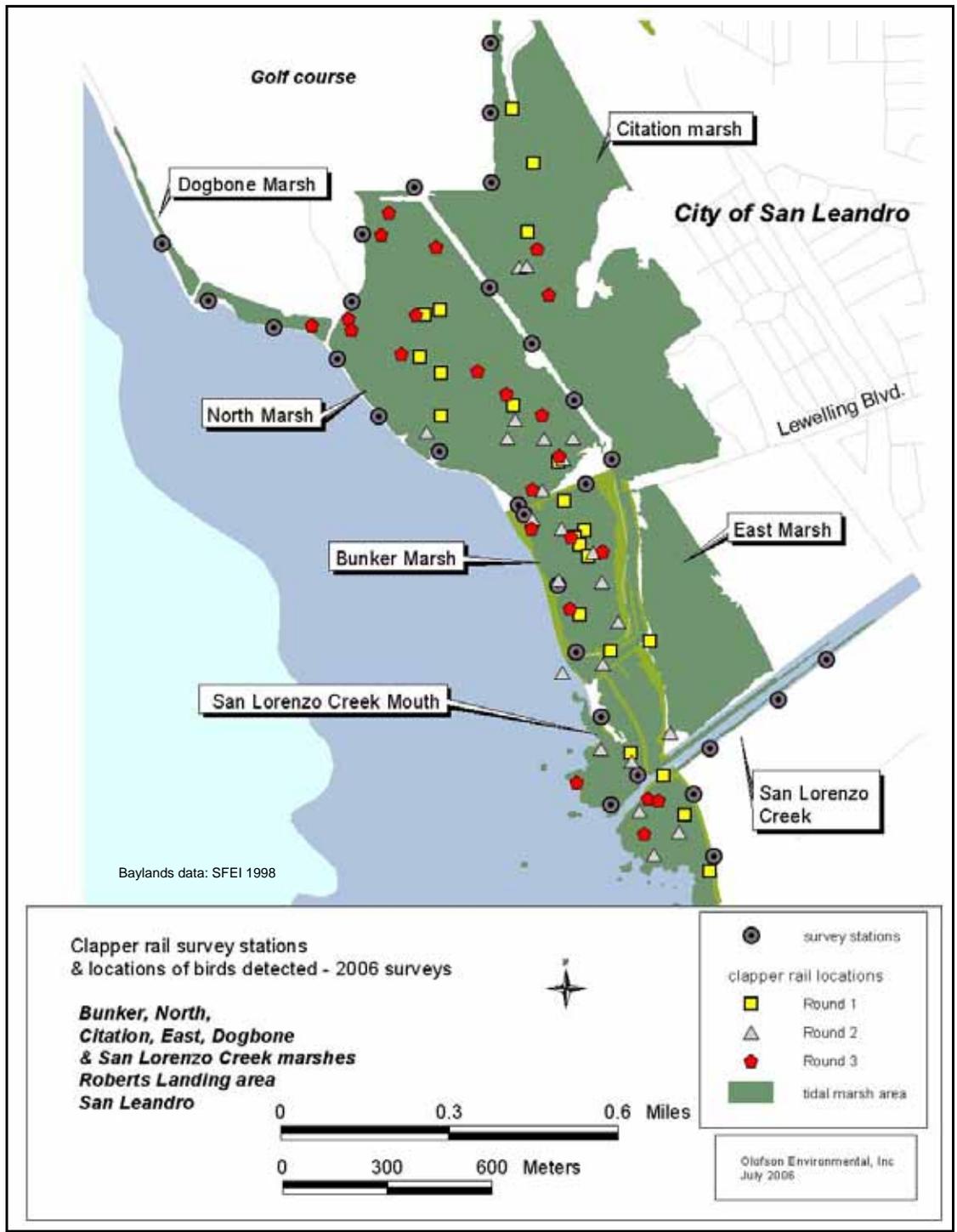


Figure 2.f. Roberts Landing area marshes.

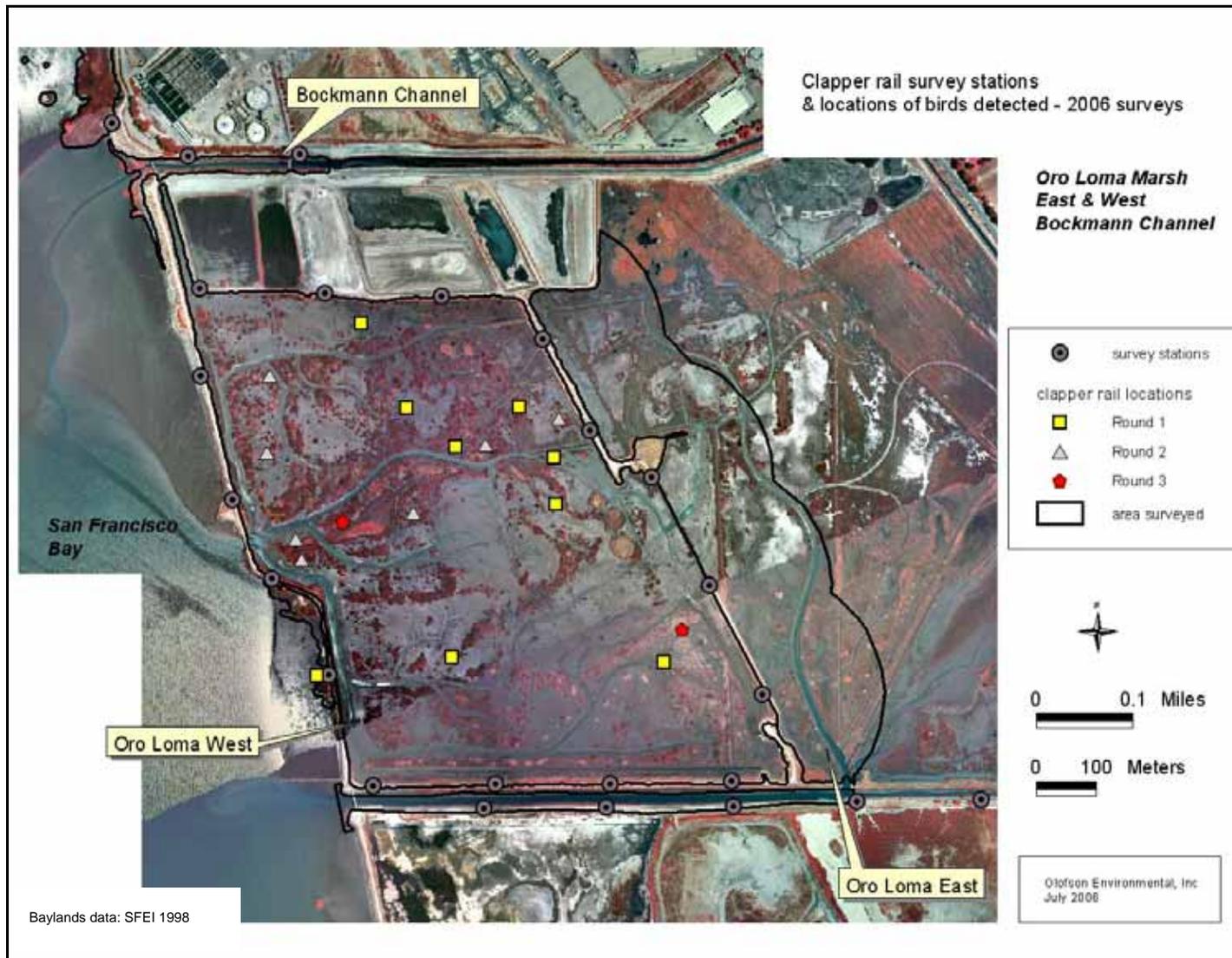


Figure 2.g. Oro Loma marsh

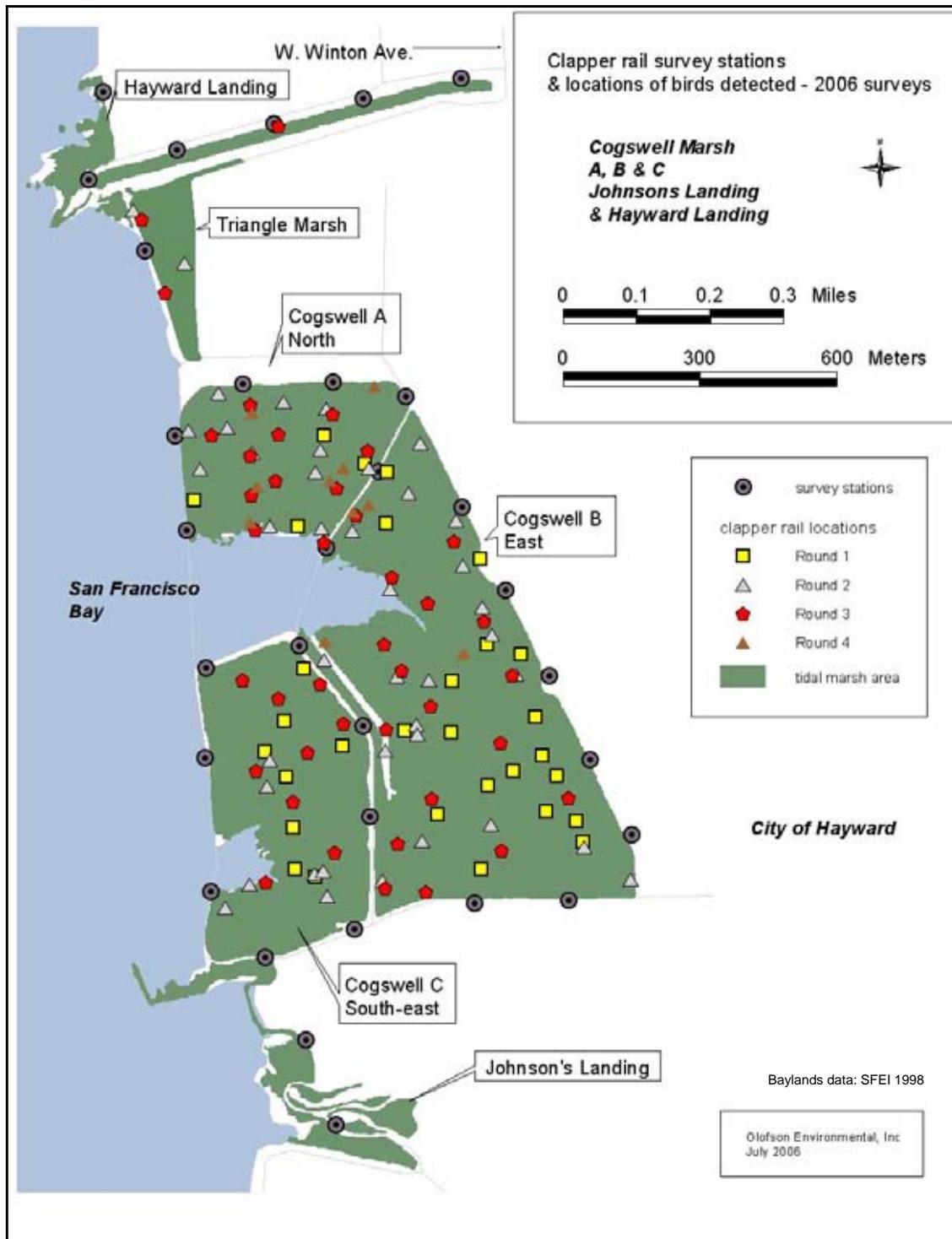


Figure 2.h. Cogswell, Johnson's Landing & Hayward Landing marshes

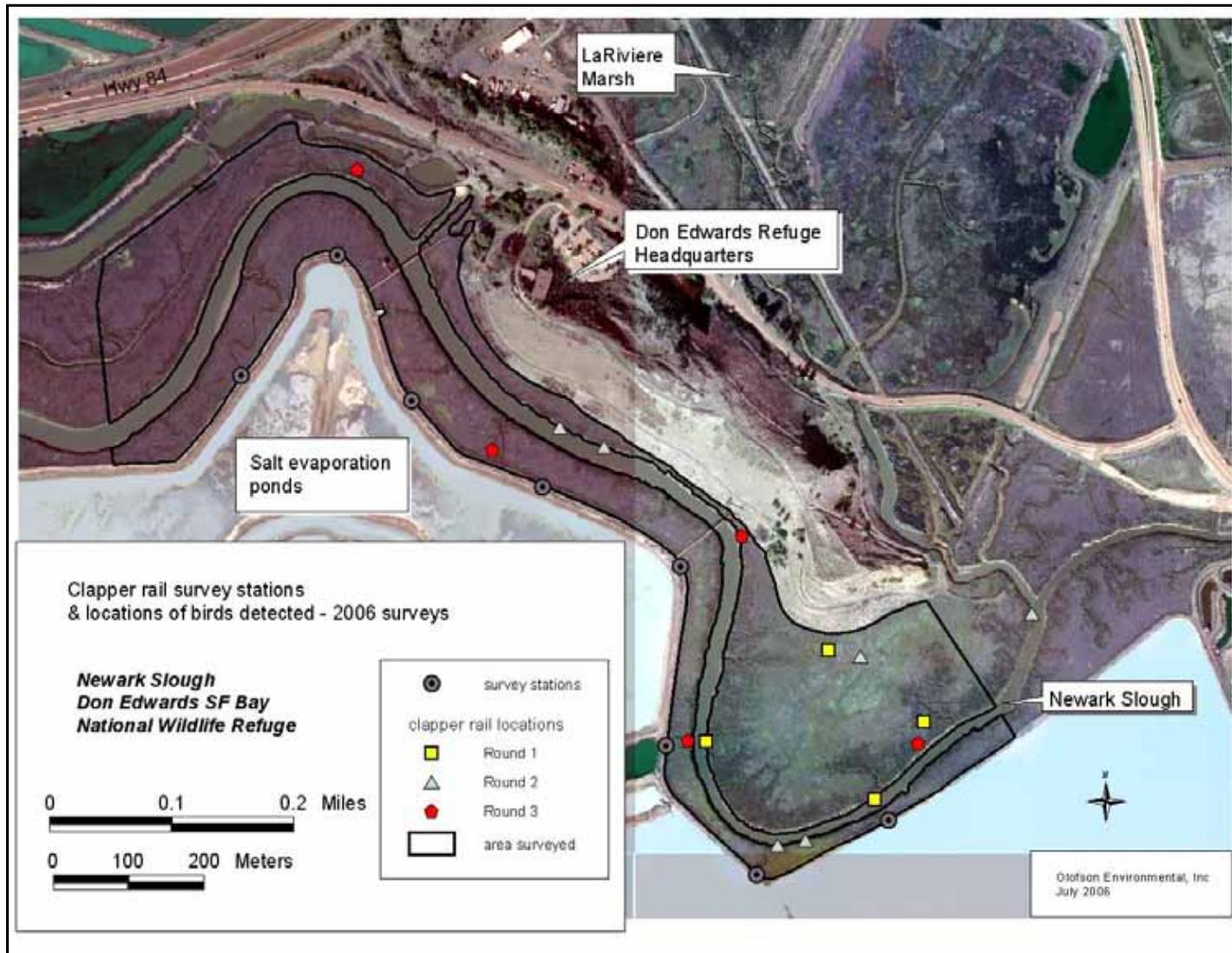


Figure 2.i. Newark Slough

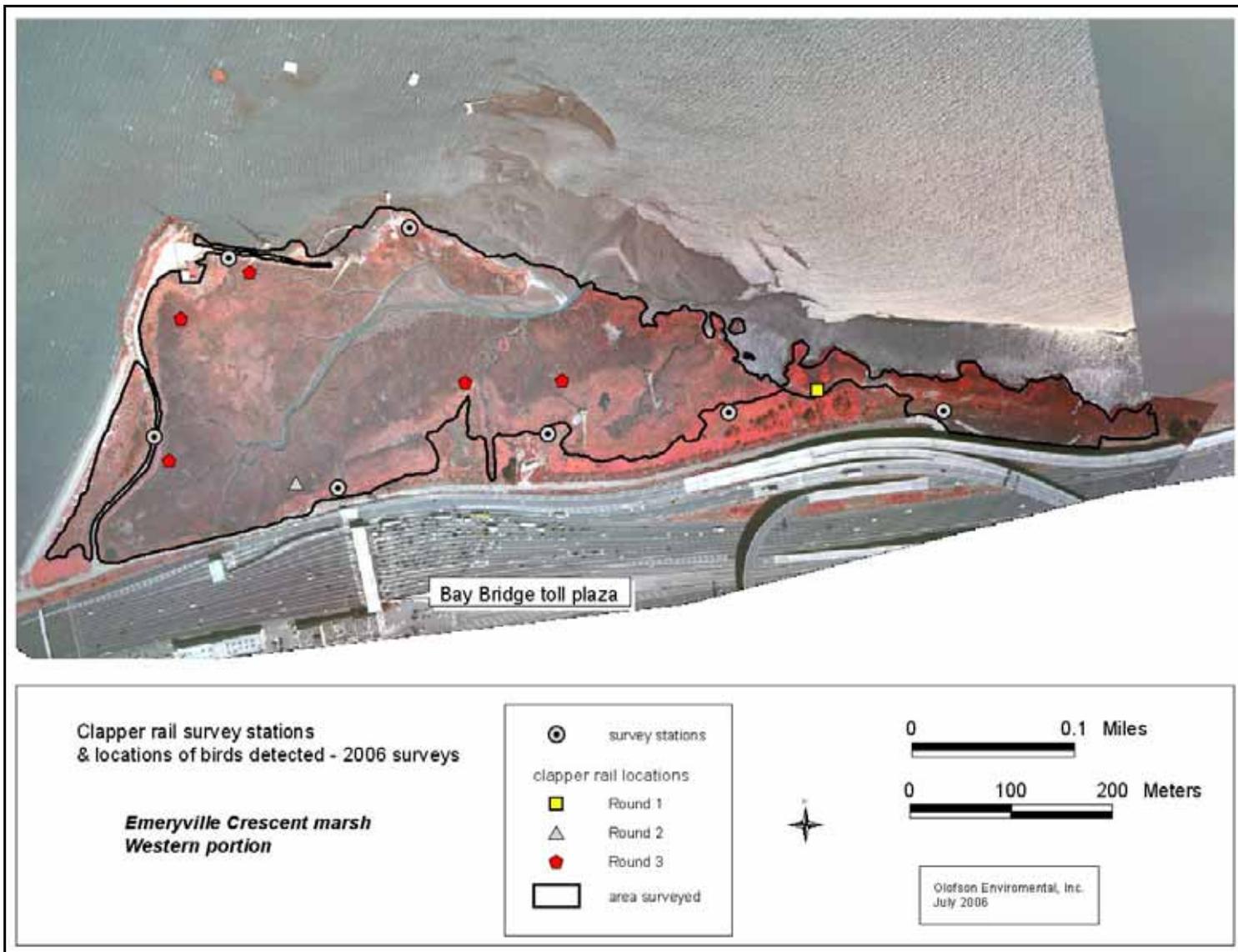


Figure 2.j. Emeryville Crescent West

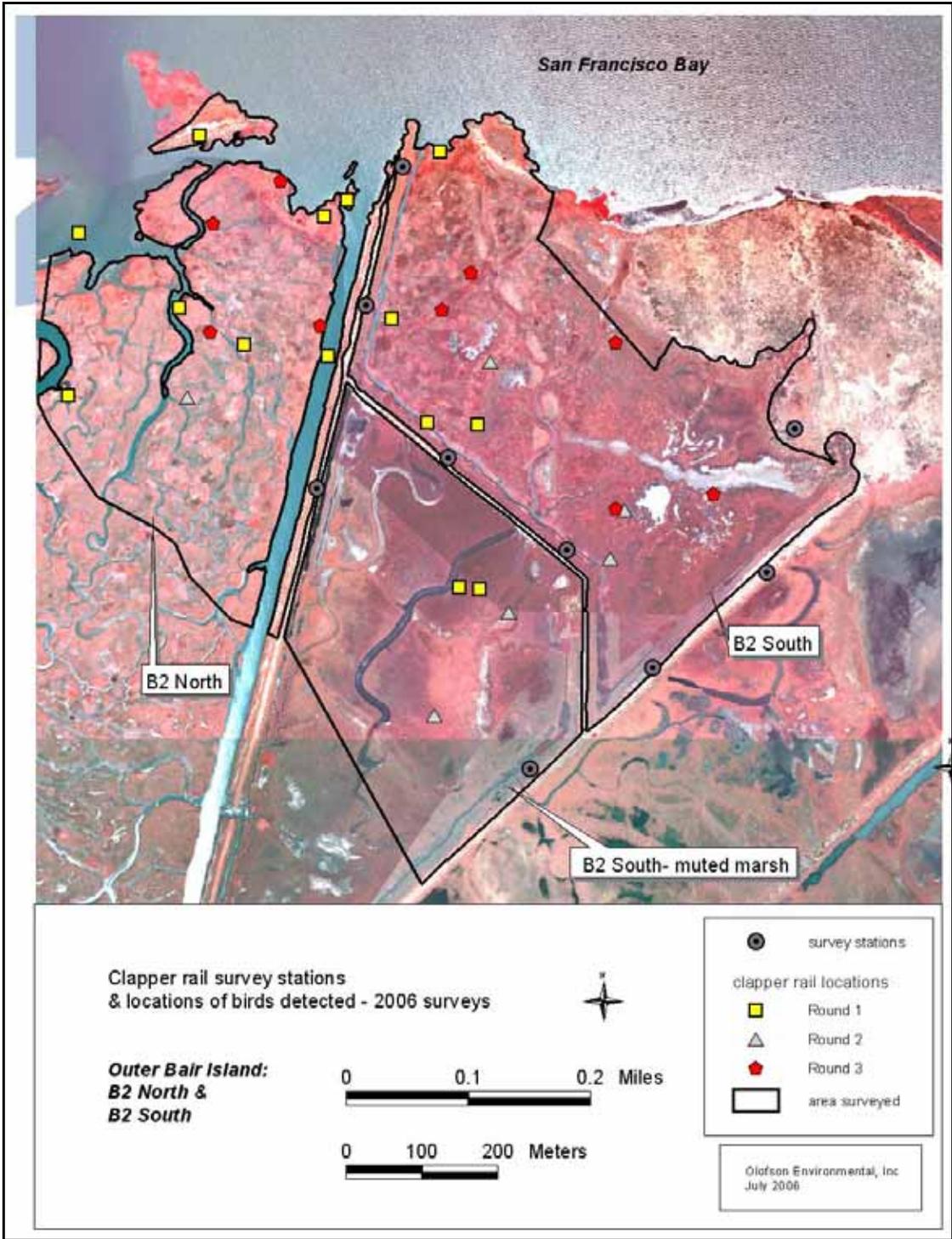
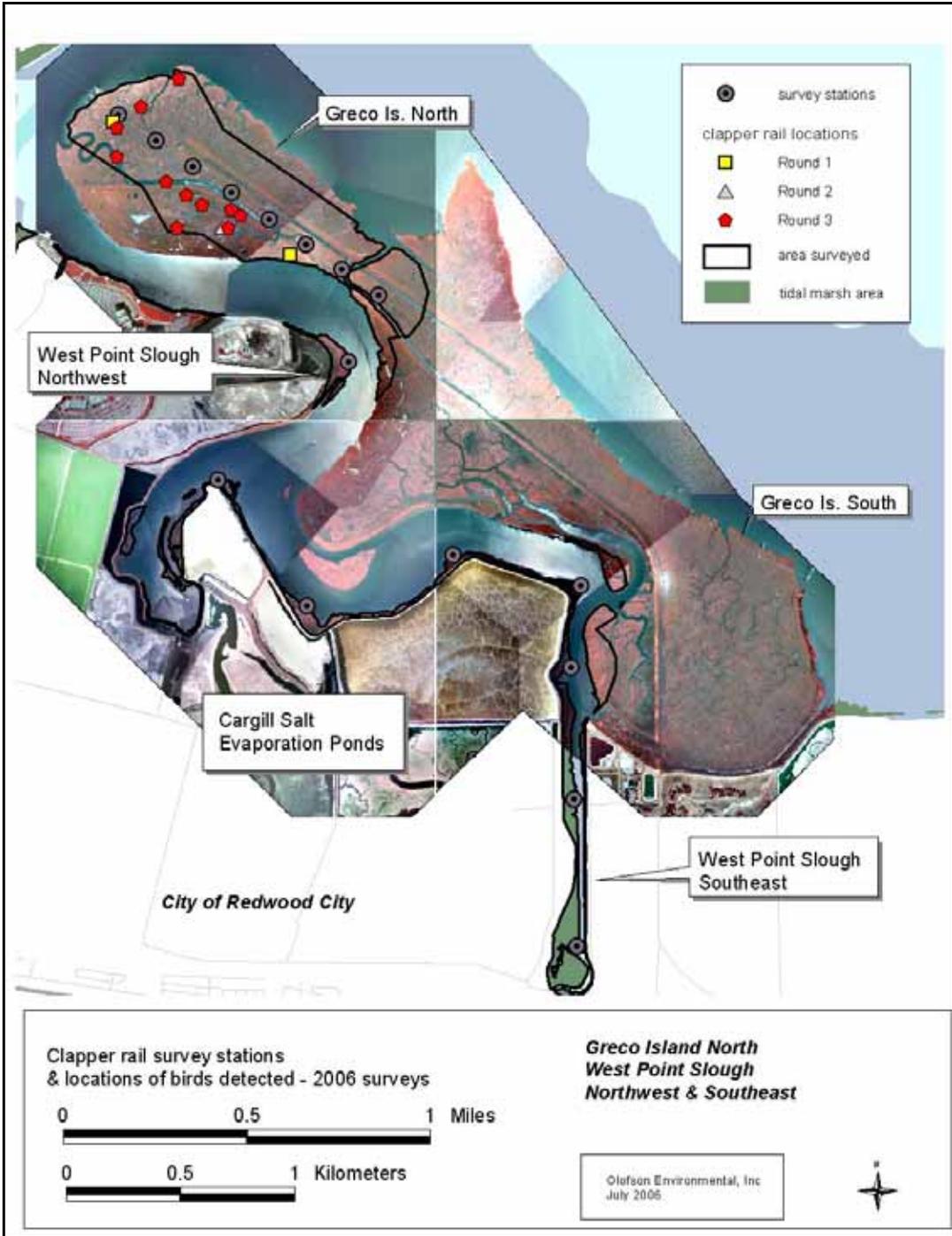


Figure 2.k. Outer Bair Island: B2 North and B2 South



**Figure 2.I. Greco Island & West Point Slough marshes**



**Figure 2.m. Sanchez marsh**

Photo source: USGS.

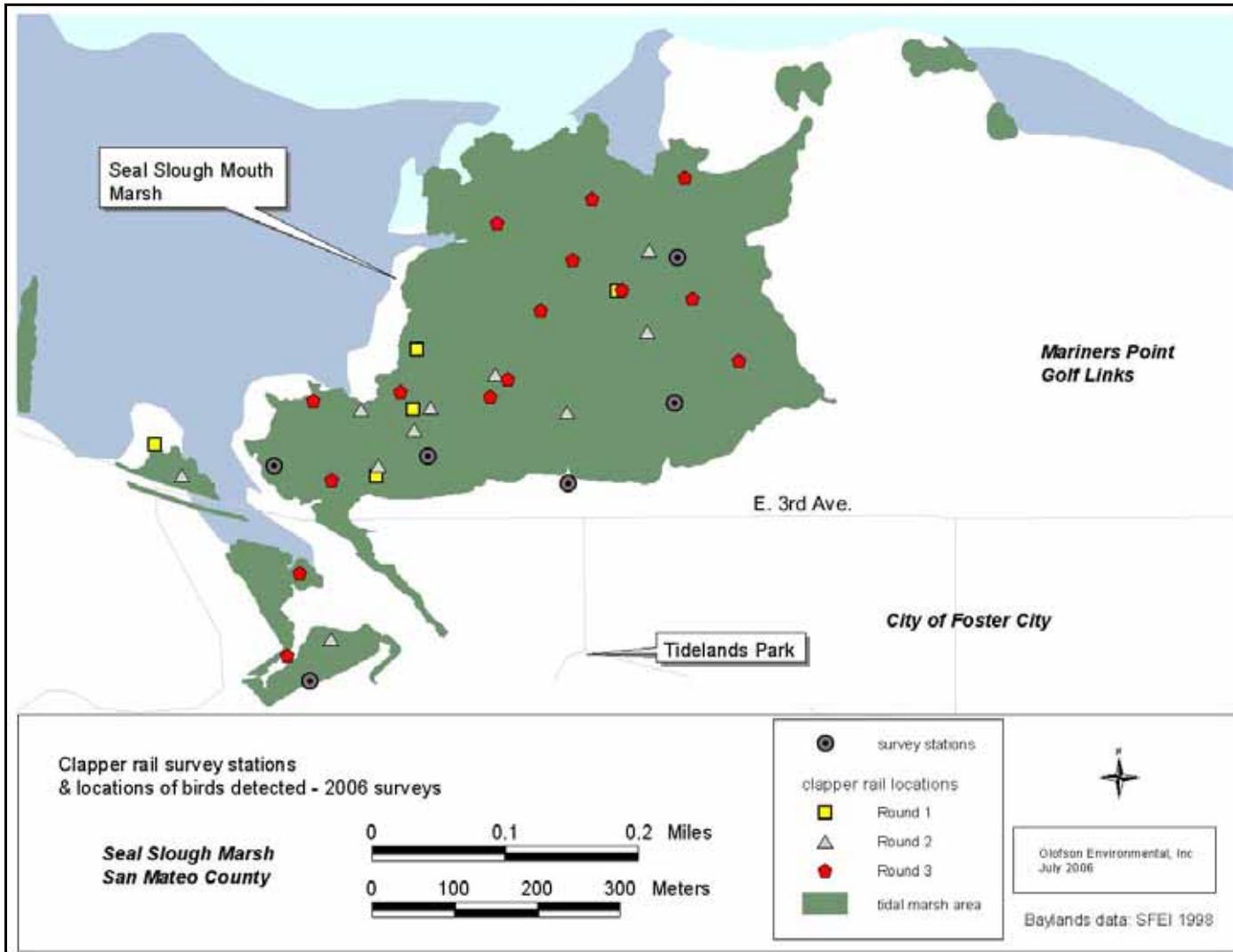
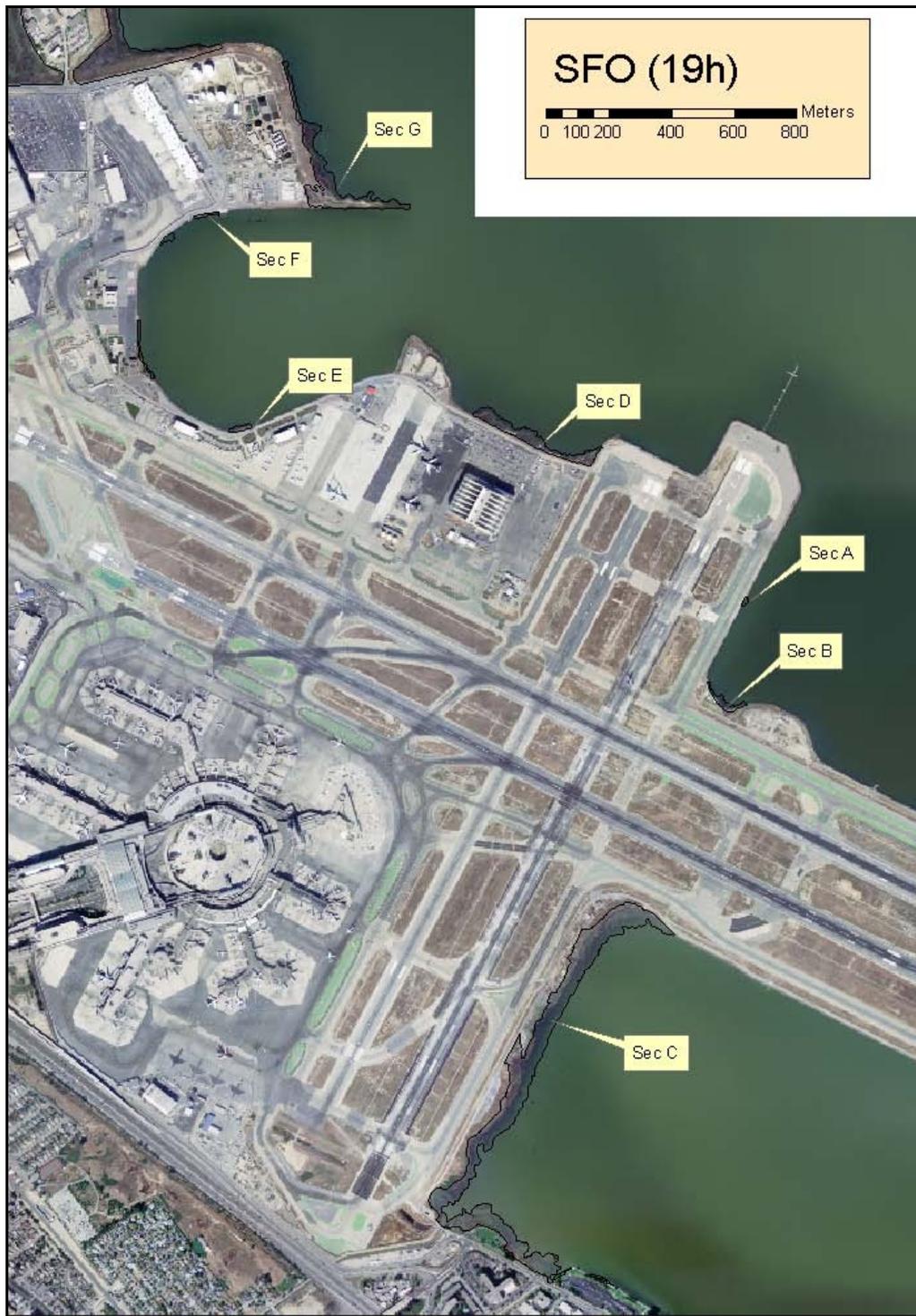


Figure 2.n. Seal Slough mouth



**Figure 3.a. Map of California clapper rail habitat assessment locations, SFO.**  
Photo source: USGS.



**Figure 3.b. SFO Section G and fraction of Sam Trans Peninsula marsh.**

Photo source: USGS.



**Figure 3.c. SFO Sections E & F.**

Photo source: USGS.



**Figure 3.d. SFO Section D.**

Photo source: USGS.



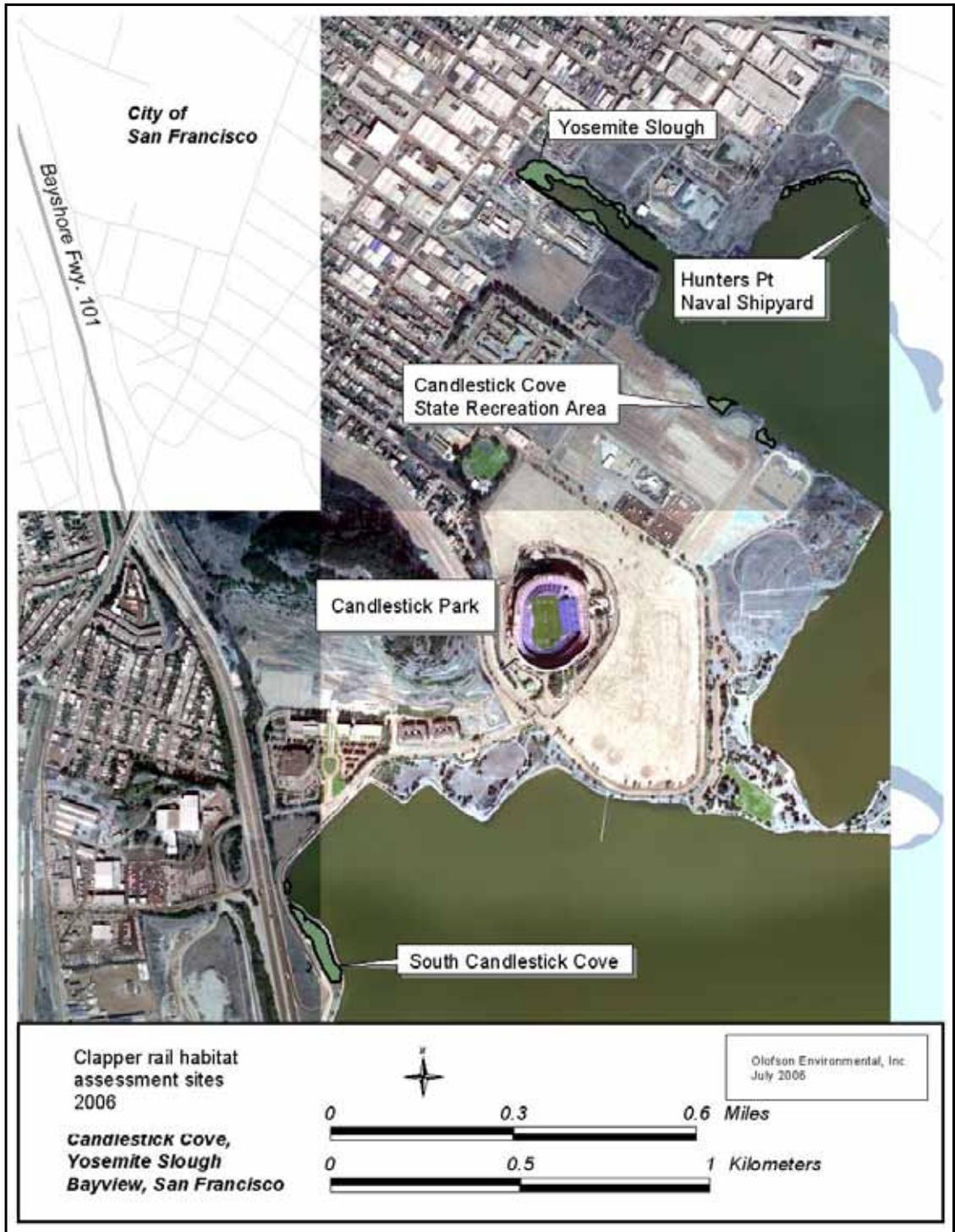
**Figure 3.e. SFO Section A & B.**

Photo source: USGS.



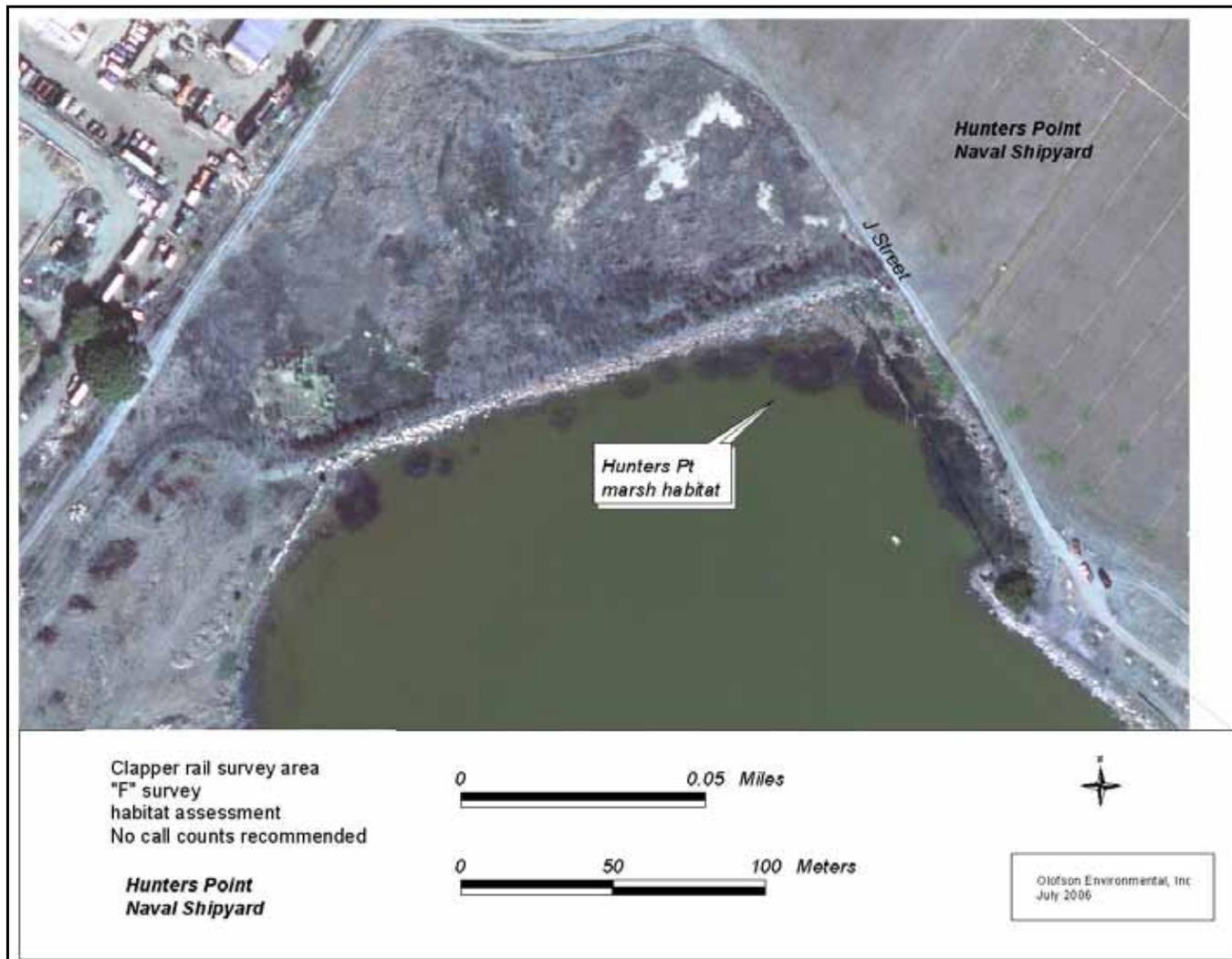
**Figure 3.f. SFO Section C.**

Photo source: USGS.



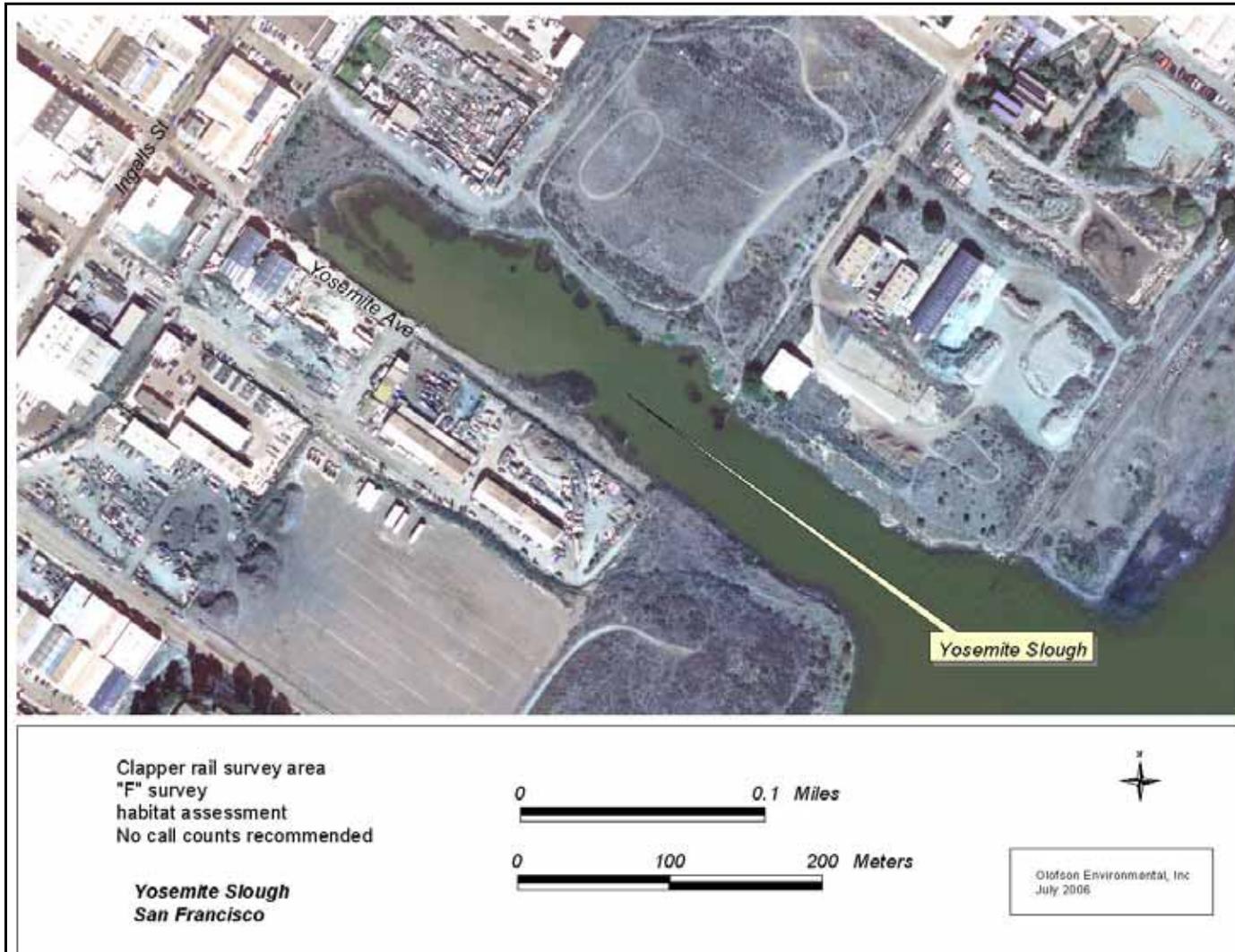
**Figure 4.a. Map of California clapper rail habitat assessment locations, Candlestick Cove area.**

Photo source: USGS.



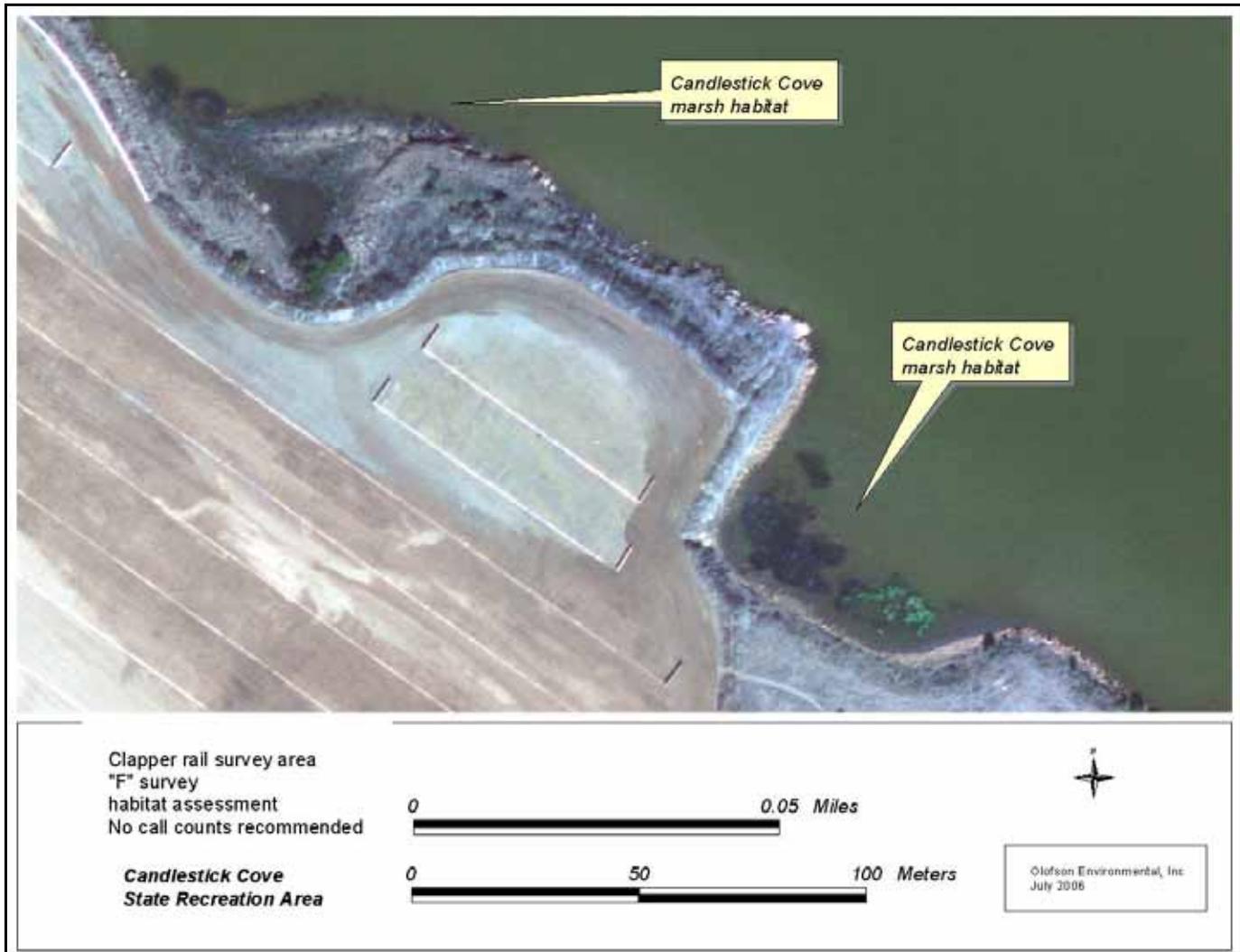
**Figure 4.b. Hunters Point Naval Shipyard.**

Photo source: USGS



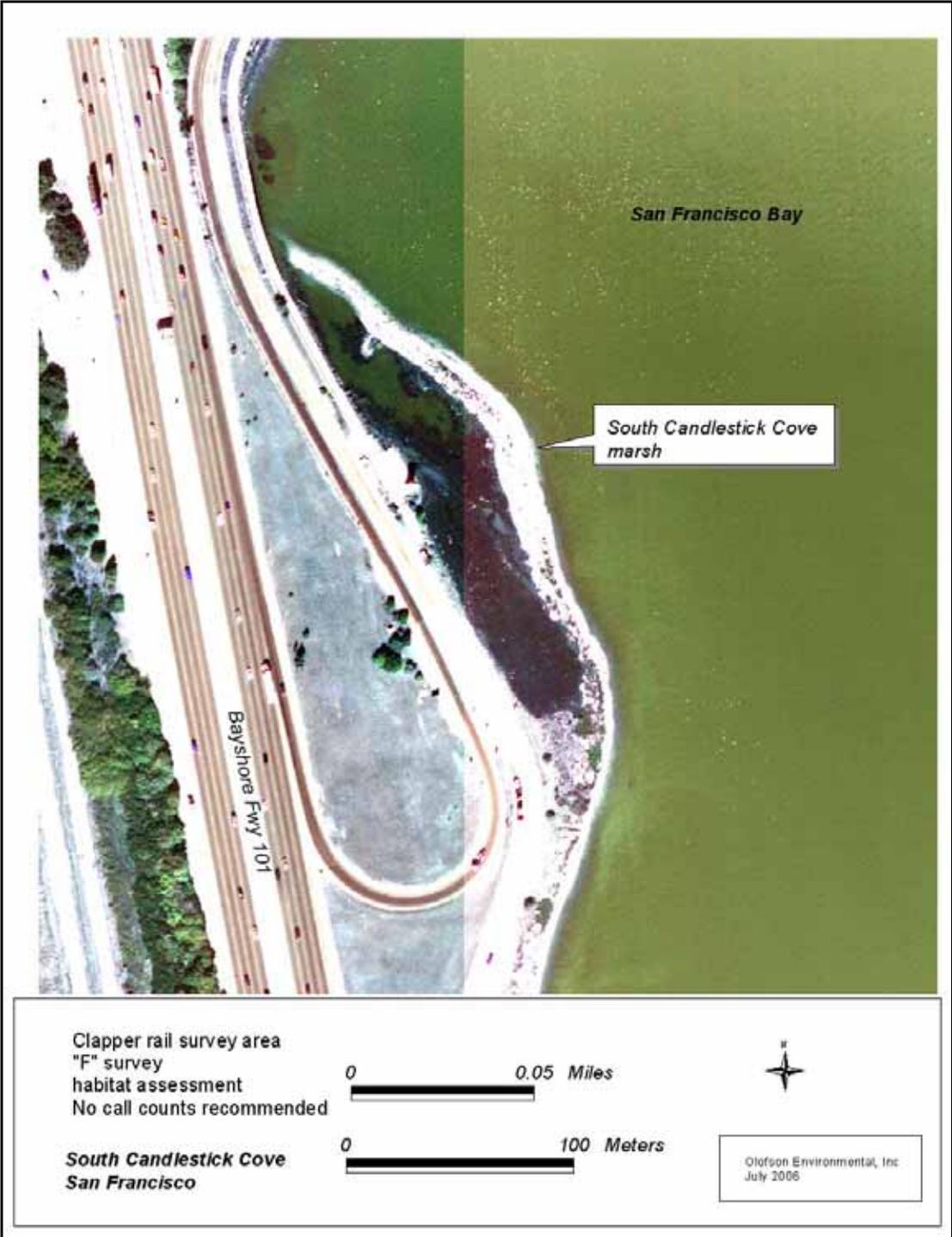
**Figure 4.c. Yosemite Slough.**

Photo source: USGS



**Figure 4.d. Candlestick State Recreation Area.**

Photo source: USGS



**Figure 4.e. South Candlestick Cove.**

Photo source: USGS

**Figure 5. Comparison of California clapper rail relative abundance (birds detected per hectares of area surveyed) in 2006 and 2005.**

All 2006 rail survey data were collected by Olofson Environmental, Inc. for the Invasive Spartina Project. A portion of the 2005 data were collected by ISP partners (see **Table 2**). All graphs present the minimum and maximum abundance indices (birds/ha) for each site. Minimum values are solid bars; the upper striped portion sums to the maximum value. The real value at each site is probably somewhere between these 2 values. Note the differences in scale on the y-axis between graphs. The regional mean abundance index for all sites studied by ISP in 2006 was 0.61 –0.90 birds/ha, or a mean of 0.75 birds/ha (0.30 birds/ha); this value is shown for comparison purposes.

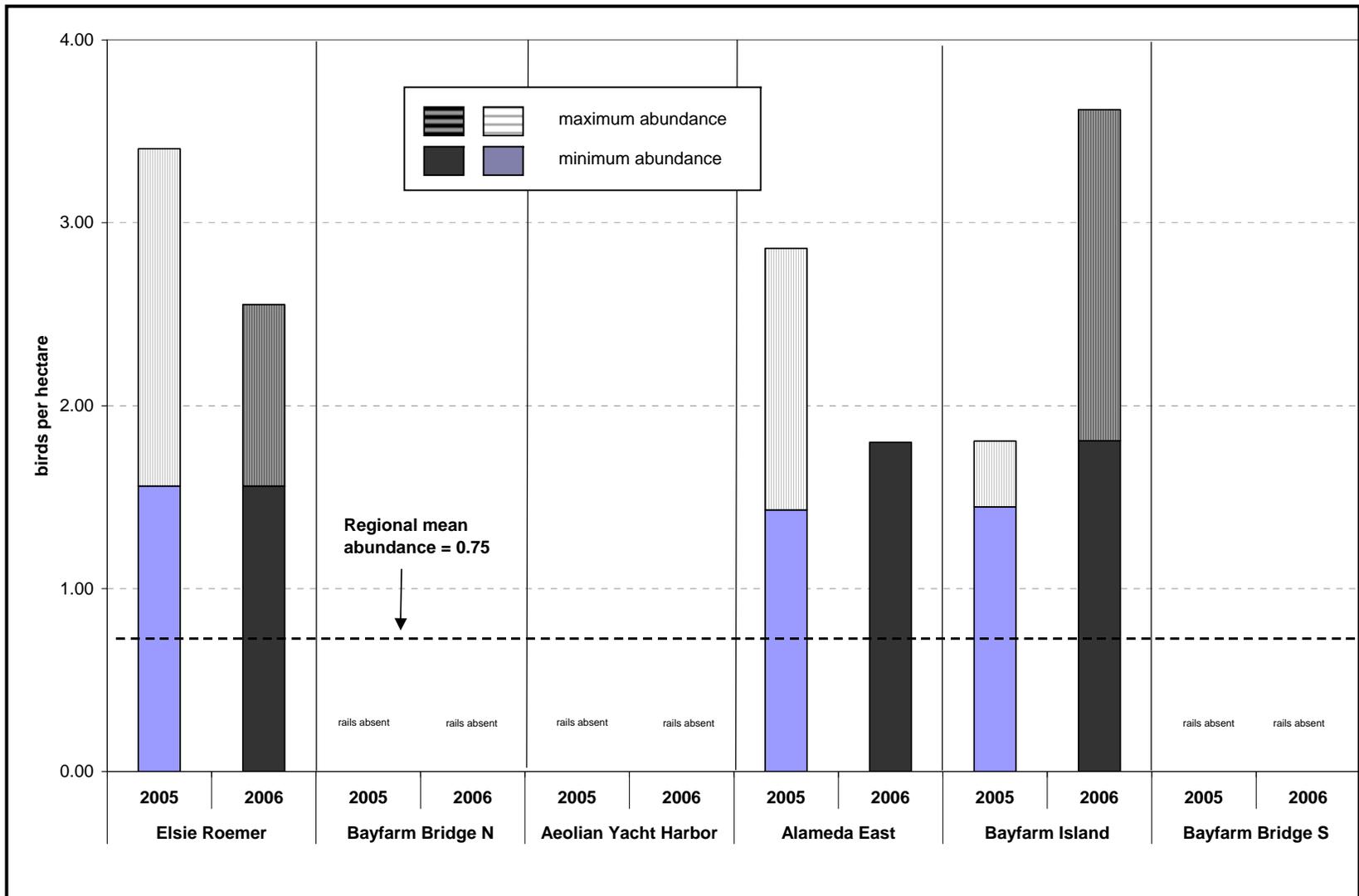


Figure 5.a. San Leandro Bay, western portion. Alameda County.

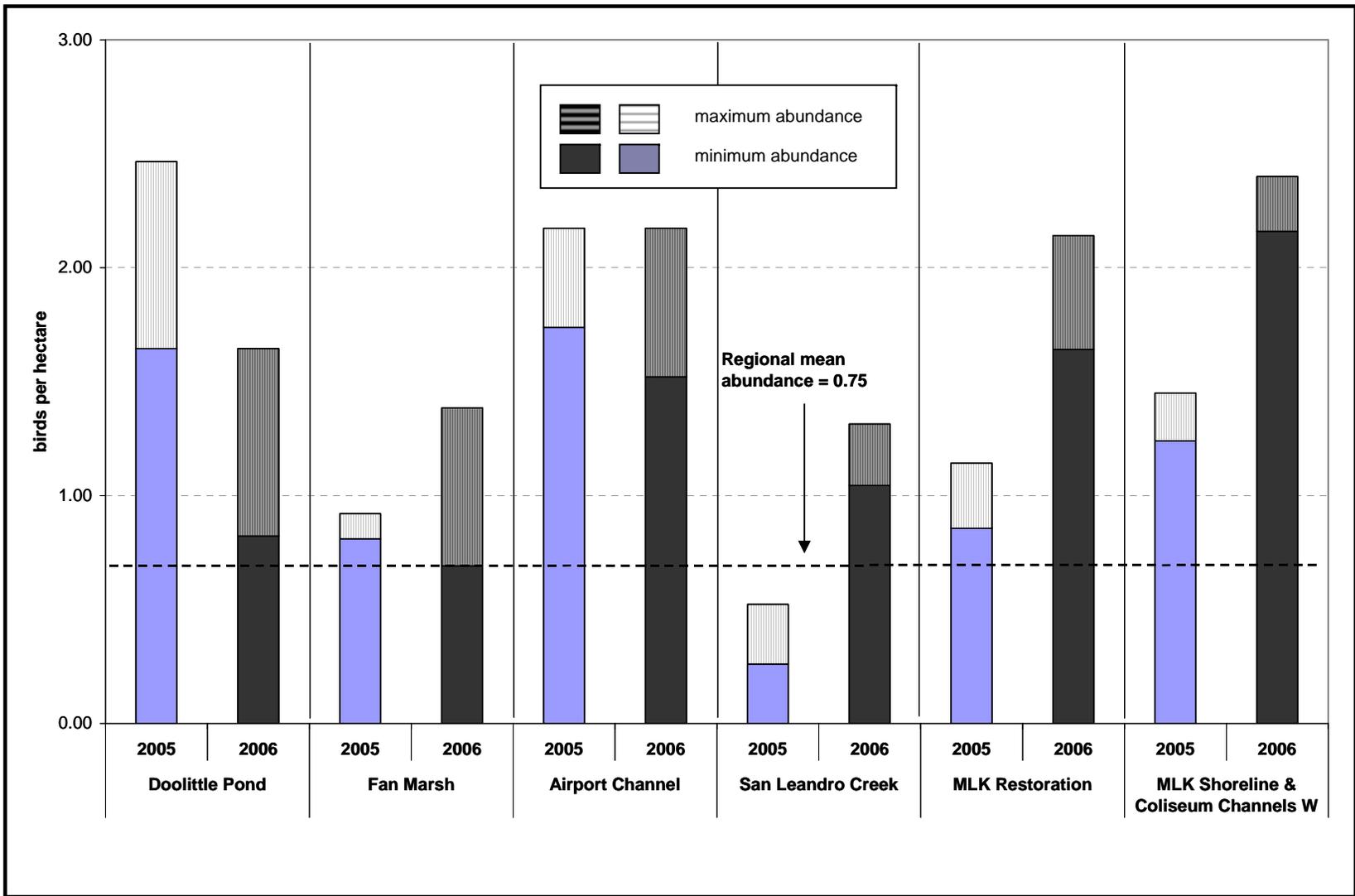


Figure 5.b. San Leandro Bay, Eastern portion. Alameda County.

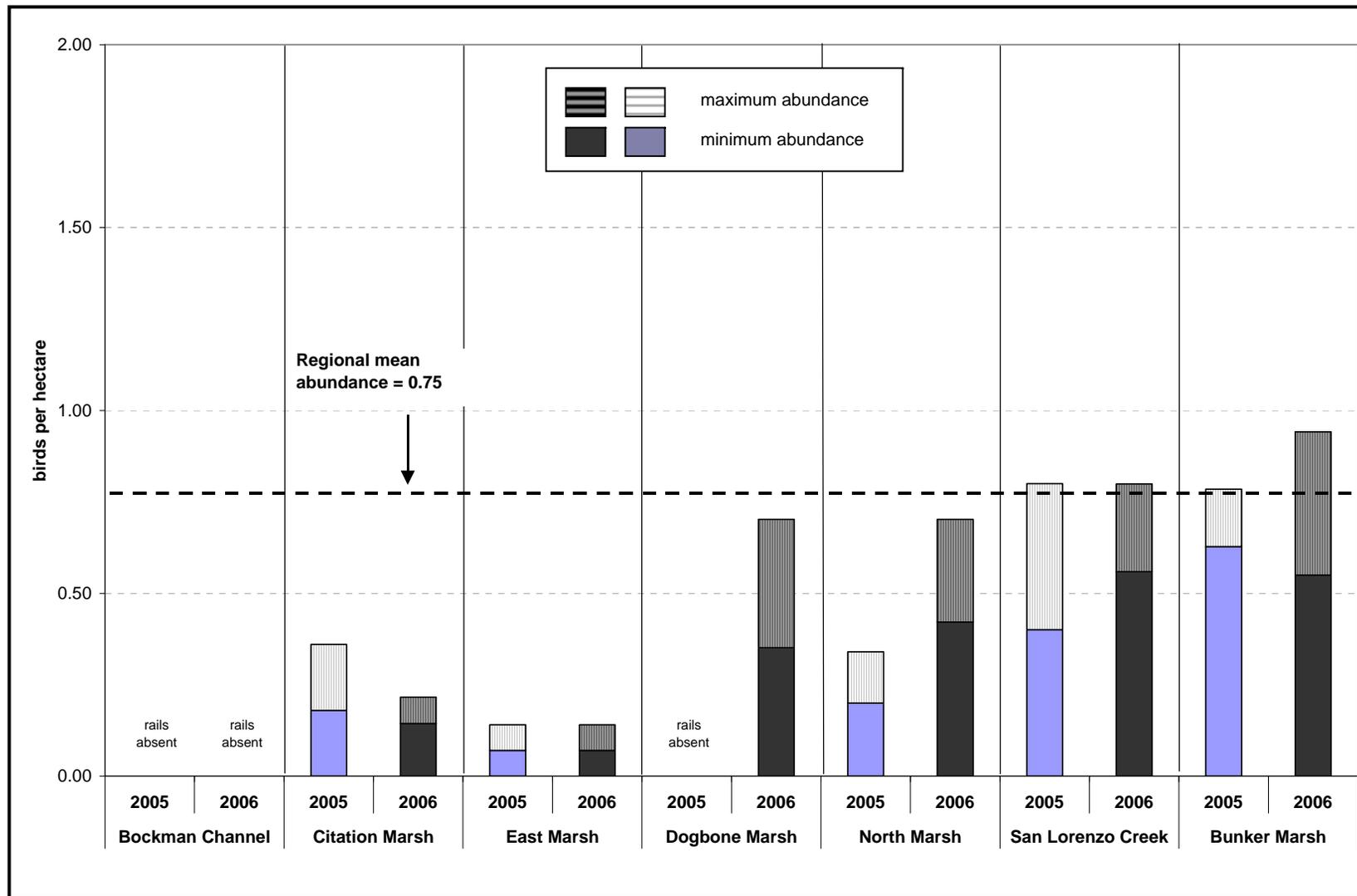


Figure 5.c. East Bay: Roberts Landing area, San Leandro.

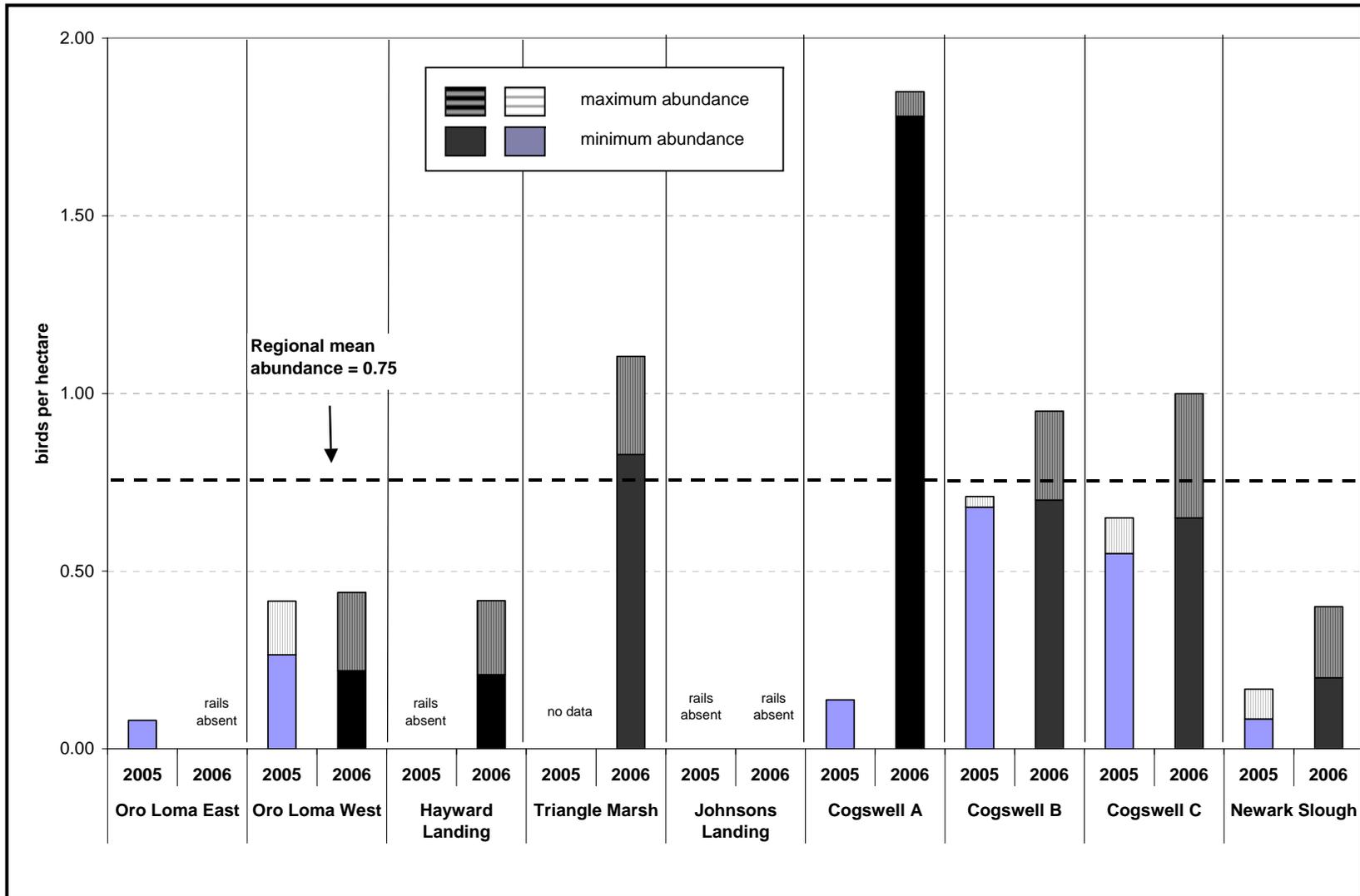


Figure 5.d. East Bay: Hayward Shoreline south to Fremont.

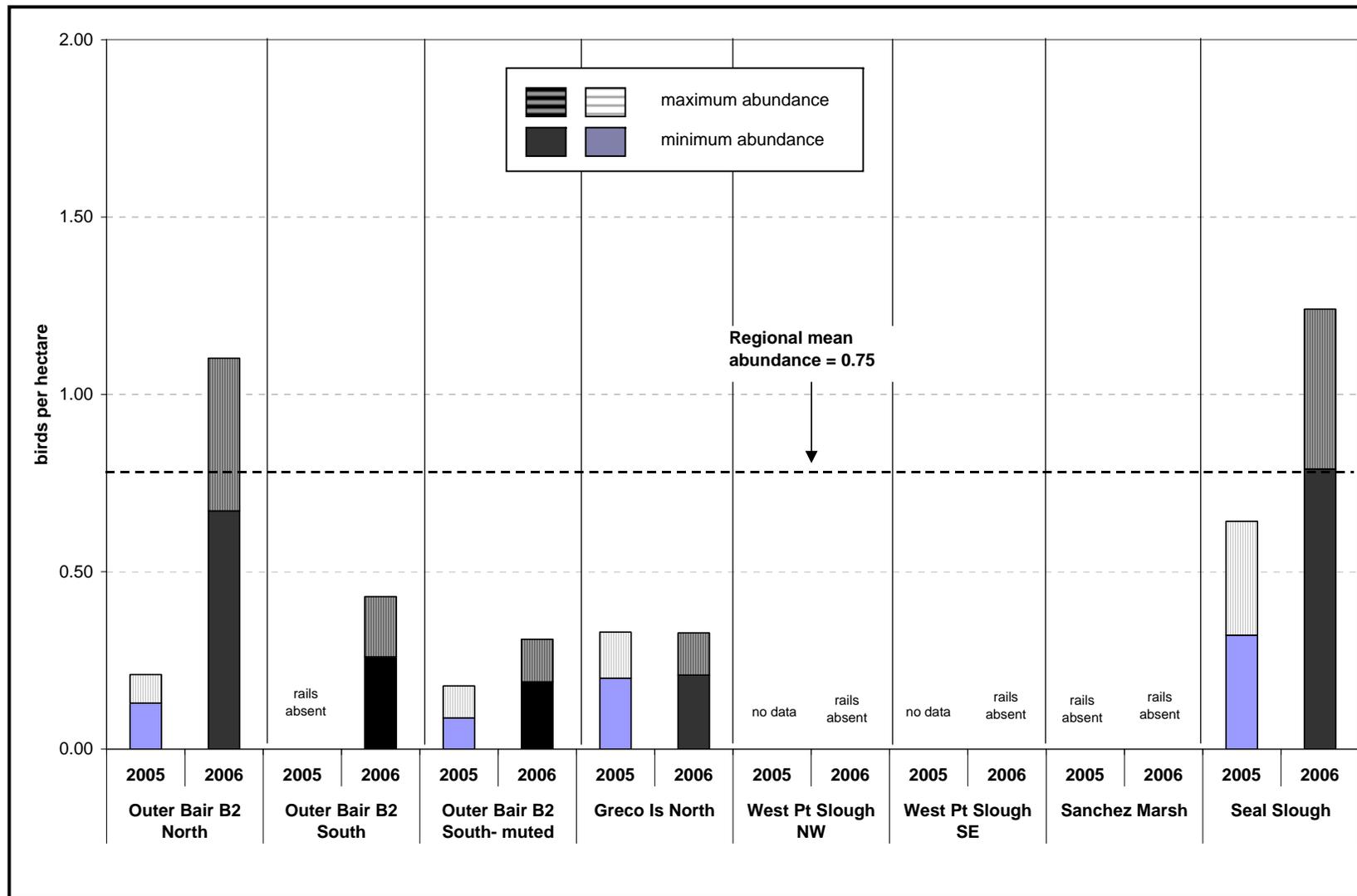


Figure 5.e. West Bay: Bair Island, Greco Island & San Mateo County.

**Table 1. Clapper Rail survey dates, number of survey stations, and station placement, 2006.**

Where more than one date is indicated for a round, the site was large enough to require more than one set of 8 survey stations, and only one portion of the stations was surveyed on any given date. For some larger sites, e.g. Cogswell, several observers conducted surveys simultaneously to cover a larger number of stations on one date.

| Site name   | ISP site number | Site Abbreviation | Number of stations | Station placement                  | Date Round 1          | Date Round 2         | Date Round 3 |
|---|-----------------|-------------------|--------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|--------------|
| <i>East Bay</i>   |                 |                   |                    |                                    |                       |                      |              |
| Airport Channel   | 17k             | AICH              | 14                 | External levee trail               | 1/16/2006 & 1/17/2006 | 2/9/2006 & 2/15/2006 | 3/29/2006    |
| Alameda East, Aeolian Yacht Harbor & Bayfarm Bridge North | 17m             | ALAM              | 5                  | External levee trail               | 2/4/2006              | 3/18/2006            | 4/4/2006     |
| Bayfarm Island & Bayfarm Bridge South                     | 17b             | BFIS              | 7                  | External levee trail               | 1/17/2006             | 2/4/2006             | 3/29/2006    |
| Bunker Marsh & East Marsh                                 | 20g             | BUNK              | 5                  | External levee trail               | 1/30/2006             | 2/17/2006            | 3/31/2006    |
| Citation Marsh  | 20d             | CITA              | 8                  | External levee trail               | 2/6/2006              | 2/16/2006            | 4/8/2006     |
| Cogswell A, B & C <sup>2</sup>                            | 20              | COGS              | 22                 | External levee trail               | 1/26/2006 & 1/27/2006 | 2/14/2006            | 3/1/2006     |
| Dogbone Marsh   | 20c             | DOGB              | 3                  | External levee trail               | 2/1/2006              | 2/16/2006            | 4/8/2006     |
| Doolittle Pond  | 17l             | DOPO              | 2                  | External levee trail               | 2/4/2006              | 2/15/2006            | 4/4/2006     |
| Elsie Roemer  | 17a             | ELRO              | 7                  | External levee trail & upland edge | 1/22/2006             | 2/21/2006            | 3/30/2006    |

| Site name  | ISP site number | Site Abbreviation | Number of stations | Station placement    | Date Round 1                     | Date Round 2          | Date Round 3          |
|--|-----------------|-------------------|--------------------|----------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Emeryville Crescent West   | 06b             | EMCR              | 7                  | External levee trail | 2/12/2006                        | 2/26/2006             | 4/9/2006              |
| Fan Marsh  | 17j             | FANM              | 3                  | External levee trail | 1/16/2006                        | 2/4/2006              | 2/15/2006             |
| Hayward Landing & Triangle marsh   | 20k             | HALA              | 7                  | External levee trail | 2/6/2006                         | 3/16/2006             | 3/30/2006             |
| Hayward Shoreline outboard <i>Spartina</i> clones <sup>1</sup>             | 20p             | HAYO              | N/A                | External levee trail | 4/7/2006 & 4/19/2006             | NA                    | NA                    |
| Johnson's Landing  | 20l             | JOLA              | 2                  | External levee trail | 1/27/2006                        | 2/14/2006             | 4/6/2006              |
| Martin Luther King Jr. Restoration   | 17h             | MLKR              | 7                  | External levee trail | 1/23/2006                        | 2/8/2006              | 3/23/2006             |
| Martin Luther King Jr. Shoreline & Oakland Coliseum channels - western end | 17d             | MLKS              | 14                 | External levee trail | 1/24/2006                        | 2/23/2006 & 2/24/2006 | 4/3/2006              |
| Newark Slough  | 05c             | NEWS              | 8                  | External levee trail | 1/24/2006                        | 2/11/2006             | 3/30/2006             |
| North Marsh  | 20f             | NORT              | 6                  | External levee trail | 1/30/2006<br>2/1/2006 & 2/6/2006 | 2/16/2006 & 2/17/2006 | 3/31/2006 & 4/8/2006  |
| Oro Loma East and West   | 07a & 07b       | ORLO              | 16                 | External levee trail | 2/8/2006                         | 3/16/2006             | 4/12/2006 & 4/13/2006 |
| San Leandro Creek  | 17e             | SLEA              | 11                 | External levee trail | 1/22/2006 & 2/7/2006             | 2/10/2006 & 4/4/2006  | 4/5/2006 & 4/15/2006  |

| Site name  | ISP site number | Site Abbreviation | Number of stations | Station placement                         | Date Round 1 | Date Round 2 | Date Round 3 |
|--|-----------------|-------------------|--------------------|---|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| San Lorenzo Creek & Bockmann Channel   | 20h             | SLRZ              | 11                 | External levee trail, marsh interior      | 1/25/2006    | 2/22/2006    | 3/31/2006    |
| <b>West Bay</b>  |                 |                   |                    |   |              |              |              |
| Candlestick Cove, Candlestick State Recreation Area & Yosemite Slough <sup>1</sup> | 12e             | CAND              | N/A                | External levee trail                      | 4/9/2006     | NA           | NA           |
| Greco Island North   | 02f             | GRIN              | 8                  | Boardwalk                                 | 1/31/2006    | 2/13/2006    | 4/5/2006     |
| Outer Bair B2  | 02d             | OBE               | 8                  | External levee trail                      | 1/31/2006    | 2/13/2006    | 4/6/2006     |
| San Francisco Airport <sup>1</sup>   | 19h             | SFO               | N/A                | External levee trail                      | 2/16/2006    | NA           | NA           |
| Sanchez Marsh  | 19k             | SANC              | 4                  | External levee trail & internal boardwalk | 2/12/2006    | 2/26/2006    | 4/9/2006     |
| Seal Slough/Joinsville   | 19p             | SEAL              | 6                  | Internal & external levee trail           | 1/25/2006    | 2/7/2006     | 3/18/2006    |
| West Point Slough NW and SE  | 02e & 02g       | WPSN              | 8                  | Boat within main slough                   | 3/4/2006     | 3/22/2006    | 4/5/2006     |

- 1 Habitat assessment survey was completed, and it was determined that a clapper rail survey was not required.
- 2 Fourth round completed at Cogswell A only on 4/6/2006 to compensate for poor survey conditions on 1/26/2006.

**Table 2. California clapper rail breeding season call count survey data, site details: a comparison of 2005 and 2006.**

For each site where we conducted call count surveys for California clapper rails we present site name, marsh area (hectares), ISP site number, minimum and maximum number of clapper rails estimated to be present within area of site surveyed, minimum and maximum abundance index (birds per area surveyed), and area surveyed (hectares). Data collected in 2005 at these sites are provided for comparison, some of which were collected by ISP collaborators East Bay Regional Parks (EBPRD), PRBO Conservation Science (PRBO; Herzog et al 2005), and Avocet Research Associates (ARA). Note that for some sites the area surveyed in 2006 was different from that surveyed in 2005, so comparison of numbers between years is not necessarily indicative of population changes. See **Figure 1** for a map of site locations.

| Site Name                            | ISP site num | Site area (ha) | 2006          |               |                   |                   |                    | 2005          |               |                   |                   |                    | 2005 Data source |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|------------------|
|                                      |              |                | Minimum count | Maximum count | Minimum abundance | Maximum abundance | Area surveyed (ha) | Minimum count | Maximum count | Minimum abundance | Maximum abundance | Area surveyed (ha) |                  |
| <b>East Bay</b>                      |              |                |               |               |                   |                   |                    |               |               |                   |                   |                    |                  |
| Aeolian Yacht Harbor                 | 17m          | 1.6            | 0             | 0             | 0                 | 0                 | 0.23               | 0             | 0             | 0                 | 0                 | 0.2                | OEI/ISP          |
| Airport Channel                      | 17k          | 4.6            | 7             | 10            | 1.52              | 2.17              | 4.6                | 8             | 10            | 1.74              | 2.17              | 4.6                | OEI/ISP          |
| Alameda East                         | 17m          | 1.1            | 2             | 2             | 1.80              | 1.80              | 1.11               | 1             | 2             | 1.43              | 2.86              | 0.7                | OEI/ISP          |
| Bayfarm Bridge North                 | 17m          | 0.05           | 0             | 0             | 0                 | 0                 | 0.05               | 0             | 0             | 0                 | 0                 | 0.05               | OEI/ISP          |
| Bayfarm Bridge South                 | 17b          | 0.2            | 0             | 0             | 0                 | 0                 | 0.16               | 0             | 0             | 0                 | 0                 | 0.2                | OEI/ISP          |
| Bayfarm Island                       | 17b          | 2.8            | 5             | 10            | 1.81              | 3.62              | 2.76               | 4             | 5             | 1.45              | 1.81              | 2.8                | OEI/ISP          |
| Bockmann Channel                     | 20i          | 1.1            | 0             | 0             | 0                 | 0                 | 1.11               | 0             | 0             | 0                 | 0                 | 1.1                | OEI/ISP          |
| Bunker Marsh                         | 20g          | 12.7           | 7             | 12            | 0.55              | 0.94              | 12.74              | 8             | 10            | 0.63              | 2.46              | 12.7               | OEI/ISP          |
| Citation Marsh                       | 20d          | 44.5           | 4             | 6             | 0.14              | 0.22              | 27.75              | 5             | 10            | 0.18              | 0.36              | 27.8               | OEI/ISP          |
| Cogswell A – North <sup>2</sup>      | 20m          | 14.1           | 25            | 26            | 1.78              | 1.85              | 14.06              | 2             | 2             | 0.14              | 0.14              | 14.1               | EBRPD            |
| Cogswell B – East <sup>2</sup>       | 20n          | 39.8           | 28            | 38            | 0.70              | 0.95              | 39.84              | 27            | 28            | 0.68              | 0.70              | 39.8               | EBRPD            |
| Cogswell C - South-west <sup>2</sup> | 20o          | 19.9           | 13            | 20            | 0.65              | 1.01              | 19.87              | 11            | 13            | 0.55              | 0.65              | 19.9               | EBRPD            |
| Dogbone Marsh                        | 20c          | 2.9            | 1             | 2             | 0.35              | 0.70              | 2.85               | 0             | 0             | 0                 | 0                 | 2.9                | OEI/ISP          |
| Doolittle Pond                       | 17l          | 1.2            | 1             | 2             | 0.82              | 1.64              | 1.22               | 2             | 3             | 1.64              | 2.46              | 1.2                | OEI/ISP          |

| Site Name                                     | ISP site num | Site area (ha) | 2006          |               |                   |                   |                    | 2005          |               |                   |                   |                    | 2005 Data source |
|---|--------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|------------------|
|   |              |                | Minimum count | Maximum count | Minimum abundance | Maximum abundance | Area surveyed (ha) | Minimum count | Maximum count | Minimum abundance | Maximum abundance | Area surveyed (ha) |                  |
| East Marsh <sup>1</sup>                       | 20e          | 14.8           | 1             | 2             | 0.22              | 0.44              | 4.6                | 1             | 2             | 0.07              | 0.14              | 14.8               | OEI/ISP          |
| Elsie Roemer                                  | 17a          | 7.1            | 11            | 18            | 1.56              | 2.55              | 7.1                | 11            | 24            | 1.56              | 3.40              | 7.1                | EBRPD            |
| Emeryville Crescent West <sup>2</sup>         | 06b          | 15.3           | 6             | 10            | 0.41              | 0.69              | 14.6               | 2             | 2             | 0.14              | 0.14              | 14.6               | EBRPD            |
| Fan Marsh                                     | 17j          | 8.7            | 6             | 12            | 0.69              | 1.38              | 8.7                | 7             | 8             | 0.81              | 0.92              | 8.7                | OEI/ISP          |
| Hayward Landing                               | 20k          | 4.8            | 1             | 2             | 0.21              | 0.42              | 4.8                | 0             | 0             | 0                 | 0                 | 4.8                | OEI/ISP          |
| Johnson's Landing                             | 20l          | 5              | 0             | 0             | 0                 | 0                 | 5                  | 0             | 0             | 0                 | 0                 | 5                  | OEI/ISP          |
| Martin Luther King Jr. Restoration            | 17h          | 14.0           | 23            | 30            | 1.64              | 2.14              | 14.0               | 12            | 16            | 0.86              | 1.14              | 14.0               | EBRPD            |
| Martin Luther King Jr. Shoreline <sup>1</sup> | 17d          | 8.4            | 18            | 20            | 2.16              | 2.40              | 8.4                | 6             | 7             | 1.24              | 1.45              | 4.8                | EBRPD            |
| Newark Slough                                 | 05c          | 132.3          | 5             | 10            | 0.20              | 0.40              | 24.8               | 2             | 4             | 0.08              | 0.16              | 24.8               | PRBO             |
| North Marsh                                   | 20f          | 35.6           | 15            | 25            | 0.42              | 0.70              | 35.6               | 7             | 12            | 0.20              | 0.34              | 35.6               | OEI/ISP          |
| Oakland Coliseum channels <sup>1,3</sup>      | 17i          | 6.8            | 4             | 6             | 5.00              | 7.50              | 0.8                | 0             | 0             | 0                 | 0                 | 5.8                | OEI/ISP          |
| Oro Loma East <sup>1</sup>                    | 07a          | 79.7           | 0             | 0             | 0                 | 0                 | 17.1               | 2             | 2             | 0.08              | 0.08              | 25.8               | EBRPD            |
| Oro Loma West                                 | 07b          | 53.4           | 12            | 24            | 0.23              | 0.45              | 53.4               | 14            | 22            | 0.26              | 0.41              | 53.4               | EBRPD            |
| San Leandro Creek                             | 17e          | 3.8            | 4             | 5             | 1.04              | 1.31              | 3.8                | 1             | 2             | 0.26              | 0.52              | 3.8                | OEI/ISP          |
| San Lorenzo Creek                             | 20h          | 12.5           | 7             | 10            | 0.56              | 0.80              | 12.5               | 5             | 10            | 0.40              | 0.80              | 12.5               | OEI/ISP          |
| Triangle Marsh                                | 20k          | 3.6            | 3             | 4             | 0.83              | 1.10              | 3.6                |               |               |                   |                   |                    | No data          |
| <b>West Bay</b>                               |              |                |               |               |                   |                   |                    |               |               |                   |                   |                    |                  |
| Greco Is North <sup>1</sup>                   | 02f          | 202.6          | 14            | 22            | 0.21              | 0.33              | 67.2               | 20            | 33            | 0.20              | 0.33              | 100.2              | PRBO             |
| Outer Bair B2 North <sup>1</sup>              | 02c          | 206.9          | 11            | 18            | 0.67              | 1.10              | 16.4               | 11            | 18            | 0.13              | 0.21              | 85.4               | PRBO             |
| Outer Bair B2 South                           | 02d          | 24.8           | 6             | 10            | 0.26              | 0.44              | 22.9               | 0             | 0             | 0                 | 0                 | 19.2               | PRBO             |

| Site Name                  | ISP site num | Site area (ha) | 2006          |               |                   |                   |                    | 2005          |               |                   |                   |                    | 2005 Data source |
|----------------------------|--------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|------------------|
|                            |              |                | Minimum count | Maximum count | Minimum abundance | Maximum abundance | Area surveyed (ha) | Minimum count | Maximum count | Minimum abundance | Maximum abundance | Area surveyed (ha) |                  |
| Outer Bair B2 South, muted | 02d          | 23.0           | 3             | 6             | 0.19              | 0.39              | 15.5               | 2             | 4             | 0.09              | 0.18              | 22.5               | PRBO             |
| Sanchez Marsh              | 19k          | 5.8            | 0             | 0             | 0                 | 0                 | 5.8                | 0             | 0             | 0                 | 0                 | 5.8                | ARA/ISP          |
| Seal Slough <sup>1</sup>   | 19p          | 23.5           | 18            | 28            | 0.79              | 1.24              | 22.7               | 3             | 6             | 0.32              | 0.64              | 9.3                | ARA/ISP          |
| West Point Slough NW       | 02e          | 3.3            | 0             | 0             | 0                 | 0                 | 1.9                |               |               |                   |                   |                    | No data          |
| West Point Slough SE       | 02g          | 17.9           | 0             | 0             | 0                 | 0                 | 11.9               |               |               |                   |                   |                    | No data          |

- 1 Area surveyed in 2006 was significantly different from that surveyed in 2005. Oakland Coliseum channels, Oro Loma East, Outer Bair North, & Greco Island North areas were smaller in 2006. MLK Shoreline & Seal Slough areas were larger in 2006.
- 2 East Bay Regional Park District 2005 data provided are preliminary; final numbers are not yet available. For most sites, with the exception of Emeryville and Cogswell, we had access to all datasheets and re-calculated the numbers using the same data interpretation methods that we used for all 2006 data we calculated ourselves.
- 3 Oakland Coliseum channel 2006 data are presented separately and are also included in the values presented for MLK Shoreline.

**Table 3. California clapper rail breeding season call count survey data, means for complex: a comparison of 2005 and 2006.**

Data presented here are calculated from site level data in **Table 2**, weighted for site area.

| Complex Name                 | ISP site num           | Site area (ha) | 2006          |               |                   |                   |                    | 2005          |               |                   |                   |                    |
|------------------------------|------------------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
|                              |                        |                | Minimum count | Maximum count | Minimum abundance | Maximum abundance | Area surveyed (ha) | Minimum count | Maximum count | Minimum abundance | Maximum abundance | Area surveyed (ha) |
| San Leandro Bay              | 17a – 17m              | 58.4           | 141           | 173           | 1.09              | 1.58              | 52.1               | 119           | 150           | 0.92              | 1.40              | 51.6               |
| San Leandro/ Roberts Landing | 20c – 20h              | 124.2          | 35            | 57            | 0.30              | 0.50              | 107.4              | 26            | 44            | 0.21              | 0.35              | 107.4              |
| Hayward Shoreline            | 20m- 20o               | 219.8          | 82            | 114           | 0.55              | 0.72              | 157.7              | 56            | 67            | 0.24              | 0.28              | 162.8              |
| West Bay                     | 02c – 02g;<br>19k, 19p | 507.8          | 52            | 84            | 0.30              | 0.49              | 171.9              | 31            | 52            | 0.12              | 0.21              | 250.7              |
| Emeryville Cresc. West       | 06b                    | 15.3           | 6             | 10            | 0.41              | 0.69              | 14.6               | 2             | 2             | 0.14              | 0.14              | 14.6               |
| Newark Slough                | 05c                    | 132.3          | 5             | 10            | 0.20              | 0.40              | 24.8               | 2             | 4             | 0.08              | 0.16              | 24.8               |
| <b>All sites combined</b>    |                        | <b>1057.8</b>  | <b>321</b>    | <b>448</b>    | <b>0.61</b>       | <b>0.91</b>       | <b>528.5</b>       | <b>236</b>    | <b>319</b>    | <b>0.43</b>       | <b>0.65</b>       | <b>611.9</b>       |

1 Exact area surveyed by EBRPD unknown.

# APPENDICES

**APPENDIX 1. CALIFORNIA CLAPPER RAIL OFFICIAL USFWS DRAFT  
PROTOCOL, 2000: SURVEY PROTOCOL A.**

## United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
 Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office  
 2800 Cottage Way, Room W-2605  
 Sacramento, California 95825-1846

### DRAFT SURVEY PROTOCOL

#### California Clapper Rail (*Rallus longirostris obsoletus*)

January 21, 2000

Below is a description of the standard methodology used to detect presence or absence of clapper rail breeding activity. Surveys should be conducted once a week for a minimum of four weeks. The optimal time to conduct call count surveys is mid-January through March. Once a survey protocol has been developed, it should be sent to the Service for final approval prior to implementation. After the results are compiled and submitted to us, we will make a final decision on the possibility of doing any work as described.

#### Methodology

1. Surveys should be conducted from January through mid-April, which encompasses the optimum time period of mid-January through March when the frequency of calls is typically highest. Surveys should not be conducted when tides greater than 4.5 feet NGVD as predicted at the Golden Gate occur at the marsh during the survey period or during full moon periods.
2. Listening stations should be established no more than 150 meters apart along transects in or adjacent to marsh areas. Stations should be established so that the entire marsh is covered by 75 to 100-meter radius circular plots. Listening stations should be placed near marsh features, such as sloughs, but not along slough edges to minimize disturbance to rails. Surveys should be conducted from levee crowns or boardwalks to minimize disturbances to marsh areas where possible. A detailed map depicting sloughs and other marsh landmarks or features should be developed.
3. Surveys should be conducted at sunset or sunrise. Surveys conducted at sunrise should begin 45 minutes before sunrise and continuing until 1 1/4 hours after sunrise. Surveys conducted at sunset should begin 1 1/4 hours before sunset and continue until 45 minutes after sunset.
4. An observer should be assigned to each listening station for the duration of each survey. Observers should locate key marsh landmarks or features on a map in relation to each listening station location.
5. All rail vocalizations should be recorded, noting the call type, location, and time on a detailed map of the marsh. The call types are coded as C = clapper, D = duet, K = kek.

B=kck-burr with a V representing a visual sighting. Other unusual calls also should be noted. The calls of one bird or pair should be marked by circling the calls together. If a rail is moving during the survey, several locations may be noted for the same bird(s). Attention should be focused on accurately mapping the birds that are nearby, especially between observers or towards the edge of the marsh if the station is positioned at the marsh's edge.

6. At the end of each survey, observers should compare maps to determine overlap in detections and to create a master map showing all pairs and individuals located during the survey. Another master map should be developed once all surveys are completed, showing the dates and locations of detections.
7. Weather information, including wind velocities and direction, should be recorded. Call count surveys should not be conducted when wind velocities exceed 10 mph or wind gusts exceed 12 mph, or during moderate to heavy rains. Information on disturbances (e.g., dogs or cats in marsh and aircraft flyovers) occurring during the surveys should be recorded.
8. If a survey of a marsh is conducted over more than one night, observers should be assigned to stations adjacent to their previous night's station if at all possible.
9. New observers should be trained by an experienced observer. Trainees should familiarize themselves with various calls and with estimating distances to calls before training in the field. In-field training should include ways to minimize disturbance to rails and marsh vegetation. Trainees should be stationed with an experienced observer during a call count for a minimum of 2 nights to assess the trainee's ability to accurately detect and map calls in the field. The Palo Alto Baylands is a marsh with many rails typically calling in the evening and easy access via a boardwalk, thus providing an excellent training opportunity for new observers and their instructors. A recording of clapper rail calls is available for training purposes at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office, 2800 Cottage Way, Suite W2605, Sacramento, California 95825.

**APPENDIX 2. DRAFT VERSION OF PROPOSED REVISIONS TO THE  
OFFICIAL PROTOCOL: SURVEY PROTOCOL A.**

# San Francisco Estuary Invasive *Spartina* Project

## California Clapper Rail Survey Protocol A:

### “Standard Transect Survey”

March 2006

*The ISP's Protocol A is the “walking transect survey” method described in “Draft clapper rail protocol for the San Francisco Estuary large-scale population surveys” (Albertson & Downard 2004) and “Revised draft clapper rail protocol for the San Francisco Estuary large-scale population surveys” (Spautz 2005). The protocol is excerpted verbatim from Spautz 2005, except as otherwise noted. Note: The ISP refers to the “standing survey” method described in Albertson & Downard 2004 and Spautz 2005 as “Protocol B”.*

#### General Survey Requirements:

- 1) **Permits.** Obtain required survey permits: USFWS Endangered Species Permit, ESA Section 10(a)(1)(A); California DFG permit (i.e. Memorandum of Understanding); site-specific permissions (e.g. Special Use Permit from a NWR).
- 2) **Training.** Observers must be trained to identify clapper rail calls and distinguish CLRA calls from other marsh bird species (see Rail Training document, April 2004). Observers must also be trained to minimize disturbance while conducting surveys (see Walking in the Marsh document, April 2004).
- 3) **Tides and moon phase.** Conduct surveys when tidal sloughs are less than bank full, <4.5-ft NGVD at the Golden Gate tide station. Tide height at bank full will vary by site. Avoid high (flood) tides. Full moon periods should be avoided during active surveys when tape playback is utilized, as birds may be attracted out of cover or a response may be elicited, and increase the likelihood of predation. There is also evidence of reduced calling rates during full moon periods.
- 4) **Survey Timing.** Morning surveys should be initiated no sooner than one hour before sunrise and extended no more than 1.5 hours after sunrise; evening surveys should begin one hour prior to sunset and extend no more than one hour following sunset. Surveys at a particular location should be spaced at least 1 week apart and should be conducted at both sunrise and sunset.
- 5) **Weather.** Record wind velocities and weather; conduct surveys at winds <10 mph; do not conduct surveys during heavy rainfall.
- 6) **Seasonality.** Conduct surveys between January 15 and mid-April.
- 7) **Survey Stations.** Stations should be spaced approximately 200-m apart. Stations should be placed on boardwalks or levee tops when possible to minimize disturbance. When surveys

are conducted within a marsh, stations should be placed away from slough/channel edges to minimize disturbance to rail species.

- 8) **Data collection.** All rail vocalizations should be recorded, noting the call type, location, and time. Locations where rails are detected should be plotted on a map during the survey with numbered reference codes that correspond to detections on the datasheet. The call types should be coded as follows:

| Call Code | Call Description                                  | Number of Birds Indicated*              |
|-----------|---|---|
| C         | Clapper/clatter by one individual                 | 1-2 birds                               |
| D         | “Duet”- two individuals clattering simultaneously | 2 or more birds, depending on situation |
| K         | “kek”   | 1-2 birds                               |
| AK        | agitated “kek”                                    | 1-2 birds                               |
| B         | “kek-burr”  | 1-2 birds                               |
| V         | Visual sighting                                   | 1-2 birds per sighting                  |
| SK        | “squawk”  | 1-2 birds                               |
| SC        | “screech”   | 1-2 birds                               |
| CH        | “chur”  | 1-2 birds                               |
| P         | “purr”  | 1-2 birds                               |

\* See data interpretation section below for more details about determining number of birds per detection type.

If the bird was definitely or possibly previously detected, e.g. as part of a pair, make this clear on the datasheet. Record when birds were detected simultaneously or nearly so, which will verify they were separate individuals. Calls of other rail species should also be recorded as above, with species clearly marked.

- 9) **Disturbance.** Record all Information on disturbance (e.g., predator sightings or boats) detected during surveys.
- 10) Review the WRMP CLRA protocol (Evens 2002) for other general information (<http://www.wrmp.org/docs/protocols/Wetland%20Birds.pdf>, p.21 Rails). Defer to the requirements listed above if they are more restrictive than the WRMP protocol.

## SURVEY SPECIFICS

The Protocol A transect survey is suitable for linear sites and for sites with low to medium rail density. Surveys at sites with high clapper rail density should use “Protocol B” – the standing or stationary survey protocol described by Albertson & Downard 2004 and Spautz 2005.

The transect survey may be performed by one or two observers. Listening stations are established at approximately 200 meter intervals along a transect, preferably along the edge of the marsh. The first two of three surveys are passive (listening) for 10-minutes at each station. On the third survey, if a clapper rail was not previously detected within 200 meters of a listening station during the two previous passive surveys or incidentally within the season, recorded calls are played, according to the “*Recorded Call Playback Procedure*” described below. If a clapper rail has been previously detected within 200 meters of a listening station, the third survey should also be passive. There should be a minimum of one week between surveys.

## Recorded Call Playback Procedure

A standardized recording of clapper rail calls should be obtained from USFWS. The recording should include a combination of clapper/clatter and duet calls, and there should be at least four complete calls with at least 5-seconds of silence between calls. The recording should be of good quality, and should be played at a volume of 80-90 dB at 1-meter distance from the speaker. A digital sound level meter should be used to calibrate the playback device.

The survey should begin with an initial 5-minute passive listening period, followed by 1-minute of clapper rail calls, and completed with a 4-minute passive listening period (10-minutes/survey). Tape playbacks should be broadcast in all directions over the marsh at a station. Assume rails can hear tapes at distances of  $\leq 200$ -m.

Note: Only play recorded clapper rail calls at stations when you are certain rails have not yet been detected. As soon as a clapper rail is detected, stop the recording.

## Data Interpretation and Data Analysis

Use the following key to determine how many birds to record for each detection type. Use your “field” judgment to avoid redundancy (overlap) and interpret uncertainty as a range. Keep in mind the part of the breeding season in which your survey occurs.

| Detection type | Code | Number of birds | Description   | Notes and Exceptions  |
|----------------|------|-----------------|---|---|
| Clatter        | C    | 1 - 2           | Primary territorial call. Rapid series of kek notes, often trailing off at the end.   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Usually clattering individuals are paired. Often it's difficult to determine whether one or two birds are calling, if completely synchronized; thus, the range of 1-2 birds.</li> <li>Example scenario: at the end of a survey session you have 4 distinct duets, 3 single clatters away from duets and away from one another. The estimate for breeding birds would be 11-14 (# duets x 2 = 8 + 3-6 birds represented by clatters).</li> </ul>  |
| Duet clatter   | D    | 2               | Two bird clattering simultaneously.   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Usually given by a pair, or less often, neighboring territorial males (J. Evens peers. obis. 2005).</li> <li>When chorusing birds are masking one another and you are uncertain whether it was one duet or two, record as 1-2 duets (1-2 pairs) or 2-4 clatters. Again, interpret uncertainty as a range.</li> </ul>   |
| Kek            | K    | 1-2             | Single sharp “kek” call, given singly or in series, with significant space between calls (as compared to clatter, which is very rapid). | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Given by males, most often when unmated or prior to setting up pair bond, thus is most typically heard early in the season. However, can be given by a mated male throughout the breeding season, thus the range of 1-2 birds.</li> <li>Sometimes paired/breeding birds make random keks or kek-burrs intermingled with clatters, especially at the beginning of the breeding season. If you hear a single kek followed by a duet in the same location, the kekking individual is likely part of the duet pair and would not be counted separately.</li> </ul> |

| Detection type   | Code | Number of birds | Description   | Notes and Exceptions  |
|--|------|-----------------|---|---|
| Agitated Kek   | AK   | 1-2             | As above but higher pitched, rougher, and with what can be interpreted as an element of alarm. Mid-way between kek and squawk or screech.                                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As above, the call may indicate either an unmated or mated male, thus the range of 1-2 birds.</li> </ul>   |
| Kek-burr   | B    | 1-2             | One or several rapid “kek” calls followed by a more attenuated, “burr”. Often repeated constantly over many minutes, and can be heard about 1 km away, depending on conditions. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Given by female clapper rails, primarily during pair bond formation or when fertile and soliciting a copulation with her mate, thus, it is most typically heard early in the season. The call is not likely to be given when she is incubating. Later in the season, it may be given when a nest has failed and the female is beginning another nesting attempt. The call may indicate either an unmated or mated female, thus the range of 1-2 birds.</li> <li>A single kek-burr followed by a duet: the individual is likely part of the duet pair and would not be counted separately.</li> </ul> |
| Visual   | V    | 1- 2            |   | <p>Clapper rails are most often seen when foraging along tidal channel banks, often near the shelter of overhanging vegetation. They are often seen crossing channels, and regularly swim across open water within a channel.</p> <p>A sighting of one bird may indicate the presence of a pair; thus record as 1 – 2 birds.</p>  |
| The following descriptions were not included in Albertson & Downard 2004 or Spautz 2005, but are provided here for completeness. |      |                 |   |   |
| Squawk   | SK   | 1-2             | More highly agitated than an agitated kek,  | Typically given only once as an alarm call. Bird may later make other vocalizations.  |
| Screech  | SC   | 1-2             | More rare than a squawk. Like a squawk but even more high-pitched.  | Typically given only once as an alarm call.   |
| Churr  | CH   | 1-2             | Similar to the last syllable in a kek-bur call  | Typically given by a female.  |
| Purr   | P    | 1-2             | Very soft, like churr or burr.  | Typically given by a female at the nest.  |

**APPENDIX 3. CALIFORNIA CLAPPER RAIL CALL COUNT SURVEY  
DATASHEET.**



**APPENDIX 4. CALIFORNIA CLAPPER RAIL HABITAT ASSESSMENT:  
PROTOCOL F. PROTOCOL AND DATASHEET.**

## **California Clapper Rail Survey Protocol F:**

### **California Clapper Rail Habitat Assessment**

March 14, 2006

#### **Protocol description**

The San Francisco Estuary Invasive *Spartina* Project (ISP) is required (under the USFWS Biological Opinion dated September 2005) to conduct surveys for California clapper rails (*Rallus longirostris obsoletus*) to determine clapper rail presence or absence prior to treatment of non-native *Spartina*. Sites that are clearly insufficient to support clapper rails, e.g., stretches of concrete riprap with a scattering of small non-native *Spartina* clones, do not require clapper rail surveys. However, sites requiring *Spartina* control exhibit a continuum of habitat characteristics, many of which are documented clapper rail habitat requirements (e.g., extensive channels for foraging and vegetated upper marsh for refuge during high tides). This makes it difficult in some cases to determine whether the habitat at the site is of sufficiently high quality to require a call count survey. In 2005, the ISP developed a standardized method to document the decision whether or not a clapper rail survey was required (Protocol F).

ISP staff consulted with Joy Albertson and Jules Evens to develop a list of required habitat elements for clapper rails based on field knowledge and published sources. This information was used to develop a field checklist to assess the habitat using multiple criteria and to document the decision as to whether the marsh will require a formal clapper rail call count survey. The habitat assessment is typically completed at sites where clapper rails have previously not been documented.

The process of determining whether the site is of sufficient quality to require a call count survey is based on a cumulative score of positive characteristics. Patches with no necessary habitat elements are considered very poor habitat and clapper rail use is “highly unlikely”, and require no further clapper rail survey; such sites are determined to be available for early non-native *Spartina* treatment. If the site is poor but is geographically near enough to good habitat or known rail habitat to potentially provide habitat for at least some clapper rail activities (such as foraging or shelter), it will require a call count survey. Potentially good habitat with at least two positive characteristics will also be likely to require a call count survey, but this will be site-dependent. Possibly good habitat or likely good habitat (with at least four or six characteristics, respectively) will require a call count survey.

If call count surveys are required, the biologist will generally recommend using clapper rail call count survey protocol “C”, which is conducted at apparently low quality sites where clapper rails are not likely and have not been previously documented. However, it is possible that the site is of sufficiently high quality that clapper rails are at least moderately likely and a standard call count protocol “A” survey will be recommended.

Habitat characteristics documented to be associated with California clapper rails and included on the habitat assessment datasheet include the following:

1. Young or mature restoration site (at least 50% vegetated)

2. Upper marsh vegetation present
3. Vegetated levee slopes
4. Marsh patch size > 10 ha
5. Closer than 500 m to nearest marsh with documented clapper rail presence
6. Fully tidal
7. Saline
8. High proportion of *Salicornia virginica*, tall hybrid *Spartina* clones, and/or *Grindelia stricta* cover
9. At least a few second and third order channels, or highly channelized

Habitat characteristics associated with California clapper rail absence and included on the habitat assessment datasheet as negative characteristics include the following:

1. New restoration site < 50% vegetated
2. Upper marsh vegetation absent
3. Levee slopes unvegetated
4. Small marsh patch size (< 1 ha)
5. Distance to nearest known marsh with clapper rails > 1000 m
6. Sparse vegetation in rip-rap
7. Highly muted tidal regime or non-tidal
8. Freshwater

**CLRA survey protocol “F” - Clapper rail habitat assessment datasheet 2005 - Page 1**

Study site \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Obs \_\_\_\_\_

All these questions can be answered by checking the appropriate box, with the exception of the percent vegetation, which requires a number

| Variable                                | Options  | pos/neg for CLRA | Data |
|---|--|------------------|------|
| <b>restoration status</b>               | natural  |                  |      |
|   | mature restoration site  | +                |      |
|   | restoring < 10 years but > 50% vegetated                       | +                |      |
|   | new restoration site, less than 50% vegetated                  | -                |      |
|   | unknown  |                  |      |
| <b>elevation</b>                        | upper marsh present ( <i>S. virginica</i> , <i>Grindelia</i> ) | +                |      |
|   | upper marsh absent ( <i>S. europea</i> & <i>Spartina</i> only) | -                |      |
| <b>levees</b>                           | levee slopes vegetated   | +                |      |
|   | levee slopes unvegetated                                       | -                |      |
|   | no levees, natural upland gradient, vegetated > 50%            | +                |      |
|   | no levees, natural upland gradient < 50% vegetated             | -                |      |
| <b>marsh size</b>                       | largest patch < 1 ha (100 x 100 m)                             | -                |      |
|   | largest patch 1 to 10 ha                                       |                  |      |
|   | largest patch > 10 ha  | +                |      |
| <b>marsh width (linear marsh)</b>       | <20 m  |                  |      |
|   | 20 to 50 m   |                  |      |
|   | 50 to 200 m  |                  |      |
|   | >200 m   |                  |      |
| <b>distance to nearest CLRA + marsh</b> | distance < 500m  | +                |      |
|   | distance 500 - 1000 m  |                  |      |
|   | distance > 1000m   | -                |      |
|   | unknown  |                  |      |
|   |  |                  |      |
| <b>marsh configuration</b>              | surrounded by levees on 4 sides                                |                  |      |
|   | no levee on bayward edge                                       |                  |      |
|   | linear marsh with slough                                       |                  |      |
|   | sparse vegetation in riprap                                    | -                |      |

| Variable   | Options  | pos/neg for CLRA | Data |
|--|--|------------------|------|
| <b>tidal regime</b>                                    | fully tidal  | +                |      |
|  | slightly muted tidal                                 |                  |      |
|  | highly muted/managed                                 | -                |      |
|  | unknown  |                  |      |
|  |  |                  |      |
| <b>salinity</b>  | saline   | +                |      |
|  | moderately brackish                                  | +                |      |
|  | brackish to fresh ( <i>S. acutus/Typha</i> present_  | ?                |      |
|  |  |                  |      |
| <b>Spartina hybrid invasion</b>                        | complete (marsh 100% <i>Spartina</i> )               |                  |      |
|  | moderate   |                  |      |
|  | sparse   |                  |      |
|  |  |                  |      |
| <b>vegetation cover<br/>(as percent of vegetation)</b> | percent <i>Salicornia virginica</i>                  | +                |      |
|  | percent tall <i>Spartina</i> hybrids                 | +                |      |
|  | percent short form <i>Spartina</i> hybrids           |                  |      |
|  | percent <i>S. foliosa</i>                            |                  |      |
|  | percent <i>Grindelia</i>                             | +                |      |
|  | percent other  |                  |      |
| <b>channelization</b>                                  | highly channelized                                   | +                |      |
|  | a few second and third order channels                | +                |      |
|  | no channels > first order                            | ?                |      |
|  | only one channel with narrow marsh strip either side |                  |      |
|  | no channels, marsh at bay edge                       |                  |      |
|  |  |                  |      |
| <b>open water</b>                                      | ponds > 75% of marsh                                 |                  |      |
|  | ponds 50 - 75% of marsh                              |                  |      |
|  | ponds 25 - 50%% of marsh                             |                  |      |
|  | ponds < 25% of marsh                                 |                  |      |
|  | ponds absent   |                  |      |
|  |  |                  |      |

| Variable                              | Options   | pos/neg for CLRA                 | Data |
|---------------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|------|
| <b>overall likelihood of CLRA use</b> | highly unlikely   |                                  |      |
|                                       | poor but close enough to good habitat that may be in home range & used for foraging |                                  |      |
|                                       | potentially marginal habitat; at least 2 positive characteristics                   |                                  |      |
|                                       | possibly good habitat; at least 4 positive characteristics                          |                                  |      |
|                                       | likely to be good habitat; at least 6-8 positive characteristics                    |                                  |      |
|                                       | other notes   |                                  |      |
|                                       | <b>Recommendation for CLRA surveys</b>  | "A" regular CLRA survey 3 rounds |      |
| "C" call response survey 3 rounds     |   |                                  |      |
| no further surveys necessary          |   |                                  |      |

## APPENDIX 5. CALIFORNIA CLAPPER RAIL SURVEY DATA INTERPRETATION METHODS.

The methodologies described here are expected to change as 2005 & 2006 data are analyzed. In 2005 all data received from partners and used for ISP control program numbers are presumed to be derived by examining raw numbers on datasheets and maps, as described in USFWS protocols (A1, A3 & D1).

| Code | Survey protocol used | Description   | Year used   | Organization using                 |
|------|----------------------|---|-------------|------------------------------------|
| A1   | A                    | Estimate numbers using USFWS protocols. Numbers were relatively simple to estimate directly due to small marsh size or narrow marsh configuration and limited overlapping survey stations, typically using only one observer's data. Single birds detected only by clatter (C), kek (K), kek-burr (SK) or visual (V) are counted as 1 to 2 individuals  | 2005 & 2006 | ISP                                |
| A2   | A                    | Estimate numbers using USFWS protocols, as in A1, with the following exception: single birds detected only by clatter (C), kek (K), kek-burr (SK) or visual (V) are counted as 1.5 individuals  | 2005        | ARA (Marin Audubon Society report) |
| A3   | A                    | Estimate numbers using USFWS protocols with the following exceptions: numbers were estimated using multiple transects on the same or different days, but triangulation was done on paper maps, NOT using ArcView (as was done with A4). This process is assumed to be less accurate than that used in A4. Single birds detected only by clatter (C), kek (K), kek-burr (SK) or visual (V) are counted as 1 to 2 individuals | 2005 & 2006 | ISP                                |
| A4   | A                    | Estimate numbers using USFWS protocols except for the following: numbers were estimated using multiple transects on the same or different days. In contrast to A3, triangulation was completed by mapping distance and angle in ArcView. Single birds detected only by clatter (C), kek (K), kek-burr (SK) or visual (V) are counted as 1 to 2 individuals. More complex sites e.g. Cogswell, Roberts Landing.              | 2005 & 2006 | ISP                                |
| A5   | A                    | Estimation derived using DISTANCE software. The process involves calculating detection probabilities and using these calculations to calculate absolute density for each site.  |             | PRBO, ARA                          |

| <b>Code</b> | <b>Survey protocol used</b> | <b>Description</b>   | <b>Year used</b> | <b>Organization using</b> |
|-------------|-----------------------------|--|------------------|---------------------------|
| C1          | C                           | Estimate derived from 3 rounds of surveys, whether or not tapes were played at all points on all rounds (i.e., after detecting birds during a "C" survey, subsequent rounds at that point would be passive and performed as "A" surveys).            | 2005 2006        | ISP, ARA                  |
| C2          | C                           | Estimate derived from fewer than 3 rounds of surveys, whether or not tapes were played at all points on all rounds (i.e., after detecting birds during a "C" survey, subsequent rounds at that point would be passive and performed as "A" surveys). | 2005 2006        | ISP, ARA                  |
| D1          | D                           | Estimate derived from fewer than 3 rounds of surveys, all conducted as passive "A" surveys   |                  | UFWS                      |
| D2          | D                           | Estimate derived from fewer than 3 rounds of surveys, all conducted as active "C" surveys  |                  | UFWS                      |
| E1          | E                           | Estimate derived by counting birds flushed during single winter high tide airboat survey   |                  | UFWS, EBRPD               |
| E2          | E                           | Estimate derived by counting birds flushed during two or more winter high tide airboat surveys   |                  | UFWS, EBRPD               |
| P1          | not applicable              | Minimum numbers derived only from point count surveys  |                  |                           |
| I           | not applicable              | Minimum numbers derived from non-protocol surveys or incidental sightings  |                  |                           |

## APPENDIX 6. CALIFORNIA CLAPPER RAIL SURVEY STATION COORDINATES.

Stations at San Francisco Airport, Candlestick and Yosemite Sloughs were use for habitat assessment surveys only; no call count surveys were conducted. Coordinate system used: UTM NAD83 Zone 10.

| Site Name            | Point ID | ISP Site number | Easting | Northing |
|----------------------|----------|-----------------|---------|----------|
| Aeolian yacht harbor | AEOL01   | 17m             | 567453  | 4178421  |
| Airport channel      | AICH01   | 17k             | 569773  | 4176298  |
| Airport channel      | AICH02   | 17k             | 569705  | 4176486  |
| Airport channel      | AICH03   | 17k             | 569648  | 4176675  |
| Airport channel      | AICH04   | 17k             | 569588  | 4176840  |
| Airport channel      | AICH05   | 17k             | 569501  | 4177019  |
| Airport channel      | AICH06   | 17k             | 569550  | 4177213  |
| Airport channel      | AICH07   | 17k             | 569506  | 4177339  |
| Airport channel      | AICH08   | 17k             | 568643  | 4177837  |
| Airport channel      | AICH09   | 17k             | 568798  | 4177707  |
| Airport channel      | AICH10   | 17k             | 568909  | 4177545  |
| Airport channel      | AICH11   | 17k             | 569081  | 4177424  |
| Airport channel      | AICH12   | 17k             | 569206  | 4177257  |
| Airport channel      | AICH13   | 17k             | 569288  | 4177066  |
| Airport channel      | AICH14   | 17k             | 569367  | 4176867  |
| Alameda Is East      | ALAM01   | 17m             | 567610  | 4178422  |
| Alameda Is East      | ALAM02   | 17m             | 567754  | 4178553  |
| Alameda Is East      | ALAM03   | 17m             | 567901  | 4178659  |
| Bayfarm Bridge N.    | BFBN02   | 17m             | 567255  | 4178374  |
| Bayfarm Bridge S.    | BFBS01   | 17b             | 567242  | 4178077  |
| Bayfarm Island       | BFIS01   | 17b             | 565858  | 4178094  |
| Bayfarm Island       | BFIS02   | 17b             | 566169  | 4178128  |
| Bayfarm Island       | BFIS03   | 17b             | 566372  | 4178122  |
| Bayfarm Island       | BFIS04   | 17b             | 566565  | 4178118  |
| Bayfarm Island       | BFIS05   | 17b             | 566777  | 4178117  |
| Bayfarm Island       | BFIS06   | 17b             | 566985  | 4178121  |
| Bockmann Channel     | BOCH01   | 20i             | 574261  | 4169084  |
| Bockmann Channel     | BOCH02   | 20i             | 574076  | 4169082  |
| Bunker Marsh         | BUNK01   | 20g             | 573411  | 4170308  |
| Bunker Marsh         | BUNK02   | 20g             | 573507  | 4170104  |
| Bunker Marsh         | BUNK03   | 20g             | 573561  | 4169912  |
| Bunker Marsh         | BUNK04   | 20g             | 573631  | 4169725  |
| Candlestick SRA      | CAND02   | 12e             | 554628  | 4174749  |
| Citation marsh       | CITA01   | 20d             | 573661  | 4170466  |
| Citation marsh       | CITA02   | 20d             | 573555  | 4170639  |

| <b>Site Name</b>    | <b>Point ID</b> | <b>ISP Site number</b> | <b>Easting</b> | <b>Northing</b> |
|---------------------|-----------------|------------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Citation marsh      | CITA03          | 20d                    | 573435         | 4170800         |
| Citation marsh      | CITA04          | 20d                    | 573314         | 4170961         |
| Citation marsh      | CITA05          | 20d                    | 573318         | 4171265         |
| Citation marsh      | CITA06          | 20d                    | 573316         | 4171466         |
| Citation marsh      | CITA07          | 20d                    | 573314         | 4171666         |
| Cogswell            | COGS01          | 20m                    | 574738         | 4166041         |
| Cogswell            | COGS02          | 20m                    | 574713         | 4166250         |
| Cogswell            | COGS03          | 20m                    | 574862         | 4166363         |
| Cogswell            | COGS04          | 20m                    | 575059         | 4166368         |
| Cogswell            | COGS05          | 20m                    | 575218         | 4166336         |
| Cogswell            | COGS06          | 20m                    | 575158         | 4166170         |
| Cogswell            | COGS07          | 20m                    | 575043         | 4166004         |
| Cogswell            | COGS08          | 20o                    | 574984         | 4165788         |
| Cogswell            | COGS09          | 20o                    | 575124         | 4165612         |
| Cogswell            | COGS10          | 20o                    | 575138         | 4165412         |
| Cogswell            | COGS11          | 20o                    | 575105         | 4165165         |
| Cogswell            | COGS12          | 20o                    | 574791         | 4165248         |
| Cogswell            | COGS13          | 20o                    | 574779         | 4165542         |
| Cogswell            | COGS14          | 20o                    | 574781         | 4165740         |
| Cogswell            | COGS15          | 20n                    | 575367         | 4165223         |
| Cogswell            | COGS16          | 20n                    | 575572         | 4165228         |
| Cogswell            | COGS17          | 20n                    | 575710         | 4165373         |
| Cogswell            | COGS18          | 20n                    | 575620         | 4165538         |
| Cogswell            | COGS19          | 20n                    | 575531         | 4165722         |
| Cogswell            | COGS20          | 20n                    | 575436         | 4165912         |
| Cogswell            | COGS21          | 20n                    | 575340         | 4166092         |
| Coliseum channel    | COCH06          | 17i                    | 569684         | 4178668         |
| Dogbone marsh       | DOGB01          | 20c                    | 572695         | 4170847         |
| Dogbone marsh       | DOGB02          | 20c                    | 572510         | 4170924         |
| Dogbone marsh       | DOGB03          | 20c                    | 572377         | 4171090         |
| Doolittle pond      | DOPO01          | 17l                    | 568374         | 4178092         |
| Doolittle pond      | DOPO02          | 17l                    | 568144         | 4178108         |
| Doolittle pond      | DOPO03          | 17l                    | 568130         | 4177879         |
| Doolittle pond      | DOPO04          | 17l                    | 568396         | 4177885         |
| Easton Creek        | EACR01          | 19j                    | 556334         | 4160909         |
| Elsie Roemer        | ELRO1           | 17a                    | 566123         | 4178720         |
| Elsie Roemer        | ELRO2           | 17a                    | 566244         | 4178687         |
| Elsie Roemer        | ELRO3           | 17a                    | 566367         | 4178650         |
| Elsie Roemer        | ELRO4           | 17a                    | 566479         | 4178613         |
| Elsie Roemer        | ELRO5           | 17a                    | 566617         | 4178558         |
| Elsie Roemer        | ELRO6           | 17a                    | 566752         | 4178506         |
| Elsie Roemer        | ELRO7           | 17a                    | 566904         | 4178458         |
| Emeryville Crescent | EMCR01          | 06b                    | 560428         | 4186926         |

| Site Name           | Point ID | ISP Site number | Easting | Northing |
|---------------------|----------|-----------------|---------|----------|
| Emeryville Crescent | EMCR02   | 06b             | 560250  | 4186896  |
| Emeryville Crescent | EMCR03   | 06b             | 560177  | 4186720  |
| Emeryville Crescent | EMCR04   | 06b             | 560358  | 4186670  |
| Emeryville Crescent | EMCR05   | 06b             | 560565  | 4186723  |
| Emeryville Crescent | EMCR06   | 06b             | 560742  | 4186744  |
| Emeryville Crescent | EMCR07   | 06b             | 560954  | 4186746  |
| Fan marsh           | FANM01   | 17j             | 568582  | 4177668  |
| Fan marsh           | FANM02   | 17j             | 568783  | 4177699  |
| Fan marsh           | FANM03   | 17j             | 568635  | 4177820  |
| Greco Island North  | GRIN11   | 02f             | 570656  | 4153100  |
| Greco Island North  | GRIN12   | 02f             | 570822  | 4152984  |
| Greco Island North  | GRIN13   | 02f             | 570983  | 4152868  |
| Greco Island North  | GRIN14   | 02f             | 571154  | 4152756  |
| Greco Island North  | GRIN15   | 02f             | 571316  | 4152639  |
| Greco Island North  | GRIN16   | 02f             | 571480  | 4152527  |
| Greco Island North  | GRIN17   | 02f             | 571634  | 4152417  |
| Greco Island North  | GRIN18   | 02f             | 571798  | 4152304  |
| Hayward Landing     | HALA01   | 20k             | 574524  | 4166812  |
| Hayward Landing     | HALA02   | 20k             | 574556  | 4167005  |
| Hayward Landing     | HALA03   | 20k             | 574717  | 4166878  |
| Hayward Landing     | HALA04   | 20k             | 574929  | 4166935  |
| Hayward Landing     | HALA05   | 20k             | 575124  | 4166989  |
| Hayward Landing     | HALA06   | 20k             | 575337  | 4167034  |
| Johnson's Landing   | JOLA02   | 20l             | 575064  | 4164736  |
| Johnson's Landing   | JOLA03   | 20l             | 574999  | 4164923  |
| Johnson's Landing   | JOLA04   | 20o             | 574909  | 4165104  |
| MLK Restoration     | MLKR01   | 17h             | 569671  | 4177003  |
| MLK Restoration     | MLKR02   | 17h             | 569622  | 4177196  |
| MLK Restoration     | MLKR03   | 17h             | 569706  | 4177372  |
| MLK Restoration     | MLKR04   | 17h             | 569712  | 4177546  |
| MLK Restoration     | MLKR05   | 17h             | 569837  | 4177413  |
| MLK Restoration     | MLKR06   | 17h             | 569948  | 4177254  |
| MLK Restoration     | MLKR07   | 17h             | 570046  | 4177104  |
| MLK Shoreline       | MLKS01   | 17d             | 568422  | 4179660  |
| MLK Shoreline       | MLKS02   | 17d             | 568451  | 4179423  |
| MLK Shoreline       | MLKS03   | 17d             | 568671  | 4179429  |
| MLK Shoreline       | MLKS04   | 17d             | 568863  | 4179503  |
| MLK Shoreline       | MLKS05   | 17i             | 569069  | 4179578  |
| MLK Shoreline       | MLKS06   | 17d             | 568952  | 4179302  |
| MLK Shoreline       | MLKS07   | 17d             | 568995  | 4179104  |
| MLK Shoreline       | MLKS08   | 17d             | 569123  | 4178953  |
| MLK Shoreline       | MLKS09   | 17d             | 569336  | 4178901  |
| MLK Shoreline       | MLKS10   | 17d             | 569456  | 4178741  |

| <b>Site Name</b> | <b>Point ID</b> | <b>ISP Site number</b> | <b>Easting</b> | <b>Northing</b> |
|------------------|-----------------|------------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| MLK Shoreline    | MLKS11          | 17d                    | 569515         | 4178546         |
| MLK Shoreline    | MLKS12          | 17d                    | 569437         | 4178333         |
| MLK Shoreline    | MLKS13          | 17d                    | 569909         | 4177684         |
| Newark Slough    | NEW01           | 05c                    | 581607         | 4154285         |
| Newark Slough    | NEW02           | 05c                    | 581705         | 4154094         |
| Newark Slough    | NEW03           | 05c                    | 581878         | 4153981         |
| Newark Slough    | NEW04           | 05c                    | 582059         | 4153877         |
| Newark Slough    | NEW05           | 05c                    | 582040         | 4153641         |
| Newark Slough    | NEW06           | 05c                    | 582159         | 4153473         |
| Newark Slough    | NEW07           | 05c                    | 582333         | 4153544         |
| Newark Slough    | NEW08           | 05c                    | 581481         | 4154127         |
| North Marsh      | NORT01          | 20f                    | 573097         | 4171251         |
| North Marsh      | NORT02          | 20f                    | 572949         | 4171118         |
| North Marsh      | NORT03          | 20f                    | 572920         | 4170920         |
| North Marsh      | NORT04          | 20f                    | 572877         | 4170757         |
| North Marsh      | NORT05          | 20f                    | 572997         | 4170591         |
| North Marsh      | NORT06          | 20f                    | 573168         | 4170488         |
| North Marsh      | NORT07          | 20f                    | 573395         | 4170336         |
| North Marsh      | NORT08          | 20f                    | 573588         | 4170397         |
| Oro Loma Marsh   | ORLO01          | 07b                    | 574936         | 4168382         |
| Oro Loma Marsh   | ORLO02          | 07b                    | 575023         | 4168204         |
| Oro Loma Marsh   | ORLO03          | 07b                    | 574972         | 4168062         |
| Oro Loma Marsh   | ORLO04          | 07b                    | 574771         | 4168057         |
| Oro Loma Marsh   | ORLO05          | 07b                    | 574584         | 4168057         |
| Oro Loma Marsh   | ORLO06          | 07b                    | 574382         | 4168054         |
| Oro Loma Marsh   | ORLO07          | 07b                    | 574308         | 4168235         |
| Oro Loma Marsh   | ORLO08          | 07b                    | 574215         | 4168393         |
| Oro Loma Marsh   | ORLO09          | 07b                    | 574150         | 4168521         |
| Oro Loma Marsh   | ORLO10          | 07b                    | 574098         | 4168723         |
| Oro Loma Marsh   | ORLO11          | 07b                    | 574095         | 4168866         |
| Oro Loma Marsh   | ORLO12          | 07b                    | 574302         | 4168857         |
| Oro Loma Marsh   | ORLO13          | 07b                    | 574495         | 4168854         |
| Oro Loma Marsh   | ORLO14          | 07b                    | 574661         | 4168784         |
| Oro Loma Marsh   | ORLO15          | 07b                    | 574739         | 4168633         |
| Oro Loma Marsh   | ORLO16          | 07b                    | 574840         | 4168558         |
| Outer Bair B2    | OBE04           | 02d                    | 569950         | 4154260         |
| Outer Bair B2    | OBE05           | 02d                    | 570112         | 4154394         |
| Outer Bair B2    | OBE06           | 02d                    | 570297         | 4154709         |
| Outer Bair B2    | OBE07           | 02d                    | 570261         | 4154520         |
| Outer Bair B2    | OBE23           | 02d                    | 569669         | 4154629         |
| Outer Bair B2    | OBE24           | 02d                    | 569733         | 4154871         |
| Outer Bair B2    | OBE25           | 02d                    | 569782         | 4155053         |
| Outer Bair B2    | OBE26           | 02d                    | 569842         | 4154671         |

| Site Name             | Point ID | ISP Site number | Easting | Northing |
|-----------------------|----------|-----------------|---------|----------|
| Outer Bair B2         | OBE27    | 02d             | 569999  | 4154548  |
| San Francisco Airport | SFO01    | 19h             | 554477  | 4165619  |
| San Francisco Airport | SFO02    | 19h             | 555171  | 4162847  |
| San Francisco Airport | SFO03    | 19h             | 555210  | 4164753  |
| San Francisco Airport | SFO04    | 19h             | 555782  | 4163912  |
| San Francisco Airport | SFO05    | 19h             | 553924  | 4165022  |
| San Leandro Creek     | SLEA01   | 17e             | 569805  | 4177557  |
| San Leandro Creek     | SLEA02   | 17e             | 569923  | 4177386  |
| San Leandro Creek     | SLEA03   | 17e             | 570046  | 4177211  |
| San Leandro Creek     | SLEA04   | 17e             | 570174  | 4177030  |
| San Leandro Creek     | SLEA05   | 17e             | 570298  | 4176856  |
| San Leandro Creek     | SLEA06   | 17e             | 570418  | 4176690  |
| San Leandro Creek     | SLEA07   | 17e             | 570529  | 4176533  |
| San Leandro Creek     | SLEA08   | 17e             | 570627  | 4176438  |
| San Leandro Creek     | SLEA10   | 17e             | 570792  | 4176314  |
| San Leandro Creek     | SLEA11   | 17e             | 570960  | 4176215  |
| San Leandro Creek     | SLEA12   | 17e             | 571154  | 4176192  |
| San Lorenzo Creek     | SLRZ01   | 20h             | 573737  | 4169556  |
| San Lorenzo Creek     | SLRZ02   | 20h             | 573659  | 4169471  |
| San Lorenzo Creek     | SLRZ03   | 20h             | 573943  | 4169633  |
| San Lorenzo Creek     | SLRZ04   | 20h             | 574138  | 4169774  |
| San Lorenzo Creek     | SLRZ05   | 20h             | 574277  | 4169889  |
| San Lorenzo Creek     | SLRZ07   | 20h             | 573896  | 4169503  |
| San Lorenzo Creek     | SLRZ08   | 20h             | 573955  | 4169323  |
| San Lorenzo Creek     | SLRZ09   | 20h             | 573951  | 4169136  |
| Sanchez Marsh         | SANC01   | 19k             | 556832  | 4160375  |
| Sanchez Marsh         | SANC02   | 19k             | 556689  | 4160466  |
| Sanchez Marsh         | SANC03   | 19k             | 557028  | 4160398  |
| Sanchez Marsh         | SANC04   | 19k             | 557215  | 4160382  |
| Seal Slough           | SEAL01   | 19p             | 562561  | 4158484  |
| Seal Slough           | SEAL02   | 19p             | 562376  | 4158472  |
| Seal Slough           | SEAL03   | 19p             | 562729  | 4158450  |
| Seal Slough           | SEAL04   | 19p             | 562857  | 4158547  |
| Seal Slough           | SEAL05   | 19p             | 562861  | 4158722  |
| Seal Slough           | JOIN01   | 19p             | 562418  | 4158213  |
| South Candlestick     | CAND01   | 12f             | 553444  | 4173390  |
| West Point Slough NW  | WPSN01   | 02e             | 571664  | 4152010  |
| West Point Slough SE  | WPSS01   | 02g             | 570830  | 4151187  |
| West Point Slough SE  | WPSS02   | 02g             | 571095  | 4151491  |
| West Point Slough SE  | WPSS03   | 02g             | 571482  | 4150936  |
| West Point Slough SE  | WPSS04   | 02g             | 572122  | 4151160  |
| West Point Slough SE  | WPSS05   | 02g             | 572679  | 4151024  |
| West Point Slough SE  | WPSS06   | 02g             | 572637  | 4150664  |

| <b>Site Name</b>     | <b>Point ID</b> | <b>ISP Site number</b> | <b>Easting</b> | <b>Northing</b> |
|----------------------|-----------------|------------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| West Point Slough SE | WPSS07          | 02g                    | 572653         | 4150083         |
| West Point Slough SE | WPSS08          | 02g                    | 572666         | 4149435         |
| Yosemite Slough      | YOSE01          | 12e                    | 554269         | 4175315         |