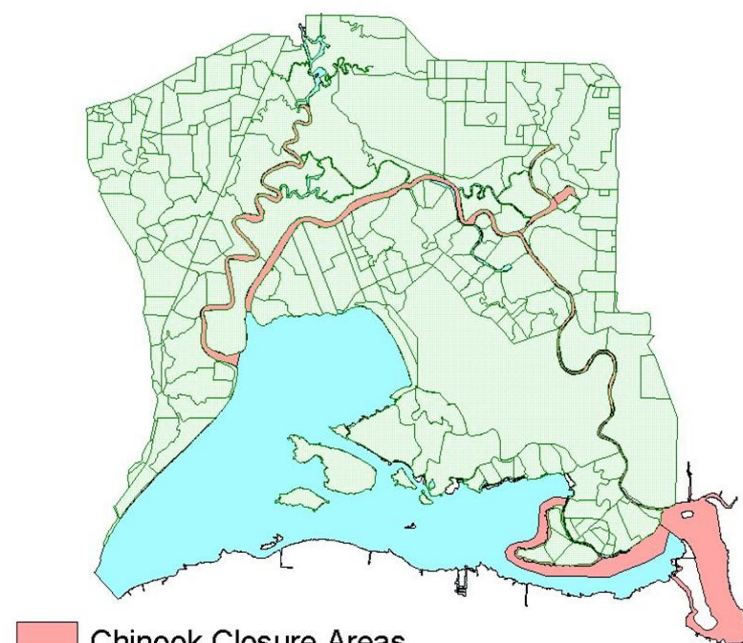


Chinook Salmon Gate Monitoring Started November 1

The Suisun Resource Conservation District started gate monitoring for the Fall run of Chinook Salmon, starting November 1, 2015 through January 31, 2016. During this restriction period, intake gates along the designated sloughs (indicated in pink on adjacent map) can only be opened to 25% capacity. SRCD staff will be inspecting all intake diversions along these areas at various times during the winter months. Below is a conversion table for varying sizes of intake gates.

Diameter of Pipe	25% Open
12 inches	3 inches
18 inches	4 inches
24 inches	6 inches
30 inches	7 inches
36 inches	9 inches
48 inches	12 inches

Should an intake be found out of compliance, SRCD is required to report to the appropriate agencies and the landowner will be contacted and asked to reduce their intake immediately.



Chinook Closure Areas



Land of the West Wind

Volume 15, Issue 3

November 2015

Big Tides for the Winter Months

With the holiday season fast approaching, two things come to mind. The duck hunting typically starts to pick up and get better and we have some of the highest predicted tides for the calendar year. This year is no exception; looking ahead we have predicted high tides November 24-26, December 22-24, and January 21-22.

We use the Northern California Tidelog+ as a tool to facilitate water management and observe tidal events throughout the year. You can also checkout www.california.kingtides.net.

From what we can tell, Tidelog shows the months of November, December and January have several periods with the potential of producing 6 foot and greater tides. SRCD would recommend that Marsh landowners try and make a special effort to have a person on the premises on these off shoot days to inspect the exterior levees.

If we have a storm event, high winds, or high delta outflow the tides could be even higher. A small amount of preventative measure or placement of sand bags and visqueen can prevent a levee failure during these extreme tide events.

Don't wait for the water to rise in the duck pond to find out there is a growing problem with the exterior levee integrity!

Senate Bill 88

By: Steven Chappell, Executive Director

In November 2009, the California Legislature passed and the Governor signed into law the 2009 Comprehensive Water Package. This package of legislation included Senate Bill 8 (SB 8) - Water Diversion and Use which amended Section 5100-5108 of the California Water Code and redefined the types of diversions that are exempt from reporting requirements. This law required each person or organization that uses diverted surface water to: 1) file a Statement of Water Diversion and Use, or 2) file an application to appropriate water with the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) for each diversion. SB 8 also allocated funding for 25 new SWRCB enforcement staff that can enforce civil and monetary penalties for unreported diversions. Deadline for filing Initial Statements of Water Diversion and Use was July 1, 2010. Failure to file a statement for each diversion may be subject to civil liabilities that carry a maximum fine of \$1,000 plus \$500 for each day the violation continues after 30 days of the notification of the violation by the SWRCB.

On June 14th, 2010, the Suisun Resource Conservation District (SRCD) held a special Landowner Workshop at Rush Ranch to provide landowners information about the the new water diversion reporting requirement of SB 8. SRCD's attorney, Mr. Nicholas Jacobs with Somach, Simmons, and Dunn, was present to address the new legislation and answer landowner questions. SRCD staff provided landowners technical assistance in filling out the Initial Statement of Water Diversion and Use, but it was up to the individual ownerships for each property to submit the required Initial Statement of Water Diversion and Use to the SWRCB Division of Water Rights and report water use every three years thereafter.

Fast forward five years and Senate Bill 88 (SB 88), a budget trailer bill, was "introduced" on June 17th and on the Governor's desk two days later for signature on June 19th, 2015

Land of the West Wind

Quarterly newsletter of the Suisun Resource Conservation District
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(*deceased)

SRCD's public meetings are held at 2 PM on the second Wednesday of each month at the Solano County Supervisors Chambers 675 Texas Street, Fairfield, CA 94533

SRCD represents private landowners of the Suisun Marsh at the Federal, State, and local levels. Its historic goal has been to achieve a water supply of adequate quality so that preferred wetland habitat values will be retained through appropriate management practices. Through cooperation with landowners and various agencies, SRCD seeks to develop new programs aimed at protecting and improving the Suisun Marsh for future generations.

Grizzly Island Wildlife Area Waterfowl Harvest Update

By: Orlando Rocha, CDFW Environmental Scientist

Waterfowl season is here! For many of us, it's the season we look forward to all year. Nesting conditions were not optimal due to a lack of much needed spring showers, and nest success was down here in the Marsh for pheasants and mallards. However we should be excited that waterfowl season is under way.

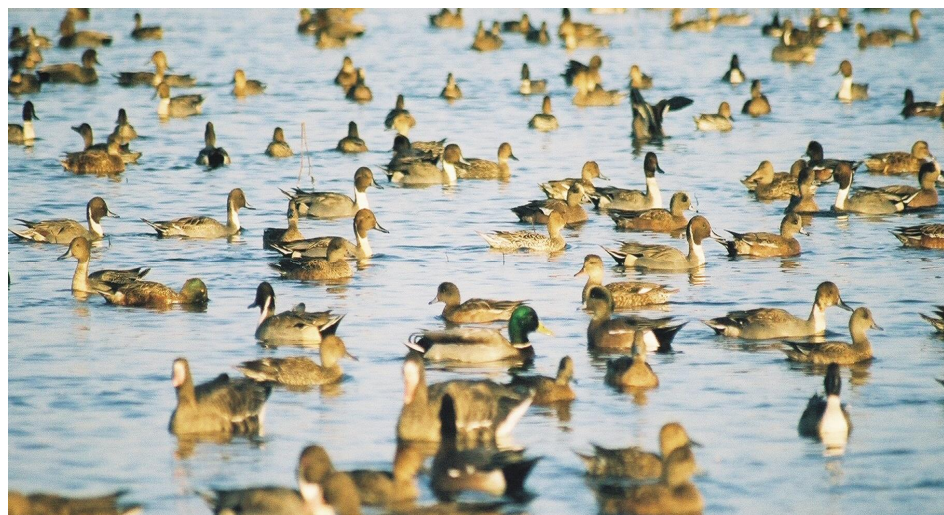
On a positive note, late season nesting Gadwall did well and there are plenty flying around the wildlife area for our hunters. Before the opener we had approximately 6800 flooded acres and early migrant Northern Pintail have been in the Marsh since the middle of August.

While we were hopeful that having full ponds would offset the reduced local bird production, this was not the case and opener saw our average fall. Our hunters still had a great time and enjoyed being back out in the Marsh for yet another waterfowl season here on Grizzly Island.

Opening day was what we consider a success though the average was down slightly from 3.37 in 2014 to a 2.81 this year. We did have more hunters this year and use was up to 395 hunters from 381 for opening day compared to 381 for the 2014/15 season. Total numbers are summarized in the following chart for opening weekend of the last 2 seasons (pg. 5). A quick overview shows us that there were less mallards shot again this year and we did see an increase in Northern Shoveler harvested.

The top four birds of both seasons are consistent: Northern Shoveler, Green-winged teal, Mallard and American wigeon. The only change was cinnamon teal trading places with Pintail as the fifth highest bird total for the opening weekend of 2015/2016 season.

(UPDATE, cont. on pg. 5)



(BDCP, from pg. 4)

Not only does the RDEIR/SDEIS fail to adequately evaluate and disclose significant project-specific and cumulative salinity impacts to the Marsh, but it also offers no commitment or regulatory assurances about how these impacts will be avoided, minimized, or adequately mitigated.

These undisclosed project-specific and/or cumulative impacts include modification of the Suisun Marsh salinity regime, degradation of water quality conditions, direct conversion and loss of existing managed wetland values and functions, dampening of tidal stage, redirection of tidal energy, and consequent degradation of existing ecological characteristics of over 58,000 acres of tidal and managed wetlands in the Suisun Marsh.

Throughout the public review of the BDCP DEIR/EIS and in discussions relating to the new BDCP/CA Water Fix and Eco Restore, it has been repeatedly stated that BDCP implementation would continue to comply with existing Water Rights Decision 1641 (D1641) water quality standards and not materially change existing spring and fall Delta outflow requirements.

As SRCD has identified in the detailed comment letter, the BDCP RDEIR/SDEIS modeling results and effects analysis demonstrate that salinity levels in the Suisun Marsh will increase, which di-

rectly contradicts the claim that water quality objectives will continue to be met under D1641 and the Suisun Marsh Preservation Agreement contractual obligations. Implementing a project that systematically degrades and reduces the existing Suisun Marsh managed wetland habitats, functions, values and water quality is unsupportable by SRCD. The RDEIR/SDEIS fails to address SRCD's concerns, expressed in comments on the original DEIR/DEIS and here, about the salinity effects of the North Delta Diversion and CA WaterFix project on Suisun Marsh.

Insufficient information has been provided to demonstrate that the Project will not have substantial adverse impacts on the Marsh or that all feasible mitigation has been considered and proposed to avoid these impacts. SRCD thus requests that DWR not take any further action towards approving the BDCP/CA Water Fix Project unless and until it has revised and re-circulated the RDEIR/SDEIS, including redoing the underlying water quality modeling, to fully address the issues and inadequacies that SRCD has identified in its comment letter.

The full letter provided can be downloaded from the SRCD web site at www.suisunrcd.org/land_owners.html

Importance of Leach Cycles in Dry Years

With waterfowl season in full swing, it's not too early to start thinking about next year's work. With two consecutive dry winters leaching, in particular, will be a very important management tool next year.

Leaching the salts out of the soil is a very important step in getting good growth in your duck ponds. At the time of flood up, the water being put on the ponds has a high concentration

of salt and thus you are loading salts in to the soil. In the spring the water conditions are typically a lot fresher, and when you do a leach cycle you can pull salts out of the soil and improve the soil conditions for desirable vegetation in the managed wetlands.

The idea of a leach is to drain your ponds of the water from duck season and put fresher water on to draw the salts out of

the soil profile and quickly get rid of it. Landowners should start preparing for the very real possibility of having a very small window of quality water in early spring to utilize this important management tool.

The SRCD has portable pumps to help get the water off your ponds quickly. Contact your Water Manager to discuss leach cycles and pumping for this upcoming spring.

GOT A DUCK WITH A TRANSMITTER?



Its movements were being tracked as part of a joint study conducted by the US Geological Survey and CA Dept. of Water Resources. We would like to know when and where this bird was shot and whether it was flying solo or in a group.



In exchange for the recovered transmitter, which we will refurbish and put on another duck, we can provide you with a laminated map of the bird's previous locations and a non-functioning transmitter.

**Please contact Cory Overton at (530) 669-5083 or coverton@usgs.gov
Go to www.werc.usgs.gov/suisunwaterfowl for more info on our study.**



Born in San Francisco and raised in Kentfield, grandson of William Kent, Tony Arnold died peacefully in his sleep Thursday at Villa Marin in San Rafael. After studies at The Thacher School in Ojai and Yale University, and a career in the CIA that took him to many postings around the world, including Germany, Sweden, Burma, Japan, Afghanistan, and England, he returned from far-flung travels to spend the last 36 years of his life cherishing his views out over the rolling, golden hills of Marin.

Fluent in five languages, Tony was also a compelling writer and speaker, publishing numerous books and articles and making presentations on a range of topics close to his heart, including Afghanistan, Lake Tahoe, the Suisun Marsh, and his lifelong love, bird hunting. His dedication to the conservation and protection of wetlands and open spaces was reflected in long-lasting service to the California Waterfowl Association and to the Suisun Resource Conservation District (SRCD). He was also a stalwart member of the Marin County Friends of the Library, in particular helping organize and run the annual book sale fundraiser.

In the early years of their marriage, Tony and Ruth were amateur rally racers, and his enthusiasm for fast cars infected all of his progeny. He was also a creative tinkerer around the house, happy at his workbench coming up with unique solutions to household challenges. But his true, lifelong passion was always the outdoors. Though an avid hunter and fisherman from early childhood, he wasn't overly concerned with the outcome of a hunting or fishing expedition; he just loved spending time out in the elements, preferably with one of a succession of faithful Labrador retrievers by his side.

Tony Vaccarella, SRCD President said, "Tony's love of the Marsh may be second only to the love for his wife. His admiration of SRCD and staff were always regarded as endless and unappreciated dedication to protecting the Marsh. Every article written by Tony for the newsletter was done with the greatest wisdom and insight necessary to support SRCD. His support at any event involving the Marsh or SRCD was nothing less than 100%. Even after his health began to slow him down, he would have his wife drive him to the monthly meeting. Tony was a true supporter and a friend of the Marsh and SRCD."

Unfailingly kind, warm, thoughtful, generous and courteous, Tony was always ready with a funny (true) story often involving improbable adventures in unlikely places. His upbeat nature was contagious, bringing out the best in others. It is very sad that he's gone, but he lived life to the full and made a positive difference while he was here.

SRCD’s Review of Impacts from the Proposed Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP)

By: Steven Chappell, SRCD Executive Director

If you have been keeping abreast of the news, you are likely aware of the proposed Bay Delta Conservation Plan/California WaterFix Project.

This Project is proposed by the California Department of Water Resources and US Bureau of Reclamation to construct a new north Delta point of diversion and water delivery infrastructure (two 40ft tunnels) to the south Delta.

In April 2015 State and Federal agencies announced a new sub-alternative- Alternative 4A (California WaterFix) - which would replace Alternative 4 (the proposed BDCP) as the State’s proposed project.

The comment period for the Bay Delta Conservation Plan/California WaterFix Partially Recirculated Draft Environmental Impact Report/ Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (RDEIR/SDEIS) closed on October 30, 2015.

SRCD has reviewed the BDCP/CA WaterFix RDEIR/SDEIS and has evaluated the proposed Project’s future significant and unavoidable negative impacts to the wetland and wildlife resources of the Suisun Marsh from further degradation of water quality (increased salinity) and habitat conversion in the Suisun Marsh from the proposed Project and meeting the existing mitigation obligations of the Central Valley Project (CVP) and State Water Project (SWP) operations.

The SRCD Board of Directors, which represents the private landowners of Suisun Marsh, cannot support a proposed BDCP/CA WaterFix Project that has identified significant increases in Suisun Marsh channel water salinity and unidentified impacts and degradation of Suisun Marsh water quality and existing habitat conditions from the Project, which will have cumulative adverse effects with future tidal restoration actions to meet existing CVP and SWP Biological Opinion obligations (now presented as Eco Restore Program).

(BDCP, cont. on pg 7)

(SB88, from pg. 1)	for the development of these Emergency Regulations. The SRCD attended the public meeting in Sacramento where SWRCB staff prepared 11 Concepts and Recommendations to support new Regulation development. SRCD provided comments at the meeting and prepared a detailed comment letter in an attempt to reduce or avoid the addition of costly diversion measurement and reporting requirements for Suisun Marsh landowners as part of the Emergency Regulation development.	nual reporting will be required. The bill does include language that would exempt compliance where it is infeasible, unreasonably expensive, or would unreasonably affect <i>public trust</i> uses, but also eliminates the %not locally cost effective+diversion measurement option on the reporting form. SRCD is hopeful that the currently approved diversion measurement method of staff gauge and floodable acreage will continue to meet regulatory requirements for the measurement of brackish water used to manage the Suisun Marsh wetland habitats.
SB 88 added new measurement and reporting requirements for a substantial number of diverters who divert more than 10 acre-feet of water per year (including the Suisun Marsh). These new annual reporting requirements <u>will affect all water users</u> required to file a Statement of Diversion and Use (including those claiming riparian or pre-1914 appropriative water rights). The new measurement and reporting requirements go into effect as early as Jan. 1, 2016. The SWRCB has started the process of developing and adopting Emergency Regulations to implement these new provisions of the law. Starting Nov. 2 nd through the 12 th the SWRCB held informational meetings throughout the State	Until the new Emergency Regulations are developed and adopted by the SWRCB it is unknown what impacts they may have on Suisun Marsh diverters. It is clear that reporting water diversion amounts every three years will be eliminated and an-	If you would like to get involved and provide comment log on to http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/measurement_regulation/

(UPDATE, from pg. 2)

Total numbers are summarized in the following chart for opening weekend of the last 2 seasons:

2015/2016 Opening Weekend Summary					
Date	Total waterfowl Hunters	Total Ducks	Total Geese	Total Waterfowl	Average
10/24/15	395	1109	2	1111	2.81
10/25/15	152	241	1	242	1.59
Top Five Birds for opening Weekend 2015/2016					
Bird:	Northern Shoveler	Green-winged Teal	Mallard	American Wigeon	Pintail
Number Harvested	812	333	87	71	17
2014/2015 Opening Weekend Summary					
Date	Total waterfowl Hunters	Total Ducks	Total Geese	Total Waterfowl	Average
10/18/14	381	1283	5	1288	3.37
10/19/14	165	273	0	273	1.65
Top Five Birds for opening Weekend 2014/2015					
Bird:	Northern Shoveler	Green-winged Teal	Mallard	American Wigeon	Cinnamon Teal
Number Harvested	719	300	97	63	61

Managed Wetland Mosquito Reduction for 2015 Fall Flood Season

By: Richard Snyder, SCMAD District Manager

As another mosquito season winds down for the Solano County Mosquito Abatement District, sorting through the data our District experienced record numbers of adult mosquitoes collected in mosquito monitoring traps.

The most prevalent species were Culex tarsalis (a prominent West Nile virus vector), Aedes dorsalis and Aedes melanimon. The flight range of these mosquitoes is from 3 miles to greater than 15 miles. Some of the factors that contributed to the abundance of these mosquitoes: tidal marsh areas surrounding the cities of Fairfield and Suisun produced mosquito numbers not seen in over 20 years and the fall flooding of the Suisun Marsh beginning in August combined with warm tem-

peratures that continued into late October were ideal for the proliferation of these mosquitoes.

The number of acres treated with larvicides on duck clubs was 2012 acres and 1059 acres on CDFW properties. The number of acres treated with adulticides in the months of September and October 2015 in the Suisun Marsh and surrounding areas of Collinsville, Cordelia Village, Fairfield and Suisun was 33,338. All duck clubs requiring larvicide treatments were participants in the 50/50 cost share program.

Thanks to all club owners for signing and returning the Waivers to the SCMAD office, again we received very close to 100% response this year.