



## A WALK IN THE MARSH

Updates on the Pacific Flyway Center

On Saturday, June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023, the Pacific Flyway Center broke ground on the first phase of construction for a 845-acre wetland preserve on the west side of Suisun Marsh. The Pacific Flyway Center will be created to provide a place to connect people to nature and experience the Pacific Flyway. It promotes education of youth through wetland-related education and outdoor exploration, inspiring land stewardship and conservation, and promoting the needs of supporting habitat, waterfowl, wildlife, and people to preserve native biodiversity. The Pacific Flyway Center will be located just east of I-680, south of the Gold Hill Road overcrossing on the former California Department of Fish and Wildlife Garibaldi Unit and the Gold Hills and Golden Gate Duck Clubs. With a total of 800-acres, most of the preserve will be built on the 560-acre Garibaldi Unit, but the smaller 185-acre Golden Gate and 55-acre Gold Hills properties will be used for habitat development and education programs.

The goal for Phase 1 of the project is developing a 124-acre 'A Walk in the Marsh' outdoor experience. 'A Walk in the Marsh' will stretch a miles across the property to allow visitors to delve deep into the wetland environment along a 3-mile network of looping trails, paths and boardwalks. Future phases will include a 28,000 square foot education building and will offer opportunities to experience the marsh. The education center will have both interpretive and interactive exhibits for visitors to experience.



Artist's rendering of the interior of the Pacific Flyway Center's education center

The Pacific Flyway Center has received approval for the construction of Phase 1 from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC), and City of Fairfield. With permits in hand, the initial work will begin including grading and construction activities to create 15 ponds and wetlands on the site. Phase 1 will cost about \$5 million to complete, but it has been partially supported by a grant award of more than \$1.48 million from the Delta Conservancy through its Community and Economic Enhancement Grant Program (Proposition 68). The funding program supports enhancement projects that sustain the Delta's heritage while focusing on increasing public access to recreational opportunities. The Pacific Flyway Center is completing the fundraising for the last half-million dollars for Phase 1, and Phase 2 is scheduled to begin soon after and be completed by the fall of 2024.