

**NAME:** West Goleta Slough Restoration Project

**LOCATION:** Santa Barbara County, California

**ACRES:** 20.3 acres

**NON-FEDERAL SPONSOR:**

Land Trust for Santa Barbara County

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

This project will create 7.68 acres of estuary, enhance 4.83 acres of degraded estuarine habitat and restore 11.3 acres of wetland-to-upland transitional habitat in the western Goleta Slough. The 20.3-acre project site is part of the 34.4-acre Goleta Slough Ecological Reserve, owned by the California Department of Fish and Game. The project is part of a much larger, Slough-wide restoration effort being spearheaded by the Goleta Slough Management Committee.

Historically, Goleta Slough was a permanently flooded estuarine embayment but tidal gates installed in the 1950s prevent the entirety of the site from being tidally influenced. This project would: remove nonnative invasive plants and plant native vegetation; grade soils to proper elevations; re-contour a ditch area to provide a more natural transition from wetland to upland habitat; provide wetland protection through installation of silt fences and straw bales; and restore water levels to disjunct wetland basins.

**EXPECTED BENEFITS:**

Completion of the restoration work and future tidal reconnection will: (1) result in improvements to the high-marsh salt marsh habitat and create suitable habitat for rare animals and plants, including Belding's Savannah sparrow, tidewater goby, and southern tarplant, (2) increase the capacity of the wetland complex to hold water during flood events and filter agricultural runoff, which will benefit the larger system, (3) spur restoration planning efforts on neighboring properties furthering the goals of the Goleta Slough Management Committee, (4) provide the public and the UCSB community with much needed open space.

**STATUS:** Construction