

**APPENDIX 9A**

**BAYSIDE TRAIL PLANTING RECOMMENDATIONS**

# West Contra Costa Sanitary Landfill

## Bayside Trail (Barrier) Planting Recommendations

August 2003

### INTRODUCTION

This summary describes the proposed weed eradication and native barrier planting for a creek side trail along the southern access road at the West Contra Costa Sanitary Landfill (WCCSL) in Richmond, California. This program would be implemented in the area between the existing roadway/proposed pedestrian trail located along the southern boundary of the WCCSL and the tidal creek that separates this area from the Wildcat Creek Marsh. The length of this area extends from the landfill entrance area westward for approximately 1 mile to the southwestern corner of the property. The proposed program involves soil preparation, minor efforts to eradicate invasive exotic plant species (adjacent to planting areas) and re-establishment of native vegetation to create a protective buffer between the proposed trail and adjacent mudflat/marsh/aquatic habitats.

The intent of this program is to create a vegetative buffer between sensitive creek and marsh habitats adjacent to the landfill and the future bayside trail (for pedestrians and cyclists) and a potential staging area for canoes and kayaks and other recreational users. The WCCSL will develop specific planting plans and landscape site designs upon the approval of the trail alignment by the County and the City of Richmond.

### VEGETATION BUFFER RECOMMENDATIONS

The planting concept presented below is based upon plant species composition and distribution observed on local coastal hillsides and upland areas directly adjacent to marshlands. The plant species and placements have also been selected for their utility as 'barrier plantings', with low, dense and in some cases thorny growth habits; the planting concept is intended to preserve views and discourage trail users from going off the trail in order to access the marsh.

Exotic weed species present on the project site include sea fig (*Carpobrotus edulis*), wild radish (*Raphanus sativus*), sweet fennel (*Foeniculum vulgare*), French broom (*Genista monspessulana* aka *Cytisus monspessulana*) dock (*Rumex* spp.) and non-native grasses. These weedy exotics, radish, fennel and broom in particular, can quickly out compete the desired native species. Given the disturbed setting and constant exposure to exotic seed sources, complete eradication of exotic species is not realistic. For this reasons in order to establish a native plant buffer on the project site, exotics should be completely removed in areas adjacent to plant installation sites prior to the planting phase of construction. Exotic weeds may then be kept in check with periodic maintenance. Native plants within the revegetation area should be protected during weed eradication efforts.

The revegetation area will be planted in native coastal scrub and riparian species, as listed in Table 1, in accordance with their physical requirements.

W trail Planting Table 1

TABLE 1. Revegetation Planting Palette		
SPECIES	SIZE	DENSITY/ PATTERN
<i>Salix spp.</i> Willow species	local cuttings/ wattles	8 ft on center/ on contour
<i>Sambucus mexicana</i> Blue elderberry	container	scattered
<i>Heteromeles arbutifolia</i> Toyon	container	scattered
<i>Rhamnus californica</i> California coffeeberry	container	scattered
<i>Symphoricarpos mollis</i> Snowberry	container	in thickets 2-3 ft on center
<i>Baccharis pilularis var. consanguinea</i> Coyote brush	container	scattered
<i>Rubus ursinus</i> California blackberry	cuttings/ container	in thickets 2-4 ft on center
<i>Rosa californica</i> California wild rose	container	in thickets 2-4 ft on center
<i>Ceanothus sp.</i> California lilac	1-gal	grouped 5 ft on center
<i>Rhus diversiloba</i> Poison Oak	container	lower slopes
<i>Artemisia californica</i> California sagebrush	container	scattered

W trail Planting Table 1

<i>Elymus glaucus</i> Blue wildrye	seed	scattered upper banks
<i>Eschscholzia californica</i> California poppy	seed	scattered upper banks
<i>Lupinus spp.</i> Lupine species	seed	scattered upper banks
<i>Sisyrinchium bellum</i> Blue- Eyed grass	seed	scattered upper banks
<i>Nassella pulchra</i> Purple needlegrass	seed	scattered upper banks

Willow plantings will be limited to the bank along the eastern end of the trail area (adjacent to the vehicle parking area), where screening of the wastewater treatment plant is desired. Willow cuttings will be taken from locally growing specimens, and will be planted on the lower banks and areas between the proposed trail and marsh/mudflat habitats. While willows are generally not considered a species tolerant of saline conditions, willow thickets have become established along drainage courses in the immediate vicinity of the proposed project and along San Pablo Creek. Individuals adapted to these site conditions are more likely to produce propagules that will succeed. Willow species are proposed as a component of the planting palette due to their dense growth habit and high habitat values, particularly for local avifauna. Willows that become established will provide canopy cover over marsh and bank areas, and will serve to shade out weedy species. Canopy trees may also serve as roosting, nesting, and forage sites for a variety of avian species, as well as cover for other wildlife.

Species adapted to drier conditions, such as coyote brush, sagebrush, ceanothus, toyon, snowberry, coffeeberry and blue elderberry will be planted on the higher areas of the bayside banks, directly adjacent to the trail. Thorny species (wild rose and blackberry) will be planted slightly lower on the banks. Poison oak will be planted well off the proposed trail, so that it does not pose a hazard to trail users. It will be planted on lower bank areas and adjacent to marshlands, but within the vision of trail users. This native species has a vigorous growth habit, and should establish relatively quickly. The visible presence of poison oak will serve as an excellent deterrent to potential 'bush whackers'. The banks will be seeded with native grasses and wildflower species to provide herbaceous cover and erosion control.

The revegetated trail corridor will be more densely vegetated than that of the existing bayside bank. The revegetated bank will provide a tough, prickly barrier/buffer between the proposed trail and sensitive habitat areas, and enhanced cover and forage areas for wildlife. Plantings that have forage value for birds and other wildlife include California blackberry, blue elderberry, red-flowering currant, snowberry and coffeeberry. See Table 1 for a complete list of recommended plant species.