

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority Approves Funding for Community Based Habitat Restoration in East Palo Alto**

*East Palo Alto, California - June 24, 2022* - Grassroots Ecology, together with Climate Resilient Communities (CRC), was awarded \$688,016 for Baylands Habitat Restoration and Community Engagement in East Palo Alto from the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority's Measure AA grant program.

The project will restore marsh-upland transition zone habitat along 2,400 linear feet of the Bay Trail at Ravenswood Preserve in East Palo Alto. The site is owned by the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space Preserve, another project partner. The marsh is home to endangered Ridgway's rail and salt marsh harvest mouse as well as other species that will benefit from the shelter and forage of new native vegetation to be installed. Grassroots Ecology will lead the restoration effort and will be hiring several interns from the local community to help with the work.

"In addition to the habitat benefits, we are particularly excited to be working closely with Climate Resilient Communities to bring local residents on as partners in the restoration project," said Junko Bryant, Grassroots Ecology's Assistant Director.

CRC will lead the community engagement effort, working with other East Palo Alto-based organizations such as the Climate Change Community Team (CCCT), Anamatagi Polynesian Voices, Nuestra Casa, and local churches and schools.

"Community leaders in East Palo Alto have echoed many times the need for more education and awareness on issues related to climate change and sea level rise. This project will provide these opportunities, foster a sense of ownership for local open space, and increase local knowledge of the many ecosystem benefits of marsh habitat," said Violet Saena, Founder and Director of Climate Resilient Communities.

Grassroots Ecology's mission is to engage and educate the public to restore local ecosystems. Working to care for public lands and waters across Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties, Grassroots Ecology engages thousands of people in hands-on education and service that improves the local environment.

CRC is a community-based organization working hand-in-hand with the Peninsula's underrepresented communities to help create resident-led solutions that elevate local voices and promote unity, resilience, and justice.

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