

## Item 6c - Exhibit 6c2: Site Photos and Graphics



Image 1. Mouth of the Eel at high flow with project site at center-right. Clear water indicates total separation of project area from estuary and Eel, a condition that has contributed to the ecological decline of the Eel estuary. The goal of this multi-benefit Project is to improve geomorphic and ecosystem function while conserving agriculture lands and incorporating multiple measures intended to accommodate future climate change and sea level rise. The Project will enhance habitats for native fisheries and aquatic species, and support waterfowl and wildlife species in a restored coastal area.

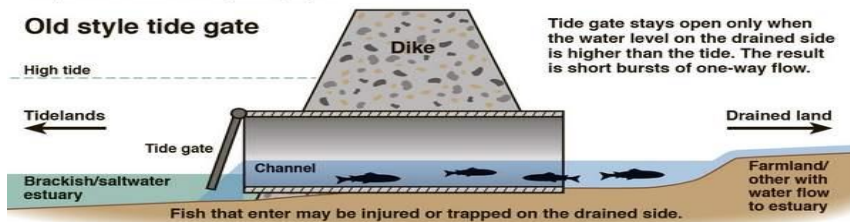


Image 2. Cut-Off Slough Tidegate: The largest tidegate and estuarine fish passage barrier in northern California. Proposed for modification with fish friendly features, this barrier separates historic Occidental Marsh and project area from the Eel River estuary.

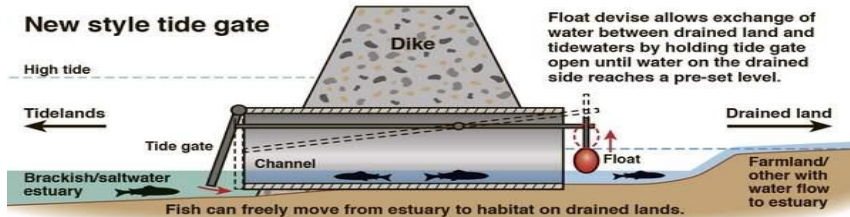
## Improved tide gate is fish friendly

In 2005, the Port of Astoria replaced a older tide gate with a newer type to ease fish passage, as part of a wetland mitigation project.

### Old style tide gate



### New style tide gate



Source: NOAA

Alan Kenaga/EO Media Group

Image 3. Modification of Cut-Off Slough Tidegate, and installation of additional fish-friendly tidegates into the Inner Marsh, will reintroduce tidal exchange to the project area after 150-years of separation. Access to quality estuary habitat provides a buffer for climate change impacts elsewhere in the watershed.



Image 4. Juvenile coho and chinook salmon, lamprey eel and longfin smelt, among many other species, now utilize the adjacent and newly restored Salt River Channel. The proposed project will expand this habitat and amplify the benefits of the Salt River Ecosystem Restoration Project.



Image 5. Russ Creek, now channelized, disconnected from the estuary and devoid of riparian habitat, will be reconnected to the estuary with a restored riparian corridor.



Images 6-7. Fresh and brackish marsh restoration at the Eel River Estuary Preserve will benefit numerous aquatic and terrestrial species including migratory waterfowl such as Aleutian cackling geese and tundra swans, rare native plants, such as Owls Clover and Beach Layia, anadromous salmonids, Dungeness crab and other marine species and Tidewater Goby.



Image 8. The project addresses both the Fisheries and Climate change priority issues by enhancing tidal processes and providing varied land management by restoring tidal prism to 115-acres of the Eel River estuary, creating 3.5 acres of aquatic habitat capacity/complexity and improving the reliability and ecological performance of tidegate infrastructure. The project will also restore migratory access to 1.5 miles of restored aquatic habitat for freshwater and marine species, including more than one mile of historic Centerville Slough and a Russ Creek connection to the Eel River Estuary. Fish species of Tribal, commercial and sport importance will benefit, including Green sturgeon.





Images 9-10. After acquiring the Connick Ranch in 2008, TWC acquired and assembled an additional 84-acres of dune habitat in fragmented ownership. Dune enhancement and restoration, including removal of invasive *Ammophila*, will benefit species such as Snowy Plover, while also helping the dune strand rebuild and transgress as it historically did. This planned retreat/sea level rise adaptation planning component is fundamental to the project's long-term success. The project will enhance dune formations to increase coastal habitat and rangeland resiliency to sea level rise by re-configuring and vegetating 15 acres of coastal dunes, particularly in areas vulnerable to wave overwash. Dune transgression, formerly restricted to expand pasture, will be encouraged to increase dune stability and structure.



Images 11-12. The Wildlands Conservancy's dual mission is to preserve the beauty and biodiversity of the earth and to provide programs so that children may know the wonder and joy of nature.