

SAVE THE BAY

Report to Alameda County Fish & Game Commission Fish & Wildlife Propagation Fund February 2017

Introduction

Save The Bay appreciates this opportunity to update the Alameda County Fish & Game Commission on the impact of your generous gift from the Fish & Wildlife Propagation Fund to our MLK Native Plant Nursery for purchase of a pot-sanitizing system to prevent spread of *Phytophthora tentacula*. Save The Bay's MLK Native Plant Nursery is vital to our restoration projects in Alameda County and throughout the East Bay.

Measurable Impact of Grant:

Since we have instituted the pot-sanitizing system and other state-of-the-art sanitation measures, we are now able to ensure that we are not spreading diseases within the nursery and our habitat restoration sites. Your gift has benefitted transition zone habitat and native species in Alameda County and beyond.



Save The Bay's Pot Sanitizing System

Our nursery pots are reused each year to minimize waste and cost. With the increasing knowledge of emerging plant pathogen species in native plant nurseries, we have taken on new sanitization practices in our nursery systems.



In the past, volunteers washed our pots between uses. Though this removed soil particles from dirty pots, they were not fully sanitized and were merely superficially clean. The grant funding provided by the Alameda County Fish and Game Commission allowed us to construct a pot sanitizing system at Save The Bay's MLK shoreline nursery.

We are now able to ensure that we were not spreading diseases within

the nurseries and our habitat restoration sites. Funding was spent on equipment used to build and maintain the system, including but not limited to: **rain barrels, a washing tubs, a sub pump, and personal protective equipment.**

All pots that were used in our propagation season this year were entirely disinfected before reuse. We used a sanitizing solution containing a compound called Quaternary Ammonium, which can be monitored for concentration using test strips. We were able to reuse the solution numerous times, adding more of the chemical as needed, and limiting water usage. Through the implementation of this sanitizing method, we can ensure that we are not bringing in pathogens from the field and that we are starting each field season with a "clean slate."

We anticipate that the pot sanitizing system will continue to serve as an integral part of our best management practices in our nursery propagation in the coming years. Save The Bay will continue to work towards improving our protocols, ensuring the healthiest and cleanest plant material possible for our restoration sites. **Our next step in closing the cycle of disease at our nurseries will be building a solarization system in which we can heat-treat our soil. As pathogens can also enter the nursery cycle through the components in soil media, we will need to add this additional step.**

