



# ORO LOMA NEWS

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[www.roloma.org](http://www.roloma.org)

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## Experimental Levee Takes Root

On April 9, 2015, the first of 70,000 native wetland plants and reeds grown in greenhouses all over the Bay Area were transplanted into an outdoor planting area, where they will grow until ready to be planted into the District's new experimental levee. The levee, and the wetland basin behind it, are designed to mimic nature's ability to filter wastewater and protect the shoreline. Partners in the project include UC Berkeley, Save the Bay, and others.

The first stage of the \$9.1M project is set to be completed in fall 2015, and the entire project will take about two years to finish.

Once completed, the levee will expand the marshland near the District's treatment facility at the end of Grant Avenue. The slope will be made of mud and native plants and will further filter wastewater that has already been treated at the plant.

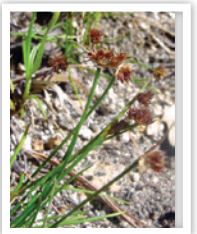
The project also incorporates an eight-million gallon holding basin with a freshwater wetland treatment system.

If successful, the project will advance the science related to sea level rise response. The concept could be applied to hundreds of miles of bay shoreline, helping to protect the Bay Area against rising sea levels and extremes of future weather.

In addition, the project has the potential to improve water quality in the Bay, while establishing a new habitat on the bay edge. The created habitat is important because it provides an upland refuge from rising seas.

Although the levee won't look like much more than a grassy hill when viewed from the nearby Bay Trail, it will significantly improve wastewater treatment at Oro Loma.

"It's exciting because it works from both an engineering and environmental standpoint," says Oro Loma General Manager Jason Warner.



*Brown-headed rush, wild sedge, and western golden rod are three species to be planted on the District's experimental levee*



*l. to r. Mike Connor, EBDA; Kevin O'Toole, Whitley Burchett; Mark Lindley, Environmental Science Associates; Bill Halsted, OLSD; Bruce Wolfe, SF Bay Water Quality Control Board; Jason Warner, OLSD; Roland Williams, CVSD; Kris Decker, OLSD; Jeremy Lowe, SF Estuary Institute*