

**Port of Oakland
East Bay Regional Park District**

**Predator Management Plan for
Hayward Regional Shoreline**

Purpose: The Port of Oakland (“Port”) will assist East Bay Regional Park District (“EBRPD”) and U.S. Department of Agriculture (“USDA”) Wildlife Services in its efforts towards predator management at Hayward Regional Shoreline (“Mitigation Site”) for two years as described in the Mitigation Agreement between the Port and EBRDP.

This plan is developed and implemented by EBRPD staff in accordance with the terms and conditions in the Port’s Biological Opinion 08FBDT00-2016-F-0174 and USFWS Depredation Permit MB008248-0 and Federal Threatened & Endangered Species Permit TE-817400-8 for the purposes of managing, monitoring, and preventing depredation of the California Clapper Rail (“CCR”)¹.

Background

Historically, the CCR was abundant in all tidal salt and brackish marshes in the San Francisco Bay vicinity, as well as in larger tidal estuaries from Marin to San Luis Obispo counties. Current distribution is restricted almost entirely to the marshes of the Bay Area and where the only known breeding populations occur. CCR population numbers have generally fluctuated over time and have never improved to a level warranting consideration for downlisting the status of species since its original listing as endangered in 1970. Threats to the species include, but are not limited to, habitat destruction and modification, low adult survivorship, and predation of adults and eggs/nestlings.

Predation is recognized as a threat to CCR. The EBRPD and USDA controls both non-native predators such as red fox (*Vulpes Vulpes*) and feral cats (*Felis domesticus*), and overabundant native predators such as raccoons (*Procyon lotor*), striped skunk (*Mephites mephitis*) and Virginia opossum (*Didelphis virginianus*) to protect threatened and endangered species. EBRPD and USDA also control avian predators such as California gulls (*Larus californicus*).

Operational Guidelines

Listed below are our agreed upon procedures:

USDA Wildlife Services Predator management efforts are prioritized according to the level of threat posed as follows:

1. Conduct night time predator surveys on a regular basis to determine baseline predator use and rough population index at the Mitigation Site (where practical). Additional spotlight surveys may be conducted after given control efforts to allow for modification of trapping effort.

¹ CCR: *Rallus obsoletus* - while the common name has officially been changed to Ridgway’s rail, USFWS still utilizes the name CCR. The acronym CCR will be used throughout this document to refer to the species.

2. Conduct day time predator surveys to compile information on daytime threats to CCR to guide current efforts.
3. Create trapping schedule to address threats to CCR based on results of surveys at the Mitigation Site. Remove identified threats to CCR, such as red fox, feral cat, raccoon, and skunk, via trapping in areas of the Mitigation Site.
4. Under consultation with EBRPD, engage other control measures (hazing, night-eradication using spotlights) if practical or as needed for emergency protection of CCR. Such actions could include hazing or removal of aerial predators (gulls, common ravens, etc.) pursuant to the conditions in the USFWS Depredation Permit MB008248-0 and Federal Threatened & Endangered Species Permit TE-817400-8. However, public safety and park policies will also be taken into account and may limit removal of aerial predators.
5. If needed, engage in overabundant predator control at the Mitigation Site.

Schedule

As noted above, the Port and EBRPD will implement this predator management plan for two years. Below further describes the schedule of predator management activities.

- A. USDA Wildlife Services will provide red fox/feral cat/and overabundant predator control for up to two years (Spotlighting [night-eradication using spotlights] efforts as needed & requested.). The planned starting date is January 1, 2020 (or as soon as contracting can be finalized), ending on Dec 31, 2021, or two years after the start of the contract.
- B. USDA Wildlife Services will provide EBPRD (Wildlife Department - David Riensche) with the AFIS ADC-Form 37 by TBD. This is required so that the EBPRD can complete its reporting requirements in a timely manner per the Mitigation Agreement between the Port and EBRPD to the state and federal agencies (i.e., USFWS and USACE).
- C. USDA Wildlife Services shall document the results of their surveys, trapping and other control measures and provide a report to EBRPD. The report should specify the following: date, time, location and animals observed during surveys, and the report should specify the types of mammals removed, date, location, and control method implemented. USDA will provide EBRPD (contact: Wildlife Department - David Riensche or Doug Bell) an electronic summary report of the above information quarterly with monthly email updates as needed or as directed by EBRPD, for the duration of the Mitigation Agreement.
- D. Reporting – EBRPD will issue two annual reports, documenting the previous year's efforts of predator management, to the Port and USFWS as agreed upon in the Mitigation Agreement.