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For Immediate Release

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FROM PROJECT TO PARTNERSHIP

OAKLAND, CA – On May 15, 2009, the 22-year old San Francisco Estuary Project became the San Francisco Estuary Partnership. The new name “better reflects the collaborative approach the organization takes to protect, restore, and monitor the health of the San Francisco Bay-Delta Estuary,” says Director Judy Kelly. “We have outgrown the reference to a short-term project after so many years.”

The Estuary Partnership, administered by the Association of Bay Area Governments, has advanced restoration of many acres of wetlands around the Bay and is working to address key issues affecting the Bay such as climate change and land use, with projects demonstrating low-impact development and green infrastructure tools, including green stormwater treatment using plants instead of pipes. The Partnership also heads up a nationally unique effort to prevent pesticide toxicity to aquatic life in urban waters. Last December, the Partnership received \$5 million from the U.S. EPA to begin working with a wide array of organizations including Save the Bay, Urban Creeks Council, San Francisco Estuary Institute, California Coastal Conservancy, California Land Stewardship Institute, Waterways Restoration Institute, the Bay Conservation and Development Commission, Community Conservancy International, Alameda County Flood Control District, California State Parks Foundation, Santa Clara County, and Marin Audubon Society to:

- improve urban runoff water quality in low income neighborhoods;
- restore wetlands;
- remove mercury from the Guadalupe River watershed;
- stabilize stream banks on private lands using natural methods;
- reduce water diversions by North Bay vineyard owners and improve native fish habitat;
- develop adaptation plans for wetland restoration projects that may be affected by sea level rise.

The Partnership includes governmental agencies, non-profit organizations, scientists, businesses, and citizens. The Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan for the Estuary, updated in 2007, and many other materials, including ESTUARY NEWS, are available at <http://sfestuary.org>. Watch for our new web site with more about the Partnership in the near future.

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