**Alkali Wetlands**

“As mapped, this class represents a **mix of alkali habitat types**, with varying salt  
concentrations and inundation frequencies, **including alkali meadow** (seasonally wet, alkali-affected herbaceous grasslands and forblands), **alkali sink scrub** (shrub cover of iodine bush, seep weed (Suaeda spp.), and Parish’s glasswort (Arthrocnemum subterminale)), **alkali playas** (highestalkali intensity of over 1%), and **alkali marsh**. “

* We have these 4 different alkali habitats mapped for the East Contra Costa area only (see the “GIS data folder”). We recommend ignoring alkali marsh (because it takes up such a small area and the plants are very different).
* For the other alkali wetlands areas, where we don’t have detailed mapping of the different habitats, we’re guessing the habitat was mostly alkali meadow with some areas of alkali scrub and playas interspersed.
* We used the historical aerials to estimate the density and size of the playas. There were 24 playas in a 438 acre area, ranging in size from 0.3-12 acres. See the “historical aerials” and “modern aerials” to get a sense of their shape and distribution. Note that the playas are white with salt in the dry season but were often just bare ground (with little salt crust) in the spring.

“There was likely **great local scale complexity due to topography, soil, and drainage patterns** that is not  
represented in the habitat mapping…. Alkali seasonal wetlands and meadows complexes were common where vernal pools were found, which were sometimes described as having a “hog-wallow” appearance of small depressions and hillocks (Unknown 1873, Hilgard 1884).”

* “Hog wallow” were ~10m across and 1-2 m high. These can be seen in some of the modern aerial images from vernal pool areas.

“These types also **intermix with vernal pool complex, wet meadow and seasonal wetland complex, and freshwater emergent wetland**.”

* We included a few grassland and wet meadow species in case you want to intersperse those in the alkali wetlands.