



**Civic Arts Commission
Public Art Subcommittee Meeting
Thursday, December 4, 2025
4:00 PM**

To attend this meeting via computer or smart device, click: <https://cityofberkeley-info.zoomgov.com/j/1616125937>. If you wish to speak during Public Comment portions of the agenda, click the Raise Hand icon, located under Reactions, and wait to be recognized by the Committee Chair. To attend this meeting via phone, dial 1-669-254-5252 and enter Meeting ID: 161 612 5937. To submit an e-mail Public Comment, email civicsarts@berkeleyca.gov with the Subject Line in this format: "PUBLIC COMMENT ITEM #." Please observe a 150-word limit. Time limits will apply all Public Comments.

Agenda

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

2. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The City of Berkeley recognizes that the community we live in was built on the territory of Huchiun (*Hooch-yoon*), the ancestral and unceded land of the Chochenyo (*Cho-chen-yo*) speaking Ohlone (*Oh-low-nee*) people, the ancestors and descendants of the sovereign Verona (*Vuh-roh-nuh*) Band of Alameda County. This land was and continues to be of great importance to all of the Ohlone Tribes and descendants of the Verona Band. We acknowledge and honor the original inhabitants of Berkeley, the documented 5,000-year history of a vibrant community at the West Berkeley Shellmound, and the Ohlone people who continue to reside in the East Bay. We recognize that Berkeley residents have and continue to benefit from the use and occupation of this unceded stolen land since the City of Berkeley incorporation in 1878. As stewards of the laws regulating the City of Berkeley, it is not only vital that we recognize the history of this land but also recognize that the Ohlone people are present members of Berkeley and other East Bay communities today. The City of Berkeley will continue to build relationships with the Lisjan (*Lih-Shawn*) Tribe and create meaningful actions that uphold the intention of this Land Acknowledgement

3. PUBLIC COMMENT (NON-AGENDA ITEMS ONLY)

4. CHAIR'S REPORT

5. PRESENTATIONS, DISCUSSION & ACTION ITEMS

- a) **Action Item:** Design Phase and Construction Phase approvals for Masako Miki public art commission at Aquatic Park (15 minutes).

Introduction by Mark Salinas, Public Art Program Lead (Attachment 1).

Presentation by Masako Miki and Steven Ferrera.

Recommendation: Approval of Design Phase and Construction Phase for Masako Miki public art commission at Aquatic Park.

6. STAFF REPORT

7. ADJOURNMENT

Attachments:

1. Masako Miki Design Phase and Construction Phase documents

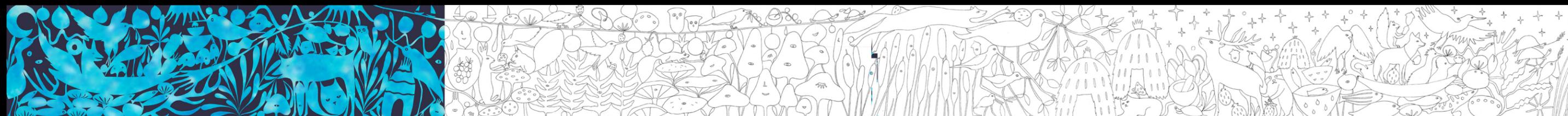
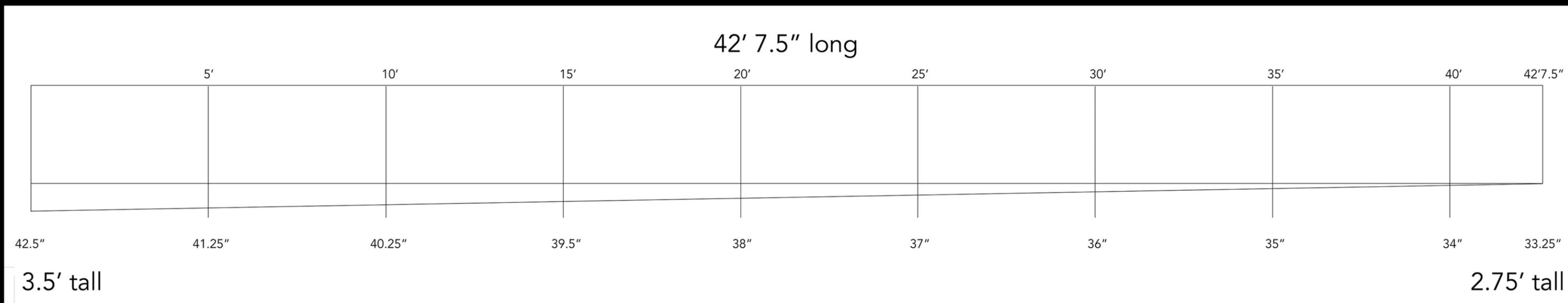
Staff Contact:

Mark Salinas, Public Art Program Lead

msalinas@berkeleyca.gov / (510) 981-7538

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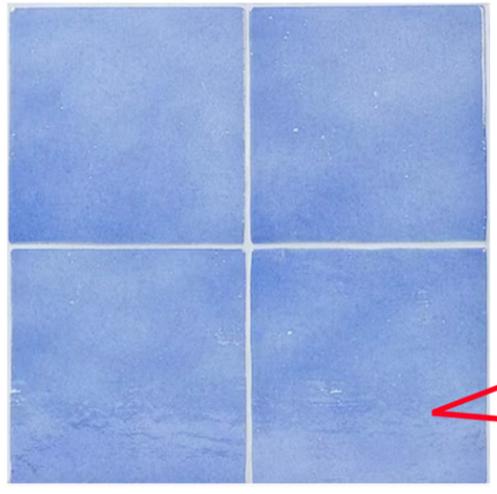
Thank you for the opportunity to present my design for the Berkeley Lagoon mural. If approved, my next step will be to paint the design using watercolor. The design will be painted in sections and then digitally composited to create the full 40-foot painting. Working with Magnolia Editions, we will then bake the design onto ceramic tile. Magnolia Editions is a fine art studio in Oakland that has worked on many large-scale tile based public art projects. We've contracted with ProModeling Inc., based in El Cerrito, for the installation. In mid-July, myself and my project manager met on site with Mark and our Promodeling contact Dante to discuss the logistics of the installation. I'm confident in my team's ability to complete the project to the highest level of quality.

We've chosen a 9"x9" tile from New York Cement Tile called Blanco. It is a bright white glossy ceramic tile that is rated for outdoors. It has a subtle organic texture that I feel gives it a more unique aesthetic than flat smooth tile. With our color testing, the Blanco tile gave the best color saturation.



I will be using a black grout that I feel will blend in with the design. There will be a 1/8 inch grout gap between the tiles. The tiles along the top and sides will be a complimentary color to the indigo blue. I am still experimenting with this color. There is an uneven 9.25 inch taper on the wall from left to right. I decided to bleed the design elements into the edges of the painting to make this look more natural.

The anti skate studs and lamp hardware will remain in place, however, we decided against a metal trim along the edges as it might encourage skateboards.



8"x 8" tile along lateral and upper sides of wall



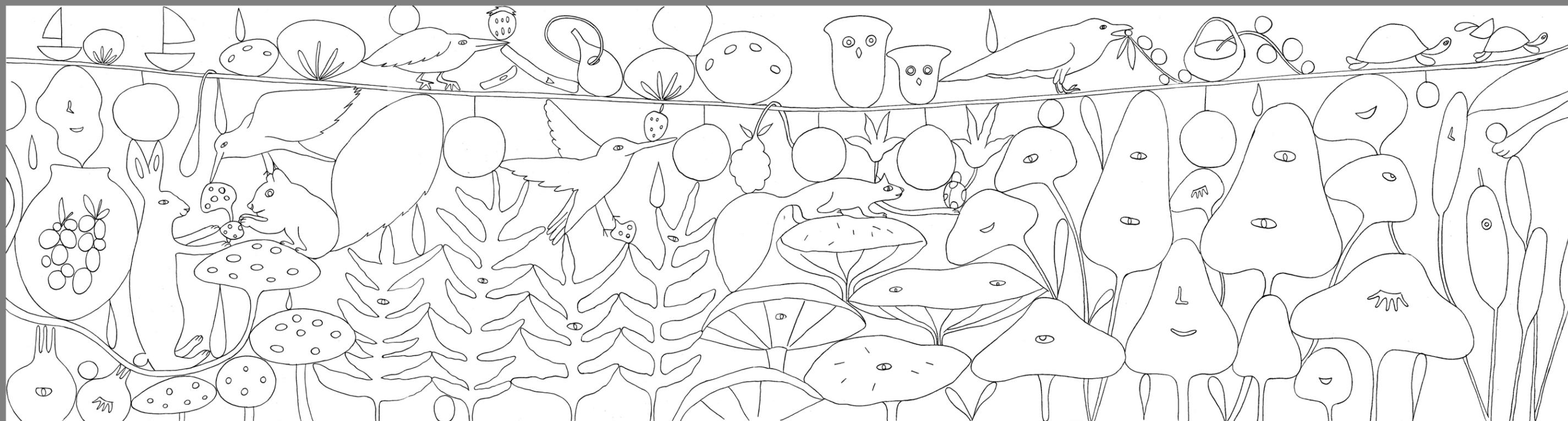
My design was inspired by the lagoon's natural habitat, the history of the land, and the Ohlone tribes that inhabited the area. The native flora and fauna provide many of the main characters in the scene. From the curved beak of the American avocet to the star shaped belladonna lily, to the spotted gray buckeye butterfly, there are over forty characters inspired by the habitat's local plants and animals. The marine life is also well represented. You can find a striped bass and leopard shark, a rock crab and pond slider, and chain bladder kelp and rockweed.

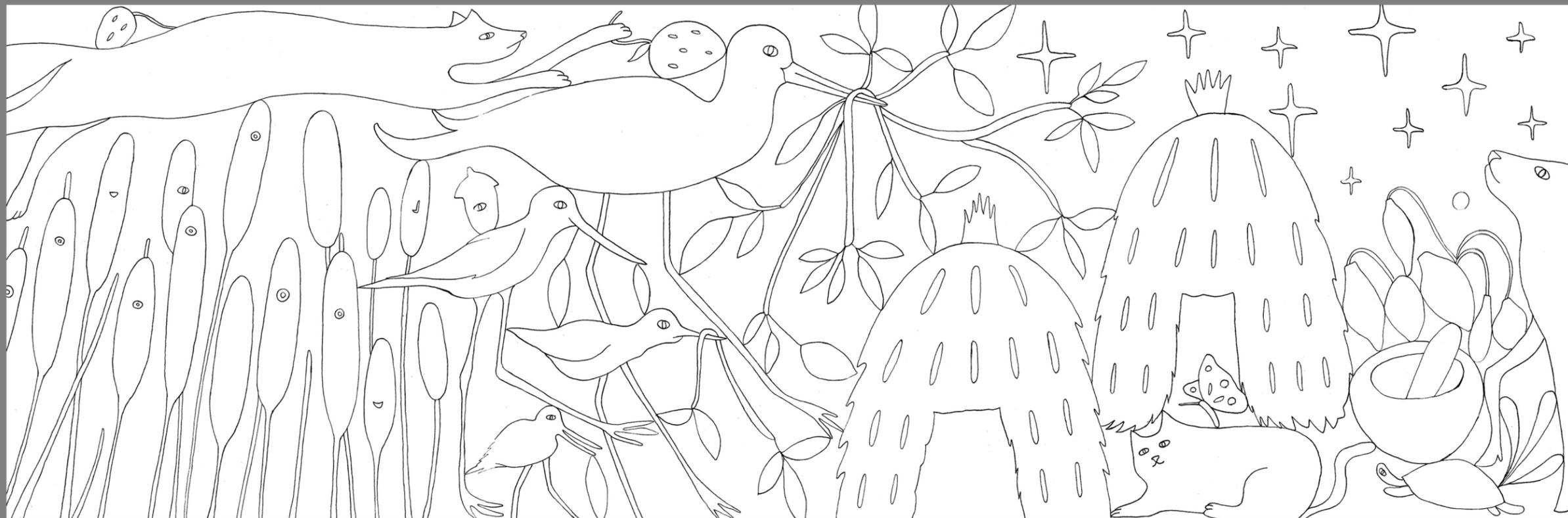
You can also find many references to the Ohlone people in the scene. Characters from creation mythologies can be seen riding in tule fishing boats. Ohlone huts and fishing baskets can be found, along with charmstones, bird-bone whistles, and a mortar and pestle. Many artifacts and items discovered in the shellmounds can be found throughout the painting as well: animal bones like antlers, bowls that represent pottery and communal living, shells like the abalone shell, shellfish like mussels and clams, and food sources like acorns and hazelnuts.

There are also references to the lagoon's history. Boats represent the lagoon's history of model yacht racing, and boating and sailing that are available to the public. The lanterns represent the Bay Area Peace Lantern Ceremony in remembrance of Hirohima and Nagasaki.

In *Contemplating the Universe*, I hope to share a narrative that emphasizes collective spirit filled with empathetic characters living in harmony. By reflecting the history of the land, recognizing its ecological importance, and celebrating the diversities of cultures, I hope my mural will offer a new context for meaningful connections in our community.

If the design is approved on 1/28 I can paint the final piece in the month of February. Magnolia Editions needs 12 weeks to create the tiles. This puts us on target to install in June.







Belted Kingfisher



Southern Cattail



California Slender Salamander



Green Heron



Black-necked Stilt



Mortar and Pestle



Black Oystercatcher



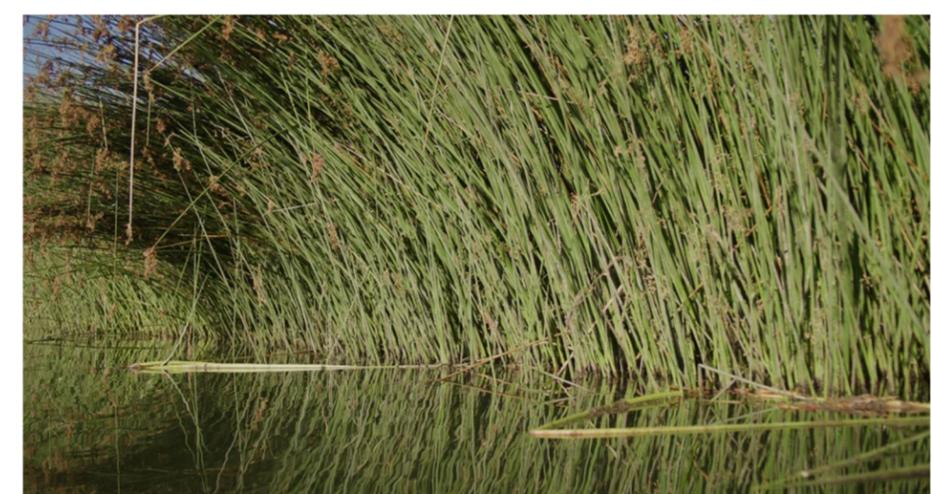
Bird-bone Whistles



Eastern Fox Squirrel



Abalone



Tule



Annas Hummingbird



Black-necked Stilt



California Blackberry



Striped Bass



Hermit Thrush



Gray Buckeye



Graceful Rock Crab



Chip Cherries



California Huckleberry



Ohlone Tule Boat



American Crow



Hazelnut



Belladonna Lily



Lady Beetle



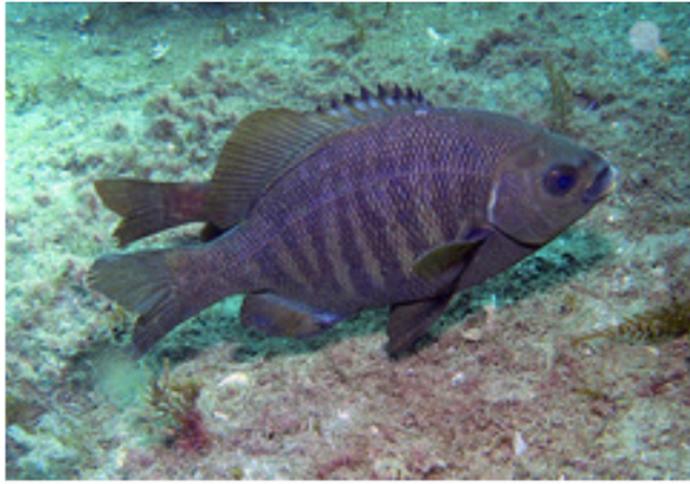
Ohlone Fishing Basket



Red Shouldered Hawk



Ohlone Fishing Basket



Black Surfperch



Braken Fern



Mule Deer



Raccoon



Honey Mushroom



Charmstones



Pond Slider



Sandy Stilt-Puffball



Japanese Littleneck



Tule



Rockweed



European Rabbit



Fly Agaric



Western Garter Snake



Leopard Shark



Meadow Barley



Strawberry



Snowy Egret



Ohlone Hut



Star Tunicate



Chain Bladder Kelp



Soft-shelled Clam



Common Fieldcap



Giant Reed



Acorn



Peregrine Falcon



Gray Fox



Coyote