



# San Francisco Bay Area Water Trail Implementation Meeting #26 – June 15, 2018

10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

## Location

Bay Area Metro Center  
375 Beale Street, Ohlone Conference Room  
San Francisco, California

## Attendees

- **Water Trail Staff:** Ben Botkin (MTC/ABAG)
- **Project Management Team:** Avra Heller (SCC), Laura Thompson (MTC/ABAG alternate), Cheryl Essex (CA State Parks), Matthew Trujillo (BCDC)
- **Advisory Committee:** Penny Wells (BASK), Tom Boone (USCG), Kevin Takei (EBRPD), Wendy Proctor (Port of SF), Ted Choi (City Kayak), Joy Dryden (Accessibility Expert), Kevin Takei (EBRPD), Yiwei Wang (SFBBO)
- **Presenters and members of the Public:** Thor Anderson + 1 (Resilient by Design-Common Ground), Sara Aliotti (City of Pittsburg), Denise Andrews (City of Mill Valley), Bo Barnes (Kayaks Unlimited), Michelle Squyer (CA State Parks – Candlestick Point), Max Tarjan (SFBBO alternate), Todd Hallenbeck (BCDC), Stephanie Fisher (Bellingham Marine), Pamela Adams (Tamalpais Outrigger Canoe Club), Ralph Mihan (kayaker)

## Outcomes of Meeting:

- Attendees were informed of Water Trail-related activities, progress, and accomplishments.
- Attendees were informed of Resilient by Design planning efforts in the San Pablo Baylands
- After receiving Advisory Committee guidance, Project Management Team conditionally-designated four trailheads: 1) Jack London Aquatic Center, City of Oakland; 2) Pittsburg Marina, City of Pittsburg; 3) Riverview Park, City of Pittsburg; and 4) Bayfront Park, City of Mill Valley.

## Updates and Announcements from Water Trail Staff, Project Management Team, and Advisory Committee Members – [Updates PPT](#)

### GENERAL UPDATES

- Upcoming meetings – Sept 14<sup>th</sup> and Dec. 14<sup>th</sup> currently scheduled for the State building in Oakland
  - Considering initiating an Annual WT summit, having one quarterly meeting a year at a site with the potential for an afternoon paddle, as a year in review

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- Will be conscientious of making sure the outing is accessible for all- leaning towards a team-building opportunity such as Dragonboat / whale boat adventure
- *Looking into that first meeting happening this coming September.*
- EBRPD Sojourn Sept/Oct multi-day paddle – shoreline facilities and overnight opportunities (looking late August ~ 10miles/day – details to be distributed).
- WETA Kayak Launch (Richmond Ferry Terminal) coming along in Marina Bay
- Gateway Park Bay Bridge EIR closed – contamination issues, but still planning low freeboard dock, potentially concessions, kiteboarding use to be protected at Radio Beach.
- Baywinds – ESA preliminary beach restoration studies, San Mateo County and Foster City Supervisors (just passed a seawall measure) are informed
- Burlingame 8-acre site owned by State lands Commission – proposals 1. Open space park, 2. Hotel and park, funding upkeep of park is a current concern. State Lands and City will make a decision about the future of the site in the near future, but regardless is anticipated to include a future Water Trail site.
- Suisun Marsh Public Access Plan – Ongoing planning process under Department of Water Resources and will be looking for feedback for programmatic access across the area

#### UPCOMING SITES

- Candlestick Point State Rec – looking at a Fall 2018 opening, currently constructing campsites + infrastructure, looked at Islais Creek and Mission Creek facilities, waterfront development in the park is looking into – Park’s Superintendent has approved pursuing Water Trail designation.
- Solano County – Belden’s Landing – more a motorized launch but accessible to other users as well, but also Sandy Beach County Park with camping along the river, also have storage areas for local users.
- Rush Ranch – also in Suisun area, historic ranch, looking into a dock – do allow overnight camping on the property- working on restoration and considering public access
- West Point Harbor – newest Harbor in SF Bay – 101 Surf Sports satellite office, in SE Bay
- Dunphy Park, Marin – master planning process – improvements to sailing marina, potential small boat rentals
- Point Pinole – campground access questions – more of a high-tide destination due to mud issues at low tide
  - Park will transport you and your camping gear for you by car if you don’t want to paddle there, don’t have a trailer for boats
  - Coyote Point – still perusing East Promenade funding

#### PARTNERSHIPS

- SF Board Sailing Association – focusing on safety – people are getting in trouble in Crissy Field area in particular – group is creating site profiles and safety documents, some discussion of on-site kiteboard docents on busy days to make sure everyone is aware of proper etiquette and safety procedures

- Resilient by Design (RBD) – many teams incorporated water access into their final plans/visions addressing how sea level rise will shape the Bay shoreline and how to continue to ensure public access in that future.
- Department of Water Resources – collaborating on the Suisun Marsh public access plan
- USFWS – Regional Office is supportive of increased focus on public access. Staff contacted reserve managers at other California locations about their boating programs
- SFEP Boating Program – clean boating focus and works closely with many marinas throughout the Bay Area. Will be collaborating to introduce WT to users and site managers

#### GRANTS

- Point Isabel planning continues – design amended to have two parallel ramps (one at an ADA grade) to replace existing stair access
- Petaluma Small Craft Center – pile driving company on retainer for the fall (1st week Sept) will attaching existing docks – hoping for opening spring 2019
- Berkeley Marina small craft basin – new parking lot, rigging area, restroom, washdown, drinking fountains etc. – gangway and docks in fall of 2018 (TBD)
- City of Antioch – raving about new facilities, WT grant put to good use

#### MEASURE AA –

- Encinal Beach – designated WT site received funding for shoreline restoration alongside access improvements
- Sonoma Creek Bayland Strategy – looking to incorporate public access into planning process

#### OUTREACH/PRESENTATIONS

- WT and Bay Trail on official shorelines and marinas maps with name, symbol, and website link (~50 region-wide)
- Richmond Boat Show – mostly focused on sailors, but good outreach with overlap in the paddling community
- CA Trails and Greenways – presented with Canoemobile and EBPRD about providing public access and programming on waterways
  - Also hosted pre-Conference Workshop with partners on the Petaluma River Waterway
- Attended paddle and presented at RBD planning effort on the San Rafael Canal
- Pacific inter-club yacht assoc. (~103) yacht clubs / bay area – increasingly seeing yacht club membership by kayakers

#### UPCOMING

- Vallejo visions of the wild film festival – Beldon’s Landing June 21 - 3hr kayak
- Summer Sailstice – Encinal Yacht Club – June 23 - will have SUPs and kayaks folks can take out

#### SAFETY UPDATE

- **COAST GUARD - March 19- June 15**
  - Kitesurfers 25/35 total rescues (mostly near Golden Gate)
  - 3 kayakers

- 2 SUP
- 1 row boat
- 1 canoe
- 7 unmanned equipment responses
- LABEL your gear – everyone in BASK gets an orange tag
- Coast Guard expends a lot of resources tracking unmanned gear
- Specific case information can be shared with the Water Trail and outfitters can share specific safety information.
- Division of Boating and Waterways – robust public outreach system happy to include information in their social media.
- EBRPD – Park Marine officers – all shoreline/marine parks and rangers are passing orange personal information stickers out to users
  - Kite Surfer accidents frequent at Crown Beach – generally not included in Coast Guard numbers
- Encourage including emergency contact info on gear stickers

#### Trailhead Designation Consideration: [Jack London Aquatic Center](#) (site report)

- **Presentation and Site Description review – [PPT linked here](#)**
  - Located in Oakland along the backside of Alameda island – along Lake Merritt drainage (near Jack London Square and Grand Avenue Boat Launch)
  - Part of 8-acre Estuary Park
  - Wide wooden low-freeboard dock – maintained by rowing groups
  - Also high freeboard dock and ramp
  - Low traffic channel – protected spot to access the Bay
  - Large surface parking lot – 2hr parking (unenforced)
  - Maintained portable restrooms (ADA and non-ADA)
  - Aquatic Center – rowing clubs and some dragon boat clubs, also run youth programming
- **ACCESSIBILITY**
  - Wide gangway meets ADA slope requirements
  - Gravel surface to top of gangway
  - Portable ADA restroom
  - Paved path of travel
  - 3 sites in geo-region – Tidewater currently, Encinal and Doolittle – have planned accessibility improvements
  - New restrooms are being installed at the site as part of a larger bridge redevelopment – new restrooms ~2019
  - Estuary Park improvements – focused on park, including assessment of large low freeboard
- **PROPOSED DESIGNATION CONDITIONS**
  - Completion of proposed projects
  - WT identification and education signage – including messages relevant harbor seals, and to navigational safety and directing courteous boating (lots of boat traffic in the Oakland Estuary)

#### AC COMMENTS

- Need for self-locking bathrooms
- Designate as Estuary Park – folks associate Jack London with the building and associated programming

**PUBLIC COMMENT** – question if City of Oakland has secured funding for improvements

**AC GUIDANCE** – unanimous support

**PMT – unanimous approval with additional condition: BCDC public access required near the Portobello Marina will be included in site description – public restroom and restaurant.**

#### Common Ground – Resilient by Design (RBD) - San Pablo Baylands

##### Overview of planning and vision for public access in the Baylands

- **RBD** – opportunities to make access, infrastructure, environment resilient to SLR – architects, designers, Exploratorium, etc.
- Team Common Ground focused on San Pablo Bay and baylands as well as State Route 37
- Community outreach about baylands / bayland flooding scenarios
- A lot of restoration occurring in the area – proposing public access to those areas
- Still economically “affordable” within the Bay, increasing traffic and congestion issues
- Issues of sediment supply (opportunities from Napa and Sonoma creeks)
- Conducted public stakeholder meetings – and continue to reach out to key constituencies
- Who was our community?? (folks stuck in traffic, SMHM, a few kayakers) – approached associated communities
- Creating an “identity” for the Baylands – expanding the “constituency” invested in the area – “grand Bayway”
  - “Ecological Park of the Bay”
  - Need for cross-county governance structure
- Focused on causeway alternatives which expand opportunities for public access
  - Prioritize elevated causeway to improve hydrological functioning and habitat connectivity
  - Respond to intrinsic qualities of the landscape “scenic route”
    - Tourism opportunities
    - Pull apart structure directional flows separated – and elevated bay trail
    - Interact with existing facilities (EG. Cullinan Ranch)
- Adaptation opportunities - take advantage of future flooding events to grow the baylands
  - Current condition - subsided diked baylands – cut off from sediment flows
  - Proposed – “hyper accretion gardens” then reintroduce tidal influence
- **CURRENT** uses
  - Sonoma Raceway
  - Duck hunting
  - Wine country
  - Fishing
  - Kayaking
- **FUTURE**

- Increase knowledge of enviro resources through strategic information/education
- Emphasize sloughs for kayaking and levees for trail access
- Identify hubs – eg. Cullinan Ranch, Hudeman Slough – pontoons floating fish camps
- Define access points – to control impact on ecology
- Designed current “exploratory” map of the North Baylands

#### NEXT STEPS

- Emphasize urgency – economic losses with lost transportation corridors and critical habitat
- \$\$ Regional Measure 3, Prop 68
- Multi-modal Public Access Study - with MTC and SR37 Public Policy community
- Mare Island gateway hub
- Napa junction gateway – connect to upstream ecological resources

#### Advisory Committee and public questions and discussion

- Why the focus on a causeway? – need for elevation in order to preserve ecological connectivity and provide critical sediment to Baylands systems, SR37 Policy Committee looking at these options, emphasize that this is a visionary process.
- Speak a little more about the Mare Island hub? – in terms of SLR recommend visitor center/jumping off point to the Baylands – kayak storage, launch, potentially concessionaire on both Mare Island and Vallejo sides – trying to influence current development plans to implement this multi-modal access vision.
- Representing the birds – need to focus on balance of matrix of walkways and bikeways with required buffered distances and edge effects impacting habitat and focusing on minimizing negative wildlife impacts. – Proposing focus on loop along perimeter of the Baylands
- Data on interacting with marine mammals and impacts on existing high-tide habitat / islands – currently sloughs are at higher elevations than the adjacent subsided diked wetlands. ID habitat corridors for spp. to migrate uplands.

#### Trailhead Designation Consideration: [Pittsburg Marina](#) (site report)

Presentation and Site Description review [PPT attached](#)

- North Bay – Carquinez straight Sacramento River Delta
- Browns Island offshore – closed to public access
- Restaurant, public parking, terraced promenade
- Rentals, programs, top-notch facility
- Marina has a few basins – primary access point – low-freeboard at SE End
- Brand new EZ dock kayak facility, kayak rentals begin June 16, 2017, kayak rollers, transfer chair, low-freeboard dock, soon to add handrails for SUP
- Kayak concession right next to the launch – Rentals are under City’s recreation division – high school and college student staff manage rentals on weekends, and Mon-Fri marina staff manage rentals, can make reservations online and bring receipt - **\$20/day for as long as you want – Marina does not have private NMSB boat storage**
  - **M-F 8-5; Weekend 9-6**

- Marina staff happy to help navigate to the various launch locations
- **ADA Kayak launch ramp behind a locked gate – due to rental equip security**
- **If kayaking from the south turn right into New York slough – will see signs for Pittsburg marina**
- North end 24-hour boat launch facility – 2 ramps and 3 high freeboard – 3<sup>rd</sup> dock for nonmotorized users
- 2 large surface parking lot both w/ADA loading zones
- Restrooms at both launch sites
- Most accessible site in region
  - Paved path of travel to ADA gangway/EZ launch/low freeboard
  - Restrooms are ADA – potential ADA retrofit with future boating and waterways grant
  - Antioch, Big Break, Pittsburg Marina all highly accessible

#### DESIGNATION CONDITIONS

- Water Trail identification and educational signs to include navigational safety, courteous boating, not to land on habitat islands

#### AC COMMENTS

- Pittsburg famous for wind – recommend including detailed tide, current, wind safety information on the signage (targeting kayakers and SUP users, SUMMER is windy)
- Access to transfer system by harbor master – Admin staff there 99% of the time. Goal to have full time staff to manage rental and EZ access

#### PUBLIC COMMENTS

- How to post appropriate contact information – include clear instructions on WT website and on Marina Signage.
- Signage about duck hunting usage/season
- Consider making kayak dollies

#### AC GUIDANCE

- Bathrooms, bar, EZ dock = great site!
- Brown's Island – no landing on island, folks allowed to travel waterways through the island NOTED on sign, and need wind and swell notes, some federally protected spp.
- Unanimous Approval

#### PMT

- **Unanimous approval with additional condition of including specific safety information and Brown's Island information**

Trailhead Designation Consideration: [Riverview Park](#) (site report)

Presentation and Site Description review [PPT attached](#)

- Facility specific for Kite Boarder – [YouTube Video](#)
- **“Delta Board Meeting” – June 23-24 annual Kite Boarding Completion**
  - Part of the West Coast completion circuit
- Kiteboard loading zone
- 2 ramp access points w/blocks to add traction one NE one N – depending on wind conditions
- Designated Kite Board Zone rigging and launching area FOR ADVANCED/professional boarders
- Popular take-out point for kites doing downwinders from Sherman Island
- Large parking area and vehicle turnaround, maintained ADA restrooms, drinking fountain, and shower, on City of Pittsburg’s list for updating
- Lots of existing safety signage re. kite boarding launch site, and letting public and kite boarders know of appropriate etiquette while launching and landing, etc.
- ADA accessible parking spaces, restrooms, and path of travel with/in the park. Marina has the accessible facilities

#### DESIGNATION CONDITIONS

- EDU sign – reiterate / direct folks to the safety signage, include information to wildlife – rafting wildlife / other ways to avoid harassing wildlife – harbor seal buoy

#### AC COMMENTS

- Why not combine Pittsburg sites? – to designated safety difference/emphasize different user groups
- Is there a designated rigging area? – defined / marked kiteboard zones with piles to hook lines to and there are lockers to store stuff
- Appreciated linked launch videos
- Emphasize site’s specialization for advanced users
- Pittsburg famous for wind – recommend including detailed tide, current, wind safety information on the signage (targeting kayakers and SUP users, SUMMER is windy)
- Access to transfer system by harbor master – Admin staff there 99% of the time. Goal to have full time staff to manage rental and EZ access

**PUBLIC COMMENTS** - none

**AC GUIDANCE** – Unanimous Approval

#### PMT Discussion and Decision

- One PMT member expressed surprise of the specialized nature of site. Staff informed member that a few other sites are also geared towards specific users including Baywinds Park and Point Isabel which are both geared towards kite boarders and windsurfers. Site designations focus on conditions and historic user base for a given site, make sure include boardsailing within the Water Trail. Mission goal to enhance access for all non-motorized users – point to point access also part of the mission but not all sites serve that connectivity purpose. Both day users and multi-day / multi-stop users, so variety of users’ needs are met.



- City of Pittsburg offered to make a safety video with professional Kite Boarders at upcoming competition – Water Trail staff will link the video to the trailhead page on website
- **Unanimous designation with inclusion of safety information and other recommended conditions**

### Trailhead Designation Consideration: Bayfront Park (site report)

- Presentation and Site Description review PPT attached
  - Northern tip of Richardson Bay in Marin County
  - Launch is on the Bay Trail – redeveloped launch facility – replacing a dock that was destroyed in a storm about a decade ago
  - Parking along the street and at the adjacent wastewater facility
  - Highly used park – dog walking, picnicking, restrooms
  - Low freeboard dock with kayak cut-out and grab bar
  - Number of existing signs at top of dock ramp – used dock at own risk – only accessible at high tides
  - Accessible parking, restrooms, paved path of travel – but a bit far from parking to the dock to ADA gangway /low freeboard
  - One of the more accessible sites – others – Turney Street Public Boat Ramp, Dunphy Park planned access, Angel Island accessible gangway

### **Proposed Designation Conditions**

- Recognition of sensitive marsh and overwintering in Richardson bay
- EDU sign highlight environmental issues – specific wildlife buffer distances rafting birds, not to land in marshes / not paddle north of the bridge and head south out towards the broader bay

### **MILL VALLEY COMMENTS**

- 1<sup>st</sup> accessible dock in Marin County
- Folks in town excited to have renewed access
- Agree that have fragile environment in Pickleweed Inlet – have fenced off southernmost edge of the dog park to provide improved bird habitat
  - City happy to add sign to bridge to say “do not paddle pass this point”
  - Can also put sign up along pickleweed park facing the water
- Sensitive access spot for dogs to get into the water here – invite MAS to address that issue with Mill Valley City Council
- Would be like to make launch more accessible for dogs to get in. potentially a vegetative raft, if can establish a way to provide alternate access for dogs to the water could then fence off the remainder of the shoreline
- Ask Audubon to express that interest to City Council and happy to work with them to support those solutions

### **AC COMMENTS**

- Recommendation not to go north under the bridge towards pickleweed
- MAS comments – to be included

- Commends Mill Valley for the construction of a low freeboard dock
- Parts of Richardson Bay off limits Oct-March add to designation recommendations – potential to install gate in front of ramp that is locked during that season? – not something can add as part of the designation condition as the Water Trail (as we're not regulators) AC can recommend that we include that as a recommendation – hard to preclude access at that point (adjacent gravel beach) Highlight sensitive environmental habitats and the seasonal closures on the signage.
- Approve the sign on bridge to not pass due to mud and wildlife
- Want to be proactive with WT education signs as enviro education tools
- 250 ft. buffer distance – 250 meters
- ID on SIGN specific tidal heights to be outside of mud range – ID specific tidal projections for the site.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

- Great protected area to launch educational activities – get kids in the water
- OneTAM wants to do an educational paddle from this site sometime in the fall w/Peter Baye

#### **AC GUIDANCE**

- Traditional access, protected as a learner experience, limited access 3-4 hours per day due to tidal limitations, serves the community
- Support designation – use WT designation to inform users about environmental and tidal safety
- MAS letter
- Consensus Guidance

#### **PMT DECISION**

- Yes, with conditions specific focus on environmental and tidal safety – would be happy to facilitate relationship between Audubon and City to promote other protections
- Emphasize continued dialogue with Audubon
- **Unanimous designation**