

MEMO

Date: June 18, 2013

To: Water Trail Project Management Team and Advisory Committee

From: Galli Basson, Water Trail Planner

Subject: Consideration of \$40,000 Grant Request to make repairs, upgrades, and improvements to the Palo Alto Baylands Sail Station in Palo Alto

Project Description

The City of Palo Alto would like to repair, upgrade, and improve the Palo Alto Baylands Sail Station (Sail Station). The proposed improvements are to:

- Upgrade "unauthorized vehicle" warning/tow-away sign
- Resurface, stripe, and upgrade parking stall signage
- Install concrete pad to move portable restroom near launch site and upgrade restroom signage
- Install compliant multi-station drinking fountain near the launch site
- Replace non-compliant payphone with compliant phone
- Upgrade facility signage making all signage compliant and adding environmental education and trailhead designation information
- Make repairs to wooden surface of pier and install hand rail on pier
- Make accessibility upgrades to the gangway including installation of handrails, wheel guides and non-slip surfaces
- Remove old rubber mat and attachment fittings from dock, make repairs to surface of dock, coat surface with durable non-slip coating, and add wheel guides around entire perimeter of dock
- Replace non-compliant spigot at boat wash with compliant lever style

These improvements are designed to bring the Sail Station into compliance with federal and state disability laws and are based upon a Certified Access Specialist Inspection conducted in November, 2012.

The entire cost of the project is estimated at \$80,000, with the City contributing \$30,000 of matching funds and \$10,000 of in-kind services.

Site Description

The Sail Station is located in Palo Alto Baylands Preserve and is owned and managed by the City of Palo Alto. The launch consists of a pier leading to a gangway and dock with two different freeboard levels (one is a low-freeboard dock). There is a large gravel parking lot, boat washing area, and public phone located near the pier entrance. The public portable restroom and drinking fountain are currently located on the other side of the parking lot from pier. Palo Alto Sail Station was conditionally designated as a San Francisco Bay Area Water Trail site June 5, 2012.

Support

The Sailing Station is one of only two launch sites in Santa Clara County and is popular with a wide variety of user groups. The launch is also used for school, environmental education programs, and City recreation programs. The project is consistent with the City of Palo Alto Community Services Department Goals, adopted by the City Council in 2012. Letters of support have been requested and will be forwarded to staff once received.

Timing and Review

The Water Trail Project Management Team (PMT), Advisory Committee (AC), and the public are being asked to provide input on the grant request at the June 28, 2013 Water Trail Implementation Meeting.

The City expects to begin construction in September of 2013 and complete the project by June 2014, pending permits and CEQA.

Staff Findings

The project is consistent with goals and strategies of the Enhanced Water Trail Plan to make improvements consistent with site characteristics and policies, plans, and priorities (*strategy 3 and 4*) and develop and improve launch facilities to be universally accessible (*strategy 10*).

The improvements will bring the Sailing Station into compliance with disability laws and improve the accessibility of the site to all users. Staff is inclined to approve the grant request of \$40,000, pending completion of the applicant's CEQA work and approval of the CEQA work by the Coastal Conservancy board.