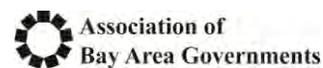




San Francisco Bay Area Water Trail
 Site Description for
McNears Beach Park



Location, Ownership, and Management: McNears Beach Park is located off of Point San Pedro Road on the San Rafael shoreline of San Pablo Bay. It is owned and managed by Marin County Parks and is especially well suited for group and family use due to the large, group picnic areas and swimming pool adjacent to a sandy beach. Nicely landscaped, including tropical-feeling palm trees, this 55-acre park is very popular and well maintained, and provides a convenient launching point for exploration of the Marin County shoreline both to the north and south.

This site is suitable for launching and landing non-motorized small boats from the shore. It does not have a ramp, boarding pier, or floating dock (but does have a long fishing pier). The long and somewhat pebbly beach is suitable for lighter watercraft, such as kayaks, canoes, and stand up paddleboards. Boaters may want to bring "boat wheels" (small boat dolly) to help get their boats and boards from the parking lot to the beach, because some of the parking is quite a distance from the beach. Marin County Parks is planning to install a "Mobi Mat" from the path of travel to the high tide line at the water's edge. The mat will improve access to the water by providing a hard, stable surface. The middle photo below shows the proposed launch site.

Marin County Parks is also planning to conduct a master plan review of the park in the next few years, which may result in other facility improvements.

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| Long shoreline and nice views | Proposed launch site | Popular site for family outings |

Facility Description: McNears Beach Park offers a wide variety of recreational opportunities in an exceptionally scenic setting: non-motorized boating from the sandy shoreline, fishing from the pier, a swimming pool (open during summer months), picnicking (including reservable large group facilities with BBQs and tables), open lawn areas, restrooms, volleyball, tennis, walking,

and hiking. The restrooms and changing rooms are spacious and include showers, there is a snack bar during summer months, a drinking fountain, and ample parking. There is an entrance fee year 'round, but it varies by season and other factors. The Marin County Parks website at <http://www.marincounty.org/depts/pk/divisions/parks/main/info> provides information on current park hours, entry fees, and other information that may change seasonally.

Other Identifying or General Information:

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| Site ID: <u>M38</u> In WT Plan: <u>Yes</u> Existing or Planned: <u>Existing</u> Ownership: <u>Public</u> County: <u>Marin</u> Geo-Region: <u>San Pablo Bay</u> SF Bay Plan Region: <u>Central Bay North</u> Launch or Destination: <u>Launch</u> | Home of a Club: <u>No</u> Used by a Program that Assists Persons with Disabilities: <u>No</u> Appreciated for Windy Conditions: <u>No</u> Near Food or Drink: <u>No</u> Proximity to Other Sites: McNear's Beach Park is not far from China Camp and Bull Head Flat to the northwest. The next site to the southwest is Loch Lomond Marina. |
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Description of Launch/Landing:

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| Fixed Dock/Pier Launch/Landing: <u>No</u> Float: <u>No</u> Freeboard Level: N/A Transfer/Launch Assistance System: <u>No</u> Gangway: <u>No</u> Gangway Length (feet): N/A Gangway Width (inches): N/A Gangway Slope Description: N/A Boat/Trailer Ramp: <u>No</u> Mudflats Affect Site Usability: <u>Unknown</u> Beach Wheelchair Available: <u>No</u> Stair Water Entry: <u>No</u> Water Entry Path: <u>No</u> | Beach: <u>Yes</u> Firm-Surface Beach Crossing: <u>Plan to install mat</u> Fee for Launch or Parking: <u>Yes</u> Other Launch/Landing Notes: Marin County Parks is exploring the possibility of setting up a beach mat system to help persons with disabilities get across the sandy beach to the water's edge. Restrictions: <u>None known</u> |
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Site Appears to be Suitable For:

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| Kayak: <u>Yes</u> Windsurfer: <u>No</u> Kiteboard: <u>No</u> Whaleboat: <u>No</u> Stand Up Paddleboard: <u>Yes</u> | Canoe: <u>Yes</u> Outrigger Canoe: <u>No</u> Sculling: <u>No</u> Rowboat/Dinghy: <u>Yes</u> Dragonboat: <u>No</u> Other: <u>No</u> |
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Transportation and Parking:

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| General Spaces (number): <u>100</u> ADA Parking Spaces (number): <u>8</u> Duration (hours): Approximately <u>8</u> Overnight Parking Possibly Allowed: <u>Sometimes</u> Overnight Parking Description: Small groups are occasionally allowed to park overnight but only with prior approval from Marin County Parks. Park hours are generally sunrise to sunset, but vary seasonally. Website has most current information: http://www.marincountyparks.org/depts/pk/activities Loading/Unloading Area: <u>No</u> | Bay Trail: <u>Yes</u> Public Transportation: Bus #23 stops about 5 miles from the park entrance.  |
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Path of Travel:

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| Distance to Launch from Parking Area (feet): <u>175*</u> Distance to Launch from accessible parking (feet): <u>175</u> Distance to Launch from accessible restroom (feet): <u>630 feet</u> Distance from accessible restroom to accessible parking (feet): <u>600 feet</u> Path of Travel Exists: <u>Yes</u> Path of Travel Description: <u>From parking lot to edge of beach there is a paved walkway</u> *Distances are approximate. |  |
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Other Site Amenities:

Total Restrooms: 3
 Total ADA Restrooms: 2
 Restroom Description: Large restroom near pool with changing room, lockers, and showers. Bathroom stall has “ambulatory



accessibility.” Portable restrooms near fishing pier and south shore are unisex and accessible.

A pool is open during summer months. There is also an outdoor shower associated with the pool.

- BBQ: Yes
- Boat Storage: No
- Boat Washing: No
- Rigging/Staging Area: Yes
- Picnic Tables: Yes
- Benches: Yes

Fishing Pier: There is a long fishing pier for fishing only – it is not designed for boat tie-ups, and all motorized vessels must stay 300 feet away.



Overnight Accommodations:

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| Hotel: <u>No</u> | Hostel: <u>No</u> | Ship: <u>No</u> | Camping: <u>No</u> | Other: <u>No</u> |
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Additional Notes Related to Accessibility:

Improvements to accessibility will be an important consideration in the master plan review process.

Additional Notes on Use of Site (Boating and Non-Boating) and Existing and Planned Management:

Marin County Parks is applying to the Water Trail grant program for funding to cover the cost of installing a Mobi Mat.

Safety and Security, including Parking:

McNears Beach Park is staffed by rangers and seasonal park staff every day. There is also a Resident Park Ranger who lives on site. Marin Sheriff's office also patrols the park. Permitted hunting is allowed within the San Pablo Bay Wildlife Area, located approximately two miles away. Water Trail signage provides a warning about seasonal hunting and includes the State Fish and Wildlife website for more information.

Wildlife and Habitat Considerations:

As discussed in the EIR Review, there are sensitive species within four miles, but none are known to exist in the park. There are no marshes within the park, but marsh habitat located along the Marin shoreline exists within four miles. These marshes provide clapper rail and salt marsh harvest mouse habitat. There are currently two active heron or egret rookeries located within four miles of the site. One of those rookeries is on West Marin Island, which is a National Wildlife Refuge managed by USFWS, and is closed to the public. Rafting waterfowl may be present in San Pablo Bay.

Education, Outreach, and Stewardship, Including Signage:

The Water Trail educational sign includes information about not landing in marshes, how to boat responsibly near wildlife, buffer distances from sensitive species, and safety information. More detailed information about sensitive species and how to avoid disturbing them is found on the Water Trail website and in the Water Trail brochure.

There are always park rangers and other park staff onsite, and there are various education and naturalist programs, including some by kayak. Visit [www.](http://www.marincountyparks.org/Depts/PK.aspx)

<http://www.marincountyparks.org/Depts/PK.aspx> for more information.

**Other Existing or Anticipated Water Trail-Related Issues and Opportunities:**

The master plan review process for this park will provide an opportunity for community input.

**Summary of Environmental Review
based on the
San Francisco Bay Area Water Trail Plan Final Environmental Impact Report**

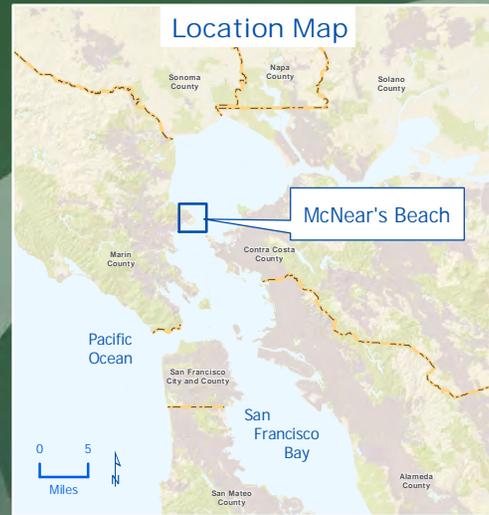
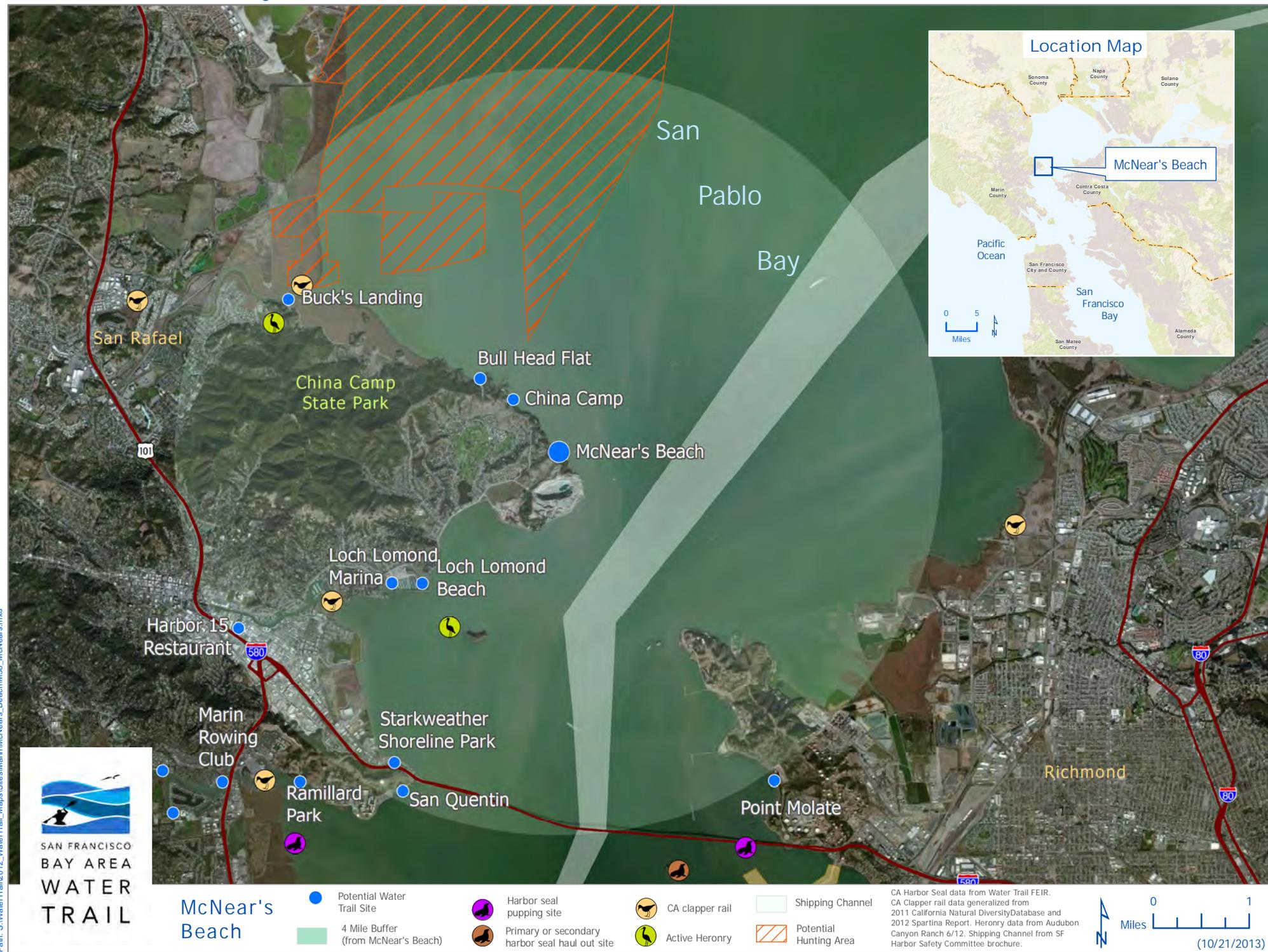
**McNears Beach Park
December 13, 2013**

| Resource Area | Impacts Analysis | Notes |
|---|--|--|
| <p>Recreation References: WT DREIR, pp. 3-32 to 3-37.</p> | <p>McNears Beach Park has ample capacity for multiple recreational uses and has a long shoreline to accommodate non-motorized small boat entry into the Bay from several areas of the park. Permitted hunting is allowed within the State Fish and Wildlife's San Pablo Bay Wildlife Area, which is within four miles of the park.</p> | <p>Regarding recreational conflict, Water Trail users may submit comments to Water Trail staff through the website if they witness or experience recreational conflict at any designated site. The Water Trail educational sign includes warnings about seasonal hunting in the Bay (Oct – Jan) and includes the State Fish and Wildlife website for specific information.</p> |
| <p>Navigational and Personal Safety References: WT DREIR pp. 3-38 to 3-51, and Figures 3.4.2-1 and 3.4.2-2.</p> | <p>This site is within about one mile of deep-draft commercial shipping and ferry routes: the San Pablo Strait Channel Regulated Navigation Area (RNA) and the Vallejo-San Francisco Ferry (see map). Small boat users should be aware of tides and currents and must always avoid impeding large vessels in deep channels.</p> | <p>The Water Trail educational sign provides safety information related to navigational and personal boating safety. It is likely that most non-motorized small boat users launching from McNears will want to paddle close to shore in either direction rather than cross San Pablo Strait.</p> |
| <p>Aesthetics References: WT DREIR pp. 3-56 to 3-68.</p> | <p>McNears Beach Park has tasteful signs that blend in with the built environment.</p> | <p>The Water Trail will require the inclusion of a Water Trail identification sign at the site. A "sign program" will be developed with Marin County Parks to ensure that the I.D. sign and additional educational sign do not result in sign clutter at the site.</p> |

| Resource Area | Impacts Analysis | Notes |
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| <p>Biology- Vegetation References: WT DREIR pp. 3-69 to 3-92 and Table 3.7.2-1 and Table 3.7.2-2.</p> | <p>The shoreline of McNears Beach is reinforced in some areas with riprap and the beach is sandy or pebbly. At lower tides, mudflats and larger rocks are exposed. Wetland vegetation has not been observed by WT staff at any tide levels. Paddlers could paddle toward wetland habitat to the northwest or southwest.</p> | <p>Preventing the inadvertent spread of exotic, invasive plant species is important at all launch sites. The WT educational sign and website ask WT users to help prevent the spread of invasive species by rinsing boats and equipment immediately after use and by not landing in marshes or on levees.</p> |
| <p>Biology – Birds <i>References: WT FEIR text and map</i></p> | <p>There are currently two active heron or egret rookeries located within four miles of the site. One of those rookeries is on West Marin Island, which is a National Wildlife Refuge managed by USFWS, and is closed to the public.</p> | <p>The WT educational sign includes information about how to paddle responsibly around wildlife and to maintain a buffer distance from nesting herons and egrets. The WT website and brochure include more detailed information about not disturbing nesting birds.</p> |
| <p>Biology – Rafting Waterfowl References: WT DREIR pp. 3-93 to 3-131 and Table 3.8.2-1, Figure 3.8.2-1.</p> | <p>This site provides access to areas where rafting waterfowl congregate in San Pablo Bay.</p> | <p>Avoiding disturbance of rafting waterfowl is addressed in the Water Trail educational sign, brochure, and website.</p> |

| Resource Area | Impacts Analysis | Notes |
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| <p>Biology – California clapper rail and California black rail and high tide refugia References: WT DREIR pp. 3-93 to 3-131 and Figure 3.8.2-2 2012 Clapper Rail Surveys for the San Francisco Estuary Invasive Spartina Report.</p> | <p>California clapper rail and black rail depend on habitat that does not exist at McNears Beach Park, but boaters launching from this site could reach marsh habitat to the northwest or southwest. The park is located near the San Pablo Bay Recovery Unit of the <i>USFWS Draft Recovery Plan for Tidal Marsh Ecosystems of Northern and Central California (2010)</i>, which lists “China Camp to Petaluma River” as a core population area for clapper rail. Clapper rail are also known to be present in marshes at the mouth of the San Rafael Canal, located to the southwest of McNears. Black rail may also be present and may breed in San Pablo Bay marshes.</p> | <p>Signage is needed to emphasize the importance of keeping a 50-foot buffer from rail habitat (not entering channels less than 100-feet wide), of staying clear of high-tide refugia, and emphasizes that landing in marshes and on levees is prohibited. The Water Trail educational sign, brochure and website include this information.</p> |
| <p>Biology –Western Snowy Plover References: WT DREIR pp. 3-93 to 3-131 and Figures 3.8.2-3</p> | <p>Not a concern for this location.</p> | |
| <p>Biology – Harbor Seals References: WT DREIR pp. 3-132 to 3-156, Figure 3.9.2-1, and Tables 3.9.2-1, 3.9.2-2, 3.9.5-1, and 3.9.5-2</p> | <p>There are no Harbor Seal primary or secondary haul-out sites within four miles of this site.</p> | <p>The WT educational sign, brochure, and website all advise boaters not to land at haul-out sites and to always stay at least 330’ away from hauled-out harbor seals and at least 500’ away from March to July when seals are pupping. The permanent inclusion of this information in WT media is a good precaution to reach boaters who may paddle more than eight miles in one day or take a multiple-day trip.</p> |

| Resource Area | Impacts Analysis | Notes |
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| <p>Biology – Other Species References: WT DREIR pp. 3-132 to 3-156 San Francisco Estuary Institute Salt Marsh Harvest Mouse Data</p> | <p>Salt marsh harvest mouse habitat does not exist in McNears, but boaters may reach marsh habitat that support mice to the northwest or southwest of the park.</p> | <p>Boaters are advised through the WT brochure and website to not disembark in any undesignated areas or trample sensitive habitats, including marshes. The WT educational sign emphasizes that boaters should not land in marshes.</p> |
| <p>Cultural Resources</p> | <p>No WT-related construction is planned at this time. NMSB users are not allowed to land in adjacent wetland habitat, potentially disturbing cultural artifacts.</p> | <p>The WT website includes information about avoiding disturbance to cultural artifacts.</p> |
| <p>Hydrology</p> | <p>No WT-related construction is planned at this time.</p> | |
| <p>Transportation, Circulation, and Parking</p> | <p>McNears Beach Park has a very large parking lot which is managed by park staff. There is a long entry road even before reaching the park entry kiosk.</p> | <p>Park staff manage high visitor numbers during summer months, when the pool is open and the group picnic areas are in high demand. Increased use by non-motorized small boat users is not expected to be great enough to overwhelm parking.</p> |



McNear's
Beach

- Potential Water Trail Site
- Harbor seal pupping site
- CA clapper rail
- Shipping Channel
- 4 Mile Buffer (from McNear's Beach)
- Primary or secondary harbor seal haul out site
- Active Heronry
- ▨ Potential Hunting Area

CA Harbor Seal data from Water Trail FEIR.
CA Clapper rail data generalized from 2011 California Natural Diversity Database and 2012 Spartina Report. Heronry data from Audubon Canyon Ranch 6/12. Shipping Channel from SF Harbor Safety Committee brochure.



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