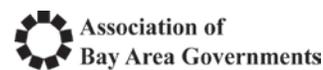




San Francisco Bay Area Water Trail  
 Site Description for  
**Baywinds Park (East Third Avenue)**



**Location, Ownership, and Management:** Baywinds Park (formerly known as East Third Avenue) is considered a world class windsurfing and kiteboarding destination. The site is located in the City of Foster City, approximately one mile north of the San Mateo Bridge. The site is managed by the City of Foster City, which recently upgraded the Park's parking, restrooms, and windsurf and kiteboard rigging areas.

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Rigging Area and Bay Trail	Beach Launch at Low Tide	Lower Launch

**Facility Description:** Baywinds Park is very popular with windsurfers and kiteboarders for its ideal wind conditions and (relatively) warm water conditions. Water access facilities at the site cater towards these craft, and include a large rigging area, washdown station, and concession area for boardsailing instructors and rentals.

Access to the water occurs at three primary locations in the area. The primary access to the Bay is by a steep water entry path in the northern portion of Baywinds Park, near a large astroturf staging area. Access to the water is also available to the south of the park, where a ramp provides access to a small sandy beach. Approximately 0.3 mile from the parking area along the Bay Trail, kiteboarders often access a small beach where wind conditions are more consistent.

The City of Foster City recently completed numerous improvements to the shoreside facilities in collaboration with members of the boardsailing community. These improvements include a large paved parking lot, ADA restrooms, a large astroturf rigging area, artificial lawn, and benches.

**Other Identifying or General Information:**

<p>Site ID: <u>SM13</u>                  In WT Plan: <u>Yes</u>                  Existing or Planned: <u>Existing</u>                  Ownership: <u>Public</u>                  County: <u>San Mateo</u>                  Geo-Region: <u>Peninsula / South Bay</u>                  SF Bay Plan Region: <u>Central Bay South</u>                  Launch or Destination: <u>Launch</u></p>	<p>Home of a Club: <u>Yes</u>                  Used by a Program that Assists Persons with Disabilities: <u>No</u>                  Appreciated for Windy Conditions: <u>Yes</u>                  Near Food or Drink: <u>No</u></p> <p>Proximity to Other Sites: Seal Point Park (SM16) is located approximately one mile north of Baywinds Park. Farther north is Coyote Point (SM17), located approximately three miles from the site. To the south, Beaches on the Bay (SM11) is located approximately two miles from the site.</p>
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**Description of Launch/Landing:**

<p>Fixed Dock/Pier Launch/Landing: <u>No</u>                  Float: <u>No</u>                  Freeboard Level:                  Transfer/Launch Assistance System: <u>No</u>                  Gangway: <u>No</u>                  Water Entry Path: <u>Yes</u>                    Boat/Trailer Ramp: <u>No</u>                  Mudflats Affect Site Usability: <u>Yes</u>                  Beach Wheelchair Available: <u>No</u></p>	<p>Stair Water Entry: <u>No</u>                  Beach: <u>Yes</u>                  Firm-Surface Beach Crossing: <u>No</u>                  Fee for Launch or Parking: <u>No</u>                    Other Launch/Landing Notes: Lower portions of the primary access ramp are covered in algae and can be slippery. The beach at the upper launch site can be muddy at low tides.</p>
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*The upper launch site is popular because it is more exposed to westerly winds and provides a broader launch area that is better for novice windsurfers. The upper launch site is eroding.*

**Site Appears to be Suitable For:**

Kayak: <u>Yes</u> Windsurfer: <u>Yes</u> Kiteboard: <u>Yes</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>No</u> Dragonboat: <u>No</u>
Notes: Kayakers and experienced kiteboarders tend to use the beach launch. The lower launch and upper launch are used by windsurfers and kiteboarders.	

**Transportation and Parking:**

General Spaces: <u>51-75</u> ADA Parking Spaces: <u>6</u>  ADA Parking Description: There are two ADA spots located near the rigging area, and four are located in the middle of the parking lot.  Overnight Parking Allowed: <u>No</u> Loading/Unloading Area: <u>Yes</u>	Bay Trail: <u>Yes</u>  Public Transportation: AC Transit Bus M has a bus stop on Velocity Way and Vintage Park Drive, located approximately half a mile away.  A popular segment of the Bay Trail runs along the length of the park, providing access along the shoreline of Foster City and San Mateo.
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*Due to the ideal wind conditions and relatively warmer waters and climate, as well as spectacular views, Baywinds Park is used by boardsailors from throughout the Bay.*

**Path of Travel:**

Distance to Launch from Parking Area (feet): 265  
 Distance to Launch from ADA Parking (feet): 265  
 Distance to Launch from ADA Restrooms (feet): 480  
 Distance from ADA Restrooms to ADA Parking (feet): 90  
 Path of Travel Exists: Yes



*The path of travel is level and paved from the parking lot to the Bay Trail and along the Bay Trail to the boat ramps. The boat ramps at the Lower Launch and the Beach Launch are steep and not ADA accessible.*

**Other Site Amenities:**

Total Restrooms: 2  
 Total ADA Restrooms: 2  
 Restroom Description: Recently completed ADA restrooms with running water.  
 Boat Washing: Yes  
 Rigging/Staging Area: Yes  
 Picnic Tables: Yes  
 Benches: Yes

BBQ: No  
 Boat Storage: No



*Baywinds Park provides two ADA restrooms.*

**Overnight Accommodations:**

Hotel: <u>No</u>	Hostel: <u>No</u>	Ship: <u>No</u>	Camping: <u>No</u>	Other: <u>No</u>
Accommodations Description: There are a variety of hotels in Foster City and San Mateo; however, none are in the immediate vicinity and it is unknown if they would provide kayak/equipment storage for paddlers on multi-day trips.				

**Additional Notes Related to Accessibility:**

Baywinds Park was recently redesigned to include a variety of accessible features including parking, restrooms, benches, and access to paved segments the Bay Trail.

Water access consists of steep ramps to the water for the Lower Launch and the Beach Launch. Users must scramble over a small amount of riprap to reach the beach at

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

Baywinds is a very popular site for windsurfers and kiteboarders. At peak summer days there can be over 100 kites on the water.

The proximity of the golf course fencing can make wind turbulent at the primary launch site, so Baywinds is suitable for experienced kites, not for learners. Many surfers will launch from the "upper launch" which is located approximately 0.3 miles to the north of the parking area. Here there is a small beach that is more open to the wind and more suitable for beginners.

**Safety and Security, including Parking:**

Emergency situations at the site are relatively rare, despite the high number of users. Boarders typically will help each other out when someone experiences equipment malfunctions or other issues. The site is regularly patrolled by the Foster City Fire Department and the US Coast Guard is also known to have prompt response times in the area. Long-time users report feeling very good about emergency response times in case of emergency.

**Wildlife and Habitat Considerations:**

The site is located approximately four miles from restored habitats at Bair Island. Smaller wetland areas that potentially provide habitat for sensitive species are located closer to the site. As the site is primarily utilized by wind surfers and kiteboarders that utilize open waters of the Bay, there is a lower potential for boaters to enter or disturb wetland areas.

Due the site’s popularity and high level of current use, it is doubtful that Water Trail designation would substantially increase use in a way that may affect wildlife or habitat.

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

The upper launch site is eroding and loss of this site would substantially lessen the ability of novice kiteboarders to utilize the site. The longer term protection of this site would ensure it continues to serve as a world class kiteboarding site.

**Accessibility of Sites within the Peninsula / South Bay Geo-Region:**

There are twelve potential/existing Water Trail sites identified within this geo-region: Oyster Point Marina; Colma Creek; Old Bayshore Highway; Coyote Point Recreation Area; Coyote Point Marina; Seal Point Park; Baywinds Park; Beaches on the Bay; Redwood City Municipal Marina; Docktown Marina; Palo Alto Baylands Sail Station; and Alviso Marina County Park. Of these, the Redwood City Municipal Marina, Palo Alto Baylands Sail Station, and Alviso Marina County Park provide broadly accessible facilities.

The experiences that are available in the Peninsula/South Bay Geo-Region are a mixture of urban and more rural experiences in slough environments. There are several sites that offer a variety of accessible features. As mentioned above, the Redwood City Municipal Marina provides a low-freeboard dock, accessible parking, accessible restrooms, and a loading and unloading area. Palo Alto Baylands also provides a low-freeboard dock and ADA gangway and is scheduled for renovation by the City of Palo Alto to include ADA restrooms. Alviso Marina County Park has ADA high and low-freeboard docks, loading/unloading areas, and accessible parking

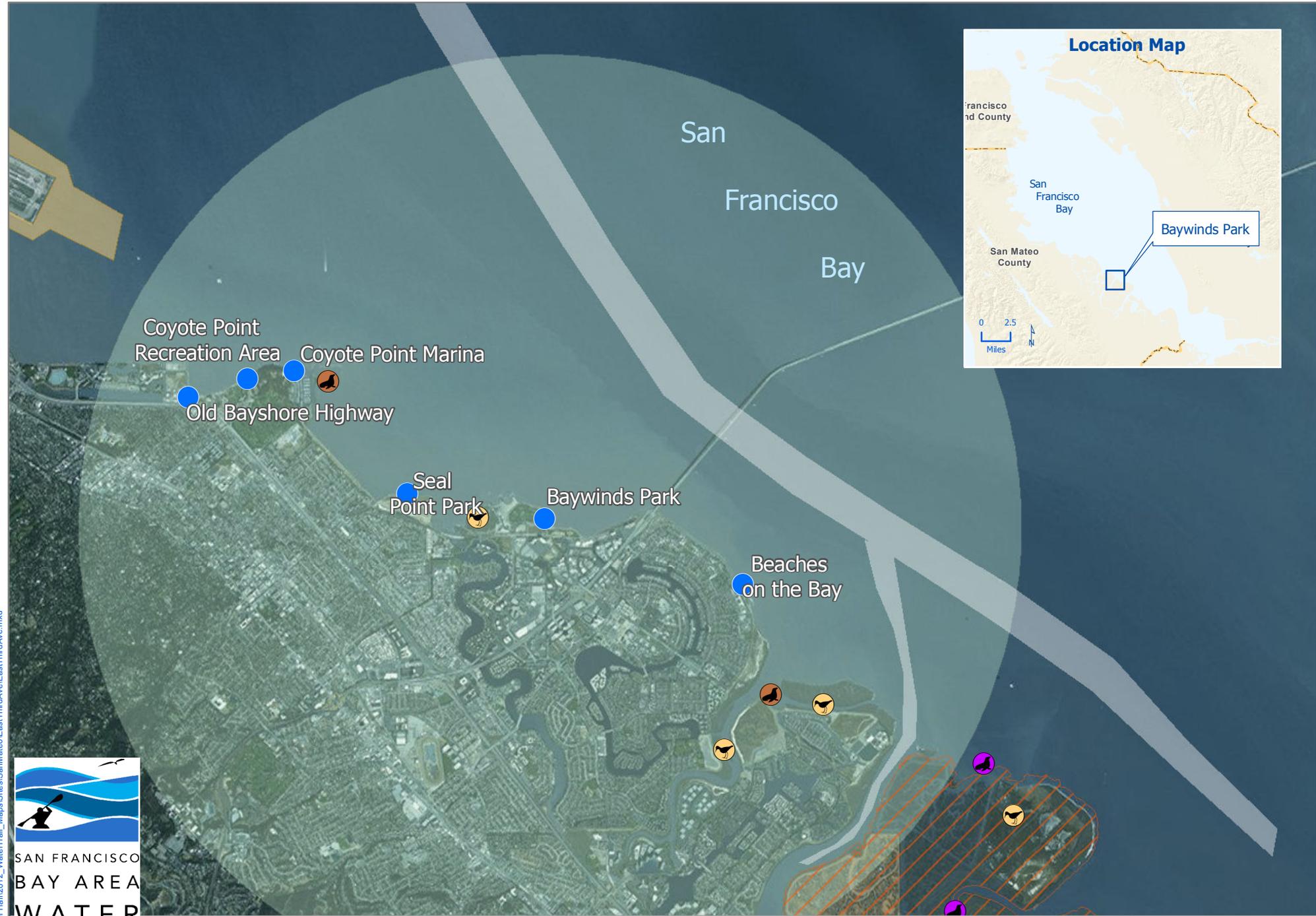
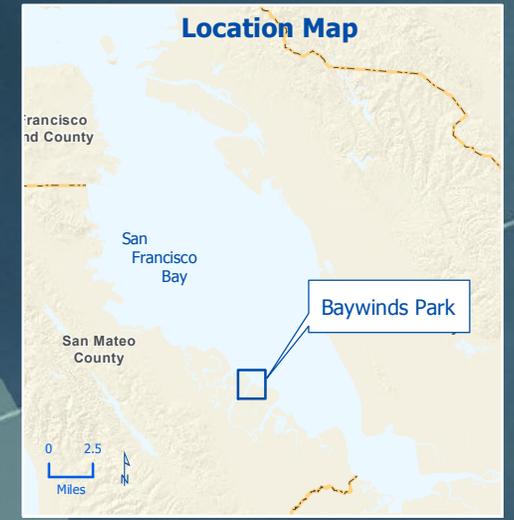
**Summary of Environmental Review  
based on the  
San Francisco Bay Area Water Trail Plan Final Environmental Impact Report**

**Baywinds Park  
March 11, 2016**

<b>Resource Area</b>	<b>Impacts Analysis</b>	<b>Notes</b>
<p>Recreation References: WT DREIR, pp. 3-32 to 3-37.</p>	<p>The site is heavily used and congestion on the Bay Trail does occur. Non-motorized small boat users walking to the launch sites with their gear do cross paths with Bay Trail users. The potential increase in use is not expected to increase the facility use beyond its capacity or preclude existing recreational activities.</p> <p>There is hunting within four miles of the site at Bair Island.</p>	<p>Water Trail users may submit comments to Water Trail staff through the website if they witness or experience recreational conflict at any designated site. Foster City will add additional signage and will stripe the Bay Trail in this section to educate users to share the trail and slow down bicyclists. 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>There is a shipping channel nearby. Users should be aware of tides and currents and how to boat near other vessels. The site is heavily used by windsurfers and kiteboarders.</p>	<p>The Water Trail educational sign provides safety information related to navigational and personal boating safety. All users should understand the use pattern at the site.</p>
<p>Aesthetics References: WT DREIR pp. 3-56 to 3-68.</p>	<p>Baywinds Park is considered an urban launch, characterized by the developed public boat launch in a well-maintained park adjacent to recreational and commercial uses.</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 Foster City to ensure that the I.D. sign and additional educational sign do not result in sign clutter.</p>

<b>Resource Area</b>	<b>Impacts Analysis</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Biology- Vegetation References: WT DREIR pp. 3-69 to 3-92 and Table 3.7.2-1 and Table 3.7.2-2.	There is marsh habitat within four miles of the site. It is unlikely that windsurfers and kiteboarders will enter the marshes. There is the potential for kayakers and stand up paddlers to reach marsh habitat.	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.
Biology – Birds <i>References: WT FEIR text and map</i>	There are no active heron or egret rookeries located within four miles of the site.	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.
Biology – Rafting Waterfowl References: WT DREIR pp. 3-93 to 3-131 and Table 3.8.2-1, Figure 3.8.2-1.	This site provides access to areas where rafting waterfowl may congregate.	Avoiding disturbance of rafting waterfowl is addressed in the Water Trail educational sign, brochure, and website.
Biology – Ridgway’s rail and California black rail and high tide refugia References: WT DREIR pp. 3-93 to 3-131 and Figure 3.8.2-2	Ridgway’s rails have been detected north and south of the site, along the San Mateo shoreline.	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.
Biology –Western Snowy Plover References: WT DREIR pp. 3-93 to 3-131 and Figures 3.8.2-3	Unique or important western snowy plover habitat does not exist at Baywinds Park.	The Water Trail educational sign and brochure include bird avoidance information.

<b>Resource Area</b>	<b>Impacts Analysis</b>	<b>Notes</b>
<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 two harbor seal primary or secondary haul-out sites within four miles of this site. Coyote Point and Belmont Slough are both secondary haul-outs. No pupping sites are within four miles. It is unlikely that kite boarders and windsurfers would reach these sites, but kayakers and stand up paddlers could travel to these locations.</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.</p>
<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 is found in the marshes north and south of the sites. It is unlikely that kite boarders and windsurfers would reach these sites, but kayakers and stand up paddlers could travel to these locations.</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 or on levees.</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>No changes to site hydrology would occur at the site.</p>
<p>Transportation, Circulation, and Parking</p>	<p>Parking can become congested during weekends. The lot is used by Bay Trail and Water Trail users.</p>	<p>Increased use by non-motorized small boat users is not expected to be great enough to overwhelm parking.</p>



SAN FRANCISCO  
BAY AREA  
WATER  
TRAIL

## Baywinds Park, City of Foster City

- Potential Water Trail Site
- 4 Mile Buffer (from East Third Ave.)
- Harbor seal pupping site
- Primary or secondary harbor seal haul out site
- CA clapper rail
- Shipping Channel
- Potential Hunting Area

CA Harbor Seal data from Water Trail FEIR. Ridgway's rail data generalized from 2015 California Natural Diversity Database and 2012 Spartina Report. Shipping Channel from SF Harbor Safety Committee brochure.

0 0.6 Miles

(3/2/2016)

Path: N:\GIS\WaterTrail\2012\_WaterTrail\_Maps\Slies\SanMateo\EastThirdAve\EastThirdAve.mxd