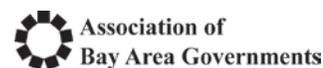




San Francisco Bay Area Water Trail  
Site Description for  
**Big Break Regional Shoreline**



**Location, Ownership, and Management:** Big Break Regional Shoreline offers a broad array of amenities to allow visitors to experience and learn about the Inland Coast. The site is located in the City of Oakley near the confluence of the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers, and is managed by the East Bay Regional Park District.

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<p><i>The boat launch is a sheltered sandy beach, accessible from ADA trails within the park.</i></p>	<p><i>The Kayak Program Storage holds kayaks, paddles, life jackets and associated equipment.</i></p>	<p><i>ADA restrooms are well sited for paddlers, located near the boat launch.</i></p>

**Facility Description:** Big Break Regional Shoreline is very popular with kayakers and canoers for its diverse paddling experiences and incredible bird watching. Water access facilities at the site include an accessible path that leads to a beach on small sheltered cove. The beach is composed of sand that tends to be compacted and consolidated. The beach launch is located approximately ¼ mile from the parking area. Wheeled kayak carts are provided free for use from the Visitor Center.

Big Break also offers kayak programs and maintains a fleet of kayaks, paddles and associated equipment in a storage building located near the beach launch. Kayak programs occur throughout the spring, summer, and fall for residents, visitors, and school classes.

Other facilities at Big Break Regional Shoreline include picnic and meadow areas, a small shaded amphitheater, ADA restrooms, and a fishing pier. The recently constructed Visitor Center includes interpretive and interactive displays about the natural and cultural history of the Delta and is staffed by Park District naturalists who can give information about the park and specific activities in the area. It also includes the Delta Discovery Experience - an “interpretive landscape” depicting the Delta watershed - outdoor use areas for interpretive and educational exhibits and programs highlighting the Delta, its ecosystems, and wildlife.



**Other Identifying or General Information:**

<p>Site ID: <u>CC24</u>                  In WT Plan: <u>Yes</u>                  Existing or Planned: <u>Existing</u>                  Ownership: <u>Public</u>                  County: <u>Contra Costa</u>                  Geo-Region: <u>Suisun/Delta</u>                  Launch or Destination: <u>Launch</u>                  Home of a Club: <u>No</u>                  Used by a Program that Assists Persons with Disabilities: <u>Yes</u>                  Appreciated for Windy Conditions: <u>No</u>                  Near Food or Drink: <u>No</u></p>	<p>Proximity to Other Sites: The nearest location is the Antioch Marina, located approximately 5.5 miles west on the San Joaquin River. Bay Point Regional Shoreline, which does not currently have water access facilities, is located 9.0 miles farther west. A popular kayak and camp location, Sherman Island, is located adjacent to Big Break, 1.5 miles to the north.</p>
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**Description of Launch/Landing:**

<p>Fixed Dock/Pier Launch/Landing: <u>No</u>                  Float: <u>No</u>                  Transfer/Launch Assistance System: <u>No</u>                  Gangway: <u>No</u>                  Boat/Trailer Ramp: <u>No</u>                  Mudflats Affect Site Usability: <u>No</u>                  Beach Wheelchair Available: <u>No</u>                  Stair Water Entry: <u>No</u>                  Beach: <u>Yes</u>                  Firm-Surface Beach Crossing: <u>No</u>                  Water Entry Path: <u>No</u>                  Fee for Launch or Parking: <u>No</u></p>	<p>Other Launch/Landing Notes: Parking is approximately 1/4 mile from the launch; however, EBRPD provides complimentary kayak/canoe dollies to transport boats and gear from the parking area to the launch. The beach substrate is sand.</p> <p>Restrictions: Invasive species can sometimes clog the small cove, requiring removal by District staff and/or volunteers.</p>
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Water access facilities at the site include an accessible path that leads to a beach on a small sheltered cove. The beach is composed of sand that tends to be compacted and consolidated. Installation of a mobi-mat or Grass Protecta could further enhance the accessibility of the site.

**Site Appears to be Suitable For:**

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>No</u> Dragonboat: <u>No</u>
Notes: Paddlers enjoy Big Break due to its proximity to the rivers and sloughs of the Inland Coast. It is a particularly popular launch for kayak fishers. The launch offers opportunities to explore nearby islands and shorelines, exceptional bird watching, and to view historic sites along the river.	

**Transportation and Parking:**

General Spaces (number): <u>50</u> ADA Parking Spaces (number): <u>5</u>  ADA Parking Description: Van accessible paved parking area.  Duration (hours): <u>10</u> Overnight Parking Allowed: <u>No</u> Loading/Unloading Area: <u>No</u>	Trails: The Big Break Regional Trail provides access for hikers, bicyclists, and equestrians to the southeastern edge of the estuary. The trail connects to the Marsh Creek Regional Trail, providing access to Brentwood and Oakley.  Public Transportation: Tri Delta Transit #300 provides service to Vintage Parkway and Big Break Road on weekdays, approximately 0.6 miles from the launch.
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**Path of Travel:**

Distance to Launch from Parking Area (feet): <u>1,580</u> Distance to Launch from ADA Parking (feet): <u>1,580</u> Distance to Launch from ADA Restrooms (feet): <u>173</u> Distance from ADA Restrooms to ADA Parking (feet): <u>20 (ADA restrooms in parking lot)</u> Path of Travel Exists: <u>Yes</u>  Path of Travel Description: Paved path leading directly to waters edge (at high tide), and to small sandy beach. The Big Break Regional Trail is paved and relatively flat. Wheelchair accessible drinking fountains and an ADA restroom are located adjacent to the trail.
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**Other Site Amenities:**

<p>Total Restrooms: <u>6</u>                  Total ADA Restrooms: <u>6</u>                  Restroom Description: Two restrooms are in the parking lot, two restrooms are at the launch site, and two restrooms are in the visitor center. The parking lot and visitor center restrooms have running water. The launch restrooms are pit toilets.</p>	<p>Boat Washing: <u>No</u>                  Rigging/Staging Area: <u>No</u>                  Picnic Tables: <u>Yes</u>                  Benches: <u>Yes</u>                  BBQ: <u>Yes</u>                  Boat Storage: <u>No public storage</u>                  Boat Storage Description: <u>Program use only</u></p>
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**Overnight Accommodations:**

Hotel: <u>No</u>	Hostel: <u>No</u>	Ship: <u>No</u>	Camping: <u>No</u>	Other: <u>No</u>
<p>Groups have been allowed to camp on park lawns with prior coordination with Park District staff. Big Break Regional Shoreline is identified in the District’s Camping Program Update (2014) as potentially being eligible for development of kayak accessible camping facilities.</p>				

**Additional Notes Related to Accessibility:**

The site offers accessible parking, restrooms and path of travel to the water at high tides; however, the beach launch surface and slope may limit access for those with mobility impairments during lower tides. Except for during the lowest tides, the length of beach to cross from the end of the paved path of travel is short (<15 feet). A mobi-mat or Grass Protecta may further increase the accessibility of the site.

**Safety and Security, including Parking:**

Duck hunting occurs in nearby wetlands October to February. Outside the Big Break, small craft should be cautious and avoid the barges and other large ships that frequent the shipping lanes along the San Joaquin River. Cargo ships, motorized boats, and sailboats are regularly moving along the San Joaquin River, so small non-motorized boats need to take caution to avoid these vessels.

Winds and currents on the San Joaquin River can be strong; paddlers need to take care to stay within their skill level.

**Wildlife and Habitat Considerations:**

Big Break is home to 70 species of birds and several species of mammals. Twenty-seven special-status wildlife species have the potential to occur within the parkland; six special-status wildlife species are known to occur. Nesting is confirmed or suspected for black rails, northern harriers, white-tailed kites, and yellow-breasted chats. Many wading birds, including great blue herons, great egrets, snowy egrets, green herons and white-faced ibis, forage in the tidal sloughs and freshwater marshes.

Big Break Regional Shoreline provides extensive interpretation and outreach to enhance knowledge of sensitive species and habitats in the region. Additional Water Trail signage will further user education about appropriate wildlife interaction practices.

**Education, Outreach, and Stewardship, Including Signage:**

The Visitor Center is open 10AM - 4PM. It has bathrooms, drinking fountains, and interactive and interpretive exhibits. There is also a 3D model of the Bay near the launch site. Park Naturalists conduct a variety of programs for both organized groups and the public. Programs are offered on a variety of subjects including Delta history and current issues, birding, wetland ecology, and general nature exploration.

**Accessibility of Sites within the Suisun/Delta Geo-Region:**

There are six potential/existing Water Trail sites identified within this geo-region: Suisun City Marina (designated); Downtown Suisun City (designated); Belden's Landing; Antioch Marina; Big Break Regional Shoreline; and Bay Point Regional Shoreline. Of these, the Suisun City Marina, Downtown Suisun, Antioch Marina, and Big Break Regional Shoreline provide a variety of accessible facilities. The Suisun City Marina provides accessible parking, accessible restrooms, and a loading and unloading area. The City of Suisun is pursuing a grant for a low-freeboard attachment to the existing high-freeboard dock. Downtown Suisun City also provides an ADA gangway to a high-freeboard dock and ADA parking. The Antioch Marina provides accessible parking and accessible restrooms.

The experiences that are available in the Suisun/Delta Geo-Region are primarily more rural experiences in slough environments.

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

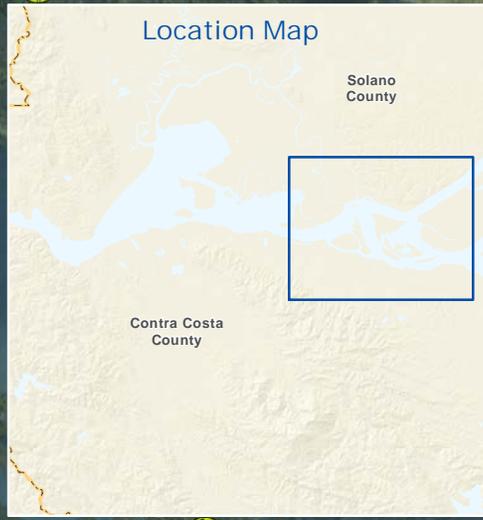
**Big Break Regional Shoreline  
June 10, 2016**

<b>Resource Area</b>	<b>Impacts Analysis</b>	<b>Notes</b>
<p>Recreation References: WT DREIR, pp. 3-32 to 3-37.</p>	<p>Big Break Regional Shoreline has a sheltered beach launch, parking, restrooms, visitor center, kayak programs, a pier and observation deck, and a picnic area. Facilities are well maintained and have sufficient capacity to accommodate increased levels of use.</p> <p>Hunting is allowed in many the marshes within four miles of the site, although hunting is not allowed in any of the marshes immediately adjacent to the site.</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. The Water Trail educational sign would include 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>Small boat users should be aware of winds, tides, and currents and how to boat near other vessels on the San Joaquin River.</p>	<p>The Water Trail educational sign that would be installed provides information related to navigational and personal boating safety.</p>

<b>Resource Area</b>	<b>Impacts Analysis</b>	<b>Notes</b>
<p>Aesthetics References: WT DREIR pp. 3-56 to 3-68.</p>	<p>Big Break Regional Shoreline is considered an urban/wildland interface site, characterized by the public park adjacent to industrial facilities, backed by views of marshes across the Big Break and rising hills beyond. Big Break Regional Shoreline currently has a variety of interpretive signs throughout the park.</p>	<p>The Water Trail will require the inclusion of a Water Trail identification sign at the site as well as the educational sign. A “sign program” will be developed with East Bay Regional Parks District to ensure that the I.D. signs and educational signs do not result in sign clutter at the site.</p>
<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>There is marsh habitat along the shoreline adjacent to the launch and across the Big Break. Boaters could explore the Big Break, San Joaquin River, and the sloughs surrounding it. Endangered and rare plant species such as Suisun marsh aster and soft salty bird’s-beak have been found in the area.</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 is currently one active heron or egret rookery located within four miles of the site. Nesting is confirmed or suspected for black rails, northern harriers, white-tailed kites, and yellow-breasted chats. Many wading birds, including great blue herons, great egrets, snowy egrets, green herons and white-faced ibis, forage in the tidal sloughs and freshwater marshes. Bald eagles are also occasionally sighted near Big Break.</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, and to avoid landing in the marsh or on levees. The WT website and brochure include more detailed information about not disturbing nesting birds.</p>

<b>Resource Area</b>	<b>Impacts Analysis</b>	<b>Notes</b>
<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 may congregate.</p>	<p>Avoiding disturbance of rafting waterfowl is addressed in the Water Trail educational sign, brochure, and website.</p>
<p>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 Personal Communication with CDFW</p>	<p>Black rail and Ridgway’s rail are present in the nearby 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) and staying clear of high-tide refugia, and 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 and California Least Tern References: WT DREIR pp. 3-93 to 3-131 and Figure 3.8.2-3, Personal Communication with CDFW</p>	<p>Unique or important western snowy plover or least tern habitat does not exist in the vicinity of Big Break.</p>	<p>Signage is needed to emphasize the importance of keeping a 650-foot buffer from sensitive habitat and staying clear of high-tide refugia, and that landing in marshes and on levees is prohibited. The Water Trail educational sign, brochure and website include this information.</p>
<p>Biology – Northwestern Pond Turtles: References Water Trail DREIR, Personal Communication with CDFW</p>	<p>Northwestern pond turtles are generally found in freshwater ponds, including within Big Break’s upland ponds, not in sloughs. There is suitable woody debris where the turtles would bask along Big Break.</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>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 primary or secondary harbor seal 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.</p>

<b>Resource Area</b>	<b>Impacts Analysis</b>	<b>Notes</b>
<p>Biology – Other Species References: WT DREIR pp. 3-132 to 3-156 San Francisco Estuary Institute Salt Marsh Harvest Mouse Data</p>	<p>Habitat for salt marsh harvest mouse occurs throughout the nearby marshes.</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 References: WT DREIR pp. 3-163</p>	<p>No WT-related construction is planned at this time. NMSB users are not allowed to land in adjacent wetland habitat, which would prevent potential disturbance of 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 hydrological changes would occur from existing conditions.</p>
<p>Transportation, Circulation, and Parking</p>	<p>The site has a large parking lot that can accommodate users.</p>	<p>Increased use by non-motorized small boat users is not expected to overwhelm parking or road capacity.</p>



SAN FRANCISCO  
BAY AREA  
WATER  
TRAIL

Antioch Marina & Big Break Regional Shoreline

- Potential Water Trail Site
- 4 Mile Buffer (from primary access)
- Active Heronry
- Ridgway's / Black rail
- Shipping Channel

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



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