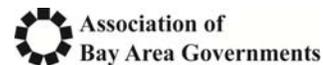




San Francisco Bay Area Water Trail
 Site Description for
Petaluma Marina



Location, Ownership, and Management: The Petaluma Marina is located on the Petaluma River and is owned and managed by the City of Petaluma. The Marina is located east of downtown Petaluma, off of Lakeville Street near where Highway 101 crosses the Petaluma River. The Marina is developed with restaurants, shops, offices and a hotel. Day-to-day management of the Marina and boat launch facilities are handled by the Harbormaster.

Contact Name: Brodhun, Scott (City of Petaluma)

Contact Phone: (707) 778-4511

Contact E-mail: sbrodhun@ci.petaluma.ca.us

		
Large parking area	Two docks and one ramp	Paid NMSB storage

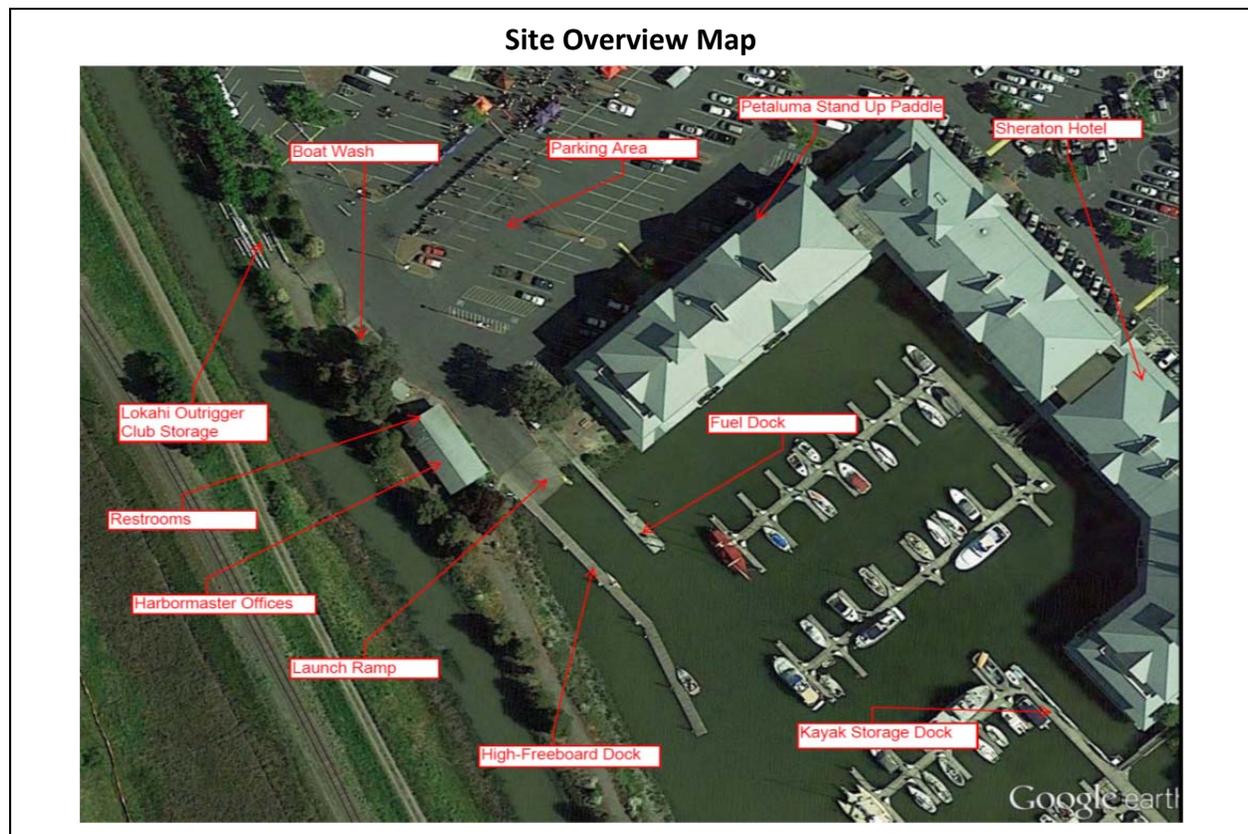
Facility Description: The Petaluma Marina serves both motorized and non-motorized boat users, providing access to the Petaluma River, which is navigable to the San Francisco Bay. Boat launch facilities consist of a corrugated cement boat ramp with two high-freeboard docks located on the sides of the ramps. The west high-freeboard dock is made of wood and extends 215 feet from from near the Marina Offices and restrooms into the Marina. The east high-freeboard dock has a gangway that leads to a cement and wood floating dock that contains a fuel pump station. The site is designed primarily for trailered boats, but is used by many different boat types. Non-motorized small boats observed at the site include kayaks, rowboats, paddle boards, outriggers, and canoes. Other boat types include powerboats, sailboats, and small boats with outboard motors.

Although the Marina is oriented towards trailered boats, the site provides a variety of facilities that make it a good launch for non-motorized small boats. The site has ample parking and access to a variety of nearby amenities, including the adjacent marina complex that includes a hotel, restaurants, and a stand-up paddle board vendor. Restrooms are located approximately 30 feet west of the ramps. Paid parking is available in a large lot north of the site. Parking for boat trailers is allowed for up to 72 consecutive hours and parking near the hotel has no posted time restrictions. The parking area has six ADA spaces in the vicinity of the docks. The Marina

also offers paid public kayak storage (\$95/3-months) and has a designated storage area for a local outrigger club.

Other Identifying or General Information:

<p>Site ID: <u>Sn6</u> In WT Plan: <u>Yes</u> Existing or Planned: <u>Existing</u> Ownership: <u>Public</u> County: <u>Sonoma</u> Geo-Region: <u>Petaluma River</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>No</u> Near Food or Drink: <u>Yes</u></p> <p>Proximity to Other Sites: The Petaluma River Turning Basin (Sn7) is located 1.5 miles upriver and Papa's Taverna/Lakeville Marina (Sn 5) is located 4.5 miles downriver. Black Point Boat Launch (M47) is approximately 12 miles downriver from the Marina.</p>
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Description of Launch/Landing:

<p>Fixed Dock/Pier Launch/Landing: <u>No</u> Float: <u>Yes</u> Freeboard Level: <u>High (9" and above)</u> Transfer/Launch Assistance System: <u>No</u> Gangway: <u>Yes</u> Gangway Length (feet): <u>51</u> Gangway Width (inches): <u>36</u> Gangway Slope Description: The gangway on the Fuel Dock has a substantial slope at low tides. There is a transition plate to the cement dock. Boat/Trailer Ramp: <u>Yes</u> Mudflats Affect Site Usability: <u>No</u> Beach Wheelchair Available: <u>No</u> Stair Water Entry: <u>No</u> Beach: <u>No</u> Firm-Surface Beach Crossing: <u>No</u> Water Entry Path: <u>No</u></p>	<p>Fee for Launch or Parking: <u>\$5 fee to launch trailered boats. No fee for hand-carried NMSBs.</u> Other Launch/Landing Notes: The harbormaster has noted there is need for additional NMSB-user education regarding site use courtesy and sharing of facilities.</p>  <p><i>A floating boarding pier provides access to the wooden high-freeboard dock.</i></p>
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Site Appears to be Suitable For:

<p>Kayak: <u>Yes</u> Windsurfer: <u>No</u> Kiteboard: <u>No</u> Whaleboat: <u>Yes</u> Stand Up Paddleboard: <u>Yes</u></p>	<p>Canoe: <u>Yes</u> Outrigger Canoe: <u>Yes</u> Sculling: <u>Yes</u> Rowboat/Dinghy: <u>Yes</u> Dragonboat: <u>Yes</u></p>
 <p><i>Lokahi Outrigger Canoe club stores their boats and frequently uses this site. Petaluma Stand Up Paddle is located at the Marina, offering rentals, classes, and equipment sales.</i></p>	

Transportation and Parking:

<p>General Spaces (number): <u>51-75</u> ADA Parking Spaces (number): <u>6</u></p> <p>ADA Parking Description: <u>5 spots for trailers, 1 near dock.</u></p> <p>Duration (hours): <u>72</u> Overnight Parking Allowed: <u>Yes</u></p> <p>Overnight Parking Description: <u>Unlimited parking duration near the hotel.</u></p> <p>Loading/Unloading Area: <u>Yes</u></p>	<p>Bay Trail: <u>Yes (connector trail)</u></p> <p>Public Transportation: The area is served by the Route 24 Bus Line, which runs from Downtown Petaluma past the Marina. A bus stop is located at the intersection of Lakeville Highway and Marina Avenue, approximately 0.3 miles from the boat launch.</p>
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Path of Travel:

Distance to Launch from Parking Area (feet): 120
 Distance to Launch from ADA Parking (feet): 80
 Distance to Launch from Restrooms (feet): 100
 Distance from Restrooms to ADA Parking (feet): 80
 Path of Travel Exists: Yes

Path of Travel Description: Asphalt parking lot to launch



No accessible path of travel is available to the Fuel Dock. The West Dock is wood and does not have transition plates and is not considered to be broadly accessible.

Other Site Amenities:

<p>Total Restrooms: <u>2</u> Total ADA Restrooms: <u>2</u> Restroom Description: Bathroom is open when harbormaster is present, which usually is Tuesday to Thursday, 10AM-3:30PM, and Friday to Sunday 8AM to 5PM.</p> <p>Boat Washing: <u>Yes</u> Rigging/Staging Area: <u>No</u> Picnic Tables: <u>No</u> Benches: <u>No</u></p>	<p>BBQ: <u>No</u> Boat Storage: <u>Yes</u></p> <p>Boat Storage Description: On locked dock. \$95/quarter</p>
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Overnight Accommodations:

Hotel: <u>Yes</u>	Hostel: <u>No</u>	Ship: <u>No</u>	Camping: <u>No</u>	Other: <u>No</u>
Accommodations Description: The Sharaton Sonoma County Hotel 707-283-2888				

Additional Notes Related to Accessibility:

<p>The accessibility of launch facilities at this site appears to be marginal; the only options for water entry are from the boat ramp or high-freeboard docks. The Fuel Dock has a gangway with transition plates to the cement dock. The path of travel to the dock is not accessible, as the top of the gangway is located in an area that is unpaved and there is no ramp over the curb. The West Dock is made of wood, which is rough in places and prone to splintering.</p> <p>The shoreside facilities around the Marina are better, with a path of travel (not marked), sidewalks, restrooms, and parking that all appear to be ADA accessible and well maintained. An asphalt ramp provides access over the curb from the parking area to the restrooms.</p>
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Additional Notes on Use of Site (Boating and Non-Boating) and Existing and Planned Management:

The Marina is used primarily for boat berthing and access to the Petaluma River by both motorized and non-motorized boaters. Motorized uses primarily consist of personal fishing boats and pleasure cruisers. No swimming, bathing, or wading is allowed from the ramp. The marina also offers paid public kayak storage (\$95/quarter) and has a designated storage area for the Lokahi Outrigger Canoe Club (OCC).

The Lokahi OCC has operated for 24 years from the Marina and maintains a membership of approximately 140 members. Boats are stored in an outdoor area near the harbormaster offices, and share a small storage shed for life jackets, paddles, and other equipment. Paddlers typically launch from the boat ramp. The Lohaki help to maintain the storage area and adjacent trail in exchange for use of the area. Use of the site fluctuates throughout the year, but boats are often in use five days per week during the spring and summer racing seasons. Most members are from the City of Petaluma. In recent years, over half of all members are youth ages 7 to 19. The Lokahi OCC use the Petaluma River for training, typically paddling areas between Shollenberger Park and the Turning Basin.

The Marina is also utilized by patrons and staff of Petaluma Stand Up Paddle (SUP), which provides rentals, sales, classes (SUP yoga), and tours from their shop at the Marina.

Safety and Security, including Parking:

There is an Army Corps of Engineers authorized navigation channel leading from San Pablo Bay up the Petaluma River. This channel is 100 feet wide and 8 feet deep from the mouth of the Petaluma River to the Turning Basin. Use of this channel by large barges or other commercial vessels is infrequent, but boaters should be aware of how to navigate near other vessels.

For emergencies, users may call the Sheriff's Marine Unit at (707) 433-0728 or 911.

This launch is used primarily by motorized boats and can get crowded on weekends, so care needs to be taken to avoid user conflicts. Motorized boats and sailboats are regularly moving throughout the marina, particularly near the mouth of the marina, so small non-motorized boats need to take caution to avoid these vessels.

Wildlife and Habitat Considerations:

The lower 12 miles of the Petaluma River flow through the Petaluma Marsh, the largest remaining salt marsh in San Pablo Bay. The marsh covers 5,000 acres and is surrounded by approximately 7,000 acres of reclaimed wetlands. Recreation within this area includes bird watching and wildlife viewing, boating, fishing, and hunting. The Marina and Petaluma River are regularly patrolled by CDFW wardens.

Discussions with the harbormaster and Lohaki OCC indicate most paddlers explore the Petaluma River between Shollenberger Park and the Turning Basin, which offer both urban and rural paddling experiences. It is anticipated that increased NMSB use of the site would continue to be focussed within this section of the River. Those venturing as far south as Papa's Taverna or to Black Point Boat launch are anticipated to be limited to a smaller number of more experienced paddlers.

Education, Outreach, and Stewardship, Including Signage:

Friends of the Petaluma River offers a variety of tours and interpretive programs to promote stewardship of the Petaluma River and Watershed. The Lohaki OCC provides some stewardship of the Marina, as described above.

Accessibility of Sites within the Petaluma River Geo-Region:

There are four potential Water Trail sites within this geo-region: Petaluma Turning Basin, Petaluma Marina, Lakeville Marina (Papa's Taverna), and Black Point Boat Launch. There are no beaches, and currently no low-float docks or transfer systems within this group of sites.

At the Petaluma Turning Basin, the Petaluma Small Craft Center will be adding a low-float dock and boating concession facility to the existing high-freeboard dock. These improvements have been designed to meet or exceed ADA requirements and will provide broadly accessible NMSB access for the public. In addition, this site will have an accessible restroom added as part of the project.

The future of the Lakeville Marina as a public launch site is unknown. Black Point Boat Launch is currently a broadly accessible boat launch site for those NMSB types and individuals who use high-freeboard docks or boat launch ramps to enter and/or launch their watercraft.

The experiences that are available within the Petaluma Geo-Region include both rural and urban environments, wildlife viewing, river or Bay paddling, and participation in events and festivals in Petaluma, where there are also restaurants and overnight accommodations. To the south of Black Point Boat Launch in the Marin/West San Pablo Geo-Region, there are wetlands and beaches.

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

**Petaluma Marina
December 9, 2015**

Resource Area	Impacts Analysis	Notes
<p>Recreation References: WT DREIR, pp. 3-32 to 3-37.</p>	<p>Petaluma Marina has a boat ramp, a high-freeboard dock, parking, and restrooms. Facilities are well maintained and have sufficient capacity to accommodate increased levels of use, despite facilities getting crowded on weekends. Although the launch facilities are primarily designed for trailered motorized boats, non-motorized small boat use is compatible and increased use would not be anticipated to result in conflicts.</p> <p>Hunting is allowed in portions of the Petaluma Marsh Wildlife Area, which encompasses much of the shoreline to the west of the Petaluma River.</p>	<p>Regarding recreational conflicts, 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 warning about seasonal hunting in the Bay (Oct – Jan) and includes State Fish and Wildlife website links for specific information. Additional language could be added to the sign to encourage considerate shared use of facilities by NMSB users.</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 tides and currents and must always avoid impeding larger vessels in the Marina.</p> <p>There is an Army Corps of Engineers authorized navigation channel leading from San Pablo Bay up the Petaluma River. This channel is 100 feet wide and 8 feet deep from the mouth of the Petaluma River to the Turning Basin. Use of this channel by large barges or other commercial vessels is infrequent, but boaters should be aware of how to navigate near other vessels.</p>	<p>The Water Trail educational sign provides safety information related to navigational and personal boating safety.</p>

Resource Area	Impacts Analysis	Notes
<p>Aesthetics References: WT DREIR pp. 3-56 to 3-68.</p>	<p>Petaluma Marina is considered an urban launch, characterized by the developed public boat launch and marina adjacent to shops, a hotel, and restaurants. The Marina does not currently have sign boards near the launch except for parking restriction signs, fishing restrictions, and a reminder for boat operators to pay the \$5 launch fee.</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 the City of Petaluma to ensure that the I.D. sign and additional educational sign 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>The Petaluma Marina is generally developed and no sensitive species occur within the launch 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. A hose for boat rinsing is available at the site.</p>
<p>Biology – Birds <i>References: WT FEIR text and map</i></p>	<p>There are currently active heron or egret rookeries located within four miles of the site. Black rail and Ridgway’s rail are known to occur in the Petaluma marshes throughout the year. California least tern is found throughout marshes in the area from end of April through August.</p>	<p>The WT educational sign includes information about how to paddle responsibly around wildlife and to maintain a buffer distance from nesting birds. The WT website and brochure include more detailed information about not disturbing nesting birds.</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>
<p>Cultural Resources</p>	<p>No WT-related construction is planned at this time. NMSB users are not anticipated to land in regional wetland habitat (i.e., are not expected to enter areas where they could potentially disturb cultural artifacts).</p>	<p>The WT website includes information about avoiding disturbance to cultural artifacts, and the WT sign advises NMSB users to avoid landing in marshes.</p>
<p>Hydrology</p>	<p>No WT-related construction is planned at this time.</p>	<p>There would be no changes to site hydrology from site designation.</p>

Resource Area	Impacts Analysis	Notes
Transportation, Circulation, and Parking	Petaluma Marina has a large parking lot, which is managed by City staff. The entry road has sufficient capacity for existing and foreseeable future use.	City staff manage high visitor numbers during summer months. Increased use by non-motorized small boat users is not expected to be great enough to overwhelm parking or result in added traffic congestion at the nearest intersection.



Petaluma River Turning Basin & Marina

- 4 Mile Buffer (From Petaluma Sites)
- Existing Water Trail Sites
- Potential Water Trail Sites
- Potential Hunting Area
- Active Heronry

Heronry data from Audubon Canyon Ranch 6/2012 and personal communication on 5/30/13 with Emiko Condeso, Audubon Canyon Ranch.



(12/3/2015)

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