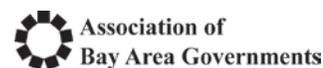




San Francisco Bay Area Water Trail
 Site Description for
Berkeley Marina, Ramp



Location, Ownership, and Management: The Berkeley Marina Ramp is located off of Spinnaker Way, in the northern portion of the Berkeley Marina. The site is owned and managed by the City of Berkeley, Parks, Recreation, & Waterfront Department and is the main launch site within the Marina.

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Large, free parking area	Three docks and two ramps	Accessible restrooms

Facility Description: The Berkeley Marina Ramp is used by both motorized and non-motorized boaters, providing access to the marina and open waters of the Bay, with sweeping views of the Bay Bridge, San Francisco, Angel Island, and the Golden Gate in the distance. The marina provides a protected launch and over 52 acres of water for docks and paddling that is sheltered from the winds that frequent this area.

Boat launch facilities consist of two corrugated cement boat ramps with three high-freeboard docks located on the sides and between the ramps. The high-freeboard docks are made of wood. 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, and canoes. Other boat types include powerboats, sailboats, and small boats with outboard motors.

Although the launch facilities are oriented towards trailered boats, the site provides a variety of amenities that make the site a good launch for non-motorized small boats. A picnic area is located adjacent to and east of the ramps. The area contains two picnic tables, set among tree planters. Trash cans and recycling bins are provided at the picnic area and outside the

restrooms. A fish cleaning station is located between the boat launch and the restrooms. The four ADA-accessible restrooms are located approximately 96 feet east of the ramps, connected by an ADA accessible path of travel.

Free parking is available in a large lot north of the site. Parking for boat trailers is allowed for up to 72 consecutive hours. The parking area has 2 ADA spaces.

The site has ample parking and access to a variety of nearby amenities, including the adjacent Cesar Chavez Park and the Double Tree Hotel. Around the marina, visitors can bike ride on the Bay Trail, hike or fly a kite in Cesar Chavez Park, enjoy fresh seafood or snacks at a variety of restaurants, fish off of the Berkeley Pier (temporarily closed), and hike or bird watch in McLaughlin Eastshore State Park.

Other Identifying or General Information:

<p>Site ID: <u>A2</u> In WT Plan: <u>Yes</u> Existing or Planned: <u>Existing</u> Ownership: <u>Public</u> County: <u>Alameda</u> Geo-Region: <u>Albany/Berkeley/Emeryville</u> SF Bay Plan Region: <u>Central Bay North</u> Launch or Destination: <u>Launch</u></p>	<p>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>Yes</u></p> <p>Proximity to Other Sites: This site is located in close proximity to the Small Boat Launch (A26), which is located on the south side of the Berkeley Marina, approximately 0.4 miles from this site as the crow flies. Paddling between the sites would be substantially longer, due to the approximately 3 mile Berkeley Pier that extends off the shoreline between the two sites.</p> <p>To the north, the nearest site is Albany Beach (A1), which provides a beach launch.</p>
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Description of Launch/Landing:

<p>Fixed Dock/Pier Launch/Landing: <u>Yes</u> Float: <u>Yes</u> Freeboard Level: <u>High (9" and above)</u> Transfer/Launch Assistance System: <u>No</u> Gangway: <u>No</u> 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> Fee for Launch or Parking: <u>Yes, \$15 for trailered boat launching fee. Parking is free.</u></p>	<p>Other Launch/Landing Notes: Two wide corrugated cement boat ramps with three wooden boarding piers. Water Entry Path: <u>No</u></p>  <p><i>Floating boarding piers provide access to the wooden high-freeboard docks.</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>No</u> Sculling: <u>No</u> Rowboat/Dinghy: <u>Yes</u> Dragonboat: <u>Yes</u> Other: <u>No</u></p>
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Notes: Dragonboats are stored nearby at M dock.



The site can be used by non-motorized boats that require trailers, such as whaleboats or rowboats.

Transportation and Parking:

<p>General Spaces (number): <u>51-75</u> ADA Parking Spaces (number): <u>2</u></p> <p>ADA Parking Description: Two ADA accessible spaces located near the loading and unloading area. Twenty minute parking is available near the ramps for loading and unloading.</p> <p>Duration (hours): <u>72</u> Overnight Parking Allowed: <u>Yes</u></p> <p>Overnight Parking Description: Overnight parking is allowed for cars with trailers up to 72 hours. This may limit overnight use of this site for NMSB users that do not use trailers.</p> <p>Loading/Unloading Area: <u>Yes</u></p>	<p>Bay Trail: <u>Yes</u></p> <p>Public Transportation: The area is served by the 51B Bus Line, which runs from the Rockridge Bart Station in Oakland, through Berkeley, to the Berkeley Pier. The bus stop is located on the far side of the marina from this site.</p>  <p><i>Two accessible spaces are located near the launch ramps and restrooms/picnic area.</i></p>
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Path of Travel:

<p>Distance to Launch from Parking Area (feet): <u>144</u> Distance to Launch from ADA Parking (feet): <u>190</u> Distance to Launch from ADA Restrooms (feet): <u>250</u> Distance from ADA Restrooms to ADA Parking (feet): <u>96</u> Path of Travel Exists: <u>Yes</u></p> <p>Path of Travel Description: The path of travel runs from the parking lot and road to the boat launch and restrooms. The path of travel is not marked.</p>
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Other Site Amenities:

<p>Total Restrooms: <u>4</u> Total ADA Restrooms: <u>4</u> Restroom Description: Four unisex, accessible restrooms with running water.</p> <p>Boat Washing: <u>Yes</u> Rigging/Staging Area: <u>No</u> Picnic Tables: <u>Yes</u> Benches: <u>Yes</u> BBQ: <u>Yes</u> Boat Storage: <u>No</u></p>	 <p><i>Restrooms, drinking fountains, and picnic facilities provide a nice place to relax before or after a paddle.</i></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: Double Tree by Hilton located on the marina to the east of the site. No access is available directly from the hotel to the marina water.				

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 dock and there are no transition plates from the abutment to the dock. The docks are made of wood, which is rough in places and prone to splintering.</p> <p>The shoreside facilities offer a path of travel (not marked), sidewalks, restroom, and parking that all appear to be ADA accessible and well maintained.</p>	 <p><i>The docks are not designed for accessibility for non-motorized small boat users</i></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 Bay by both motorized and non-motorized boaters. Motorized uses primarily consist of personal fishing boats. The boat launch is located near the marina mouth, which has two entrances to the north and south of a breakwater. The area is very popular with fisherpeople. No swimming, bathing, or wading is allowed from the ramp.

Safety and Security, including Parking:

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.

The area is heavily used during the day, both by fisherpeople and people parking to access Cesar Chavez Park. Car break-ins are known to occur and there are numerous signs reminding people not to leave valuables in the car.

Wildlife and Habitat Considerations:

This site and adjacent shoreline is fairly urban, with limited natural habitat occurring in the immediate vicinity. Low traffic docks are used by gulls, cormorants, terns, and other shorebirds for resting and warming. No nesting or major roosting sites are known to occur in the area; however, Brooks Island is within four miles of the site. Brooks Island contains 18 species of nesting birds, including herons, gulls, and terns.

Education, Outreach, and Stewardship, Including Signage:

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

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

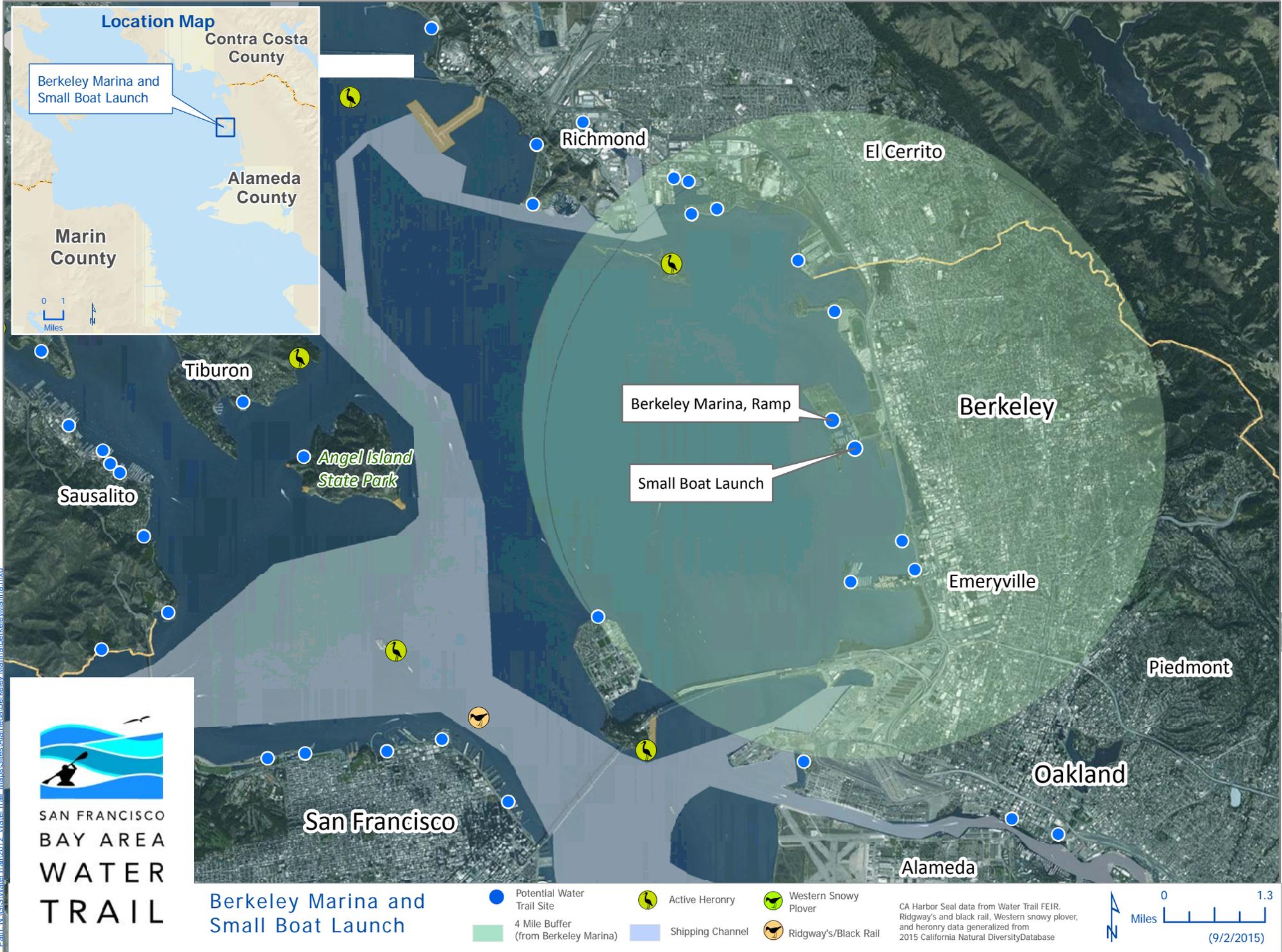
No known conflicts among site users.

Accessibility of Sites within the Albany/Berkeley/Emeryville Geo-Region:

There are six potential Water Trail sites identified within this geo-region: Albany Beach, Berkeley Marina Ramp, Berkeley Marina Small Boat Launch, Point Emery, Shorebird Park, and Emeryville City Marina.

The experiences that are available in the Albany/Berkeley/Emeryville Geo-Region are predominantly urban, but provide a variety of different facilities including beach launches, docks, and ramps. Several sites within this geo-region provide accessible features, including the Berkeley Marina Ramp and the Berkeley Marina Small Boat Launch, but none are currently considered broadly accessible. No accessibility improvements are currently proposed for the Berkeley Marina Ramp.

The Berkeley Marina Small Boat Launch will provide a broadly accessible site upon completion of scheduled improvements in 2016. These improvements include a new ADA restroom, paving/repaving the parking area, and adding an accessible gangway to the existing low-freeboard dock.



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

**Berkeley Marina
September 11, 2015**

Resource Area	Impacts Analysis	Notes
<p>Recreation References: WT DREIR, pp. 3-32 to 3-37.</p>	<p>Berkeley Marina has two boat ramps and three high freeboard docks, parking, restroom, and a picnic area. Facilities are well maintained and have sufficient capacity to accommodate increased levels of use. 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>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.</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 and currents and must always avoid impeding large vessels in the marina. No major shipping channels occur in the immediate vicinity of the Marina.</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 the Marina will want to paddle within the Marina or close to shore in either direction; however, some experienced kayakers may cross the channel to Treasure Island.</p>
<p>Aesthetics References: WT DREIR pp. 3-56 to 3-68.</p>	<p>Berkeley Marina is considered an urban launch, characterized by the developed public boat launch and marina adjacent to the park land, hotels, 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 \$15 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 Berkeley 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
<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 Berkeley Marina is reinforced in some areas with riprap and generally developed. Wetland vegetation has not been observed by WT staff at any tide levels within or in the immediate vicinity of the marina.</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>Due to the developed nature of the region, there are limited active nesting areas in the vicinity of the site; however, Brooks Island is within four miles of the site. Brooks Island contains 18 species of nesting birds, including herons, gulls, and terns.</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 – 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.</p>	<p>Disturbance of rafting waterfowl is not addressed in existing signs on-site, but is highlighted in the Water Trail educational sign, brochure, and website.</p>
<p>Biology – Ridgway's rail (formerly 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</p>	<p>Ridgway's rail and black rail depend on habitat that does not exist at or in the immediate vicinity of the Berkeley Marina.</p>	<p>Signage is needed to emphasize the importance of not entering marshes, keeping a 50-foot buffer from rail habitat (not entering channels less than 100-foot wide), importance of staying clear of high-tide refugia, and that landing in marshes and on levees is prohibited. The Water Trail educational sign and brochure 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>Unique or important western snowy plover habitat does not exist at or in the immediate vicinity of the Berkeley Marina.</p>	<p>The Water Trail educational sign and brochure include bird avoidance information.</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
Cultural Resources	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).	The WT website includes information about avoiding disturbance to cultural artifacts.
Hydrology	No WT-related construction is planned at this time.	There would be not potential for changes to site hydrology from site designation.
Transportation, Circulation, and Parking	Berkeley 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.