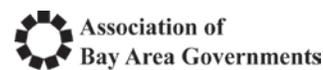




San Francisco Bay Area Water Trail  
 Site Description for  
**Berkeley Marina, Small Boat Launch**



**Location, Ownership, and Management:** The Small Boat Launch is located on the South Sailing Basin off of University Avenue and the Bay Trail. The site is owned and managed by the City of Berkeley, Parks, Recreation, & Waterfront Department.

This site also is the location of the Cal Sailing Club, which provides equipment rental and classes for students and members of the public. To the west of the site is Shorebird Park, which has a gravel beach that is sometimes used for kayak launching. The park also has picnic tables and accessible restrooms. There are also restaurants, the Berkeley Pier, and hotel in the vicinity of the site, making the area highly popular.

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<p>Equipment staging area</p>	<p>East Dock</p>	<p>Bay Trail and gravel parking</p>

**Facility Description:** Site facilities include three public docks, two public small boat hoists, a windsurfing rigging area, wash down facilities, and free public parking. The Middle Dock is low-freeboard, the east and west docks are currently high-freeboard, accessed by gangways. Data entered below is for the Middle Dock. The East Dock is located across the Bay Trail from the main parking area. The East Dock has a 60-foot long gangway with a 4.5-foot transition plate, which provides access to a wooden high-freeboard dock. The West Dock is located across from the Cal Sailing Club, and is access by a 40' gangway with 4' transition plate. The West Dock is high freeboard and is made of wood.

This site is most popular for windsurfing, given the favorable wind conditions and site amenities including the proximity of parking to the docks, staging area, and washdown hose. The astroturf staging area is located within the parking lot.

ADA accessible restrooms are located within Shorebird Park to the west of the site. An accessible path of travel exists between the parking area and these restrooms. Portable restrooms are currently the only restroom facilities located on the site.

The site is scheduled to undergo substantial upgrades and enhancements to various facilities, including replacing two of the docks, an ADA accessible gangway and path of travel, parking lot resurfacing, new accessible restrooms, and an improved windsurfing rigging area.

**Other Identifying or General Information:**

<p>Site ID: <u>A26</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><i>Cal Sailing provides equipment rentals and classes, including for wind surfing and sailing.</i></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>Yes</u></p> <p>Proximity to Other Sites: The Berkeley Marina Ramp (A2) is located approximately 0.4 miles north of the Small Boat Launch, on the north side of the Marina. Further north, is Albany Beach (A1), located approximately 1.3 miles north of the marina. The next closest potential Water Trail sites are Point Emery (A4), located approximately 1.3 miles to the south, and Shorebird Park (A5), located approximately 1.5 miles to the south. These sites are all located within public parks.</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>Low (less than 9")</u>                  Transfer/Launch Assistance System: <u>No</u>                  Gangway: <u>Yes</u>                  Gangway Length (feet): <u>35</u>                  Gangway Width (inches): <u>90</u>                  Gangway Slope Description: There is a 5 foot transition plate to the low-freeboard plastic dock.                   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, adjacent at Shorebird Park</u>                  Firm-Surface Beach Crossing: <u>No</u>                  Fee for Launch or Parking: <u>No</u></p>	<p>Other Launch/Landing Notes: Two other gangways and docks. See facilities description for details.                  Water Entry Path: <u>No</u></p>  <p><i>The Middle Dock has a gangway that leads to a low-freeboard, plastic dock.</i></p>
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**Site Appears to be Suitable For:**

<p>Kayak: <u>Yes</u>                  Windsurfer: <u>Yes</u>                  Kiteboard: <u>No</u>                  Whaleboat: <u>No</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>No</u></p>
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*The site is very popular for wind surfers, as well as kayaks and paddleboards on calm days.*

**Transportation and Parking:**

<p>General Spaces (number): <u>51-75</u>                  ADA Parking Spaces (number): <u>2</u></p> <p>ADA Parking Description: The main parking lot is hard packed dirt/gravel, but is scheduled to be paved in 2016. Two ADA spaces are located at the western end of the lot, close to the Middle Dock. A small paved parking lot is located between the Cal Sailing Center and the docks containing 10 spaces, none of which are ADA.</p> <p>Duration (hours): 6AM to 10PM</p>	<p>Overnight Parking Allowed: <u>No</u></p> <p>Loading/Unloading Area: <u>Yes</u></p> <p>Bay Trail: <u>Yes</u></p> <p>Public Transportation: AC Transit operates the Bus 51B line, that runs from the Rockridge BART station in Oakland, through downtown Berkeley and along University Avenue to the Berkeley Pier. This bus line makes three stops on University Avenue near the site, with the closest being "University &amp; Bait Shop", located immediately north of the site and Cal Sailing Club.</p>
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*The Bay Trail and 51B bus line make this site highly accessible from alternative transportation.*

**Path of Travel:**

Distance to Launch from Parking Area (feet): 145

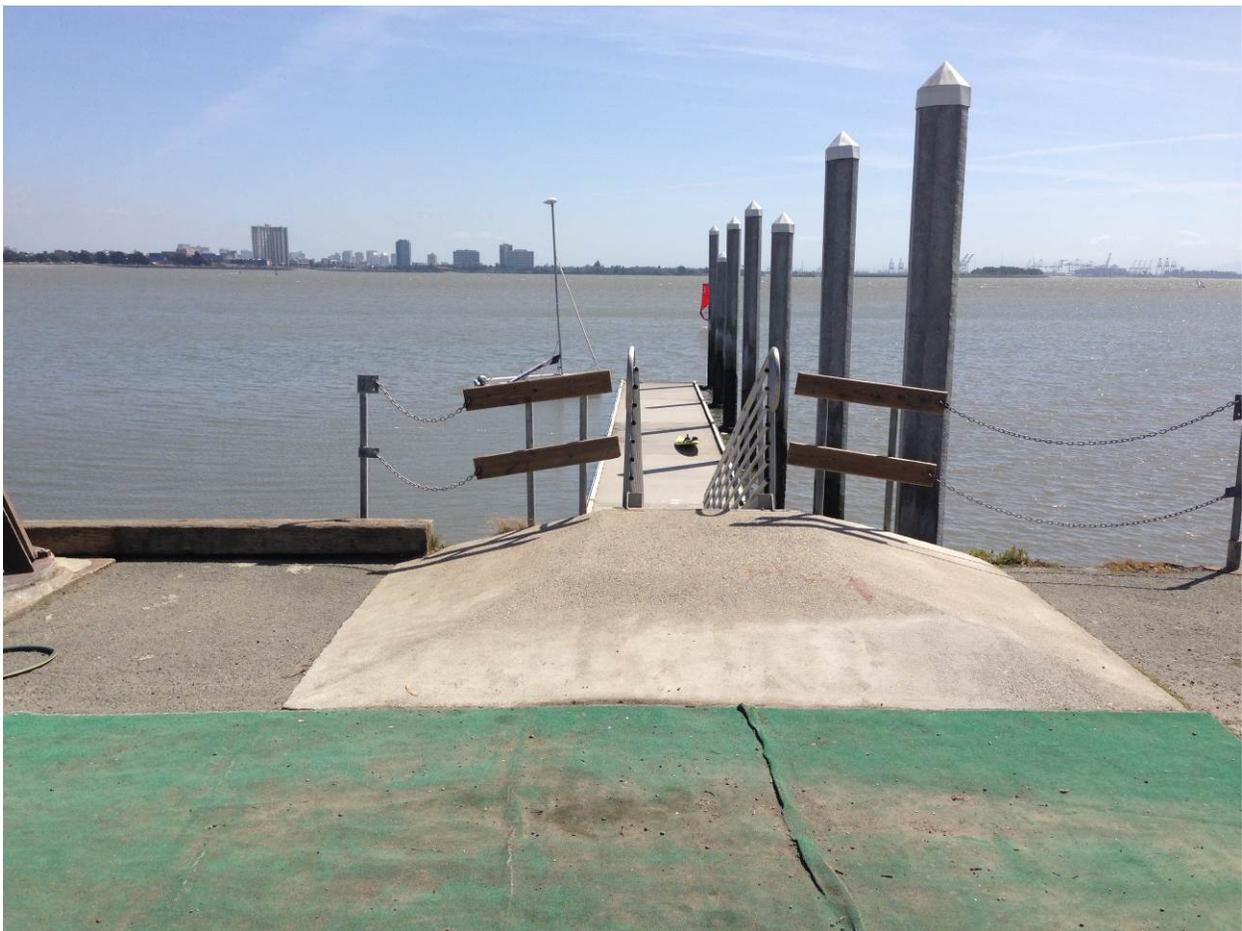
Distance to Launch from ADA Parking (feet): 180

Distance to Launch from ADA Restrooms (feet): 760

Distance from ADA Restrooms to ADA Parking (feet): 820

Path of Travel Exists: Yes

Path of Travel Description: Concrete pathway (bumpy, but separate from cars) to the paved Bay Trail.



*A steep cement ramp reduces the accessibility of the path of travel from the Bay Trail to the gangway, then float.*

**Other Site Amenities:**

<p>Total Restrooms: <u>5</u>                  Total ADA Restrooms: <u>2</u>                  Restroom Description: Three portable restrooms are located at Cal Sailing, two accessible restrooms are located in Shorebird Park.                   Boat Washing: <u>Yes</u>                  Rigging/Staging Area: <u>Yes</u>                  Picnic Tables: <u>Yes</u>                  Benches: <u>No</u></p>	<p>BBQ: <u>No</u>                  Boat Storage: <u>No</u></p>  <p><i>Accessible restrooms are available in Shorebird Park, adjacent to the west.</i></p>
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**Overnight Accommodations:**

Hotel: <u>Yes</u>	Hostel: <u>No</u>	Ship: <u>No</u>	Camping: No	Other: <u>No</u>
<p>Accommodations Description: DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Berkeley Marina.                  200 Marina Blvd., Berkeley, California, 94710, USA                  TEL: +1-510-548-7920</p>				

**Additional Notes Related to Accessibility:**

<p>Two ADA parking spaces are located along the Bay Trail in the main parking area. ADA restrooms are available in Shorebird Park. Currently, steep cement ramps and steep gangways limit the accessibility of boat launch facilities at the site.</p> <p>Proposed improvements include a new ADA restroom, paving/repaving the parking area, and adding an accessible gangway to the existing low-freeboard dock. The City of Berkeley is requesting Water Trail grant funds to purchase an accessible gangway to the Middle Dock. Upon completion, scheduled for 2016, these improvements will make the Small Boat Launch a broadly accessible site.</p>
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**Additional Notes on Use of Site (Boating and Non-Boating) and Existing and Planned Management:**

The Small Boat Launch provides access to the South Sailing Basin, which is heavily used by non-motorized boaters, particularly wind surfers and small sail boats. Frequent summer winds and the somewhat contained Basin area make this site ideal for beginners looking to learn to windsurf, and provide easy access for more experienced windsurfers to the open water of the Bay.

The site is also utilized by kayakers, particularly in the mornings when the winds are less strong. In addition to the docks, there is a wide sand/gravel beach in Shorebird Park that is popular as a kayak launch.

The Cal Sailing Club offers lessons, rentals to members, and free programs for students and the public. Members receive lessons and, after achieving ratings, use of the club's fleet of 23 dinghies, 6 keelboats and 80 windsurfing boards including novice, intermediate, and advanced designs.



*The site is particularly popular for wind surfers and kayakers. Cal Sailing Club provides windsurfing lessons and equipment rentals to members.*

**Safety and Security, including Parking:**

Small boat users should be aware of winds and currents. No major shipping channels occur in the immediate vicinity of the Small Boat Launch.

**Wildlife and Habitat Considerations:**

This site and adjacent shoreline is fairly urban, with limited natural habitat occurring in the immediate vicinity. No nesting or major roosting sites are known to occur in the vicinity; 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:**

Beginning in summer 2016, the City of Berkeley is planning to renovate the existing parking lots and windsurfing staging area with new asphalt, new synthetic turf, and a new bioswale; install a new public restroom and outdoor rinse-off facility; and replace the east and west small boat docks.

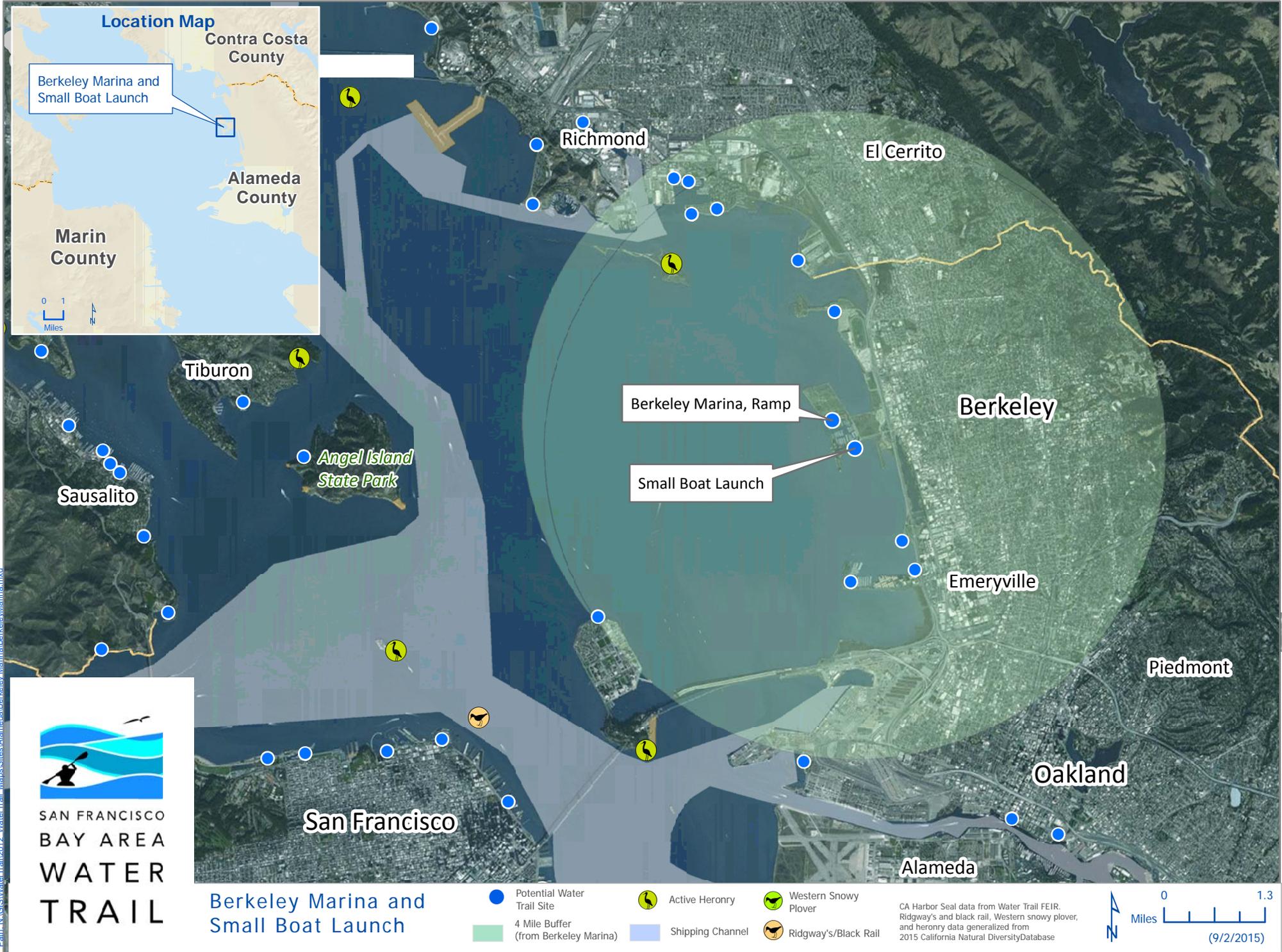
The City of Berkeley is anticipating applying for a grant from the Water Trail to add an ADA gangway to the middle dock at the December 2015 Water Trail Implementation Meeting.

**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.

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, improved path of travel, 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 Small Boat Launch  
September 11, 2015**

<b>Resource Area</b>	<b>Impacts Analysis</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Recreation References: WT DREIR, pp. 3-32 to 3-37.	Berkeley Small Boat Launch has two high freeboard docks and one low freeboard dock, parking, and an equipment staging area. Facilities are well maintained and have sufficient capacity to accommodate increased levels of use.	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.
Navigational and Personal Safety References: WT DREIR pp. 3-38 to 3-51, and Figures 3.4.2-1 and 3.4.2-2.	Small boat users should be aware of winds and currents. No major shipping channels occur in the immediate vicinity of the Small Boat Launch.	The Water Trail educational sign provides safety information related to navigational and personal boating safety.
Aesthetics References: WT DREIR pp. 3-56 to 3-68.	Berkeley Small Boat Launch is considered an urban launch, characterized by the developed public boat launch adjacent to the park land, a hotel, and restaurants. The Small Boat Launch does not currently have sign boards near the launch except for parking restriction signs.	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.
Biology-Vegetation References: WT DREIR pp. 3-69 to 3-92 and Table 3.7.2-1 and Table 3.7.2-2.	The shoreline of the Small Boat Launch is reinforced in some areas with riprap and bulkhead and generally developed. Wetland vegetation has not been observed by WT staff at any tide levels within or in the immediate vicinity of the Small Boat Launch.	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 staging area onsite.

<b>Resource Area</b>	<b>Impacts Analysis</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Biology – Birds <i>References: WT FEIR text and map</i>	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.	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.
Biology – Rafting Waterfowl <i>References: WT DREIR pp. 3-93 to 3-131 and Table 3.8.2-1, Figure 3.8.2-1.</i>	This site provides access to areas where rafting waterfowl congregate.	Disturbance of rafting waterfowl is not addressed in existing signs on site, but is highlighted in the Water Trail educational sign, brochure, and website.
Biology – Ridgway's rail (formerly California clapper rail) and California black rail and high tide refugia <i>References: WT DREIR pp. 3-93 to 3-131 and Figure 3.8.2-2</i>	Ridgway's rail and black rail depend on habitat that does not exist at or in the immediate vicinity of the Berkeley Small Boat Launch.	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-feet 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.
Biology –Western Snowy Plover <i>References: WT DREIR pp. 3-93 to 3-131 and Figures 3.8.2-3</i>	Unique or important western snowy plover habitat does not exist at or in the immediate vicinity of the Berkeley Small Boat Launch.	The Water Trail educational sign and brochure include bird avoidance information.
Biology – Harbor Seals <i>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</i>	There are no harbor seal primary or secondary haul-out sites within four miles of this site.	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.
Cultural Resources	Proposed construction would occur entirely within areas that have previously been developed, so no disturbance to cultural resources is anticipated. NMSB users are not anticipated to land in regional wetland habitat (where cultural artifacts may be present and could be disturbed).	The WT website includes information about avoiding disturbance to cultural artifacts.

<b>Resource Area</b>	<b>Impacts Analysis</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Hydrology	Proposed construction would require implementation of appropriate erosion control and stormwater management measures. Paving of the parking area could reduce sediment running into the South Sailing Basin during storm events.	Implementation of appropriate erosion control measures would ensure changes to hydrology would not significantly affect water quality.
Transportation, Circulation, and Parking	Berkeley Small Boat Launch 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.