

Summary of Environmental Review for Tidewater Boating Center

Resource Area	Impacts Analysis	Notes
Recreation	Designation of Tidewater will not increase facility size, or increase facility use beyond its capacity, or preclude existing recreational activities.	An additional low-float dock for the site is already planned and permitted, reducing likelihood of user conflict. Motorized boats are not allowed at dock. Site is not within four miles of hunting.
Navigational Safety References: WT FEIR text and Figures 3.4.2-1 and 3.4.2-2. Also, see maps for Tidewater	Tidewater is not near commercial shipping routes. It is approximately 3.5 miles from the Harbor Bay Island Ferry Terminal, where ferry boats travel directly to and from San Francisco during morning and evening commute hours.	Educational materials should include safety information about getting stuck or stranded in mud. Educational materials related to wildlife buffers must not send boaters into the path of the ferry.
Aesthetics	Tidewater Boating Center was built on an industrial lot in an industrial area and does not block vistas. Xeric landscaping and other park features have vastly improved the aesthetics of the site. Existing signs are not oversized or intrusive.	The additional length of floating dock will be installed on the existing piles. This addition is already fully permitted.
Biology-Vegetation References: WT FEIR text and Table 3.7.2-1	This site is not directly next to a wetland. There are wetlands within a few miles. Invasive hybrids of <i>Spartina</i> (Pacific cordgrass) have been identified in the vicinity of Arrowhead Marsh.	EBRPD works with the Early Detection Network. There are water spigots available on site for boat and gear rinsing. The existing BCDC permit requires education programs that emphasize avoidance of sensitive habitat and wildlife areas. Existing on-site programs are doing this already.
Biology – Birds References: WT FEIR text and Figures 3.8.2-1, 3.8.2-2, 3.8.2-3, 3.8.2-4. Also, see maps for Tidewater.	A CA Brown Pelican roosting area and Heron and CA Least Tern breeding locations are at or near Alameda Naval Station, past Crown Beach on the far side of Alameda Island. Shorebirds forage at Elsie Roemer Bird Sanctuary. Waterfowl congregate in large numbers at the tip of Bay Farm Island. Clapper rail are commonly seen in San Leandro Bay.	Buffer language for “rafting waterfowl” and Clapper rail is most pertinent for this site and the Water Trail sign. Information about the other species listed here should be included in a WT brochure and on the website.
Biology – Harbor Seals References: WT FEIR text, Figure	Tidewater Boating Center is not within four miles of either a primary or secondary haul-out site for Harbor Seals.	WT brochures and the WT website will include education about harbor seals and the potential for disturbances by paddlers and other boaters.

Resource Area	Impacts Analysis	Notes
3.9.2-1, and Tables 3.9.5-1 and 3.9.5-2		
Cultural Resources	Boaters using the Tidewater site are being asked to avoid sloughs and sensitive habitat near the site. Boaters are thus not expected to be landing anywhere other than at designated landing sites (see maps).	EBRPD has expressed an interest in including historic and cultural information in an interpretive sign. WT educational materials will include information about avoiding disturbance to cultural artifacts.
Hydrology	A low-float dock will be installed in the fall of 2012. Bioswales are part of existing site features. The 50 public parking spaces and the overflow area for Oakland Strokes has a permeable substrate.	The addition of the new low-float dock is already permitted; the piles have already been installed. Bioswales will keep any polluted run-off from vehicles from entering the Bay.
Transportation, Circulation, and Parking	The site is built-out with the exception of the low-float dock to be added to the existing piles.	No new parking is planned. Because there is already a long, low-float dock, the addition of a second dock is not expected to greatly increase the number of site users (it will serve to avoid potential user conflicts)

Excerpts from BCDC Permit for Tidewater Boating Center (No. M06-8, Amendment 1):

Page 5: Special Condition II-B -2-b (5): Need four signs (three public access shore, one interpretive panel about nearby Bay habitat), updated yearly. “One sign shall identify off limit areas of sensitive habitat or containing sensitive species, such as East Slough, Arrowhead Marsh, favorite rafting areas of waterfowl, etc. The sign will be regularly (at least every year) updated to reflect shifts in the use of such areas, and such information conveyed to the users of the facility.”

Page 5: Special Condition II-B-4: Quarterly Wildlife Training and Annual Reporting – This very detailed condition says “The permittee shall develop an education program where a naturalist makes regular (at least quarterly) presentations to the Oakland Strokes and other users of the launch float describing neighboring sensitive wildlife areas, safe buffers around these areas, and approved vessel routes in the area. The permittee shall report every year, starting May of the year following project completion, for a five-year period, to the Commission on the effectiveness of the Naturalist’s quarterly meetings in limiting boat traffic to areas with the least amount of impact to wildlife. The report shall include a brief assessment of bird and wildlife use of nearby habitat areas, distinguishing use by habitat type, the approximate number of users of the dock that quarter, along with the number of individuals attending each quarterly meeting. Should adverse conditions on wildlife in the nearby marshes that may be caused by non-motorized boat users be identified in the report, the permittee shall take corrective action as specified by or on behalf of the Commission. Such action may lead to modifying the Naturalist program, increasing the number of trainings, or providing additional signage onsite or near the marsh.”

Page 12: III-Findings/Declarations B: “The projects are located in an area designated as Waterfront Park, Beach on Bay Plan Map No. Five, which includes a policy stating that San Leandro Bay, which is south of the proposed project site, possesses ‘valuable wildlife habitat and great recreation potential,’ and another policy stating that ‘boating facilities and parks [should be developed], but preserve wildlife habitat. Provide continuous shoreline public access and public and commercial recreation uses.’ Since the project involves developing the area for an aquatic recreation facility and a waterfront park, the Commission finds that the project is consistent with Bay Plan Map No. Five.”

Page 15, Findings/Declarations III-C-2: Public Access and Recreation: restates that public access will be maintained by EBRPD (Special Condition II-B 3), including keeping area free of trash.

Pages 17-18 Findings/Declarations III-C-3: Natural Resource Policies: The permit states “The project is near East Creek Slough, Damon Slough, and Arrowhead Marsh, all sensitive wetland habitats. Members and participants in the programs at Tidewater Aquatic Center [sic], such as Save the Bay’s “Canoes in Slough” [sic] program, will be led by naturalists that will educate kayak and canoe groups about the fragile environment and instruct boaters to avoid the slough altogether. The permittee will place signs on or near the dock to educate the general public about the sensitive Bay habitat nearby, particularly identifying off limit areas of sensitive habitat or containing sensitive species.” This section also points to the BMPs required for construction. Finally, this section states “The authorization [of Material Amendment No. One] also requires the permittee to provide educational information to users of the facility about the sensitivity of nearby wildlife to human disturbance in an effort to minimize the effect of increased human activity in an area surrounded by marsh, overwintering waterfowl, and endangered species (the California clapper rail), and for an annual report on the progress of the Naturalist’s quarterly meetings with on-site staff, dock users, and Oakland Strokes members.”

SLR: Page 19, III-C-5: “The public access pathway will, thus, be two inches above the 100 year highest tide expected with a 16-inch sea level rise over the next 50 years.”

Page 20: III-D-Review Boards. Gangway would have a slope of less than 5%. Grass cells used to minimize solid pavers and to reduce storm water runoff.

EBRPD issued a Notice of Determination (NOD) for a Categorical Exemption under Section 15183; this NOD was certified by City of Oakland as lead agency on May 18, 2006. The nexus is the Oakland Estuary Policy Plan, which includes the improvements to Martin Luther King Jr. Regional Shoreline.