



**San Francisco Bay Area Water Trail  
Implementation Meeting #6  
March 22, 2013**

**Meeting Summary**

**Attendees:**

*Project Management Team (PMT):* Ann Buell, Steve Watanabe, Laura Thompson, Ellen Miramontes

*Water Trail Staff:* Galli Basson

*Advisory Committee (AC):* Tom Boone (phone), Ted Choi, Lynn Cullivan, Bill Curry, Cecily Harris (phone), Jonathan Goldman (AC Alt), Jennifer Heroux, Carol Perry, Richard Skaff (phone), Brian Wiese, Cat Burns, Bill Price, Paul Nixon (AC Alt)

*Stakeholder Group:* Ralph Mihan, Amy Hutzal, Nancy Peake, Greg Milano, Antoinette Romeo, Gilda Puente-Peters, Heather Richard, Russ Robinson (phone), Susie Hamblen (phone), Anne Morkill

*Facilitation:* Ariel Ambruster

**Welcome, Introductions, and Agenda Review**

Ann Buell welcomed the group. Introductions were made. Ariel reviewed the agenda and ground rules.

**Updates from Project Management Team, Water Trail Staff, and Advisory Committee Members**

Buell Announced a new Conservancy grant program, "Explore the Coast," available for projects that are not capital outlay. Contact Amy Hutzal if interested, deadline is May 10. This is an exciting complement to the Water Trail grant program.

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Galli, Steve and Ann will join Sue Rae Ireland in early May at the California Trails & Greenways Conference on a panel about Water Trails.

Cosco Busan funds were awarded to several potential Water Trail sites. For example, a citizens group is working to make Point Molate an accessible site.

Basson On February 6, ABAG Regional Planning Committee recommended adoption of formal support of the Water Trail by the ABAG Executive Board, which occurred on March 21. Next step, staff will send template resolutions to local agencies.

Thanked Cecily and Penny for their work collecting data at sites.

Miramontes One permit issued for America's Cup had public access requirement of two new access sites: Pier 52 and Marina Green. Should be open to the public on June 30. Warriors proposal removed proposed kayak launch on south side; however, there is a BCDC requirement for direct water access in the area and staff will work with developers to find a more suitable location. Two projects proposing recreational water trail access: Crane Cove Park went to Design Review Board in January; there were discussions of navigational conflicts; the boating community did not feel this was a safety hazard. Pete's Harbor in Redwood City is proposing a new access site, sometime in the future.

Watanabe On July 1, the Department of Boating and Waterways will merge with California State Parks as the Division of Boating and Waterways within State Parks. Not sure yet how this may impact programs and funding; working on integration of the two departments.

Wiese The East Bay Regional Park District manages parks and Bay Trail along 40 miles of shoreline in Alameda and Contra Costa counties with the potential for about a dozen water trail sites. Working to bring sites up to water trail status in MLK, Jr. Regional Shoreline (two sites), Pt. Isabel, and Pt. Pinole are the top priorities.

Nixon Looking at the area in San Francisco from the Ferry Building to South Beach; Pier 1½ working to install a low float dock; not sure Pier 30/32 is completely off the table, the north side makes sense for kayaks but it is shared with the fireboats; Pier 38 coming online soon, looking for developers now; Pier 40 transferred from redevelopment to the Port, sorting through paperwork.

Goldman Provided a brief summary of the accessibility sub-committee meeting held in January. The sub-committee had a very constructive discussion about the purpose statement for the sub-committee. The sub-committee decided to develop a survey to achieve one of the Water Trail's objectives of taking a broad view and encouraging people who might be interested in becoming non-motorized small boat users to take advantage of the facilities. Help with an ongoing dialogue between the program, the public and agencies, this was a positive outcome of the meeting. The sub-committee will continue to meet, minutes are online, survey still being developed.

- Heroux            The Bair Island restoration project in San Mateo County is ahead of schedule, and the marina nearby will open up new boating opportunities in a natural environment. Will provide limited re-entry to Bair Island in the next couple of months. South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project will hold its science symposium in July, free but limited seats. Registration will be open to the public March 28; the event is July 16.
- Perry              San Francisco tourism has a link to the Water Trail. There is excitement about the “Bay Lights” art project drawing attention to the Bay and the Bay Bridge. The art installation will be up for two years.

### **Alviso Marina County Park**

Buell introduced Antoinette Romeo with Santa Clara County Parks & Recreation Department. Skaff asked if there was an opportunity to discuss the packet materials during this meeting. Buell answered that time is set aside today for questions and discussion.

Buell gave an overview of the Alviso Marina County Park setting and the existing boat launch. The Alviso boat launch was opened in June 2010. The County of Santa Clara Board of Supervisors will consider a resolution of support for the Water Trail on March 26, 2013. Reviewed the existing signage at the site that addresses hunting, safety and environmental issues. Discussed potential impacts to sensitive species in the area around Alviso Marina County Park.

Recommendations: Add new sign information next to the launch about hunting and buffer distances from sensitive species, particularly the endangered Clapper Rail and harbor seals. Water Trail can bring incremental additional knowledge about the environment in this location. These can be in the form of customized signs provided by the Water Trail program.

Suggested conditions of designation: 1) Water Trail identification sign installed at site; 2) Water Trail brochure complete and available on site; 3) Alviso Marina County Park Sign Plan complete and implemented (with agreed-upon language related to wildlife/hunting).

Website is complete, brochure is almost done and the sign program is close to being finished.

Antoinette added that much of the Alviso area outside the park boundary, including the ponds and Bay, is managed by the US Fish and Wildlife Service as part of the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge. The slough is four miles long from Alviso Marina County Park to the Bay. A master plan was completed and adopted for Alviso Marina County Park, and an EIR was certified by the County Board of Supervisors. An Amendment to the Final EIR was prepared and adopted for the boat launch facility. County Parks is careful not to create sign clutter, particularly at Alviso Marina, because signs potentially provide perches for predators. A biological assessment was completed as part of the FEIR assessment and for the permit submissions, which included clapper rail surveys. No clapper rails were found within the park site. County Parks is responsible for meeting regulatory permit requirements and lease agreements.

Alviso Marina County Park is open from 8:00 am to sunset. There is a camp host on site who provides a presence after hours. A permit program is in place to provide after-hour access for anyone (especially hunters and fishermen) before 8:00 am or after the gates close through a gate

key and (car parking) tag permit process with the Parks Department. This program was developed at the request of USFWS to provide access to the Bay for hunters and fishermen.

Working with Buell on the customized sign plan at the park as required by the Water Trail program. The County website, [www.parkhere.org](http://www.parkhere.org), includes information about the park.

Nixon Is overnight parking available?

Romeo No, after-hours access through our gate key permit program is only for launching or retrieving boats. Tide charts posted on the bulletin board, brochures, and signage include low tide warnings and other boating safety information.

Nixon Heard there was cell phone access during boating excursion.

Romeo Depends on the provider.

Wiese Is there a possibility that the County would consider overnight parking?

Romeo Not likely that the County would allow this, as it would be too difficult to patrol. Suggests hotel overnight facilities in the vicinity.

Miramontes There is an existing BCDC permit. Plan review process would be required for any new signs and it would be a simple process. How would we ensure the brochure availability?

Romeo Park rangers take care of this task and restock brochures in all County Parks throughout the County park system.

Skaff Suggests the QR code be placed on park information to be used with smart phones. This would be a way to conserve paper.

Skaff Signs: didn't see any signage at the location indicating that the facilities are accessible, besides parking.

Romeo No specific signs at the site for this purpose but the information is on the park website. County Parks is evaluating accessibility compliance in all County parks.

Skaff Title 24 requires that signage be on the site. The document and PowerPoint talks about "ADA," but they must meet state requirements. Wants this included in all documents and grant applications.

Skaff Boat wash spigot handle did not appear to be accessible. Requirement to bring your own hose raises concerns. Is this what will happen at most sites? Is there a way to permanently attach the hose? What happens if someone is stuck in the mud and is then locked in the parking lot? Keys are not accessible for all people.

Romeo Alviso boat launch was constructed in 2010 and met the 2010 accessibility standards/requirements. Romeo will bring the spigot handle to the attention of

County Parks maintenance staff and see if it can be changed to one which is more easily used. If someone gets stuck in the mud, they can call emergency numbers (Coast Guard or 911). Camp host is there and could open the vehicle gate in an emergency. The 911 operator would notify the appropriate emergency responders - either Park Rangers or City of San Jose Police Department. The gate opens electronically and can be opened manually with a key. Emergency responders and the camp host have a gate opener and gate key.

- Skaff Boat ramp is relatively steep here. Could be dangerous for a manual wheelchair. Will we inform people about slopes during different tides?
- Buell Goals for the [WT] website include adding this information about low and high tides. Not available at this time. The accessibility sub-committee and Beneficial Designs indicated that knowing slopes is critical.
- Skaff Wouldn't owner of site be responsible for this information?
- Buell Water Trail is voluntary. We will work with site owners to collect this data without being onerous.
- Robinson When someone is stuck, typically wait for the tide to come in.
- Skaff Picnic tables, drinking fountains not identified as accessible.
- Buell Drinking fountain is accessible.
- Skaff Gangway widths and lengths – no information in document. Low float on the right at the mid-point looks narrow. Minimum of 36 inches width clearance required.
- Skaff How close is the accessible parking to the launch site?
- Buell Accessible parking space is the closest to the launch.
- Skaff Page 7, restrooms, can we assume the men's is also accessible?
- Romeo Yes, men's is accessible.
- Skaff At least one table should be accessible and it should be signed.
- Romeo Accessible tables are available. Romeo will ask Parks Maintenance Manager to request one to replace an existing one at Alviso park.
- Skaff Interpretive signs, how are they accessible to the blind?
- Romeo Parks is evaluating all parks facilities including signage throughout the parks system.
- Skaff Suggests sending the interpretive information in digital form to the Lighthouse for the Blind and for a fee they will transfer into brail.

- Robinson Alviso history is important.
- H. Richard Has seen laminated brochure that can be borrowed and taken with people in boats, and can be returned.
- Milano It will be important to emphasize that getting stuck in the mud is not an emergency. Where people are paddling through long distances and near wildlife areas, it will be difficult to control levee access without restroom availability.
- ? Consider floating composting toilets.
- Puente-Peters Brochure, in order to comply with ADA, every printed material includes language that the material can be available in alternative formats at request. With map/directory, should indicate all accessible facilities with the ISA symbol, not just parking, include restrooms, picnic tables, drinking fountain, launch site, etc. Symbol, legend and language. Signage requirements should be checked.
- Mihan Are hunting season dates available?
- Romeo County Parks jurisdiction ends at the toe of the boat launch and within the park's boundary; USFWS/Don Edwards National Wildlife Refuge manages and has jurisdiction of hunting in the Bay. The hunting information sign in the park provides phone number and website where information on hunting, including seasons and locations, can be found rather than provide detail on a sign. In addition, hunting locations and seasons can change.
- Morkill Could provide general generic seasons (months) rather than specific dates.
- ~Break~*
- Heroux Extended congratulations to County for providing a much-needed site for boating access in the South Bay. The city is very proud of the park. Supports Buell's third bullet point for site designation. Great messaging exists at the site, but it speaks to the audience using the land-based trail. There is a need for educational signage closer to the boat ramp, keeping sign clutter in mind. Consequences are greater in this area for impacting endangered species. Supports this designation.
- Miramontes Support looking at permanent signage for wildlife and hunting. Wants to make sure the messages are there if the brochure is not available. Liked idea of laminated brochure to bring out while boating. Endorsement of designation.
- Perry Research shows people spend 75% of their time researching and 25% at the site. Make sure we have comprehensive information online. Make it clear that overnight parking is not available. Include hotel info? Prominent information about accessibility, understanding that all sites will not be accessible, but for those that are, provide this detail. Emphasized the importance of multi-day trips, should be

clearly indicated on the website, not this site. Looks like a visitor-friendly site, supports conditions.

Wiese In general, this committee may want to consider overnight parking and access for multi-day trips more than we have. Some agencies may need to make new special provisions to accommodate this use. Rangers need to know when boaters are out on the Bay for longer periods of time. Endorses this site.

Nixon Reinforce previous comments. Bay Access does a five-day camping trip during October and there are creative ways to do this. Parking car for five days is a problem.

Romeo As part of the gate key program, the County issues a car tag so the ranger knows that someone with a permit is accessing the site after hours.

Choi Two ideas: tag in car that has description, "I'm planning to return by... here is my route." Laminated brochure could be costly; consider a donation box at sites to fund this resource.

Curry Both docks are eight feet wide, piles are in the center on the left dock, and on the left along the low float dock. Can reduce width as long as it does not go less than 36". The low-float dock needs room to carry equipment so the pile is off to the left for arrivals. California building code will be brought into full compliance [with federal code?] soon.

Puente-Peters Division of state architect has adopted as of 2013 the regulations as they are in the ADA. There will be changes to make them more stringent.

Skaff Commented earlier that the low float dock has the pile on the left and it looks like it is clear. County website does not have information; this is a concern. The float on the left may not accommodate a large electric wheelchair around the pile. Access in CA has clearly defined language for path of travel. Where not specific, it is the practice to go to other sections of the code that define accessibility that can be applied to other areas of the code.

Burns Voiced support for designation. SFBBO uses this location for bird watching. Confirms that there are breeding snowy plovers within the vicinity of the site. Need to communicate this and information about clapper rails. Discuss seasonality issues for wildlife breeding and when to give a wide berth for specific species.

Price Hunting signage needs to be posted at the launch site to avoid accidents and liability. Information needs to be timely about specific hunting days. Particularly stand-up paddlers.

### *Conclusion*

Skaff Two issues: picnic table accessibility, ADA signage and ADA information on the website. Makes motion to support with these modifications.

- Buell Not able to add picnic tables as a modification to the condition.
- Romeo Beginning an evaluation of all parks to make sure they are in compliance with ADA/accessibility regulations/requirements, and includes public notices and signage. This process will likely take a while to complete since there are currently 29 County Parks covering more than 48,000 acres. Picnic table issue will be discussed with the maintenance staff; Romeo will request to have one put at the site.
- Skaff Requests prioritization of this park by the County as part of the ADA assessment.
- Buell Romeo has heard the request.
- Buell Cullivan expressed his support for the site before leaving.
- Skaff Will support designation but will write an e-mail to the County to address the lack of information on the County website.
- Buell Water Trail website will include this information.
- Miramontes Accessibility information will be on the Water Trail website. Suggests adding information to the brochure.
- Romeo Will make the request; it is in the context of updating 29 park brochures.

Show of hands by the Advisory Committee, no one in opposition; supports with conditions as listed.

### **Water Trail Grant Program**

Basson clarified agency roles and responsibility of the grant program. ABAG will make decisions with PMT and AC input. AC will provide information on the merits of the project.

Reviewed a tentative schedule for grant program review. Pace of meetings will change with more designations.

- Burns Future meetings. Is there a process for efficiently reviewing these projects?
- Wiese The staff materials have been helpful, the only thing missing is a staff recommendation. This could help expedite the process for decision.
- Heroux Make sure the site goes through accessibility review before it comes before the full advisory committee. The sub-committee could help complete that step before it is brought before the full group.
- Skaff Has asked that the consultant complete this task, but has been told it's not possible. I would not accept just anybody determining this. Suggests strongly that the consultant take on this task. Won't accept reducing the amount of discussion we



have now about accessibility. It is as important as other elements. Disabled community (20% of population) is important.

Ariel Re-stated recommendation that the sub-committee review ahead of time.

Basson Asked for any ideas/suggestions to streamline the process.

**Public Comment**

Heather Needs clarity on funding opportunities. Three things need to happen: designation before award, Water Trail grant program, Explore the Coast is a second grant for programmatic needs.

Basson Clarified the difference between the Explore the Coast and Water Trail grant programs.

Buell Next steps: Next implementation meeting in June. Grant applications will be coming in. Accessibility plan is underway. Will work on streamlining our meetings.

**Adjourn**

**Meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.**