



**San Francisco Bay Area Water Trail  
Implementation Meeting #19  
September 16, 2016**

**Meeting Summary**

**Attendees:**

<i>Project Management Team (PMT)</i>	Laura Thompson, Matthew Trujillo, Dick Wayman, Jared Zucker
<i>Water Trail Staff</i>	Ben Botkin
<i>Advisory Committee (AC)</i>	Tom Boone, Wendy Proctor, Penny Wells (by phone), Joy Dryden (by phone), Lynn Cullum, Cecily Harris, Ted Choi, Yiwei Wang, Julie Bondurant
<i>Stakeholder Group and Guests:</i>	Dick Nelson, Fernanda Castillo, John Krause (CDFW), Scott Grindy (City of San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department), Sheila Chandor (Director of Marina Operations - Pier 39), Mike Giari (Port of Redwood City), Vic Randall (City of Benicia), Jim McGrath, David Fielder, Avra Heller (SCC), Fran Sticha, Susanne von Rosenberg (GAIA)
<i>Facilitation</i>	Ariel Ambruster, Center for Collaborative Policy

**Key Outcomes**

**Water Trail (WT) Trailhead Designations**

- Marina Green (San Francisco, San Francisco County) - Advisory Committee consensus guidance in support of designation; conditionally designated by Project Management Team.
- Pier 39 (San Francisco, San Francisco County) - Advisory Committee consensus guidance in support of designation; conditionally designated by Project Management Team.

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- Redwood City Marina (Redwood City, San Mateo County) - Advisory Committee consensus guidance in support of designation; conditionally designated by Project Management Team.
- Eden Landing Boat Launch (Hayward, Alameda County) - Advisory Committee majority guidance in support of designation; conditionally designated by Project Management Team.
- West 9<sup>th</sup> Street Boat Ramp (Benicia, Solano County) - Advisory Committee consensus guidance in support of designation; conditionally designated by Project Management Team.
- Point Isabel Regional Shoreline (Richmond, Alameda County) - Advisory Committee consensus guidance in support of designation; conditionally designated by Project Management Team.

## **Detailed Meeting Minutes**

### **Welcome, Introductions, and Agenda Review**

The meeting started with introductions by the attendees and an overview of the agenda and ground rules.

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

#### **Meeting Dates and Locations**

The December meeting will be at the new SCC offices in the State Building at 1515 Clay Street, Oakland.

#### **Updates**

- Dick Wayman of the State Coastal Conservancy is retiring at the end of 2016
- Priority Conservation Area grants will be available in 2017
- 7 grants/grant applications are in progress and moving forward; hope to complete and award all by the time Water Trail grant funding expires in mid-2017
  - Ferry Point ADA Path: in construction
  - Point Isabel Launch Improvement: working with EBRPD; consultant has been hired for the design
  - Baywinds Upper Launch Restoration: working with windsurfers and Foster City
  - Antioch Marina Low-Float Dock: submitted grant application
  - Suisun Low-Float Dock: grant application being finalized
  - Berkeley ADA Gangway: permitting is being completed
  - Petaluma Small Craft Center: pilings have arrived

#### **Outreach Activities**

- Groundwork Richmond: Water Trail is hoping to partner with them to get youth from Richmond on the water

- ABAG Planning Staff: Ben organized and attended outing with Kayaks Unlimited and Dragon Boat Training Center
- Division of Boating and Waterways: Water Trail sites are being added to the 2017-2019 edition of the Bay Area Clean Boating Map
- Inaugural Bay Day on October 1: multiple kayak activities are available; see their website for more information

### Outreach Plan

The following activities are planned for the next 9 months:

- Continue site designations
- Increase outreach to user groups to help expand project list; for example, Ben will be talking to BASK in October
- Develop Project Leadership Handbook to instruct user groups on how to go about making site improvements
- Develop maps to increase knowledge of the Water Trail; maps are an effective means of outreach to reach current and new user groups (DBW Map will also help)
- Update website by 2017
- Create a marketing campaign in conjunction with Bay Trail - Water Trail staff are applying to Coastal Conservancy for funding to create some artwork and advertising
- Above 5 items also support Grand Re-Introduction of Water Trail in Summer 2017
- Start applying for grants under Measure AA

Laura Thompson is part of the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority Advisory Committee. The committee is working on criteria for Measure AA grant funding. The Water Trail is well positioned to receive grants under Measure AA and also under the Priority Conservation Area grants; the Water Trail has been designated as a Priority Conservation Area. Grant applications will be solicited in early 2017.

### Action Alerts

- Provide comments on Point Isabel Design on-line
- Keep an eye out for a rare white porpoise (Mini-Moby); report sightings to Golden Gate Cetacean Research

### **San Francisco Small Craft Harbor (San Francisco Marina)**

*Represented by Scott Grindy, Harbormaster*

### Background

- The site is located in the West Harbor of the San Francisco Marina, and is in the Northern San Francisco Waterfront georegion
- There are 5 sites (plus Pier 39, which was not on the original list of potential Water Trail sites, and therefore not reflected in the Accessibility Plan) in this georegion; 2 are broadly accessible

- It is the oldest recreational marina operating in San Francisco, and is operated by San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department (RPD)
- The small boat launch facilities are located behind a locked gate within the marina; access to this area is provided to the public upon request
- Access to the Marina's high-freeboard docks is via an ADA gangway
- The low-float accessible EZ Launch Accessible Transfer System kayak launch is located on the eastern side of the high freeboard dock
- ADA-compliant restrooms are located in the marina offices close to the parking area
- General public "non-permit" vehicle parking is available between 6:00 am and 10:00 pm; the parking area has four ADA spaces in the vicinity of the docks
- NMSBs observed at the site include kayaks, rowboats, paddle boards, outriggers, and canoes.
- The marina is next to a large and popular park, Marina Green, which is home to many events including Escape From Alcatraz and Fleet Week

#### Proposed Designation Conditions

- Water Trail identification and education signs installed
- Water Trail education sign includes messages relevant to navigational safety; avoiding rafting waterfowl; and directs users to not land on private docks and unauthorized landings

#### Discussion and Q&A

There is a drop box for keys after hours. The harbormaster's office does not keep boaters' IDs—they just photocopy them. It's also possible to get a temporary parking pass if one is doing an overnight paddle. A kayak storage area is available at the East Harbor (about 2 blocks away) but will probably have to be moved to the West Harbor during the East Harbor construction and remediation. The harbormaster's office is working on the storage location at the West Harbor. They are also considering putting up kayak storage racks on the low float dock for day use. Outriggers can be launched at the pump-out station.

The harbormaster's office will move to the old Navy Degaussing Facility as part of a project currently in permitting. Lynn Cullivan may be able to offer historical photos of the Degaussing Facility. The current office will become more of a tenant use space.

Parking in the area is pretty difficult. There is a drop-off for people who have to park farther away, which is common, especially on weekends. There have been discussions regarding charging for parking to control the volume. People not using the park also park in the Marina Green parking area. RPD is currently working on interpretive signage.

There are sensitive species nearby at Crissy Field, but one cannot paddle into the wetlands. Crissy Field is a very busy area already and Water Trail users are not likely to affect the species. It's important to let Water Trail users know that they cannot land on Alcatraz Island.

There was some discussion around the need to evaluate whether educational signage is actually effective and a suggestion was made to create stickers to put on kayaks so boaters have the appropriate guidance right in front of them. Ben will work with Yiwei on this.

The water conditions outside of the West Harbor can be challenging for novice kayakers. There are detailed warnings regarding key safety considerations for each site, but the Water Trail does not rank sites. The suggestion to rank relative to user skills has been considered previously but it was decided that site conditions can change too rapidly for rankings to be reliable. Site-specific challenges can be communicated on the Water Trail website. For this site it would be more valuable to mention high usage days (such as Fleet Week); this can be done by the marina. It may also be helpful to note alternative access points for high usage Water Trail sites on the Water Trail website.

The transfer steps should be accompanied by pictorial and audio instructions for using them. It would also be good to add a video to the website. A link to the EZ-dock video can be added, and Water Trail staff will evaluate adding signage and/or a QR code. The transfer step is intended to be usable without assistance, but it will depend on the specific abilities of the boater using the dock. RPD is equipping the entire area with security cameras that will be monitored by the harbormaster's office, so the harbormaster's office will be able to see if a boater needs assistance.

#### Advisory Committee Deliberations

The Advisory Committee voted unanimously to recommend site designation with site designation conditions as proposed in the meeting materials.

The Advisory Committee unanimously recommended conditional site designation with the designation conditions as proposed in the meeting materials.

#### Project Management Team Deliberations

The PMT unanimously supported site designation with the conditions proposed.

The Project Management Team unanimously decided in favor of conditional designation of the San Francisco Small Craft Harbor (San Francisco Marina) with the designation conditions as proposed in the meeting materials.

#### **Pier 39 Small Boat Launch**

*Represented by Sheila Chandor, Director of Marina Operations, Pier 39 Limited Partnership*

#### Background

- The Pier 39 small boat launch site is in the Northern San Francisco Waterfront georegion

- The site is anticipated to serve primarily as a destination site for paddlers starting elsewhere.
- There are 6 sites in this georegion; 2 are broadly accessible
- Pier 39 is a 45-acre waterfront complex that contains 14 restaurants and 90+ shops as well as a 5-acre waterfront park and a 306-berth marina; the small boat launch is in the marina
- Launch facilities are located behind a locked gate within the East Marina, with access open to the public upon request; it is possible to get access 24 hours a day
- Access to the Marina's high-freeboard docks is via an ADA gangway to mechanical lift or non-ADA gangway. Both lead to a low-float EZ Launch Accessible Transfer System kayak launch
- ADA restrooms are located within Pier 39, approximately 270 feet west of the ADA ramp to the docks
- Visitor parking is available in the Pier 39 Garage. The Pier 39 Garage is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week; the distance from the parking garage to the dock is about 1,000 feet
- There is free short-term kayak storage for up to 12 kayaks on the dock (behind the locked gates); the racks can probably also accommodate stand-up paddleboards
- The site currently receives little use due to lack of knowledge of the public facility. Signage was added in July 2016 indicating that the public can use the launch facility
- Paddlers are not allowed to paddle underneath Pier 39 due to public safety concerns
- Non-motorized small boats observed at the site include kayaks, rowboats, paddle boards, and canoes

#### Proposed Designation Conditions

- Water Trail identification and education signs installed
- Water Trail education sign includes messages relevant to navigational safety; avoiding rafting waterfowl; and possibly directing boaters not to boat under Pier 39

#### Discussion and Q&A

It would be a good idea to consider this type of temporary kayak storage at other Water Trail sites. It's great that the temporary boat storage is behind the locked gate. Overnight storage should be allowed to allow visitors to enjoy the area and stay overnight.

This may become a very popular site. The availability of additional sites along the San Francisco waterfront will make it much easier for boaters to enjoy the site as a destination site. If there are impacts from high visitation to this location, Pier 39 management would look to expand the facility. Pier 39 management is always keeping track of visitation and potential effects of high visitation for the entire Pier 39 facility.

The prohibition on boating under the pier is enforced by signage at eye height and through friendly follow-up by the security team. Pier 39 management will expand this prohibition to

include all piers because the cruise ship terminal is nearby and there are also security issues during Fleet Week.

It would be nice to have directional signage for the boaters on the water telling them where to go. Additional warnings are needed to keep NMSB users out of the area used by ferries (near where the sea lions are located, which would probably be a draw for kayakers).

There are no current plans to add a non-motorized small boat concessionaire or outfitter at Pier 39.

The transfer steps are very far above the kayaks so it would be hard to get out of a kayak especially at the end of the trip when one is tired. Many disabled boaters would need helpers to get out of their kayaks. A Hoyer lift would be preferable. It's not only wheelchair users who may need help getting out of their boats; it's often also older people. All boaters are expected to use the website to inform themselves about the conditions of each particular Water Trail site and any additional support that they may need. To truly make this a destination site a folding wheelchair should be available at the dock so that disabled boaters can use this site as well.

It would be helpful to have an LED-lighted sign with real-time information on currents, tides, and surf.

#### Advisory Committee Deliberations

The Advisory Committee voted unanimously to recommend site designation with site designation conditions as shown above and the addition of warning language not to boat under the piers.

The Advisory Committee unanimously recommended conditional site designation with the designation conditions as proposed in the meeting materials plus warning language not to boat under the piers.

#### Project Management Team Deliberations

The PMT unanimously supported site designation with the conditions as amended by the Advisory Committee.

The Project Management Team unanimously decided in favor of conditional designation of the Pier 39 Small Boat Launch with the designation conditions as proposed in the meeting materials and an added warning to boaters to avoid boating under the piers.

## **Redwood City Municipal Marina**

*Represented by Michael Giari, Executive Director, Port of Redwood City*

### Background

- The Redwood City Municipal Marina is owned and managed by the Port of Redwood City. It is in the southwestern portion of the Port
- The site is located in the Peninsula and South Bay georegion; there are 12 sites in this georegion, 2 provide broadly accessible facilities
- It has a corrugated cement boat ramp with two high-freeboard docks located on the sides of the ramp
- There is also an adjacent low freeboard dock. The low freeboard dock is accessed by a non-ADA boarding dock
- The marina 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
- The site provides a variety of amenities, including kayak storage, a picnic area, boat washing, and a rigging area
- ADA-accessible restrooms are located near 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 five ADA spaces

### Proposed Designation Conditions

- Water Trail identification and education signs installed
- Water Trail education sign includes messages relevant to navigational safety; maintaining adequate buffer distance from harbor seal haul outs; and directing users use caution paddling near flow restrictors

### Discussion and Q&A

Four sites in the georegion are or will be broadly accessible. Kayak storage is available for \$12.50 per month; it is run by Sequoia Yacht Club. There are lots of boating programs including programs for youth. There is a possibility for overnight parking in the future.

The low freeboard dock is not accessible because of the slope and style of the ramp. The marina ramp high freeboard docks are also not accessible. The upland facilities are accessible. No accessibility improvements are currently planned.

The low freeboard dock is operated by the Palo Alto Rowing Club, and club members can be unfriendly to non-club users of the dock. It's unclear who is entitled to use the low freeboard dock, whether there needs to be payment, etc. The low freeboard dock is very busy. Increasing the size of the low freeboard dock could address some of the heavy usage concerns. It would be best to approach the Palo Alto Rowing Club with any suggested changes.



Accessibility of the low freeboard dock could be improved if the steps were replaced by a ramp, and handrails were added. This should be a recommendation (not a condition of site designation). A better solution than retrofitting the existing stairs to the low freeboard dock may be to consider installing a new more accessible dock. Handrails would limit usability of the low freeboard dock by outrigger canoes. The steps leading down to the low freeboard dock were built over an existing salt slurry pipeline and cannot be replaced by a ramp. Cargill has an easement for the pipeline. There are many other development activities in the immediate area of the Redwood City Municipal Marina that will have some NMSB public access to the same general water body.

In the industrial area there is another launch ramp, it was used by USGS. The Port has improved it since USGS moved out but it is only for use by public agencies. It is not a public launch ramp. The Port will put better signage to make this clear.

This is a great area for nature experiences, because Bair Island is located just across the slough, and one can also paddle to Greco Island. SFBBO is still doing active restoration at Bair Island. It's important to clarify where access to the marsh is allowed. These areas are designated by the state Marine Park regulations. A small map may be helpful. Trails on Inner Bair Island cannot be accessed from the water; this needs to be clarified as well. Bair Island is open to hunting from October through January, on Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays. Hunters can get testy if you get too close to their decoys. Paddlers going to Greco Island need to be careful because it's easy to get stuck in the mud there at low tide.

This part of the Peninsula is a melting pot area - it would be really great to see this site turned into a universally accessible area. There are also lots of educational opportunities, and it would be good to have them available to everyone.

Algae on docks and ramps make them very slippery. It would be good to install a toe rail at the bottom of the ramp, and to add lighting. The dock is used after dark too. Ms. Castillo would like to start an accessible sailing club here. There is a real need in this area for a site with universal access.

#### Advisory Committee Deliberations

A low freeboard dock could be added to one of the existing high freeboard docks. It's important to determine if the low freeboard dock is open to the public (need to consult BCDC permit), and then inform the public.

The Advisory Committee voted unanimously to recommend site designation with gentle encouragement to move towards universal access and increasing the capacity of the low freeboard dock (increasing the size of the existing dock or adding a new dock). Added to the site designation conditions are that the Water Trail education sign should clarify allowed access to Bair Island, and provide hunting information.

The Advisory Committee reached consensus to support the conditional site designation with the amended site designation conditions: the additional conditions that the Water Trail education sign clarify allowed access to Bair Island and provide hunting information. In addition, the Advisory Committee suggested there be gentle encouragement to move toward universal access and increasing the capacity of the low freeboard dock (increasing the size of the existing dock or adding a new dock).

#### Project Management Team Deliberations

The PMT unanimously supported site designation in accord with Advisory Committee guidance.

The Project Management Team decided in favor of conditional designation of the Redwood City Municipal Marina with proposed conditions, and two additional conditions, that the Water Trail education sign clarify allowed access to Bair Island, and provide hunting information. The PMT encouraged the Port to move toward universal access and increased low freeboard dock capacity.

### **Eden Landing Ecological Reserve**

*Represented by John Krause, California Department of Fish and Wildlife*

#### Background

- The site is located in the Southern Alameda County georegion; there is very limited access to San Francisco Bay in this area
- This is a brand-new site, opened in May 2016
- The site has a low freeboard dock attached to a high freeboard dock reached by an ADA gangway. The concrete ramp adjacent to the high freeboard dock may also be used by NMSBs. The ramp is not available for public use by motorized boats; it is for use by public agencies such as the Hayward fire department
- The site provides for a great nature experience location and wildlife viewing opportunities. There are 2 miles of Bay Trail spur in the Eden Landing Restoration Area
- Hunting also occurs in Eden Landing, during the same period it does at Bair Island
- Parking is located approximately 1/4 mile from the boat launch; the gated road to the boat launch is open during daylight hours
- There are several temporary parking spaces for unloading and an ADA parking space at the boat launch
- The main parking area is operated by EBRPD; parking is free, but no overnight parking is allowed
- An accessible restroom is located at the main parking area, also operated by EBRPD
- A rigging area with Astroturf is located near the loading/unloading zone
- There are 10 interpretive signs at this site
- Although Mt. Eden Creek remains navigable at all tides, extensive mudflats at the Bay can become unnavigable at lower tides, even for shallow draft boats

- The proximity of the launch to the Hayward Shoreline Interpretive Center could offer opportunities for partnerships with kayak groups for interpretive paddles or programs

#### Proposed Designation Conditions

- Water Trail identification sign installed  
(Water Trail educational signage would be redundant.)

#### Discussion and Q&A

There was considerable discussion about the possibility of moving the restroom closer to the launch site. A quarter-mile can be a long distance for a disabled person depending on the pavement, wind, etc. However, the restroom is located on EBRPD property and is maintained by EBRPD. CDFW does not have the resources to maintain a restroom. In addition, at the launch area there are issues with turning trailers required to pump-out the restroom. EBRPD declined to discuss operating and maintaining a restroom on CDFW property, and expressed a concern over potential costs.

There are biological monitors in this area frequently. They have noted some people illegally parked long term in the loading and unloading area by the launch as well as possible "shady" activity. CDFW has improved the signage and striping for the launch area to make it clear that the non-ADA spaces are only for loading and unloading.

SFBBO just started a new western snowy plover docent program near here because snowy plovers are nesting nearby. California least terns forage in this area and have attempted to nest but have not been successful.

#### Advisory Committee Deliberations

Advisory Committee comments:

- CDFW should be encouraged to pursue a restroom at the launch; consider moving the existing restroom there
- The site should not be designated until a restroom is provided near the launch
- Add information about the least terns to the Water Trail website
- This site is a high value addition to the Water Trail, the site itself and the connection it provides to other sites
- EBRPD and CDFW should be commended for their efforts
- The multiple interpretive signs are really appreciated – people need to hear the message in multiple ways

A majority of Advisory Committee members voted to recommend site designation with the designation conditions as proposed in the meeting materials, and specific comments (but not conditions) to add information about least terns to the Water Trail website, and to request CDFW to continue to pursue providing a restroom at the launch. One member voted against designation because of the lack of a restroom near the launch.

By majority the Advisory Committee voted to support the conditional site designation with the designation conditions as proposed in the meeting materials.

#### Project Management Team Deliberations

The PMT unanimously supported site designation with the conditions proposed in the meeting materials, and concurs with the additional comments provided by the Advisory Committee.

The Project Management Team decided in favor of conditional designation of Eden Landing Ecological Reserve with the designation conditions as proposed in the meeting materials.

#### **West 9<sup>th</sup> Street Boat Launch, Benicia**

*Represented by Vic Randall, City of Benicia, Parks and Community Services*

#### Background

- This site is owned by the City of Benicia, and is located in the Carquinez Strait georegion
- There are no broadly accessible sites in this georegion, but all have some accessible features
- A goal for this georegion is to increase the number of site designations and have a site pursue grant funding for accessible features
- The site is designed primarily for trailered boats, but is used by many different boat types
- Boat launch facilities consist of a corrugated cement boat ramp with two high-freeboard docks located on the sides of the ramp
- The site is located on a bluff so the path of the water is quite steep because of the geography
- NMSBs observed at the site include kayaks, rowboats, paddle boards, and canoes
- There are great variety of facilities on land, including a picnic area, restrooms, BBQ pits, and a sandy beach, and there are terrific views
- The beach could serve as a great destination, but is unlikely to be heavily used as a launch due to the distance (~400 feet) and steep slope from the parking area
- The two ADA-accessible restrooms are located approximately 220 feet east of the ramps
- The restrooms have an accessible path of travel from the parking area, but no accessible path exists between the parking area/restrooms and the docks
- Free parking is available in a large lot. The parking area has 2 ADA spaces
- The Benicia Outrigger Canoe club uses the site
- Long-term, EBRPD is interested in developing more boat-accessible locations along the Carquinez shoreline, but the effort has not gotten to the planning stage yet

#### Proposed Designation Conditions

- Water Trail identification and education signs installed
- Water Trail education sign includes messages relevant to navigational safety

### Discussion and Q&A

This is a tough area for accessibility because of the Carquinez cliffs. The Water Trail program has always recognized that different sites will be suitable for different uses, and that not all sites can or should be made broadly accessible. Geographically the Martinez Marina has the most potential for accessibility improvements and a low freeboard dock. Water Trail staff have not had any discussions with them yet. One could use the Suisun model: designate the site and then have them apply for a grant.

The cove at this site is perfect for learning to windsurf. There's no current behind the headlands and the water is shallow, but there are winds and currents nearby that allow people to practice skills. There are also good places to boat to from here.

This can be a tricky area for large vessels. The old lift span on the bridge doesn't always lift and vessels sometimes unexpectedly have to turn off to the west. This could be frightening to NMSB users. The surface of the boat ramp is grooved and the City will ensure regular maintenance to control algae growth (slipperiness).

It's great that there's a club using this site. The club is an informational resource, and it provides a presence as well as a potential source of site stewards. There's also a Bay Trail segment in this area.

### Advisory Committee Deliberations

The Advisory Committee voted unanimously to recommend site designation with designation conditions as proposed in the meeting materials.

The Advisory Committee reached consensus to support the conditional site designation with the site designation conditions as proposed in the meeting materials.

### Project Management Team Deliberations

The PMT unanimously supported site designation with the designation conditions as proposed in the meeting materials.

The Project Management Team decided in favor of conditional designation of the West 9<sup>th</sup> Street Boat Launch with the designation conditions as proposed in the meeting materials.

### **Point Isabel Regional Shoreline**

*Represented by Julie Bondurant, East Bay Regional Park District*

### Background

- This site designation is linked to a \$185,000 grant that EBRPD has applied for; the grant would contribute to planning and design of launch area improvements
- The site is part of McLaughlin Eastshore State Park, but is managed by EBRPD

- It is located in the Richmond Area georegion, and is primarily used by windsurfers
- There are 8 sites in this georegion, and none are currently broadly accessible; however, once the concrete access path at Ferry Point has been completed (this fall), the Ferry Point site will be broadly accessible. Point Isabel could be the second site
- Upland facilities at Point Isabel, including parking, trails, restrooms, benches, picnic tables, and BBQ, are accessible
- The Point Isabel Boat Launch Improvement Project will provide ADA access to the water upon completion
- There are a variety of proposed site improvements; the Water Trail Advisory Committee and PMT offered suggestions and input on the proposed features
- The site is popular with windsurfers because of its ideal wind direction and frequency
- The primary water access location consists of cement stairs that lead to a small gravel beach protected behind a rock jetty. The stairs to the beach are substantially eroding and may be hazardous
- There is also a pocket beach in the southern portion of Point Isabel that is used by kayakers under calm conditions. Access to this beach requires a short scramble down the rock revetment
- A water entry path of cement cobble is located just south of the Hoffman Channel; it is primarily used by dogs to access the water but also provides an emergency egress for windsurfers
- Free parking is available in a large lot north of the site and along Isabel Street. The parking area has eight ADA spaces
- Many windsurfers park along Isabel Street and rig in the grass adjacent to the sidewalk
- This is a popular public park and parking can be constrained on weekends and evenings

#### Proposed Designation Conditions

- Water Trail identification and education signs installed
- Water Trail education sign includes messages relevant to navigational safety; avoiding heron/egret rookeries, rafting waterfowl, and harbor seals; and directs users to not enter Albany Mudflats

#### Discussion and Q&A

There are a few sites that are good for windsurfers—this is one of them. It's important to designate these types of sites. The site may also be usable by kayakers when the wind dies down.

The condition of the launch is pretty alarming. Site improvements can be made part of the site designation conditions, but a conditional designation is needed to move the grant forward. The Point Isabel website is available to submit comments on the design. Ben will

add any additional comments and suggestions to the list. The site is currently shown as a formal launch site on the EBRPD website and map.

The site with its proposed improvements is needed in case one gets blown off course (emergency egress).

#### Advisory Committee Deliberations

The advisory committee unanimously recommended conditional site designation based on the following additional conditions: 1) that EBRPD implement the safety and ADA improvements and 2) that Water Trail staff confirm EBRPD ownership of the launch area prior to site designation. One Advisory Committee member recused herself from the vote on the recommendation because she was not present for this part of the presentation.

The Advisory Committee reached consensus to support the conditional site designation with the designation conditions as proposed in the meeting materials and two additional conditions: 1) that EBRPD implement the safety and ADA improvements and 2) that Water Trail staff confirm EBRPD ownership of the launch area prior to site designation.

#### Project Management Team Deliberations

The PMT unanimously supported site designation with the conditions proposed in the meeting materials and the additional conditions recommended by the Advisory Committee.

The Project Management Team decided in favor of conditional designation of the Point Isabel Regional Shoreline site with the designation conditions as proposed in the meeting materials and two supplemental conditions: 1) that EBRPD implement the safety and ADA improvements and 2) that Water Trail staff confirm EBRPD ownership of the launch area prior to site designation.

#### **General Public Comments**

Any emergency exit improvement that can be accomplished here is needed and should be implemented.

#### **Parking Lot (Possible Items for Future Agendas/Staff Work)**

- Possible agenda topics:
  - Follow-up study to examine effectiveness of signs regarding wildlife/habitat protection, etc.
  - How to steer new NSMB users away from particularly challenging sites without using a site difficulty grading system
  - Wayfinding signage for kayaks in densely used areas of San Francisco

#### **Action Items:**

- Create stickers to put on kayaks so boaters have the appropriate wildlife protection guidance right in front of them. Ben to work with Yiwei on this
- Ben to evaluate adding signage and/or a QR code at the San Francisco Marina NMSB launch providing information on use of the transfer steps and EZ-Dock
- Ben to add the following to the Water Trail website:
  - EZ-Dock video/use instructions
  - Information about the least tern foraging around the Eden Landing Boat Launch to the Water Trail website
- Provide any additional comments on the Point Isabel Boat Launch Improvement Project to Ben, or via the project's website
- Ben to confirm site ownership at Point Isabel Regional Shoreline

**Adjourn** - Meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

**Next Meeting** – The next meeting is scheduled for December 9, 2016 at 10 a.m. at the new State Coastal Conservancy office at 1515 Clay Street, Oakland.