



**San Francisco Bay Area Water Trail
Implementation Meeting #23
September 15, 2017**

Meeting Summary

Attendees:

<i>Project Management Team (PMT)</i>	Avra Heller, Lynn Sadler, Laura Thompson, Matthew Trujillo
<i>Water Trail Staff</i>	Ben Botkin
<i>Advisory Committee (AC)</i>	Yiwei Wang (phone), Lynn Cullivan, Kevin Takei, Ted Choi, Penny Wells, Joy Dryden, Tom Boone (phone)
<i>Stakeholder Group and Guests:</i>	Bo Barnes (Bay Access), Susanne von Rosenberg (GAIA Consulting, phone), Amy Wooldridge (City of Alameda) David Wells (101 Surf Sports), Matt Gerhart (SCC), Joe Sullivan (EBRPD)

Key Outcomes

Water Trail Trailhead Designations

- Keller Beach (Richmond, Contra Costa County) - Advisory Committee unanimous guidance in support of designation; conditionally designated by Project Management Team (PMT).
- Encinal Beach and Boat Launch (Alameda, Alameda County) – Advisory Committee unanimous guidance in support of designation; conditionally designated by Project Management Team (PMT).

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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

Updates

Updates on Water Trail staff activities are summarized in the [staff update presentation](#).

- Rollout of [BoatCA](#): a boating app that lists all boating facilities throughout California, and contains sections for finding pump out stations in real time, and planning & safety features.
- San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority released their [RFP](#). Ben invited meeting attendees to look at the document and see if any of the programs or water trail sites that would be a good fit for grant opportunities. Proposals are due November 15.
- Petaluma Small Craft Center is continuing to receive parts, and are planning in the next several weeks to drive their piles and start installing the low flow dock at their facilities.
- Point Isabel released their CEQA document for the improved launch.
- Suisun Marina is still in the process of finalizing their grant for low flow docks.
- Antioch Marina has received their low float docks, and are in the process of installing them.
- Currently working with Save the Bay on map products as well as the website, and having a presence at events happening throughout the bay, including Bay Day (Oct 7). If there are additional events that you are aware of, please let Ben know.
- Met with partners implementing the Canoemobile, a program that travels around the country with large canoes and aims to get school groups and community members out in the water and paddling. They are currently looking into bringing a permanent installment to the Bay Area. Please let Ben know if this is something you would want to be a part of.
- Mississippi Paddle Share Program is a great model of sharing paddle gear.
- Working with BCDC and community kite boarders of the design of Albany Beach. So far everyone seems to be happy with the design.
- Baywinds continuing to their beach restoration project and nourishment important to the kiteboarding community.
- Doolittle boat launch had a meeting with East Bay Regional Parks, and are planning improvements to the boat launch.
- Brisbane Marina hopes to build a kayak launch in the near future.
- National Parks is hosting “Celebrate the Coast Day” Sept. 23.

Water Trail Outreach Update

- Hoping to launch new website* in a week or two, and looking for constructive feedback.
- Website Contains maps that will be consistent with the print maps that will be released, Real time weather, description of facilities, amenities, accessibility, and safety tips.
- Currently working on building a trip tracker and recommended trips section for the website.
- Website also has locations of gear and equipment outfitters.
- Meeting attendees reviewed the outreach maps designed for familiarity with the Water Trail, which include information about wildlife, safety, and facilities.
- Suisun / Benicia Exclusion Zone is still in place even though “Moth Ball Fleet” is no longer there.

Water Trail 5-Year Strategic Plan

Comments and Discussion:

The consensus among several attendees seemed to be that the goals of the rough strategic plan were too broad. Several requests were noted regarding the need for more specific goals with explicit timelines and metrics. AC and PMT recommended that this draft of the strategic plan should be reworked and discussed again at the December meeting. Critical goals should prioritize:

- Boat storage—long term and short term.
- Inclusion of the Water Trail in partner organizations strategic and implementation plans.
- Include plan to work with local chambers of commerce and businesses for entrepreneurial opportunities.
- Fully functional, up-to-date [website](#)*

*website was launched in the first week of October.

Trailhead Designation Consideration: [Keller Beach Presentation](#) (slides 1-13)

Background

Background information about this site (the Site Description and Environmental Review Summary) is available by clicking [this link](#) or on the Conservancy’s Water Trail webpage, under the 9/15/17 [agenda](#). The proposed site designation conditions are shown in Slide 12.

Advisory Committee Discussion and Comments

- Keller is a great beach, but it does have its challenges.
- Site is a good destination area and a safe place to pull in and rest.
- Kayakers are not allowed to unload at the fire gate at the entrance to beach. Citations may be issued.
- Signage should be put up to show kayakers where to park.

- Hill grade and safety specific info should be included in signage.
- Safety specifics should be included in maps and brochures as well.
- Onsite dollies and winches would be a great asset.
- Consider putting signage closer to the water so trail users can see the signs.
- Staff should look back at designation requirements for Angel Island site and adjust the designation process and conditions accordingly.

PMT Discussion and Comments

PMT members requested that staff review that designation conditions of this site align with conditions similar to past trailheads.

Advisory Committee Guidance

Advisory committee advised that requirements for (destination) trailhead consideration be consistent across all sites.

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

*Note: AC member Kevin Takei recused himself of this vote, as he is the site manager for Keller Beach.

Project Management Team Deliberations

The PMT unanimously supported site designation with the supplemental conditions proposed by the Advisory Committee. The PMT requested that staff check consistency with destination site designation conditions with Angel Island. EBRPD confirmed that signage can be posted on the beach, complementing site's designation as a destination site.

The Project Management Team unanimously decided in favor of conditional designation of the Keller Beach with the designation conditions as proposed in the meeting materials and supplemental conditions recommended by the Advisory Committee.

Paddle boarding presentation from David Wells

David Wells of 101 Surf Sports presented on different types of Stand Up Paddle Boarding (SUP) boards and disciplines. See [linked PowerPoint presentation](#).

Comments and discussion

- Dept. of Boating and Waterways does not regulate surfboards, but they do paddleboards.
- As soon as you get into the surf zone, the coast guard no longer designates you a vessel. The life jacket law goes away, and the light law goes away.

- SF Bay is one of the best locations for paddle boarding, but levels of usage are low.
- Recommends following life jacket safety laws and always wearing a leash.
- Recommend you put coast guard issued orange ID stickers on your paddleboard and paddle.
- Also discussed new kayak pod storage systems as potential revenue for launch site managers.

Trailhead Designation Consideration: [Encinal Beach and Boat Launch \(slides 14-32\)](#)

Background

Background information about this site (the Site Description and Environmental Review Summary) is available by clicking [this link](#) or on the Conservancy's Water Trail webpage, under the 9/15/17 [agenda](#). The proposed site designation conditions are shown in Slide 31.

Advisory Committee Discussion and Comments

- City of Alameda website lays out different [kayaking options](#) and tours available.
- Applying for construction funding in upcoming winter and spring.
- Beach restoration plans include removing ice plant, raising the beach to a higher elevation, and revegetating with native dune-dwelling plants.
- Include signage letting people know that there are active raptor nests in the area.
- This is a protected area that often provides ideal conditions for beginners to practice safety skills.
- There will be motorized and non-motorized boating activity in this area. No motorized activity inside the breakwater, however.
- Recommended to hold off on posting signage for trailhead until completion of the project improvements. Temporary signs will be installed in existing EBRPD signage boards
- City now requires all new shoreline developers to install low float docks as part of their development.

PMT Discussion and Comments

- Asked for clarification re: AC opinion on installing a sign prior to completed improvements. – EBRPD expressed discomfort in a permanent sign prior to completion and instead offered the use of their signage boards for the interim. Posted signage will specifically address non-motorized boater interactions with sensitive wildlife.

Advisory Committee Guidance

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

*Note: AC member Kevin Takei recused himself of this vote, as he is the EBRPD representative for Encinal Beach.

Project Management Team Deliberations

The PMT unanimously supported site designation with the supplemental conditions proposed by the Advisory Committee.

The Project Management Team unanimously decided in favor of conditional designation of Encinal Beach and Boat Launch with the designation conditions as proposed in the meeting materials and supplemental conditions recommended by the Advisory Committee.

Adjourn - Meeting was adjourned at 1:05 p.m.

Next Meeting – The next meeting is scheduled for December 1st and will be held at the Bay Area Metro Building, 375 Beale Street, San Francisco, Ohlone Conference Room at 10:00 am