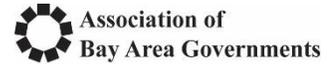




San Francisco Bay Area Water Trail
 Site Description for
Encinal Beach and Boat Launch



Location, Ownership, and Management: Encinal Beach and Boat Launch is located on the west end of Alameda Island, adjacent to Encinal High School on Central Avenue. The boat launch, parking area, and restrooms are owned and operated by the City of Alameda. The beach is managed by the East Bay Regional Park District. Major site improvements are planned for 2018/2019.

Boat Launch

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Beach

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<p>Beach</p>	<p>Boat Launch</p>	<p>Beach</p>

Facility Description: The Encinal Beach and Boat Launch provides access to the San Francisco Bay from a sandy beach and an adjacent cement boat ramp. The site features a large, free parking lot, portable restrooms, walking paths, and a boat storage area utilized by several clubs / outfitters. The boat launch facility is well-utilized by the community, despite its current deteriorated condition.

Three boating groups are located at Encinal: the Alameda Community Sailing Center, O’Kalani Outrigger Canoe Club and Stacked Adventures. All three organizations collaborate with the Alameda Recreation and Parks Department to provide non-motorized watercraft programs to youth, adults, and families. The Encinal Boat Launch Facility is heavily utilized as a fishing area as well.



Other Identifying or General Information:

<p>Site ID: <u>A15</u> In WT Plan: <u>Yes</u> Existing or Planned: <u>Existing</u> Ownership: <u>Public</u> County: <u>Alameda</u> Geo-Region: <u>Oakland Waterfront</u> SF Bay Plan Region: <u>Central Bay</u> Launch or Destination: <u>Launch</u> Home of a Club: <u>Yes</u> Used by a Program that Assists Persons with Disabilities: <u>No</u> Appreciated for Windy Conditions: <u>No</u> Near Food or Drink: <u>No</u></p>	<p>Proximity to Other Sites: The closest Water Trail site is Crown Beach, located adjacent to the east approximately a half mile. Tidewater Boating Center, a designated Water Trail site that features numerous amenities for non-motorized boaters, is located approximately three miles northeast on the Oakland Estuary. It is an approximately five mile paddle to Water Trail sites along the San Francisco shoreline.</p>
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Description of Launch/Landing:

Fixed Dock/Pier Launch/Landing: <u>No</u> Float: <u>No</u> Freeboard Level: <u>High (9" and above)</u> Transfer/Launch Assistance System: <u>No</u> Gangway: <u>No</u> Boat/Trailer Ramp: <u>Yes</u> Mudflats Affect Site Usability: <u>No</u> Beach Wheelchair Available: <u>No</u> Stair Water Entry: <u>No</u> Beach: <u>Yes</u>	Firm-Surface Beach Crossing: <u>No</u> Fee for Launch or Parking: <u>No</u> Other Launch/Landing Notes: There is a beach and a boat ramp. Measurements are to the boat ramp. Water Entry Path: <u>No</u>
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Site Appears to be Suitable For:

Kayak: <u>Yes</u> Windsurfer: <u>No</u> Kiteboard: <u>No</u> Whaleboat: <u>Yes</u> Stand Up Paddleboard: <u>Yes</u>	Canoe: <u>Yes</u> Outrigger Canoe: <u>Yes</u> Sculling: <u>Yes</u> Rowboat/Dinghy: <u>Yes</u> Dragonboat: <u>Yes</u>
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The Alameda Community Sailing Center, O’Kalani Outrigger Canoe Club and Stacked Adventures store boats and run programs from the site

Transportation and Parking:

<p>General Spaces (number): <u>50</u> ADA Parking Spaces (number): <u>2</u></p> <p>ADA Parking Description: ADA parking markings on the pavement are faded, almost to the point where they are completely gone. There is no sign indicating the space is an ADA space.</p> <p>Duration (hours): Two hours before sunrise to two hours after sunset.</p> <p>Overnight Parking Possibly Allowed: <u>No</u></p> <p>Overnight Parking Description: No overnight parking currently allowed. There is a park curfew from 10pm to 5am.</p>	<p>Loading/Unloading Area: <u>Yes</u> Bay Trail: <u>Yes</u> Public Transportation: No public transit currently serves the site. The nearest bus stop is at the corner of Pacific Avenue and Central Avenue, approximately 0.5 miles from the site.</p> 
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Path of Travel:

<p>Distance to Launch from Parking Area (feet): <u>171</u> Distance to Launch from ADA Parking (feet): <u>171</u> Distance to Launch from ADA Restrooms (feet): <u>151</u> Distance from ADA Restrooms to ADA Parking (feet): <u>20</u> Path of Travel Exists: <u>Yes</u></p>  <p>The path travel from the parking lot to the boat ramp is paved, but the surface is rough. The path to beach is paved from the parking lot to the top of the beach, but not across the beach.</p>
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Other Site Amenities:

<p>Total Restrooms: <u>2</u> Total ADA Restrooms: <u>1</u> Restroom Description: The permanent restrooms are closed. There are two portable unisex restrooms, one of which is ADA accessible.</p> 	<p>Boat Washing: <u>No</u> Rigging/Staging Area: <u>No</u> Picnic Tables: <u>Yes</u> Benches: <u>Yes</u> BBQ: <u>No</u> Boat Storage: <u>No</u></p> <p>Boat Storage Description: Boat storage is for clubs only. No general public boat storage is currently offered.</p>
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Overnight Accommodations:

Hotel: <u>No</u>	Hostel: <u>No</u>	Ship: <u>No</u>	Camping: <u>No</u>	Other: <u>No</u>
<p>Accommodations Description: A campground was previously located adjacent to the west of the sailing club storage facility. This area will be redeveloped as part of the larger Alameda Point (former Naval Air Station Alameda) redevelopment and could be returned to an active campground.</p>				

Additional Notes Related to Accessibility:

Not currently accessible. Planned improvements to the boat launch will be ADA compliant (construction anticipated for 2018/2019).

Additional Notes on Use of Site (Boating and Non-Boating) and Existing and Planned Management:

The Boat Launch Facility is well-utilized by the community. Despite its current deteriorated condition, the City estimates that the site receives over 2,700 small boat visitors each year. Additionally, three community groups are located at the facility: the Alameda Community Sailing Center, O’Kalani Outrigger Canoe Club and Stacked Adventures, who use it on a regular basis. All three organizations collaborate with the Alameda Recreation and Parks Department to provide non-motorized watercraft programs to youth, adults, and families. The Encinal Boat Launch Facility is heavily utilized as a fishing area as well.

Safety and Security, including Parking:

The beach opens into a large basin protected by a long breakwater. This area is quite shallow and provides a protected launch for novice paddlers to learn skills.

Wildlife and Habitat Considerations:

According to recently completed CEQA documents, there are five special-status wildlife species that have a moderate potential to occur in the vicinity of the site: green sturgeon; steelhead; chinook salmon (Sacramento and Central Valley); longfin smelt; and California least tern. No suitable nesting habitat for least tern occurs on the site, although they may forage in nearby waters. A harbor seal haul-out is located within a mile of the beach. 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. Water Trail signage onsite would educate paddlers about appropriate avoidance measures.

Education, Outreach, and Stewardship, Including Signage:

There is interpretive signage about Bay wildlife provided by East Bay Regional Park District located at the entrance to the beach.

Other Existing or Anticipated Water Trail-Related Issues and Opportunities:

The City of Alameda received a \$300,000 planning grant from the Division of Boating and Waterways to fund design and obtained required permits for the Encinal Boat Launch Facility renovation. The improvements include:

- Replace the existing dock float and add a second dock float for non-motorized watercraft.
- Renovate the boat ramp for improved safety and traction for launching.
- Repave the driveway and parking lot with new lighting and signage for safety.
- Replace the restroom facility.
- Create ADA compliant access between the parking lot, restroom and boat ramp as well as two ADA trailer parking stalls.
- Add a fish cleaning station, outdoor shower and kayak staging pad.

The East Bay Regional Park District is also making improvements to the beach and dune area that will include:

- Removal of scattered debris along the shoreline;
- Removal of the barge structure;
- Shoreline stabilization;
- Grading and beach nourishment;
- Native dune restoration; and
- Improved path to the beach.

Accessibility of Sites within the Oakland Waterfront Geo-Region:

There are nine potential/existing Water Trail sites identified within this geo-region: Middle Harbor Park, Jack London Square/CCK, Jack London Aquatic Center, Grand Avenue Boat Ramp, Encinal Beach and Boat Launch, Crown Memorial State Beach (designated), Tidewater Boating Center (designated), Elmhurst Creek, and Doolittle Drive. Of these, Middle Harbor Park, Jack London Square/CCK, Jack London Aquatic Park, Crown Memorial State Beach, and Tidewater Boating Center provide a variety of accessible facilities.

The Oakland Waterfront Geo-Region provides opportunities to enjoy windy conditions, calm conditions, wildlife viewing, urban experiences, dining, and overnight accommodations. As mentioned above, numerous locations within this geo-region offer accessible features.

Upon completion of construction, the Encinal Beach and Boat Launch facility will be ADA accessible. Currently, the most broadly accessible site in this geo-region is Tidewater Boating Center, which offers a long gangway with resting areas, permanent accessible restrooms, accessible parking, a long low-freeboard dock and other accessible amenities such as a drinking fountain, and loading/unloading area.

**Summary of Environmental Review
based on the
San Francisco Bay Area Water Trail Plan Final Environmental Impact Report**

**Encinal Beach and Boat Launch
September 15, 2017**

Resource Area	Impacts Analysis	Notes
<p>Recreation References: WT DREIR, pp. 3-32 to 3-37.</p>	<p>Encinal Beach and Boat Launch feature a sandy beach and a cement boat ramp, parking, restrooms, and several clubs. Facilities are in poor condition, but the site has sufficient capacity to accommodate increased levels of use.</p>	<p>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. In spite of the current heavy use, no user conflicts have been observed.</p>
<p>Navigational and Personal Safety References: WT DREIR pp. 3-38 to 3-51, and Figures 3.4.2-1 and 3.4.2-2.</p>	<p>Small boat users should be aware of winds and currents. No major shipping channels occur in the immediate vicinity of Encinal. A ferry route (San Francisco to Bay Farm Island) is located approximately 1.4 miles directly west of Encinal, and a second route, Alameda to South San Francisco, is located 2.3 miles directly west of Encinal. To encounter either route, boaters would have to exit the protected area through the breakwater.</p>	<p>The Water Trail educational sign provides information related to navigational and personal boating safety.</p>
<p>Aesthetics References: WT DREIR pp. 3-56 to 3-68.</p>	<p>Encinal is considered an urban launch, characterized by the developed beach park adjacent to the City of Alameda. Interpretive and wayfinding signs are located near the beach entrance.</p>	<p>The Water Trail will require the inclusion of a Water Trail identification sign at the beach entrance and near the top of the boat launch. A “sign program” will be developed with the East Bay Regional Parks Department and City of Alameda to ensure that the I.D. sign and additional educational sign do not result in sign clutter at the site.</p>

Resource Area	Impacts Analysis	Notes
<p>Biology- Vegetation References: WT DREIR pp. 3-69 to 3-92 and Table 3.7.2-1 and Table 3.7.2-2.</p>	<p>The shoreline of Encinal is reinforced in the northern areas with riprap and is generally developed. Offshore areas to the east have undergone substantial restoration, including major beach nourishment and eelgrass restoration. Crab Cove, approximately 1/2 mile east is a marine reserve where all plant and animal life is protected.</p>	<p>Offshore eelgrass beds are regularly monitored and have been expanding. No impacts to eelgrass bed habitats have been observed from existing high levels of non-motorized boat use in the area. Water Trail signage could include information on eelgrass beds and the marine reserve near Crab Cove.</p> <p>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. Planned improvements will include shower towers that can be used to rinse equipment.</p>
<p>Biology – Birds <i>References: WT FEIR text and map</i></p>	<p>Due to the developed nature of Encinal, there are limited active nesting areas along much of the site. Terns nest within a fenced off area within at the former airfield of Alameda Point; however, nesting areas are not located along the shore and not accessible to boaters launching from Encinal. A pelican roosting area is located near the end of the breakwater outside Encinal Beach.</p>	<p>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 or roosting birds.</p>
<p>Biology – Rafting Waterfowl References: WT DREIR pp. 3-93 to 3-131 and Table 3.8.2-1, Figure 3.8.2-1.</p>	<p>This site provides access to areas where rafting waterfowl congregate.</p>	<p>Disturbance of rafting waterfowl is not addressed in existing signs on site but is highlighted in the Water Trail educational sign, brochure, and website.</p>
<p>Biology – Ridgway's rail and California black rail and high tide refugia References: WT DREIR pp. 3-93 to 3-131 and Figure 3.8.2-2</p>	<p>Ridgway's rail and black rail are not present at or near Encinal due to lack of suitable marsh habitat.</p>	<p>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-foot 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.</p>

Resource Area	Impacts Analysis	Notes
<p>Biology –California Least Tern References: WT DREIR pp. 3-93 to 3-131 and Figure 3.8.2-3</p>	<p>The largest Bay Area colony of endangered California least terns nests at the Alameda Point wildlife refuge approximately 2 miles north of Encinal. The wildlife refuge is closed to visitors. Historically, California least terns have also been observed at Oakland Airport; the vicinity of the airport is off-limits to boaters for security reasons.</p>	<p>The Water Trail educational sign and brochure include bird avoidance information.</p>
<p>Biology – Harbor Seals 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</p>	<p>A secondary haul-out site has been observed at the end of the Encinal Beach breakwater within a mile of this site.</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>Cultural Resources</p>	<p>NMSB users are not allowed to land in nearby wetland habitat, potentially disturbing cultural artifacts.</p>	<p>The WT website includes information about avoiding disturbance to cultural artifacts.</p>
<p>Hydrology</p>	<p>No WT-related construction is planned at this time. Proposed improvements are being addressed through a separate CEQA and permit process.</p>	<p>No Water-Trail-related changes to site hydrology would occur at the site.</p>
<p>Transportation, Circulation, and Parking</p>	<p>Parking is typically sufficient to meet demand on all but the most crowded weekends.</p>	<p>Increased use by non-motorized small boat users is not expected to be great enough to overwhelm parking.</p>



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SAN FRANCISCO
BAY AREA
WATER
TRAIL

Encinal Beach and Boat Launch Water Trail Site

- Designated Water Trail Site
- Potential Water Trail Site
- 4 Mile Buffer (from Potential Sites)
- Shipping Channel
- Active Heronry
- Pelican Roost
- Primary or secondary harbor seal haul out site
- Ridgway's/Black Rail



CA Harbor Seal data from Water Trail FEIR. Ridgway's and black rail, Western snowy plover, and heronry data generalized from 2015 California Natural Diversity Database