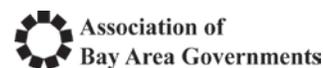




San Francisco Bay Area Water Trail  
Site Description for  
**Cuttings Wharf**



**Location, Ownership, and Management:** Cuttings Wharf is a public boat launch on the Napa River, located at 1230 Cuttings Wharf Road in unincorporated Napa County. The site is owned and managed by the County of Napa.

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<p><i>Northern dock (2015)</i></p>	<p><i>Boat ramp (2012)</i></p>	<p><i>Kayaker on Napa River (2012)</i></p>

**Facility Description:** Cuttings Wharf is located in a semi-rural area of Napa County, along the Napa River. There is a wide boat ramp with two docks located on opposite sides of the ramp. The docks extend into the river and then turn at right angles to parallel the shore. The northern dock is heavily used as a fishing dock.

Parking is available in the large lot associated with Cuttings Wharf. Parking is free from 4AM - 10PM, with no overnight parking allowed. The parking area has four ADA parking spots, with three located near the docks and picnic area, and one located adjacent to the ADA-accessible restrooms.

The two ADA-accessible restrooms are located in the southwestern corner of the site, across the parking lot from the docks and picnic area.

The picnic area is located in the southern portion of the site, along the Napa River. The area contains three picnic tables, one of which is covered with a gazebo. Trash cans and recycling bins are provided at the picnic area and outside of the restrooms.

The site is used by many different boat types. Non-motorized small boats (NMSBs) observed at the site include kayaks and canoes. Other boat types include powerboats and small boats with outboard motors.

**Other Identifying or General Information:**

<p>Site ID: <u>N1</u>                  In WT Plan: <u>Yes</u>                  Existing or Planned: <u>Existing</u>                  Ownership: <u>Public</u>                  County: <u>Napa</u>                  Geo-Region: <u>Napa River</u>                  SF Bay Plan Region: <u>San Pablo Bay</u>                  Launch or Destination: <u>Launch</u></p>	<p>Home of a Club: <u>No</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, Moore’s Landing restaurant is now closed.</u>                    Proximity to Other Sites: <u>The closest sites are the Green Island Boat Launch, located approximately 2.3 miles down the Napa River (1.7 miles south as the crow flies) and the John F. Kennedy Memorial Park site located approximately 3.6 miles up the Napa River (3.0 miles northeast as the crow flies).</u></p>
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**Description of Launch/Landing:**

<p>Fixed Dock/Pier Launch/Landing: <u>Yes</u>                  Float: <u>Yes</u>                  Freeboard Level: <u>High (9" and above)</u>                  Transfer/Launch Assistance System: <u>No</u>                  Gangway: <u>No</u>                  Gangway Length (feet): N/A                  Gangway Width (inches): N/A                  Gangway Slope Description: N/A</p>  <p><i>Path of travel, docks, and boat ramp</i></p>	<p>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>No</u>                  Firm-Surface Beach Crossing: <u>N/A</u>                  Fee for Launch or Parking: <u>No</u>                  Restrictions: <u>The parking lot is open from 4 am to 10 pm.</u>                  Water Entry Path: <u>No</u></p>
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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>No</u> Sculling: <u>No</u> Rowboat/Dinghy: <u>Yes</u> Dragonboat: <u>No</u>
Notes: <u>Boaters can travel up-river to parks and more developed areas, or south to less developed marshes and sloughs.</u>	

**Transportation and Parking:**

General Spaces (number): <u>26-50</u> ADA Parking Spaces (number): <u>4</u>  ADA Parking Description: <u>Three ADA spots are near the launch, and one ADA spot is near the restroom (located in the back of the parking lot).</u>	Duration (hours): <u>18</u> Overnight Parking Possibly Allowed: <u>No</u> Overnight Parking Description: <u>No overnight parking. Parking hours are from 4am to 10pm.</u>  Loading/Unloading Area: <u>Yes</u> Bay Trail: <u>Yes, a Bay Trail spur (bike lanes, no sidewalks) on Cuttings Wharf Road terminates at the site.</u>  Public Transportation: <u>None.</u>
 <p><i>ADA accessible parking near the docks and picnic area</i></p>	 <p><i>Sidewalks located around the parking area are well maintained.</i></p>

**Path of Travel:**

Distance to Launch from Parking Area (feet): 52  
 Distance to Launch from ADA Parking (feet): 60  
 Distance to Launch from ADA Restrooms (feet): 249  
 Distance from ADA Restrooms to ADA Parking (feet): 10  
 Path of Travel Exists: Yes

Path of Travel Description: Restroom is 152 feet from ADA parking spaces located near dock; 10 feet from ADA parking space located adjacent to restroom. Path from restroom to docks is paved, but requires use of the roadway/parking lot.

**Other Site Amenities:**

<p>Total Restrooms: <u>2</u>                  Total ADA Restrooms: <u>2</u>                  Restroom Description: <u>Unisex. No running water.</u></p> <p>Boat Washing: <u>No</u>                  Rigging/Staging Area: <u>No</u>                  Picnic Tables: <u>Yes</u>                  Benches: <u>Yes</u></p>	<p>BBQ: <u>No</u>                  Boat Storage: <u>No</u></p> <p>Boat Storage Description: N/A</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p><i>ADA accessible restrooms, trash, and recycling</i></p> </div>
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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>
Accommodations Description: N/A				

**Additional Notes Related to Accessibility:**

Site provides ADA accessible restrooms, parking, and picnic area.

Access at this site appears to be quite good, although the only options for water entry are from the boat ramp or high-freeboard boarding dock. The path of travel (not marked), sidewalks, restroom, and parking appear to be well designed and maintained.

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

Seasonal use can vary greatly depending on fishing conditions (when fish are running or not), and many people fish from shore without launching a boat. Hunting season for waterfowl affects patronage, as does weather. Typically, weekends and holidays are busier than weekdays.

There is no staff on site, but there is regular trash service, restroom cleaning, and routine site maintenance that occurs several times per week. Additional facilities maintenance is performed at non-routine intervals, seasonally and as needed.

There are no plans for facility changes in the next five years.



*Cuttings Wharf is popular for access to fishing and hunting along the Napa River.*

**Safety and Security, including Parking:**

The parking area has streetlights throughout, which are lit from dusk until dawn.

Car break-ins and vandalism are not frequent at the site.

If a boater gets stranded or there is an on-water emergency, the U.S. Coast Guard, Napa County Sheriff, and/or Napa County Fire Department can be called.

**Wildlife and Habitat Considerations:**

The State Department of Fish and Wildlife patrols this site and the hunting and fishing activities near this site on a regular basis.

**Education, Outreach, and Stewardship, Including Signage:**

Stewardship activities and fishing outings are periodically organized at this site.

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

No known conflicts among site users.

**Accessibility of Sites within the Napa River Geo-Region:**

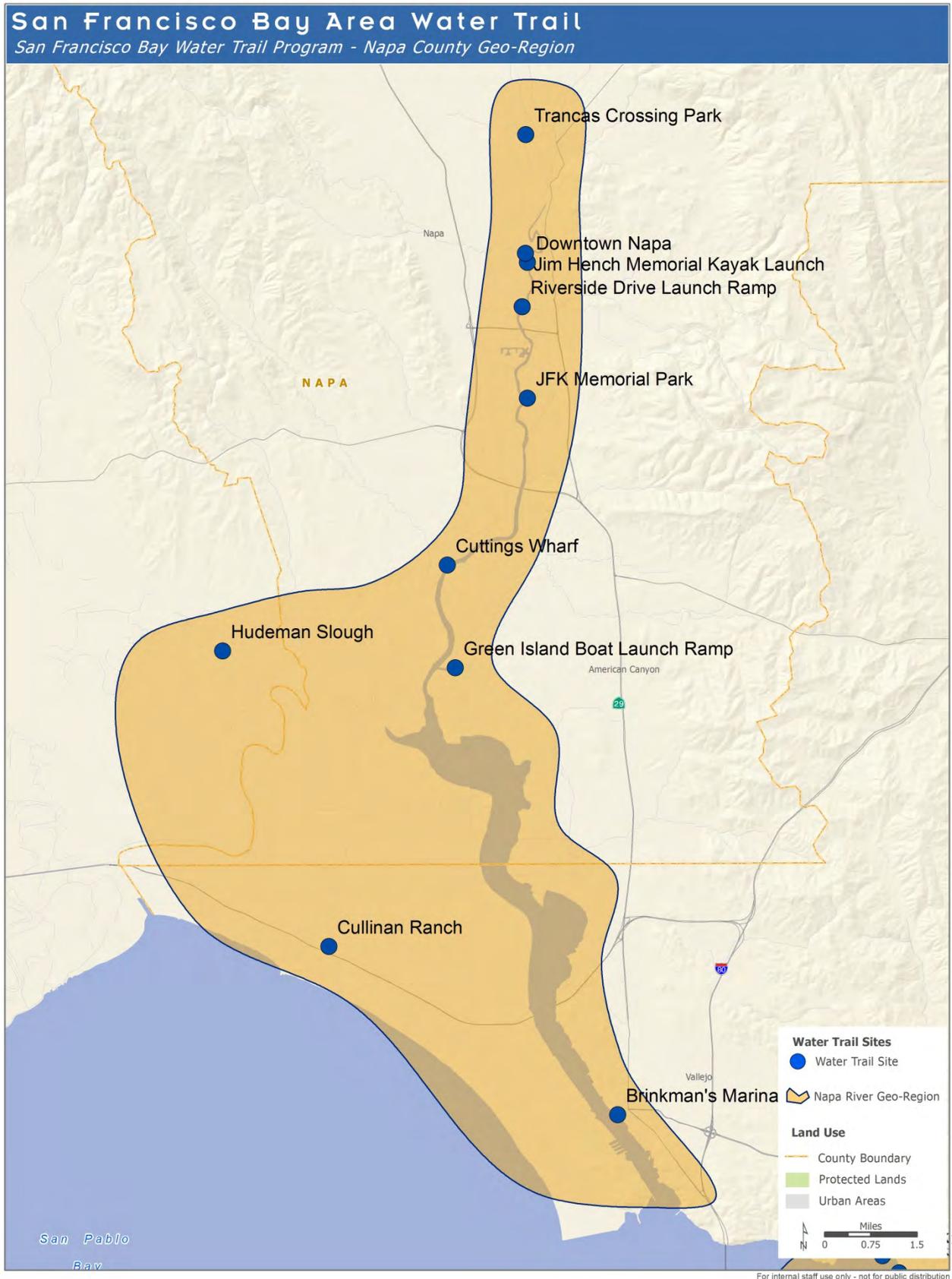
There are nine potential Water Trail sites identified within this geo-region: Trancas Crossing Park; Downtown Napa Main Street Dock (a conditionally designated site); Riverside Drive Launch Ramp; John F. Kennedy Memorial Park; Cuttings Wharf; Green Island Boat Launch Ramp; Hudeman Slough; Cullinan Ranch; and Brinkmans Marina (see Napa River Geo-Region map below). Another potential site, the Jim Hench Memorial Kayak Launch, is in the planning stages.

The experiences that are available in the Napa River Geo-Region are predominantly rural, but also include sites with more urban/industrial characteristics in downtown Napa and in the City of Vallejo. Due to the rural nature of many of these sites, some are less developed for broad access. However, several sites within this geo-region are already broadly accessible, including Cuttings Wharf.

At the Downtown Napa Main Street Dock there is a new high-freeboard dock with a gangway on the Napa River. On a seasonal basis, the City of Napa adds a low-float transfer dock (kayak launch) to assist kayakers wishing to disembark and get onto the main dock. This is a destination site, but is considered to be broadly accessible.

The Hudeman Slough site at one time had a dock with a transfer system to assist persons with disabilities, but the metal transfer parts were stolen and other parts were damaged by natural processes.

The Cullinan Ranch site provides an accessible gangway and dock, with transfer bars in place to assist kayakers getting onto and off the dock. These improvements make the site broadly accessible.



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

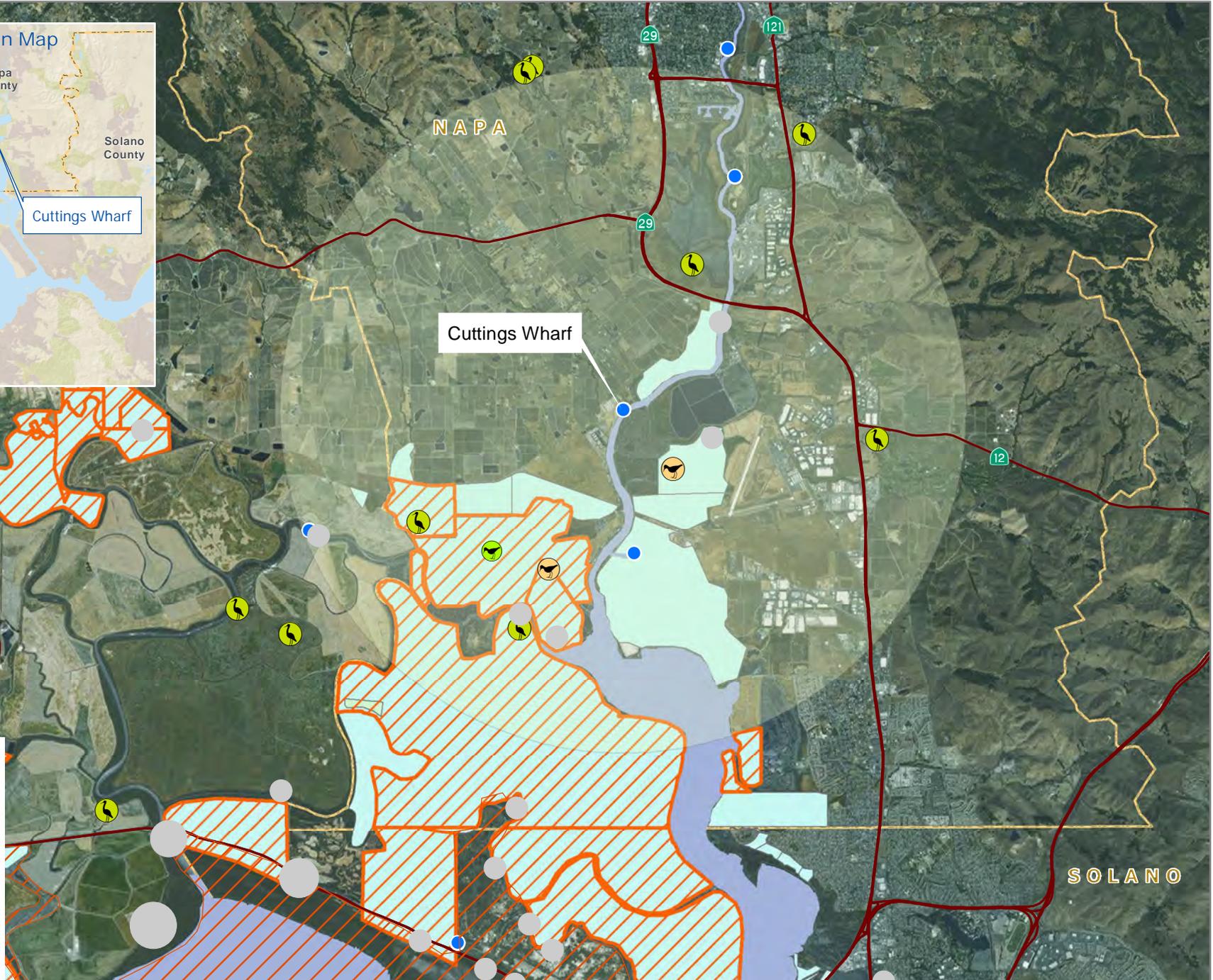
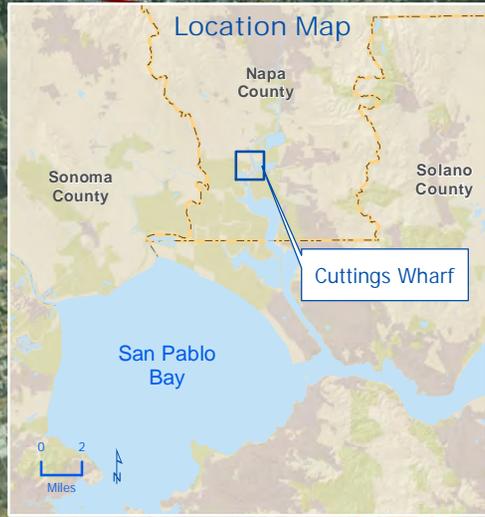
**Cuttings Wharf  
June 12, 2015**

<b>Resource Area</b>	<b>Impacts Analysis</b>	<b>Notes</b>
<p>Recreation References: WT DREIR, pp. 3-32 to 3-37.</p>	<p>Cuttings Wharf has one boat ramp and two high freeboard docks, parking, restroom, and a picnic area. Facilities are well maintained and have sufficient capacity to accommodate increased levels of use.</p> <p>Hunting is allowed in many the marshes within four miles of the site, although hunting is not allowed in any of the marshes immediately adjacent to the site.</p>	<p>Water Trail users may submit comments to Water Trail staff through the website if they witness or experience recreational conflict at any designated site. The Water Trail educational sign would include warnings about seasonal hunting in the Bay (Oct – Jan) and includes the State Fish and Wildlife website for specific information.</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>Cuttings Wharf is popular with motorized boaters. Small boat users should be aware of tides and currents and how to boat near other vessels on the Napa River.</p>	<p>The Water Trail educational sign that would be installed provides safety information related to navigational and personal boating safety.</p>

<b>Resource Area</b>	<b>Impacts Analysis</b>	<b>Notes</b>
<p>Aesthetics References: WT DREIR pp. 3-56 to 3-68.</p>	<p>Cuttings Wharf is considered an urban/wildland interface site, characterized by the public boat launch adjacent to the Moore's Landing restaurant (closed), backed by views of marshes across the Napa River and rising hills beyond. Cuttings Wharf does not currently have sign boards except for parking restriction signs, a plaque on the site history, and two place-name signs.</p>	<p>The Water Trail will require the inclusion of a Water Trail identification sign at the site as well as the educational sign. A "sign program" will be developed with Napa County to ensure that the I.D. signs and educational signs do not result in sign clutter at the site.</p>
<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>There is marsh habitat across the Napa River on Bull Island. Boaters could explore the Napa River and the sloughs surrounding it. Endangered and rare plant species such as Suisun marsh aster and soft salty bird's-beak have been found in the area.</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 and by not landing in marshes or on levees.</p>
<p>Biology – Birds <i>References: WT FEIR text and map</i></p>	<p>There are currently five active heron or egret rookeries located within four miles of the site. Black rail and Ridgway's rail are known to occur in the marshes throughout the year. California least tern is found throughout marshes in the area from end of April through August, but nest on internal levee of Pond 7/7A and in the Green Island Unit. Bald eagle have been seen in the marsh over the past several years during winter and summer months.</p>	<p>The WT educational sign includes information about how to paddle responsibly around wildlife and to maintain a buffer distance from nesting herons and egrets, and to avoid landing in the marsh or on levees. The WT website and brochure include more detailed information about not disturbing nesting birds.</p>

<b>Resource Area</b>	<b>Impacts Analysis</b>	<b>Notes</b>
<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 may congregate.</p>	<p>Avoiding disturbance of rafting waterfowl is addressed 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 Personal Communication with CDFW</p>	<p>Black rail and Ridgway’s rail are present throughout the Napa-Sonoma marshes. Marsh habitat is located along the Napa River, primarily to the south of the launch site.</p>	<p>Signage is needed to emphasize the importance of keeping a 50-foot buffer from rail habitat (not entering channels less than 100 feet wide) and staying clear of high-tide refugia, and that landing in marshes and on levees is prohibited. The Water Trail educational sign, brochure and website include this information.</p>
<p>Biology –Western Snowy Plover and California Least Tern References: WT DREIR pp. 3-93 to 3-131 and Figures 3.8.2-3, Personal Communication with CDFW</p>	<p>California least tern are known to nest near Fagan Slough, approximately 0.8 miles southeast of the site.</p> <p>Western snowy plover are known to nest in ponds 7 and 7A in the Napa-Sonoma Marshes Wildlife Area, located approximately 1.9 miles southwest of the site.</p>	<p>Signage is needed to emphasize the importance of keeping a 650-foot buffer from snowy plover habitat and staying clear of high-tide refugia, and that landing in marshes and on levees is prohibited. The Water Trail educational sign, brochure and website include this information.</p>
<p>Biology – Northwestern Pond Turtles: References Water Trail DREIR, Personal Communication with CDFW</p>	<p>Northwestern pond turtles are generally found in freshwater ponds, not in sloughs. There is suitable woody debris where the turtles would bask along the Napa River. They may potentially occur in fresher reaches of the Napa-Sonoma Marshes Wildlife Area, but no information is available on their distribution.</p>	<p>Boaters are advised through the WT brochure and website to not disembark in any undesignated areas or trample sensitive habitats, including marshes. The WT educational sign emphasizes that boaters should not land in marshes or on levees.</p>

<b>Resource Area</b>	<b>Impacts Analysis</b>	<b>Notes</b>
<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>There are no primary or secondary harbor seal haul-out sites within four miles of this site; however, harbor seals are regularly seen in the Napa River and adjacent sloughs in the Napa-Sonoma Marshes Wildlife Area.</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.</p>
<p>Biology – Other Species References: WT DREIR pp. 3-132 to 3-156 San Francisco Estuary Institute Salt Marsh Harvest Mouse Data</p>	<p>Salt marsh harvest mouse are found throughout the Napa-Sonoma Marshes Wildlife Area. Large areas of marsh habitat are located across the Napa River from the site. The shoreline on the west side of the Napa River in the immediate vicinity of the site consists of disturbed or agricultural lands that offer limited habitat.</p>	<p>Boaters are advised through the WT brochure and website to not disembark in any undesignated areas or trample sensitive habitats, including marshes. The WT educational sign emphasizes that boaters should not land in marshes or on levees.</p>
<p>Cultural Resources References: WT DREIR pp. 3-163</p>	<p>No WT-related construction is planned at this time. NMSB users are not allowed to land in adjacent wetland habitat, which would prevent potential disturbance of 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.</p>	<p>No hydrological changes would occur from existing conditions.</p>
<p>Transportation, Circulation, and Parking</p>	<p>The site has a large parking lot that can accommodate users. Rural Cuttings Wharf Road is not anticipated to experience substantial increase in traffic.</p>	<p>Increased use by non-motorized small boat users is not expected to overwhelm parking or road capacity.</p>



SAN FRANCISCO  
BAY AREA  
WATER  
TRAIL

Cuttings  
Wharf

- Potential Water Trail Site
- 4 Mile Buffer (from Cutting's Wharf)
- Active Heronry
- Western Snowy Plover
- Salt Marsh Harvest Mouse
- Ridgway's/Black Rail
- Potential Hunting Area

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

