



COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Inter-Departmental Correspondence
Board of Supervisors



Date: October 31, 2013
Board Meeting Date: December 10, 2013
Special Notice / Hearing: None
Vote Required: Majority

To: Honorable Board of Supervisors

From: Dave Pine, County Supervisor

Subject: Endorsement of San Francisco Bay Area Water Trail

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt a Resolution supporting a letter to the State California Coastal Conservancy to endorse the concept of the San Francisco Bay Area Water Trail.

BACKGROUND:

The California State Legislature enacted the Water Trail Act (AB 1296) in 2005 establishing the San Francisco Bay Area Water Trail, a growing network of launching and landing sites that allows non-motorized small boat users to better enjoy the historic, scenic, cultural, and environmental richness of San Francisco Bay.

The State Coastal Conservancy is leading the implementation of the San Francisco Bay Area Water Trail (Water Trail), a new regional access project, in close collaboration with the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG), the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC), and the Division of Boating and Waterways. The San Francisco Bay Area Water Trail Enhanced Water Trail Plan (Water Trail Plan) was adopted and San Francisco Bay Area Water Trail Plan Final Environmental Impact Report was certified by the Coastal Conservancy on March 17, 2011.

The San Francisco Bay Area Water Trail staff is currently working on an Accessibility Plan to ensure that the Water Trail program, as a whole, is accessible to persons with disabilities. This plan should be completed in late 2013.

The Water Trail is a growing network of access sites (or "trailheads") that will help people using non-motorized, small boats or other beachable sailcraft, such as kayaks, canoes, dragon boats, stand up paddle and windsurf boards, to safely enjoy single and multiple-day trips around San Francisco Bay. This regional trail has the potential to enhance Bay Area communities' connections to the Bay and create new linkages to

existing shoreline open space and other regional trails, such as the Bay Trail. Site owners and managers join the Water Trail on a voluntary basis. The Water Trail does not own or manage any sites.

DISCUSSION:

Within the Water Trail Plan are 25 sites in San Mateo County that are considered existing launch sites, existing destination sites, planned launch sites or planned destination sites. San Mateo County Department of Parks' County Point Recreation Area's Promenade and Coyote Point Marina's Launch Ramp are existing launch sites that are considered high opportunity sites for future inclusion as Water Trail designated sites.

Designation as a Water Trail site offers benefits for San Mateo County. The sites will be listed on the Water Trail website and social media sites and widely distributed recreational maps. Resident or visiting non-motorized recreational boat users will have an important resource to learn about facilities available at each site, accessibility of the site, and wind, tidal or environmental conditions which might affect use of the site. Water Trail informational signage is provided for use at designated sites. Local watersports businesses, nearby restaurants and cafes, and lodging will have an additional audience for their products or services.

The Water Trail program is now accepting grant applications from eligible public agencies and non-profit organizations for Water Trail site enhancement projects. County Park staff has updated Water Trail staff about the status of projects within Coyote Point recreation Area and Coyote Point Marina and will seriously consider submittal some day of Site Designation application and grant applications.

County Counsel has reviewed and approved the Resolution as to form.

Approval of this Resolution contributes to the Shared Vision 2025 outcome of an Environmentally Conscious Community as endorsement of the San Francisco Bay Area Water Trail furthers the number and quality of natural experiences and recreational opportunities for County Park visitors. Each visitor gains a greater appreciation of the natural environment and the need for its preservation.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The endorsement of the San Francisco Bay Area Water Trail has no fiscal impact.