



Water Trail Meeting Agenda

Thursday, February 7, 2013

10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Metro Centro, 101 8th Street, Oakland

10:00-10:05	Introductions
10:05-10:10	Grant Program Overview <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brief presentation on Water Trail grant program overview
10:10-10:20	Grant Award Amount Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Receive input from Advisory Committee on whether there should be a maximum grant award and what that amount should be
10:20-10:30	Grant Selection Overview <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brief presentation on eligible activities, required criteria, and additional criteria used for grant selection
10:30-10:55	Grant Selection Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Receive input from Advisory Committee on the grant selection criteria
10:55	Wrap up
11:00	Adjourn

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For live, online viewing of materials projected on screen to the meeting group, please register with "Gotomeeting" in advance of the meeting, allowing 15 minutes to finish that process. The website address is www.gotomeeting.com. Click "Join a Meeting" in the upper right-hand corner to download the software and join the meeting.

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**Water Trail Grant Program Development
Advisory Committee Input
Water Trail Meeting February 7, 2013**

The San Francisco Bay Area Water Trail and ABAG are developing the Water Trail grant program and would like input from the Advisory Committee on the selection criteria used to make decisions about awarding grant funds.

ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

The projects eligible for funding shall be consistent with Proposition 84 priorities (Proposition 84 is the source of the grant funds) and with the Enhanced Water Trail Plan goals and strategies. The following is a general list of the types of projects that the Water Trail program feels would be most supportive of program goals. It will be given to applicants and is intended to provide general guidance:

- Creation of new launch facilities or improvements/repairs to existing launch facilities
- Creation of new parking and/or restrooms or improvements/repairs to existing parking and restrooms
- Improved access and usability for persons with disabilities
- Creation of on-site boat storage (can be long term or short term storage)
- Creation of other boater amenities such as showers, boat wash, drinking fountain
- Creation of new camping facilities or improvements to existing camping facilities for boaters
- Creation of boater access to historic ships

GRANT AWARD

There will be approximately \$500,000 available for grant awards.

REQUIRED CRITERIA

Applicants must meet all of the following requirements:

Designated, conditionally designated, or under consideration to be designated Water Trail site

- The Advisory Committee will have an opportunity to comment on the site during the designation process. The Project Management Team will have an opportunity to designate or not prior to making a decision about a grant award. In the event site designation and grant awards will occur during the same meeting, site designation decisions will be made prior to grant award decisions.

Consistent with the strategies of the Enhanced Water Trail Plan

- A copy of the Enhanced Water Trail Plan strategies will be included in the grant instructions.

Consistent with local policies, plans, and priorities

- Applicants will be asked to identify any applicable local or regional plans and describe how the project is supported by, consistent with, or in conflict with these plans.

Funded improvements must meet local, state, and federal disability laws

- Applicants will be required to verify that improvements made with Water Trail grant funds meet local, state, and federal disability laws.

Community support

- Applicants will be asked what public agencies, non-profit organizations, elected officials, or other entities and individuals support the project.

Consideration of sea level rise and climate change vulnerability

- Applicants will be asked to identify adaptive management strategies for flooding, erosion, sea level rise, and storm surges.

Project readiness

- Applicants will be asked to provide information (such as stage of environmental review process and permits) about how ready their project is for construction.

ADDITIONAL CRITERIA

Applicants are not required to meet these criteria but the following is preferred:

Matching funds and in-kind services

Demonstrate need

- Applicants will be asked to describe the importance of this project to non-motorized small boat users and the surrounding community.

Potential for high use

- Applicants will be asked about the number and type of users served and the recreational and/or regional significance of the project.

Serves disadvantaged community

- This criterion is based on 10% or more of the population living below the poverty level. This is determined by U.S. Census data of median family income.

Minimization of greenhouse gas emissions

- Applicants will be asked to describe measures the project will take to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through design, construction, and maintenance.

Advisory Committee Input:

1. **Please provide input regarding the use of the criteria outlined in this document to inform decisions about awarding grant funds.**
2. **Given the amount of funds available for grant funding, should the grant program have a maximum award amount? If so, what should that amount be?**

WATER TRAIL STRATEGIES FOUND IN THE ENHANCED SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA WATER TRAIL PLAN

The strategies will be included as an exhibit to the grant application and a link will be provided for applicants to download the Enhanced Water Trail Plan. Not all of these strategies are applicable to all trail heads and not all of the strategies are projects that can be funded through the Water Trail grant program. However, consistency with the Water Trail Plan strategies will be required criteria for grant applications.

1. Trail Head Location

Seek opportunities to increase use capacity at existing launches, or create new access for human-powered boats and beachable sail craft. Prioritize these efforts at sites that are close to desirable non-motorized small boating conditions and trip destinations, and in areas where trail-related adverse impacts to wildlife and habitat or navigational safety are unlikely. In all cases, new and expanded access should be sited to avoid or minimize significant adverse impacts to wildlife and habitat.

2. Linking Access Points

Seek opportunities to link trail heads to each other and with access to other regional trails (e.g. the Bay Trail) and create linkages that serve different trail users' needs and interests (e.g. different skill levels, viewing nature, learning about cultural or historic features of the Bay Area, etc.).

3. Improvements Consistent With Site Characteristics

Match the type and design of trail-related improvements to the site conditions (e.g. shoreline morphology, habitats, predominant wind and wave conditions, other uses of the site, etc.) and likely trail user groups.

Ensure that the level of use that a site accommodates is consistent with providing a high-quality recreational experience, protecting environmental resources at the site and in surrounding areas, and preserving the safety of water users.

4. Consistency With Policies, Plans and Priorities

Coordinate plans for trail head development, management and use to be consistent with existing policies, plans and priorities of land and resources managers at and around trail heads.

Coordinate trail signage and access design guidelines, and education programs to be consistent with existing policies, plans, standards and programs.

5. Design Guidelines

Develop and update, as needed, design guidelines for trail-oriented access improvements.

6. Management Resources

Match the facility improvements and use to the management resources (including staff and funding) available for long-term maintenance of facilities and signage, and provision of other site-specific management needs such as, enforcement, monitoring, and education and outreach programs.

7. Maintenance and Operations

Develop a plan for trail head facility maintenance and operation, and identify who will be responsible.

8. Parking

Provide parking or drop-off zones as close as possible to launch points (e.g. ramp), and extend parking time limits to a minimum of four hours. Provide overnight parking where possible. When appropriate, restrict vehicle parking to limit the number of users to a level that is appropriate for the site consistent with Strategy 6. Locate parking to protect shoreline visual character. When site enhancements are being considered or actively planned, analyze need for changes to parking capacity as well.

9. Restrooms

Provide restroom facilities where feasible and appropriate.

10. Accessibility

Develop and improve launch facilities to be universally accessible.

11. On-Site Equipment Storage

Where feasible and appropriate, provide storage areas and facilities for human-powered boating and beachable sail craft equipment (e.g. boat house, modified shipping container, fenced areas, or inside tie dockside storage at marinas).

12. Non-Profit Boating Clubs and On-Site Equipment Concessions

Promote and encourage publicly-accessible non-profit boating clubs and/or on-site equipment concessions at appropriate trail heads. Boating clubs and concessionaires should provide outreach information and education to clients on site-specific safety and security, and wildlife and habitat issues. They should manage activities in a manner that is compatible with other site uses.

13. Overnight Accommodations

Develop new campsites at or near trail heads where consistent with land managers' plans and resources. Coordinate with land managers, organizations and businesses to provide overnight accommodations on the trail in motels, hostels, historic ships, etc.

14. Site Review

Conduct, coordinate or sponsor periodic reviews of trail heads to identify site-specific issues such as user conflicts, overuse of facilities or non-compliance with rules. Use information from these reviews to improve site management or facilities. Provide a web-based comment form for users to document observations and conflicts. Include this website address in education and outreach materials when applicable.

15. Habitat Restoration and Access

Seek opportunities to coordinate trail head development, with habitat restoration, enhancement or creation.

16. Monitoring Impacts

Sponsor pilot projects to monitor trail impacts in different habitats to develop and test effective and consistent monitoring methods and learn about impacts and ways to avoid them. Monitor wildlife and habitat conditions prior to, during and after inclusion of the site as part of the trail.

17. Outreach, Educational and Interpretive Signage

Provide signage and other media at and near trail heads that are both consistent with other trail outreach and education materials, and specific to the sites in terms of their user groups, natural, cultural and historic resources, safety issues and rules. For example, a trail head could have a kiosk with

multilingual, site specific tide/current information, and interpretive panels and brochures on wildlife and habitat in the area. Signage content should include information about sensitive bird species and appropriate measures and buffer distances to avoid or minimize disturbance, including to brown pelicans, nesting wading birds, western snowy plovers, burrowing owls, California clapper rails, and California black rails.

18. Outreach and Coordination

Coordinate with and conduct outreach to paddleboat and boardsailing teachers and guides, outfitters, other businesses and agencies and organizations involved in the trail to make them aware of boating practices that are consistent with the water trail ethic and other trail policies. Provide training materials to be used with these groups, to inform them about sensitive bird species and appropriate measures and buffer distances to avoid or minimize disturbance, including to brown pelicans, nesting wading birds, western snowy plovers, burrowing owls, California clapper rails, and California black rails.

19. Educational Media Guidebook

Provide a comprehensive and up-to-date guide for using the water trail.

Trail Website

Provide a comprehensive and up-to-date website for the water trail. Post (or link to) current information on trail-related wildlife, habitat and water quality, boating safety and security conditions.

Other Trail Media

Provide brochures, maps, and other educational media. Training materials to be created and used to train staff at NMSB rental companies and other outfitters, as well as docents, park staff, and others should include information about sensitive bird species and appropriate measures and buffer distances to avoid or minimize disturbance, including to brown pelicans, nesting wading birds, western snowy plovers, burrowing owls, California clapper rails, and California black rails.

20. Guided Trips

Provide guided trips or tours led by docents or rangers.

21. Boater-to-Boater Education

Coordinate with agencies and boating organizations to facilitate and enhance existing boater-to-boater outreach and education efforts, and incorporate trail-supported information and messages. Train volunteers and water trail staff as trail stewards to conduct boater-to-boater education and outreach at and near trail heads, especially during high-use times of year. Training materials should include information about sensitive bird species and appropriate measures and buffer distances to avoid or minimize disturbance, including to brown pelicans, nesting wading birds, western snowy plovers, burrowing owls, California clapper rails, and California black rails.

22. Trail Head Stewards

Recruit and coordinate volunteers to be trail head stewards who help maintain trail heads by doing or organizing site clean-ups, and helping managers do site check-ins (Strategy 14).

23. Training for Enforcement

Where feasible and appropriate, provide training to local law enforcement on wildlife and environmental regulations (e.g. Endangered Species Act, Migratory Bird Act) in order to identify or prevent violations of these regulations at trail heads.

24. Limitations on Trail Head Use

Limits on the Number of Users

Establish limits on the number of trail users at a site to prevent identified problems such as significant impacts to wildlife and habitat, or damage to facilities. Use parking restrictions (e.g. limited number of parking spaces and/or time limits) as a means of limiting number of users at a site.

Restrictions to Boating Activities

Limit activities at a trail head or on the water to specific types of trail uses or establish site-specific rules for visitors using non-motorized small boats (e.g. a boating corridor) to prevent identified problems such as potentially significant impacts to wildlife and habitat, or damage to facilities.

Closing Access

To protect sensitive wildlife or habitat resources at trail heads or locations accessible from trail heads, establish periodic closures based on time of day, season or tidal regime.

25. Comprehensive Education Program

Create an overall educational framework to support the various educational elements of the Water Trail Program (signage, media, boater-to-boater education, stewardship, etc.).

26. Navigational Safety

Develop and implement comprehensive safety education guidelines, including minimum content standards for safety education, provide safety-oriented signage, and encourage improved dissemination of information on safety-related incidents.

27. Boat Washing Facilities

Provide boat washing facilities where feasible.

28. GHG Best Management Practices for Construction, Trailhead Operation, and Water Trail Program

Implement best management practices to minimize GHG emissions associated with construction of new trailhead facilities, operation of existing facilities, and implementation of the Water Trail program.