

**CITY OF ALBANY
WATERFRONT COMMITTEE
STAFF REPORT**

Meeting date: April 11, 2012

Prepared by: JB

ITEM/ 5-2

SUBJECT: Report from Staff on East Bay Regional Park District Planning, Design and Permitting for Restoration and Public Access to the Albany Beach.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

No action required. For information only.

BACKGROUND

In 2011, the East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) completed the Albany Beach Restoration and Public Access Feasibility Study (available online at www.ebparks.org/planning#albany).

Late in 2011, the EBRPD Board of Directors approved two separate actions related to implementation of the Beach project. The first was to authorize District staff to seek California Coast Conservancy funding for the project. The second was to contract with Questa Engineering to complete the design and permitting for the project. In addition, in March, a tentative ruling was reached in the litigation between the District and Golden Gate Fields.

Next Steps

City staff and District staff have met and discussed the phasing and scope of the project. In addition, the District has announced that initiation of the preparation of a project environmental impact report (EIR). A public meeting on the EIR is scheduled for April 12, 2012 (notice attached). In addition, staff will be providing the City Council with an update on the project at the Council's April 16 meeting.

Attachments

EBRPD Notice of Preparation



**NOTICE OF PREPARATION (NOP) AND SCOPING SESSION
FOR AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (EIR) FOR:
ALBANY BEACH RESTORATION AND PUBLIC ACCESS PROJECT**

The East Bay Regional Park District is preparing an Environmental Impact Report (EIR), pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), for the proposed Albany Beach Restoration and Public Access Project in Albany, CA. The project will involve three segments: 1) Albany Neck shoreline and trail restoration, 2) Albany Beach enhancement and recreation improvements, and 3) construction of a segment of the San Francisco Bay Trail between Albany Beach and Gilman Street. Project components include shoreline stabilization/reconstruction, accessibility improvements, vegetation management, beach enhancement, seasonal wetlands enhancement, stormwater management, subtidal and intertidal habitat enhancement, parking and water trail access, restroom and site furnishings, and trails. The project is located at the western terminus of Buchanan Street and shoreline edge south to Gilman Street, adjacent to Golden Gate Fields and Albany Beach, in Albany, California as shown on the attached maps

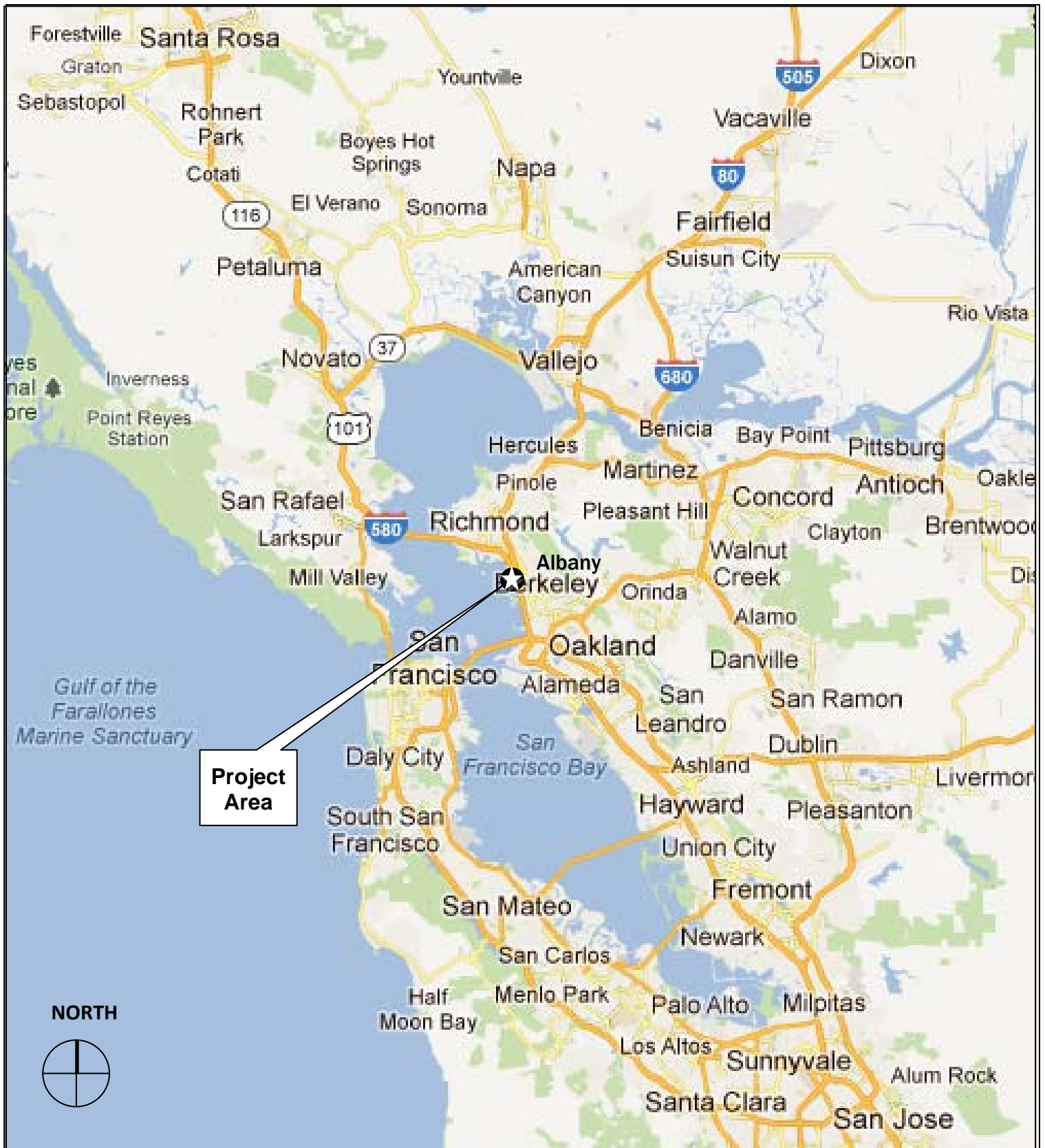
The EIR will discuss the following potential environmental impacts: aesthetics, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use, noise, public services, recreation, transportation/traffic, and utilities and service systems. The EIR will also discuss the project's cumulative and growth inducing impacts, as well as alternatives to the project.

The East Bay Regional Park District invites you to comment on the proposed scope of the EIR. **Please send your written comments within 30 days from the date you receive this notice** to: Chris Barton, East Bay Regional Park District Land Division, 2950 Peralta Oaks Court, Oakland, CA 94605, or via email: cbarton@ebparks.org. You may also contact Chris by telephone at (510) 544-2627.

You may also provide comments at the EIR Scoping Session, which will be held on: **Thursday April 12, 2012, 7:00 p.m. East Bay Regional Park District Board Room; 2950 Peralta Oaks Court, Oakland 94605**. Individuals needing accommodations for disabled access should contact us at (510) 544-2627 at least one day before the event.

The East Bay Regional Park District is the Lead Agency (i.e., the public agency with the greatest responsibility for either approving the project or carrying it out) for the project. This notice is being sent to the State Clearinghouse, any responsible or trustee agencies, federal agencies involved in approving or funding the project, and other interested parties. When the Draft EIR is published, it will be sent to the State Clearinghouse and to others who respond to this Notice of Preparation (NOP) or who otherwise indicate that they would like to receive a copy, and will be available on the East Bay Parks website. A Final EIR with responses to comments on the Draft EIR will be prepared prior to final consideration of the proposed project. Notices of public hearings on the projects, and the availability of the Final EIR, will also be provided to NOP respondents, those requesting such notice, and available through the Internet.

Chris Barton
Senior Planner
East Bay Regional Park District



East Bay Regional Park District
P.O. Box 5381, Oakland, CA 94605
www.ebparks.org

FIGURE 1

REGIONAL LOCATION

*ALBANY BEACH RESTORATION AND PUBLIC ACCESS
AT EASTSHORE STATE PARK*



FIGURE 2

PROJECT SEGMENTS

ALBANY BEACH RESTORATION AND PUBLIC ACCESS

AT EASTSHORE STATE PARK



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