

**CITY OF ALBANY  
WATERFRONT COMMITTEE  
STAFF REPORT**

**Agenda date: July 25, 2012  
Prepared by: JB**

**ITEM: 5-2**

**SUBJECT: Report on the Release of the Draft Environmental Impact Report on the Albany Beach Restoration and Public Access Project**

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**RECOMMENDATION**

For information and discussion.

**BACKGROUND**

In 2011, the East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) completed the Albany Beach Restoration and Public Access Feasibility Study. In summary, the project will enhance and expand the beach, dunes and wetlands, stabilize eroding shorelines and improve public access. Interpretive exhibits, picnic facilities, restrooms and a staging area could also be provided.

In the past year, EBRPD Board of Directors authorized District staff to seek California Coast Conservancy and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency funding for the project. In addition, the District entered into a contract with Questa Engineering to complete the design and permitting for the project, including preparation of an environmental impact report.

A public meeting on the scope of the EIR was held on April 12, 2012. In addition, staff provided the City Council with an update on the project at the Council's April 16 meeting.

**DISCUSSION**

East Bay Regional Park District has completed the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the Albany Beach Restoration & Public Access Project. The DEIR is available on the District's website at [www.ebparks.org/planning#albany](http://www.ebparks.org/planning#albany).

The purpose of the California Environmental Quality Act is to provide information to decision makers about potential environmental impacts of a project. If there are significant impacts, the EIR is required to identify mitigations to address the impacts. The District will be accepting comments on the DEIR through August 27, 2012 (see attached Notice from EBRPD). Staff is in the process of reviewing the document in detail, and will be prepared to make a presentation at the Waterfront Committee meeting. For example, Section 3 (Project Description) provides more detail and describes refinements to the design of the beach improvements construction staging, and haul roads.



**CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA)  
NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF THE ALBANY BEACH RESTORATION & PUBLIC ACCESS  
PROJECT DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (SCH# 2012032072)**

Notice is hereby given that East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD), as the Lead Agency, has completed the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the Albany Beach Restoration & Public Access Project. The Draft EIR was published on July 11, 2012, which marks the start of the 45-day comment period as required under CEQA.

A copy of this Draft EIR has been sent to the State Clearinghouse and to those who requested a copy by responding to the NOP. It is also available for downloading from the EBRPD website at <http://www.ebparks.org/planning#albany>. Electronic copies are also available at the Albany Library at 1247 Marin Avenue, Albany; and at the Berkeley Public Library, Central Library at 2090 Kittredge Street, Berkeley.

**Project Location and Description:** The Albany Beach Restoration and Public Access Project is located in Eastshore State Park at the western terminus of Buchanan Street in the City of Albany, CA. The project consists of:

1. Shoreline repair and reconstruction, including habitat enhancement and accessibility improvements to 2,000 feet of existing trail (San Francisco Bay Trail Spur) along the Albany Neck shoreline; and northern beach access; beneficial reuse of Albany Neck shoreline material to repair voids on the Albany Plateau created from metal scavenging or uneven landfill subsidence (Area 1).
2. Beach and dune enhancement, recreation improvements, restroom, parking and construction of approximately 800 feet of new San Francisco Bay Trail at Albany Beach (Area 2); and
3. Construction of 4,200 feet of new San Francisco Bay Trail between Albany Beach and Gilman Street (Area 3).

**Anticipated Significant Environmental Effects:** The DEIR identifies potential significant effects in the following areas: Aesthetics; Biological Resources; Cultural Resources; Geology and Soils; Hazards and Hazardous Materials; Hydrology and Water Quality. Implementation of mitigation measures identified in the DEIR would reduce these potentially significant effects to a less than significant level.

**Comment Period:** EBRPD will receive public comments on the Draft EIR starting July 11, 2012 through August 27, 2012. Written comments should be received no later than 5 p.m. on August 27, 2012 and should be sent to:

U.S. Mail: Chris Barton  
East Bay Regional Park District  
Land Division  
2950 Peralta Oaks Court  
PO Box 5381  
Oakland, CA 94605

Email: [cbarton@ebparks.org](mailto:cbarton@ebparks.org)

Following the close of the DEIR comment period and preparation of a Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR), at a future meeting the EBRPD Board of Directors will consider whether to certify the FEIR, adopt findings, and approve the project. Board meetings are held at 2950 Peralta Oaks Court, Oakland CA.

For more information please check the District's website or contact Chris Barton at 510-544-2627 or [cbarton@ebparks.org](mailto:cbarton@ebparks.org)



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FIGURE 3-2

**AREAS OF ANALYSIS**  
 ALBANY BEACH RESTORATION AND PUBLIC ACCESS  
 EASTSHORE STATE PARK