



NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF AN INITIAL STUDY

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August 29, 2012

The Sonoma County Regional Parks Department (Regional Parks) is preparing an Initial Study for the proposed:

Doran Park & Westside Park Boat Launch Facility Improvements

Introduction

Regional Parks is requesting comments from responsible and trustee agencies, property owners in the project vicinity, and other interested parties regarding the scope and content of the Initial Study. Responsible and trustee agencies are requested to provide comments regarding the scope and content of the environmental information that is germane to that agency's statutory responsibilities in relation to the proposed project. Regional Parks is also interested in comments from property owners and other interested parties regarding what should be included in the Initial Study.

Regional Parks' staff will prepare the Initial Study in accordance with the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the State CEQA Guidelines. An Initial Study is a preliminary analysis of a proposed project's potentially significant environmental effects regarding construction, operation, and maintenance of the proposed project. After the Initial Study is prepared, Regional Parks will present the document to the Sonoma County Environmental Review Committee (ERC), who will determine whether a Negative Declaration or an Environmental Impact Report should be prepared. Regional Parks will invite those on the project mailing list to attend the ERC meeting.

Notice of Preparation Comment Period and Document Availability

Please send written comments to Mark Cleveland, Senior Park Planner, in care of the Sonoma County Regional Parks, at the address listed above or at Mark.Cleveland@sonoma-county.org.

The comment period for the Notice of Preparation **will close** at 5:00 p.m. on **November 2, 2012**, which is 35 days after mailing of this document. Please note that while the comment period for the Notice of Preparation has a closing date, interested parties are encouraged to contact Regional Parks' staff at any time during the process to receive an update of the process, ask questions, and share information.

Documents relating to the proposed project are available for review at the Regional Parks' office. Please call the main office at (707) 565-2041 to set up an appointment to view documents at the Parks' office. Questions regarding this NOP can be addressed to Mark Cleveland at the same phone number.

Public Scoping Meeting

Regional Parks will host a public scoping meeting regarding the proposed project. Although the meeting is not a required part of the CEQA process, Regional Parks' staff would like to hear from the community as well as responsible and trustee agencies regarding support for the proposed project and about any concerns they may have. Regional Parks will present the conceptual plan for the Doran Park and Westside Park Boat Launch Facility Improvements and will discuss the associated planning and environmental review processes. The meeting will then be opened to the audience to participate in the discussion of the scope of environmental review. The public scoping meeting is scheduled to occur:

Wednesday, September 12, 2012, 6:00 p.m.
Bodega Bay Grange Hall
1370 Bodega Avenue

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Purpose

The purpose of the proposed project is to provide improved access, amenities, and safety at boat launching facilities in Bodega Bay.

Project Location

The project would take place at two existing boat ramps and parking areas on Bodega Bay, both owned and operated by the County of Sonoma. The sites are at Doran Park, Doran Park Road (Parcel 100-130-006), and Westside Park, 2400 Westshore Road (Parcel 100-020-014). Work at Doran would involve expansion of the paved parking area; at Westside, improvements would include expansion of the ramp from two to 3 lanes.

Existing Site Conditions

Both sites contain existing boat ramps with surfaces that are wearing out with the diagonal safety grooves eroding away. The paved parking area at Doran is deteriorated and crumbling, and amenities such as the fish cleaning station are worn out. Currently unpaved areas that would be developed include a gravel parking lot immediately west of the paved parking lot and a sandy area adjacent to the dunes. Predominant vegetation in the sandy area is ice plant, European beach grass, and scattered native plants. The center portion of this area is already paved for a small parking area.

At Westside, the parking lot pavement is intact, but the fish cleaning station is worn out and needs to be replaced. A disturbed area dominated by native salt grass occurs between Bodega Harbor and the fish cleaning station, boat ramp, and parking lot. Sediment has filled in the access channel to the boat launch facility so that only a very narrow one-way channel remains at low tide.

Eelgrass may be present within the waters adjacent to both facilities. Eelgrass is considered Essential Fish Habitat by NOAA Fisheries Service. The presence of and potential impacts on eelgrass will be assessed as part of the Initial Study.

Project Description

The proposed boat launch facility improvements would include:

- Replacing the existing piles, boarding floats, and related amenities at both facilities;
- Installing new lighting and improving the fish cleaning stations and boat wash down areas; and
- Expanding the Westside boat ramp by one lane.

Specific improvements under consideration are:

Doran Park:

- **Boat Ramp Refurbishment:** The boat ramp would be resurfaced, probably by using precast concrete planks. Worn out piles and boarding floats would be replaced. The replacement floating dock would include a low-freeboard portion for small boats and ADA access.
- **Boat Wash:** The boat wash would be moved out of the parking lot and across the street for improved traffic flow and safety. The new location would be a pullout from the east-bound lane across from (south of) the current RV dump station.
- **Fish Cleaning Station:** The fish cleaning station would be repaired/upgraded, which would involve structural repair or replacement, fish cleaning surface replacement, and hose upgrades.
- **Parking Area:** The parking area would be resurfaced and restriped. Improvements may include features such as raised islands of plants or vegetated swales. A pedestrian sidewalk would be added along the water side of the parking lot for improved safety. The gravel parking area immediately west of the currently paved area would also be surfaced and striped.

Westside Park:

- **Boat Ramp Refurbishment:** The boat ramp would be expanded to 3 lanes and resurfaced with precast concrete planks. Worn-out piles and boarding floats would be replaced. Replacement floating dock would include a low-freeboard portion for small boats and ADA access.
- **Channel Dredging:** Accumulated sediment would be tested and, if appropriate, removed and reused in an upland area on regional parkland or on private property. If sediment sampling indicates potential contamination, alternate placement sites will be assessed.
- **Boat Wash:** The boat wash area would be upgraded with timed hoses for water conservation.
- **Fish Cleaning Area:** The fish cleaning area would be repaired/upgraded, including structural repair or replacement, fish cleaning surface replacement, and fish processing upgrades.
- **Trail and Picnic Tables:** A new, decomposed granite trail and picnic tables would be installed in the area between the boat launch and the fish cleaning station.

Areas of Potential Environmental Effect

The Initial Study will analyze potential environmental impacts associated with construction, operation and maintenance of the proposed project. Specific areas of analysis will include: aesthetics, agricultural resources, air quality, greenhouse gases and global climate change, biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, hazards, hydrology and water quality, land use, energy and mineral resources, noise, population and housing, public services, recreation, transportation and traffic, and utilities and service systems. These are the resource categories included in the Initial Study Checklist, Appendix G to the State CEQA Guidelines. Other areas of concern identified during public scoping and the public comment period will be analyzed, as appropriate.