

Corte Madera Marsh Restoration

Introduction to the Golden Gate Bridge Corte Madera Marsh Restoration Project
and
Potential Relocation and Expansion of the Town of Corte Madera's Public Access
Easement

Presented by:
WRA, Inc. and the Golden Gate Bridge
Highway and Transportation District
(GGBHTD)

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Presentation Overview

Why are we here?

1. The Golden Gate Bridge Highway and Transportation District (District) owns a 72 acre parcel on the edge of the Bay in Corte Madera. The District has obligations to:
 - Restore 4 acres of marsh habitat due to Larkspur Ferry Terminal construction and operation
 - Restore additional areas as mitigation credits to be used for ferry terminal improvements in Larkspur and San Francisco
2. Present a concept of relocating and increasing the area of the public access easement on the parcel as part of the District's project to restore marsh habitat



Restore tidal marsh habitat



Create Salt marsh harvest mouse habitat



Create California Ridgway's rail habitat



Possibly expand public access

ACCESS TRAIL
CONTINUES
EASTWARD

SAN FRANCISCO BAY
SHORELINE

PUMP
STATION

SHOREBIRD
MARSH

NORTHERN DRAINAGE
CHANNEL

**Existing
Public
Access
Easement**

DISTRICT
EASEMENT
ON SMART
RIGHT OF WAY

MUZZI MARSH

THE
VILLAGE OF
CORTE
MADERA

APPROXIMATE
PROPERTY
BOUNDARY

Existing Parcel



Aerial Imagery Source: Google Earth



Information About the Existing Public Access Easement



1. Public Access Easement is currently limited to a **10-foot wide** trail along the southern and eastern berm.
2. SF Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC) required the District to grant this public access easement to the Town of Corte Madera as a condition of approval for constructing the Larkspur Ferry Terminal.
3. Easement does not authorize access to the northern boundary of the site and does not include a loop trail.
4. Easement does not authorize access to central areas.
 - Authorized public access shown in **green**.
 - Unauthorized public access shown in **red**.
 - Existing easement is approximately
 - **4,020 linear feet, 0.92 acre**

Corte Madera Marsh Restoration Project

Goals of the Project

1. Restore a significant amount of tidal marsh and seasonal wetlands
2. Expand habitat for endangered species including the Salt marsh harvest mouse and California Ridgway's rail
3. Relocate and expand public access easement and create the opportunity for ownership of a new public access easement area to be transferred to the Town of Corte Madera
4. Provide adequate buffer areas between public access areas and habitat for endangered species
5. Create the opportunity for the restoration areas to be annexed into the Corte Madera Ecological Reserve, which is owned by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife



Restore tidal marsh habitat



Create Salt marsh harvest mouse habitat

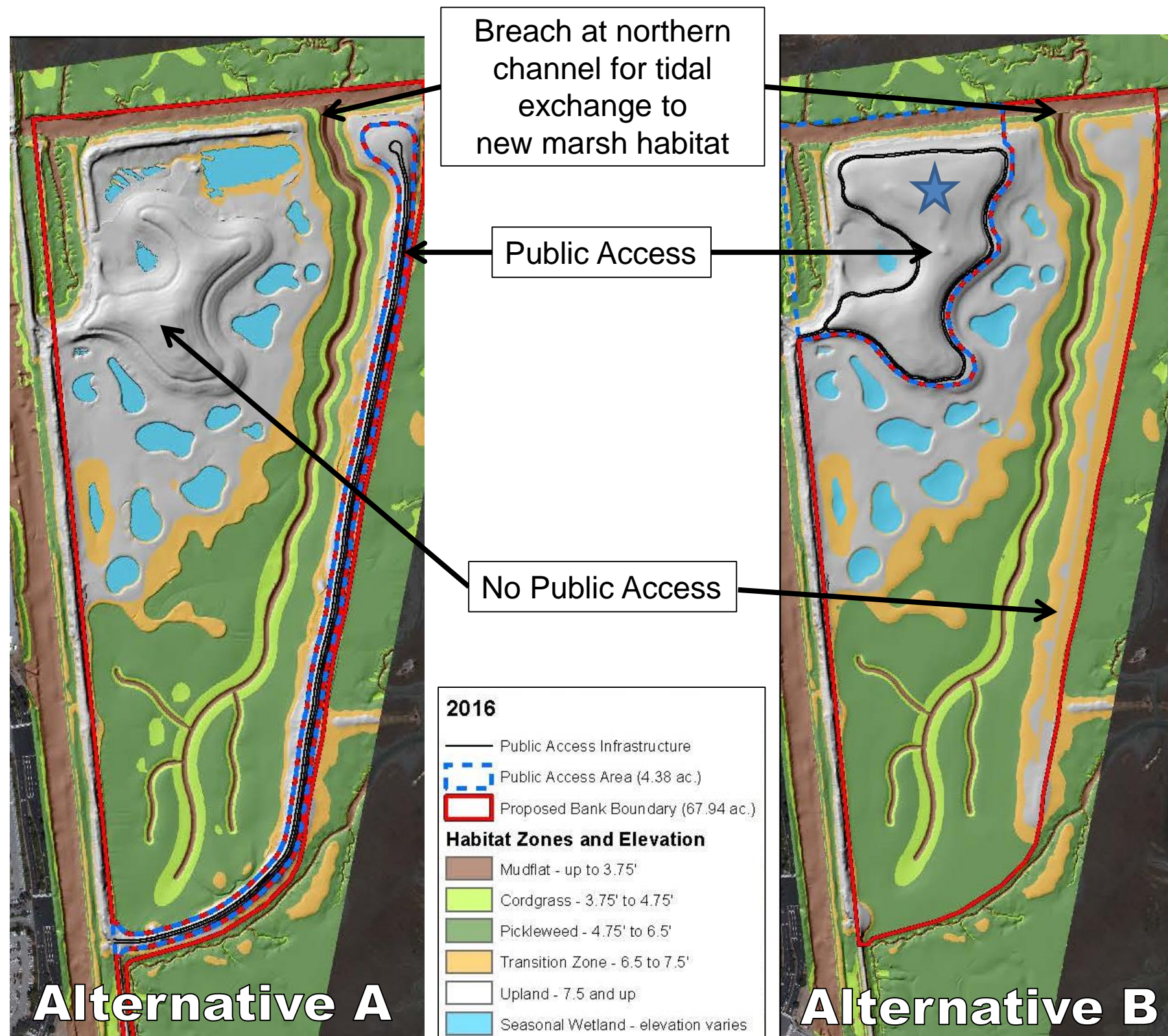


Create California Ridgway's rail habitat



Expand public access

Alternative A versus Alternative B



Both Alternatives:

- Restore:
 - ~**25** acres of tidal marsh
 - ~**6** acres of seasonal wetlands
- Habitats resilient to sea level rise
- Opportunity for the restoration areas to be annexed into the Corte Madera Ecological Reserve

Alternative B:

- Improves public access areas to be deeded to the Town of Corte Madera
- ★ Relocates and expands public access area
 - 3,200 linear foot loop trail
 - 8.5 acres for recreation
- Buffers human disturbance from habitats that support endangered species

Proposal to Relocate the Public Access Easement at the GGBHTD's Corte Madera Marsh Property

- Multiple regulatory agencies have jurisdiction over project and must provide concurrence.
- Regulatory agencies have advised the District that the location of existing easement is not preferable with the goals of the restoration project.
- ★ Under Alternative B, District is proposing to relocate and expand the public access easement.
- There is an opportunity for new public access area ownership to be transferred to the Town of Corte Madera, providing additional public recreation space.



Aerial photograph of the District's property with the existing public access easement shown as a **green line**.



Illustration of the proposed tidal marsh restoration with the relocated public access easement shown within the **black dashed line**.

Highlights of the Proposed Tidal Marsh Restoration Project



Seasonal wetlands



Upland refugia and buffer areas



High marsh habitat with pickleweed

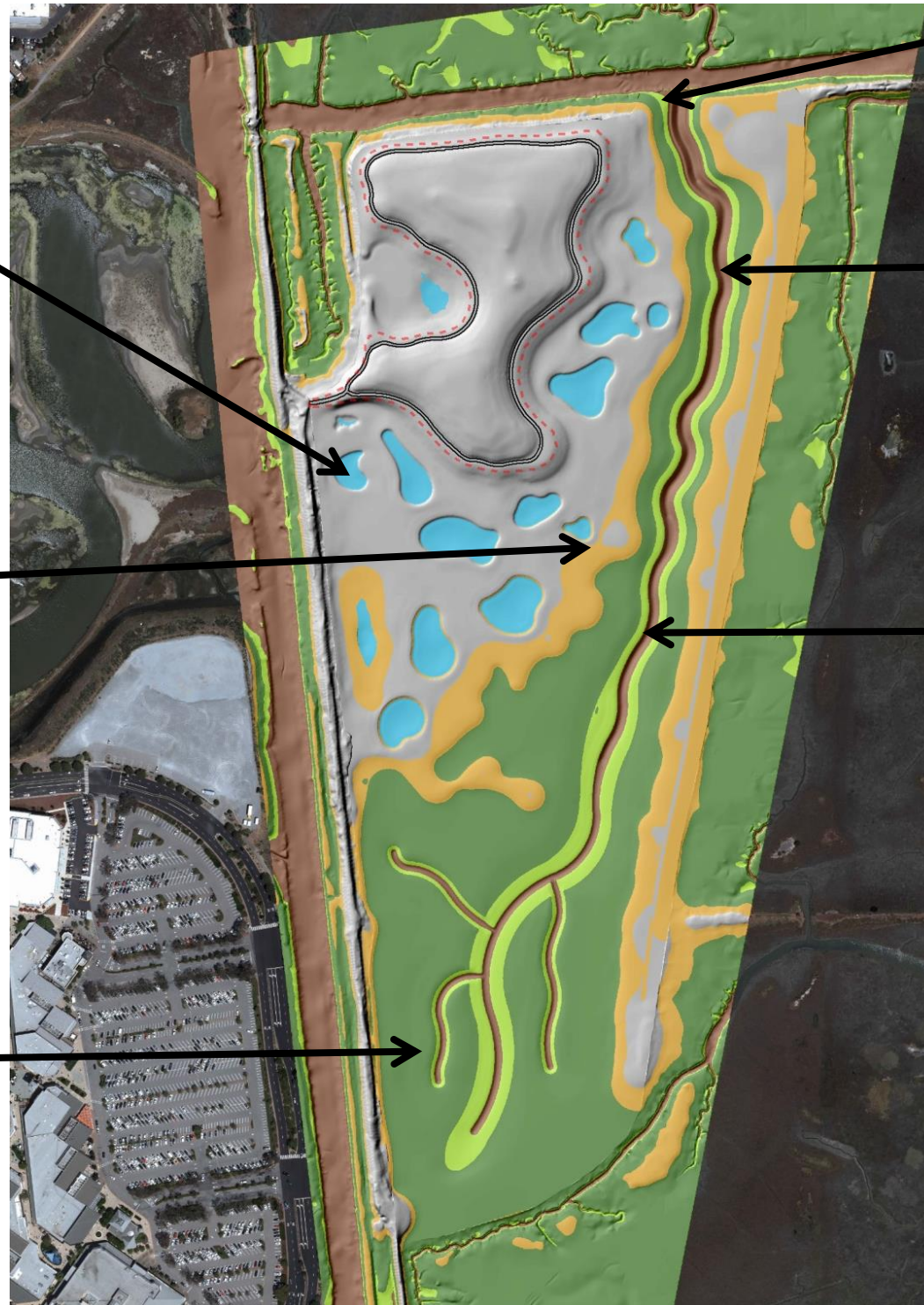


Illustration of the proposed Corte Madera Marsh Restoration Project






Breach at northern channel for tidal exchange to new marsh habitat



Tidal channels and mudflats



Low marsh habitat with cordgrass

| Habitat Zones | |
|---|-----------------|
|  | Mud Flat |
|  | Cordgrass |
|  | Pickleweed |
|  | Transition Zone |
|  | Upland |

Project Status

1. Informal consultations started with regulatory agencies:

1. US Army Corp of Engineers
2. California Department of Fish and Wildlife
3. Regional Water Quality Control Board

2. Presented concepts to:

1. Marin Baylands Advocates
2. Marin Audubon Society

3. Project status and next steps:

1. Finalize concept and begin CEQA by June 2017
2. Complete CEQA documentation by June 2018
3. Complete design by January 2019
4. Secure permits and advertise for construction by June 2019

4. Questions?



Restore tidal marsh habitat



Create Salt marsh harvest mouse habitat



Create California Ridgway's rail habitat



Possibly expand public access

END