Corte Madera Town Council Meeting

Update on the
Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District

Corte Madera Tidal Marsh Restoration Project

Presented by:
Golden Gate Bridge Highway and Transportation District
And
WRA, Inc.
October 2, 2018
Project Purpose

• The Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District (District) proposes to restore four acres of its tidal marsh property in Corte Madera in order to fulfill outstanding obligations:

  – In 1988 the Army Corps of Engineers issued a permit for the disposal of 90,000 cubic yards of dredge material and required the creation of 2 acres of tidal marsh suitable for California Ridgway's (formerly clapper) rail.

  – In the 1990s, local environmental groups settled with the District on restoring 2 acres of marsh in response to high speed ferry use.
1. The 1973 BCDC Permit associated with construction of Larkspur Ferry Terminal, and its subsequent amendments, required a 10-foot wide public access easement along the eastern and southern perimeter berms of the property.

2. The District transferred this 10-foot wide public access easement to the Town of Corte Madera by a Grant of Easements and Agreement dated October 1982.

3. The Town of Corte Madera’s public access easement is a public access spur and is not part of the Bay Trail. It does not include central areas of property.

4. No public access easement exists along the northern perimeter berm of the property adjacent to the drainage channel (although the public informally uses this area).

5. Existing land uses of the property will resume following project completion, including informal public uses.
THE VILLAGE OF CORTE MADERA

SHOREBIRD MARSH

PUMP STATION

BAY TRAIL

EXISTING PUBLIC ACCESS EASEMENT

NORTHERN DRAINAGE CHANNEL

DISTRICT EASEMENT ON SMART RIGHT OF WAY

APPROXIMATE PROPERTY BOUNDARY

TOWN OF CORTE MADERA DRAINAGE EASEMENT

ACCESS TRAIL CONTINUES EASTWARD TO THE SHORELINE

SAN FRANCISCO BAY SHORELINE

FORMER MUZZI MARSH, RESTORED BY DISTRICT AND DEEDED TO CDFW IN 1982.

PG&E POWER LINE

THE VILLAGE OF CORTE MADERA

EXISTING PUBLIC ACCESS EASEMENT

NORTHERN DRAINAGE CHANNEL

DISTRICT EASEMENT ON SMART RIGHT OF WAY

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PG&E POWER LINE
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
Following the March 21, 2017 Presentation

- District received public comments
  - Desire to maintain existing public access location and informal loop trail

- District met with regulatory agencies to discuss receiving credits for performing additional marsh restoration

- District determined that it should pursue a smaller project that would fulfill its mitigation obligations

- District reviewed potential locations for a 4-acre wetland restoration project on the parcel that would allow for maintaining an informal loop trail
Proposed Project Location

Existing Condition

Informal Trail

Proposed Restoration

Relocated Informal Trail
Existing Site Conditions (continued)

Looking Northwest – Aerial View
Project Design Concept

LEGEND:

- Property Line
- Existing Easement
- Existing Contour
- Proposed Contour
- Limit of Grade
- Limit of Disturbance
- Current Public Access
- New Informal Trail
- Pedestrian/Dog Exclusion Fence
- New Tidal Marsh (Pickleweed Bench - 3.42 Acres)
- New Tidal Marsh (Cordgrass Bench - 0.60 Acres)
- New Tidal Marsh (Channel - 0.26 Acres)
- New Seasonal Wetlands (0.28 Acre)
- Impacted Seasonal Wetlands (0.28 Acre)
- Existing Seasonal Wetlands to Remain
- Existing Tidal Wetlands / Channels

- Northern Drainage Channel
- Town of Corte Madera Drainage Easement
- PG&E Powerline Easement
- Town of Corte Madera Public Access Easement
- District Easement on SMART right-of-way
- Tidal Wetland
- Upland Disposal Site
- Staging Area
- 4" Deep Seasonal Wetland
- Muzzi Marsh Tidal Marsh

- 4.3 Acres
Project Design Concept

SECTION A

SECTION B
Questions?

Additional questions and comments may be sent to:

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