

# COUNTY OF SAN MATEO

Parks Department



**DATE:** January 23, 2018

**COMMISSION MEETING DATE:** February 1, 2018

**TO:** Parks and Recreation Commission

**FROM:** Jonathan Gervais, Director

**SUBJECT:** Update on the Coyote Point Eastern Promenade Project

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

Receive Presentation and Accept Public Comment.

## **BACKGROUND:**

Coyote Point Park is made up of 140 land acres and 539 water acres that were acquired by San Mateo County in the 1960's. In 1967 the County brought in 10,000 cubic yards of sand. Continued erosion undercut the adjacent paved promenade trail and removed most of the imported sand leaving a base of pea gravel along much of the beach shoreline. In the 1990's a series of structures were built along the shoreline to provide erosion protection which had little effect.

In 2009, the Coyote Point Project was launched to resolve the challenges with shoreline erosion and the changing uses along the 1,850-foot-long promenade. Phase 1 of the project included the 850'-long Western promenade which was completed in 2014 and improved shoreline use through the re-building and re-armoring of a shoreline which enabled restoration of the accessible pathway and created three new access ramps into the San Francisco Bay for non-motorized recreational use. Phase 1 was funded by public and private funds including County funds and grants from the Cosco Busan Recreational Use Program, the California Division of Boating and Waterways, and San Mateo County Park Foundation.

## **DISCUSSION:**

Phase 2 of the Coyote Point Project includes restoration of the Eastern Promenade. The project is needed because the current shoreline is severely eroded, unsightly, and

does not invite use of the bay. Large chunks of concrete and asphalt line the shoreline and the tidal area is bay mud. In addition, the project is needed to address climate change. Recent climate change studies suggest a 4-foot rise in sea level by 2050 and storm surges necessitate action by County Parks to avoid more destruction or loss of additional park facilities. San Mateo County is adopting a managed retreat strategy to move the utilities and restroom out of the inundation zone and protect the coast by creating a beach buffer that will become a coveted recreational opportunity for the community and improve the appearance and use of San Francisco Bay. The project is also needed to upgrade the site to meet Americans with Disability Act standards for the lower and middle parking areas, trail, benches, shower tower, restroom building and beach.

To address the needs, the County hired consulting engineers to examine wave conditions, sea level rise impacts, shore sediment, cross-shore sediment and windblown sediment and staff met with constituents, partners, concessionaires, and the community.

The Eastern Promenade Project consists of five major components:

1. Sandy Beach - Creation of a perched sandy beach that will be used for recreation including a safe place to have a beach experience along the San Francisco Bay. The beach will facilitate year-round multi-purpose public access to the beach and water for beach play, swimming, and access for kayakers, windsurfers, and other non-motorized use.
2. Bay Front Trail - Creation of a wide curved promenade trail that is a wide strolling path along the Bay that will connect to the Bay Trail.
3. Improved Parking Lot - Improvements to parking including resurfacing and restriping of the lower, middle and upper parking areas adjacent to the beach.
4. New Restroom - Demolition of the old restroom building and construction of a new restroom out of the inundation zone.
5. Landscaping - Improvements to landscaping including the planting of native, low maintenance, and drought tolerant plants.

County Parks has completed the plans and secured the required permits. The next steps include securing additional construction funding, preparing the bid package, and then signing a construction contract. Construction will take approximately one year. The results will be monitored and reported to the Commission. The estimated construction cost is \$5.5 to \$6 million dollars. The County has secured grants totaling \$1.5 million dollars to date and is applying for another \$1.5 million in grants. If successful with the additional grant funding, the Department may request County funding to fill the gap or phase the project and construct the beach side facilities first and the middle and upper parking lots later.