

## CHAPTER 4. CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

### 4.1 Scoping

#### 4.1.1 Public Involvement

Prior to the preparation of the EA, through direct mailing and follow-up presentations, the NPS solicited input from the public on the proposed project (Appendix H) and their views on any environmental impact in connection with this project. The following methods were used to notify the public of the Mori Point Restoration and Trail Plan and solicit input:

- Mailings to more than 1,500 individuals, agencies, and organizations
  - Regulatory and public agencies
  - Fairway West and nearby residents
  - GGNPC's Site Stewardship Program mailing list
  - GGNRA mailing list
- On-site bulletin board and flyers
- Newspaper Press releases (Cities of San Francisco, San Jose, San Mateo, Pacifica)
- Open House – October 25, 2005
- Site Walk – October 29, 2005

Seventeen people signed the registrar for the public meetings, though approximately 30 individuals attended. Fourteen people attended the public field trip. Thirty-seven individuals provided a total of 134 comments. Comments were submitted in writing at public meetings and via email, mail, and through the PEPC website. The planning team considered each comment.

Most of the comments submitted fall into one of the following categories listed below:

**Trail Use:** There was a wide range of comments with regards to trail use, with a number of individuals suggesting multiple-use and several advocating for single-track sections for specific uses. Each comment was considered within the context of all site elements: site topography and erosion, endangered species, visitor access and use. The Preferred Alternative represents the best combination of views expressed by the public with respect to use designation.

**Trail Design:** Individuals provided a number of preferences for trail design including post and cable fencing, narrow trails, increased signage and the desire to minimize asphalt. Suggestions will be taken into consideration by those designing the various trail segments.

**Trail Alignment:** In terms of trail alignment, most of the comments were suggestions of specific segments and loops to be added, deleted or maintained. Each comment was considered, and the Preferred Alternative reflects the integration of comments and suggestions that were consistent with the overall goals of the environmental assessment.

**Dogs:** Public comment on dogs reflected those in favor of both on and off leash activities. Dog walking, however, is not covered in the EA because it is being determined in a federally sanctioned on-going Negotiated Rulemaking process. Comments also covered areas such as dog clean up and the desire for more trash cans and baggy stations.

**Wildlife and Vegetation:** Most of the suggestions made for both wildlife and vegetation were consistent with management objectives, and supported the goal of improving habitat for the endangered species on site. Mosquitoes are dealt with in a separate section in this E.A. Suggestions made for wildlife and vegetation management were incorporated into the plan where appropriate.

#### 4.1.1 Internal Scoping and Project Review

Internal scoping was conducted by the staff of the GGNRA. Resource specialists were contacted to determine what types of impacts the project might have. On August 27, 2003 and July 27, 2005, the Proposed Action was evaluated under the GGNRA's Project Review process. This interdisciplinary process reviewed and defined the purpose and need, identified potential actions to address the need, determined issues and impact topics to be addressed, and confirmed that the project would require an EA to determine whether the impact of the proposed action or No Action Alternative would be significant.

## 4.2 Regulatory Compliance

Compliance with major federal laws and associated state regulations is summarized below.

### ***National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1970. PL 91-190, 83 Stat. 852, 42 USC §4341 et seq.***

This EA provides disclosure of the planning and potential environmental consequences of the proposed action and No Action Alternative, as required by NEPA. The EA will be made available for public review and comment for 30 days. Agency and public comments will then be considered and a determination will be made whether to further assess alternatives and impacts or to prepare a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), which will respond individually or through summaries to all substantive comments.

### ***U.S. Army Corps of Engineers***

Pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33U.S.C. 1344), the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) regulates the discharge of dredged or fill material to Waters of the U.S., including wetlands. On February 7, 2006, GGNRA sent the USACE the wetland delineation to determine if there are any jurisdictional wetlands that may be affected by proposed project activities resulting in the "fill" of Waters of the U.S. Consultation is underway and any necessary permits will be acquired before completion of the NEPA process.

### ***San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board***

The Federal Clean Water Act, in Section 401, specifies that states must certify that any activity subject to a permit issued by a federal agency, such as the USACE, meets all state water quality standards. In California, the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) is responsible for taking certification actions for activities subject to any permit issued by the USACE pursuant to Section 404. A Section 401 certification may be needed from the RWQCB for potential impacts to Waters of the State from proposed project activities.

### ***U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service***

Under Section 7 of the federal Endangered Species Act as amended, PL 93-205, 87 Stat. 884, 16 USC §1531 et seq., federal agencies are required to consult with the USFWS if their actions, including permit approvals, could adversely affect an endangered or threatened species, or its critical habitat. Section 7 consultation would result in the issuance of a Biological Opinion. The USFWS may issue an incidental take statement in the biological opinion allowing take of a species that is incidental to another authorized activity, provided the action will not jeopardize the continued existence of the species.

This Environmental Assessment is intended to also serve as a Biological Assessment to initiate formal Section 7 interagency consultation between NPS and USFWS. The GGNRA has already initiated informal consultation with USFWS by conducting meetings to discuss the project on September 13, 2005 and September 28, 2005, and through ongoing and regular correspondence between USFWS staff and GGNRA Natural Resource staff.

### ***California Coastal Commission***

GGNRA sent a letter to the California Coastal Commission on December 19, 2005 asking for a Negative Declaration for the project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Consultation is currently underway.

### ***California Department of Fish and Game***

Since the project area lies entirely within federal property, the project is not regulated by the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG). However, in an effort to work collaboratively with regulatory agencies so as to be as protective as possible to California endangered species, the GGNRA contacted CDFG for input on the project.

### ***Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and California State Historic Preservation Officer***

The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended PL 89-665, 80 Stat. 915, 16 USC §470 et seq. and 36 CFR 18, 60, 61, 63, 68, 79, 800, requires federal agencies to consult with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) and the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) regarding undertakings that may affect properties listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. In 1992, Golden Gate National Recreation Area entered into a Programmatic Agreement with the ACHP and the SHPO which allows park staff from the Division of Cultural Resources to review undertakings for National Historic Preservation Act conformance as long as such undertakings are found to have No Effect or No Adverse Effect on properties listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The park reports to the ACHP and the SHPO on such reviews annually. During the Mori Point planning phase, park cultural resources staff surveyed Mori Point for the presence of properties eligible for the National Register of Historic Places and found none. As a result, it has been determined that the actions called for in this plan will have no effect on National Register properties, and the plan will be reviewed under the Golden Gate National Recreation Area Programmatic Agreement for National Historic Preservation Act conformance. A report of the cultural resources survey will be sent to the SHPO along with this EA.

### ***Executive Order No. 11990, Protection of Wetlands and Director's Order 77-1, Wetland Protection***

In accordance with Executive Order 11990, Director's Order 77-1 provides guidance for the NPS in the protection wetlands. Wetlands at the project site fall within the Cowardin classification system, some of which may be considered jurisdictional wetlands according to the USACE. Regardless of classification, the NPS must complete a "Statement of Findings" that describes and provides rationale for adverse impacts to wetlands. However, the proposed project is identified as an action that is excepted from preparation of a Statement of Findings, according to DO-77-1, Wetland Protection, Procedural Manual, Section 4.2.A.1.a, "...foot/bike trails or boardwalk, including signs, the primary purpose of which are public education, interpretation, or enjoyment of wetland resources." and Section 4.2.A.1.e, "Actions designed specifically for the purpose of restoring degraded (or completely lost) natural wetland, stream, riparian, or other aquatic habitats or ecological processes..." DO 77-1 presents a set of Best Management Practices (BMPs) that must be satisfied for a proposed action to qualify for the exception to the Statement of Findings. All of the BMPs identified in the Director's Order will be implemented during the project. The list of BMPs has been incorporated into the project and is included in Appendix E.

The NPS is also mandated to a) avoid adverse wetland impacts to the extent practicable, b) minimize impacts that could not be avoided, and c) compensate for remaining unavoidable adverse wetland impacts via restoration of degraded wetlands. The NPS adopts a goal of "no net loss of wetlands" and strives to achieve a longer-term goal of net gain of wetlands. As described in the EA, this project will restore wetland habitat and increase habitat by constructing 0.4 acres of new pond habitat, resulting in a net increase of wetlands at a 5 to 1 ratio of created to permanently impacted wetlands.

### **4.3 List of Preparers and Contributors**

#### Preparers

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Sue Fritzke, Vegetation Ecologist

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Kate Bickert, GGNPC, Trails Forever Program Coordinator

**Consultants**

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Barth Campbell, Campbell Grading

**4.4 List of Recipients and Review of EA**

The following is a list of agencies and organizations that will have received a notice of availability or a copy of the environmental assessment. In addition, 441 private individuals will have received a notice of availability. A complete list of names on the NPS mailing list for this project is in the project file and is available from the issuing office. Additionally, notice of the project and EA was sent to all individuals that indicated interest in GGNRA planning and management activities (approximately 1,100) as part of the notice for the GGNRA Park Public Meeting on Tuesday, February 28, at 7 p.m. The project will be presented at this meeting which will be held at the GGNRA Park Headquarters, Fort Mason, San Francisco. The EA will be available at the meeting.

**Federal Agencies**

Environmental Protection Agency

Federal Emergency Management Agency

Fish and Wildlife Service

Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary

National Marine Fisheries Service

Natural Resources Conservation Service

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

U.S. Department of Transportation

**Elected Officials**

U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer

U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein

Congressperson Nancy Pelosi, District 8

Congressperson Tom Lantos, District 12

Congressperson Anna Eshoo, District 14

California State Senator Jackie Speier, District 8

California State Assembly Member Leland Yee, Ph.D., District 12

California State Assembly Member Mark Leno, District 13

California State Assembly Member Gene Mullin, District 19

San Mateo County Board of Supervisors, Attn: Rich Gordon

San Francisco County Board of Supervisors, Attn: Aaron Peskin

Mayor Gavin Newsom, City and County of San Francisco Office of the Mayor

Mayor Sue Digre, City of Pacifica, Office of the Mayor  
City of Pacifica City Council, Attn: James Vreeland

**State Agencies**

California Coastal Commission  
California Coastal Conservancy  
California Department of Fish and Game  
California Department of Forestry  
California Department of Parks and Recreation  
California Department of Transportation  
California Department of Water Resources  
California Native American Heritage Commission  
California Office of Planning and Resources State Clearinghouse  
California Resources Agency  
California Water Resources Control Board  
State Historic Preservation Office

**Regional, County, and Municipal Agencies**

Association of Bay Area Governments  
Bay Area Air Quality Management District  
Bay Conservation and Development Commission  
City of Pacifica Planning Department  
San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board  
San Francisco Planning Department  
San Francisco Public Utilities Commission  
San Francisco Water Department  
San Mateo County Agricultural Commission  
San Mateo County Congestion Management and Transportation Planning  
San Mateo County Environmental Services Agency  
San Mateo County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO)  
San Mateo County Parks and Recreation  
San Mateo County Planning and Building Division  
San Mateo County Public Works  
San Mateo County Resource Conservation District

**Organizations**

Bay Area Paragliding Association  
Bay Area Ridge Trail  
California Native Plant Society, Yerba Buena Chapter  
Coastwalk  
Committee for Green Foothills  
Earth Share of California  
Friends of Sweeney Ridge  
Golden Gate Audubon Society  
Mid-Peninsula Regional Open Space District  
Pacifica GGNRA Liaison Committee

Pacifica Land Trust  
Pacificans for Sustainable Development  
Peninsula Open Space Trust  
Peninsula Bicycle and Pedestrian Coalition  
Responsible Organized Mountain Pedalers (ROMP)  
San Francisco Bicycle Coalition  
San Francisco Planning and Urban Research Association  
San Mateo County Farm Bureau  
Sequoia Audubon Society  
Sierra Club, Loma Prieta Chapter  
Sierra Club, San Francisco Bay Chapter  
Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition  
Trust for Public Land  
Wilderness Society

### **Libraries**

The following is a list of libraries where the public can access this EA and review the document onsite.

S.F. Civic Center Public Library  
100 Larkin Street  
San Francisco, CA 94102  
(415) 557-4400

Pacifica Library  
104 Hilton Way  
Pacifica, CA 94044  
(650) 355-5196

Millbrae Library  
1 Library Avenue  
Millbrae, CA 94030  
(650) 697-7607

San Mateo Library  
1100 Park Place, 4th Floor  
San Mateo, CA 94403  
(650) 522-7800

There will be a 30-day comment period on the EA. Comments may be submitted online at: <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/goga>, by email to [moripointea@parksconservancy.org](mailto:moripointea@parksconservancy.org), or in writing to the following address:

Superintendent, Golden Gate National Recreation Area  
ATTN: Mori Point/Division of Planning and Technical Services  
Fort Mason, Building 201  
San Francisco, CA 94123

## 4.5 References

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