

DATE: October 18, 2019
TO: Bolinas Lagoon Advisory Council
FROM: Veronica Pearson, Ecological Restoration Planner
SUBJECT: Agenda item #8: Bolinas Lagoon Restoration Project Update

DISCUSSION

Agency Partnership Meetings

The lead agencies have met once since the last advisory council meeting on October 10, 2019. The purpose of that meeting was to coordinate and update agency staff on projects that relate to the management of Bolinas Lagoon.

North End Project

Marin County Parks (MCP) put out a public request for proposals for the Bolinas Wye Project. The design scope of work includes: design development and construction documentation for hydrologic and hydraulic analyses, stream restoration and realignment, road realignment and road design, bridge design, right-of-way engineering, traffic management design, public presentation, and project management and coordination. Three responses were received on August 9th and interviews were held. All proposals were above the available funding; therefore, the project scope is being reduced to take the project from a 10% conceptual design to a 60% design. It is anticipated that funding will be available to take the project to a 100% design, with construction ready plans by 2021.

Kent Island Restoration Project

MCP has completed its seven year of invasive species removal on Kent Island. MCP continues to partner with the Greater Farallones Association, which manages all volunteer events. All vegetation management work now is completely funded by Marin County Parks Measure A. MCP is working with the California Conservation Corps North Bay (CCNB) to prepare a grant that would fund the CCNB to remove target invasive species throughout the island in 2020, and would likely focus on the removal of European beach grass, which requires intensive manual labor that is difficult for most volunteers.

Invasive Spartina

There is no update on this project since the last Advisory Council meeting.

Eucalyptus Trees

Marin County Parks staff has submitted a revised Coastal Commission permit application. The Coastal Commission has requested additional information and clarification from MCP that relate to best management practices and the implementation of the project. In the project application, it was requested

that a total of 18 trees be removed over the course of the next 5 years, taking up to 5 trees a year. The Coastal Commission has asked staff to consider removing all of the trees at one time. At this time there is insufficient funding to removal all trees, which may be upwards of \$500,000. If this is required of MCP, then the project cannot be implemented at this time.

Kent Island Pine Trees

County of Marin County Counsel has been reviewing Right to Enter agreements for access to the private properties for removal of the pine trees that are across the lagoon. Once approved, all agreements must be signed by all private land owners as well as a Coastal Permit application prior to any tree removal activities.

Letter Property

A topographic survey of the property is now complete and MCP staff have been developing the conceptual designs for the Letter Property. Staff anticipates that at the next meeting there will be at least two options for the BLAC to review and consider.

Caltrans BLAC Invitation

Staff is preparing a letter to the Board of Supervisors to request action on the BLAC's request to invite Caltrans to be a member of the BLAC. The item is being scheduled for the next available meeting date.

South End Living Shoreline Project at Bolinas Lagoon

The South End project is taken directly from the *2008 Bolinas Lagoon Ecosystem Restoration Project: Recommendations for Restoration and Management* (i.e. Locally Preferred Plan), under recommendation 6b. The Plan recommends creating transitional habitat along the Lagoon shoreline. Portions of the South End of Bolinas Lagoon along Dipsea Road have steep edges and are eroding. Also, portions of the shoreline wetlands along Calle Del Arroyo have been increasingly inundated which has also impacted the road. Flooding and erosion is predicted to worsen with sea level rise and increased storm intensity. Using nature-based living shoreline techniques along the edge of Dipsea Road and Calle del Arroyo, the South End Living Shoreline project will establish transitional wetland habitat to create a more gently sloped shoreline reducing erosion and providing habitat for plant and animal species to migrate upland to escape high tides and adapt to rising water levels. The project has the potential to serve as a model for other estuarine ecosystems facing similar impacts.