

DATE: October 16, 2020
TO: Bolinas Lagoon Advisory Council
FROM: Veronica Pearson, Ecological Restoration Planner
SUBJECT: Letter Property

Marin County Parks (MCP) has developed draft conceptual restoration designs for the 6.26-acre Letter property located at 830 Olema Bolinas Road, Bolinas. In 2011 and 2013 inspections of the existing structures were conducted and it was determined that all had major structural defects. In 2016, MCP retained the services of Peter Baye, Ph.D. (ecologist) to describe the existing site conditions and to identify feasible environmental restoration and enhancement alternatives that would be appropriate for the property that considered future impacts to the parcel from sea-level rise. MCP presented Baye's findings to the BLAC at the April 17, 2017 meeting. At the BLAC meeting, members were in overall support of the recommendations of the Baye report that included: removing the structures, re-sloping the lot to a 1:20 or 1:10 slope and encouraging the establishment of tidal marsh and high marsh habitat. Due to the potential for erosion and inundation of portions of the property with sea level rise, the report recommended against the installation of permanent structures and that the site is best suited for low-intensity recreational uses.

Based on the Baye report, three concept designs have been developed. All alternatives would require the removal of all structures and contain the following elements. To combat wave erosion, coarse sediment could be imported and deposited at the toe of the eroding shoreline within the intertidal zone and potentially would include the use of log groins. Within the residential reach a gentle slope (1:20 to 1:10 up to the high tide line) would be graded that would allow for the establishment of tidal and high marsh vegetation.

In addition to the above items, Alternative 1 would have parking for two vehicles and would be ADA accessible. A permeable walking path is also included with the potential for natural seating and informative signage. Alternative 2, would create a permeable walking path, and potentially natural seating and informative signage with no parking. Alternative 3 would create no public access onto the parcel and would only entail restoration.

Marin County Parks is open to all discussion on the Alternatives and would appreciate any comments and recommendations on the proposed alternatives. Staff is also interested in any ideas on preserving the Letters' memory at the site.

Attachment: Conceptual Design Alternative 1 – Restoration, with parking and path
Conceptual Design Alternative 2 – Restoration with path, no parking
Conceptual Design Alternative 3 – Restoration only