



AGENDA REPORT

Public Works Department

DATE: February 26, 2013

TO: Mayor McLaughlin and Members of the City Council

FROM: Yader Bermudez, Director of Public Works

SUBJECT: Conduct a study session with staff on the work plan to utilize the previously appropriated Cosco Busan oil spill settlement funds to reopen Point Molate Beach Park.

STATEMENT OF THE ISSUE:

In 2001, the City of Richmond, for a variety of reasons, deemed it necessary to close Point Molate Beach Park. In September 2013 the Richmond City Council appropriated settlement funds from the Cosco Busan oil spill to support an effort to reopen the park. Staff has prepared a work plan to move toward reopening the park site.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RECEIVE a report from staff and provide DIRECTION on the identified work plan to reopen Point Molate Beach Park.

FINANCIAL IMPACT OF RECOMMENDATION:

The short term plan of reopening Point Molate Beach Park will involve some basic improvements. These improvements will be funded using the previously appropriated \$115,000 Cosco Busan oil spill settlement funds.

DISCUSSION:

Point Molate Beach Park ("Park") is centrally located on the western shore of Pt. San Pablo Peninsula and encompasses slightly over 11 acres of parkland along 1/3 mile of shoreline. The Park, part of the former Navy Fuel Depot property at Pt. Molate, was opened to the public in the mid 1900's and quickly became a popular recreational destination from the time of its opening to its closing in 2001.

Since it's closure in 2001, the Park has remained relatively unchanged, the 25-year old picnic benches remain, mature Monterey Pines provide welcome shade, and the vistas to Mt. Tamalpais, Marin, and the City of San Francisco remain unmatched.

Interest in restoring the Park has grown, and now with the benefit of an award from the Richmond specific allocation of the Cosco Busan Oil Spill Settlement fund, work to rehabilitate and re-open the park can commence. The Park site experienced its first maintenance clean up effort in over a decade in April 2012 during an Earth Day cleanup event sponsored by The Watershed Project, Citizens for a Sustainable Pt. Molate and the City of Richmond. Over 80 volunteers cleared nearly a ton of debris, and more cleanup efforts are forthcoming. Baykeeper was recently awarded a NOAA grant to clean surface and subtidal marine debris with a primary focus on derelict pilings. This activity should be completed by the end of Spring 2013.

The City's vegetation management contractor for the Point Molate area has been providing basic maintenance services to the Park site since summer of 2012 including mowing of the turf area and basic tree maintenance.

Staff is proposing a two phase approach to reopening the Park. The first phase would be to provide some basic improvements that would address public safety and accessibility issues. Items would include the overlaying and restriping of the parking lot to provide for ADA parking and the mitigation of slip/trip hazards due to the degraded asphalt surface. Additionally staff is proposing to construct a very basic ADA accessible pathway from the parking lot out to a newly installed accessible picnic table, installing new signage throughout the park site and performing some specific landscape maintenance to improve both visitor and staff safety. In addition to the above, staff is suggesting that garbage receptacles, a portable restroom, and a hand washing station be brought in to provide the basic amenities to Park visitors. Finally, staff is suggesting that the signage and road striping along Western Drive from the Toll Plaza to the park entrance be evaluated and improvements made.

The second phase would focus on the development of a master plan for the Park to evaluate and address some potentially bigger issues including the shoreline erosion and new program and Park activities. This may include shoreline access, the development of a designated swim area or kayak launch facility, an interpretive program showcasing the physical and ecological history of the site, the incorporation of a permanent restroom facility, and the development of a public fishing pier. This plan will provide the community vision for the Park and support the City's effort to compete for grant funds to make the desired large scale improvements to the Park.

It is staff's opinion that this two phased approach will allow the park to be reopened in a timely manner and provide long-term direction for the park site.

DOCUMENTS ATTACHED: