

Wetland and Creek Restoration at Big Lagoon, Muir Beach, Marin County

Final Environmental Impact Statement/
Environmental Impact Report

SCH# 2004042143



December 2007



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Muir Beach**

SCH #2004042143

Prepared for:

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**Final Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report
Wetland and Creek Restoration at Big Lagoon, Muir Beach**

**GOLDEN GATE NATIONAL RECREATION AREA
Marin County, California
Lead Agencies: National Park Service and County of Marin**

ABSTRACT

The *Wetland and Creek Restoration at Big Lagoon, Muir Beach Final Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report* (Final EIS/EIR) presents and evaluates alternatives to restore a functional, self-sustaining ecosystem and provide for public access that is compatible with restoration. The 38-acre project site is located entirely within the boundaries of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area but includes some properties owned by the San Francisco Zen Center and Marin County.

This Final EIS/EIR analyzes three **Restoration Alternatives** with varying degrees of wetland or open water enhancement. All Restoration Alternatives include realigning the Redwood Creek channel, enhancing the backbeach tidal lagoon, removing invasive plant species, and removing constructed features such as the levee road. The Restoration Alternatives are designed to enhance natural creek and wetland function, provide sustainable habitat for federally listed salmonids and the California red-legged frog, and reduce flooding on Pacific Way.

Six **Public Access Alternatives** analyzed in this Final EIS/EIR represent varying capacities, configurations, and locations for a visitor parking lot at Muir Beach. All Public Access Alternatives are designed to reduce impacts on Redwood Creek, improve flooding conditions, and provide vehicular and new trail access from Highway 1 to Muir Beach.

This Final EIS/EIR analyzed four **Bridge Alternatives** to replace the existing Pacific Way Bridge. Under all alternatives, the new bridge would be higher and longer than the existing bridge to reduce flooding and provide vehicular access. The Bridge Alternatives vary in length, the height of the roadway approach, and their long-term accommodation of potential channel migration.

Additionally, five **Fill Disposal Alternatives** were analyzed in the Final EIS/EIR to address the issue of reuse or disposal of fill generated by construction activities associated with the Restoration and Public Access Alternatives.

Comments: Written comments must be postmarked or transmitted no later than 45 days from the date of EPA's notice of filing published in the Federal Register. Review copies will be available at lead agencies' offices and local libraries. The complete document will be posted on the GGNRA's web site (<http://www.nps.gov/goga>) and on NPS's Planning, Environment and Public Comment (PEPC) web site (<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/goga>). Written comments will be accepted online at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/goga> (click the project title and follow instructions) or by sending a letter addressed as follows: Superintendent, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, Fort Mason, Building 201, San Francisco, CA 94123 (Attn: Restoration at Big Lagoon). A public meeting will be scheduled during the public review period (see project website noted above for details).

A Notice of Availability of the Final EIS/EIR has been published in the Federal Register. Under CEQA guidelines the document is being made available for a 45-day public review and comment period. No sooner than 45 days from the date that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's notice of filing is published in the Federal Register, the NPS will prepare a Record of Decision (ROD). Following confirmation of available funding, the Final EIS/EIR will be certified by Marin County and the County will issue a Notice of Determination (NOD) pursuant to CEQA. This document will be distributed to all recipients of the Draft EIS/EIR. Questions regarding this project may be directed to Steve Ortega (415) 561-4841, or emailed to: goga_planning@nps.gov.

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