

From: Elena Ufimtseva

Sent: Thursday, March 2, 2023 7:38 AM

To: BCDC PublicComment <publiccomment@bcdc.ca.gov>

Subject: March 2, 2023 Commission Meeting - Candlestick State Park, Treasure Island - EJ and public access

Dear commissioners,

Firstly, I would like to thank you for being the organization that supports the public in maintaining access to the San Francisco Bay and the ocean beaches. I also appreciate that topics of environmental justice are important for BCDC, as it is for all of us.

I would like to comment on a few issues that are very prominent in my community of water recreational users, fishermen and some residential communities nearby. I have moved to the Bay Area specifically for the great water and wind recreational opportunities the Bay Area has to offer. The famous strong winds attract people from all over the country and draw people into the water sports. Recently the number of "sailors" has increased dramatically with the "wings" and foil fins gaining popularity all over the world. All windsurfing major places in the Bay Area are being used during and off season - 3rd Avenue, Treasure Island, Crissy Field and Candlestick, as well as Point Isabel.

Some places for us are more accessible than others. The Bay Area traffic makes it particularly hard to get to some of them. Some people can only travel to a few places within 30-40 minutes of driving. This is why it is very important to keep the water accesses available for public and recreational users.

It is also very important for all of us to make sure water accesses can be adapted to climate change. As we see with floods and water level rising, the Bay Area shoreline is under a threat of disappearing or becoming toxic due to the uncapped waste sites and groundwater intrusion.

In particular, two very popular sailing places I would like to comment on.

Firstly, Candlestick State Park.

The issues pertain to public access and environmental justice. Since the storms of December of the last year, the water now has accumulated so much that the Park has become completely inaccessible since December 2022. You can see the drone footage on the Instagram account of the State Park. Last year there was some flooding during the winter months 2021-2022 but the Park was accessible. This year the entrance is under 4 feet of water and no access to the State Park and the water is possible. The local residents are very much affected by this - this is the place where Bayview residents, an underserved community for decades, can fish, pick nick, launch the kayak, walk or run. The trails at the Candlestick State Park are not being maintained and some have turned into drop offs and are dangerous. The State Park windsurfing circle water access is not maintained and the path to the water has completely eroded.

Please see the flooding here at Candlestick State Park.



Image taken January 25, 2023

I would like BCDC to make sure that Candlestick State Park remains within its issued permit, the public access is restored, trails are maintained and the Windsurfing Circle launch is open. I would also like to point out that this urban State Park needs to address the environmental issues and reflect them in their operations as soon as possible.

Treasure Island is another windsurfing/sailing/winging/SUP/swimming place where the public access is of our concerns.

The winds at Treasure Island are strong, reliable and the access is available during the low tides. The number of people using Treasure Island grows every year and we are worried that this place will become inaccessible.

There are over 2000 people who signed the petition against the Treasure Island Toll - https://www.change.org/p/vote-no-to-toll-for-treasure-island-admittance/dashboard?source_location=user_profile_started. And this number does not include the local residents, businesses and other facilities.

I would like to urge you to make sure that the access is maintained to the launch at Treasure Island and the toll is not being charged to the recreational users who already pay the Bay Bridge toll. With tolls increasing every year the Treasure Island access will become an access for a few. We would like Maintain access to the north shore of Treasure Island for water sports, via free access and a parking lot.

Thank you for all your work and support.

Elena

From: Brett Johnson

Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2023 9:48 AM

To: BCDC PublicComment <publiccomment@bcdc.ca.gov>

Subject: Cleanup of illegal anchor-outs and sunken wrecks

Dear Commision Members,

I am a member of the Oakland Renegades Dragon Boat Club and I am very concerned about all of the illegal anchor-outs, sunken wrecks and resulting debris that litter the shoreline. Our Dragon Boats are tied up at the Jack London Aquatic Center and we have seen a growing problem in the last few years. This is what our team would like to see:

1. A thorough cleanup of the Oakland Estuary, removing all illegal anchor-outs and recovering sunken wrecks and debris that litter the shoreline. An \$8 million multi-agency project did this a decade ago in 2013, so it can be done if made a priority. What is needed now would be far less expensive. If the City and Port of Oakland cannot provide necessary funding, then Alameda County, State of California and federal funding sources should be requested. The EPA provided \$3.5 million in 2013.
2. Provide full support to the Oakland Police Department marine patrol unit, both with necessary certified personnel and functional vessels, and the authorization to rigorously patrol the estuary to prevent any future recurrence of this problem.

The community cares deeply about the preservation and protection of this precious natural resource. Let's make sure that those responsible act responsibly. This should be a matter of civic pride.

Thanks for your consideration,

Brett Johnson (Oakland resident)

From: Elisabeth Heidorn
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2023 10:58 PM
To: BCDC PublicComment <publiccomment@bccdc.ca.gov>
Subject: The sad state of the Oakland estuary

Hello,

I have been a citizen of Oakland since 1978. I am very involved in water activities in the estuary: paddling with the Renegades dragon boat team, out of JLAC, and rowing with the Coast Guards' whaleboat team from Coast Guard Island. Individually, I also kayak and paddle on a SUP, all of that in the estuary.

The estuary has become disgusting. Between the abandoned boats, the people living in tents in the park next to JLAC and their junk, or living on boats and the thought of what they do with their raw sewage and their garbage, and the endless break-ins into our equipment storage, as well as to our cars while we are on the water, my water activities are now far from a refreshing time on the water, the sunsets notwithstanding.

The boats anchored at the guest dock, next to ours, are an eyesore, and their occupants make everyone uncomfortable. The city claims the dock is in very bad condition and is condemned. If someone got hurt on it, or if our boats were damaged when the dock splits apart and drifts into them, the city would be on the hook.

Anyway, we would like to enjoy what we the taxpayers paid for. Parks, boating facilities, and the pursuit of peace and happiness on the water.

Elisabeth Heidorn

Subject: Treasure Island access, tolls, wind sports
Date: Wednesday, February 22, 2023 at 12:02:44 PM Pacific Standard Time
From: John Armitage
To: BCDC PublicComment

Hi,

I want to enter a comment on the issue of public access to Treasure Island, specifically in the context of maintaining access to wind/water sports at the island's north end.

I am a long-time windsurfer, and the sport was an important factor in my moving to the Bay Area from the east coast 30 years ago. The Bay is one of the world's best locales for wind and water sports, obviously sailing but also windsurfing, kiting, and the new sports of "foiling" using "wings", with new innovations opening the category to more people every year with safety and usability improvements. The Bay is a real treasure for those of us who venture out to meet it.

California's tradition of unfettered coastal access is of course a huge draw for all citizens, surfers, swimmers, and wind sport participants. This is in stark contrast to e.g. New England, where most of the coast is privatized and off-limits to most people., or only accessible through fees or charges for limited parking.

Although several spots have long provided access to the bay, namely Crissy Field, 3rd Avenue, and Point Isabel, Treasure Island is truly special as a launch site due to its position relative to the Bay's wind patterns. Wind here is stronger, steadier, and more prevalent than anywhere else in the Bay. The boat ramp at the island's NE corner is the ideal spot for us to launch our craft and sail "the slot" between the island and Angel Island. During almost any summer afternoon, you'll find 5-20 windsurfers on the water or on shore setting up or breaking down their small rigs to sail. It's a tight-knit community. Over the last two seasons, our numbers have grown by about three-fold with the addition of "Kite Foilers", a new technology that is gaining popularity due to its ease of learning and low-wind compatibility. Again, TI is the ideal location for this growing sport.

Charging a toll for car entrance to TI would penalize this community of outdoor enthusiasts (recreating with clean renewable energy) with an unsustainable cost. Many of us visit the island 3-5 times per week, and have good relations with the colorful local residents that we meet. They take joy in watching the spectacle, and are heartened to participate themselves via swimming for example.

The original development plans called for a park amenable to wind sports at this very location. However, it would be a shame to put non-island residents behind a pay wall to access it. One thing that makes such a recreation spot vibrant is to have a quantity of participants that enables both community, but primarily safety, as we exchange advice, equipment, and keep and eye on each other's well-being on the water. Having the Yerba Buena Coast Guard station so close makes the spot even safer. Many of us also visit local restaurants after sailing. I'm sure that putting other local retail businesses behind a paywall will strictly limit their ability to thrive.

I and my community really want your organization to:

- 1) Maintain access to the north shore of Treasure Island for water sports, via free access and parking commensurate with most other California state-maintained coastal access sites, and
- 2) Do not charge car tolls to enter the island. This breaks California's law that ensures free public access to the ocean, and our copious use of TI for wind sports is exactly why the law is in place to begin with.

Cheers,

John