



12:30 p.m. Item

TO: Board Operations Committee

FROM: Ira Bletz, Regional Interpretive and Recreation Services Manager
Kevin Damstra, Supervising Naturalist

DATE: April 13, 2017

SUBJECT: Update on Interpretive Program and Service Initiatives Launched at Del Valle Regional Park in 2016 and Plans for the 2017 Summer Season

Ira Bletz, Regional Interpretive and Recreation Services Manager, and Kevin Damstra, Supervising Naturalist will provide an update on the expansion of interpretive and recreation programming at Del Valle Regional Park. This includes new interpretive activities for visitors to participate in nature-based experiences while learning about the park's environment, wildlife, resources, and recreational and educational possibilities.

In the spring of 2016, interpretive staff from the Southeast Interpretive Sector, which includes Sunol Regional Wilderness, Shadow Cliffs Regional Recreation Area, and Del Valle Regional Park, created a Foundation Document which identified Del Valle's purpose, significance, fundamental resources, values, and interpretive themes. Del Valle's role in the State Water Project, along with its aquatic environment's health, were some of the interpreted themes included in the document. This document serves as a guide to local wildlands, supporting a large ecosystem of opportunities for discovery.

Using these interpretive themes as a guide, staff developed and piloted a new series of public programs and activities centered at the Rocky Ridge Visitor Center and nearby campgrounds. The success of these new initiatives set the groundwork for interpretive and recreation programming planned for this summer and future expansion of the visitor center.

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12:45 p.m. Item

TO: Board Operations Committee

FROM: Mimi Waluch, Business Services Manager
Kevin Takei, Shoreline Unit Manager

DATE: April 13, 2017

SUBJECT: **Review of New Proposal Buoy Line California Rowing Club:
Marin Luther King Jr. Regional Shoreline**

The California Rowing Club submitted a proposal to the District to install and maintain, at its sole cost, a removable single buoy line located in Martin Luther King Jr. Regional Shoreline, within the Airport Channel of the Oakland Estuary. The California Rowing Club proposal for a single buoy line will mark the traffic pattern in the estuary. The addition of a buoy line will promote safety in the waterway which is currently used by sailors, kayakers, fishermen, jet skiers, paddle boarders and approximately 1,000 rowers. It will also allow all vessels to follow the deepest and safest part of the waterway and provide a clear traffic pattern into and out of the channel. Additionally, the buoy will create a safe and designated turn-around area at the end of the channel. The buoy line will be placed in the middle of the last stretch of the estuary extending approximately 3,000 feet in length.

In response to the proposal, the District offered a one season (November 2016 to March 2017) pilot program. District staff recommended accepting the proposal by the California Rowing Club for a single buoy line pilot program for one season during the October 16, 2016 Board Operations Committee meeting. The committee approved this recommendation, and requested staff return with an update at the end of the pilot period.

However, due to long delays in obtaining necessary permits, the pilot program has been postponed to the next season, beginning November 2017. The following are approvals still needed:

1. Port of Oakland – the District leases Martin Luther King Jr. Regional Shoreline from the Port of Oakland and must have written approval to make any installations.
2. San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC) - written approval from BCDC prior to installation.
3. The District's Notice of Exemption with 30 day public notice period – the District has reviewed the project, along with its environmental setting, and has determined it to be categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements under *Article 19. Categorical Exemption, Section 15304 – Minor Alterations to Land*. The project fits within the description for a Class 4 Categorical Exemption authorized in the CEQA Guidelines involving minor public or private alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation. Specifically, subsection CCR 15304 (e) authorizes minor temporary use of land having negligible or no permanent effects on the environment.

Board of Directors

Martin Luther King Jr. Regional Shoreline, with visualization of buoy line.

