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Berkeley Municipal Fishing Pier Accessibility Surface Project: Final Programmatic Report (Amended)

Recipient Organization/Agency: City of Berkeley

Date Submitted: July 28, 2016

Project Period: 01/01/2013 to 03/31/2017

Award Amount: \$230,138

Matching Contributions: \$2,500

Total Disbursement: \$15,507.40

Project Number: #8006.12.032925

1. Summary of Accomplishments

The project to re-surface and enhance the Berkeley Municipal Fishing Pier had to be curtailed in 2015 because of structural problems on the Pier itself that were found at the end of the design phase. As a result, only the design phase was completed. This design work will still be used in the future larger project to re-build the pier.

In the late Spring of 2015, the final design for the Berkeley Pier Accessibility Project was completed. Before the project was advertised for construction bids, the City undertook its annual preparation for the July 4th fireworks display at the Berkeley Pier. During preparations, an independent structural evaluation found that the concrete layer on the underside of the concrete decking surface of the Pier had spalled off significantly, exposing the structural rebar. A significant portion of the rebar has rusted and snapped, leaving the concrete decking surface with no strength to support the weight of the concrete. On July 22, 2015, the City of Berkeley closed the Pier to the public indefinitely until a repair can be developed and funded.

The cost to repair the pier could be several million dollars, and it may take several years for the City to assemble funds for the repair. As a result, the City requested that the remaining funds in the Fishing Pier Accessibility Surface Project grant (\$214,630 remaining) be re-programmed to the South Cove Parking Lot Renovation Project, which had been a finalist for the Cosco Busan Grant Program, but was not awarded funding. On December 3, 2015, the City was informed that the request to re-program the funds to the parking lot project was approved by the grants selection committee.

2. Project Activities & Outcomes

Activities

The final design for the Berkeley Pier Accessibility Project was completed by the designer in the late Spring of 2015. After the project design was completed in the late Spring of 2015, the implementation of the Berkeley Municipal Fishing Pier Accessibility Surface Project needed to be curtailed due to the closure of the Berkeley Pier.



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Benefits

The need to improve the badly spalled and uneven concrete surfacing at the Berkeley Pier would have greatly improved the visitor experience to a wide range of users, including the disabled, the elderly, low-income fisherman, and other recreational users from throughout the entire region, totaling over 100,000 person visits per year.

After the project design was completed in the late Spring of 2015, the implementation of the Berkeley Municipal Fishing Pier Accessibility Surface Project needed to be curtailed due to the closure of the Berkeley Pier on July 22, 2015.

3. The Future

The next phase of this effort will be to perform a structural analysis of the Berkeley Pier using City funds, and to develop a range of concepts and costs for a possible repair of the existing structure. Any future repair will incorporate the design that was produced by this grant, e.g., ADA accessible fishing stations and ADA accessible surfacing.

4. Lessons Learned

When the City identified the problems of an uneven and spalled concrete surface at the Berkeley Pier, the proposed solution to grind and re-grout the uneven concrete joints was seen as an effective method to greatly improve accessibility of the pier to the public. Then, in 2015, the structural engineering assessment of the pier found that the concrete decking throughout the length of the pier had lost all of its structural support due to failed rebar, and could not even sustain its own weight. After further analysis, the structural engineering firm indicated that the uneven surface of the concrete decking was a possible indication that the structural rebar in the concrete decking had failed.

5. Project Documents

Project-related images are included below.



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Image 1: Wide angle view of the Berkeley Municipal Fishing Pier on a sunny day in 2012, facing west towards the Golden Gate Bridge, prior to the current closure. (Photo Credit: Ken Jones)

The Bay Area at Your Feet

Sunday S.F. Examiner July 29, 1973

Short Walk, Long Pier

By Margot Patterson Doss

"LADY, WHERE does a walk begin?"

He was leaning against the railing of the Berkeley Fishing Pier, a lanky boy of ten or twelve. Long streaks marked the rump pocket of his jeans where he wiped his bait knife. Was it a taunt? A put on? Did he want to know where all walks begin or just this one? I looked at him carefully.

The eyes had that serene faraway look that comes to the genuine fisherman, as if they had absorbed some depth of the water, so I took him at his word.

"Ideally a walk begins when you open the front door and let your foot pass the lintel. That's the way it was for hundreds of years before men and motorcars messed up the world. Now a walk, like a little vacation, which it is, begins when you enter a place, preferably natural and unchanged, but at least beguiling, where your senses and reflexes begin another kind of life."

He was with it instantly. "I never thought of a pier as a walk before."

Neither do most people. Yet the long (3000 feet) Berkeley Fishing Pier at the foot of University Avenue is one of the best water walks in the Bay Area. Long abandoned, part of it has been rescued from the ship worm, rebuilt, reinforced and furnished by the Berkeley Recreation and Parks department with attractive street furniture, running water, fish-cleaning sinks, windshelter benches and privies. The ocean view through the Golden Gate from it can be spectacular, especially at sundown.

OCEAN VIEW, appropriately enough, was the name of the community that preceded Berkeley on this shore in the 1860's. It began along the waterfront between Strawberry and Codornices creeks, on what was once part of the vast Rancho San Antonio, a land grant to Don Luis Peralta in 1820. He later divided it and deeded it to his four sons. Domingo received this part. By 1873, the end of University Avenue, about where Spenser's is located, was known as Jacob's Landing. Four ferry boats came and went here daily.

A gristmill stood at the foot of what is now Hearst Avenue, laying the curse of industrial usage on the tide flats early on. Soon it attracted a starch and wheat processing plant to the estuary of Strawberry Creek, using its clean water to wash grain. Small holdings and truck farms surrounding have left their owner's names on the land as streets — Ashby, Blake, Colby, McGee, Shattuck and Woolsey, to name six. When these farmers lived here, you could walk from the Indian trail that became the county road and is now San Pablo Avenue to the water in a matter of minutes. Today it is a matter of life and death. A torrent of machinery wrecks and taxis through the Eastshore Freeway like a river on the rampage.

If you have a vehicle, one way to reach this walk is via AC trans-



By Peter Brevins

Fishing at the Berkeley Pier—'Where does a walk begin?'



The 3000-foot pier off the Berkeley Marina



the south side, bounded by the present dump and a natural shoreline park created five years ago by Osborne and Stewart.

The unusual structure on the Marina side is the Harbor-master's building, designed by McCue, Boone & Tomsick. Solomon Grundy restaurant occupies the Samson-style pavilion north of the pier. His Lordships restaurant the one south of it.

WHEN YOU have spotted the University of California campanile, turn your eyes west instead and enjoy a baywide panorama. Then descend the opposite side of this observation tower and begin your pergrination to the pier's end. What could be simpler than a walk along a fishing pier? Yet like the 24 hours James Joyce recorded in Dublin, so many impressions crowd in that, a walker can make a million choices. Try, for signs, the magic in a shoreline, this meeting of land and water where two geographies, one a wet world of fishes, the other the freedom of birds, meet. Or the mystery of what lives underfoot here, where a live flounder may be beneath you, all unknown. Or for that matter, the curious fact that only men are concerned with beginnings and ends. For in the mind of bird, fish, or beast, eternity is ever present.

"Lady, where does a walk begin?"

In the mind, son, in the mind.

it line 51 M bus, which uses the pier approach as the end of the line. Far-sighted citizens have suggested a pedestrian overpass from nearby Aquatic Park as one way to make it more accessible to young fishermen.

AT THE outset, notice the tremendous contemporary scandal, a gift from Berkeley's Japanese sister city, Saka. The grounds is large enough so small fry often use it as a slide.

Continue past and look for steps going up on the little building at the entrance to the pier. Climb it for an overview of the adjacent 800-berth Berkeley Marina, the heliport and "Great Field," a tremendous peairie-like place ecologists describe as a biological recovery area. Originally a dump, it was covered with six feet of topsoil some years ago and now shelters wildlife, shorebirds and at some seasons, kite-flyers. The University of California Yacht Club uses the lagoon on

Image 2: Newspaper article in the San Francisco Examiner in 1973, extolling the virtues of free fishing and recreation at the Berkeley Pier, after a major pier renovation. (Photo Credit: Margot Patterson Doss)



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Image 3: Newspaper article in the Oakland Tribune, with several photos, describing the recreational virtues of free fishing and walking at the Berkeley Pier, 1976. (Photo Credit: Andy Morgensen)



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The flyer features a large title "YOUNG ANGLERS TOURNAMENT" in bold black letters. At the top left is the International Game Fish Association logo. The background is a collage of photos showing children fishing and holding trophies. A young girl in the foreground holds a Shimano fishing lure package. The text "igfa.org & upsac.org" is at the bottom left.

YOUNG ANGLERS TOURNAMENT

THE INTERNATIONAL GAME FISH ASSOCIATION

Tournament Details

- It's FREE!
- Open to All Young Anglers Ages 6-15
- Prizes Awarded in Each Age Category
- Top Angler Recognized On Perpetual Trophy
- Bring Your Own Fishing Gear or Use Ours (limited number available)
- Must Be Accompanied By an Adult
- Bait Furnished & Refreshments Served
- Judged on a Point System
- Catch & Release Encouraged
- No Fishing License Required

also sponsored by



UPSAC
UNITED PIER & SHORE ANGLERS OF CALIFORNIA

igfa.org & upsac.org

What: Young Anglers Tournament
When: Saturday, Jun 23, 9AM TO 12PM
Where: Berkeley Pier (sign in at table)
Contact: Brian Linebarger
blhomesales@aol.com
510-860-2834

Image 4: Young Anglers Tournament Flyer, June 23, 2012 at the Berkeley Pier, sponsored by the CA Department of Fish and Game (DFG), and the United Pier and Shore Anglers of California (UPSAC). The derby is open to the public. (Photo Credit: Ken Jones)



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Image 5: The Pier is extremely popular for the public on any given sunny day, throughout the year. Based on several sources, the Pier receives over 100,000 visits per year. Note the uneven surface joints every fifteen feet. (Photo Credit: Ken Jones)



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Image 6: A group photo of the youth competitors at the annual Fishing Derby at the Berkeley Pier in 2011. (Photo Credit: Ken Jones)



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Image 7: At the Kids Fishing Derby in 2014, grandma shows the next generation how to cast off the Berkeley Fishing Pier. Note the tall height of the railing. Lowered rails would create easier fishing access for persons with disabilities. (Photo Credit: Ken Jones)



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Image 8: At the Kids Fishing Derby in 2014, two boys learn casting and how to enjoy the great views and fresh air while waiting for those nibbles. (Photo Credit: Ken Jones)



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Image 8: At the Kids Fishing Derby in 2014, two young girls each earn first prize for their respective age groups! (Photo Credit: Ken Jones)



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Image 10: At the Kids Fishing Derby in 2012, a six year old shows off his catch of a brown rockfish. (Photo Credit: Ken Jones)



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Image 11: At the Kids Fishing Derby of 2013, a young boy and his father are having a great time on the Pier.
(Photo Credit: Ken Jones)



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Image 9: At the Kids Fishing Derby of 2011, a thirteen year old boy shows off his prize winning black and yellow rockfish catch. (Photo Credit: Ken Jones)



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Image 10: At the Kids Fishing Derby of 2012, a six year old boy wins a first place certificate! (Photo Credit: Ken Jones)



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Image 11: After the closure of the Pier on July 22, 2015, the Pier is fenced off and closed to the public. In 2016, the City is conducting a structural study of the Pier for repair options. (Photo Credit: Roger Miller)



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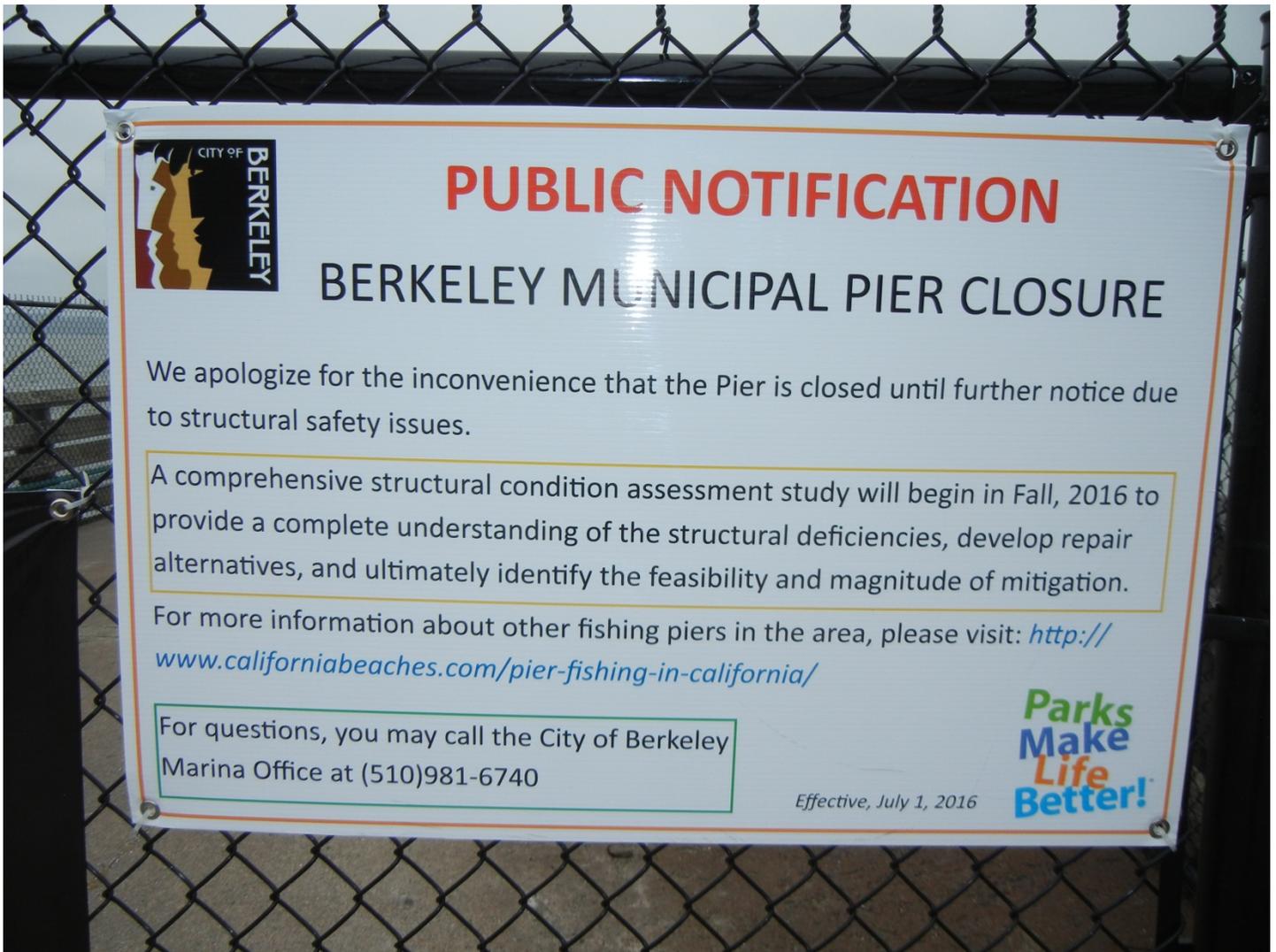


Image 12: A close up photo of the Pier Closure sign for the public, mounted on the chain link fence at the entrance to the Pier. (Photo Credit: Roger Miller)



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Image 13: The City is sponsoring a “What’s your Berkeley Pier Story?” contest to collect stories and photos about the ninety year old Pier from the general public. The City continues to receive phone calls every single day asking when the Pier can be re-opened. (Photo Credit: Roger Miller)



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Image 14: On the underside of the concrete deck surface of the Pier, the bottom layer of concrete has spalled off, exposing the structural rebar, which has snapped and failed for the most part, throughout the entire length of the 3,000 foot Pier. On the upper right, see the partially remaining layer of concrete that was applied to the underside in 1984, to prolong the life of the structural rebar. (Photo Credit: Roger Miller)



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Image 15: A detailed photo of the rusted and snapped structural rebar on the underside of the concrete deck surface of the Pier. An independent structural engineering evaluation found that most of the structural rebar has snapped, leaving the Pier with zero strength to hold up the concrete deck surface, which required the City to close the Pier to public access. (Photo Credit: Roger Miller)

