

Montara State Beach Access Improvement: Final Programmatic Report (AMENDED)

Recipient Organization/Agency: California Dept. of Parks and Recreation

Date Submitted: September 7, 2018

Project Period: 1/1/2013 to 12/31/2018

Award Amount: \$428,810

Matching Contributions: \$150,000

Total Disbursement: \$428,810

Project Number: #8006.12.033579

1. Summary of Accomplishments

The California Department of Parks and Recreation constructed (State Parks) Montara State Beach Access Improvement Project, as described in the contract (as amended) between the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and State Parks. This project includes a paved parking lot, with accessible parking spaces; improved connections between the parking lot and Highway 1; an accessible trail to an accessible picnic and viewing area; and improved trash and recycling containers serving the area.

2. Project Activities & Outcomes

Activities

This project resulted in the construction of new facilities to serve visitors to the northern portion of Montara State Beach.

- **Parking Lot Improvement**
The new paved parking lot has 37 regular spaces and two accessible spaces. The marked stalls and circulation path allows organized movement of vehicles. The entrance to the parking lot provides room for vehicles to slow down when entering the lot and speed up when joining Highway 1. Run off from the lot will enter a vegetated swale and infiltrate into the soil.
- **Accessible Facilities**
An existing approximately 230 foot trail was improved to meet standards as an accessible trail. The trail was finished with fine rock material chosen to provide a firm surface and an attractive appearance. The trail leads to a picnic area with a view of the beach and the ocean. There is an additional accessible picnic area at the beginning of the trail, along with animal-resistant trash and recycling containers.
- **Beach Access Improvement**
The original scope of the grant was amended to remove the component to replace the bottom portion of an existing wooden stairway. Winter storms further damaged the stairway, and it was not feasible to repair it. We are now working to design a more sustainable beach access route to replace the failed stairway.

Benefits

The project has achieved the following immediate recreational benefits, which are expected to continue for the foreseeable future:

- Enhanced access for all beach users, through construction of an all-season lot with defined circulation and parking.
- Construction of accessible facilities to welcome additional visitors, including those with restricted mobility.
- Creation of a destination on the northern side of Montara State Beach, with an attractive, well-designed parking lot, picnic areas, and a viewing area.

- Improved public safety, through construction of an improved parking lot with more efficient movement of people and vehicles and access for emergency vehicles.
- Improved bluff and shoreline views, through removal of unnecessary barriers and berms and creation of a well-designed lot and trail.

The parking lot is designed to capture and treat storm water runoff through infiltration into the soil. This will have the additional environmental benefit of reducing unnatural erosion and providing water for native plants that will be planted around the sides of the lot.

Additional recreational benefits may occur from additional access project components made possible through the construction of an improved parking lot and the creation of a destination at this location. This may include the following:

- Improved beach access facilities through a more sustainable replacement for the failed wooden staircase. This may include an access way at a more gradual grade that would be accessible to more users.
- Improved connections to public transit, as creation of a beach and bluff destination on the northern side of Montara State Beach may justify the addition of a bus or shuttle stop.

We will measure the results of these potential additional benefits as these additional project components are constructed.

We had planned to include within this project a component that would enhance access to the beach. Our original plans to add to the existing wooden stairway proved to be infeasible. However, construction of this project has created an opportunity to seek additional funding for improved beach access from the new parking lot. We are currently working with other partners on a feasibility study that will address beach access options and develop a conceptual design for the preferred option.

3. The Future

The next phase of improved access at Montara State Beach will be to design and construct a sustainable access to the beach near the new parking lot. As discussed above, we are currently working with partners on a feasibility study that will create a conceptual design for the preferred access option. Based on the results of the feasibility study, we plan to seek project funding and work to construct the new access.

4. Lessons Learned

Project construction costs were much higher than anticipated, which required amendments to the original project scope and the use of additional matching funds. The complexity of design, permitting and construction in this location means that future projects will require careful estimation of the time and resources required for project planning and implementation.

5. Project Documents

- Photos are attached



Image 1: Parking Lot prior to construction, looking north (Photo Credit: Joanne Kerbavaz)



Image 2: New Parking Lot, looking north (Photo Credit: Joanne Kerbavaz)



Image 3: New Parking Lot with ADA parking spaces (Photo Credit: Joanne Kerbavaz)



Image 4: Accessible picnic tables and accessible trail to viewing area (Photo Credit: Joanne Kerbavaz)



Image 5: Animal-resistant cans and an interpretive panel added after project construction (Photo Credit: Joanne Kerbavaz)



Image 6: Picnic at the accessible view spot (Photo Credit: Joanne Kerbavaz)

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