



TOWN OF TIBURON
1505 Tiburon Boulevard
Tiburon, CA 94920

Parks Open Space & Trails
Commission Meeting
January 17th, 2017

Agenda Item: 1

STAFF REPORT

To: Members of the Parks, Open Space & Trails Commission

From: Department of Public Works

Subject: Interpretive Signage for Richardson Bay

BACKGROUND

The Town of Tiburon received a proposal from Richardson Bay Audubon Center to install five informative signs in Blackie's Pasture and Richardson Bay Lineal Park. The purpose of the signs is to inform the public about the significance of Richardson Bay as a natural resource as well as provide information about the wildlife inhabiting its waters. The signs would be to be located along the waterfront between Blackie's Pasture and Rock Hill Drive. The style is similar to that of the existing Tiburon Peninsula Historic Trail signs that are located along the waterfront.

DISCUSSION

For the Commission's consideration; a proposal is attached to this staff report as **Exhibit 1** and draft signage is attached as **Exhibit 2**.

FORMAT

1. Staff will introduce the item.
2. Representatives from the Audubon Center will give a presentation describing the project.
3. POST Commissioners may ask questions from the Audubon Center and Town representatives.
4. Public comments will be solicited.
5. The POST Commission will decide what action to take.

END

Exhibit 1

INTERPRETIVE SIGNAGE FOR RICHARDSON BAY

Proposal for the Department of Public Works, Tiburon

01/03/17

Prepared by Helene Marsh and Paige MacLeod, Richardson Bay Audubon Center

Proposal

We propose that Richardson Bay Audubon Center and the Town of Tiburon work together to install interpretive signage at Richardson Bay along the waterfront. The purpose of the signs would be to inform the public about the significance of Richardson Bay as a natural resource in the Community and within California, as well as providing some information about the wildlife that uses the Bay. This would help to connect residents with their environment, which in turn can lead to greater ownership and protection of community resources.

Background

Every weekend, thousands of Tiburon and Marin residents and other visitors come to Blackie's Pasture, McKegney Green and the waterfront along Tiburon Boulevard for recreational purposes. Many are children who come to participate in sports, ride their bicycles or stroll with their parents; others are adults who exercise on foot or bicycles with or without dogs. This area is a very important natural resource for Tiburon and the larger community. However, most people are unlikely to know about the significance of Richardson Bay nor about the wildlife in the Bay.

Richardson Bay is a 900 acre sanctuary managed by the Richardson Bay Audubon Center, part of Audubon California. It has been designated an Important Bird Area as it provides critical habitat for water birds as well as other wildlife. The Bay is closed to boat traffic between Oct. 1 and March 31 to prevent disturbances to wintering and migrating waterbirds. Additional information about the importance of Richardson Bay can be found at:

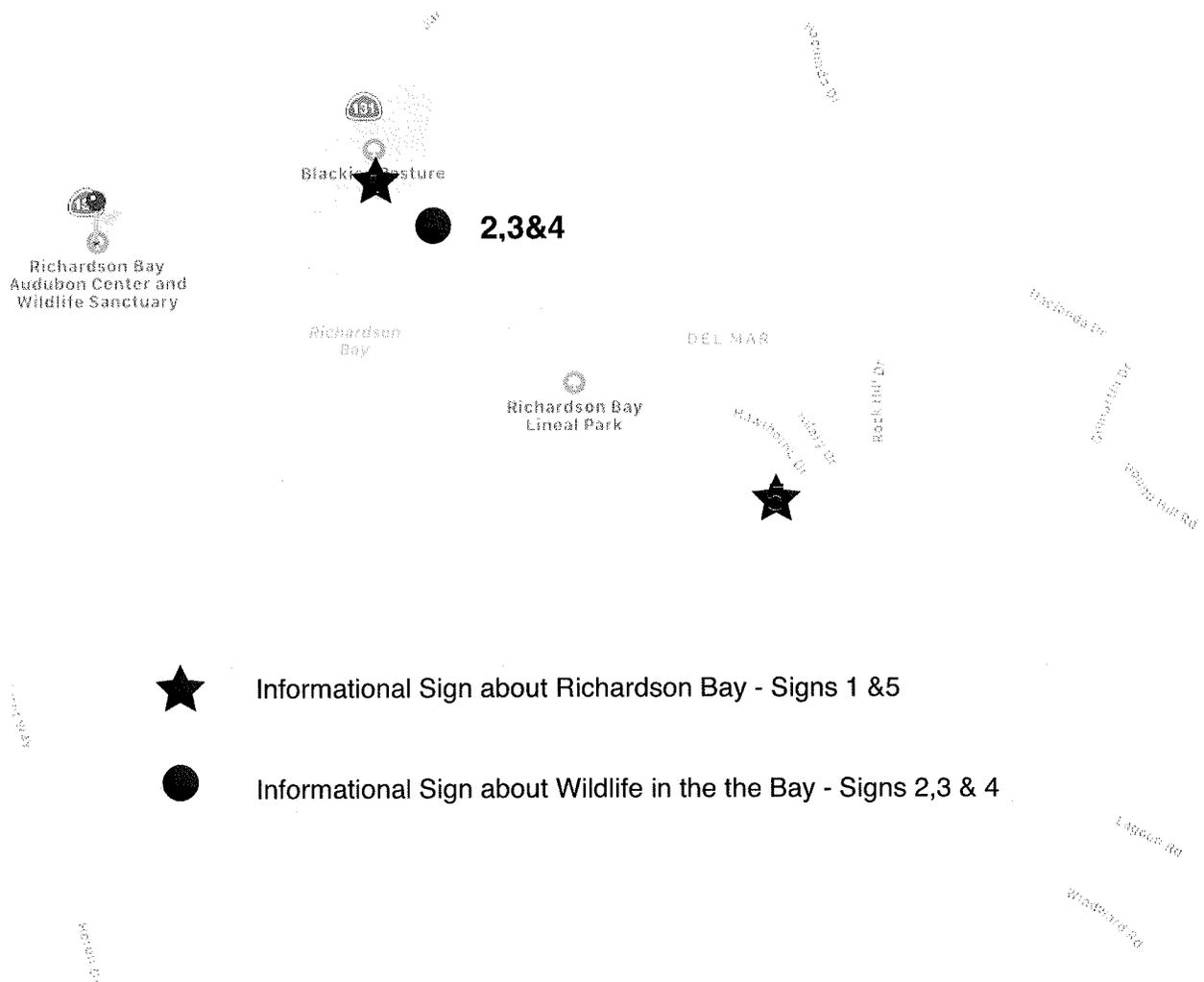
<http://richardsonbay.audubon.org/important-bird-areas-15>

Currently the interpretive signage to inform visitors about Richardson Bay is significantly lacking. There are two old structures near the ponds of Richardson Bay Sanitary District that each have two interpretive signs. The structures themselves have deteriorated to such an extent that the signs are no longer legible.

Location of Proposed Signs

Five signs are proposed:

- Signs 1 and 5 would provide Information about Richardson Bay located at the main entrances to the waterfront area (see stars on the map below).
- Signs 2, 3 and 4 would provide information about the wildlife and habitat, located where people can stop to enjoy the view. One option would be near the Sanitary District (see below).



Informational Sign about Richardson Bay - Signs 1 & 5



Informational Sign about Wildlife in the the Bay - Signs 2,3 & 4

Informational Sign Content

Staff working for Richardson Bay Audubon Center and Audubon California would be responsible for developing the sign content. Two types of signs are envisaged:

Signs 1 and 5, located at two of the entrances of the waterfront area would provide some information on the history and significance of Richardson Bay within the San Francisco Bay area and the pacific flyway.

Signs 2,3 and 4 would provide information about the habitat and wildlife of Richardson Bay.

Preliminary sign content is provided on a separate document titled “Draft Signage for Richardson Bay”.

Sign Design

We recommend using a style similar the Tiburon Peninsula Historic Trail Signs that are currently located along the waterfront. These are metal framed with an insert sheet that can be replaced.



Tiburon Peninsula Historic Trail Sign

Metal Framed Horizontal Sign positioned at an angle that can be read from above. Provides maximum view enjoyment. The frame could be designed to be wheelchair accessible - see photo below.



Example of a sign design similar to the Tiburon Peninsula Historic Trail Sign that may be suitable for wheelchair accessibility.

Sign Costs - A joint venture

Based on preliminary research, we anticipate that the cost of each sign including metal frame and mount will be \$2000-\$3,000 depending on size. The expensive components of this style of sign are the metal frame and mount. Therefore, the cost of the signs themselves will be in the \$10,000-\$15,000 range. The replaceable aluminum sheet on which the information is printed is expected to last 7-10yrs and costs \$500-\$600. Audubon CA will undertake sourcing the funds to produce the signs, frames and mounts.

We would like to request that the Town of Tiburon Department of Public Works take on the work and costs associated with preparing the surfaces where the signs will be mounted (using decomposed granite or concrete as deemed appropriate by the Town) and positioning them in the ground.

Preliminary Time-frame

1. The Department of Public Works would present this proposal to the Parks and Open Space Trail Commission at their Jan.17, 2017 meeting. Helene and Paige will attend to speak to the Commission about the project.
2. Assuming approval of the project by POST, Department of Public Works puts the item onto the Town of Tiburon Council meeting agenda for February 1. Helene and Paige will attend the meeting to speak to Council.
3. Seek and obtain funding by June 30.
4. Approve content for the signs by March 30.
5. Design signs and obtain design approval by May 30.
6. Put signs into production July 2017.
7. Hand over the signs to the Town for installation August 2017.

Exhibit 2

DRAFT SIGNAGE FOR RICHARDSON BAY

Subject

Signs 1 & 5 Richardson Bay History

Purpose

To describe the unique ecosystem in Richardson bay including complex fisheries, diverse mollusk, bird, and marine mammal populations; also the conservation history of the area.

Graphic Categories

Landscape/animal photographs

Possible Graphics

Surf scoter, pacific herring, harbor seal snapshots

Maps

Inset identifying Richardson Bay within larger San Francisco Bay

Comments

Exhibit touches on universal concepts of home and shelter



Location

Sign 1 Near or on bridge at Blackie's Pasture, facing towards Richardson Bay
Sign 5 at entrance to waterfront where San Rafael Ave meets Tiburon Blvd

View

North to south view of Richardson Bay

Subject

Sign 2 Tidal Habits in Richardson Bay

Purpose

To describe the designation as Important Bird Area and the large number of birds that stop to rest and feed during the winter months

Graphic Categories

Landscape/animal photographs

Possible Graphics

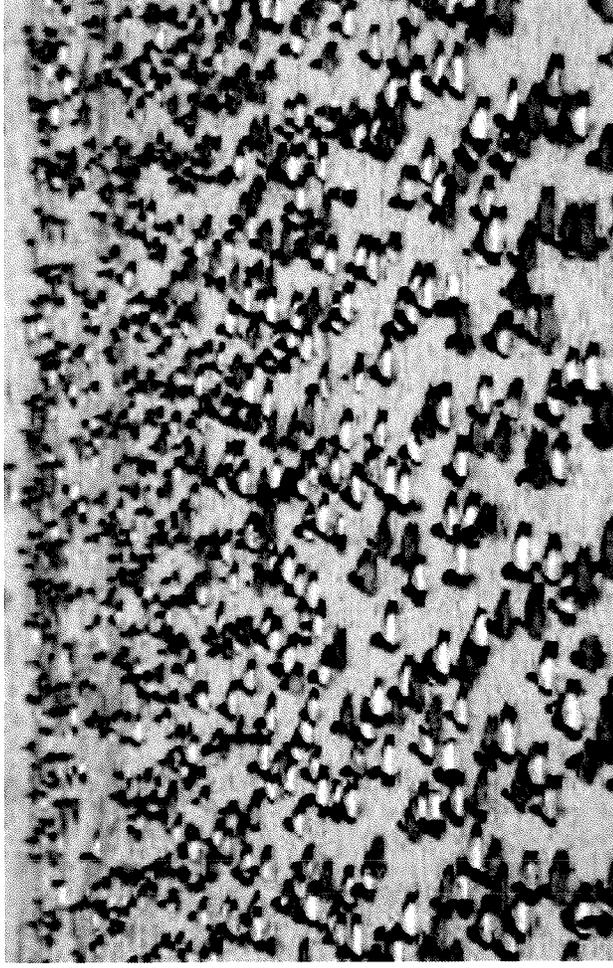
Scaup and Bufflehead raft snapshot

Maps

Inset Identifying San Francisco Bay within the Pacific Flyway

Comments

Exhibit touches on universal concepts of rest and food



Location

On the waterfront at Richardson Bay Sanitary District

View

Southwestern view of Richardson Bay

Subject
Sign 3 Diversity of Wildlife on Richardson Bay

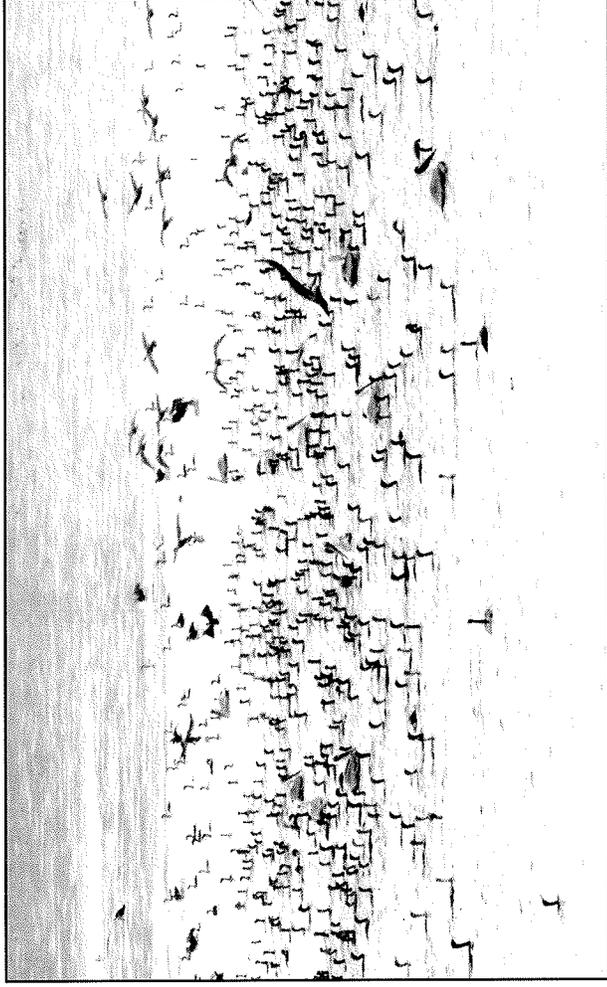
Purpose
To describe the numbers of birds and other wildlife utilizing the bay and the importance of annual watercraft closure of the area

Graphic Categories
Landscape/animal photographs

Possible Graphics
Pacific herring roe and active feeding frenzy with cormorants and pelicans

Maps
None

Comments
Exhibit touches on universal concepts of safety and community



Location
On the waterfront at Richardson Bay Sanitary District

View
Southwestern view of Richardson Bay

Subject
Sign 4 Conservation Science in Richardson Bay

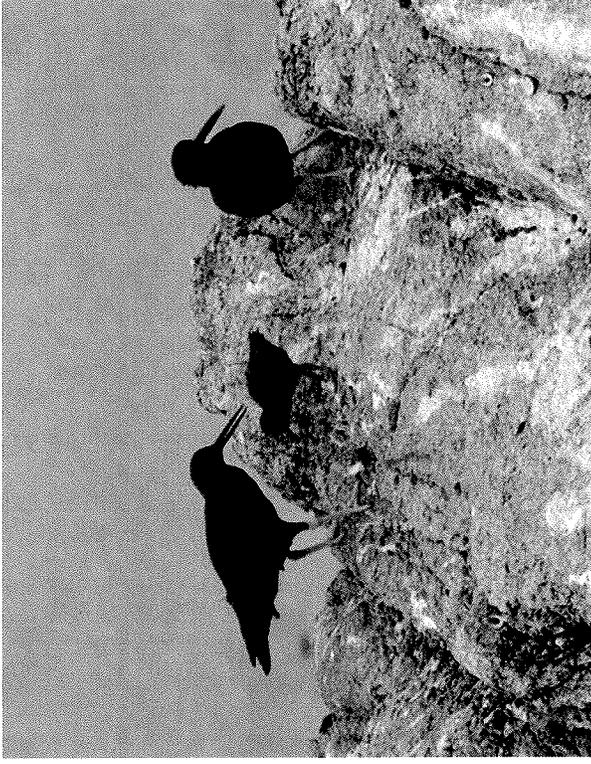
Purpose
To describe the many partnerships currently working in the bay as well as Audubon's work in conservation

Graphic Categories
Landscape/animal photographs

Possible Graphics
Conservationists in the field; oystercatcher chicks; tidal mudflats

Maps
None

Comments
Exhibit touches on universal concepts of protection and home



Location
On the waterfront at Richardson Bay Sanitary District

View
Southwestern view of Richardson Bay