November 12, 2013

Marin County Board of Supervisors
3501 Civic Center Drive
San Rafael, California 94903

SUBJECT: REQUEST TO APPROVE RESOLUTION ENDORSING DESIGNATION OF MCNEARS BEACH PARK, BLACK POINT BOAT LAUNCH, AND PARADISE BEACH PARK AS SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA WATER TRAIL TRAILHEADS, AND APPROVE PARTICIPATION IN THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA WATER TRAIL GRANT PROGRAM

Dear Supervisors,

RECOMMENDATION:

1. Adopt resolution endorsing designation of McNears Beach Park, Black Point Boat Launch, and Paradise Beach Park as San Francisco Bay Area Water Trail Trailheads.

2. Approve participation in the San Francisco Bay Area Water Trail Grant Program for the purpose of acquiring grant funds to enhance non-motorized boating opportunities, including accessibility, at McNears Beach Park, Black Point Boat Launch, and Paradise Beach Park.

SUMMARY:

The San Francisco Bay Area Water Trail is a voluntary, planned network of launching and landing sites or “trailheads” that will make it easier for people using non-motorized small watercraft to safely enjoy the historic, scenic, cultural, and environmental richness of San Francisco Bay through single and multiple day trips.

The Water Trail vision originated with Bay Access, a non-profit group working to ensure a future for the Bay that includes access for non-motorized small boat users. This vision became law in 2005 with the passage of the San Francisco Bay Area Water Trail Act.

Marin County Parks staff has identified three sites to be considered for designation as Water Trail trailheads: McNears Beach in San Rafael, Black Point Boat Launch in Novato, and Paradise Beach Park in Tiburon.
Once a site is designated, the Water Trail map and website will show the designation status of the site. Information about the site, including a map and description of site features, is added to the Water Trail website. A copy of the proposed site description for McNears Beach Park is attached as an example. Designation also makes the site eligible for potential funding from the San Francisco Bay Area Water Trail grant program. Marin County Parks would like to participate in the grant program to improve existing facilities and accessibility at the designated sites. Information on the San Francisco Bay Area Water Trail grant program is attached.

FISCAL IMPACT:

None. The only condition for designation is the installation of signs provided by the Water Trail.

REVIEWED BY:

[ ] County Administrator  [X] N/A
[ ] Dept. of Finance  [X] N/A
[ ] County Counsel  [X] N/A
[ ] Human Resources  [X] N/A

Park Planner Nancy Peake is the principal author of this report.

Respectfully submitted,

[Signature]

Ronald Miska
Deputy Director

RM/NP/kbl