NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

FILING REQUESTED BY AND WHEN FILED, RETURN TO:

Marin County Parks and Open Space District
3501 Civic Center Drive, Suite 260, San Rafael, CA 94903
www.marincountyparks.org
(415) 473-6387

FILED
MAY 25 2021
SHELLY SCOTT
MARIN COUNTY CLERK
BY: J. GILARDI, Deputy
21-2021-077

Marin County Clerk
3501 Civic Center Drive, Suite 234
San Rafael, CA 94903

Date: **May 21, 2021**

Project Title: **SMALL HABITAT RESTORATION PROJECT AT HAL BROWN PARK**

Project Location: **Hal Brown Park at Creekside Marsh. 255 Bon Air Road, Greenbrae; Marin County**
Connector pathway between Bon Air Road and the Corte Madera Creek Multi-use Pathway

Assessor's Parcel: **022-010-32**

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of the Project: The purpose of the proposed project is to implement a small tidal habitat restoration to address localized flooding, anticipated sea-level rise, and more frequent storm events resulting from climate change during the next 50 years and to assure the maintenance, restoration, enhancement, and protection of tidal habitat for plants and habitat. High tides frequently cover the bridge support beams and come within several inches of the bridge deck. High tides also flood approximately 50 feet of the adjacent asphalt pathway. The proposed project would replace a portion of the existing asphalt pathway with an elevated wooden boardwalk, replace an existing wooden bridge constructed a low elevation with a longer bridge placed at a higher elevation, remove a small upland island, remove four large boulders from within tidal habitat, and re-grade the area to enhance tidal flow. The proposed project would occur within the footprint of the existing pathway and bridge. Construction of the bridge abutments, boardwalk, and raised pathway would be outside the limits of tidal waters and wetlands. Construction access and equipment staging would be from Bon Air Road, east of the project area. When necessary, equipment would be staged within the existing pathway footprint and upland areas adjacent to the pathway in upland area. A crane would be utilized to install the replacement bridge and the remainder of the proposed project elements would not require the use of large equipment. The project area contains 0.04 acre of tidal waters and 0.07 acre of tidal wetlands and the proposed project is subject to regulatory permits from the United States Army Corps of Engineers, the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board, and the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission. All work in tidal wetlands and regulated waters would be conducted at low tide to avoid work in the wetted portions of the tidal channel. Implementation of the proposed project would be incorporate all permit requirements.

Asphalt Pathway Replacement. The proposed project would remove approximately 1,079 square feet of asphalt, 540 square feet of which is currently located within tidal wetlands. The existing asphalt pathway sections within the proposed bridge span would be removed, providing opportunity for the marsh to revegetate in this area over time beneath the replacement bridge. Approximately 175 linear feet of existing 9-to 10-foot-wide asphalt pathway would be removed and backfilled with native soils to match adjacent grades and encourage revegetation. Approximately 80 linear feet of asphalt pathway would be replaced by raised boardwalk. The proposed wooden boardwalk and elevated pathway would be approximately 44 feet in length and would connect to the easterly and westerly approaches of the proposed bridge and ultimately into the existing asphalt pathway sections that would remain. Helical anchors foundations would be used to support the boardwalk. The new pathway would be approximately 80 feet in length and 10-feet wide with a finished surface at or above elevation 10.0 feet per National American Vertical Datum (NAVD) 1988. The raised pathway sections would be constructed with aggregate base and lightweight backfill material.

Bridge Replacement. The existing wooden bridge was constructed at a low elevation that has a negative effect on tidal circulation and wetland vegetation. It is approximately 26 feet long and 9.5 feet wide and is supported on four wooden piers located in the tidal channel and two wood support beams located within the tidal wetland, and that provide less than one foot of freeboard above the channel bottom at low tide. The proposed bridge would be approximately 110 - 120 feet long, 10 feet wide, and prefabricated corten steel with steel cable railing and wood decking. The replacement bridge would span the entire tidal area, and therefore would not result in any fill to tidal waters or wetlands. The abutments for the replacement bridge would be located within uplands utilizing helical anchor foundations, which would restore approximately 26 square feet of area to tidal flow. The support beams would be approximately two feet higher than the existing bridge over the tidal channel to increase the tidal prism in Creekside Marsh while addressing inundation of the existing pathway. The replacement bridge would result in a net increase of 743 square feet of shading which would be offset by the removal of the four existing piers and increased freeboard under the bridge, which would improve tidal circulation in the tidal wetland and wetland vegetation.

POSTED 5/25/21 TO 6/25/21