

South Cove Sailing Basin Dredging Project and Seawall Replacement Study

Meeting Summary – Community Meeting #2

November 6, 2024 – 6:00-7:30pm via Zoom teleconference

Introduction

The City of Berkeley Parks Recreation and Waterfront group hosted the second community meeting regarding dredging within the South Cove Sailing Basin at the Berkeley Marina. Staff also presented recently obtained funding for the South Cove seawall replacement study.

Agenda

1. Introductions and Goals
2. South Cove Seawall Replacement existing conditions and funding
3. Timeline/flowchart of the seawall replacement
4. Potential repairs of the seawall

Break for Questions

5. Review results of hydrographic survey of the South Cove Sailing Basin
6. Review timeline of the dredging project and discuss next steps
7. Present sampling strategy and initial estimates
8. Open Discussion

Summary of Key Themes

South Cove Sailing Basin Seawall Replacement Study

Staff presented recently obtained funding and described the process for obtaining the remaining balance. A timeline of the project was presented as well as an example of a repair done at a similar site in southern California.

South Cove Dredging Study

Staff reviewed existing conditions at the site and project timeline. The material sampling strategy was presented which is a conservative approach that allows for the most flexibility when scoping a future dredging project to assist staff in identifying funds. There was general agreement within the community on the area and depth of the material sampling.

Comments

South Cove Seawall Replacement Study

- Will fill be produced?
City staff confirmed that the likely repair is to install the new wall in front of the existing wall. It is the City's plan to place the new wall as close as possible in front of the existing wall in order to keep the fill to a minimum
- Does the City have a plan for mitigation for the fill created?
Staff noted that there are several strategies the City has used for mitigation on other projects and will explore options during the project development.
- Can the wall could be built behind the existing wall?
City and COWI staff noted that this would be difficult due to existing tie rods, and recently improved elements of South Cove. Building behind the wall will cost more and take more time than in front of the existing wall.
- How long construction will take?
COWI staff said that design phase includes preparing a preliminary construction schedule as part of the scope. It is too early in the process to make any commitments to timing.
- Very important to maintain ADA accessibility at the basin, new wall should not inhibit that.
- Desire to keep at least one of the boat hoists active during construction.
- Recommended limiting disruptions at South Cove during construction.

South Cove Dredging Study

- Bird watching is another use at the site.
- Marine mammals use the area, sealions have been spotted
- Recommended that Strawberry Creek location be indicated on the figure at the inner cove
- Noted that there are over 100 bird species in the area. Staff noted that environmental studies will be conducted to assess any impact to wildlife, and project includes permitting with required aquatic agencies.
- The area east of Area C should not be dredged because of its value as a shorebird habitat. Limited use in this area for sailors, majority of water-based users are kayakers and birdwatchers.
- Area A seems to be the highest priority for all users including the sailing clubs followed by Area B for beginners.
- Keelboats occasionally come into the basin during Cal Sailing open house events. These events are normally planned around the tide.

- General agreement that dredging to a -4' depth will be the deepest practical depth and sufficient for all uses within the basin.
- Staff noted that existing floats/guide piles will not need to be removed during dredging.
- Noted Cal Sailing Club dinghies draft 3.7ft. Have some deeper draft keelboats with draft of 4.9ft.
- Asked about volume and costs of main channel dredging project. Staff shared cost information.
- Suggestion for the City to maintain funds to address siltation after dredging
- Concern about how long it until the area fills back in with sediment. Staff responded there have been no studies performed due to the lack of data within the basin, but anecdotal evidence presented by some basin users suggests 1'-2" per year.
- Will a post dredge survey will be part of the project?
Yes, a survey will be done after dredging is completed to verify new depth.