

South Cove Sailing Basin Dredging Project

Meeting Summary – Community Meeting #1

April 18, 2024 – 6:00-7:30pm via Zoom teleconference

Introduction

The City of Berkeley Parks Recreation and Waterfront group hosted a community meeting to gather information regarding dredging within the South Cove Sailing Basin at the Berkeley Marina with the primary goal of determining desired dredge depth and footprint. Included in this discussion were potential funding sources for other projects at the South Cove Basin.

Agenda

1. Introductions and Goals
2. Projects at South Cove
3. Timeline/flowchart of a typical dredging project
 - a) South Cove Sailing Basin Dredging Study Scope
 - b) Results of Hydrographic Survey
4. Preliminary Use Pattern Information Gathered
5. Open Discussion related to the uses of the basin, potential dredge depth and area for: a) Sailing, b) Windsurfing, c) Swimming
6. Other Potential Priority Project(s)

Summary of Key Themes

City staff presented a timeline for the project as well as hydrographic survey results. The meeting was then turned into an open discussion of uses within the basin and how they are restricted during low tides. Members of the community were able to share the desired useable depth of the basin as well as the desired dredge footprint. These comments are summarized below.

General Comments

- Sea kayaking should be added to the use list. Although they can launch in 6" of water, needs much more to paddle. Ideally there would be a beach launch in the southwest corner of the basin near Shoreline Park.
- There is a concern that adding sand anywhere will be temporary and will wash away.
- Feeling that this is a better use of money than a new pier as the basin is used for much more recreation than the pier.
- Concern that doing a minimum amount of dredging will result in fast siltation resulting in dredging being needed again sooner.
- Curious about the siltation rate, but there is not enough data to make a good assessment.
- Overall concern about how long the dredged area will remain deep and future siltation rates.
- Anecdotal evidence suggests siltation rate of 1"/year. Might be reducing due to less free sediment in the Bay.
- Curious about a study to look into erosion rates within the basin.
- Curious about currents within the basin and if there will be a study prior to dredging.
- Will dredging impact fishing? This topic will be covered during the permitting phase of the project.
- Wind foilers might not need 4' to launch as they can flip their boards over and paddle out to deeper water.
- There were no swimmers on the call, it is recommended to reach out to them. As temps rise, more swimmers are anticipated.
- Swimmers generally swim with higher tides.
- Concern on mixed use in the basin after dredging. Foilers and swimmers especially don't mix as swimmers are difficult to see and foilers are travelling at high speeds with a great potential for serious injury.
- Swimmers generally want to use the whole basin.
- There is also a desire to allow use all over the basin and not constrain swimmers.
- Desire for designated parking near the H.S. Lordships launch.
- There is an overall desire for estimates for the work, will be presented at the next community meeting.

Dredge Depth Comments

- General agreement on use depths shown within the presentation.
- Some community members expressed a desire to keep the dredge depth low, between -3' and -4' to keep costs down.

- Other community members would like to dredge as much as possible now, as there may not be a chance to do so again in the future. -4' is the minimum dredge depth, should be more.
- Swimmers and windsurfers and others needing deeper water are launching from H.S. Lordships rather than the basin.
- For Cal Sailing/Adventures, the vessel with the deepest draft is the safety boat, need at least 2' of water. Cannot run programs even if deep enough for windsurfing as they cannot perform a rescue if a student were to need it.
- Dredging a channel out to the deeper water won't be helpful to beginners which are the majority of users for Cal Sailing/Adventures.

Dredge Area Comments

- General agreement that Area A in presentation is the highest priority.
- Area B could be useful for some groups, but others feel it is too rocky for their usage.
- Desire to defer to sailing clubs and their use area. The priority is to get new sailors out on the water needing experience and make sure sailing gets exposed to all people. All of their training occurs within the basin and only more experienced users can sail outside of the protected area within the basin.
- Cal Sailing/Adventures uses Area B for beginners.
- Area D is a very low priority.

Seawall Repair Study Comments

- Terrible idea to shift money from dredging to the seawall repair.
- Others feel the seawall is the higher priority
- Others feel both are important and City should do both.