

High Winds Whip Suisun City Fire Into Inferno In Barely An Hour

 sacramento.cbslocal.com/2013/10/04/high-winds-whip-suisun-city-fire-into-inferno-in-barely-an-hour/

Reporting [Derek Shore](#)

Filed under

, , ,

Related tags

, , ,

SUISUN CITY (CBS13) — A grass fire fanned by high winds scorched 1,000 acres in Solano County on Friday, sending thick smoke across the area.

It started off of Highway 12 in the Suisun City area at Branscombe Drive, and got going in a hurry.

High winds fueled the flames, sending Solano County firefighters scrambling as it grew from 100 acres to 1,000 acres in a little more than an hour.

The flames chewing through dry grassland just outside of Suisun City threatened at least 12 structures.

It devastated a barn and more than \$100,000 of equipment.

June Guidotti lives in a ranch nearby. She grabbed her dog and got out just in case.

“You gotta move; you’re gonna burn; what are you going to do?” she said.

By nightfall, the inferno was under control and the focus turned to finding the cause of the fire that will be smoldering over the next week.

“We’re taking a look at the cause now, the area of origin, the fire came from Highway 12. And grew rapidly in line with the winds.,” said Dixon Fire Chief Aaron McAlister.

Related articles

- [200-Acre Grass Fire Burning In Solano County](#) (sacramento.cbslocal.com)



SEVEN DAYS THE EAST BAY NEWS BLOG

[Login/Create Account](#)

[Archives](#) | [RSS](#)

« [Friday Must Reads: Governor Si...](#) | [Suisun City Fire: Winds Cause...](#) »

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2013

Big New Park Planned for Oakland Waterfront

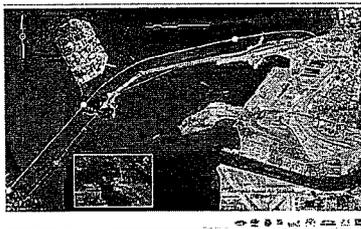
ENVIRONMENT [Adelyn Baxter](#) — Fri, Oct 4, 2013 at 12:41 PM

15

Tweet

Share

Detailed plans for a proposed 170-acre park along the Oakland waterfront will get their first hearing next week in front of a regional panel that oversees the bay shoreline. The big new park — to be called Gateway Park — is to be located at the eastern touchdown of the old Bay Bridge in West Oakland. The Bay Conservation and Development Commission's Design Review Board will take up the park proposal at a public meeting next week.



Gateway Park was first envisioned more than a decade ago when the Bay Bridge design team pointed out the area bordering Oakland's industrial district as a potential site to create a public recreation area on the waterfront. Emerging from land originally used

by the former Oakland Army Base, the project is expected to cost \$174 million in total, coming from a combination of seismic and public funding, tolls from the bridge, East Bay Regional Park District bond measure funds, and private donations.

The first workshop on the project was held in 2010 and the project concept report was completed in 2012. Now, the Gateway Park Working Group — a group of nine Bay Area agencies collaborating on the creation of the park — will bring its plan to the board for the first review of the project on October 7 at 6:30 p.m. at BCDC's office in San Francisco.

The site would expand upon current walking and bike trails in the area and increase shore access for recreational use. While the ultimate governance of the site is still being discussed, the planners hope it will eventually become a regional park operated by the East Bay Regional Park District.

According to the project website, the plan "joins the power and beauty of the new East Span of the Bay Bridge to the fascinating natural, industrial and transportation history of the East Bay," creating "a bold new gateway to the City of Oakland."

Although construction is expected to begin in early 2016 and finish up around 2019, the timeline has not been entirely solidified due to a pending land transfer on the western portion of the site between the US Army and the East Bay Regional Park District.

« [Friday Must Reads: Governor Si...](#) | [Suisun City Fire: Winds Cause...](#) »

COMMENTS (0)

Subscribe to this thread: By Email With RSS

[Watch Live](#)
[View full site](#)



[52° Clear | San Jose Weather](#)

Local

Posted: 2:05 p.m. Friday, Oct. 4, 2013

Suisun City fire 70 percent contained, evacuation orders lifted



KTVU.com Staff

suisun fire

KTVU

SUISUN CITY, Calif. —

A grass fire that burned more than 1,000 acres in Solano County Friday afternoon is 70 percent contained and has largely been pushed away from inhabited areas, a fire official said this evening.

The fire, which started south of state Highway 12 near Branscombe Road in Suisun City around 12:45 p.m., destroyed a barn full of hay and around a dozen pieces of farm equipment, according to Dixon Fire Chief Aaron McAlister.

It initially threatened another five to 10 structures, but that threat has now been eliminated, McAlister said.

Two employees at the Goodrich Corp. in Suisun City also suffered smoke inhalation injuries in the fire, McAlister said. One was treated at the scene and released and the other was taken to a hospital.

At this point, the fire is largely controlled in inhabited areas, but around 40 acres continue to burn in marshy, uninhabited areas to the south that are largely inaccessible to firefighters, McAlister said.

All evacuations have been lifted and Grizzly Island Road has been reopened.

Full containment is not expected before tomorrow, and firefighters will remain on the scene tonight, McAlister said.

The large fire was one of several in the Bay Area fanned by hot, dry winds that triggered red flag warnings in the area.

The fires caused reports of smoke throughout the East Bay and even as far away as San Francisco and the Peninsula.

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District this afternoon issued a smoke advisory warning Bay Area residents, especially those with asthma and other respiratory issues, to stay inside with the windows and doors closed as much as possible.

Alameda: Planning Board to consider 'town center,' zoning at

Alameda Point

By Peter Hegarty phegarty@bayareanewsgroup.com San Jose Mercury News

Posted:

MercuryNews.com

ALAMEDA -- Walking and bicycle paths, spots for boaters and kayakers and a ferry terminal helping anchor a neighborhood that would serve as a gateway to Webster Street is how city officials envision the future "Town Center" of Alameda Point.

A public plaza, restaurants and maritime businesses are also proposed for the neighborhood near what's known as the Seaplane Lagoon at the former Alameda Naval Air Station. But before anyone can break ground and begin construction, city officials are hoping the public will weigh in on draft recommendations that they've crafted to help guide the project.

The recommendations, which the Planning Board will review Monday, range from building heights and the size of city blocks to where the new ferry terminal should be located.

Along with plans for the center, the board will consider proposals for zoning "sub-districts" at Alameda Point, including areas for light industrial use and places that will be for parks and open space.

Efforts to finalize plans for the town center are considered a key step toward transforming the former Navy base, especially since it will be among the first redeveloped and so will help jumpstart change in other areas, according to city officials.

The town center neighborhood is generally bordered by Main Street, the waterfront near the Seaplane Lagoon, and the former aircraft taxiways near the Alameda Naval Air Museum and the Bladium Sports & Fitness Club.

Among the recommendations is to realign West Atlantic Avenue west of its intersection with Main Street so that it offers a direct connection between the waterfront and the Webster Street business district, and for the new ferry terminal to be located at the Seaplane Lagoon's eastern edge.

West Atlantic also would be redesigned to "de-emphasize the automobile," including limiting access to the waterfront to just cyclists and pedestrians, as a way to make the area more attractive, City Planner Andrew Thomas said.

The recommendations also include creating a public plaza near the Seaplane Lagoon with possibly a building that would serve as a neighborhood landmark, Thomas said.

Urban design consultants Skidmore, Owings & Merrill LLP helped craft the recommendations, which are expected to be revised as city officials gather public input.

Monday's Planning Board meeting is among a series of sessions scheduled through next year as city officials consider documents related to transit, transportation and zoning for redeveloping the former base.

In June, the city took ownership of about 1,400 acres of the site through a no-cost conveyance agreement with the U.S. Navy. The agreement, the first phase of the base's overall transfer, provided the city with

about 500 acres of land and nearly 900 acres beneath San Francisco Bay.

The complete transfer of Alameda Point is projected to be completed by 2019.

Reach Peter Hegarty at 510-748-1654 or follow him on [Twitter.com/Peter_Hegarty](https://twitter.com/Peter_Hegarty).

If you go

The Planning Board will meet at 7 p.m. Monday in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 2263 Santa Clara Ave.

Infobox2

'Whale Spotting' app seeks to reduce ship strikes in San Francisco Bay

By Jason Dearen Associated Press San Jose Mercury News

Posted:

MercuryNews.com

SAN FRANCISCO -- Federal officials trying to reduce the number of whales that are struck and killed by ships sailing in and out of San Francisco Bay are testing a new smartphone application that could help locate the creatures more accurately.

The "Whale Spotter" app would allow sailors, fishermen and marine scientists who spot whales to plot their location on an interactive map. The maps created could then be used by National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and U.S. Coast Guard officials to recommend different vessel routes.

It's a modern, crowd-sourcing approach to an old problem.

John Berge, vice president of the Pacific Merchant Shipping Association, said the shipping industry supported development of the app as another tool in a new arsenal being created to reduce the strikes.

"Everybody agrees that we need to try to keep whales and ships separated physically to the greatest extent possible," Berge said. "Right now, we know where the ships are, but we don't know where the whales are."

The app is the latest development in a collaboration between shipping companies, government officials and scientists to reduce whale strikes. In June, large vessels traveling to ports on the California coast began using new traffic lanes developed to move ships away from whales.

In the busy ports of the San Francisco Bay Area, more than 7,300 large ships head through the Golden Gate each year. Just outside the bay, whales often swim along the continental shelf, where their food supply is plentiful.

Several dead whales, including an endangered fin whale, suspected to have been killed by ship strikes have washed ashore this year in the Bay Area.

"We are out there on our research cruises only five times a year, if we're lucky, so we only get three to five snapshots of where whales are, and why they are," said Jaime Jahncke, director of Point Blue's California Current Research Group, which provides whale location data to maritime officials.

The idea behind the app is to create a network of whale spotters off California's coast so the marine mammals can be tracked, in real time, as they migrate.

The weeklong tests of the app beginning Saturday will occur in the Cordell Bank and Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuaries.

Marine scientists working on the Farallon Islands off San Francisco's coast already have been inputting whale sightings from their unique perch, from where the westernmost shipping lanes can be seen.

A big hurdle for the app is that cellphone coverage at sea is spotty at best, so data may be delayed to a

point where it's not immediately helpful.

But Jahncke said the GPS on phones is being constantly tracked by satellite, so the phone's location can be determined off of that. Also, information about whale location is stored on the phone's hard drive, which can be uploaded back at port.

Dan Howard, superintendent of the Cordell Bank sanctuary, was hopeful the app will make a difference by bridging a gap in data about whale location.

"Having data on whale movement is key to working with the shipping industry and making informed management decisions," said Howard.

Follow Jason Dearen on Twitter: <http://www.twitter.com/JHDearen>

Man rides bike boat across San Francisco Bay

By Doug Oakley Oakland Tribune San Jose Mercury News

Posted:

MercuryNews.com

OAKLAND -- It was a beautiful day to bicycle across the bay.

On a floating bicycle that is.

Judah Schiller, of Mill Valley, who just may be the first person to ride a water bike across the San Francisco Bay, pedaled his pontoon bike boat from Port View Park in Oakland to Pier 1 in San Francisco in about an hour.

"No buses, no taxis, no cars, no pedestrians," Schiller, 41, said to a throng of media he invited to his San Francisco arrival in order to publicize alternative forms of transportation. "If someone gives me a better way to get across the bay on a bike, I'd like to see it."

Timing his ride between the end of high tide and the start of low tide gave him a window with no current. And on a day with no wind, it was like riding on Lake Tahoe on a hot summer day.

Schiller, who runs a San Francisco design firm, said he doesn't want to wait "10 years and another \$500 million" for a bike path to be completed on the Bay Bridge.

Next week he plans to bike across the Hudson River from Hoboken, N.J., to Manhattan.

Schiller's public relations team, which organized media at his departure in Oakland and his arrival in San Francisco as well as a tagalong boat with his own video and still photographers, insists he's not trying to sell the \$1,000 to \$2,000 bike boats manufactured by just one company in Italy. Nor, do they say, is his design firm planning on designing or manufacturing its own bike boat.

He simply wants to "show the world that biking across bodies of water is possible even where there are no bridges or bike lanes," according to a news release announcing the BayCycle Project, which is "introducing Bay Area residents to the new sport of water biking, an aquatic biking frontier for sport recreation and transportation."

Upon arriving in San Francisco where his two children were waiting with their uncle, Schiller said he had a fine time on the bay.

"There were a handful of boats within about a mile of me," Schiller said. "It was majestic going under the Bay Bridge. I bet nobody has ridden under the Bay Bridge before. Anyone can do this."

Asked what she makes of her dad bicycling across San Francisco Bay, 11-year-old Naomi Schiller said, "It's cool." Then she elaborated. "Well, I guess it's pretty hard to do it, but he's been practicing in Sausalito," she said, adding, "I'm proud of my dad."

Contact Doug Oakley at 510-843-1408. Follow him at [Twitter.com/douglasoakley](https://twitter.com/douglasoakley).