

Commission Briefing on: Middle Harbor Enhancement Area (MHEA)

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Consistency Determination No. C2000.014.01

Port of Oakland
BCDC Permit No. 2000.014.00

Schuyler Olsson, Enforcement Analyst
BCDC Commission Meeting

June 6, 2019



MHEA Project Location



Bay Bridge Trail
Burma Rd

Bay Bridge

Yerba Buena Island

Oakland

Middle Harbor Enhancement Area

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Google Earth

Alameda/Oakland

37°48'47.37" N 122°20'19.77" W elev -6 ft eye alt 14198 ft

MHEA Project Background

- Beneficial reuse of dredged sediment from the **Oakland Harbor Navigation Improvement Project /-50 Foot Deepening Project, along with Hamilton and Montezuma Wetland Restoration Projects**
- Authorized by BCDC in 2000 (ongoing)
- Placed 5.8 million cubic yards of sediment into Bay (180 acres)
- Restored unused naval berthing areas to shallower depths and provided mosaic of shallow water habitats
- Negotiated agreement among project proponents, BCDC, Save the Bay, Audubon Society and other environmental / community organizations
- San Francisco Bay Plan amended to accommodate project
- Technical Advisory Committee: provides ongoing advice and makes certain decisions



Current Status of Project

- Placement, consolidation, final sculpting of sediment
- Creation of shallow water and hard bottom habitat
- Re-opening of site to full tidal circulation
- Initial construction of beach, marsh, two avian islands, protected area
- Completion of construction monitoring of site conditions - "warranty period"

Eelgrass

- 101 acres of "suitable habitat" for eelgrass
- Pilot plantings in 2017
- 1st phase of planting this summer

MHEA Overview Photo (1 of 2)



MHEA Overview Photo (2 of 2)



Delays in Achieving Key Results (1 of 2)

Key Performance Criteria from 3M Plan	Committed Date of Completion	Current Status
<u>3-5 acre marsh</u> for bird foraging and educational benefits for the local West Oakland community	2012	Incomplete (marsh too low for vegetation)
At least <u>55 acres of habitat suitable for eelgrass</u> , and 110 acres of other shallow water habitat	2006/2007	Completed in 2016 (approx. 101 ac. suitable for eelgrass)
At least <u>15 acres of eelgrass habitat</u>	2012	Incomplete (Phase 1 Planting: Spring '19)
New <u>public access beach area</u> that will also provide storm refuge to birds	2003 (part of Middle Harbor Shoreline Park)	Partially complete (safety concerns exist)
4 <u>bird islands</u> for high tide refuge (design totaled 8,890 sf)	2012	Incomplete (only two island groups were built, totaling just 630 sf)

Delays in Achieving Key Results (2 of 2)

Key Performance Criteria from 3M Plan	Committed Date of Completion	Current Status
4-8 acres of <u>hard bottom habitat</u>	2004-2006	Complete
<u>Estuarine community of higher productivity</u> than existing. Provide net increase in habitat value	2016/2017	Status not formally assessed
Increased <u>habitat benefits for aquatic birds</u> (esp. least tern colony) by increasing habitat productivity of fisheries with a focus on least tern prey species	2016/2017	Status not formally assessed
<u>Greater number of fish</u> than existing conditions	2016/2017	Status not formally assessed

BCDC's Request for Remedial Action

- Nov '18 / Jan '19: BCDC sends USACE Request for Remedial Action:
 - Meet and exceed original eelgrass commitment (15 ac → 18.4 ac)
 - Elevating and planting the marsh
 - Options for meeting bird habitat commitments
 - Ensuring safety of public access beach
- Mar '19: USACE responds and provides conceptual options, but details not included. Additional eelgrass commitment is disputed.
- May '19: BCDC requests further project details

Next Steps

- Spring '19: Phase I Eelgrass Planting (101 ac), with possible Phase II
- BCDC/USACE must agree on additional eelgrass commitment
- Summer/Fall '19: Design charette with experts and community representatives to identify options for beach, marsh, bird habitat
- Fall/Winter 2019: BCDC expects USACE submittal of project plans
- Amendment to Consistency Determination may be required
- 10-year monitoring to begin upon completion of key habitat elements

MHEA and the San Francisco Bay Plan

Current Policy Language (Dredging Policy 11b):

*“To ensure protection of Bay habitats, the Commission should not authorize dredged material disposal projects in the Bay and certain waterways for habitat creation, enhancement or restoration, except for projects using a minor amount of dredged material, **until: ... 3)The Oakland Middle Harbor enhancement project, if undertaken, is completed successfully.**”*

Thank You. Questions and Comments?



Photo credit: Schuyler Olsson (BCDC)