

9.0 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AND AGENCY COORDINATION

Public involvement and participation and agency coordination with the Bolinas Lagoon Ecosystem Restoration project has been extensive. This chapter describes all of the entities involved with the project, and how public participation was coordinated by the Corps and MCOSD.

9.1 Public Workshops and Meetings

Corps study participants have attended quarterly meetings with the Bolinas Lagoon Technical Advisory Committee (BLTAC) to present progress reports and gather information concerning the Feasibility Study. A Habitat Evaluation Expert Panel was convened from August 2000 to March 2001 as a scientific forum to discuss the merits of the various restoration alternatives. A public scoping meeting (under the NEPA and CEQA process) was held in April 1998, and public workshops were held in September 1998, November 1999 and November/December 2000 to review the progress of the feasibility study and to listen to public concerns. Newsletters updating the local communities and interested parties on project activities are distributed by the Open Space District prior to key meetings and project milestones.

Other organizations that have participated in the study process to date include the following agencies and groups:

Federal Agencies

- Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9
- US Department of Commerce, NOAA, National Marine Fisheries Service
- US Department of Commerce, NOAA, National Ocean Service, Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary (GFNMS)
- US Department of Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service
- US Department of Interior, United States Geological Society

State Agencies

- California Coastal Commission
- California Coastal Conservancy
- California Department of Fish and Game

County of Marin

- Department of Public Works
- Marin County Community Development Agency
- Marin County Open Space District
- Supervisor Steve Kinsey, District 4

Local Committees, Groups and Organizations

- Audubon Canyon Ranch
- Avocet Research Associates
- Barrie Stebbings and Joanna Harman (Bolinas Lagoon Video)

Bay Area Regional Water Quality Control Board
Bolinas Lagoon Foundation
Bolinas Lagoon Technical Advisory Committee
Bolinas Public Utilities District
Bolinas Rod and Boat Club
College of Marin
Environmental Forum of Marin
Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Marin Audubon Society
Philip Williams & Associates
Point Reyes Bird Observatory
Point Reyes National Seashore
Residents of Bolinas and Stinson Beach
Seadrift Association
Sierra Club, Marin Group
Star Route Farms
Stinson Beach County Water District
Stinson Beach Fire Department
Stinson Beach Health Club
Stinson Beach Village Association
Tetra Tech, Inc.

9.2 Agency Coordination

Extensive resource agency coordination was conducted during the Feasibility Study, particularly with the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), the Department of Commerce, Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary (GFNMS), the Department of Commerce National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG), and the California Regional Water Quality Control Board. Most of these interests were represented on the HEEP that determined acceptable methods for evaluating habitat values and the effectiveness of the alternative plans.

The USFWS prepared a Planning Aid Letter (PAL), and is currently preparing the Draft Coordination Act Report (DCAR). The PAL represents the views of the USFWS during the early stages of the plan formulation process, whereas the DCAR will give feedback on the plan formulation process that evaluated the alternatives and then selected the two plans for recommendation. Recommendations made in the DCAR will address implementation of the project. These recommendations will be presented in the Final Feasibility Report, if they are not made available before the printing of the draft documents.

9.3 Review of the Draft Feasibility Report and Draft EIS/EIR

Review of the Draft Feasibility Report and the Draft EIS/EIR will be coordinated with Federal, State and local agencies in accordance with Corps guidelines, and in compliance with NEPA and CEQA regulations. This will include further coordination with EPA, USFWS, NMFS, CDFG, the California Coastal Commission, the RWQCB, Marin County departments and agencies, and all other public interests. During the 45-day public review period, two public meetings and hearings will be held to present the study findings and proposed recommendations, respond to questions, and obtain views and comments of all interested parties. The comments received will be documented in the final report and considered in the final decision of the San Francisco District Engineer and higher decision levels in the Corps, the Administration, and Congress.