



## Board of Harbor Commissioners

Virginia Chang Kiraly, President  
Nancy Reyring, Vice President  
Tom Mattusch, Treasurer  
William Zemke, Secretary  
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James B. Pruett, General Manager  
Trisha Ortiz, District Counsel

## Press Release

### San Mateo County Harbor District Pillar Point Harbor

On Friday, February 12, 2021, the California Coastal Commission unanimously approved the Coastal Development Permit for the long-awaited Pillar Point Harbor West Trail Living Shoreline Project. The project will restore the West Trail and provide a safe accessible trail to the Mavericks Beach Area, create new beach and dune habitat using an innovative living shoreline approach, and provide lasting protection against coastal erosion and sea level rise.

The West Trail is located along the western edge of Pillar Point Harbor in western San Mateo County, California. The Trail connects a pedestrian pathway from the West Point Avenue access and parking area to the Pillar Point outer harbor and Mavericks Beach. The West Trail has experienced chronic coastal erosion, resulting in degradation of the Trail and creating hazardous conditions for trail users as well as limiting access for emergency response.



*Existing West Trail*



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The project includes the stabilization of the West Trail and stormwater system improvements. To protect and stabilize the trail, the proposed project will include the construction of a nourished beach with an elevated dune adjacent to trail. Buried beneath the surface of the shoreline and dune will be a cobble berm (otherwise known as a dynamic revetment) and two rock fingers extending perpendicularly from the trail. The stormwater improvements will address the aesthetics, function, and maintenance needs of the existing storm drain system as well as provide water quality improvements to the harbor.



*Rendition of Completed Project*

“The Harbor District is extremely proud of the West Trail Living Shoreline Project. The planning process began more than six years ago, and through excellent public participation and superior engineers and consultants, a Living Shoreline with an improved, safe and accessible trail with emergency access to the outer Harbor and Mavericks Beach area will be completed by the end of the year. The Living Shoreline is a new and innovative approach to combat coastal erosion and sea level rise, and can serve as a proof of concept to be applied in other regions of the California Coast,” said Jim Pruett, General Manager of the San Mateo County Harbor District.



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“The West Trail Living Shoreline Project is a very important project for the Harbor District, San Mateo County, and the State of California. The Harbor Board is very grateful for the public’s support and the collaborative work done by many stakeholders over the last six years, resulting in the Coastal Commission’s approval of our project’s coastal development permit to protect the West Trail Shoreline and provide the opportunity to learn how living shorelines can benefit the California coastline,” said Virginia Chang Kiraly, President of the San Mateo County Harbor District Board of Commissioners.

With the Development Permit being issued, it is expected the project will be completed in the Fall/Winter of 2021.

For further information, please contact Jim Pruett, General Manager of the San Mateo County Harbor District at [jpruett@smharbor.com](mailto:jpruett@smharbor.com) or (650) 583-4400.