

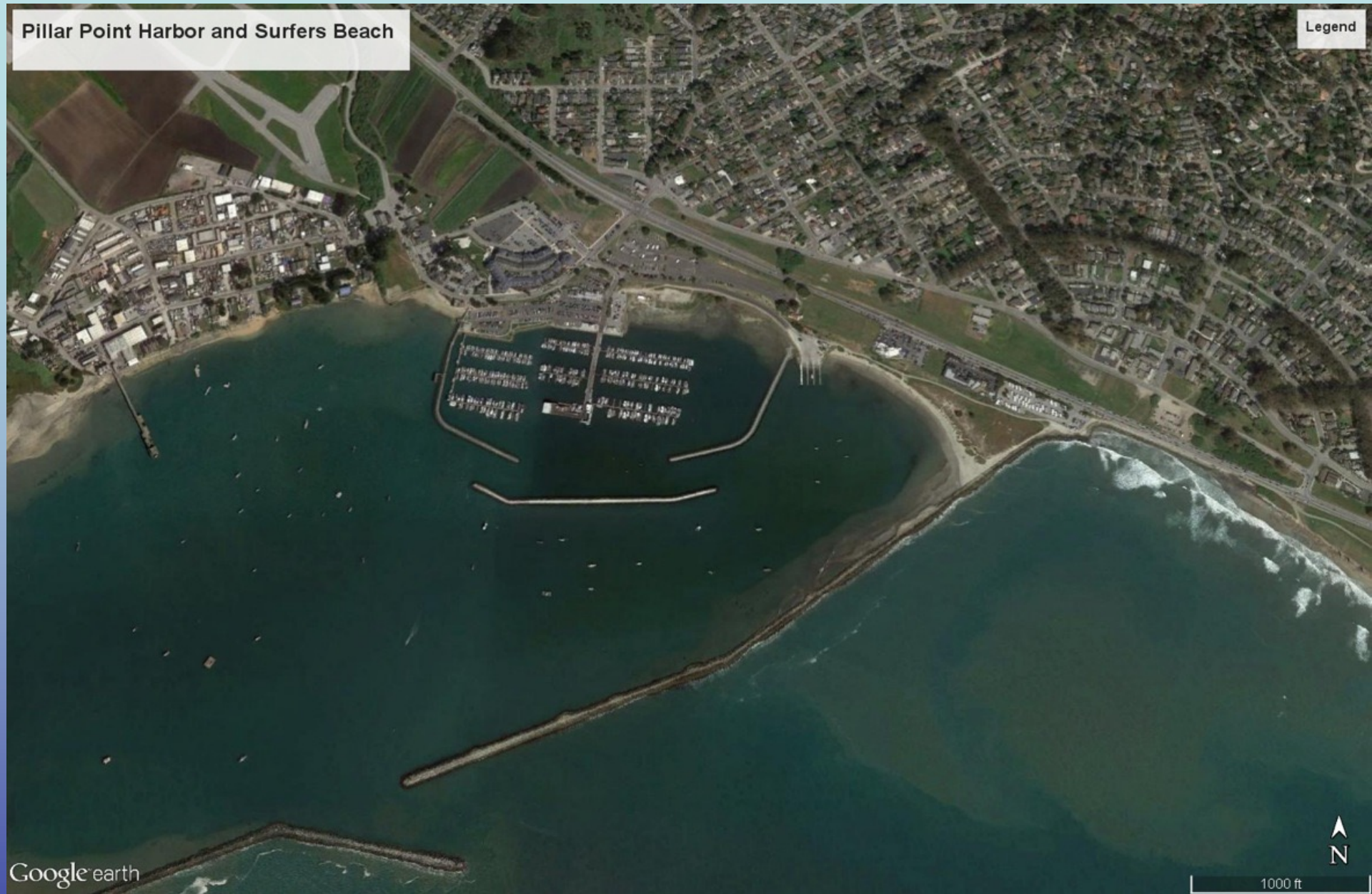
# *Surfers Beach Pilot Restoration Project & Eelgrass Mitigation Update*



**Brad Damitz, Consultant to San Mateo County Harbor District  
September 20, 2023, SMCHD Board of Harbor Commissioners Meeting**

Pillar Point Harbor and Surfers Beach

Legend



Google earth



1000 ft

# Existing Conditions at Surfers Beach



January 2023

# Existing Conditions Pillar Point Harbor



Low Tide, January 2021

# Project Overview

- The Project will remove sand from Pillar Point Harbor and place it at Surfers Beach, with the following anticipated outcomes:
  - Improve the navigation within the outer harbor,
  - Improve impaired public access,
  - Mitigate recreational impacts,
  - Mitigate damages from coastal storms,
  - Create new beach habitat and ecological benefits.

# Schedule & Next Steps

- Project on schedule to go out to bid in late fall/early winter timeframe and begin construction in late spring/early summer.
- Eelgrass mitigation and transplanting will occur before Surfers Beach sand placement.
- Permitting process is nearly finished and numerous studies, surveys, and information requests completed over past 2 years.
- Numerous tasks and surveys required prior to construction.

# Eelgrass Mitigation Updates

- Eelgrass mitigation is a required component of the Project.
- Eelgrass mitigation requires pre-construction survey then salvaging and transplanting of eelgrass all of which can only occur during “growing season”.
- Involves dredging of sediment near boat launch ramps and relocating/placing that material in PPH west basin. Then salvaging and transplanting from proposed Surfers Beach Project dredging areas.
- Significant changes in eelgrass inside PPH between 2019 and 2023.

# 2019 Eelgrass Survey



Completed in November 2019



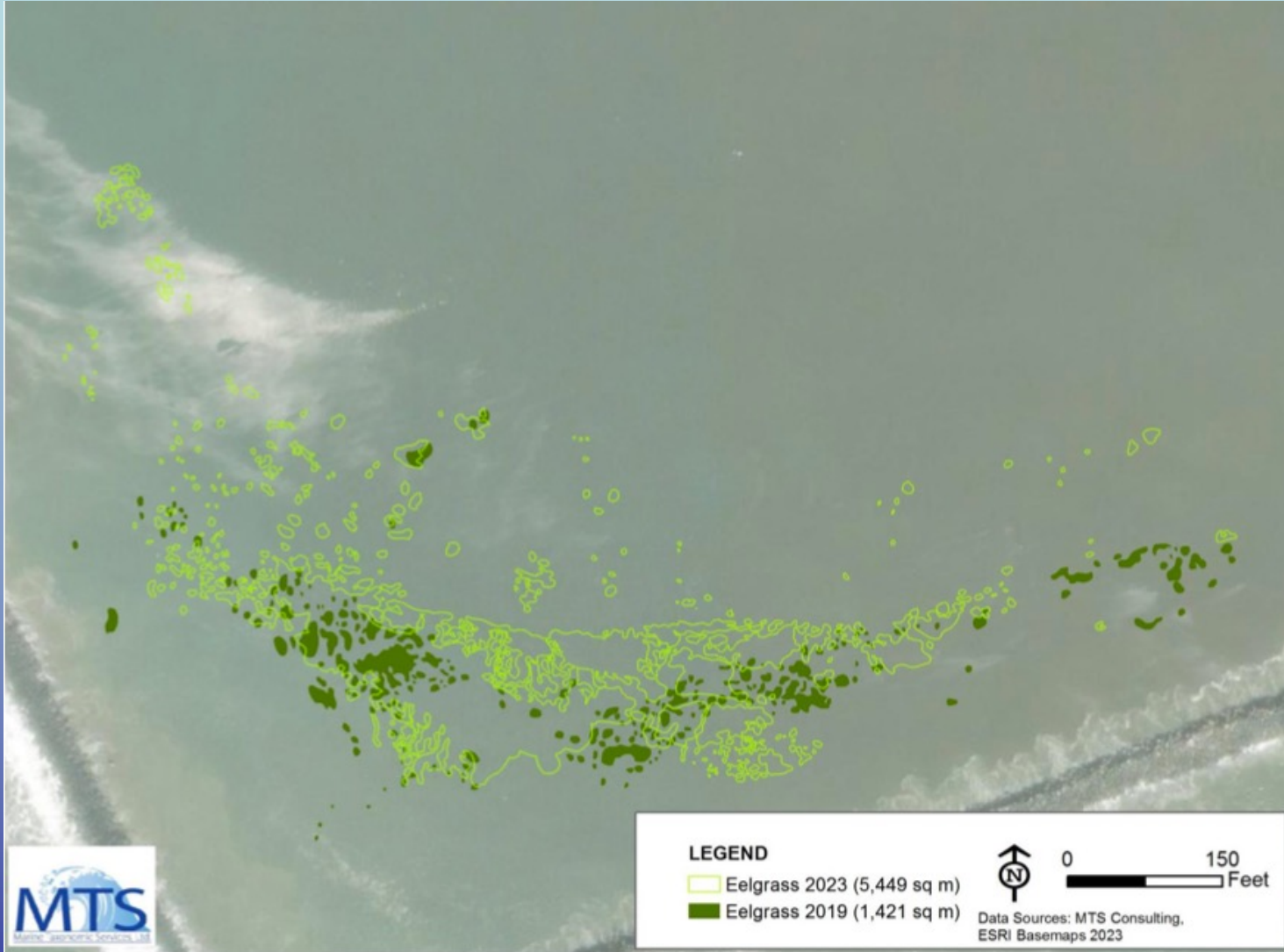
# May 2023 Eelgrass Survey

- Survey results show 1,360 square meters of eelgrass in the east basin and 5,449 square meters of eelgrass in the west basin
- This equates to a significant decrease in eelgrass in the proposed dredging areas but significant increase at the west basin mitigation area.



# May 2023 Eelgrass Survey

- Figure below shows changes in eelgrass bed extent in west basin.



# PPH Harbor-Wide Eelgrass Management and Mitigation Plan

MARINE TAXONOMIC SERVICES, LTD.

## Pillar Point Harbor-Wide Eelgrass Management and Mitigation Plan

July 27, 2020

**Prepared for:**

Brad Damitz  
Consultant to the Harbor District  
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P.O. Box 1449, El Granada, CA 94018

**Prepared By:**

Marine Taxonomic Services, Ltd.

**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA OFFICE**

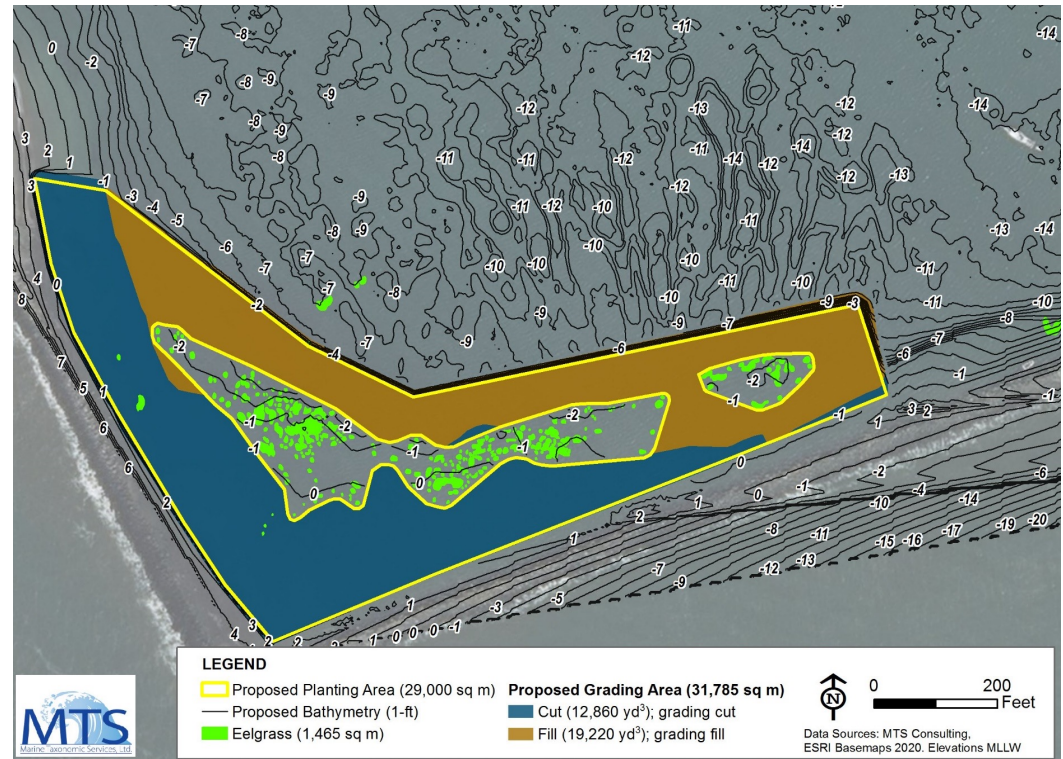
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Plan provides a long-term strategy for the District to establish and expand eelgrass beds in the harbor's west basin, in an area with fewer impacts from vessels and human use, and where future maintenance dredging is not required.

# Updates: Permitting & CEQA

- CEQA process completed in late 2022. The District prepared an Initial Study - Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS-MND), which determined that the Project would not likely result in significant negative impacts.
- Extensive permitting/approval process involving Army Corps, California Coastal Commission, Regional Water Quality Control Board, Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, Greater Farallones NMS, National Marine Fisheries Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service, County of San Mateo, and City of HMB.
- Permit applications were submitted in early 2022 after many years of agency coordination.

# Updates: Permitting

- Longer than anticipated permitting timeframe due to sensitive habitat and endangered species present in project area, and agency staffing limitations.
- Coastal Commission approved Project in September 2023. Other permits expected to be completed soon.
- Special status species of concern include: *Black Abalone*, *Steelhead*, *Coho Salmon*, *Green Sturgeon*, *Sunflower Seastar*.
- Eelgrass mitigation requirements were recently agreed upon by agencies.

# Updates: Engineering & Design

- Draft Final Plans are available online. Several updates were made to 30% plans, based on permitting agency feedback (plans pending updates to eelgrass mitigation design).
- Technical Specifications and Monitoring and Adaptive Management Plan nearly completed.
- Next steps: Update eelgrass mitigation design and finalize plans, specs and engineer's cost estimate.

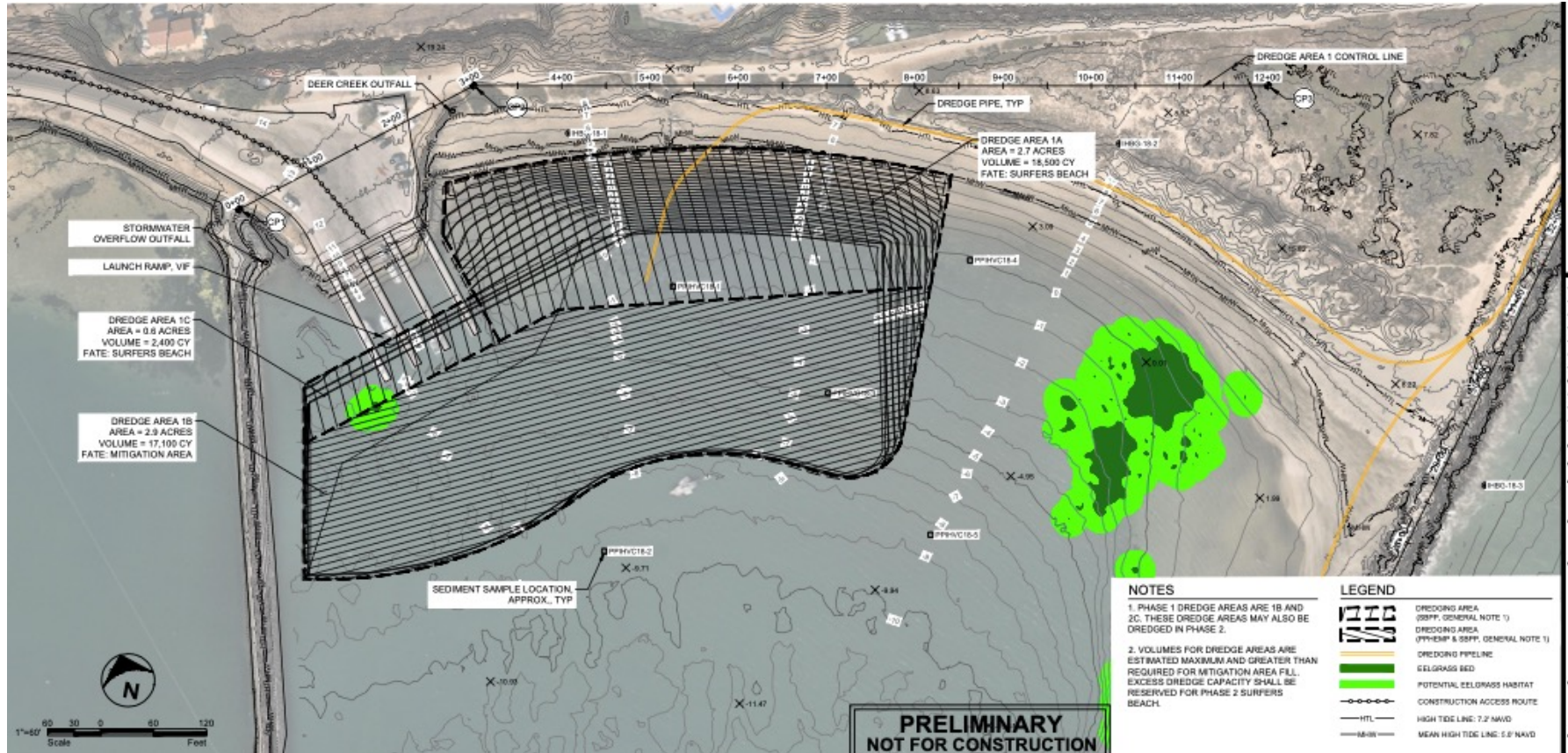
# Updates: Engineering & Design



FILE: P:\01 CAD\180631\180631\001 - Surfers Beach Pilot Project\W02 SITE PLAN.dwg PLOT DATE: 4/18/2023 12:11:04 PM PLOTTED BY: MARCO ACCORDINO

Site Plan – Showing dredge areas, eelgrass mitigation and beach placement.

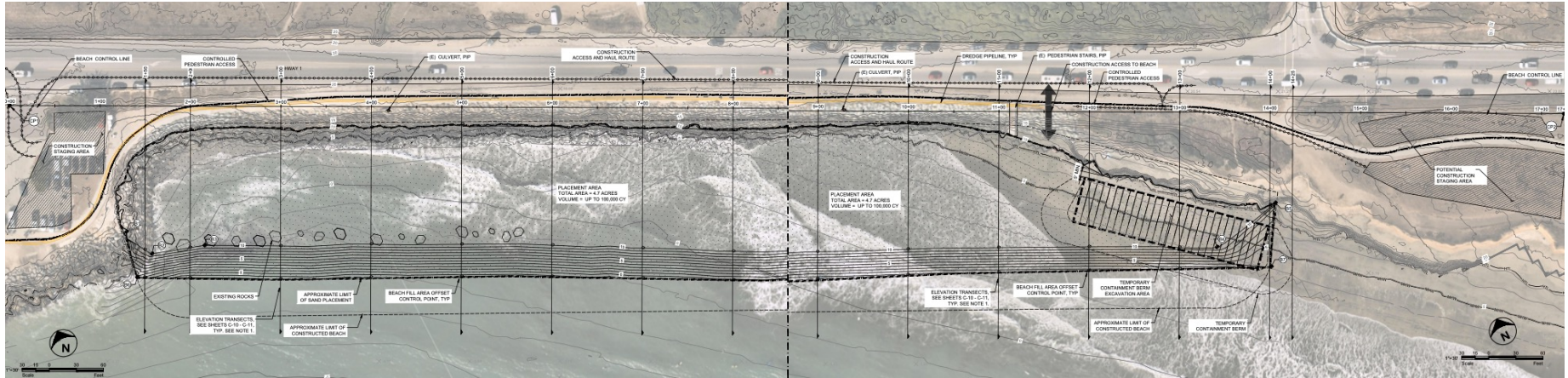
# Updates: Engineering & Design



Proposed Dredging Areas 1a – 1c

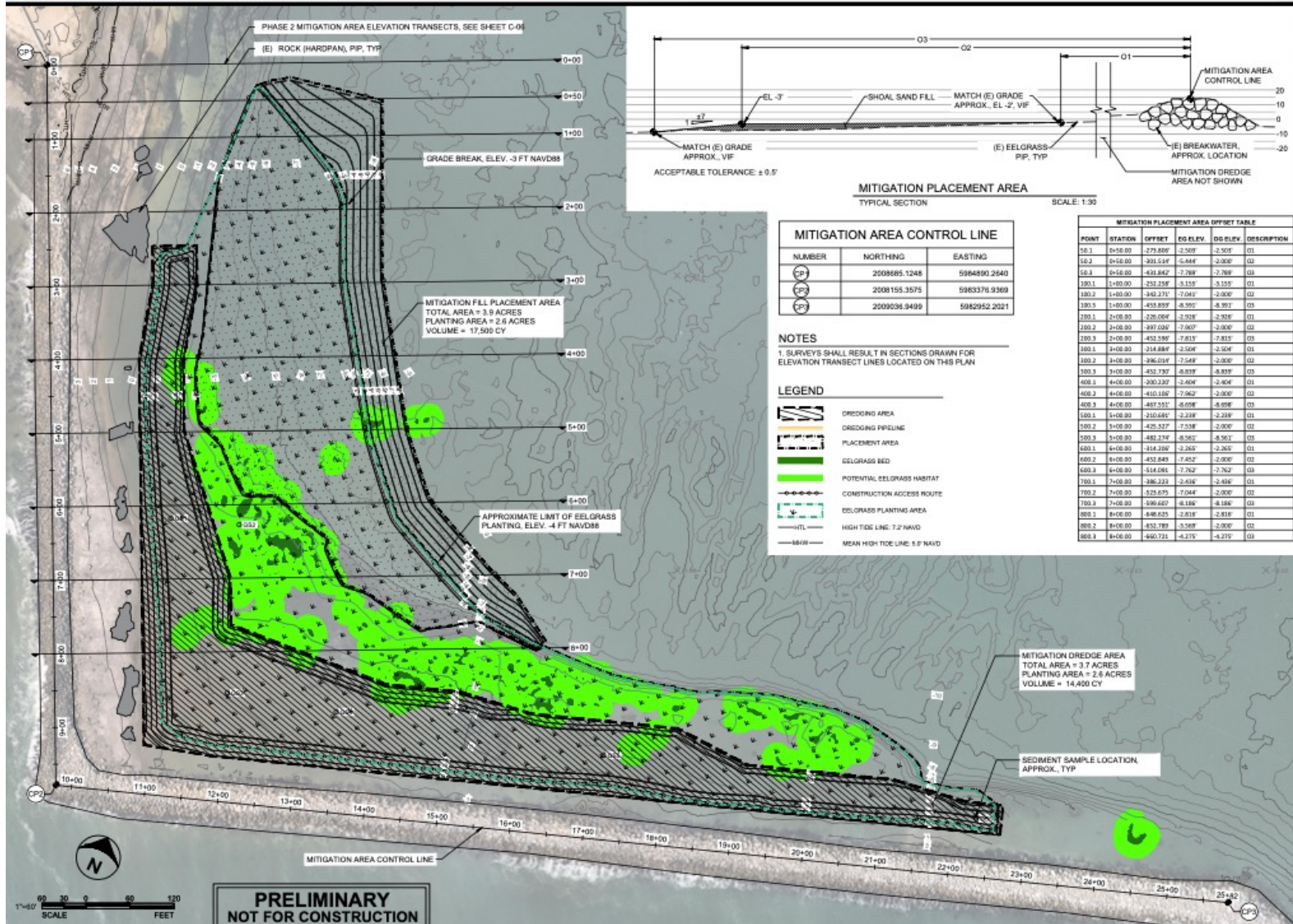


# Updates: Engineering & Design



Proposed Beach Placement Design

# Updates: Engineering & Design



Eelgrass Mitigation Plans

# Updates: Funding & Grants

- Project cost-estimate Project cost estimate at \$2.9 to \$3.6 million (plus ~ \$1.8 million for eelgrass restoration).
- District staff/consultants continue to seek funding assistance from granting agencies and partners.
- Grant funding has been approved by Cal Division of Boating and Waterways (\$800K), Ocean Protection Council (\$75K), and NOAA (\$125K) for project-related costs.
- Since 2020 District has applied for more than 10 grants for Surfers Beach Project.

# Next Steps – Prior to Construction

- Revise Eelgrass Mitigation Plan and Construction Plans.
- Finalize Technical Specification, Engineer's Cost Estimate, and Bid Documents.
- Complete Required Pre-construction Surveys (Spring 2024):
  - eelgrass
  - black abalone
  - PPH bathymetry survey
  - Plant Surveys
  - Snowy Plovers
  - Nesting Birds

# Next Steps – Prior to Construction

- Prepare and Release eelgrass mitigation RFP
- Coordinate with Project Partners on Construction Logistics
- Finalize Monitoring and Adaptive Management Plan.
- Finalize Biological Monitoring Program
- Develop Collaborative Surfing Conditions Monitoring Program
- Approve Contracts for Construction contractor, Construction Phase Project Management, Biological and Physical Monitoring, Construction Management, Permitting and Environmental Compliance.
- Coordination with Contractor on Construction Logistics
- Coordination with permitting agencies.