

# draft

## ocean beach master plan



with AECOM | ESA PWA | Nelson\Nygaard | Sherwood Design Engineers | Phil G. King Ph.D.



*“it is nice to have such a remote wild-feeling place near the city”*

*workshop 1 participant*

# contents

## **I executive summary**

seven focus areas

six big moves

next steps

## **II introduction**

about ocean beach

about this project

about this document

## **III project goal + aspirations**

overall goal statement

focus areas

project aspirations

## **IV understanding ocean beach: 7 focus areas**

focus area 1 : ecology

focus area 2 : utility infrastructure

focus area 3 : coastal dynamics

focus area 4 : image + character

focus area 5 : program + activities

focus area 6 : access + connectivity

focus area 7 : management + stewardship

## **V test scenarios**

definitions + ingredients

maximum habitat scenario

maximum recreation scenario

maximum green infrastructure scenario

maximum infrastructure scenario

evaluation

## **VI master plan recommendations**

key move 1

key move 2

key move 3

key move 4

key move 5

key move 6

## **VII master plan implementation strategy**

## **VIII evaluations + cost/benefit analysis**

## **IX outreach process**

## **X glossary + sources**

## **appendix**

technical memoranda



# project team

**SPUR** San Francisco Planning and Urban Research Association  
Project Manager/Lead

**AECOM**  
Landscape Architecture, Environmental Planning

**ESA/PWA**  
Coastal Engineering

**Sherwood Design Engineers**  
Civil Engineering and Infrastructure

**Nelson/Nygaard**  
Transportation Planning

**Phil G. King PhD**  
Cost | Benefit Analysis



# acknowledgements

## steering committee

**Ed Harrington**, General Manager, San Francisco Public Utilities Commission

**Mohammed Nuru**, Director, Department of Public Works

**Phil Ginsburg**, General Manager, Recreation and Park Department

**Carmen Chu**, San Francisco Supervisor, District 4

**Eric Mar**, San Francisco Supervisor, District 1

**John Rahaim**, Director, Planning Department

**Lara Truppelli**, Chair, Ocean Beach Planning Advisory Committee

**Tanya Peterson**, Executive Director and President, San Francisco Zoological Society

**Frank Dean**, General Superintendent, Golden Gate National Recreation Area

**Gabriel Metcalf**, Executive Director, SPUR (FACILITATOR)



## planning advisory committee (pac)

**Lara Truppelli**, CHAIR, SAND/OB, Beach Chalet

**Amy Meyer**, HONORARY CO-CHAIR,  
People for a Golden Gate National Recreation Area

**Renee Ananda**, California Coastal Commission

**Brian Aviles**, Golden Gate National Recreation Area

**Dan Bernal**, Office of Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi

**Lisa Beyer**, SF Department of Recreation and Parks

**John Billovits**, SF Planning Department

**Cammy Blackstone**, Office of Supervisor Carmen Chu

**Greg Braswell**, San Francisco Department of Public Works

**Julie Burns**, Planning Association of the Richmond

**Kevin Conger**, CMG Landscape Architecture

**Caleb Conn**, US Army Corps of Engineers

**Alex Doniach**, Office of Senator Leland Yee

**Marc Duffet**, SPEAK

**Lesley Ewing**, California Coastal Commission

**Frank V. Filice**, San Francisco Department of Public Works

**Radhika Fox**, SF Public Utilities Commission

**John Frykman**, Coalition to Save Ocean Beach

**Jonathan Gast**, Rep. Jackie Speier

**Leslie Ewing**, California Coastal Commission

**Freddy Hahne**, Black Rock Arts Foundation

**Kit Hodge**, Great Streets Collaborative

**Katherine Howard**, Golden Gate Park Preservation Alliance

**Chris Ker**, San Francisco Planning Department

**Dean LaTourrette**, Save the Waves Coalition

**Karen Mauney-Brodek**, San Francisco Department of  
Recreation and Parks

**Bill McLaughlin**, Surfrider Foundation

**Erin Miller**, AICP, SF Municipal Transportation Agency

**Dick Morten**, SF Parks Alliance

**Dan Murphy**, Golden Gate Audubon Society

**Doug Overman**, Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy

**Ruby Pap**, California Coastal Commission

**Wayne Reading**, San Francisco Zoological Society

**Ashley Summers**, Assemblywoman Fiona Ma

**Andy Thornley**, San Francisco Bicycle Coalition

**Bob Twomey**, California State Assembly

**Katie Westfall**, Save the Waves Coalition

**George Woodin**, West of Twin Peaks Central Council

## technical advisors

**Johanna Partin**, Office of Mayor Edwin Lee

**Steve Ortega**, Golden Gate National Recreation Area

**Chris Kern**, SF Planning Department

**Lesley Ewing**, California Coastal Commission

**Peter Mull**, US Army Corps of Engineers

**John Dingler**, US Army Corps of Engineers

**Patrick Barnard**, USGS

**Marla Jurosek**, SFPUC

**Dilip Trivedi**, Moffatt & Nichol

**Laura Tam**, SPUR

**Petra Unger**, AECOM





# executive summary

## chapter

This document presents recommendations for the management and protection of San Francisco's Ocean Beach, 3.5 miles of beach and rugged coastline that is a National Park, a popular urban open space, the site a major infrastructure complex, and a beloved San Francisco landscape. This process, lays out a wide range of complex challenges and charts a course for a more sustainable future in the context of complex jurisdictional challenges, severe erosion, a diverse population of beach users and points of view, and the looming challenge of climate-induced sea level rise. It is the result of a robust public process, in which a wide range of stakeholders and the public participated over an 18-month period. Several earlier efforts brought attention to the ongoing issues at Ocean Beach. This document is intended to translate that energy into implementable actions by the responsible agencies.

# executive summary

## seven focus areas

The complex issues facing Ocean Beach are addressed through seven Focus Areas, each of which is described in some detail. In summary, they are as follows:

### 1. ecology

Ocean Beach is a National Park and supports important natural resources, including two threatened birds. Its non-native dunes have restoration potential.

### 2. utility infrastructure

A major complex of wastewater infrastructure is located at Ocean Beach, and protects coastal water quality. Large stormwater/wastewater transport structures are under the great highway and subject to erosion hazards.

### 3. coastal dynamics

Ocean Beach is the visible portion of a much larger coastal sediment system. Erosion problems will worsen with climate-related sea level rise, and will need to be managed through a variety of approaches.

### 4. image and character

Ocean Beach has a wild, rugged character and a unique culture and history. Improvements should retain and draw upon these qualities.

### 5. program and uses

Ocean Beach is used in a variety of ways, from bird-watching to surfing to dog-walking, that can come into conflict, and should be managed to benefit everyone.

### 6. access and connectivity

Ocean Beach links a wealth of open spaces and is transit-rich, but key gaps and some problematic street configurations could be improved to welcome all users, especially bikes and pedestrians.

### 7. management and stewardship

Though visitors experience a single place, a host of different Federal, State and local agencies are responsible for different aspects of Ocean Beach, without a common vision.



# overall project goal

*“To knit the unique assets and experiences of Ocean Beach into a seamless and welcoming public landscape, planning for environmental conservation, sustainable infrastructure and long-term stewardship”*

# executive summary



## test scenarios

The Ocean beach Master Plan team developed four Test Scenarios, to model the outcomes of very different approaches to managing Ocean Beach through 2100. These Test Scenarios organized technical analysis and tested a wide variety of ideas from stakeholders and the public. Test Scenarios are not proposals or alternatives. They were as follows:

- A. Maximum Habitat
- B. Maximum Recreation
- C. Maximum Green Infrastructure
- D. Maximum Infrastructure

## evaluation criteria

Evaluation criteria were developed in consultation with OBMP Planning Advisory Committee to evaluate outcomes of Test Scenarios and Plan Recommendations.



master plan aerial view

# executive summary

## plan recommendations: six key moves

These six “Key Moves” outline the Ocean Beach Master Plan’s major recommendations. Each includes many individual recommendations, more than forty in all. They are organized by three geographical reaches as indicated, and will be implemented incrementally over a period of decades.

### assumptions

- Analysis to 2100 horizon
- Recommendations to 2050
- Ongoing monitoring + adaptive management
- Re-evaluation in 2030

south reach: south of sloat boulevard

### key move 1 reroute great highway behind the zoo via sloat and skyline

- Close the Great Highway South of Sloat Boulevard, replace with a coastal trail
- Reconfigure Sloat Boulevard and key intersections to create a safer, more efficient street
- Consolidate street parking, the L-Taraval terminus, and bicycle access along the south side of Sloat
- Reconfigure Zoo’s parking lot for access via Skyline and Zoo road

### key move 2 introduce a multi-purpose coastal protection/restoration/access system

- Incrementally dismantle the Great Highway and parking lots, allow erosion to proceed inland
- Protect the Lake Merced Tunnel in place with a gradient of elements
- A low-profile hard structure, covered with...
- A dynamic revetment, or cobble berm, covered with...
- Placed sand
- Allow storm surges to wash over the Tunnel and dissipate toward higher ground
- Restore and revegetate the surface to allow recreational and ecological functions



middle reach: lincoln- sloat

### key move 3

reduce the width of great highway to provide amenities / managed retreat

- Narrow the Great Highway from 4 lanes to 2 South of Lincoln
- Use the current Southbound lanes for parking pockets, restrooms, signage etc
- Introduce a multi-use promenade west of the road
- Between amenities, allow dunes to migrate inland over the road and transport box

### key move 4

middle reach beach dune restoration

- Sand nourishment via Army Corps of Engineers along southern end of Middle Reach
- Phased native dune restoration in key locations: especially at Lincoln, Vicente
- Sand ladders and modular boardwalks provide access while limiting impact

north reach: lincoln to 48th avenue

### key move 5

better connection between golden gate park & beach

- Tighten and reconfigure O'Shaughnessy Seawall parking lot to improve pedestrian conditions, bike access and traffic circulation
- Introduce permeable paving, amenities, and appropriate vegetation to create a more welcoming, attractive space
- Retain events capacity and historic character

### key move 6

bicycle + pedestrian improvements north of balboa

- Narrow Great Highway and Point Lobos Avenue ( from 4 to 2 lanes)
- Introduce physically separated bikeway with connections to Land's End and beyond

## implementation actions

SPUR has received additional funding from the State Coastal Conservancy and matching agencies to pursue implementation of Plan recommendations through the following projects:

1. Ongoing Implementation Leadership and Coordination
2. Circulation and Access Study
3. Joint Coastal Management Framework
4. Joint Open Space Management Plan



ocean beach  
master plan







MIDDLE REACH

NORTH REACH

golden gate park

master plan illustrative

scale 1" = 750'

