

Frequently Asked Questions II
about the
RCD Proposal to Dredge Butano Creek Channel
March 13, 2017

If NOAA funding is not awarded, what happens to proposed project? Will State Parks/RCD apply for other grants with the same project as designed, or do different designs/proposals for different grants?
These designs were expedited to take advantage of a unique funding opportunity. If we do not receive this funding, we may seek other funding. The design is unlikely to change because of a particular grant program, but could change based on the community and agency input in the coming months.

How much money is needed to implement the proposed design?

The phase of the project included in the grant is anticipated to cost about \$2.6 million. Designs are only conceptual at this point and permit requirements are still not finalized, so the total amount may change. Detailed budget information is online at:

http://www.sanmateorcd.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/ButanoChannel_BudgetNarrativeFinal.pdf

What happens between now (grant submittal) and October (grant awards announced)? Will any work (design or actual dredging) take place while awaiting NOAA results?

We are seeking funding to finalize designs with community input. The RCD will not be dredging while awaiting NOAA results, but cannot speak for any other entity.

The concepts in the application are 30% designs. How does the remaining 70% of design work happen? Is there opportunity for public input on that part?

The work that has been done so far is to develop a concept, i.e. 30% designs. Between now and August, we will need to solicit stakeholder input, incorporate new topographic data, and complete a 2D model to progress designs to 60% completion.

What is the clear timeline from March 2017 until project completion?

The proposed timeline is:

- March 2017: 30% designs, draft sediment disposal plans, draft construction sequence and preliminary permit strategy vetted with state and federal agencies.
- August 2017: 60% designs incorporating stakeholder input, new topographic data, 2D model.
- October 2017: Funding contract if awarded.
- November 2017: Begin drafting and submitting permit applications.
- February 2018: 90% designs completed.
- May/June 2018: 100% designs and permits in hand.
- June 2018: Release bid package for construction.
- August/September 2018: Project implementation.

For more detailed information about the scope of work and timeline, review grant proposal materials at: <http://www.sanmateorcd.org/project/pescadero-integrated/>

Why was the design process rushed without opportunity for community to know what was going on?

The RCD spoke at PMAC meetings and at the January 18th bridge feasibility meeting about the Coastal Conservancy funding to design a dredge, and included it in written handouts about current work in Pescadero. It was also published in the Half Moon Bay Review. We heard loud and clear at the January

18th meeting that community members wanted the marsh to be dredged as soon as possible and were frustrated with any delays. The next week, NOAA alerted the RCD to this grant possibility as an ideal fit for the dredge project. This would involve a tremendous amount of work on a very short timeline. The next time the grant would be available would be in a year, and we were not certain the grant program would still exist (in fact, the White House just announced cutting next year's funding). It was not feasible to hold a public stakeholder process and still submit the grant by the deadline. Nonetheless, the RCD sent information out as it became available, e.g. sending out the conceptual designs within hours of receiving them from the engineer.

The grant application is for conceptual designs only. Stakeholder input over the spring and summer will be essential to complete 60% project designs. Changes that fundamentally alter the goals and objectives of the project are unlikely to be funded by NOAA, but we are not committed to accept the funding if the proposed project isn't a good fit for stakeholders.

Submitting the application enabled the possibility of getting grant funds that otherwise might not happen for years. The RCD, State Parks, and the community are not committed to accepting the funds if they are awarded. We did, however, make it possible in a very short amount of time to bring federal money to dredge Pescadero marsh, and secured significant agency support for a dredge project.

Does the proposed project need CEQA / EIR process?

Based on our consultations with permitting agencies, it is our understanding that the project as it is currently designed will require CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act) review and analysis as a Mitigated Negative Declaration, not an EIR (Environmental Impact Report). More detailed information about permitting can be found on page 7 of the grant project narrative at:

http://www.sanmateorcd.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/ButanoChannel_ProjectSummaryNarrativeDataManagement.pdf

Is there a master plan for restoring the marsh to its pre-1998 (before the recurring flooding started) condition?

No master plan exists yet. Resource agencies, RCD staff, and community members have expressed significant interest in moving forward with restoration of the marsh and lagoon but many did not want the development of a master plan to delay dredging the channel. Much of the research and analysis that is currently underway is being conducted towards the goal of developing a marsh restoration plan.