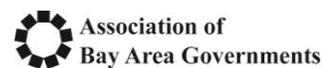




San Francisco Bay Area Water Trail
 Site Description for
Downtown Suisun City



Location, Ownership, and Management: The Suisun City Marina has a 300-foot guest dock located in downtown Suisun City in the waterfront district. The City of Suisun City owns and manages the marina and guest dock. Suisun Channel and the sloughs surrounding the dock are popular for fishing, bird-watching, and pleasure boating. Around the downtown area visitors can enjoy the historic waterfront district and its restaurants, bars, shops, a theatre, and hotel.

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Guest dock and gangway	Loading zone	Guest dock looking east

Facility Description: The Suisun City Marina has a guest dock and gangway located in downtown Suisun City, approximately half a mile from the boat ramp. Parking is available in a large, free parking lot (North Basin parking lot) and on the street, and restrooms can be found within the downtown area, but not immediately adjacent to the dock. There is a loading/unloading area and a small park nearby, but facilities serving the dock are minimal.

Other Identifying or General Information:

Site ID: <u>So14</u> In WT Plan: <u>No</u> Existing or Planned: <u>Existing</u> Ownership: <u>Public</u> County: <u>Solano</u> Geo-Region: <u>Suisun/Delta</u> SF Bay Plan Region: <u>Suisun Bay-Marsh</u> Launch or Destination: <u>Launch</u>	Home of a Club: <u>No</u> Used by a Program that Assists Persons with Disabilities: <u>No</u> Appreciated for Windy Conditions: <u>No</u> Near Food or Drink: <u>Yes</u> Proximity to Other Sites: <u>Suisun City Marina (the launch ramp) is located half a mile away.</u>
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Description of Launch/Landing:

Fixed Dock/Pier Launch/Landing: <u>No</u> Float: <u>Yes</u> Freeboard Level: <u>High (9" and above)</u> Transfer/Launch Assistance System: <u>No</u> Gangway: <u>Yes</u> Gangway Length (feet): 120 Gangway Width (inches): 60 Gangway Slope Description: <u>Slope is gradual with several resting platforms</u> Boat/Trailer Ramp: <u>No</u> Mudflats Affect Site Usability: <u>No</u> Beach Wheelchair Available: <u>No</u>	Stair Water Entry: <u>No</u> Beach: <u>No</u> Firm-Surface Beach Crossing: <u>No</u> Fee for Launch or Parking: <u>No</u> Restrictions: <u>Dock is open 24/7. Inquire with the harbormaster about docking boats overnight.</u> Water Entry Path: <u>No</u>
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Site Appears to be Suitable For:

Kayak: <u>Yes</u> Windsurfer: <u>No</u> Kiteboard: <u>No</u> Whaleboat: <u>Yes, as destination</u> Stand Up Paddleboard: <u>Yes</u>	Canoe: <u>Yes</u> Outrigger Canoe: <u>Yes, as destination</u> Sculling: <u>No</u> Rowboat/Dinghy: <u>Yes, as destination</u> Dragonboat: <u>No</u> Other: <u>No</u>
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Notes: Some boat types could initiate trips from this site; others would need to treat the site as a "destination" where they could arrive, tie up, and later launch again from the water.

Transportation and Parking:

<p>General Spaces (number): <u>Parking lot (at least 50-75) and street parking (3 spaces in loading zone)</u></p> <p>Designated Accessible Parking Spaces (number): <u>At least 3 in parking lot.</u></p> <p>Designated Accessible Parking Description: <u>Multiple spaces in the very large, free parking lot.</u></p> <p>Duration (hours): <u>Downtown "North Basin" parking lot has a 72-hour limit (time limit is not posted). Street parking is limited to 2 hours or less.</u></p> <p>Overnight Parking Possibly Allowed: <u>Yes. Check with City for details.</u></p> <p>Loading/Unloading Area: <u>Yes, although it is 200 feet from the gangway</u></p>	<p>Bay Trail: <u>No</u></p> <p>Public Transportation: Amtrak is located nearby (Suisun City stop). FAST's Bus Route 5 stops downtown near the dock. Downtown Suisun is also serviced by the Greyhound Station.</p>
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Path of Travel:

<p>Distance to Launch from Unloading Area (feet): 200</p> <p>Distance to Launch from Designated Accessible Parking (feet): 415 (based on Google Earth)</p> <p>Distance to Launch from Accessible Restrooms (feet): N/A</p> <p>Distance from Accessible Restrooms to Designated Accessible Parking (feet): N/A</p> <p>Path of Travel Exists: <u>Yes</u></p> <p>Path of Travel Description: From the unloading zone there is a paved, level path, separated from traffic, to reach the gangway. The path of travel from the North Basin parking lot is longer, but it is also paved and separated from traffic.</p>

Other Site Amenities:

Total Restrooms: 0 associated with the dock Restroom Description: <u>Public restrooms can be found in the downtown area, or within local businesses.</u> Boat Washing: <u>No</u> Rigging/Staging Area: <u>No</u> Picnic Tables: <u>No</u> Benches: <u>Yes</u>	BBQ: <u>No</u> Boat Storage: <u>No</u>
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Overnight Accommodations:

Hotel: <u>Yes</u>	Hostel: <u>No</u>	Ship: <u>No</u>	Camping: <u>No</u>	Other: <u>No</u>
Accommodations Description: Hampton Inn and Suites				

Additional Notes Related to Accessibility:

Gangway is accessible. Dock has high freeboard.

Additional Notes on Use of Site (Boating and Non-Boating) and Existing and Planned Management:

The guest dock and surrounding channels are used by both motorized and non-motorized boaters. Motorized uses also include jet-skiing and waterskiing. The marina and to ¼ mile south of the boat ramp is a “no wake zone” area with a speed limit of no more than five miles per hour. The Suisun Channel is dredged. No swimming, bathing, or wading is allowed.

Safety and Security, including Parking:

People are not allowed to loiter in any city park (there is one surrounding the downtown launch area) between 7pm and 7am from 11/1 – 3/31; and 9pm to 7am from 4/1 – 10/31.

Wildlife and Habitat Considerations:

Suisun marsh is one of the last large fragments of a relatively intact prehistoric tidal marsh. Salt marsh harvest mice and black rail are found throughout the marsh. California clapper rails have been detected near Rush Ranch. A heronry exists within four miles of the launch site. There are also endangered and rare plant species found in the area, including the Suisun thistle and soft bird’s beak. Rafting waterfowl may be present.

The Water Trail educational sign directs users not to land in marshes and to keep buffer distances from sensitive species.

Education, Outreach, and Stewardship, Including Signage:

The Suisun Wildlife Center, a wildlife rescue, rehabilitation, and education center, is located at 1171 Kellogg St. (open from 9 – 6 p.m. daily, 707-429-4295), about a fifteen-minute walk from the launch.

Other Existing or Anticipated Water Trail-Related Issues and Opportunities:

The Hampton Inn and Suites is located nearby and may be a good candidate for a Water Trail-related partnership for overnight accommodations for paddlers.

**Summary of Environmental Review
based on the
San Francisco Bay Area Water Trail Plan Final Environmental Impact Report**

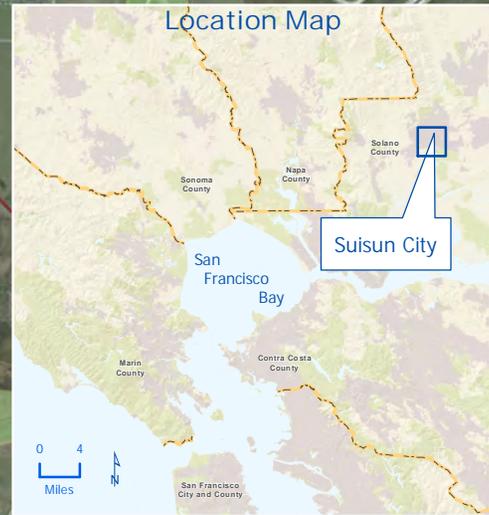
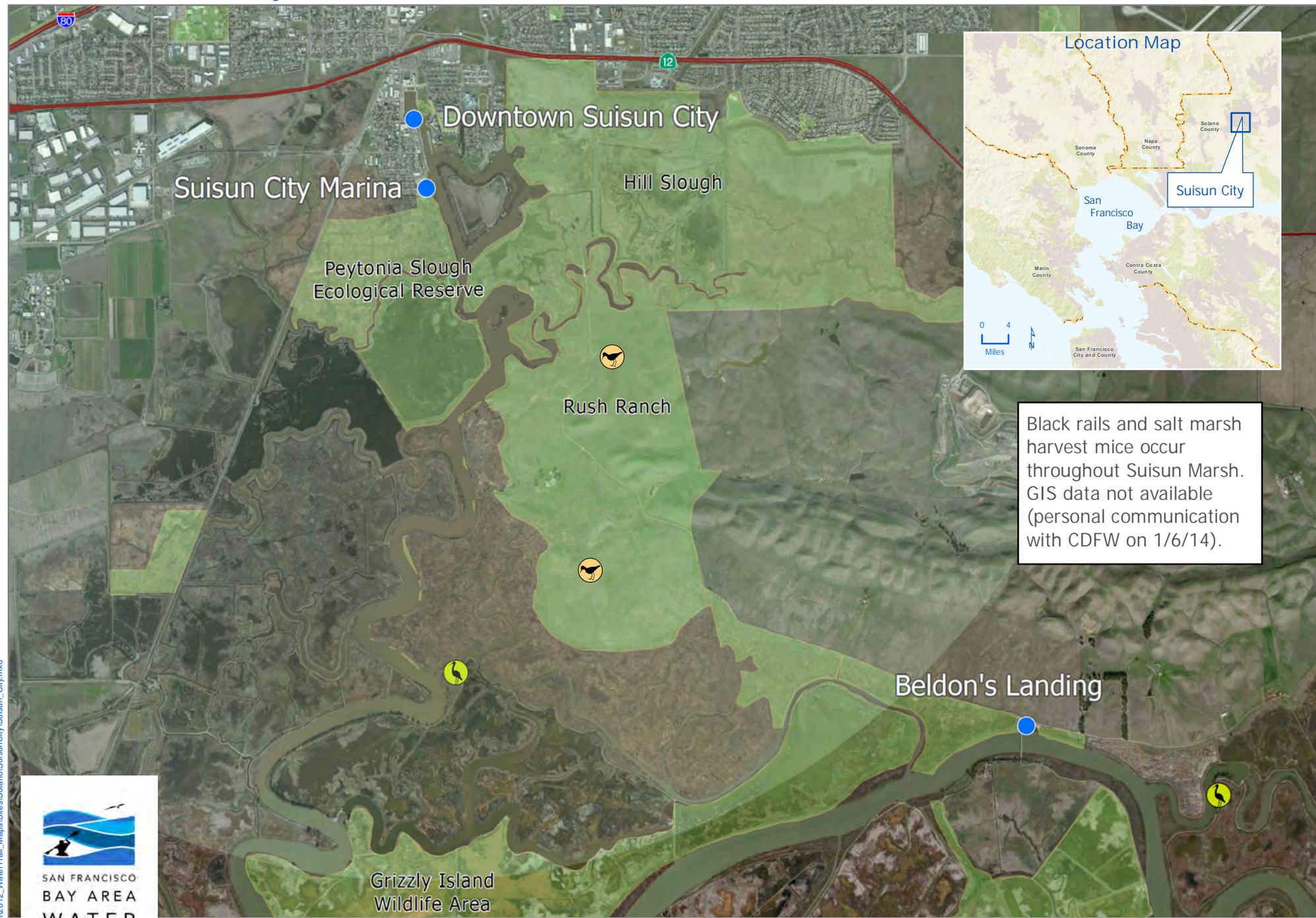
**Suisun City Marina and Downtown Suisun City
March 7, 2014**

Resource Area	Impacts Analysis	Notes
<p>Recreation References: WT DREIR, pp. 3-32 to 3-37.</p>	<p>Suisun City Marina has two boat ramps (one for launching and one for landing) which can accommodate heavy use.</p> <p>Downtown Suisun City has a 300-foot dock which can accommodate multiple users.</p> <p>There is no hunting within four miles of these sites.</p>	<p>Water Trail users may submit comments to Water Trail staff through the website if they witness or experience recreational conflict at any designated site. The Water Trail educational sign includes warnings about seasonal hunting in the Bay (Oct – Jan) and includes the State Fish and Wildlife website for specific information.</p>
<p>Navigational and Personal Safety References: WT DREIR pp. 3-38 to 3-51, and Figures 3.4.2-1 and 3.4.2-2.</p>	<p>Both sites are popular with motorized boaters. Small boat users should be aware of tides and currents and how to navigate near other vessels.</p>	<p>The Water Trail educational sign provides safety information related to navigational and personal boating safety.</p>
<p>Aesthetics References: WT DREIR pp. 3-56 to 3-68.</p>	<p>The marina has sign boards with safety, payment, and regulatory messages.</p> <p>Downtown Suisun City is a built environment.</p>	<p>The Water Trail will require the inclusion of Water Trail signs at the sites. A “sign program” will be developed with Suisun City to ensure that the I.D. signs and educational signs do not result in sign clutter at the sites.</p>

Resource Area	Impacts Analysis	Notes
<p>Biology- Vegetation References: WT DREIR pp. 3-69 to 3-92 and Table 3.7.2-1 and Table 3.7.2-2.</p>	<p>There is marsh habitat surrounding both launches, and boaters could explore the Suisun Channel and the sloughs surrounding it. Endangered and rare plant species such as Suisun thistle and soft bird's beak are found in the area.</p>	<p>Preventing the inadvertent spread of exotic, invasive plant species is important at all launch sites. The WT educational sign and website ask WT users to help prevent the spread of invasive species by rinsing boats and equipment immediately after use and by not landing in marshes or on levees.</p>
<p>Biology – Birds <i>References: WT FEIR text and map</i></p>	<p>There is currently one active heron or egret rookery located within four miles of the sites.</p>	<p>The WT educational sign includes information about how to paddle responsibly around wildlife and to maintain a buffer distance from nesting herons and egrets. The WT website and brochure include more detailed information about not disturbing nesting birds.</p>
<p>Biology – Rafting Waterfowl References: WT DREIR pp. 3-93 to 3-131 and Table 3.8.2-1, Figure 3.8.2-1.</p>	<p>This site provides access to areas where rafting waterfowl may congregate.</p>	<p>Avoiding disturbance of rafting waterfowl is addressed in the Water Trail educational sign, brochure, and website.</p>
<p>Biology – California clapper rail and California black rail and high tide refugia References: WT DREIR pp. 3-93 to 3-131 and Figure 3.8.2-2 Personal Communication with CDFW</p>	<p>Black rail are present throughout Suisun Marsh. California clapper rail have been detected near Rush Ranch. Marsh habitat surrounds the launch site.</p>	<p>Signage is needed to emphasize the importance of keeping a 50-foot buffer from rail habitat (not entering channels less than 100-feet wide), of staying clear of high-tide refugia, and that landing in marshes and on levees is prohibited. The Water Trail educational sign, brochure, and website include this information.</p>

Resource Area	Impacts Analysis	Notes
<p>Biology –Western Snowy Plover and California Least Tern References: WT DREIR pp. 3-93 to 3-131 and Figures 3.8.2-3, Personal Communication with CDFW</p>	<p>Not a concern for this location.</p>	
<p>Biology – Northwestern Pond Turtles: References Water Trail DREIR, Personal Communication with CDFW</p>	<p>Northwestern pond turtles are present in the area, but generally found in freshwater ponds, not in the sloughs. There is little woody debris where the turtles would bask in the sloughs.</p>	
<p>Biology – Harbor Seals References: WT DREIR pp. 3-132 to 3-156, Figure 3.9.2-1, and Tables 3.9.2-1, 3.9.2-2, 3.9.5-1, and 3.9.5-2</p>	<p>There are no primary or secondary harbor seal haul-out sites within four miles of these sites.</p>	<p>The WT educational sign, brochure, and website all advise boaters not to land at haul-out sites and to always stay at least 330’ away from hauled-out harbor seals and at least 500’ away from March to July when seals are pupping.</p>
<p>Biology – Other Species References: WT DREIR pp. 3-132 to 3-156 San Francisco Estuary Institute Salt Marsh Harvest Mouse Data</p>	<p>Salt marsh harvest mouse are found throughout Suisun Marsh. Marsh habitat surrounds the launch site.</p>	<p>Boaters are advised through the WT brochure and website to not disembark in any undesignated areas or trample sensitive habitats, including marshes. The WT educational sign emphasizes that boaters should not land in marshes or on levees.</p>
<p>Cultural Resources</p>	<p>No WT-related construction is planned at this time. NMSB users are not allowed to land in adjacent wetland habitat, potentially disturbing cultural artifacts.</p>	<p>The WT website includes information about avoiding disturbance to cultural artifacts.</p>
<p>Hydrology</p>	<p>No WT-related construction is planned at this time.</p>	

Resource Area	Impacts Analysis	Notes
Transportation, Circulation, and Parking	The marina has a large parking lot that can accommodate users with trailers. Street parking and parking lots are found in the downtown area and there is a loading zone to drop off and pick up gear.	Increased use by non-motorized small boat users is not expected to be great enough to overwhelm parking.



Black rails and salt marsh harvest mice occur throughout Suisun Marsh. GIS data not available (personal communication with CDFW on 1/6/14).



Suisun City
(Downtown and Marina)

- Potential Water Trail Site
- 4 Mile Buffer (from Suisun City Marina)
- CA clapper rail
- Active Heronry

CA Clapper rail generalized from personal communication with CDFW on 1/6/14). Heronry data from Audubon Canyon Ranch 6/12.



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