

APPENDIX 10.A

DEFINITIONS FOR SHORELINE ACCESS ASSESSMENT CRITERIA USED IN TABLE 10.1 TRAILS

Each trailhead from which a trail leads to a shoreline destination is included in this assessment. Shoreline destinations with only one trailhead are evaluated as a unit. However, trails are assessed separately if there are several trailheads for a shoreline destination or any trail has different ownership from the shoreline destination. Then, all trails are evaluated as a group to develop a composite assessment of trail characteristics for a shoreline destination and to ensure comparability with other shoreline destinations.

TYPE OF ACCESS

To Top of Bluff: Trails go to bluff top; there are no existing access trails leading to water's edge.

To Water's Edge: Existing trails lead to water's edge.

TYPE OF BEACH

Short Rocky Beach - Beach is less than 1,000 yards long and predominately rocky.

Short Sandy Beach - Beach is less than 1,000 yards long and predominately sandy.

Long Rocky Beach - Beach is longer than 1,000 yards long and predominately rocky.

Long Sandy Beach - Beach is longer than 1,000 yards long and predominately sandy.

RESOURCE CHARACTERISTICS

Size of Destination

Length: Linear yards of oceanfront of beach or bluff.

Width: Above the ordinary high-water line for beach, level area for bluff.

Protection from Exposure - Level of protection from the open sea, and winter northwest wind and water action.

Public Safety Hazards

High: Hazardous, with some risk of bodily harm.

Medium: Accessible with difficulty, but without risk of bodily harm.

Low: Level and unobstructed, easily accessible to elderly and others for whom walking may be difficult.

Environmental Sensitivity - Level of environmental sensitivity of the area to which access is permitted.

High: Area indicated on the maps of environmentally sensitive habitat areas.

Medium: Bluffs, steep slopes.

Low: Beach and other habitats not sensitive to human intrusion.

Uniqueness/Special Interest - Historic, paleontological, natural, geological - must be outstanding and unusual along the San Mateo Coast to be rated High.

LOCATION

Compatibility with Existing Land Use - Does not conflict with existing land use.

a. Residential

High: Substantial separation by distance, grade separation or landscaping.

Low: Allows less than 5 feet separation between existing houses and vertical access, and 10 yards separation between houses and lateral access.

b. Agriculture

High: Fences separate access from agricultural land.

Low: Passes through unfenced agricultural land.

Length of Shoreline Trail

Short: Less than 250 feet across and 10 feet down to shoreline destination.

Medium: Between 250 feet and 1/4 mile across and 10 and 15 feet down to shoreline destination.

Long: More than 1/4 mile across and 50 feet down to shoreline destination.

Accessibility from Highway 1

High: Shoreline trail is immediately accessible from Highway 1.

Medium: Shoreline trail is less than 1/2 mile from Highway 1.

Low: Shoreline trail is greater than 1/2 mile from Highway 1.

Continuity with Existing Shoreline Access

High: Shoreline access trail and/or shoreline destination provides for the following:

- a. Linkage between existing public shoreline destinations.
- b. Expansion of the size of existing public shoreline destinations.
- c. Expansion of access to an existing public shoreline destination.

Low: Does not fulfill one of the above functions.

Introduces New Public Access

High: No existing established public shoreline access trail or destination nearby, within 1/4 mile in both directions.

Medium: Little existing established public shoreline access trail or destination nearby, within 1/4 mile but not adjacent, in one direction only.

Low: Adjacent to or included within an established public shoreline access.

Ownership - Public indicates an area is owned in fee by a public agency.

Threat of Damage - Evaluates threat of deterioration of the natural environment, continuation of existing public or private use.

Threat of Loss - Evaluates the possibility of property owner closing off the access and the likelihood of establishing prescriptive rights based on Table 2.

High: Indicates no evidence on historic aerials.

Medium: Indicates no evidence on aerials prior to 1970.

Parking Availability

High: Areas where existing official off-street parking for more than 75 cars exists, or adequate space to provide such parking exists within 1/4 mile.

Medium: Areas where official off-street parking for between 15 and 75 cars exists or could be provided.

Low: Parking for 15 cars or less.

Level of Use

High: Many people using trail and shoreline destination on weekdays and evidence of heavy use (more than 200 people at shoreline destination).

Medium: Some people using trail or shoreline destination on weekdays and evidence of moderate public use (50-200 people at shoreline destination).

Low: No people on trail or shoreline destination on weekdays and little evidence of public use (less than 50 at shoreline destination).

Activities - Letter indicates activities which are already ongoing at the site or for which the site has potential established by practitioners of the sport.

Improvements Required for Public Access - Level of improvement required to provide safe public access and protect natural resources and adjacent uses.

High: Establishing trails in hazardous or environmentally sensitive areas and staircases in very steep or fragile areas.

Medium: Moderate improvements - improved surfacing, establishing trails in level areas and simple staircases.

Low: Repair of existing improvements, signing.

Potential for Increased Public Use - Areas are rated high if they could support a substantial increase in public use after improvements.