

MEEKS BAY RESTORATION PROJECT

Public Workshop #2 | January 7, 2021 (5:30 – 7:30 pm)

Engagement Summary & Input Received

Workshop Purpose:

- Describe the restoration need and approach
- Describe the proposed alternatives and alternative development process
- Solicit input on proposed alternative features and environmental concerns

Participation Summary:

- Workshop was held virtually as a Zoom webinar
- 166 registered participants
- 95 in attendance

Presentation Overview:

After introductions from the Project Development Team (PDT) members, Ashley Sibr (US Forest Service) provided a discussion of the restoration objectives for the project. She provided a description of the existing condition of the marina and creek, the need for restorative actions based on the existing condition, and the future desired condition after restoration of the creek.

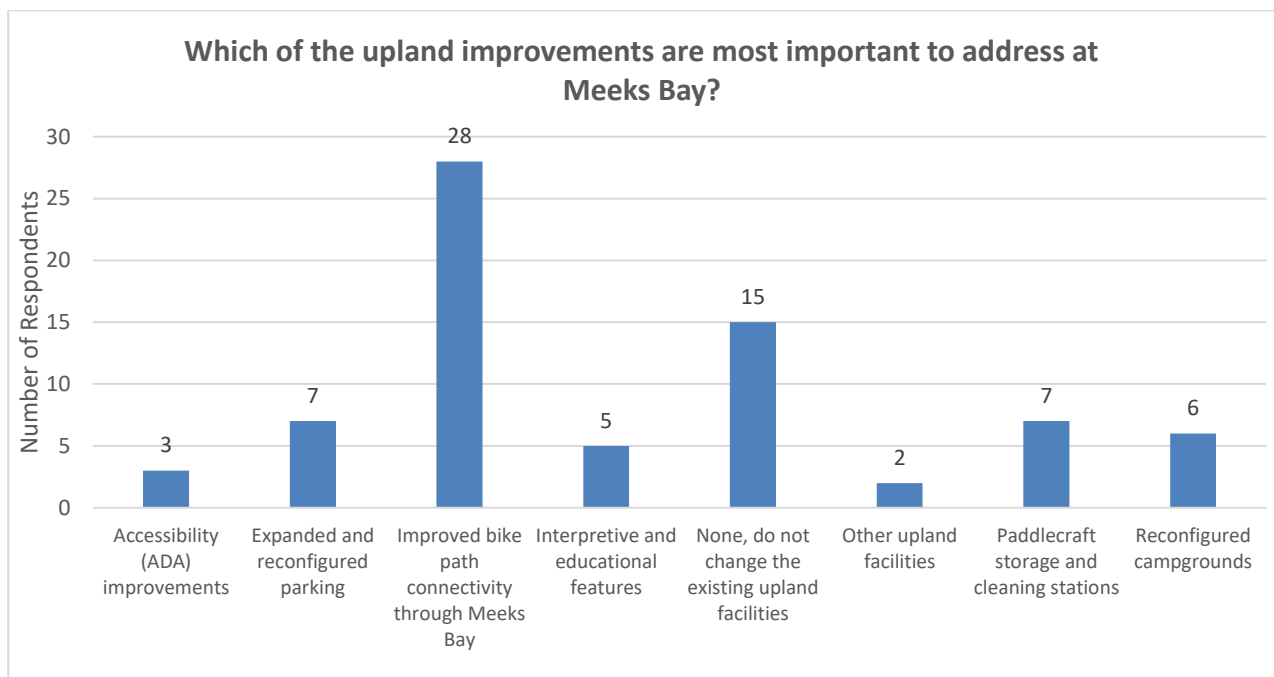
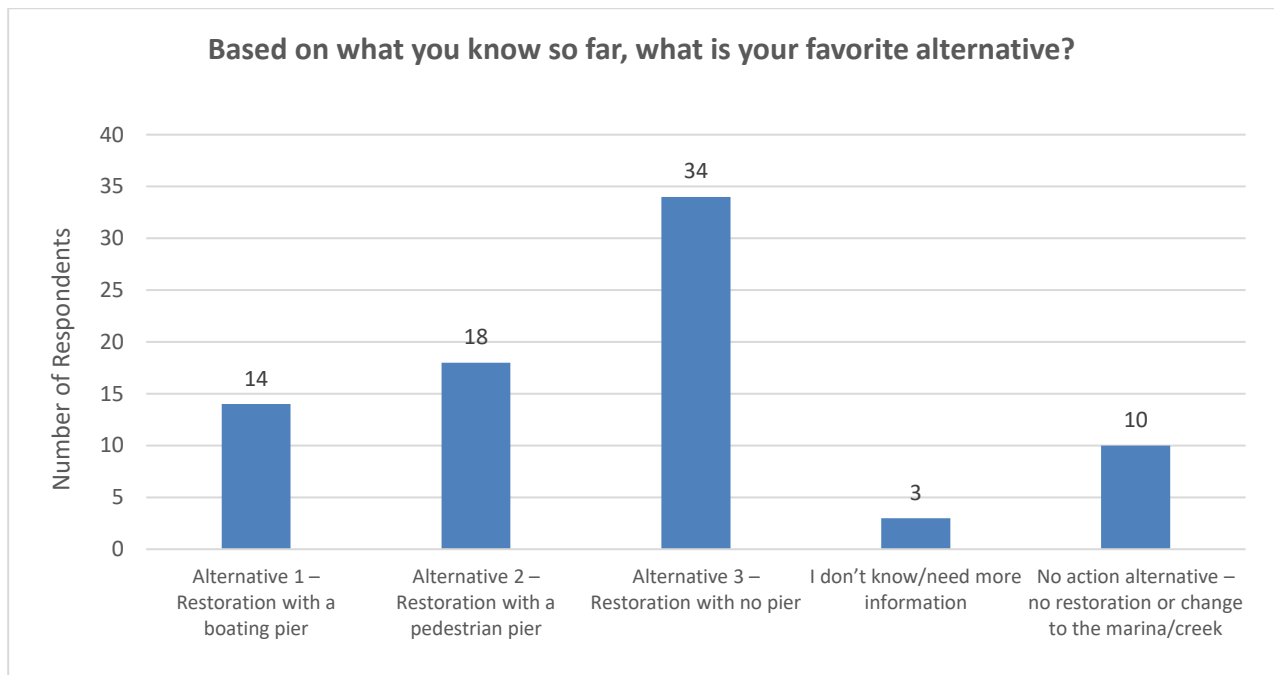
Then, the project's lead consultant, Adam Lewandowski (Ascent Environmental), described the alternatives that have been developed through the public participation process that the lead agencies (Forest Service, Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA), and Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board) have engaged in. The proposed alternatives themselves were presented, as well as alternatives considered but dismissed from evaluation and the rationale for dismissal, and the details of the no action alternative and its role.

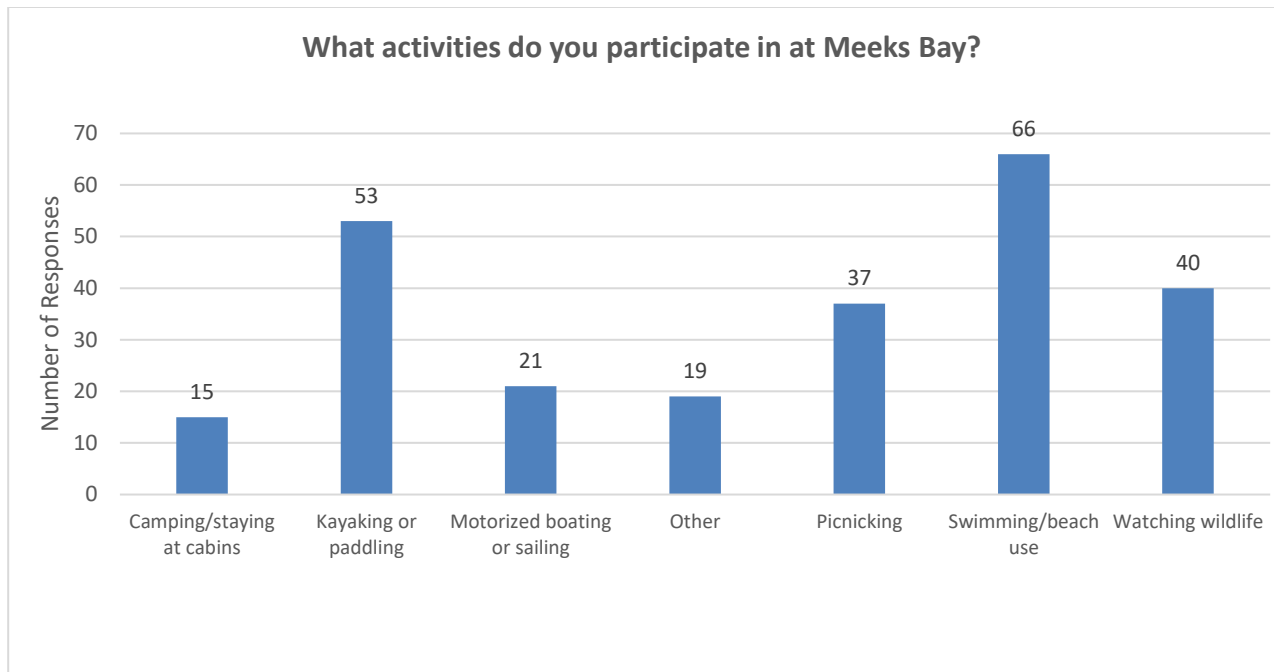
Ed Miller, President of the Meeks Bay Fire Protection District provided an impromptu presentation about the Meeks Bay Fire Protection District's position regarding their desire for a fire boat, as well as other public safety and security considerations in the vicinity of Meeks Bay. Ed's presentation reflected the viewpoints of the Meeks Bay Fire Protection District, not the views of the lead agencies for the Meeks Bay Restoration Project.

At the end of the workshop, Rebecca Cremeen (TRPA) provided a brief presentation describing next steps in the planning process. The remainder of the meeting was used to solicit input and respond to as many questions and comments as the time allowed in both small group discussions and in the full plenary group. The workshop recording is available [here](#) and the project website (www.meeksbayproject.org) provides more project specific information.

Poll Questions:

During the presentations, three polls were conducted which allowed attendees to express their opinion on relevant questions. The questions and results are shown in the following graphs.





Question & Comments Raised:

Questions and comments were submitted through a combination of direct commenter verbal participation during four breakout groups and in question-and-answer sessions, and through the Zoom chat dialogue throughout the meeting. Public feedback on the alternatives relate broadly to the following themes:

- Alternatives and Purpose and Need
- Shoreline Features
- Upland Features
- Other Comments

Alternatives and Purpose and Need

- I voted for Alternative 3, I would like to change it to Alternative 2 after consulting with my family.
- Why is a marina not a viable option?
- We would like to understand why a marina is not a viable option.
- It sounds like the primary driver for the project is restoration of the natural/original environmental stream zone - is that correct?
- Could a smaller marina harbor a fire boat?
- Some support for only the restoration component (no change to recreation/upgrades to site).
- Others support pier or marina.
- What happened to the original proposed 2018 project with the pier and ramp at the south side of the bay?
- Can one alternative address a fire boat that does not include 300 ft long pier?

Shoreline Features

- Just want to confirm that a pier which is included in the original proposed project will include a fireboat and lift at the south end of the bay, not just in the central location as depicted in Alternate 1.
- Would alternative 2, with boat pier, include a gas dock for refueling?
- Boat launch mandatory, slips next in importance.
- I am very concerned that there is no consideration for public safety by not considering a small marina which allows for vessels to leave to lake and seek shelter during stormy periods like summer thunderstorms.
- I voted for no pier but if a pier that only allowed electric craft and shuttles were allowed then I'm for pier.
- Can the pier at Sugar Pine Point be used for a fire/rescue boat?
- Have the Homewood at Obexors or High and Dry piers be considered for emergency access?
- In reviewing their previous records, how often would a pier access emergency vehicle be required?
- Consider combining the pedestrian pier with the kayak launch dock.
- Management of pier is a great question as there has been little management of boats inside the buoy line and even up on the beach this year.
- At what point is there a cost analysis of the projects? Piers are expensive.
- Are there other marinas/piers that the Meeks Bay Fire Protection District can use for a fire boat on the West Shore?
- How often would a fire boat be used? Statistics on the need for a water emergency would be appreciated.
- If the Meeks Bay Fire Protection District is on a boat, then the rest of the West Shore doesn't have staffing for other types of emergencies. Would they add staff?
- Are there other options to address safety concerns besides having a place for a fire boat at Meeks Bay?
- Could an alternative include a pier near Kehlet mansion?
- Would like more information on alternative sites for fire boat or safety pier.
- Fire boat on pier could damage the pier in rough weather.
- Discussion about the ADA ramp (I believe she was talking about the pedestrian pier from alt2) and felt it should not be located by the busy central beach area and should be located closer to the stream mouth. Adam explained prohibition of piers at stream mouth protection zones.
- For Alternative 3, why not put the non-motorized launch ramp on the north beach, in the same area as the proposed piers for Alternatives 1 and 2? We are concerned with the loss of beach space at south beach. The north beach area is larger, with nearby handicapped parking and many other amenities.

Upland Features

- I am in my late 60s and the parking moved out by the highway on southside would be a challenge.
- Would the south park be removed from state/fed ownership?
- Does Forest Service have any restrictions to public use of the beach i.e., beach use by campers only? allowed use by walk ons? allowed use by boaters anchored off the beach or pulled up on the beach. if there is no restriction on who uses the beach, how do powerboaters access the beach?

- How many of the participating members actually use the Meeks Bay Beach. In the Summer weekend - the beach is over crowded and 90% filled with tents, tarps, and umbrellas.
- How would the resort function without several of the lodges? Seems like a large chunk of revenue would be lost.
- What is the comparison of the proposed versus existing parking spaces?
- I am concerned about the beach access increasing as it seems to be out of control all ready.
- Is there a plan to join the north and south campgrounds and have it as one campground run by the Washoe?
- Would like an opportunity to comment on layout of upland features, not just pick "favorite."
- Need more parking.
- John asked about the gabions on the north end of the bay. Adam said they are part of the restoration, especially on alt 1 where cabins are being relocated for more beach restoration.
- A stream profile chamber like the one at Taylor Creek would be a useful interpretive feature.
- There is concern about re-configuring the south beach parking. Keeping day use/beach parking close to the beach is extremely important. It will be Very inconvenient to drop equipment & picnic supplies at the drop-off spot (along with everyone else on crowded days), go park, then walk to the day use area to retrieve belongings. It will also cause more congestion for drivers moving around the area - back & forth to drop off/pick-up people & belongings. One-stop parking is better with easy access to vehicles.

Other Comments

- Culvert drop is approximately 30 inches.
- Is the old trash dump adding unwanted metals to the creek?
- What is the impact to wetland quality from loss of beaver population in the Tahoe basin?
- Trapped leaves and woody debris comes from beaver activity. any plan to address beavers?
- Robert Tolin submitted a map/drawing regarding ideas in support of Alternative 2.
- Washoe Tribe officially prefers Alternative 3.
- Is there any opposition to this project as a whole and what are the reasons?
- Trailhead parking at General Creek – can it be incorporated into the project?
- What is the timeline for the project?
- I may have missed this, but can you tell me what the timeline for the project is?
- What is going on with the old store that is across from the campground?
- Will the north and south campgrounds be under single management?
- Commenters express concern about crowding issues throughout Meeks Bay.
- Safety concerns between user groups, swimmers, paddlers in Meeks Bay.
- Constance had concerns about the fire boat and safety including lack of law enforcement presence in this area of the west shore. She felt there should be more discussion concerning safety.
- I've been going to Meeks Bay since I was around 4. Meeks Bay was so much fun. Now it seems that it's being taken apart piece by piece. There is little left now. Can there be more of a balance between boats and people?