

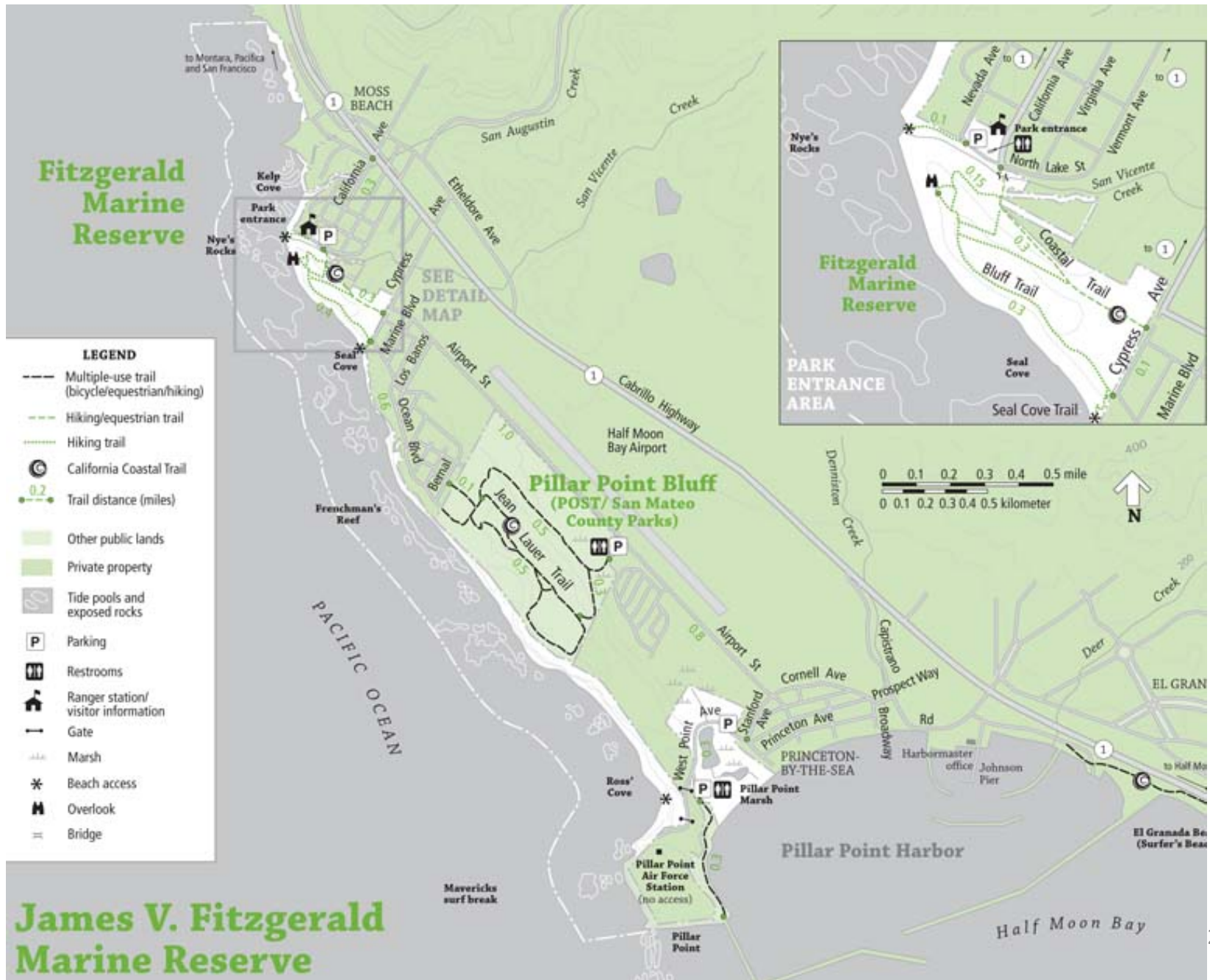
Fitzgerald Marine Reserve (FMR)

A Review of Infrastructure Projects
and Natural Resource Protection Issues



MCC presentation February 13, 2013
by Lisa Ketcham

FMR includes Pillar Point Bluff and Marsh



2002 FMR Master Plan Goals

1. Preserve and Enhance Natural Resources
2. Provide Educational and Interpretive Opportunities
3. Ensure Adequate and Well-Trained Staff
4. Improve Baseline Information
5. Improve Visitor Management
6. Improve Visitor Facilities
7. Minimize Impacts to Neighbors
8. Protect Cultural Resources
9. Provide Recreation Opportunities
10. Seek Funding Opportunities



Bluff-edge fence paid for by mitigation money for habitat damaged by film making. Master Plan said this fence was to be no more than 3 feet high. Bluff, Creek and Pillar Point Marsh habitat restoration is neglected.





Seal Cove Staircase – built 2010
Upper section & viewing deck

Seal Cove Staircase – lower section

Old culvert outfall is eroding cliff
next to stairs.



A photograph of a dirt trail in a forest. The trail is on the left side of the frame, leading into the distance. The right side of the trail is heavily overgrown with large green ferns. In the background, there are tall, thin trees, possibly pines or cypresses, and a canopy of branches overhead. The lighting is natural, suggesting a daytime setting.

**Fitzgerald Marine Reserve
San Mateo County**

FMR Coastal Trail Improvements

Construction of
ADA-compliant trail in
the location of existing
unimproved trail

Dardenelle Trail

Public pressure reduced trail width from 12 ft to 8 ft, but destruction area limits were not reduced - construction site 10/14/12



Dardenelle Trail fern grove
obliterated by heavy machinery



Road paving company was contracted to make the existing trail ADA-compliant. The unnecessarily wide swathe of destruction ensures that years of follow-up invasive weed control will be necessary to restore native habitat along the trail.

October was too late in the season to start construction, which led to lengthy weather delays and overwhelmed erosion protection measures discharging muddy stormwater runoff from the denuded construction site into San Vicente Creek and the protected waters of the Reserve.

February 2013, Board of Supervisors approved contract changes authorizing \$32,000 cost overrun and time extension to complete the project.



Habitat-destroying invasive cape ivy had a head start in December rains before revegetation hydroseed mix was applied. Cape ivy regrows from every stem or root segment, and was spread throughout the trail area by project grading.



A condition of project approval was that disturbance/removal of native vegetation not exceed the minimum necessary to construct the trail, in particular the area of Western sword fern and rushes. They were to be carefully removed, saved, and replanted, but instead very small nursery-grown plants were used, and very widely spaced.



Outside project barrier, at fringe of obliterated fern grove, remnant plants put up new shoots through the slash pile.

Sunny meadow by trail was planted with grove of cypress trees spaced only 12ft apart which will grow together in tangled mass without space to spread and develop picturesque lower branches which will be shaded out and die, as well as any other plants that might have grown here.





Public input reduced trail/bridge width from 12 ft to 8 ft; changed trail surface from asphalt to more natural/permeable decomposed granite fines; and kept the curves in the trail instead of the plan for a straight road.

Pacific Ocean

FMR Moss Beach parking lot, visitor center, beach access trail, creek restoration

Nevada Avenue

Project Site

San Vicente Creek

North Lake Street

Riparian Corridor Boundary

Project Site



Imagery Date: 11/1/2011

1993

37° 31' 44.0" N 122° 30' 98.1" W elev 38 ft

FMR Parking Lot & Visitor Center

2008 project permit application for 3,000 sq.ft. Visitor Center, parking for 50 cars & 3 buses. Application cancelled.

2012 project called for parking lot reconfiguration, enlargement, and complete repaving, incorporating stormwater runoff pollution reduction features to protect creek and coastal waters.

Visitor Center left for future project.

Plans for pervious paving scrapped due to impervious clay soil at site.

Neighbors concerned about new traffic circulation, loss of open unpaved areas, unknown placement of future Visitor Center.

Planning Dept noted extensive encroachment on riparian buffer zone where parking is not an approved use.

Most of project funding now lost due to delays.

Plans being considered to implement only the pollution reduction features as these have separate funding.

FMR Beach Access Trail – 2010 plan on hold

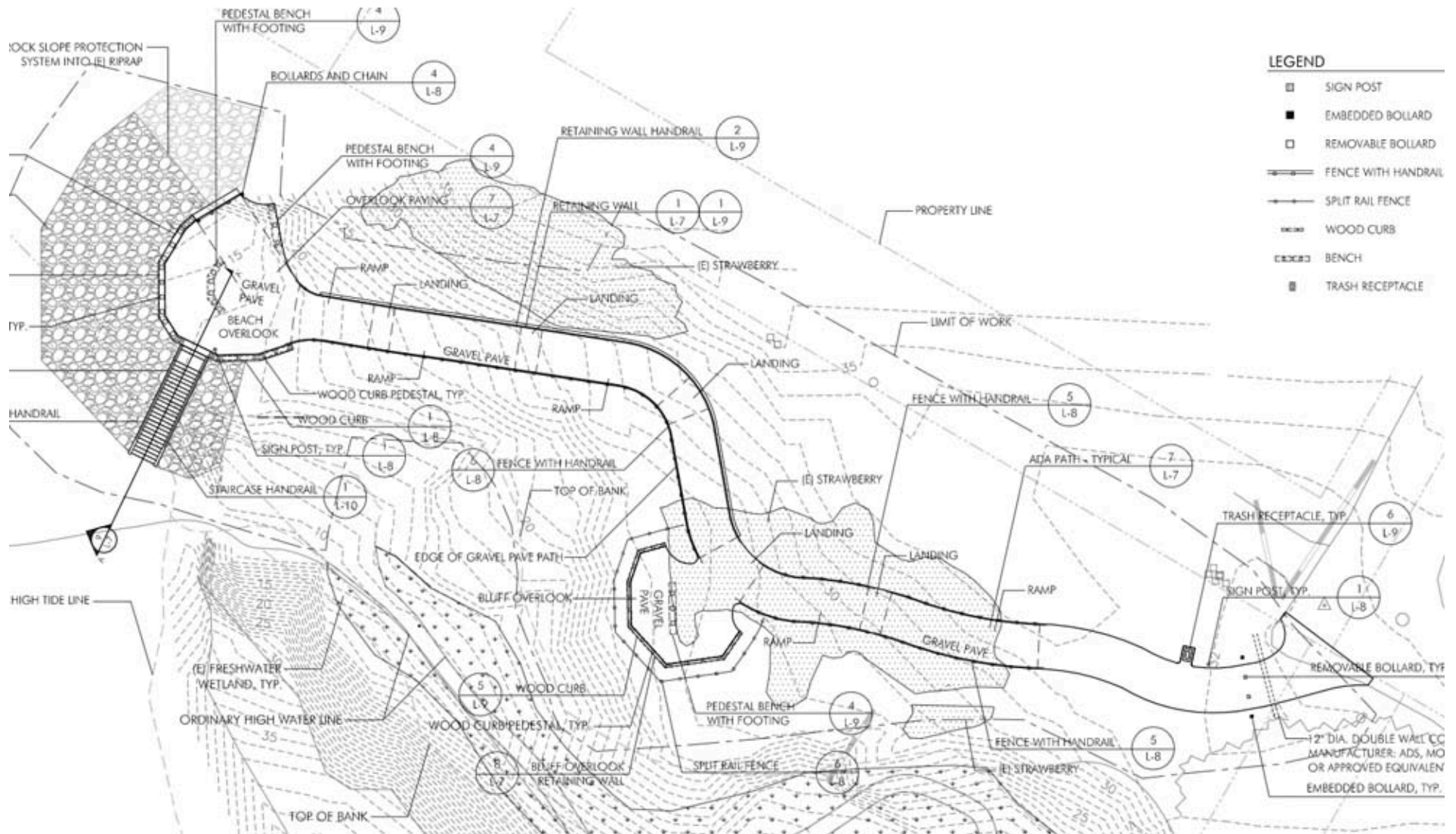
¼-mile long, 10.5-foot wide, ADA-compliant asphalt path, with 3-foot wide aggregate shoulders on either side.

Retaining wall, up to 6 ft high, along uphill side of trail.

Main overlook above beach, 35 x 40 ft, with reinforced concrete grade beam surrounding it and rock slope protection system composed of three layers of rocks at a 1.5 to 1 slope.

Staircase on south side of overlook leading to beach, and seasonal bridge at base of staircase crossing San Vicente Creek.

Auxiliary overlook, 30 x 20 ft, half way down the trail, on the creek side.



New coastal armoring structure to support lower overlook will cover about 3 times as much beach as the overlook itself. New switchback 10-ft-wide trail route, road cuts, and 6-ft tall retaining wall will completely alter the natural landscape and views.



FMR beach access trail from Moss Beach parking lot is already ADA accessible to the overlook under cypress tree on the right, and has natural-looking DG trail surface.



Loop trail along fence with views of San Vicente creek could be made ADA accessible with little disruption.



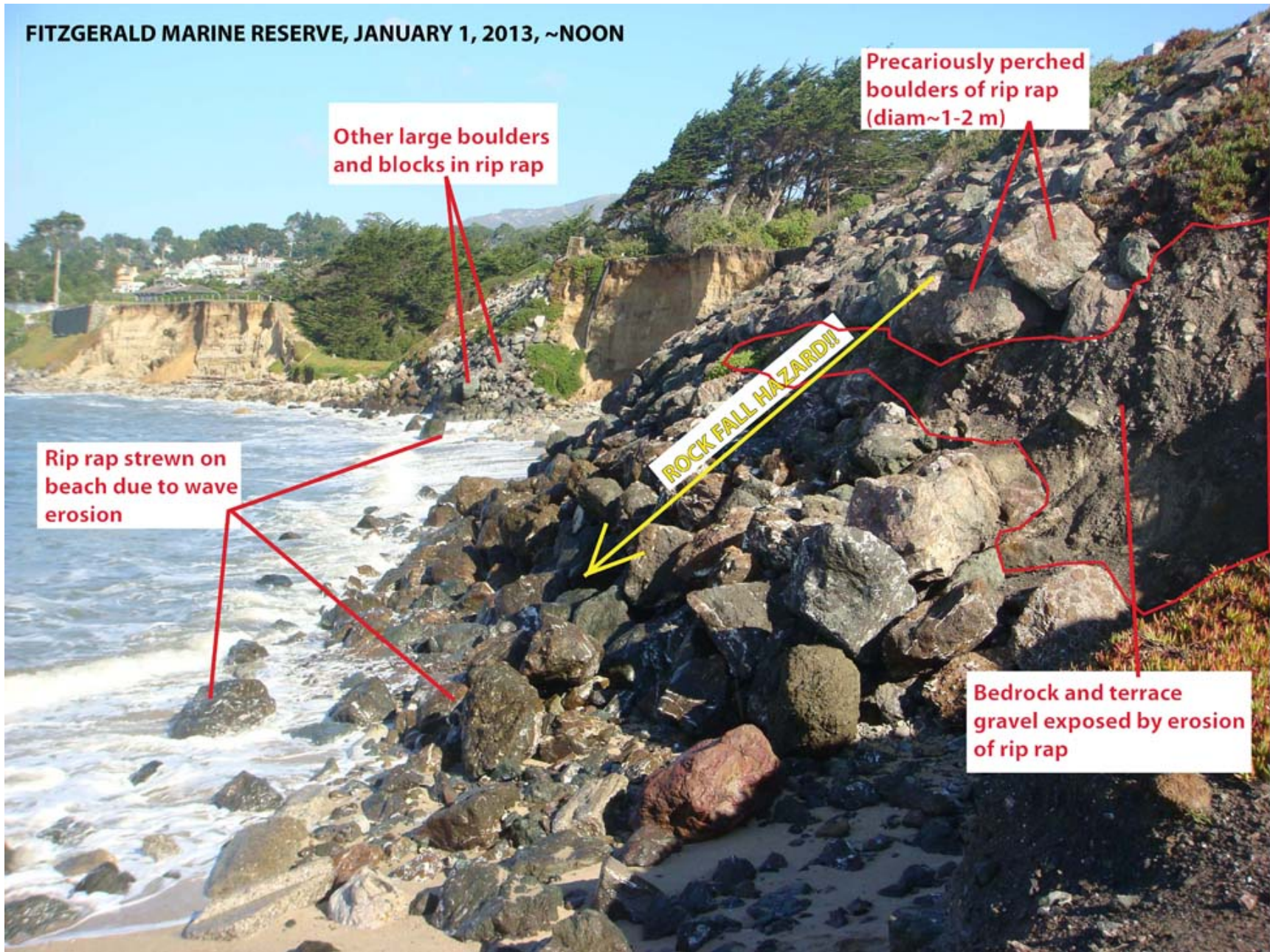
FMR beach access trail is currently ADA-accessible to this upper overlook. The lower overlook is above beach level on an old deteriorating structure of rock and concrete rubble piled onto the beach.



Lower overlook at Moss Beach reef: constructed of rock and concrete rubble before the Coastal Act and before the Marine Reserve.



Lower overlook structure as viewed from the beach – project calls for complete rebuilding with massive 3-layer rock armoring extending out over the beach with a new stairway to the beach.



Dangerously eroding riprap to the north litters the public beach and the view.



On left: rock/concrete rubble pile supporting overlook.
On right: natural seacliff. Center: San Vicente Creek outfall.
All green terrain behind is proposed for major grading, 10-ft-wide switch-back road, 6-ft high concrete retaining wall, for ¼ mile dead-end trail to an artificially constructed overlook piled on top of the beach.

2002 Master Plan identified four main programs to meet its goals:

- 1) Natural Resource Management Program – While the Plan has good policies, there has been little or no progress in this area. Invasive non-native plants continue to spread, the #1 destroyer of native habitat.
- 2) Visitor Management Program -- With no money for staffing and visitor management, reef overuse continues, leading to decreasing biodiversity.
- 3) Uses and Facilities Program – Continuing conflicts with the community over scale and design of projects, trail surfaces, and lop-sided allocation of resources, considering #1 & 2 above.
- 4) Implementation Program -- Progress/prioritization assessment is needed.