

## Wildlife Conservation Board Public Access Program 2019 Grant Round

**Project Title:** Montara State Beach Accessway

**Applicant:** Coastal Conservancy, in partnership with State Parks

### **Project Proposal:**

Montara State Beach is a wide, mile-long beach located in coastal San Mateo County. The beach is popular with fishermen, wildlife viewers, surfers, and families from all over the Bay Area and is known for its photogenic sculpted sandstone cliffs and stunning views of adjacent protected open space. A parking lot at the northern end of the beach was recently improved by State Parks, inviting more visitors to the area; however, access down to the beach from this parking lot is currently extremely challenging, limiting the number of people who can access the beach. A stairway that previously served the area was closed due to storm damage and passage is now made informally either down the closed washed-out stairway or through eroding gullies, which are often muddy and slippery. Both routes are challenging for those that are not able-bodied, are carrying equipment, or are with families. The only other access to the beach is located at the southern end of the beach.

This project proposes to conduct planning for a new beach accessway in a more durable location than the previous stairway, in order to enhance access to the beach and allow a wider diversity of people to participate in beach recreation opportunities on the beach including fishing, wildlife viewing, beach recreation, and surfing. The new stairway would not only improve user safety and experience, but would reduce erosion and trampling currently caused by informal trail use. The Coastal Conservancy, in partnership with State Parks, completed a feasibility study and conceptual design for the accessway and is now seeking funding from Wildlife Conservation Board's Public Access program to conduct a full planning phase including design, environmental review, and permitting to make the project ready for construction.

Attached:

- Map Project Location
- Project Photos
- Conceptual Design



Location of Montara State Beach in coastal San Mateo County.



*Closed stairway that previously provided access to the beach.*



*Proposed location for new accessway to Montara State Beach from the parking lot.*

