



Image above includes the planned multi-use trail, bathrooms and public art installation, Listening Stones by artist Mark Baugh-Sasaki.

Ocean Beach Climate Change Adaptation Project: Protecting and Enhancing Critical Infrastructure, Habitat and Open Space

Project Overview

Chronic shoreline erosion has severely impacted South Ocean Beach between Sloat Boulevard and Skyline Drive. This erosion has undermined and damaged beach parking lots, stormwater drainage facilities and the Great Highway. It threatens critical infrastructure, including key sewer system and recycled water facilities, and has constrained public shoreline access and recreational opportunities. Erosion is only expected to get worse, while rising sea levels and more intense storms amplify the threat to coastal infrastructure like roads, sewers and even the beach itself.

Adapting to Our Changing Environment

When complete the Ocean Beach Climate Change Adaptation Project (Ocean Beach Project), the first major climate change adaptation project in San Francisco, would protect vital public wastewater and recycled water infrastructure; create over a mile of new seaside trail; and improve access, recreation, and habitat at South Ocean Beach. To do that, it will be necessary to reroute Great Highway traffic at Sloat Boulevard and Skyline Drive away from the narrowest part of the beach. That stretch of roadway will be replaced by a multi-use public trail with sweeping Pacific Ocean views.

The Ocean Beach Project design is guided by shoreline management concepts recommended by the Ocean Beach Master Plan, a collaborative vision for San Francisco’s western coast, led by the San Francisco Bay Area Planning and Urban Research Association (SPUR), which brought together community members, city agencies, and the National Park Service.

Project Partners and Status

Because the Ocean Beach Project requires approvals from other city and federal agencies, the implementation is a multiagency initiative involving the SFPUC, Recreation and Parks, San Francisco Public Works, the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency, and the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, a unit of the National Park Service.

On November 14, 2024, the California Coastal Commission approved the Coastal Development Permit for the Ocean Beach Climate Change Adaptation Project. The project team and commission staff were able to strike a balance between protecting critical wastewater infrastructure that serves the westside of San Francisco and maximizing open space (habitat restoration) and public recreational access in the area. The project team will incorporate the agreed upon changes into the design and work with Coastal Commission on issuance of the project. Based on these necessary steps, we anticipate construction to start in late 2027.

Estimated Construction Schedule

2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
				
LATE 2027 – EARLY 2031 (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)				



PROJECT ELEMENTS:

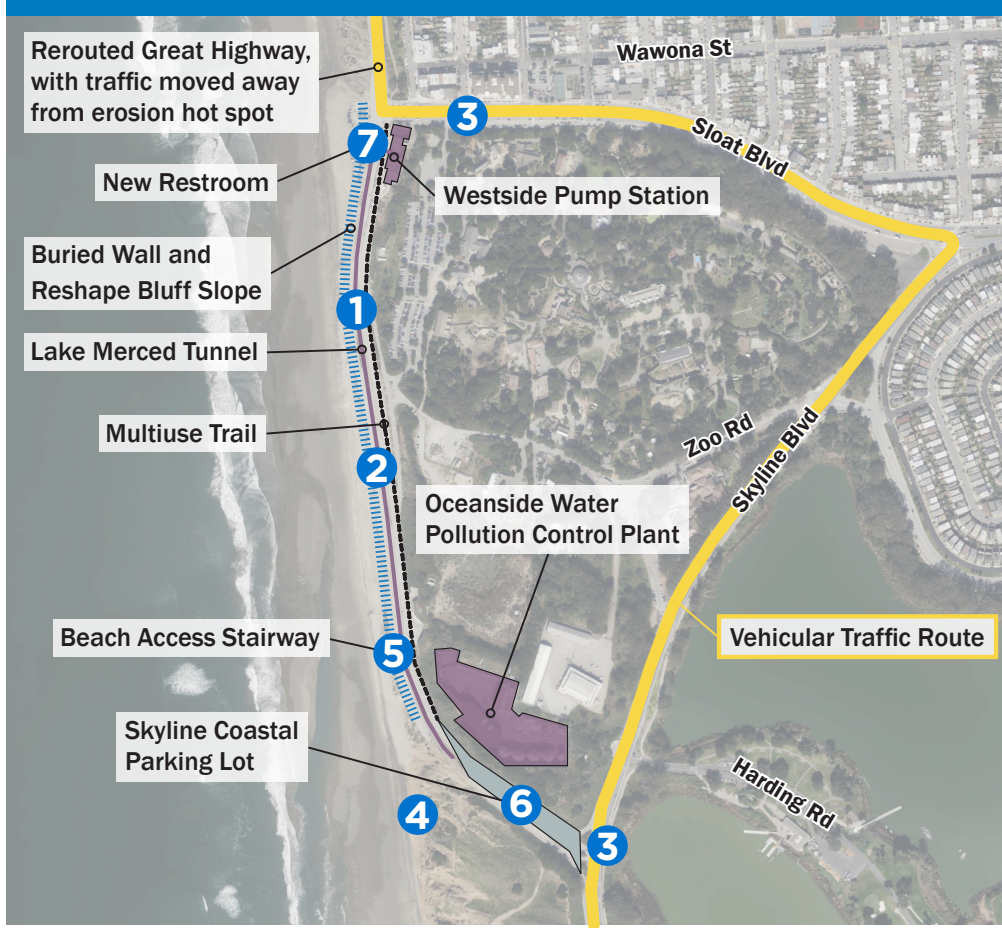
- Managed coastal retreat
- Structural protection
- Access and recreation improvements
- Beach nourishment through placement of sand

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Learn more at sfpuc.gov/oceanbeach.
Contact us at info@sfgwater.org, or
(415) 554-3233.

Learn more at sfpuc.gov/oceanbeach.

Ocean Beach Climate Change Adaptation Project



Beach Access During Construction

During construction, portions of South Ocean Beach would be closed to public access. Beach closure would likely be required for approximately six months per year, for each of the four years of construction. More information will be available ahead of and during construction, expected to start in 2027.

Getting Around Now and in the Future

Beyond the Ocean Beach Climate Change Adaptation Project, the SFMTA is working on systemwide improvements in the Sunset and the Richmond neighborhoods to make it easier to take local trips on sustainable modes of transportation. Projects like the L-Taraval Improvement Project, Sunset Boulevard Repaving and the 29 Sunset Improvement Project all work together to improve mobility on the westside. Learn more at [SFMTA.com/Westside](https://www.sfmta.com/Westside).

Project Objectives and Components

The Ocean Beach Project is implementing a long-term coastal management strategy for South Ocean Beach that addresses shoreline erosion and climate-change-related sea level rise. Specific project objectives and components include:

- **Protect Critical Infrastructure:**
 - Construct a buried wall to protect wastewater infrastructure and recycled water facilities from shoreline erosion. ①
- **Preserve and Enhance Coastal Access, Recreation, and Habitat:**
 - Construct a multi-use trail, beach access stairway, restrooms, and complete Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) access improvements along Ocean Beach north of Sloat Boulevard. ⑤ ⑦
 - Remove the shoreline protection structures and debris, reshape the bluff to increase accessible open space area and plant native vegetation. ②
 - Continue beach nourishment (sand replenishment) as needed. ④
- **Implement Roadway, Safety & Parking Changes:**
 - Permanently close the Great Highway between Sloat and Skyline boulevards to public vehicular traffic.
 - Improve the adjacent intersections at Great Highway and Sloat and Skyline boulevards to facilitate the changes in travel patterns resulting from the Great Highway closure. SFMTA is planning additional intersection improvements at the Sloat and Skyline intersection and along Sloat Boulevard. ③
 - Construct a new parking lot with approximately 60 parking stalls near the southern end of the project's multi-use trail (near Skyline Boulevard/Great Highway intersection). The 35-space parking lot at Great Highway and Sloat Boulevard will be removed. ⑥
 - Reroute Muni 23 Monterey bus layover and turn-around, reconfigure San Francisco Zoo parking access, and maintain a service road to SFPUC facilities.