

### **Capstone project:**

"The Last Coastal Sand Mine In The Us: Lapis Dune Ecology Museum and Visitor Center Design"

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Instructor: Meg Rushing Coffee

UCLA Extension Landscape Architecture program

Capstone Studio Summer 2023

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# **PROJECT STATEMENT**



Monterey Herald file. https://www.montereyherald.com/2020/05/14/marina-sues-cemex-cal-am-over-desal-slant-well-plan/

## **PROJECT JUSTIFICATION**

The Cemex Lapis Sand Plant is the last remaining coastal sand mine in the US. All other sand plants in the area were closed in 1980s, however, due to a quirk in the law, the Cemex Lapis Plant was allowed to continue operations.

Although the plant does not share its extraction data, scientists estimate that it extracted around 270,000 cubic yards of sand per year from a dredging pond on the beach, which is equivalent to 48 large dump trucks every day. Sand removal affects dunes by altering their natural composition and destabilizing their structure, leading to erosion and loss of protective barriers against coastal storms.

In 2017, CEMEX made an agreement with the California Coastal Commission to restore the sand plant site to natural conditions by Dec. 31, 2025. As part of the agreement, CEMEX must also sell the property to a nonprofit for less than market value. The land will enter a deed restriction that requires dune restoration and public access.

Establishment of a Dune Ecology Museum and Visitor Center at the old Cemex Lapis Plant site can further educate the public about the importance of dunes and contribute to their long-term conservation and preservation.

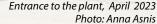
1.EVALUATION OF EROSION MITIGATION ALTERNATIVES for Southern Monterey Bay, ESA PWA, Published on May 30, 2012

https://nmsmontereybay.blob.core.windows.net/montereybay-prod/media/research/techreports/esapwa2012.pdf

2.COASTAL COMMISSION SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT. CCC-17-CD-02 (CEMEX). JULY 13, 2017



View of Cemex Plant from the Coast, April 2023 Photo: Anna Asnis





# **DESIGN METHODOLOGY: THE CLASSIC**

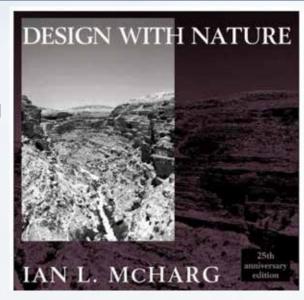
#### **PRINCIPLES:**

#### **Design with Nature, Ian McHarg:**

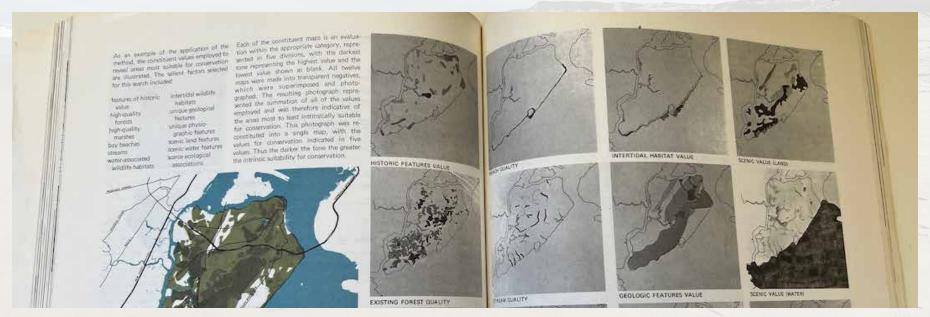
- The natural environment should be the starting point for all design decisions
- Design should be based on a comprehensive understanding of ecological systems.
- Planning should prioritize the protection of natural systems

#### How will I use it?

I will overlay site analysis and inventory pages to find the best locations for program elements.



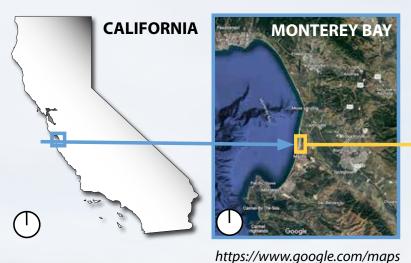
book photos: Anna Asnis



# PART 1. RESEARCH, SITE ANALYSIS, CASE STUDIES

PART 2. DESIGN DEVELOPMENT PART 3. FINAL DESIGN

# **LOCATION: 100 LAPIS ROAD, MARINA, CA**







#### "Lapis" means "Stone" in Latin.

The earliest map of the area I could fine is Monterey map from 1912 - there is a place named Lapis - it is right where the new railroad had a special appendix for the sand plant.

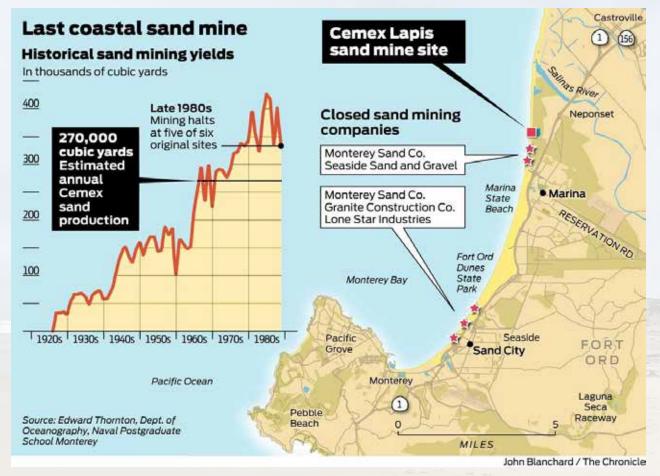
I think the name "Lapis" belongs to this area and I decided to use it in the name of my museum



https://maps.lib.utexas.edu/maps/topo/california/txu-pclmaps-to-po-ca-monterey-1912.jpg



# **HISTORY OF SAND MINING, MONTEREY BAY SHORE**

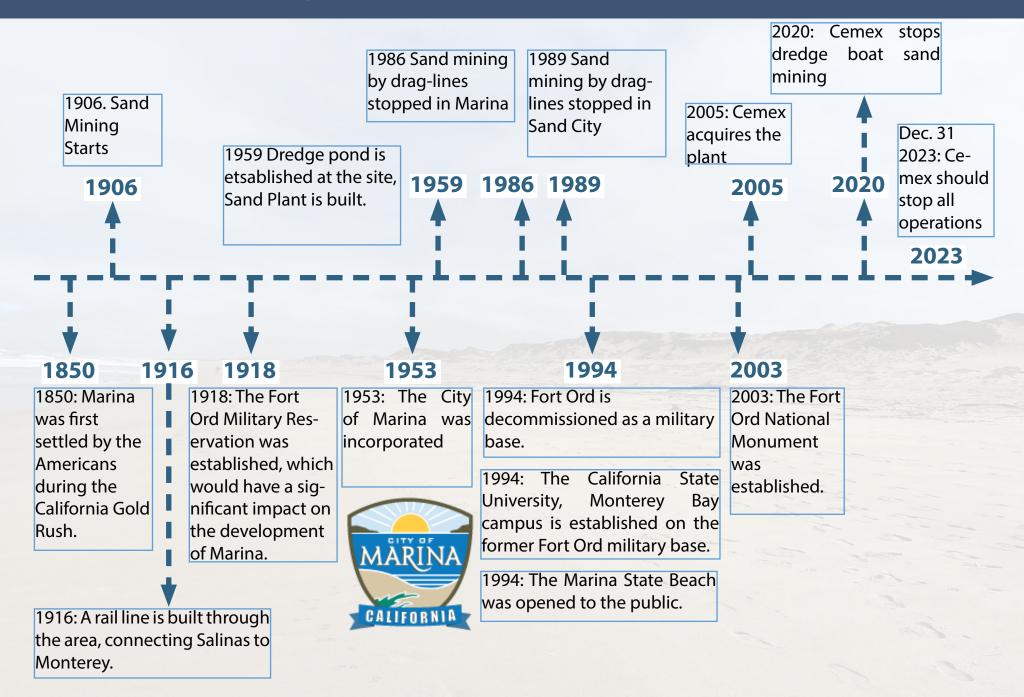


#### **SAND MINING IN THE AREA:**

Sand dredging was a major industry along the 31-mile coastline from Santa Cruz to Monterey since 1902, with six sand mining operations in the 1980s. The Lapis mine, opened in 1906, eventually sold to Lone Star Industries, who established a dredge pond in 1959. In the 1980s, dune erosion of 6 to 7 feet per year occurred in some areas, leading to a crackdown on sand mining. The Army Corps shut down five mines in 1990, but Lapis was allowed to remain. Cemex purchased Lapis in 2005, and its extractions went unnoticed by the public and regulators. However, in 2006, the US Geological Survey found that southern Monterey Bay had one of the highest average rates of erosion in California, and a 2015 study linked it to sand mining, which is the sole source of the loss of coarse sand, causing the shoreline to retreat roughly 4 feet per year instead of growing.

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# HISTORY OF MARINA, CA AND SAND MINING AT CEMEX PLANT



# SAND MINING AT THIS SITE, SUMMARY

#### **SAND MINING STARTED IN 1906.**



https://www.archieven.nl/nl/zoeken?mistart=125&mivast=0&mizig=287&miadt=39&milang=nl&misort=ver%7Casc&miview=gal&mizk\_alle=trefwoord%3AGoederenvervoer

#### **48 LARGE TRUCKS OF SAND DAILY**



https://www.istockphoto.com/photo/rusovich-pours-sand-onthe-construction-site-gm1018166602-273730570

#### **SHORELINE REDUCTION - 3'-5' A YEAR!**



Stilwell Hall at Fort Ord, built in 1940removed in 2003 due to coastal erosion

#### **NOVEMBER 2019 - ONE MONTH BEFORE DREDGING STOPPED**

Top image shows dredge pond and dredge boat (white dot at the edge of the pond).



#### **APRIL 2023 - 40 MONTHS AFTER DREDGING STOPPED.**

Dredge Pond is filled in with sand after 3 winters!



# SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT AND CEASE AND DESIST ORDER, KEY DATES

The California Coastal Commission notified Cemex Plant of Respondent shall transfer fee title to all of the Property alleged Coastal Act violations at their sand plant in Marina, CA. CEMEX disputes the allegations, asserting lawful operations. The Consent Settlement Agreement (CCC-17-CD-02) resolves the matter to avoid litigation expenses and uncertainties, but CEMEX denies any violation or liability.

to a non-profit or governmental entity or consortium approved by the Commission, in consultation with the City of Marina, ("Buyer"), such approval not to be unreasonably withheld, that commits to hold and manage the property primarily for conservation purposes, with the only other allowable uses being for low-impact, passive recreation purposes or activities, public access, public education, removal activities, activities to restore native habitat, and activities consistent with existing easements identified by Cemex prior to the Effective Date.



CA Coastal Commission Cease and Desist Order CCC-17-CD-02

# **AGREEMENT - BUILDINGS TO REMOVE**



# **AGREEMENT - FINAL GRADING AND SEEDING AREA**



In accordance with the terms of the Agreement, the final grading and seeding of the area noted as 1 by December 31, 2025.

> Appendix A CCC-17-CD-02 Page 37 of 39

CA Coastal Commission Cease and Desist Order CCC-17-CD-02

# **SITE PHOTOS - BUILDINGS**



Site Photos: Anna Asnis

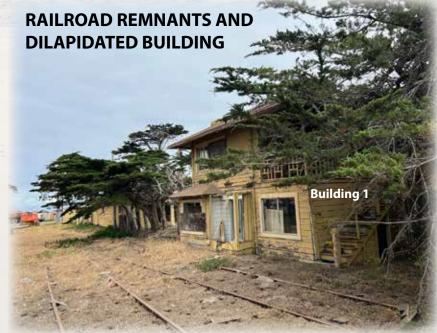
# **MORE SITE PHOTOS**

Site Photos: Anna Asnis









## **GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

#### **GOAL:**

ADDRESS ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION

- Restore disturbed dunes

   remove invasive plants,
   plant CA native dune
   plants to anchor sand.
- Protect restored and existing dunes

# **GOAL:**

**CELEBRATE AREA'S NATURAL BEAUTY** 

EDUCATE THE PUBLIC ON THE IMPORTANCE OF DUNE HABITAT

Raise public awareness about the importance of preserving these habitats.

Create engaging educational materials about dune habitats, Monterey Bay, Salinas River

Inspire action in support 
of conservation efforts.

ADD PASSIVE RECREATION

- Provide spaces for passive recreational activities that don't harm the environment.
- Incorporate design features that promote enjoyment of nature.
- Ensure accessibility and safety for all visitors.

## **PROGRAM ELEMENTS**

# **Dune Ecology Museum and Visitor Center** 3000-4000 sq ft



**Lookout Tower** 



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ Wanne\_Observation\_Tower

#### **Picnic Tables**



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ Picnic\_table

#### **Public Restroom**



https://publicrestroomcompany. com/park-restroom-designconsiderations/

#### **Boardwalk trail through dunes**



Bike trail connection to the site



Parking: Car, Bike, School Bus



https://www.theparkcatalog.com/

#### **3D map of Monterey Bay**



#### **Play Fountain**

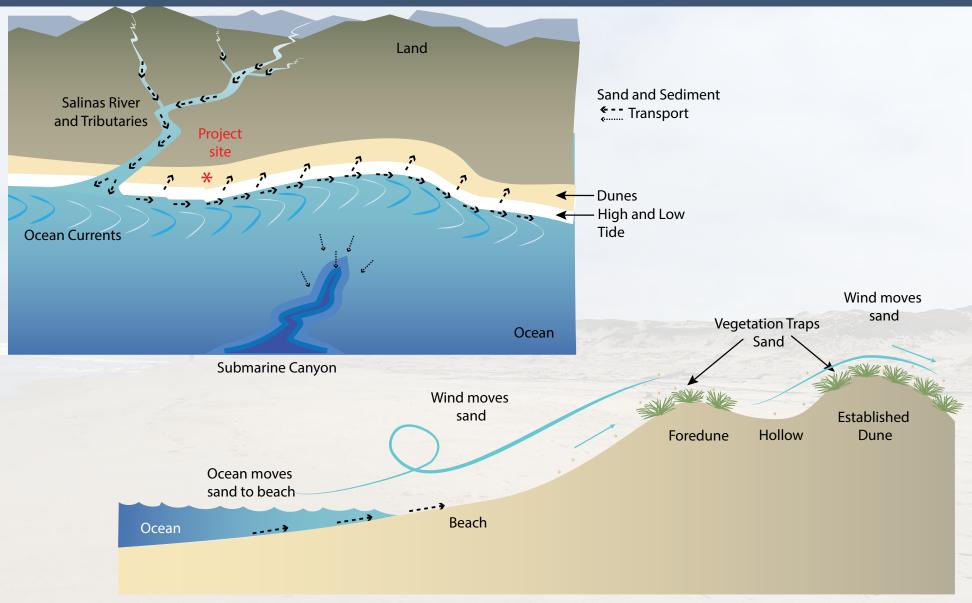


#### **Interpretive Signs**



https://www.americantrails.org/resources/interpretive-signs-and-displays-along-trails

# WHERE DOES SAND COME FROM?



There is a constant flow of sand from the land into the ocean. Watershed run-off and bluff and hillside erosion bring sand to the beach. Sand grains travel southward down the coast, while finer particles of sediment are carried and deposited further out to sea.

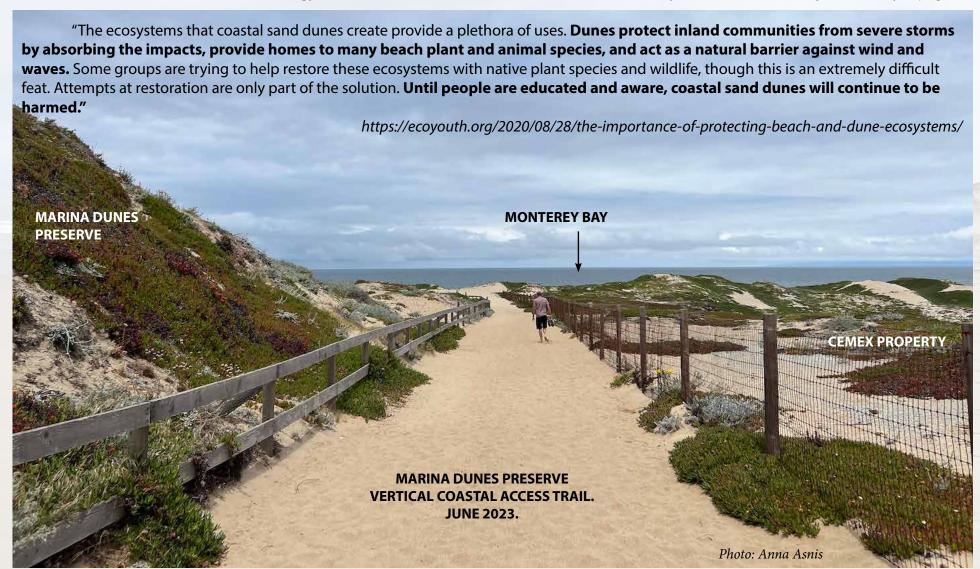
Along the way, sand is washed ashore, temporarily resting on beaches, until it is re-suspended in the ocean by wave action or wind. The one-way journey down the coast ends when sand is blown inland forming sand dunes, or more commonly, when it flows into a submarine canyon.

https://explorebeaches.msi.ucsb.edu/sandy-beach-life/sand-movement

## WHY DO WE NEED TO PROTECT AND RESTORE DUNES?

"California coastal dunes have suffered a disproportionately high amount of human impact because surrounding relatively flat coastal areas are magnets for industry, tourism, recreation and settlement. Dunes are inherently unstable, and repeated and often successful attempts at stabilization have been made since the onset of European settlement in California. Today, the coastal dune landscape of California is altered. As a linear ecosystem, dunes are particularly vulnerable to the effects of fragmentation by industrial, commercial and residential encroachment, the invasion of exotic species, and the impacts of off-road vehicular recreation."

Ecology and Restoration of Northern California Coastal Dunes by Andrea J. Pickart and john O. Sawyer, page 1



## **MARINA DUNE HABITAT**

Within the City of Marina, there are a wide variety of dune and beach habitats that contain a large number of endemic species and high plant diversity. The Monterey Dunes once contained over 50 native plant species, but that has now been reduced by a combination of factors including human disturbance, erosion, sand-mining, and encroachment form non-native species such as iceplant and Holland dune grass (DorellCanepa 2005). Many of these habitats are considered sensitive and home to several sensitive and endangered species.

# **Special Status and Notable Dune Species of Concern: Plants:**

- Seaside Painted Cup (Castilleja latifolia ssp. Latifolia)
- Monterey Spine Flower (Chorizanthe pungens var. pungens)
- Eastwood's Ericameria (Ericameria fasciculate)
- Coast Wallflower (Erysimum ammophilum)
- Menzies' Wallflower (Erysimum menziesii)
- Coastal Dunes Milk Vetch (Astragalus tener var. titi)
- Dune Gilia (Gilia tenuiflora var. arenaria)
- Wild Buckwheat (Eriogonum latifolium) \*
- Wild Buckwheat (Eriogonum parvifolium) \*
- Bush Lupine (Lupinus ssp.) +

#### **Animals:**

- Smith's Blue Butterfly (Shijimiaeoides enoptes smithi)
- Globose Dune Beetle (Coelus globosus)
- Black Legless Lizard (Anniella pulchra nigra)
- Salinas Kangaroo Rat (Dipodomys Heermanni Goldmani)
- Western Snowy Plover (Charadrius nivosus nivosus)
- \* only within the range of Smith's Blue Butterfly.
- + only within the range of the Black Legless Lizard.

  https://cityofmarina.org/DocumentCenter/View/13172/Marina-PublicDraft-Land-Use-Plan-Coastal-Hazards?bidId=



Lupinus arboreus



Castilleja latifolia
Photo: Anna Asnis

## **INVASIVE PLANTS**

"The invasion of non-indigenous plant species has been recognized as one of the most serious global threats to natural plant communities. Plant invasions reduce biological diversity by causing populations declines and simplification of ecosystems. the control of non-native plants has been cited as among the most urgent of land management needs."

Andrea J. Pickart and John O. Sawer, 1998 . Ecology and Restoration of Northern California Coastal Dunes.
Published by California Native Plant Society.

There are several invasive species that need to be removed from Marina dunes: Iceplant (Carpobrotus edulis), Narrow-leaved iceplant (Conicosia pugioniformis), European beachgrass (Ammophila arenaria), Acacia spp.

Iceplant is the most prolific, takes up space and pushes out native plants and other species that depend on them - butterflies and lizards.



INVASIVE ICE PLANT - MUST BE REMOVED.

Carpobrotus edulis

# **SNOWY PLOVERS - PROTECTED BIRDS**







"From Monterey Harbor north to Watsonville and beyond, a long crescent of high dunes defines the Monterey Bay's shore. And no single species better captures both the subtle beauty and fragility of this dune ecosystem than the Western Snowy Plover. "Snowies" can't nest on the Rocky Shore. They can't nest in grasslands, or agricultural fields. They require sand, invertebrates to eat, and to be left more-or-less alone from the intrusions of Homo sapiens.

While Snowy Plovers were once more widespread in Monterey Bay, today they find the conditions they need to nest and survive from roughly Sand City, north to the mouth of the Pajaro River. Here the dunescape is broad enough, unleashed dogs are few enough, and the foot traffic of beachgoers and surf-casters is light enough, that Snowy Plovers can still forage and breed, most seasons. Significant stretches of the coast are nominally protected as California State Parklands. But a scattering of privately owned footholds in the dunes present a constant risk of development, threatening to extirpate the birds from segments of the shoreline piecemeal."

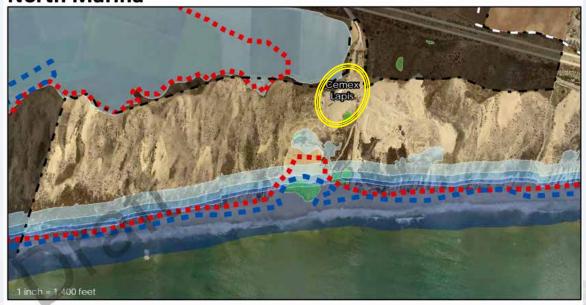
https://www.montereyaudubon.org/snowy-plovers



SINCE DREDGE POND IS FILLED IN COMPLETELY WITH SAND AN ADDITIONAL 900 FT OF PLOVER HABITAT IS ADDED TO THE SHORELINE. A WIN FOR THE ENVIRONMENT!

# **TSUNAMITHREAT TO CEMEX PLANT**

### **North Marina**



#### **TSUNAMI:**

On this map it is shown that Cemex property will not be affected by tsunami or coastal erosion in the next 80 years..

#### Legend

Coastal Storm and Erosion Year (inches/feet)

> Existing (0"/~0') 2030 (9"/~1') 2060 (28"/~2")

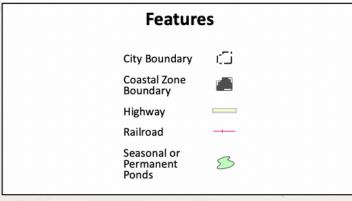
2100 (63"/~5")

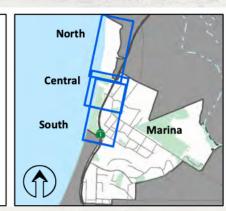
Tsunami Inundation Lines

Science Application for Risk Reduction

(SAFRR) - USGS Tsunami Inundation Line

California Geological Survey (CGS) Tsunami Inundation





https://cityofmarina.org/DocumentCenter/View/13172/Marina-Public-Draft-Land-Use-Plan-Coastal-Hazards?bidld=

### PROPOSED DESALINATION PLANT

On November 17, 2022, the California Coastal Commission approved the construction of a desalination plant, despite acknowledging its high costs, environmental risks to Monterey Bay, and significant environmental justice concerns. The contentious debate centered on the fairness of locating a for-profit company's facility in Marina, Monterey County, a community that doesn't require the water and includes disadvantaged neighborhoods. The water produced by the expensive plant will primarily benefit wealthier areas such as Carmel-by-the-Sea, Pacific Grove, and Pebble Beach. California American Water, the nation's largest publicly traded water and wastewater company, aims to build the plant to provide drinking water to 100,000 people on the Monterey Peninsula, including the largely Latino community of Castroville. However, the project faces several hurdles, including obtaining permits and resolving a court battle over groundwater rights.

The decision to approve the plant highlights the tension between environmental justice concerns, ecological impacts, and the precarious water supply situation on the Monterey Peninsula. The region heavily relies on over-pumped groundwater, the overtaxed Carmel River, and highly-treated wastewater due to a lack of imported water. While supporters, including Governor Gavin Newsom, state water agencies, and local SOURCE: ESA, 2016 businesses, argue that the desalination project will alleviate housing shortages and bolster local water supplies, opponents express reservations about the potential harm to sensitive habitats and the distribution of water to wealthier areas, sparking a complex and contentious issue in the region.

https://calmatters.org/environment/2022/11/ desalination-plant-monterey-california/

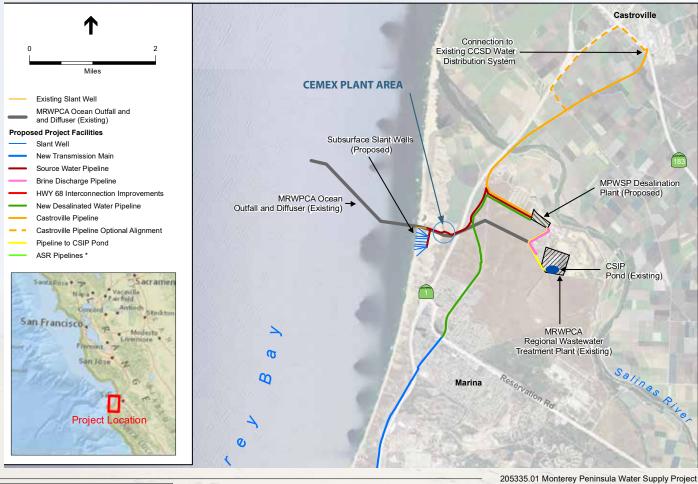


Figure ES-1 Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project Overview

NOTE:
\*The ASR Pipelines are the ASR Conveyance Pipeline the ASR Pump-to-Waste Pipeline, and the ASR Recirculation Pipeline. See Figure 3-9a for the individual pipeline alignments.

#### **MY CONCLUSION:**

EVEN IF A DESALINATION PLANT IS EVENTUALLY BUILT ON THIS PROPERTY, THE PUMP EQUIPMENT WILL NOT TAKE TOO MUCH SPACE, DESALINATION PLANT AND THE DUNE MUSEUM CAN CO-EXIST.

#### Marina, CA

Population: 22,246 Area: 8.9 sq. miles

Density: 2,497.4 people per sq.mile

Median Age: 34.9

#### **Population** by age



**Median Household** Income \$78,795



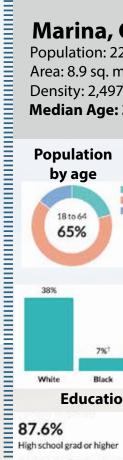
Median value \$593,700



# **Race and Ethnicity**



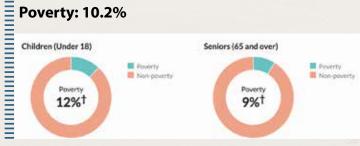
#### **Education**



about 20 percent higher than the rate about 25 percent higher than the rate in the Salinas, CA Metro Area; 73% in the Salinas, CA Metro Area: 26.5% California: 84.2% California 35.35



#### **Poverty: 10.2%**



Marina's population is younger, poorer and more diverse then the population in nearby coastal areas of **Monterey County.** 

# **Monterey County (North** Central), CA

Population: 189,694 Area: 509.6 sq. miles

Density: 372.2 people per sq.mile

Under 18

65 and over

18 to 64

Median Age 39.9

#### **Population** by age



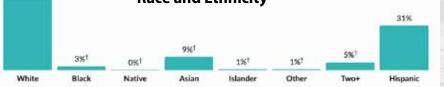
#### **Median Household** Income \$87,426



#### Median value \$848,000







#### Education

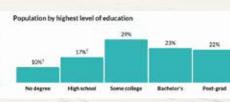


a little Nigher than the rate in

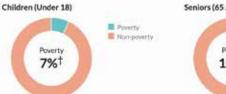
about the same as the rate in United

#### 44.5% Bachelor's degree or higher about 25 percent higher than the rate

about 25 percent higher than the rate



#### Poverty: 8.6%





# LOCAL EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES



# **TOURISM IN MONTEREY COUNTY**

MONTEREY County offers the longest coastline of any California county and attracts more than **3** million visitors annually to destinations such as Fisherman's Wharf, the Cannery and the Monterey Bay Aquarium.

(https://www.co.monterey.ca.us/government/departments-a-h/administrative-office/economic-development/at-a-glance-county-facts)

Tourism is the number two industry in Monterey County and number one industry on the Monterey Peninsula. In 2021 Monterey County saw \$2.5 billion in travel spending, a 22 percent decrease of travel spending from 2019. Visitor spending in the destination supported 21,600 jobs and generated \$264 million in state and local tax revenue that supports infrastructure improvements, first responder and emergency services, and other programs and projects that benefit residents of the community.

Monterey County benefits from its scenic location along California's central coast and **expansive outdoor recreation opportunities.** 

(https://assets.simpleviewinc.com/simpleview/image/upload/v1/clients/montereycounty/Tourism\_ Impact\_2022\_FINAL\_e10a8a2e-69d8-41b5-85f5-952f35ec1783.pdf)







\$264 Million

JOBS

21,600



\$3 Million

## **Local Residents**

Marina's population is younger, poorer and more diverse then the population in nearby coastal areas of Monterey County.

# Marina, CA POPULATION: 22,246

Area: 8.9 sq. miles Median Age: 34.9

# **Students & Teachers**

Number Of Students Within 7 Mile Radius:

CSU MONTEREY BAY:

7,500 STUDENTS

TWO HIGH SCHOOLS:

728 STUDENTS

ONE MIDDLE SCHOOLS:

557 STUDENTS

**FOUR ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS:** 945 STUDENTS

**TOTAL: 10,261 STUDENTS** 

# **Tourists\***

\* Monterey County

**VISITORS: 3 Million a Year** 



REVENUE \$2.6 Billion a Year

**TAXES: \$264 Million a Year** 

JOBS: 21,600

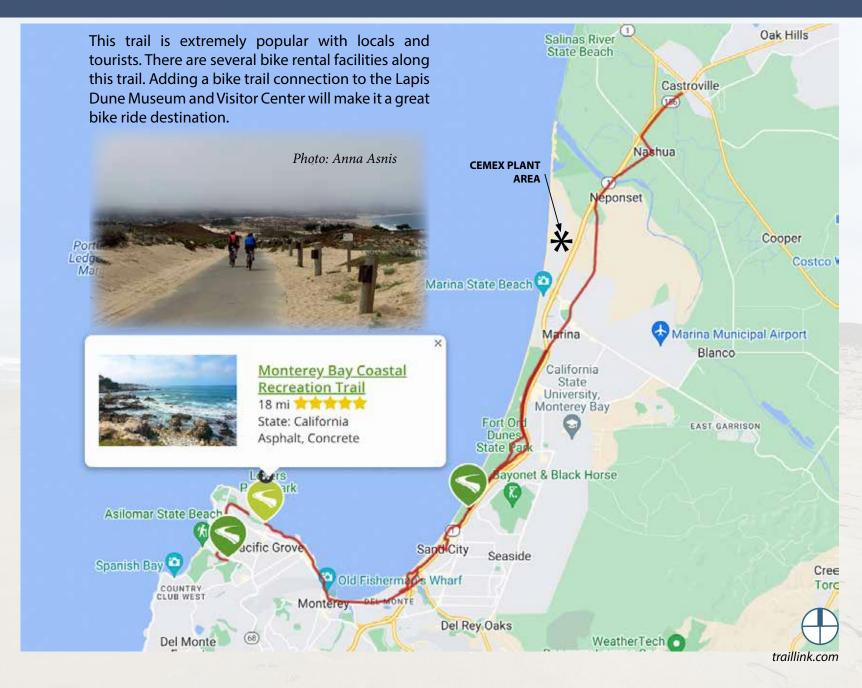




#### **SITE VICINITY: CONTEXT SALINAS RIVER** NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE SALINAS RIVER **AGRICULTURE -Cold weather** crops -**AGRICULTURE** brassicas, **AGRICULTURE -Cold weather** salads **Cold weather** crops root crops crops brassicas, **MONTEREY BAY** brassicas, salads salads root crops CEMEX root crops property **CEMEX PLANT AGRICULTURE Cold weather** crops brassicas, salads root crops **PURE WATER MONTEREY -URBAN GROWTH WASTE WATER PURIFICATION MARINA DUNES** BOUNDARY **AND AQUIFER RECHARGE PRESERVE OPEN SPACE PLANT RV PARK** \ **URBAN GROWTH RESORTS** -**BOUNDARY** SINGLE **OPEN SPACE FAMILY** 3000' AND COMMERCIAL 30 UCLA EXTENSION- LANDSCAPE A CHITECTURE PROGRAM - CAPSTONE STUDIO - SUMMER 2023 ANNA ASNIS ///BOOKLET

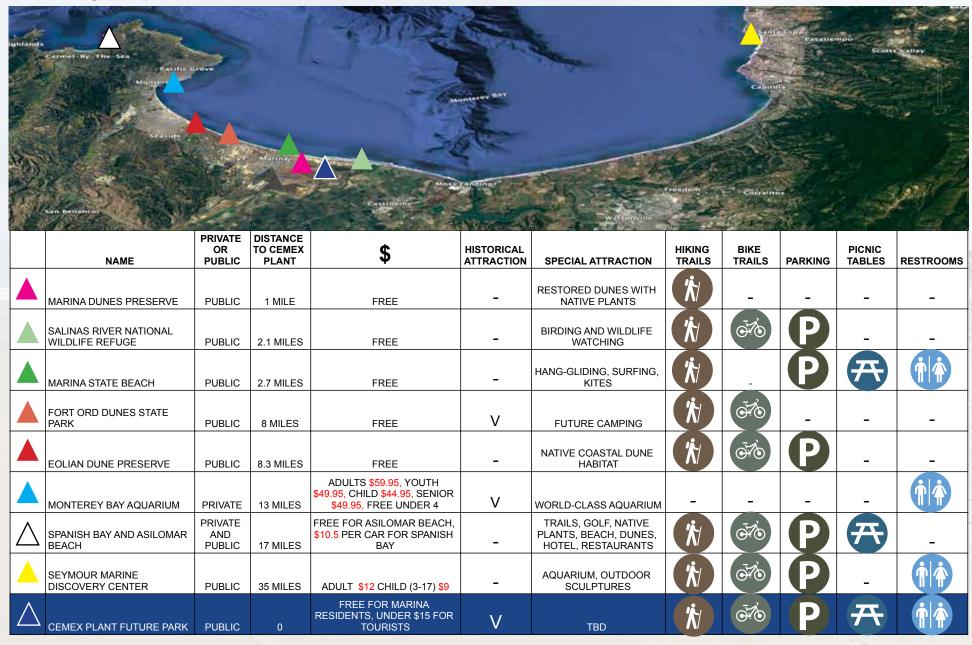
#### **SITE VICINITY CIRCULATION SALINAS RIVER NATIONAL EXISTING WILDLIFE VEHICULAR ACCESS REFUGE EXISTING** SALINAS RIVER **BIKE TRAIL VERTICAL COASTAL EXISTING ACCESS TRAIL\* COASTAL TRAILS MONTEREY BAY POSSIBLE VERTICAL COASTAL ACCESS TRAIL\* 1.25 MILES POSSIBLE BIKE** TRAIL CONNECTION 1.5 MILES **CEMEX PLANT VERTICAL OPPORTUNITIES:** COASTAL **ACCESS TRAIL MARINA DUNES** 1. ADD BIKE CONNECTION TRAIL TO THE SITE **PRESERVE** 2. ADD VERTICAL COASTAL ACCESS TRAIL\* -**CITY OF MARINA WANTS A TRAIL LIKE THIS RV PARK** ~ AT THIS SITE. **RESORTS** \* A TRAIL THAT RUNS PERPENDICULAR TO **THE SHORE** 3000' ANNA ASNIS ///BOOKLET **CLA EXTENSION- LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE PROGRAM** - CAPSTONE STUDIO - SUMMER **2**023 31

# **COASTAL BIKE TRAIL, MONTEREY BAY, CA**

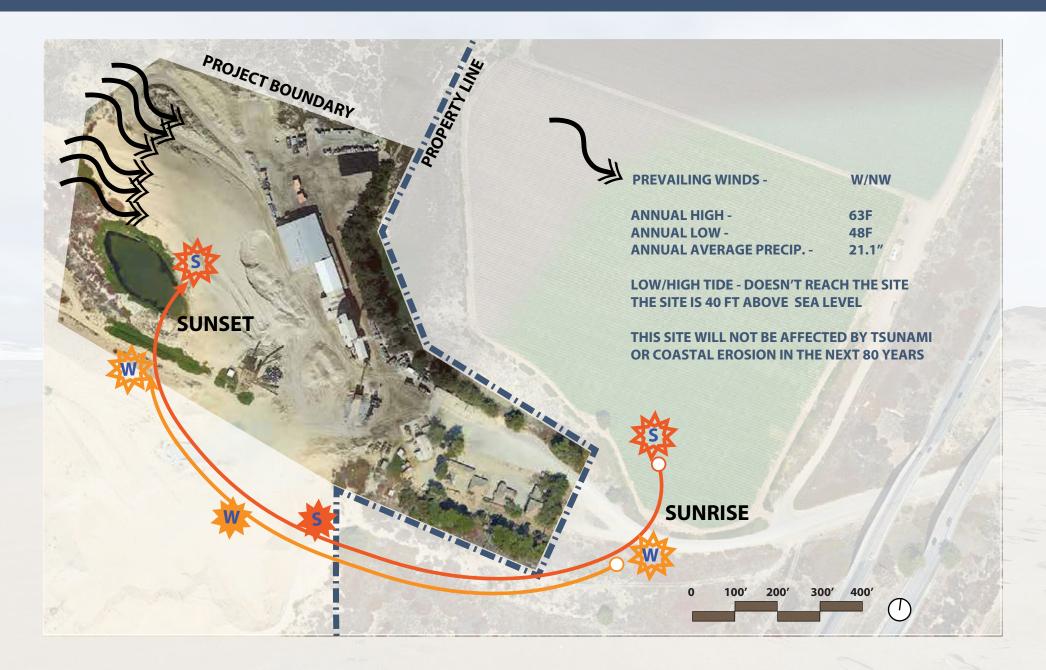


## **MONTEREY BAY SHORELINE PARKS & ATTRACTIONS: SUMMARY TABLE**

I looked at coastal parks and museums popular with locals and tourists. This research helped me to narrow down facilities that can be included into the design of Lapis Dune Museum and Visitor Center.



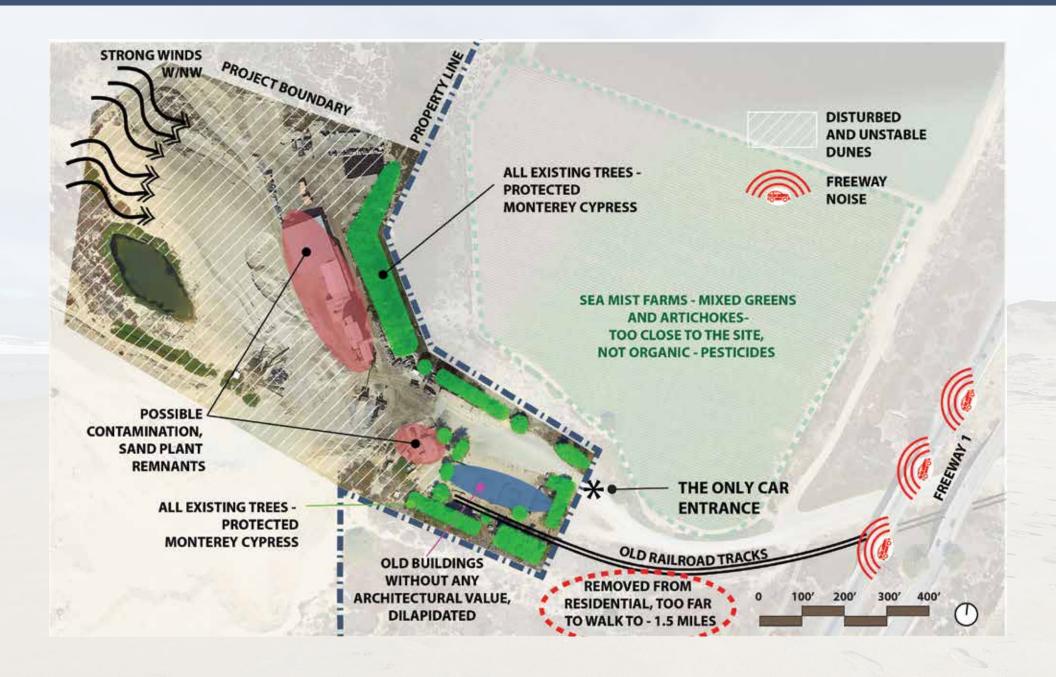
# **PROJECT SITE CLIMATE FACTORS**



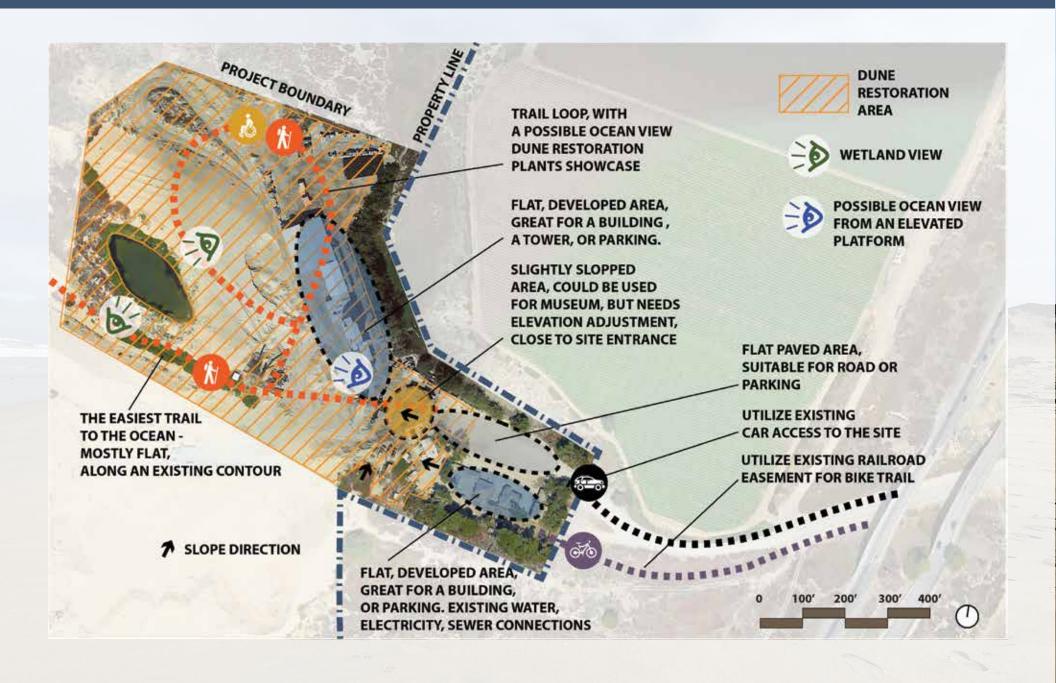
# **PROJECT SITE INVENTORY**



# **PROJECT SITE CONSTRAINTS**



#### **PROJECT SITE OPPORTUNITIES**



#### CASE STUDIES: MARINA DUNES PRESERVE & SALINAS RIVER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE





**GOOGLE EARTH** 

**Marina Dunes Preserve** is a 170-acre natural sanctuary on the central coast of California, with a pristine dune ecosystem, hiking trails, and educational opportunities. It boasts rare plant and animal species, including endangered beach layia and Monterey spineflower, and serves as a habitat for Western snowy plover and California least tern.

# Marina Dunes Preserves borders Cemex Lapis Plant property.

#### **HISTORY:**

Marina Dunes Preserve was established in 2000 through a collaborative effort between the Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District (MPRPD) and the Trust for Public Land. The preserve is located on a former sand mining site, and its establishment helped to restore the natural dune ecosystem that had been disrupted by decades of mining. Since then, the MPRPD has worked tirelessly to maintain the preserve's ecological integrity and provide educational opportunities for visitors. Today, Marina Dunes Preserve stands as a testament to the power of conservation and serves as a valuable resource for both the local community and visitors to the central coast.



https://www. californiabeaches.com/ beach/salinas-river-nationalwildlife-refuge/

**Salinas River National Wildlife Refuge** was initially established in 1973 because of its prime location along the Pacific Flyway. During the spring and fall migrations, thousands of birds traveling along the Pacific Flyway flock to the refuge, seeking shelter and food in one of the few remaining wetlands along the central California coast. The refuge also protects several threatened and endangered species, including Western snowy plover, Smith's blue butterfly, and Monterey spineflower.

Salinas river national wildlife refuge is near Cemex Lapis Plant property. It has a Parking lot, information stand, hiking and biking trails and lots of wildlife.

TAKEAWAY: RESTORED DUNES, TRAILS, EDUCATIONAL SIGNS, NATIVE PLANTS SUITABLE FOR THE AREA.

# CASE STUDY, VISITOR CENTER: Lands End Lookout, San Francisco, CA

#### **Lands End Lookout Visitor Center**

Facilities include visitor information and gift shop.

Exhibits: Indoor exhibits and videos on the natural and cultural history of the Lands End area, Sutro Baths and Sutro Heights. Outdoor 3-D model of Lands End area.

**Lands End's trails** winds their way around rocky cliffs above the ocean, moving through shady stands of cypress and eucalyptus and emerging on to spectacular views of the shore, headlands, and Golden Gate.

https://www.nps.gov/goga/planyourvisit/landsend.htm











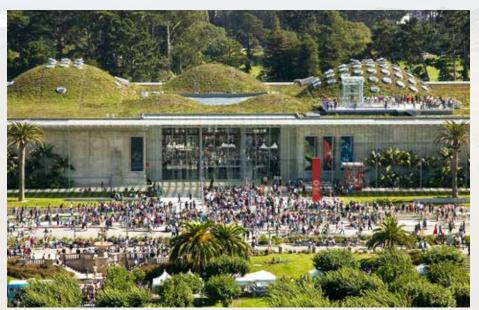


Photos and text: SURFACEDESIGN INC. https://www.sdisf.com/lands-endlookout

TAKEAWAY: RESTORED DUNES, VIEWS. MATERIAL PALETTE: CONCRETE AND WEATHERED SOLID WOOD BENCHES.

# CASE STUDY: ACADEMY OF SCIENCES GREEN ROOF, SAN FRANCISCO, CA





TAKEAWAY: ADD GREEN ROOF WITH NATIVE PLANTS TO MY MUSEUM BUILDING.



One of San Francisco's first sustainable building projects, the California Academy of Sciences supports a stunning 2.5-acre green roof.

The vegetated roof's contours conform to the facilities, offices, and exhibition halls below—rising above the planetarium and the rain forest exhibit and lowering at the central piazza to introduce light and air into the heart of the building.

Following Renzo Piano's original concept drawing, the roof's seven hills are intended to echo the seven major hills of San Francisco.

The California native plants that carpet the building were chosen for their adaptability to the Bay Area's seasonal irrigation cycle.

PHOTOS AND TEXT: https://www.swagroup.com/projects/california-academy-of-sciences/

# **CASE STUDIES: OBSERVATION TOWERS IN LANDSCAPE**

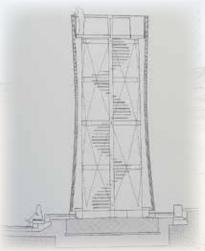
















WATCHING TOWER, NORWAY Rintala Eggertsson Architects

PHOTOS: https://www.archdaily.com/212966/seljordwatch-tower-rintala-eggertsson-architects

LOOKOUT TOWER, GERMANY fischer heumann landschaftsarchitekten

PHOTOS: https://fischerheumann.de/

JOHN JACOB OBSERVATION TOWER,
HOUSTON, TEXAS
PDG Architects

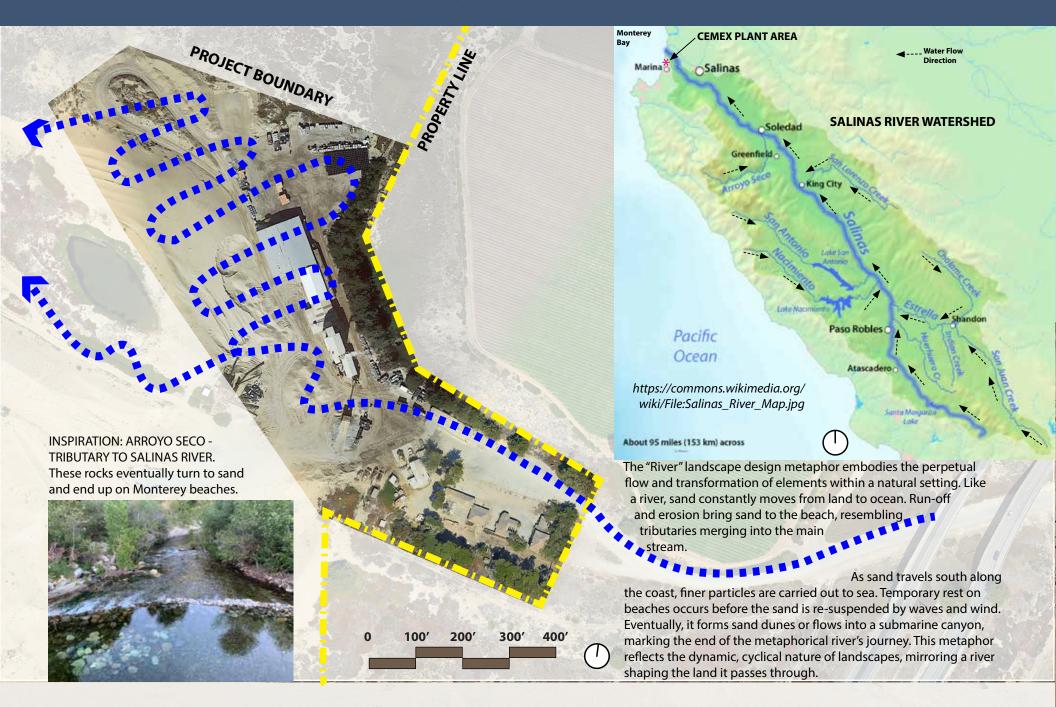
PHOTOS: https://www.pdgarchitects.com/ sheldon-tower LANDMARK LAUSITZ, GERMANY Stefan Giers + Susanne Gabriel

PHOTOS: https://www. thisispaper.com/mag/ landmarke-lausitzer-seenlandrostiger-nagel-stefan-gierssusanne-gabriel

TAKEAWAY: THESE WATCH TOWERS IN LANDSCAPE ARE VERY SUCCESSFUL AND POPULAR WITH VISITORS. I SHOULD ADD ONE TO MY DESIGN.

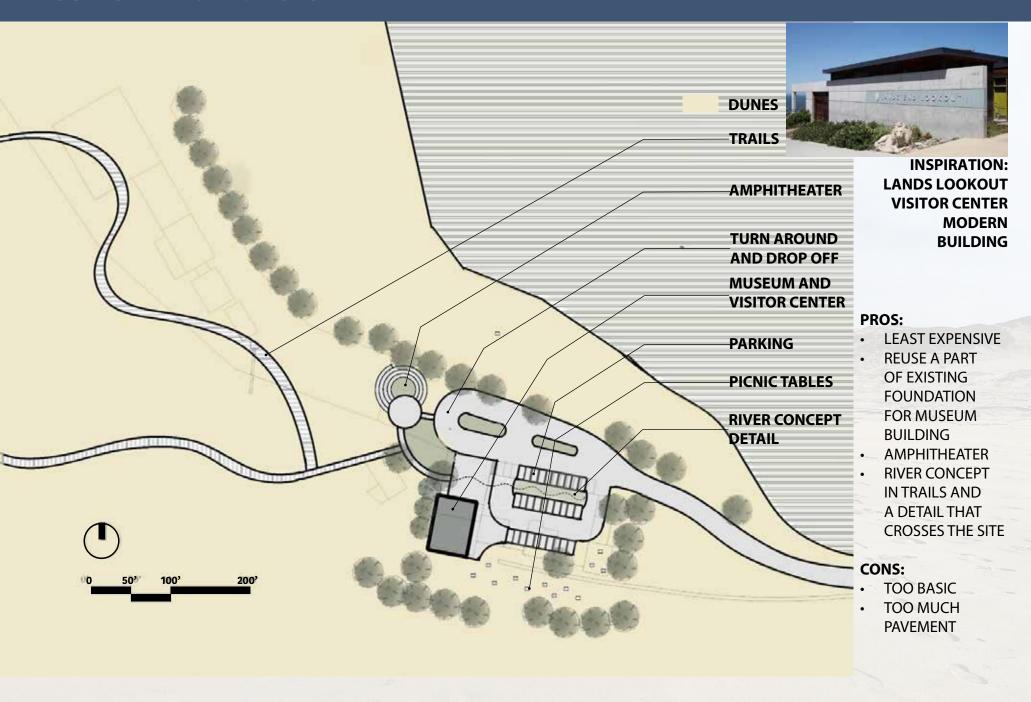
# **PART 2. DESIGN DEVELOPMENT**

# **PRELIMINARY DESIGN METAPHOR - RIVER**

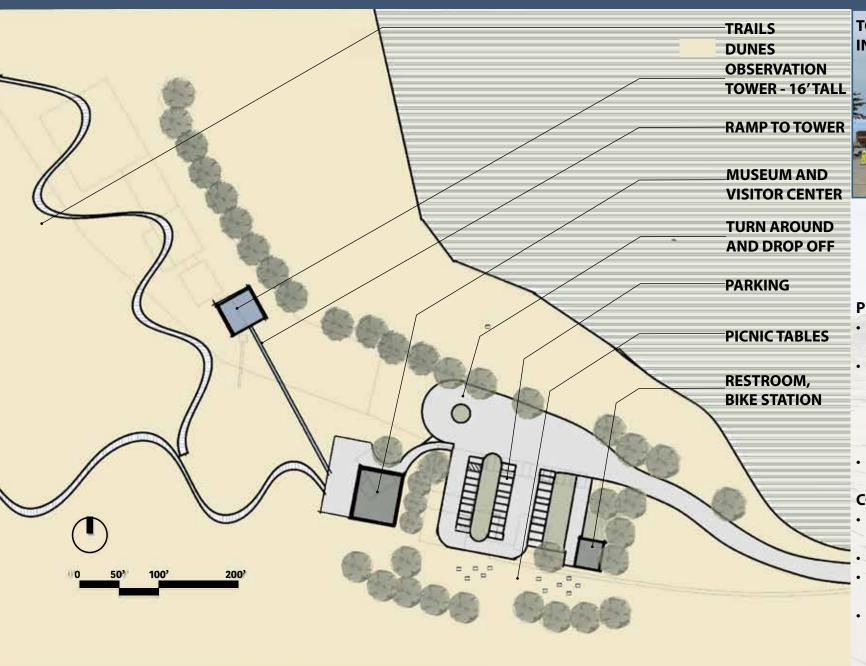


ANNA ASNIS ///BOOKLET

#### **BASIC CONCEPT 1:**



#### **CONCEPT 2: 16'TALL TOWER**





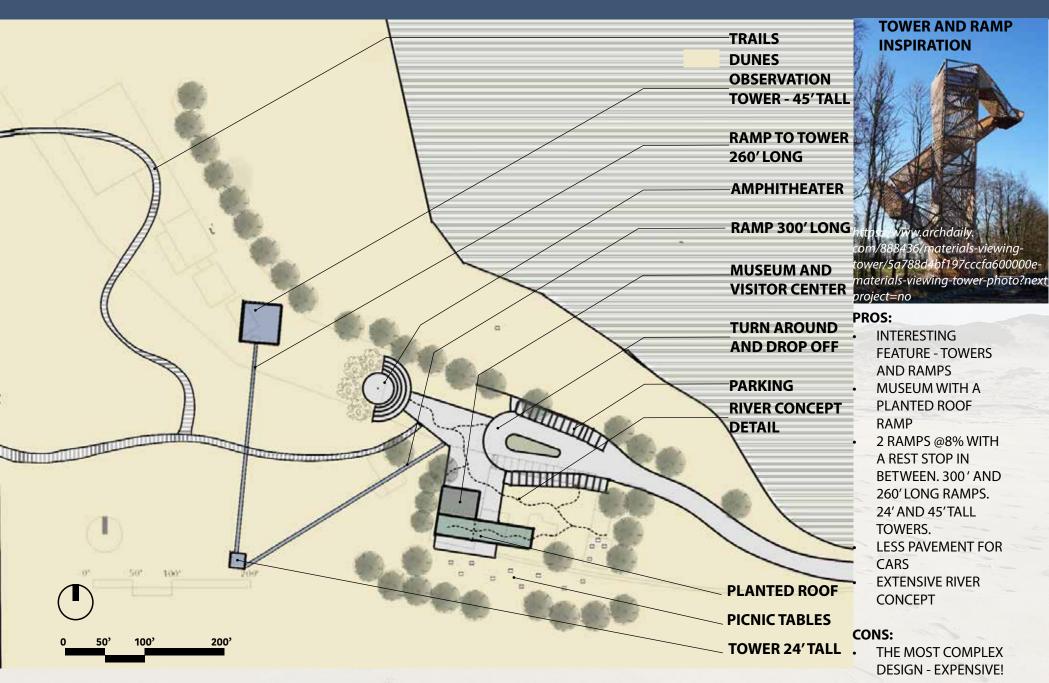
#### PROS:

- INTERESTING FEATURE - TOWER
- BUILDINGS FOR RESTROOMS (ALWAYS OPEN) AND MUSEUM.
- 210' RAMP @8%

#### **CONS:**

- THE TOWER IS ONLY 16'TALL
- MORE PAVEMENT
- NO AMPHITHEATER
- RIVER METAPHOR IS ONLY IN TRAILS

#### **CONCEPT 3:** 24' AND 45' TALL TOWERS



# **CONCEPT 3: MUSEUM ELEVATION**



https://obiebowman.com/brunsellhouse-aka-obie-house/

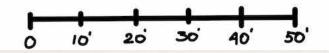


https://obiebowman.com/brunsellhouse-aka-obie-house/



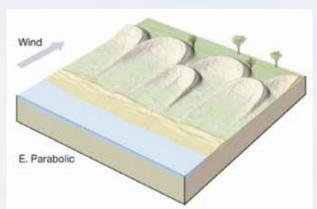
"The Sea Ranch" book by Donlyn Lyndon and Jim Alinder

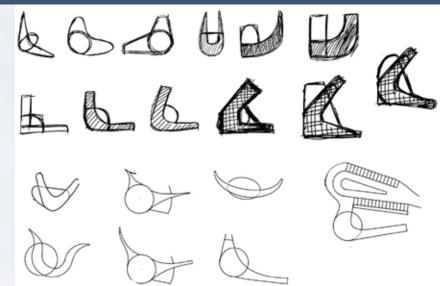


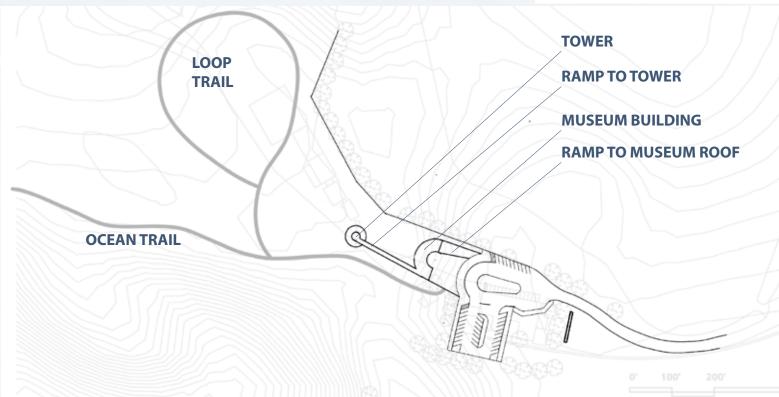


# **CONCEPT 4: EXPLORATION OF MUSEUM BUILDING SHAPE**

# **INSPIRATION**: PARABOLIC DUNE



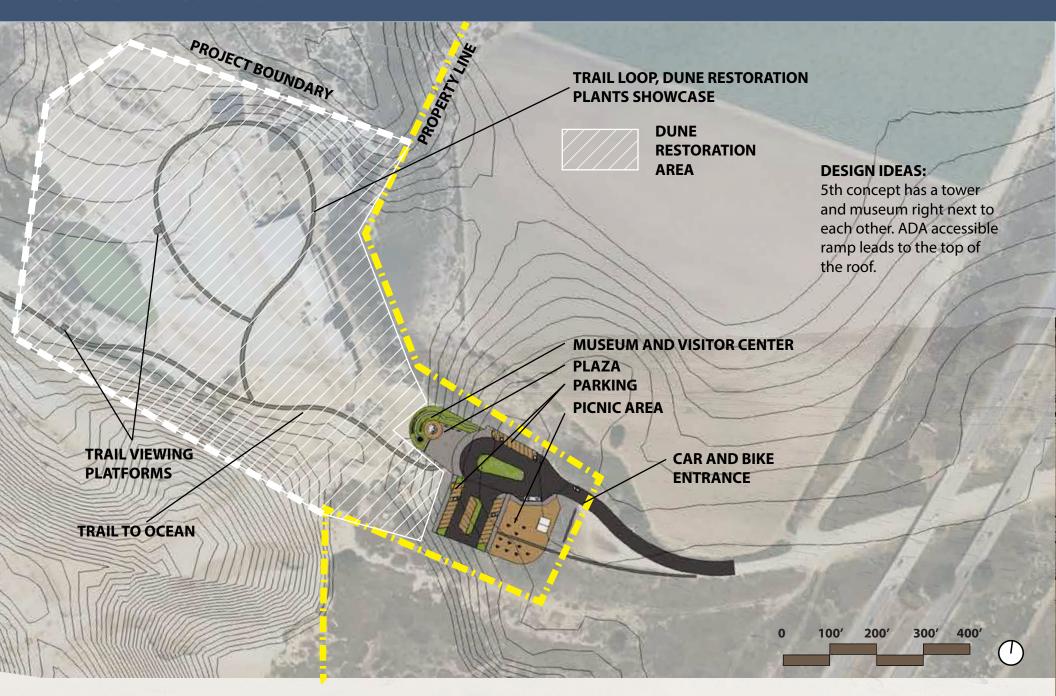




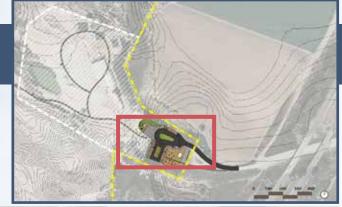
#### **DESIGN IDEAS:**

I wanted to design a building that is connected to the ground via a ramp and connected to a lookout tower. I explored all kinds of shapes that were inspired by a parabolic dune these types of dunes are common in the area.

# **CONCEPT 5: MASTER PLAN**



# **CONCEPT 5: ENLARGEMENT 1**





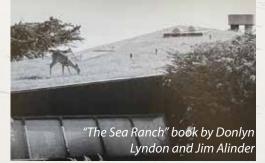
# CONCEPT 5, PERSPECTIVE: GREEN ROOF CONNECTED TO THE GROUND



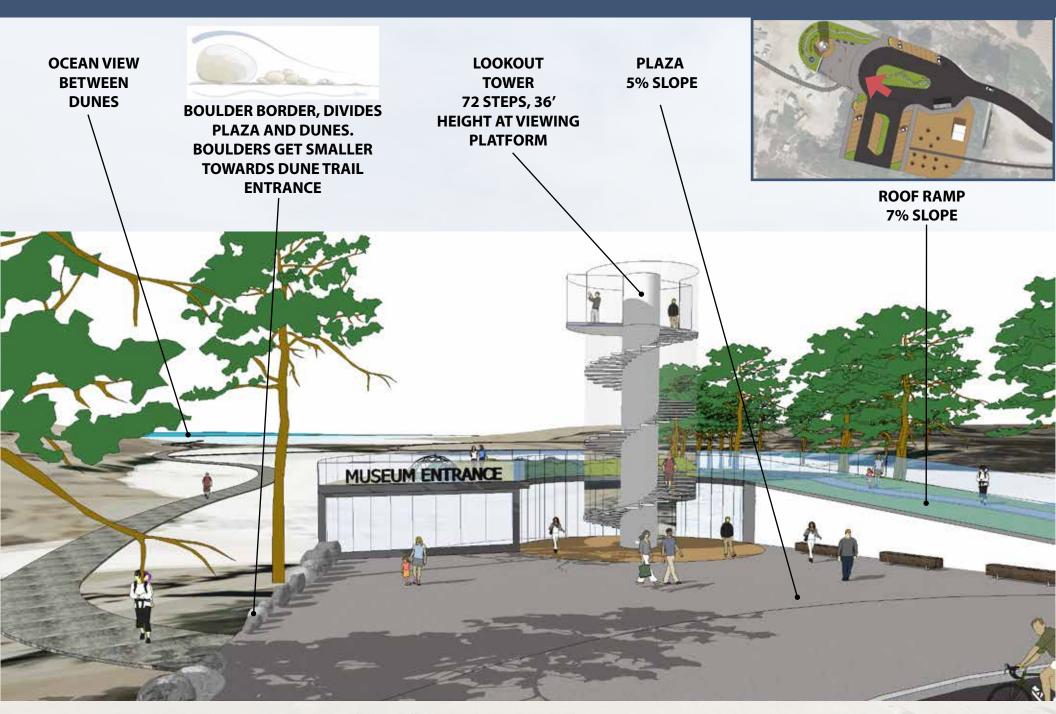
INSPIRATION: BRUNSELL HOUSE @ SEA RANCH, ARCHITECT: OBIE BOWMAN, BUILT IN 1985







# **CONCEPT 5, PERSPECTIVE: MUSEUM ENTRANCE AND PLAZA**

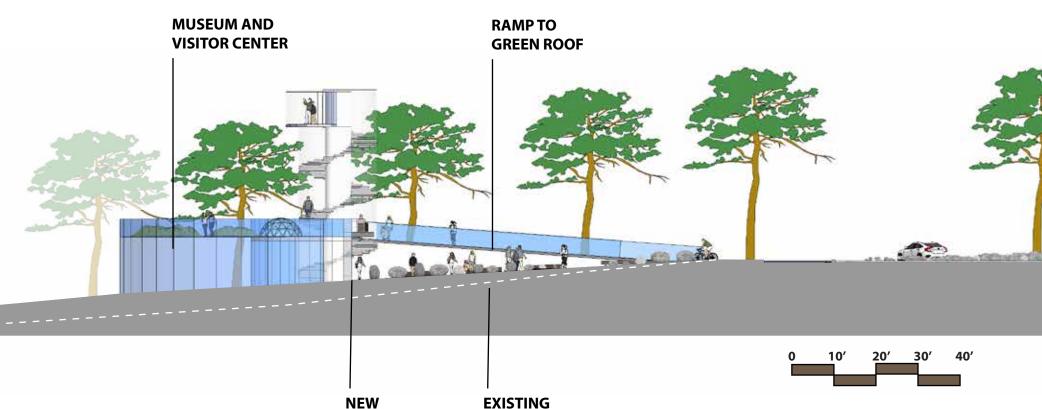


# **CONCEPT 5: SECTION-ELEVATION AT MUSEUM PLAZA**

#### **DESIGN IDEAS:**

Because of the slope, this ramp is ADA accessible and it leads to the top of the roof.



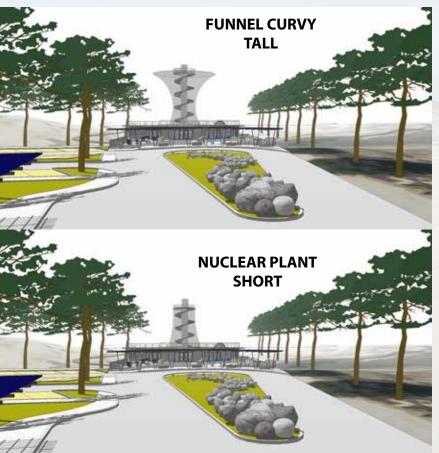


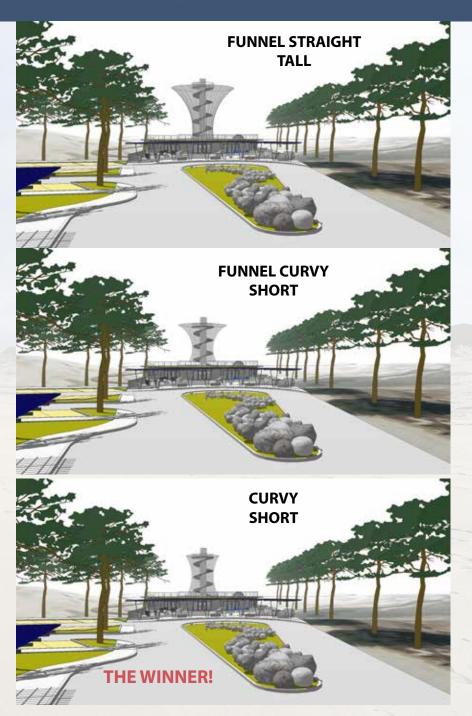
#### **TAKEAWAY FROM CONCEPT 5:**

I decided it would be better to include Lookout Tower into the Museum building and to try rotating the building 180 degrees. Bike entrance needs to be separated from the car entrance. Reduce turnaround and consolidate car parking in one area.

# TOWER SHAPE EXPLORATIONS FOR THE FINAL DESIGN

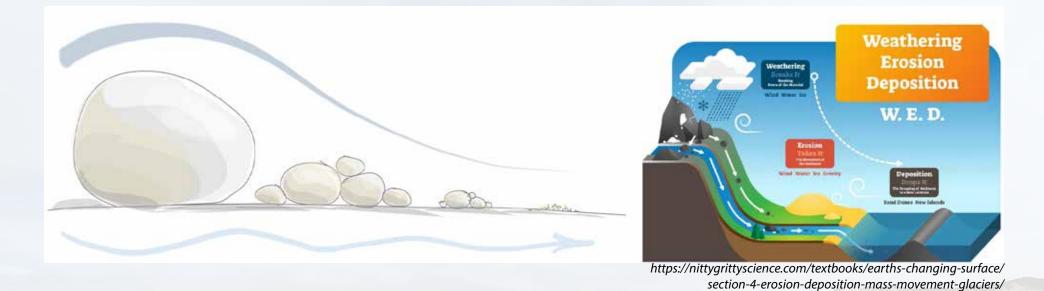






PART 1. RESEARCH, SITE ANALYSIS, CASE STUDIES
PART 2. DESIGN DEVELOPMENT
PART 3. FINAL DESIGN

# **DESIGN METAPHOR: FROM BOULDERS TO PEBBLES TO SAND**

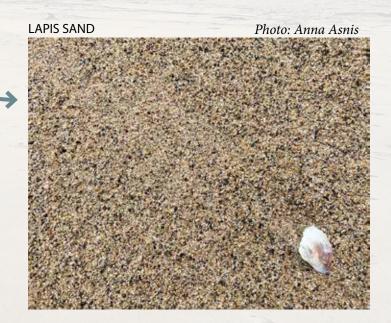


INSPIRATION: ARROYO SECO - TRIBUTARY TO SALINAS RIVER.

These rocks eventually turn to sand and end up on Monterey beaches.



FROM BOULDERS, TO PEBBLES TO SAND - SALINAS RIVER CARRIES SEDIMENT TOWARDS PACIFIC OCEAN.



#### **DESIGN NARRATIVE AND MATERIALS COLOR PALETTE**

#### **DESIGN NARRATIVE:**

The majority of the site is dedicated to dune restoration program. Car entrance to the site stays as is. New bike entrance is added at the old railroad easement. The main attractions at the site are Lapis Dune Ecology Museum and Lookout Tower. I added two dune trails - Loop Trail and Ocean Trail. Both trails are raised above dunes as boardwalks and there are two Wetland Observation Platforms - one at each trail.

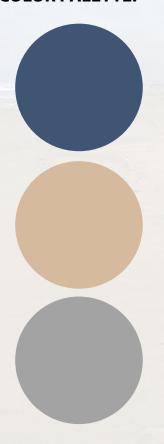
The museum has two plazas, green roof, steps to the roof, Lookout Tower at the top and a glass dome above Monterey bay 3D map inside the museum. The Green Roof and Lookout Tower are ADA accessible with an elevator that goes through Lookout Tower core. The Front Plaza of the Museum has a playful rock fountain and different types of seating. The Back Plaza of the Museum has cafe seating protected with a windbreak wall.

Bike path terminates at Picnic area plaza, that has a separate restroom building, bike parking, railroad garden and 6 picnic tables with barbecues.

There are 34 regular car parking spaces, four ADA accessible spaces. The front of the museum has a turnaround and drop off area with a shade structure and bench seating. Bus parking is located near restrooms and also has a shade structure with bench seating for waiting passengers.

All site plantings are CA Native, suitable for the coastal climate.

#### **MATERIALS COLOR PALETTE:**



**PACIFIC BLUE** 

**SAND YELLOW** 

**WEATHERED WOOD GREY** 



# FINAL DESIGN CONCEPT MASTER PLAN

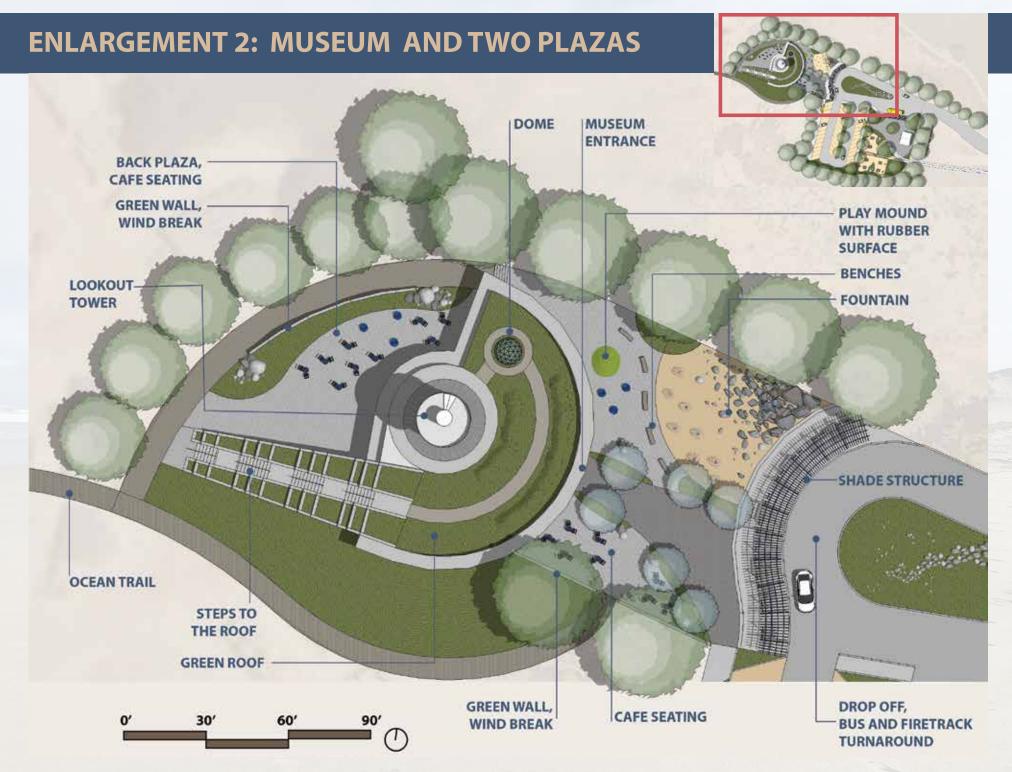


# **ENLARGEMENT 1**



# **PERSPECTIVE: MAIN CAR ENTRANCE**





# **PERSPECTIVE: MUSEUM FRONT PLAZA**



**INSPIRARTION: LOOKOUT** TOWER, GERMANY fischer heumann landschaftsarchitekten

PHOTOS: https://fischerheumann.de/





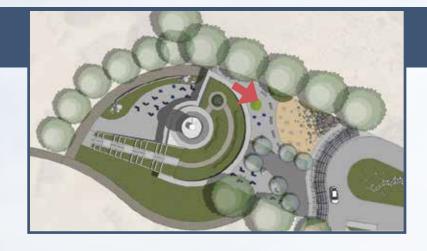
# **PERSPECTIVE: FOUNTAIN**



#### **FOUNTAIN INSPIRATION**

PHOTO COURTESY: Margaret Coffee

FOUNTAIN METAPHOR: "FROM BOULDERS, TO PEBBLES, TO SAND"

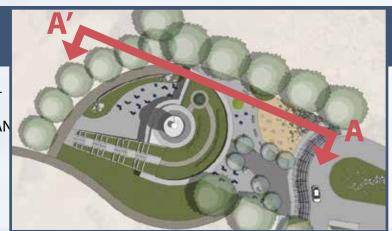


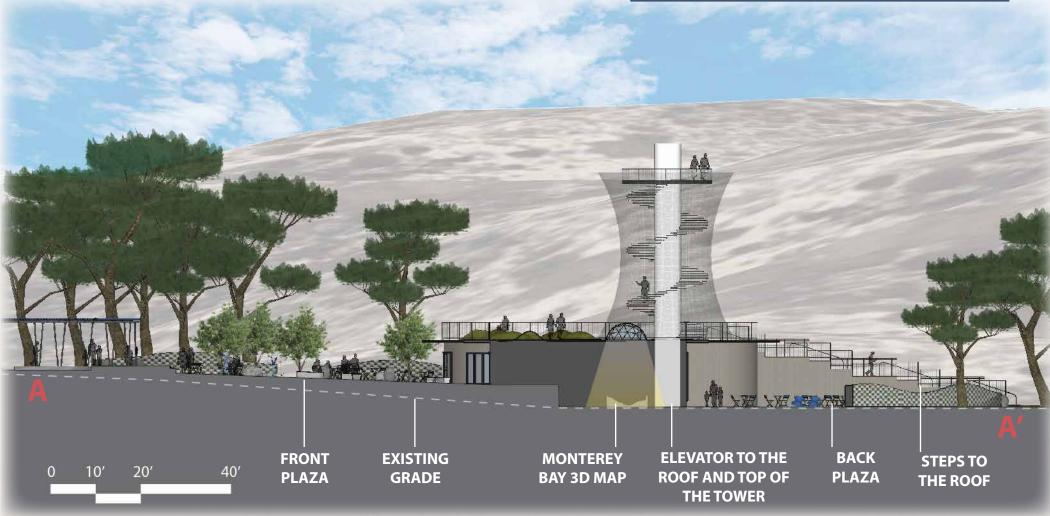


# **SECTION-ELEVATION A-A' AT MUSEUM PLAZA**

https://obiebowman.com/brunsellhouse-aka-obie-house/

**INSPIRATION: BRUNSELL** HOUSE @ SEA RANCH, **ARCHITECT: OBIE BOWMAN BUILT IN 1985** 

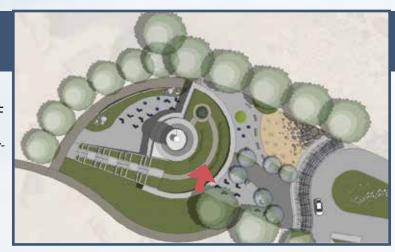


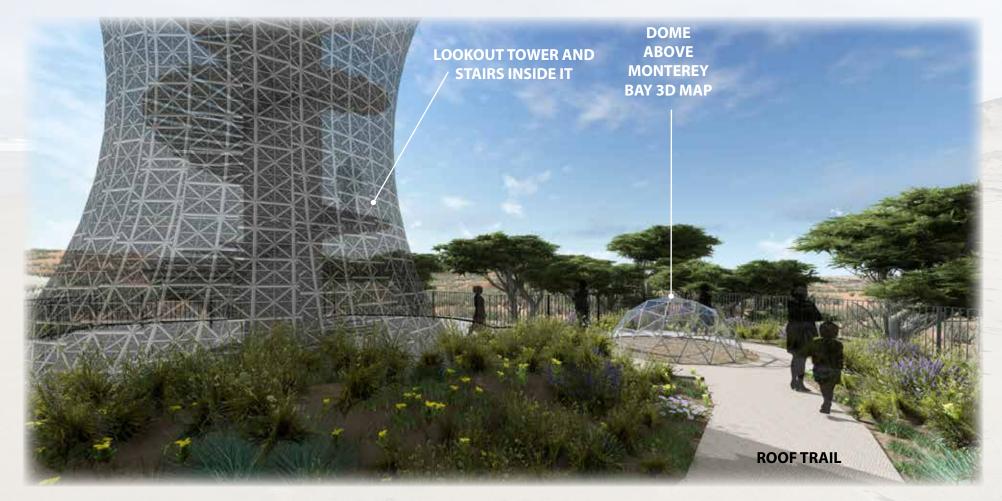


# **PERSPECTIVE: MUSEUM ROOF**

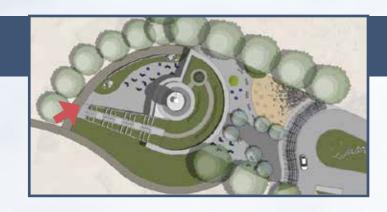


**ROOF INSPIRATION**: ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, SF PHOTO: https://www.swagroup. com/projects/california-academyof-sciences/





# PERSPECTIVE: STEPS AND BACK PLAZA





# **ENLARGEMENT 3: BIKE ENTRANCE & PICNIC AREA**





# **PERSPECTIVE: BIKE ENTRANCE**





# **PERSPECTIVE: PICNIC AREA**



**INSPIRATION: HUNTER'S** POINT PARK, NY PHOTO: https://www.swagroup.com/

projects/hunters-point-south-waterfrontpark/





# OCEAN WETLAND VIEWING PLATFORMS VIEWING PLATFORM PLATFORM 0 25' 50' 100' 150'

# TRAIL AND PLATFORM SECTION, ZOOMED IN

This type of trail requires periodic maintenance - blown in sand removal, boards repair etc. The plus of this design - it is ADA accessible. Special wheelchairs can be provided by the Museum.

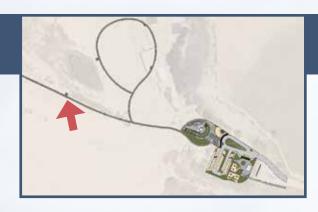


# PERSPECTIVE: TRAIL AND VIEWING PLATFORM



#### **BENCH INSPIRATION**

Photo: SURFACEDESIGN INC. https://www.sdisf.com/lands-end-lookout

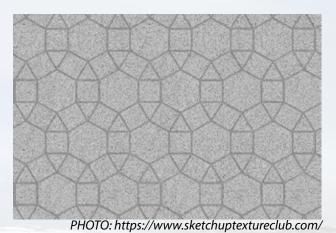




#### **PAVEMENT SURFACE MATERIALS**

#### "BOULDERS"

#### **MUSEUM FRONT AND BACK PLAZA -**CIRCULAR PATTERN PERMEABLE PAVER.



**METAPHOR:** "FROM BOULDERS TO **PEBBLES TO SAND"** 



#### "PEBBLES"

#### **MUSEUM ENTRANCE - EXPOSED AGGREGATE**



PHOTO: https://www.sketchuptextureclub.com/

#### "SAND"

#### **PARKING - GRAVELPAVE2 AND GRAVEL**



PHOTO: ANNA ASNIS

#### "SAND"

#### **PICNIC AREA - DECOMPOSED GRANITE**



PHOTO: https://www.jclandscapingllc.com/landscapingideas/decomposed-granite-landscaping-installation/

#### "SAND"

#### **FOUNTAIN - THERMOPLASTIC RUBBER SURFACE**



PHOTO: https://www.fleckssystems.com/

#### **PROPOSED TREES**

The design proposes to keep all existing Monterey Cypress trees. There are about 26 new trees added to the site plan. Twenty new Monterey Cypress and Coast Live Oak trees, plus Six Ray Hartman ceanothuses in tree form at the Museum Front Plaza. All proposed trees are native to California and they do well in this coastal climate.

Coast Live Oak and Ceanothus should be planted in a more protected area, Monterey Cypress can be the first line of defense against ocean winds.

#### **MONTEREY CYPRESS**



PHOTO: Anna Asnis

#### **COAST LIVE OAK**



PHOTO: Anna Asnis

#### **RAY HARTMAN CEANOTHUS**



https://www.laspilitas.com/nature-of-california/ plants/139--ceanothus-ray-hartman

# PROPOSED ROOF PLANTING

Fragaria chiloensis **PERENNIALS:** Eschscholzia californica **ANNUALS:** Layia platiglosa

Armeria maritama

Lupinus bicolor



Prunella vulgaris





PHOTOS: https://calscape.org/ PLANT LIST: BOOK. LANDSCAPE INFRUSTRUCTURE. Case Studies by SWA . Birkhauser Basel.

Sedum spathifolium

#### PROPOSED DUNE PLANTING

**Eriogonum latifolium** 



Lupinus chamissonis



Astragalus nuttallii



Gilia tenuiflora ssp. arenaria



Achillea millefolium



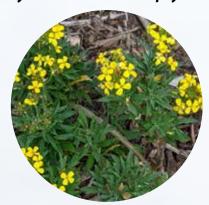
Chorizanthe pungens var. pungens



Artemisia pycnocephala



Erysimum menziesii ssp. yadonii



Corethrogyne filaginifolia

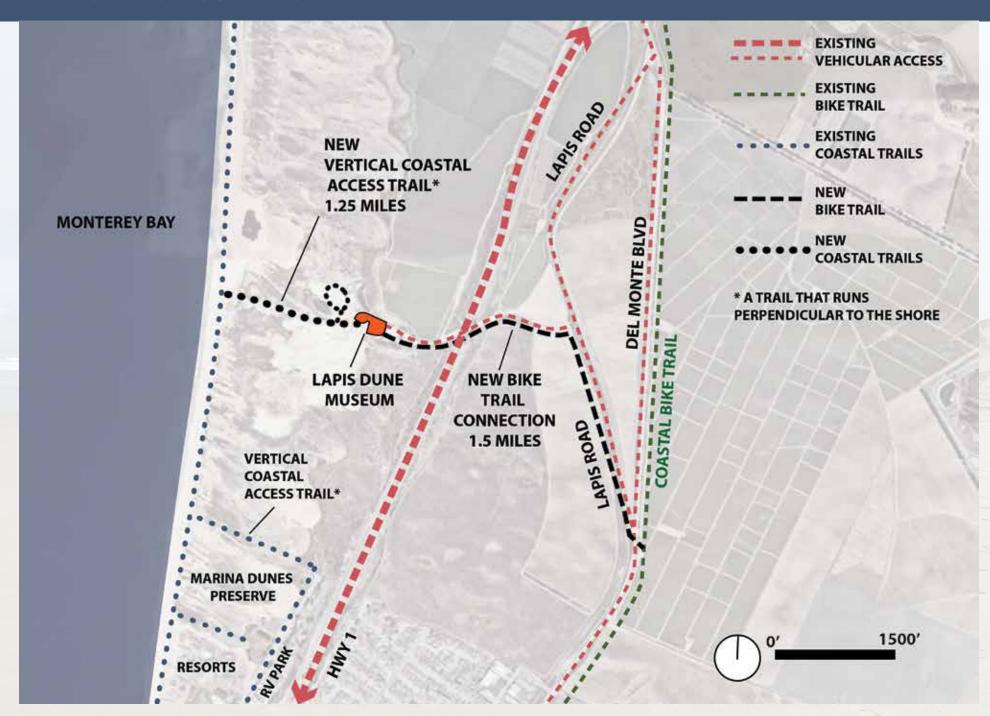


These are some of the plants recommended by Burleson Consulting Inc. for Marine Dune Preserve restoration. MDP is bordering Cemex property at the south.

Endangered Smith's Blue Butterfly depends on Eriogonum latifolium. Endangered Black Legless Lizard needs Gilia tenuiflora ssp. arenaria, Chorizanthe pungens var. pungens, and Erysimum menziesii ssp. yadonii for survival.

> PHOTOS: https://calscape.org/ PLANT LIST: RESTORATION ACTION PLAN. MARINA DUNES PRESERVE. Prepared by: Burleson Consulting Inc.

# **NEW SITE CIRCULATION**



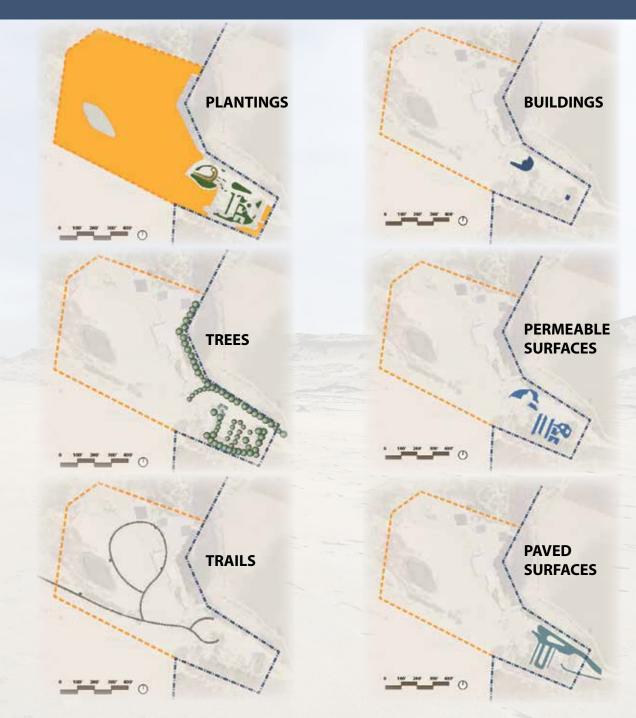
# **CONCLUSION**

#### **MASTER PLAN**



The majority of the site is covered by CANative plantings. Paved surfaces and buildings are taking up a limited space.

The proposed design addresses environmental degradation caused by sand mining and creates a space to celebrate the area's natural beauty while promoting education and recreation.



# THANK YOU

This project would not be possible without the support and help of many people.

I would like to thank Stephanie Landregan and Melissa McDonald - their support of this program is invaluable.

I would like to thank all the instructors that taught us so much in the past three years - Francisco Behr, Perla Arquieta, Jim Smith, Victor Corona, Laura Razo, Steven Chavez, Steven Lang, Jeff Chamlee, Jason Wan and Nickolas Straabe and others. Special shout out to Meg Coffee - our Capstone project instructor.

I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to Edward Thornton and Jake Smith who answered my questions regarding the Cemex property and helped me with my research.

A special thank you to my husband Ilya and our children Lev and Mila for the support through these years and encouragement to finish the program! They witnessed countless hours I spent on homework, field trips and travel to LA. Now we can finally take a proper summer vacation together!

With Gratitude, Anna Asnis, September, 2023.

#### **REFERENCE LIST**

All the sources for photos and text are called out right under them. If a photo or a text do not have a source - they are purely mine.

#### **BOOKS:**

- Andrea J. Pickart and John O. Sawer, 1998. Ecology and Restoration of Northern California Coastal Dunes. Published by California Native Plant Society.
- Ian L. Mcharg, 1971. Design with Nature. Published by Natural History Press Doubleday & Company, Inc. Garden City, New York

#### **DOCUMENTS:**

- CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION. CONSENT SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT AND CEASE AND DESIST ORDER CCC-17-CD-02
- RESTORATION ACTION PLAN MARINA DUNES PRESERVE, Marina, California. Prepared for: Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District. Prepared by: Burleson Consulting Inc. March 2021

#### **RESEARCH PAPERS:**

- ESA PWA EVALUATION OF EROSION MITIGATION ALTERNATIVES for Southern Monterey Bay, May 30, 2012. Prepared for Monterey Bay Sanctuary Foundation and The Southern Monterey Bay Coastal Erosion Working Group. https://nmsmontereybay.blob.core.windows.net/montereybay-prod/media/research/techreports/esapwa2012.pdf
- An Evaluation of the Ongoing Impacts of Sand Mining at the CEMEX Lapis Sand Plant in Marina, California on the Southern Monterey Bay Shoreline; By Robert S. Young, PhD, May 29 2017 https://coastalcare.org/2017/05/an-evaluation-of-the-ongoing-impacts-of-sand-mining-at-the-cemex-lapis-sand-plant-in-marina-california-on-the-southern-monterey-bay-shoreline-by-robert-s-young-phd/

#### **ARTICLES:**

- https://www.sfchronicle.com/science/article/lgnoring-state-threats-firm-keeps-sucking-sand-10973856.php
- https://www.montereyherald.com/2013/08/26/sand-plant-investigated-state-examining-claims-that-cemex-in-marina-mining-more-than-permitted/
- https://dredgewire.com/sand-mining-at-the-cemex-plant-in-marina-ends-ahead-of-deadline/
- https://www.montereycountyweekly.com/news/local\_news/the-restoration-of-the-dunes-of-the-former-cemex-mine-in-marina-has-yet-to/article\_d7ff9e4a-94e9-11ec-aba0-b7e4f9e23994.html
- https://kion546.com/news/2022/08/10/marina-citizens-raise-concerns-over-proposed-calam-desalination-plant/

**OTHER RESOURCES:** GOOGLE MAPS, GOOGLE EARTH