



San Mateo County Harbor District

Operator of Pillar Point Harbor and Oyster Point Marina

An independent California special district established in 1933 at the request of San Mateo County voters. The District's services ensure maritime access, safety and education for the public, along with protection of our beautiful coastline.

Project Study, Public Outreach in 2025 Pillar Point Surfers Beach Safe Parking Project

San Mateo County Harbor District (SMCHD) is working to solve unsafe parking conditions that occur during busy weekends in and around Surfers Beach and Pillar Point Harbor.

On many days of the year, SMCHD's free public parking at Pillar Point Harbor provides adequate space for Harbor users and visitors. This parking is used by the public to access the Harbor, Coastal Trail, coastal fishing, local restaurants and businesses. It also serves as a gathering space for local community groups.

However, multiple times per year (Crab Opener, Salmon Opener, holidays, nice weather weekends, special events, etc.), the parking lot capacity is exceeded. On these occasions, the shoulder of Hwy 1 is used as an unofficial overflow parking area, both on the north and southbound sides. This practice creates unsafe, and potentially dangerous, situations for pedestrians, cyclists, and drivers. It also limits access for emergency vehicles.

Safer Solutions Being Studied

SMCHD has engaged a project team to study an overflow parking development between Hwy 1 and Avenue Alhambra - the Burnham Strip. This project could provide valuable additional parking on busy weekends, while providing improved greenspace and management of this vacant land.

Potential Additional Benefits

- Preservation, to the greatest degree possible, of the visual and open space characteristics of the Burnham Strip.
- An overflow parking plan with a public multi-modal trail along the length of the Burnham Strip.
- Walking park and greenspace that provides safer and ADA compliant access to the existing crosswalk across Hwy 1 at Capistrano Rd.



Why this Project?

Access, Safety

- Demand for parking during busy weekends and events at Pillar Point Harbor creates unsafe conditions for pedestrians and traffic on Hwy 1.
- Unsafe conditions can slow or block emergency response access on Hwy 1.
- As a protected harbor, Pillar Point provides safe access for surfing, kayaking, paddleboarding, walking and other coastline recreation as well as boating.
- Pillar Point Harbor is a critical ocean harbor and access for boating along the Pacific Coast.

Study Underway:

Initial Studies and Public Outreach
Fall 2025 - Spring 2026

Funding:

SMCHD funds have been committed for study only, though Caltrans projects may offer partnership opportunities.

Join our project update email list at info@smharbor.com

Find Us on Facebook or Instagram! @smharbor

Join our email list for events and project updates! Email info@smharbor.com

Also on Nextdoor!

Po Box 1449, 504 Avenue Alhambra, 2nd Floor
El Granada Ca 94018

(650) 583-4400
Info@Smharbor.com