



TREASURE ISLAND SAILING CENTER
Launching Point for New Horizons

October 24, 2017

Dear Madame Chair Tsen and Directors of the Treasure Island Development Authority,

Thank you for taking the time last meeting to hear about the Treasure Island Sailing Center, both what we have accomplished to date and what our vision is for the future. I hope you received my email regarding my disappointment in not being able to attend in person due to being out of town for a business conference. I did, however, watch the meeting online and was happy to see our Executive Director, Travis Lund, deliver our presentation so effectively. I hope you are all as excited as we are about the future of TISC in our community.

In watching and listening to the meeting, it became clear there is some confusion around how the proposed marina expansion will impact the programs of TISC. During the meeting Travis indicated that we would be able to keep our sailors safe with the new proposed marina but he did not have a chance to specify the changes needed to do so. Therefore, in response to concerns from our community to provide clarifying information about this matter, we are writing to detail the modifications required to keep our participants safe if the proposed marina is constructed according to its current plan. TISC posted an assessment of these impacts on our website on April 17, 2017 and shared this assessment with TIDA staff. Our assessment has not changed but has been summarized below.

Figure 1 below depicts the current usage of the cove overlaid on the November 2016 plan – which is virtually identical to the current marina expansion proposal before you now. The shaded areas indicate the following:

- The yellow area is the area for Youth Sail Training.
- The yellow area west of the red dashed line is the area for beginner sailors including Set Sail Learn Programs.
- The green area indicates the space that we use for safety training and recreational classes, including kayaking, SUPs and windsurfers. Most importantly, this green area is the first location that to which beginning youth navigate their dinghies, and this area is the place where they typically perform the capsizing test to learn how to right a capsized boat.
- The blue dashed oval outlines the space used for racing and advanced sail training. This includes High School Sailing (14-18yr olds), College Sailing (18-23yr olds) and Fleet racing in Vanguard 15s (mixed youth and adults), lasers (adults) and optimists (young sailors). Regattas require a defined race course length which is achieved in the blue oval area indicated.
- The red safety/no go zone is a restricted area due to side currents pushing boats into the pier or the eastern tip of YBI. This is a particularly dangerous area in times of strong currents with either too little wind or too much wind, both compromising boat control.

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Figure 1. Current TISC Use of Clipper Cove

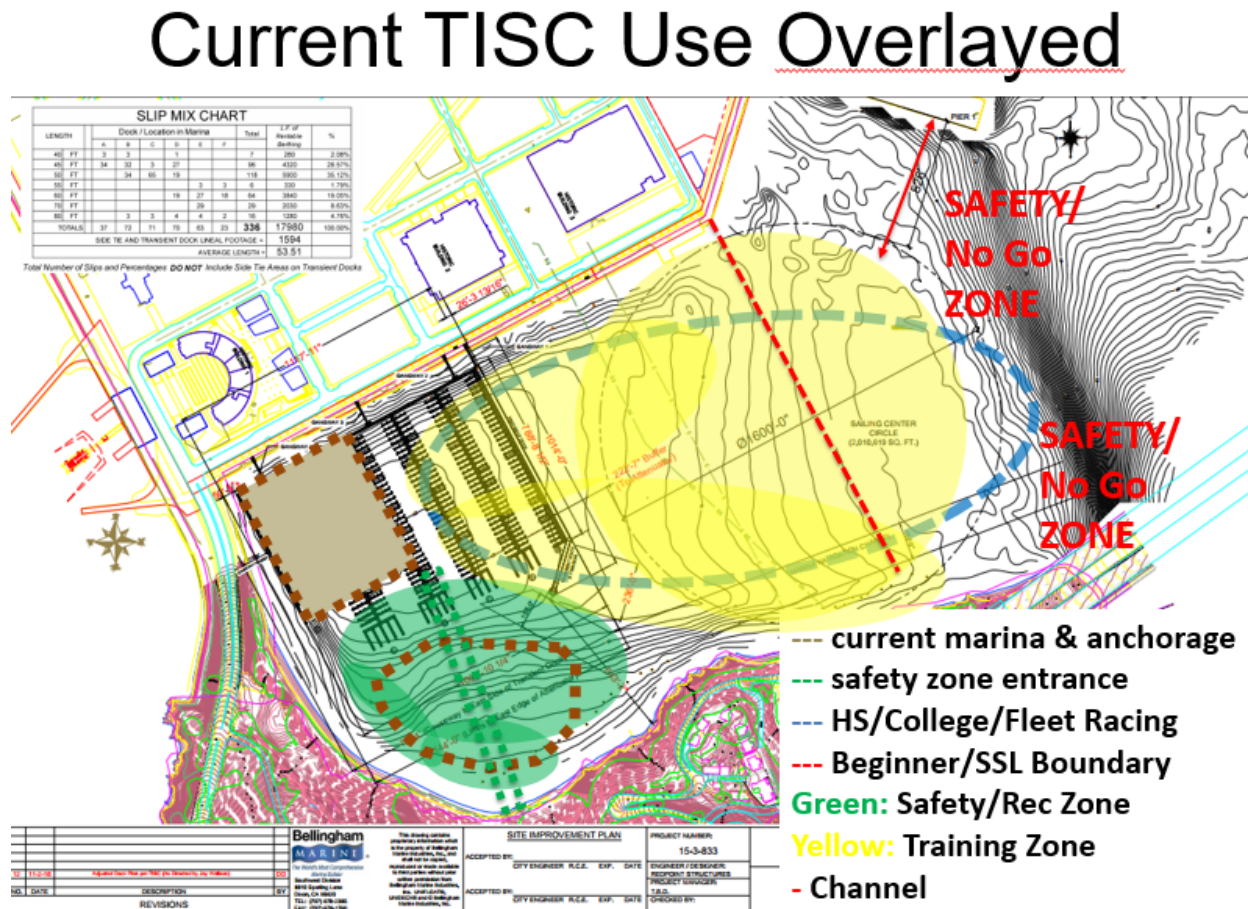


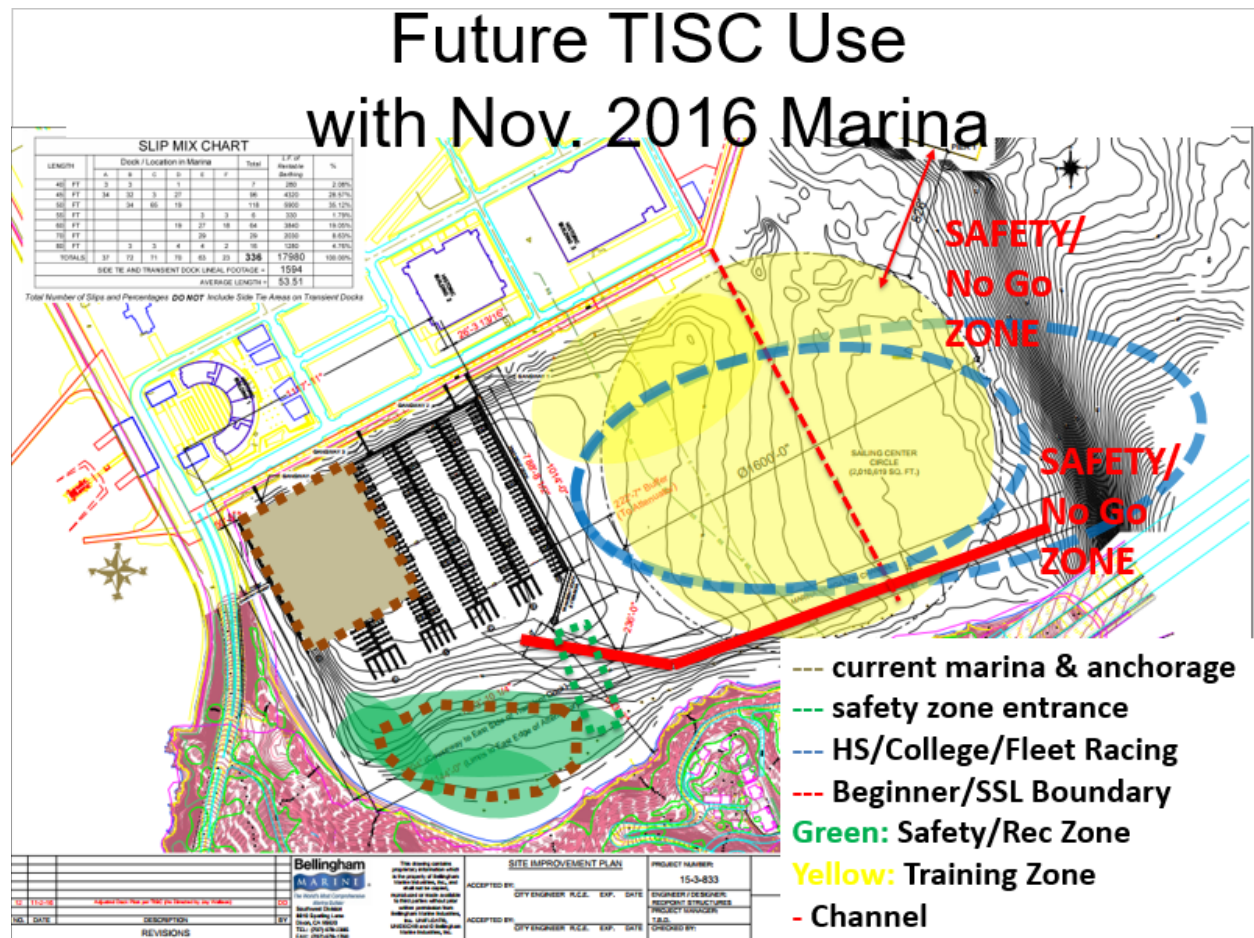
Figure 2 shows the future usage of the cove by TISC Community Programs based on the November 2016 plan. Since the current expansion plan increases the footprint from covering 7% of the Cove to covering 32% of the Cove, the training space for beginners and Set Sail Learn STEM participants is reduced by just over a third (yellow region west of the red dotted lines). This change will reduce the depth and range of both of these program, in part because there are only so many boats that can safely occupy an area at one time, a number that goes down as the skill level becomes more novice.

The recreational and safety training area (green region) is also reduced in size, as is the entrance (green dotted box) to access the heart of Cove where recreational and safety area is located. This will change how beginners get to the beach at the west end of the Cove – currently an important milestone in their progression. In particular, some beginning youth sailors will be blocked from directly accessing the west end of the Cove and the beach. Learning to sail upwind is a critical sailing skill. The prevailing winds in Clipper Cove come from west, thus youth sailors need significant leeway to the north and south as they travel to the west end of the Cove. Instead of sailing to the beach as they currently do in the very early stages of sail training, they will need to be taken there in a motorboat that can tow the small sailboats through the entrance. As the sailors gain skill, they will be more likely to be able to sail to the beach,

however doing so will be highly dependent on marina channel traffic. The larger the yacht, the less maneuverable it is so when a large yacht is entering or leaving the marina, we will need to evacuate the channel, the south side of our training circle and parts of the recreational/safety training zone. All of these factors will require us to increase the number of safety boats per sailor in our future programs, increasing staff and equipment needs.

Another significant change will be on High School, College and Fleet racing. These sailors practice or race 1-4 times per week for 7 months of the year. Although these boats will be able to practice in the cove, you can see that their practice area is decreased by over a third as well. If they were to extend their course to the length specified for racing, it would extend well into the channel and increasing currents. In moderate winds and minimal side current, this may be allowable with extra safety boats, but we are doubtful that large regattas will be able to be held in the cove as they are now. To date, we have had regional and national regattas for High School, College, Vanguard 15s and Optimists. This area will no longer be a viable venue for these events.

Figure 2. Use based on November 2016 Marina Plan



As you heard from our Executive Director, Safety is our utmost priority at TISC; thus programs will have to be modified in scope (numbers of sailors), space (sailable areas), and depth (access for advanced youth sail training) to accommodate the current expansion plan. We made these concessions knowingly to the dismay of many members of the Treasure Island Sailing Center community, sailors, and current cove users/enthusiasts, so that an agreement could be reached between TIE & TISC to ensure that at least two-thirds of the Cove would be preserved for public use through TISC programs. Prior marina proposals would have consumed almost all of Clipper Cove, effectively eliminating all small boat sailing options for our youngest and newest sailors.

As you heard through public comment, only TISC and TIE entered this compromise agreement; no other entities are party to this proposed compromise. The agreed-upon marina footprint has been accepted by TISC Board of Directors and staff but we have no authority to require others in the sailing community to support it.

We truly appreciate the support from the Treasure Island Development Authority over the last 18 years, and look forward to executing the 66-year lease as soon as possible so we can begin fund raising for the new facility. If you have further questions, or would like additional details on how we would need to modify our programs to accommodate the November 2016 Marina Plan, please let me know.

Best Regards,



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