

Bethel Island Community Meeting #2: Draft Community Profile

Scout Hall 3090 Ranch Lane, Bethel Island, CA 94511 Wednesday, October 30th, 2019

The second community meeting for Bethel Island residents as part of Envision Contra Costa 2040 took place on Wednesday, October 30, 2019, from 6:30 to 8:30 PM at Scout Hall. The purpose of this workshop was to collect feedback on the draft community profile for Bethel Island, as well as potential changes to the General Plan land use map. The first two pages of the draft profile provide context about the community, including its character, demographic information, and exposure to natural hazard risks. The following pages include an overview of planned land uses, guiding principles, policies, and actions that will provide guidance to the County when making decisions affecting the community related to growth and development over the next twenty years.

The workshop took place shortly after multiple wildfires occurred both on the island and in nearby communities south of the island. After a short presentation about the Envision Contra Costa 2040 process, the 28 community members worked in five small groups with County staff and consultants to go over the draft community profile. Many meeting attendees were very concerned about public safety issues in the wake of the wildfires. Input and ideas are summarized below, and detailed notes from the small group discussions are attached to this summary.

- Add language in the context section to emphasize the agricultural portions of the island as an important asset that help define the character of the island. This discussion should note the community's desire to retain and enhance agricultural vibrancy and aesthetic character.
- Revise the overview map to indicate that the fire station is not active and remove the labeling error (City of Richmond).
- Improve the legibility and readability of the sea level rise map.
- Change residential and commercial General Plan land use designations on parcels that are undeveloped or developed with rural residential uses to an agriculture designation.
- Change the residential designation west of Bethel Island Road and north of Taylor Road to agriculture, a public park, or public parking.
- Most participants do not support increasing the residential density for the Delta Coves project, although there was some support for it.
- Consider expanding the commercial designation on Gateway Road to Piper.
- Expand upon the discussion of local businesses in the guiding principles to emphasize opportunities for additional commercial uses in the community.
- Improve both transportation and utility infrastructure to support emergency response efforts related to flooding, wildfires, and other natural hazards. Add language to the fourth guiding principle to include infrastructure along with emergency response planning.
- Revise the second policy to include the term "relaxed" to more accurately reflect the identity of Bethel Island.

- Expand Policy #5 to specify the types of visitor-serving amenities to be allowed during special events and the types of special events desired in the community.
- Amend Policy #6, which addresses upgrades to pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure, to also include improvements to drainage systems. Consider removing the discussion of alternative transportation enhancements altogether if automobile improvements are not explicitly prioritized.
- Reword the discussion of blight in Policy #11 to more accurately address concerns regarding community character related to degrading structures.
- Revise Policy #12 to clearly discourage a fish farm on Bethel Island.
- Add an action about improving public access to the water.
- Augment policy and action language to ensure protection from levee breaches, further strengthen internal levee standards, and regulate residential development standards near levees. Consider adding an action to require a specific residential setback from levees.
- Revise the zoning definition for commercial marina uses to allow bars and restaurants.
- Add an action to widen roadways to accommodate traffic.
- Add an action encouraging the County to work with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to determine if residential density may increase if protected by a certified levee.
- Emphasize that evacuation routes should not rely on the land bridge to Holland Tract in the actions. Consider adding language that would encourage a partnership with the City of Oakley to collaborate on evaluation routes.
- Consider identifying a funding source for maintenance of the new park facility identified in Action #6 to ensure park accountability and long-term quality. Also emphasize that the park should be designed to avoid crime. Some participants suggested that this action be removed all together due to the small number of children in the community.
- There was mixed support for Action #7 regarding annexation of Bethel Island into the Diablo Water District (DWS). Some participants recommended removing the action because it would be implemented by DWS and not the County. Other participants support the action and suggested that language be expanded to indicate that improved access to a reliable source of potable water would also improve fire protection services.
- Revise Action #8 to include additional signage along waterways prohibiting boat wakes.





Source: Contra Costa County, 2018; PlaceWorks, 2019.













SL (Single Family Residential - Low) 1.0 - 2.9 Units per Net Acre

General Plan Land Use Designations



Land Use Overlays OIBA (Agricultural Lands & Off Island Bonus Area) 5 Acre Minimum Parcel Size + Bonus Provisions

WA (Water)

DR (Delta Recreation) 20 Acre Minimum Parcel Size

AL (Agricultural Lands) 5 Acre Minimum Parcel Size

OS (Open Space)

PR (Parks and Recreation)

In Linne Line



General Plan Land Use Designations for Bethel Island



Situated in eastern Contra Costa County at the heart of the Delta, Bethel Island has welcomed visitors and new residents alike since the 1930s, attracted to the small island for its water-related recreational activities. The Bethel Island marinas soon developed to capitalize on a growing interest in the community's warm waters and relaxed, rural atmosphere, away from the urban bustle of San Francisco Bay.

The residents of Bethel Island today cross the Bethel Island Bridge, replaced in 2009, to get to and from home. This singular ingress and egress to the 5.5-square-miles island limits development in this contently rural town, but it also causes roadway congestion during commute hours. Given the island's low elevation, there are also significant flooding and levee issues and the need for improved infrastructure to address hazards.

Proud of their local tourism industry and water-oriented amenities, Bethel Island residents would like to further enhance the marina to breathe life into the harbor areas with more retail uses, increased parking, and more family-oriented and/or water-related annual community events. The community is strongly opposed to development of heavy industrial uses, favoring light industrial or agriculture uses to complement their community character.





WHO LIVES IN BETHEL ISLAND?



Source: Contra Costa County, 2018; PlaceWorks, 2019.



BETHEL ISLAND | CONTEXT (CONTINUED)

Natural Hazards
Agricultural Pests and Diseases
Mir Quality
Coastal Flood
Drought
Extreme Heat
Plooding
G Human Health Hazards
Seismic Hazards (Liquefaction)
Sea Level Rise
Severe Storm





h	Incorporated City
	Urban Limit Line
	Waterbodies
Flood Ha	zard Zone
	100-Year Flood Zone

Scale (Miles)

Major Vulnerabilities

Cost-burdened households, households in poverty, and persons with chronic illnesses are vulnerable to coastal flooding.

The entire community is on a single access road connected via a bridge, leaving it vulnerable to coastal flooding, flooding, sea level rise, and severe storms.

Outdoor recreation and rangeland in the community are vulnerable to coastal flooding and sea level rise.

Commercial and government buildings along Bethel Island Road, Stone Road, Willow Road, and Taylor Road are vulnerable to sea level rise,

The island is vulnerable to liquefaction created by seismic hazards.









BETHEL ISLAND | GUIDANCE

PLANNED LAND USE

Land use designations for Bethel Island are shown on the land use map. The majority of Bethel Island is designated for agricultural and open space uses, preserving its rural and open space character. Residential and commercial recreation uses are allowed along the eastern and southwestern edges of the island. The commercial core of Bethel Island is found along Bethel Island Road, north of the bridge; this core area also supports public, recreation, and residential uses. Another commercial corridor extends along a portion of Gateway Road. The eastern half of the island hosts the majority of the community's residential neighborhoods.



GUIDING PRINCIPLES

K Bethel Island residents enjoy a relaxed, rural community located away from urban areas of San Francisco and the East Bay. The small-town, family-oriented atmosphere and quiet character should be preserved.

- Local businesses, including tourism and water-oriented recreation amenities, are
- To maintain a safe community, existing public services such as the East Contra Costa Fire Protection District and Sheriff's Office should be supported and enhanced.

Bethel Island's topography and location within the Delta expose it to potential flooding hazards. The community should be protected from these and other hazards through proper emergency response planning. Infrastructure



, an asset to the community and should be supported. - Vegetation in water a problem, commercial on greenay

BETHEL ISLAND | GUIDANCE (CONTINUED)

POLICIES

Ensure that new development is adequately protected against current and future anticipated flood levels.

Retain the characteristics of Bethel Island that make it a unique place in the Delta with its own identity by limiting development to a low overall density and supporting uses that enhance the community's rural, water-oriented character. (3-64)

Establish Bethel Island Road between Dutch Slough and Gateway Road, and Gateway Road between Bethel Island Road and Piper Road, as the community's commercial core.

Encourage establishment and growth of locally serving businesses that fulfill the needs of Bethel Island residents.

Allow temporary uses that provide visitor-serving amenities during special events.

& Upgrade pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure to improve safety and facilitate mobility throughout the island. That for cours withen the read

Improve fire protection services and emergency preparedness.

Reduce congestion on Bethel Island and directly connected public roads.

Limit new residential development on Bethel Island to already-approved development and one dwelling unit per legal parcel. (3-56)

6. Do not approve General Plan Amendments that would increase residential density on Bethel Island unless at least the following are accomplished:

(a) A financing mechanism is fully and completely assured for improvements to the entire perimeter on-island levee system;

(b) The levee improvement plans are approved by the Bethel Island Municipal Improvement District (BIMID) and the Army Corps of Engineers; and

(c) Subsidence and impacts on wetlands are adequately mitigated. (3-57)

 Reduce blight and vegetation overgrowth, both on land and along waterways, through increased code enforcement.

Preserve and protect the agricultural, open space, wetland, and rare plant communities found on Bethel Island. (3-64)

- No public access to the water

ACTIONS

Rezone harbor/marina areas to allow for supporting retail uses (e.g., boating equipment, bait shops). bar(restaurant, etc.)

Expand commercial land use designations along Gateway Road as demand for commercial uses increases.

Increase the minimum lot size in agriculture zones in Bethel Island to at least 10 acres.

 Coordinate with public safety and health agencies to create a comprehensive emergency response plan, including establishing evacuation routes and an emergency shelter.

Identify a suitable location for additional park facilities, including kid-friendly amenities such as play structures, and possibly an expanded community gathering space. (Sex affenders common throughout island)

Improve pedestrian safety and roadway infrastructure by completing sidewalk gaps, installing continuous street lighting, illuminated crossings, delineated onstreet parking spaces along major roads, and ADA facilities.

Assess the feasibility of annexing Bethel Island into the Diablo Water District service area to improve access to a reliable source of potable water.

Improve signage along waterways to facilitate wayfinding and reduce accidents.



NOTES

@ 40 years why now? Who's Expense - County on Toxes?







Urban Limit Line

General Plan Land Use Designations

SL (Single Family Residential - Low) 1.0 - 2.9 Units per Net Acre

SH (Single Family Residential - High) 5.0 - 7.2 Units per Net Acre

ML (Multiple Family Residential -Low) 7.3 - 11.9 Units per Net Acre MO (Mobile Home) 1.0 - 12.0 Units

per Net Acre

CO (Commercial)

1///// CR (Commercial Recreation)

PS (Public/Semi-Public)



CONTRA COSTA 2040

land; change to

agricultural?



WA (Water)

Land Use Overlays

UIBA (Agricultural Lands & Off Island Bonus Area) 5 Acre Minimum Parcel Size + Bonus Provisions



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WHO LIVES IN BETHEL ISLAND?



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BETHEL ISLAND | GUIDANCE CONTINUED

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- 7. Improve fire protection services and emergency preparedness.
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- 7. Assess the feasibility of annexing Bethel Island into the Diablo Water District service area to improve access to a reliable source of potable water. Need when inso
- 8. Improve signage along waterways to facilitate wayfinding and reduce accidents.

Add commercial or getting.

How?

Take out word

need more in the -



gathering space. Yes exacept play solutions and who is going Improve pedestrian safety and roadway infrastructure by completing sidewalk







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BETHEL ISLAND | GUIDANCE (CONTINUED)

POLICIES

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- 10. Do not approve General Plan Amendments that would increase residential density on Bethel Island unless at least the following are accomplished:
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- 11. Reduce blight and vegetation overgrowth, both on land and along waterways, through increased code enforcement.
- 12. Preserve and protect the agricultural, open space, wetland, and rare plant communities found on Bethel Island. (3-64)

ACTIONS

- 1. Rezone harbor/marina areas to allow for supporting retail uses (e.g., boating equipment, bait shops).
- 2. Expand commercial land use designations along Gateway Road as demand for commercial uses increases.
- 3. Increase the minimum lot size in agriculture zones in Bethel Island to at least 10 acres.
- 4. Coordinate with public safety and health agencies to create a comprehensive emergency response plan, including establishing evacuation routes and an emergency shelter.
- 5. Identify a suitable location for additional park facilities, including kid-friendly amenities such as play structures, and possibly an expanded community gathering space.
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incontext of island

Some Content being an impor a desire Acto retain / enhance its vitrancy & des rural, aesthetic character



7. Assess the feasibility of annexing Bethel Island into the Diablo Water District Charbe delete





5.0 - 7.2 Units per Net Acre

 ML (Multiple Family Residential -Low) 7.3 - 11.9 Units per Net Acre MO (Mobile Home) 1.0 - 12.0 Units month per Net Acre

CO (Commercial)

(Commercial Recreation) PS (Public/Semi-Public)

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ENVISION CONTRA COSTA 2040

Undeveloped

land; change to agricultural? 🗲



OS (Open Space)

AL (Agricultural Lands) 5 Acre Minimum Parcel Size

DR (Delta Recreation) 20 Acre Minimum Parcel Size

WA (Water)

Land Use Overlays



OIBA (Agricultural Lands & Off Island Bonus Area) 5 Acre Minimum Parcel Size + Bonus Provisions



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BETHEL ISLAND | GUIDANCE

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- 2. Local businesses, including tourism and water-oriented recreation amenities, are an asset to the community and should be supported.
- 3. To maintain a safe community, existing public services such as the East Contra Costa Fire Protection District and Sheriff's Office should be supported and enhanced.
- 4. Bethel Island's topography and location within the Delta expose it to potential flooding hazards. The community should be protected from these and other hazards through proper emergency response planning.



BETHEL ISLAND | GUIDANCE (CONTINUED)

POLICIES

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- 11. Reduce blight and vegetation overgrowth, both on land and along waterways, through increased code enforcement,
 - 12. Preserve and protect the agricultural, open space, wetland, and rare plant communities found on Bethel Island. (3-64) No Pich Parm

New houses set back from large by X feet.

ACTIONS

- 1. Rezone harbor/marina areas to allow for supporting retail uses (e.g., boating equipment, bait shops).
- 2. Expand commercial land use designations along Gateway Road as demand for commercial uses increases. oK
- 3. Increase the minimum lot size in agriculture zones in Bethel Island to at least 10 acres. 612
- 4. Coordinate with public safety and health agencies to create a comprehensive emergency response plan, including establishing evacuation routes and an emergency shelter.
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- 6. Improve pedestrian safety and roadway infrastructure by completing sidewalk gaps, installing continuous street lighting, illuminated crossings, delineated onstreet parking spaces along major roads, and ADA facilities.
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7. Assess the feasibility of annexing Bethel Island into the Diablo Water District and for five protection through and service area to improve access to a reliable source of potable water. SK and for five protection through and started island

"No Lake" Signs

BETHEL ISLAND | CONTEXT (CONTINUED)

Natural Hazards	
Agricultural Pests and Diseases	
Air Quality	Franks Tract State Recreation Area
Coastal Flood	
Drought	
Extreme Heat	
Flooding	Bethel Island
🜍 Human Health Hazards	
Seismic Hazards (Liquefaction)	-Butch Street
Sea Level Rise	1 · h
Severe Storm	W/

FLOOD ZONES

Major Vulnerabilities

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Scale (Miles)

0







SL (Single Family Residential	- Low
1.0 - 2.9 Units per Net Acre	







BETHEL ISLAND | GUIDANCE CONTINUED,

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13. Require that new deve be set back from the toe of the lever by X feet.

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WHO LIVES IN BETHEL ISLAND?



Delete

Source: Contra Costa County, 2018; PlaceWorks, 2019.

BETHEL ISLAND | CONTEXT (CONTINUED)

Na	tural Hazards
	Agricultural Pests and Diseases
1	Air Quality
	Coastal Flood
۲	Drought
0	Extreme Heat
	Flooding
×	Human Health Hazards
	Seismic Hazards (Liquefaction)
•	Sea Level Rise
9	Severe Storm





Major Vulnerabilities

Cost-burdened households, households in poverty, and persons with chronic illnesses are vulnerable to coastal flooding.

The entire community is on a single access road connected via a bridge, leaving it vulnerable to coastal flooding, flooding, sea level rise, and severe storms.

Outdoor recreation and rangeland in the community are vulnerable to coastal flooding and sea level rise.

Commercial and government buildings along Bethel Island Road, Stone Road, Willow Road, and Taylor Road are vulnerable to sea level rise.

The island is vulnerable to liquefaction created by seismic hazards.





0 .7 Scale (Miles)

	Incorporated City
	Urban Limit Line
	Waterbodies
Sea-Le	vel Rise 2050 with 100-yea
	0 - 2
π_{i}	2 - 4
	4 - 6
	6 - 8
	8 - 10
-	10 - 12
	12+



-

ar storm severity

1.4

BETHEL ISLAND | GUIDANCE

PLANNED LAND USE

Land use designations for Bethel Island are shown on the land use map. The majority of Bethel Island is designated for agricultural and open space uses, preserving its rural and open space character. Residential and commercial recreation uses are allowed along the eastern and southwestern edges of the island. The commercial core of Bethel Island is found along Bethel Island Road, north of the bridge; this core area also supports public, recreation, and residential uses. Another commercial corridor extends along a portion of Gateway Road. The eastern half of the island hosts the majority of the community's residential neighborhoods.



GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- 1. Bethel Island residents enjoy a relaxed, rural community located away from urban areas of San Francisco and the East Bay. The small-town, family-oriented atmosphere and quiet character should be preserved.
- 2. Local businesses, including tourism and water-oriented recreation amenities, are an asset to the community and should be supported.
- 3. To maintain a safe community, existing public services such as the East Contra Costa Fire Protection District and Sheriff's Office should be supported and enhanced.
- 4. Bethel Island's topography and location within the Delta expose it to potential flooding hazards. The community should be protected from these and other hazards through proper emergency response planning.

