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BAY AREA

Coast property could join Golden Gate federal park

Deal in works to donate 246 acres in San Mateo County



The Pedro Point Headlands in northern San Mateo County is partly owned by the California Coastal Conservancy. The rest is in Pacifica. PHOTOS BY ARIC CRABB — BAY AREA NEWS GROUP

By Paul Rogers BAY AREA NEWS GROUP

In the 1970s and 1980s, dirt bikes buzzed around its fragile landscape, creating erosion and noise. In the early 1990s, a developer planned to build 217 luxury homes there.

Now, a scenic oceanfront property with public hiking trails, bobcats, foxes and sweeping views of the San Mateo coast, the Farallon Islands and the Marin Headlands could become part of the national park system.

Pedro Point Headlands, a 246-acre promontory in northern San Mateo County perched on steep bluffs 625 feet above the ocean between Devil's Slide and Pacifica, would be transferred to the Golden Gate National Recreation Area under an agreement being drawn up between local, state and federal officials.

On June 18, the California Coastal Conservancy, a state agency that owns 94 acres at Pedro Point, agreed to donate the property to the National Park Service. City officials in Pacifica, which owns the other 152 acres there, are also in discussions with national parks officials to transfer their portion.

Supporters of the deal say that adding the properties to the Golden Gate National Recreation Area — a gem of America's national park system visited by millions of people a year that includes Alcatraz Island, the Presidio in



Hikers work their way up the South Ridge Trail last week at the Pedro Point Headlands in Pacifica.

San Francisco and Muir Woods — would increase protections for the property with professional management, rangers and signs.

"Pedro Point Headlands is a beautiful property," said Amy Hutzler, executive officer of the California Coastal Conservancy. "Donating it to the National Park Service is going to mean better public access and better long-term stewardship of the land."

The conservancy's board voted 5-0 last month to approve a transfer plan for its portion of the property to the

National Park Service.

The final transfer could take two years, conservancy staff members said. They still must receive approval from the state Department of General Services, and hope to build a new trail on the land before transferring it — a 1.3-mile addition to the California Coastal Trail. It would connect Pacifica with Devil's Slide County Park, allowing people to hike and bike without having to be on Highway 1.

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MCE

Bumpy start to search for CEO

Conflict flares as board picks vetting committee

By Steven Rosenfeld SROSENFELD@MARINIJ.COM

A power struggle is emerging as MCE begins its search for a new chief executive officer.

The renewable power agency's executive committee has identified who it wants to serve on an ad hoc committee — which will meet privately — to oversee the CEO search.

The slate will come before the full board on July 16. It is anchored by allies of former chief executive officer Dawn Weisz, which frustrated reform-minded board members and public-interest advocates.

"Do you not see that people who aided and abetted the last CEO should not be in charge of choosing who will replace her on behalf of the public?" said Kingston Cole, vice president of the Coalition of Sensible Taxpayers, a Marin advocacy group.

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Platner to quit Maine race for seat in Senate

By Kimberlee Kruesi and Meg Kinnard THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SCARBOROUGH, Maine — Graham Platner said Wednesday that he plans to withdraw from the U.S. Senate race in Maine after facing an allegation of sexual assault, shuttering an insurgent campaign that had withstood months of controversy only to implode and imperil Democrats' attempt to regain power in Washington.

Platner's exit will most likely force a reckoning within the party, which has been divided between its moderate and progressive factions, when it is struggling to unify during this year's midterm elections. Maine is considered a key state for control of the narrowly divided Senate, and Democrats were desperate for a candidate capable of defeating Republican Sen. Susan Collins while President Donald Trump is broadly unpopular.

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US launches more strikes as Trump calls Iran truce 'over'

By Max Bearak, Tyler Pager, Shirin Hakim and Michael Levenson THE NEW YORK TIMES

U.S. military forces launched attacks on Iran for a second straight day Wednesday, hours after President Donald Trump said that he believed that a temporary truce he signed with Iran was "over" and called its leaders "scum" and "evil people."

U.S. Central Command, which oversees operations in the Middle East, said the

attacks Wednesday were intended to further degrade Iran's ability to threaten ships in the Strait of Hormuz, the critical oil and gas route off Iran's southern coast.

Iranian state media reported explosions across parts of southern Iran, including in Konarak and nearby Chabahar, two coastal cities east of the Strait of Hormuz, and the sound of warplanes flying over Kish, a small coral island 10 miles off the Iranian coast. A state television reporter said two projectiles had struck Abu

Musa, an Iranian-controlled island in the Persian Gulf.

"The United States is holding Iran accountable for recent unjustified aggression against commercial shipping and civilian crews freely navigating a vital international waterway," Central Command said in a statement.

Trump, posting on Truth Social, said the strikes were carried out "in retribution" for Iranian attacks on ships this week.

"If it happens again, it will get much worse!" he wrote.

The strikes came hours after Iran fired a barrage of missiles and drones across the Persian Gulf in retaliation for a wave of U.S. attacks on Iranian targets Tuesday.

With both sides accusing each other of violating the truce and some Iranian media outlets calling for the deal to be torn up entirely, the ceasefire that Iran and the United States signed three weeks ago appeared to be on the verge of collapse.

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President Donald Trump attends the NATO summit on Wednesday in Ankara, Turkey. ALEX BRANDON — THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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