## Sailboat House Shoreline Improvement Project

## Existing condition:

The existing seawalls at the Sailboat House and adjacent parking lot are collapsing and need to be replaced.

There is a large parking lot near the edge of Lake Merritt, and stormwater from this lot carries pollutants directly into the Lake. Records indicate that this area was filled sometime between 1934 and 1952. A deteriorated wooden bulkhead is at the water's edge, and between the bulkhead and the parking lot is a barren strip of ground with scattered tamarisk shrubs. Unlike other parts of the Lake, there is no pedestrian pathway along this section of shoreline.





## Proposed Project:



The Lake Merritt Park Master Plan calls for the parking lot to be greatly reduced in size, and the shoreline to be opened for pedestrian access. To accomplish these goals, the proposed plan will:

- Replace the collapsing seawalls at the Sailboat House and boat launch ramp.
- Move the parking lot further away from the Lake, and reduce its size, although not as small as called for by the Master Plan.
- Re-grade the parking lot so runoff drains into a vegetated bio-swale.
- Construct a plaza next to the Sailboat House, providing a more attractive and useful entry.
- Remove the collapsing wooden bulkhead and lay back the shoreline to a stable natural edge.
- Plant a fringe marsh and native upland plants.
- Construct a pedestrian pathway and seating along this shoreline area.

## Project Benefits:

- Restores a portion of the filled area to tidal marsh habitat and native upland zone.
- Removes creosote-treated wood bulkhead material, improving water quality.
- Reduces impermeable parking area and treats runoff through bio-filtration, improving water quality.
- Reduces impact of automobile on immediate shoreline area, improving pedestrian access to the shoreline and water.
- Provides educational venue for adjacent children's science programs.
- Provides an attractive entry plaza for the Sailboat House, improving its "street appeal" as a rental facility and providing a space for outdoor gatherings.

The project is proposed to be built in phases, as funding allows.