

MARS Landing Site: Alternative 2

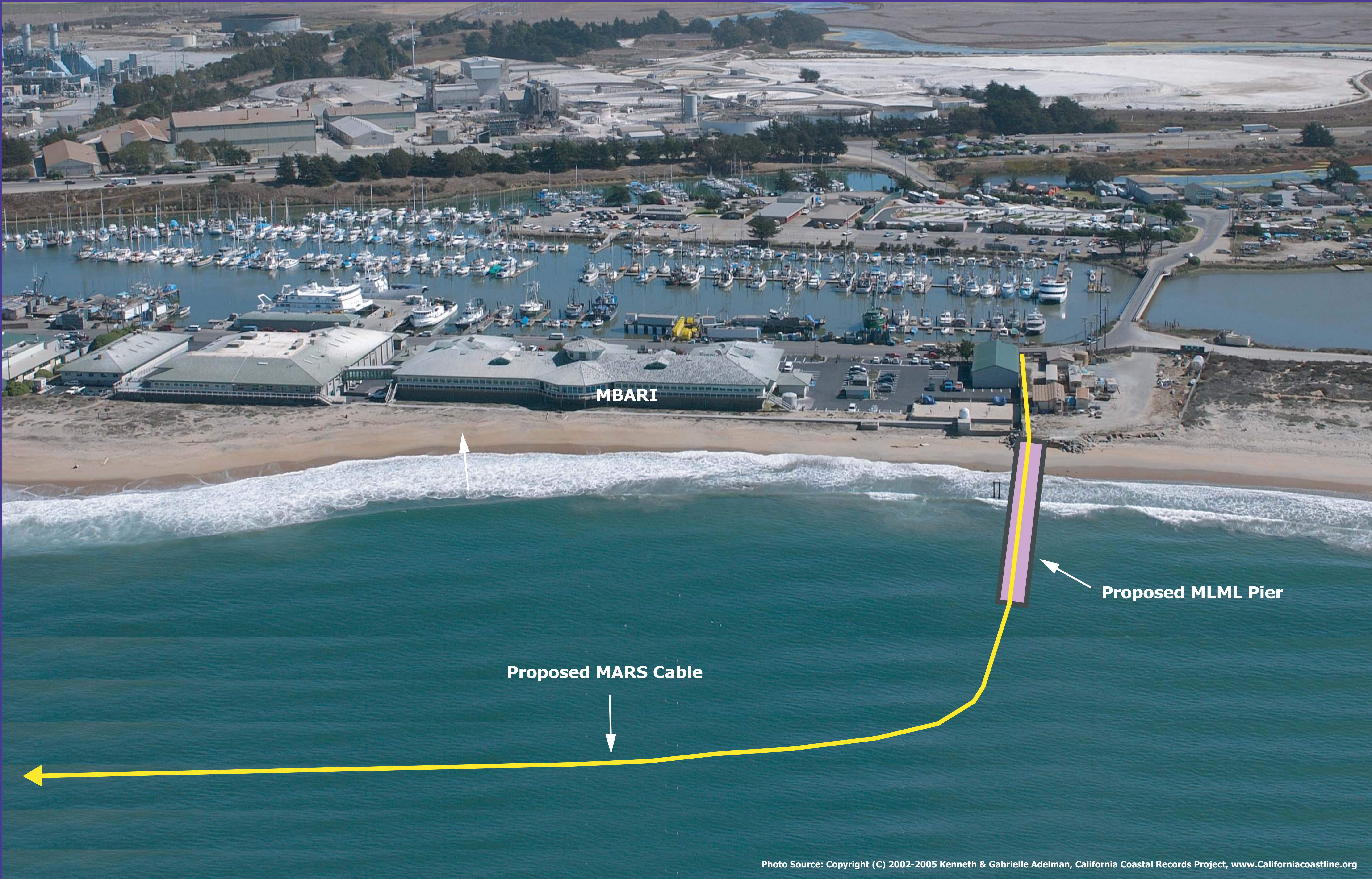


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Alternative Landing 2: Moss Landing Marine Laboratories (MLML) Pier

Description

Alternative Landing Area 2 would consist of the same undersea cable route and science node location as the proposed Project. The only difference in this alternative is that the shore landing would occur at the MLML located approximately 0.6 miles (1 km) south of the entrance to the Moss Landing Harbor. Under Alternative Landing Area 2, the cable would cross the head of the Monterey Canyon near the entrance to the Moss Landing Harbor and extend south to the MLML at a depth of approximately 52.5 feet (16 m). Cable in this portion of the route would be placed in a reticulated metal conduit to provide some protection from seasonal fluctuations in nearshore sediment depths. From a depth of approximately 52.5 feet (16 m), the cable would head inland and be landed at a pier that would be constructed by the MLML. From the pier, the cable would be placed in a conduit and follow the same path as an existing intake pipe that supplies seawater to the MBARI Building C. The MLML has obtained the necessary permits to construct the pier, and the Applicant has obtained permission to land the cable at this location.

Except for the shore landing at the future MLML pier, Alternative Landing Area 2 would utilize the same installation techniques identified in the proposed Project and Alternative Landing Area 1. HDD would not be used for Alternative Landing Area 2.

Under Alternative Landing Area 2, Building C located at the MBARI would serve as the Shore Facility, and no additional structures would be constructed. Building C would contain the required equipment and power to support the cable and science node operations.

Implementation of Alternative Landing Area 2 would require the cable to be located in an area of geologic instability. Under this alternative, there is serious concern over the survivability of the cable as it crosses the canyon head at the Moss Landing Harbor entrance. In addition, this alternative requires that the MLML complete construction of the planned pier prior to cable-laying operations.

The construction schedule for Alternative Landing Area 2 would be the same to the proposed Project. Construction is planned to occur in September 2005. The shore landing component is expected to require approximately one week for completion.

Required Agency Approvals

Implementation of Alternative Landing Area 2 would be subject to the same agency permits and approvals as the proposed Project. Additional information on these requirements is provided in the document in Table 2.7-1 in Section 2.7, Permits, Approvals, and Regulatory Requirements.

Project permit applications submitted by the Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute.

