

MEMO

Date: February 23, 2016

To: Bay Trail Steering Committee

From: Lee Huo

Subject: Review of the Draft Bay Trail Design Guidelines and Toolkit

Since the inception of the Bay Trail Project, the only design guidelines used by the Bay Trail are the Class I trail standards established by Caltrans in their Highway Design Manual. Over the years, this limited set of design guidelines has proven to be inadequate in addressing the complexities of designing the Bay Trail through many challenging environments and circumstances. It also proved insufficient in imparting the ultimate vision of the Bay Trail in a manner that would inspire trail designers and developers to create trails that fulfill the Bay Trail vision.

Over the last year, Bay Trail staff has been working with a consultant team led by 2M Associates, to develop a more robust Bay Trail Design Guidelines and Toolkit in order to assist Bay Trail staff in their everyday work as they engage a wide variety of stakeholders. The purpose of the Design Guidelines and Toolkit is to 1) impart the vision and principles of design for the Bay Trail and 2) provide design guidance and a design resource that will aid the development of the Bay Trail in a manner that results in a regional trail system that provides an enjoyable, safe, continuous, and useable experience for the broadest range of non-motorized users possible.

The Design Guidelines and Toolkit are intended as a guidance and technical resource to Bay Trail staff, public agencies, private developers, and the general public to assist in the planning and design of Bay Trail facilities, to provide design solutions/recommendations for common trail design issues, and to provide a basis for discussions of Bay Trail design criteria. The Design Guidelines and Toolkit are not intended to provide a “one-size-fits-all” solution. It does provide solutions to many common design issues related to the Bay Trail, however the hope is that it will also inspire creative solutions to challenging Bay Trail design issues. Although the document will capture many design scenarios, it is impossible to capture them all.

However, the Design Guidelines and Toolkit are intended to be a “living document” that will be available in both a hardcopy format and an electronic format and that can be easily modified by Bay Trail staff over time to update and add to the Design Guidelines and Toolkit as new design issues, solutions, and practices arise.

The draft Design Guidelines and Toolkit provided to the Steering Committee as well as the Full Bay Trail Board with this memo is the culmination of several months of work between Bay Trail staff and the 2M Associates team. We are asking that the Steering Committee and the Full Board review this draft and provide comments prior to finalizing it. Although the Design Guidelines and Toolkit are intended to be a tool and resource for staff and not new policies or regulations, we will be asking the Full Board to approve the final document at its next meeting scheduled for the last week of March 2016.