

**San Francisco Bay Trail
Steering Committee Meeting
ABAG Metro Center
January 11, 2001**

Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 1:40 PM

Attendance

Steering Committee:

Chair: Rick Parmer

Joe LaClair

Tom Mikkelson

Brian Wiese (Alternate)

Joan Cardellino

Stana Hearne

Julie Bondurant

Leo DuBose

Cathy Woodbury (Alternate)

Staff:

Janet McBride

Niko Letunic

Laura Thompson

Guests:

Jeff Blanchfield, Chief Planner, Bay Conservation and Development Commission

Caitlin Sweeney, Planner, Bay Conservation and Development Commission

Adoption of Agenda and Minutes

LaClair moved for adoption of the agenda and minutes; Hearne seconded.

Adopted unanimously.

Announcements by Staff

McBride- Announced that former Board chair Bill Bliss has returned home after completion of a worldwide bicycle tour. Copies of the Bay Area Open Space Council's poll results of Bay Area people on open space issues were distributed. Also announced that Bay Trail grant application materials are now available and online.

Proposed BCDC Public Access Policy Amendments

McBride- Provided an overview of BCDC's proposed amendments to the San Francisco Bay Plan related to public access and wildlife protection. Also outlined the concerns of Bay Trail staff including: tone/balance of the findings regarding effects of public access on wildlife; possible limitation on Commission discretion; need for balancing language in some policies; characterization of in-lieu access; whether the Bay Trail should be explicitly expressed in the Bay Plan; and sufficient capture of future/evolving conditions.

- Committee discussion- Committee members discussed the proposed changes to the plan. The primary issues raised included concerns regarding: the tone and balance in the staff report, findings and policies; the need for more flexibility in the policies; vague indicators for determining significant adverse effects; whether proposed revisions might allow developers to easily resort to in-lieu rather than providing access on site; the need for definitions of terms; how the new policy language could be interpreted; and how design decisions will be made.
- Blanchfield- Provided background on why the study began and the problems it attempts to address. Also responded to questions raised by the Committee. Reported that design guidelines will be updated and used as a tool to design projects in a way to eliminate or minimize impacts. It was agreed that Bay Trail Project staff would work with BCDC on the update of design guidelines.
- Committee discussion/ follow-up- Committee members agreed that BCDC currently does a good job of providing public access and this should be emphasized. Also, Committee members agreed that any proposed revisions should not weaken BCDC's ability to provide public access. Committee members agreed to review proposed revisions and staff responses in detail and transmit feedback to staff no later than January 15th. Staff will review issues discussed by the Steering Committee, together with additional feedback and will draft a letter to BCDC outlining issues and concerns regarding the proposed policy revisions on behalf of the Bay Trail Project. The letter could articulate both issues for which there was general consensus, along with an identification of some concerns on which there might not be unanimous agreement. Where possible, specific language suggestions should be provided.

Strategic Planning Follow-Up

This item was postponed to the next Steering Committee meeting.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:35 PM.