

**San Francisco Bay Trail
Steering Committee Meeting Minutes
ABAG Metro Center
February 8, 2007**

Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 1:30 PM.

Attendance

Steering Committee

Rick Parmer
Joan Cardellino
Brian Wiese
Cathy Woodbury
Julie Bondurant
Leo DuBose
Joe LaClair

Bay Trail Staff

Laura Thompson
Maureen Gaffney
Patrycja Bossak
Lee Huo

Bay Trail Board

Jim McGrath
Bruce Beyaert

ACTION Adoption of 02/08/07 agenda and approval of 12/14/06 minutes.

DuBose moved, Wiese seconded adoption of agenda and approval of minutes. Motion passed.

Announcements by Staff and Board Members

- Beyaert Announced that TRAC released the annual New Year Report celebrating 2006 accomplishments that include 2.2 miles of new Bay Trail, 33 new interpretive/way finding panels, 2 new websites and a new brochure for Marina Bay. Bay Trail in Richmond will be featured in the next issue of *Bay Nature* magazine.
- Cardellino Informed the Committee that Amy Hutzler from the Coastal Conservancy was promoted to manager of the Conservancy's San Francisco Bay Program and that Ann Buell will be the new contact for the South Bay Salt Ponds Restoration Project.
- Wiese Announced that Tom Stienstra expressed an interest in the Bay Trail as a possible segment for his television show.
- Thompson Informed the Committee that the Wildlife and Public Access Study scientists submitted the paper to the *Journal of Wildlife Management* and

are working on two more papers focusing on benthic data and observer study analysis.

The South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project EIR/EIS will be available after March 9th and staff will send an email to the full Board with the link

Provided an update on recent meetings with NASA/Ames, Air Rescue Wing, South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project manager and the National Wildlife Refuge manager to complete the Moffett Field gap as a Phase I project of the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration.

Informed the Committee that Senator Tom Torlakson expressed an interest in being the new Bay Trail legislative champion and we are very pleased to have his support.

-Huo Bay Trail staff is monitoring plans to construct a bicycle and pedestrian bridge along the Embarcadero in Oakland near Estuary Park. The project was presented to BCDC's Design Review Board and will return for additional input.

Doug Siden, a board director of the East Bay Regional Park District, held a stakeholders kick-off meeting to complete the Bay Trail on Doolittle in Oakland.

Announced that this summer the City of Oakland is planning to complete the Bay Trail along the Oakland Estuary from Derby to Lancaster.

Caltrans has responded to the multi-agency letter requesting construction of a Class I separated path (as part of a BCDC permit) connecting Emeryville to the Bay Bridge and will hold a stakeholders meeting to discuss options.

The next Waterfront Action meeting will be held at the Jack London Aquatic Center and will include a presentation of the proposals to cross the Oakland Estuary near the Posey Tube and viewing of the sample shoreline markers and railings proposed under the Oakland Waterfront Trail/Bay Trail Design Standards.

-Bossak Informed the Committee about her attendance at the 11th Annual San Francisco Bay Flyway Festival on Mare Island.

Bay Trail staff met with a local artist team known as Wowhaus to developing a joint proposal for the Haas Creative Art Fund. If awarded, the project would result in creative natural portraits of the bay along the Bay Trail available for the public to download as visual and audio MP3s and self-guided tours from our website.

-Gaffney Announced that the updated Bay Trail maps are now available.

Proposition 84/Future Bay Trail Funding

-Thompson Provided an overview of Proposition 84 and details about the next block grant that will be moving forward later this year in partnership with the Coastal Conservancy. Current plans are to receive authorization from the Conservancy for \$3 million in September 2007 and another \$3 million in 2009. The Committee reviewed and commented on a draft project list generated from the gap analysis database identifying potential projects that would be ready within the 5-year timeframe of the grant. The Committee requested clarification on how much Bay Trail funding will be set aside for the South Bay Salt Pond public access projects.

Bay Area Water Trail Project Update

-Thompson Provided an update on the Water Trail planning process including recent discussions with stakeholders about an implementation strategy and decision-making structure.

The Committee supported continued involvement of staff in Water Trail implementation and emphasized the importance of maintaining this partnership, sharing knowledge about shoreline activities and considering it as part of a regional trail system. The Committee expressed concern about overallocating Bay Trail staff and supported finding a balance between involvement in the Water Trail project and the primary mission of completing the Bay Trail.

Emeryville Alignment Discussion

-Huo Presented an overview of the City of Emeryville's Bay Trail alignment options currently under consideration in a community visioning process. The City is exploring several options that would change or add to the Bay Trail alignment through Emeryville. The City has requested that the Bay Trail Project add two of the proposed alignments.

The Committee provided feedback on the options including discussion of the following:

- The proposed Christie Avenue segment presents concerns over bicyclist safety as it interfaces with the heavy vehicular traffic on the street.
- Class II Bicycle Lanes and sidewalks should be a minimum standard if Ohlone Way and Horton Avenue were to be considered for Bay Trail.

- The proposed alignment along Beach Street, Wood Street, and 32nd Street is a potentially unsafe bicycle and pedestrian corridor with poor lighting and limited activity. Recommended a more direct link to the Mandela Parkway bike lanes in Oakland via the existing Bay Trail alignment.
- Shellmound Street is an essential connection for the Bay Trail linking Emeryville to the Bay Bridge pathway.
- BCDC designates the Emeryville Crescent as a wildlife priority use area. Any impacts to the adjacent wetlands should be avoided.

Spring 2007 Board Meeting

Committee and staff discussed potential dates, location and themes for the full Board meeting in Spring 2007. Potential locations include Hercules, Martinez or Port Costa located in Senator Tom Torlakosn's district. BT staff will make the appropriate contacts to schedule the meeting.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 PM.