

**San Francisco Bay Trail
Steering Committee Meeting Minutes
ABAG Metro Center
February 9, 2011**

Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 1:30 PM.

Attendance

Steering Committee

Rick Parmer, Chair
Joe LaClair, Acting Chair
Brian Wiese
Cathy Woodbury
Julie Bondurant
Ann Buell

Bay Trail Staff

Laura Thompson
Maureen Gaffney

Board of Directors

Bruce Beyaert, Trails for Richmond Action Committee
Betty Moose, Hayward Area Recreation and Park District
Bill Long, Marin County Park & Open Space Commission

LaClair was designated Acting Chair for the meeting due to Parmer's early departure. The agenda items were reordered to allow Gaffney to complete her items prior to early departure.

ACTION Adoption of 02/09/11 agenda and approval of 12/09/10 minutes.

LaClair moved, Wiese seconded adoption of the agenda and approval of minutes.

Announcements by Chair and Boardmembers

-Beyaert Announced that TRAC's 2011 New Year Report was released; Described recent significant progress in Richmond: Redevelopment Agency out to bid for Bay Trail improvements, Port of Richmond finalizing Shipyard III trail, East Bay Regional Park District held recent public meeting on Breuner Marsh restoration, City held workshop on Pt. Richmond to Pt. Molate segment, 3-mile loop trail around former landfill received \$12,500 in donated funds for trail guide, orientation sign and interpretive panels; Announced that two sections of Bay Trail in Richmond built by Caltrans

have not been maintained: the south 51st Street connection and between Buchanan and Central, steps are being taken to remedy this situation.

- LaClair Introduced the King Tides photo initiative, a west coast effort encouraging people to take pictures of tides between February 16 and 18 as a preview of what residents might experience regularly in the future as the result of rising sea levels. Contact Heidi Nutters, heidin@bcdc.ca.gov for more information.
- Moose Announced that the Hayward Area Shoreline Planning Agency has joined Save the Bay in opposing the Cargill development proposal in Redwood City; the Hayward Shoreline Interpretive Center will celebrate its 25th anniversary on May 21 from 10 am -2 pm. HASPA also continues to oppose the CalPine power plant proposed near the Bay Trail in Hayward.
- Buell Informed the Committee that on March 17 certification of the Bay Area Water Trail EIR and the ABAG block grant will be considered by the Conservancy Board of Directors. The FEIR will be posted to the website 10 days before the hearing.
- Parmer Announced that the Tidewater Boating Center at Martin Luther King, Jr. Regional Shoreline will officially open with a dedication ceremony on March 5 at 1:00 pm. Also delivered the unfortunate news that the Jack London Aquatic Center in Oakland has closed.

Staff Announcements

- Thompson Announced the installation of a memorial sculpture in honor of founding board member Bill Bliss along the Bay Trail at the Palo Alto Baylands. Staff will work with the Bliss family and the Palo Alto Arts Commission to organize a dedication ceremony in late April. Informed the Committee that the April 14 Steering Committee meeting will need to be rescheduled. Announced that Bay Trail staff will participate in the 2011 California Trails & Greenways Conference in San Ramon with Thompson on a regional trail planning panel joined by representatives from the Ridge Trail, the Coastal Trail and the Napa Valley Vine Trail.
- Gaffney Announced that staff and the Conservancy recently had a productive meeting with University of California Press to discuss the San Francisco Bay Shoreline Guide update. Informed the Committee that she will lead a Bay Area Bridge strategy discussion with the Bay Area Bicycle Coalition, Marin County Bicycle Coalition and the East Bay Bicycle Coalition to develop a coordinated effort to secure access on the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge and the West Span of the Bay Bridge.

Bay Trail Grant Program

- Thompson Updated the Committee on the status of the Prop. 84 grant program: 35 planning and construction projects have been awarded so far throughout the region. 20 construction projects will complete 10 miles of new trail and 15 planning projects address 22 miles of trail. After today's meeting, less than \$600,000 is left for allocation. Several more projects will be brought to the Steering Committee in April and later in the year.

Jefferson Street Redesign, 30% Plans, Specifications and Engineering (\$65,000)

- Gaffney Introduced the planning grant application submitted by the City of San Francisco Planning Department for \$65,000 to complete 30% plans, specifications and engineering documents for Bay Trail along Jefferson Street between Taylor and Hyde Streets in Fisherman's Wharf.

ACTION: Woodbury moved, Buell seconded the motion to award a grant to the City of San Francisco in the amount of \$65,000. The item was unanimously approved.

Vallejo Bluff Trail Design & Engineering (\$125,000)

- Gaffney Introduced the planning grant application submitted by the City of Vallejo for \$125,000 to complete plans, specifications, engineering drawings and environmental documents for a 1.7-mile segment above the Carquinez Bridge.

Buell raised the concern that two private landowners had not authorized permission for the trail across the property and asked that this approval be secured before funds are spent on design documents. Other Committee members agreed that at a minimum, a letter of intent from the property owners should be received before funds are spent.

The Committee asked staff to collect more information about property ownership and available funds for easement purchases and bring back to the Committee at a later time.

Grand Avenue Bridge Design & Engineering (\$200,000)

-Gaffney Introduced the planning grant application submitted by the City of San Rafael for \$200,000 to complete design and engineering documents for bicycle and pedestrian access on the Grand Avenue Bridge in the Canal neighborhood.

ACTION: Woodbury moved, Bondurant seconded the motion to award a grant to the City of San Rafael in the amount of \$200,000. The item was unanimously approved.

Greenwood Beach Road Feasibility Study (\$85,000)

-Gaffney Introduced the planning grant application submitted by the Town of Tiburon for \$85,000 to complete a feasibility analysis and development of alternatives and engineering concepts along 0.7 miles of Greenwood Beach Road between Tiburon Boulevard and Blackie's Pasture.

ACTION: LaClair moved, Woodbury seconded the motion to award a grant to the Town of Tiburon in the amount of \$85,000 contingent on a detailed budget reviewed by staff. The item was unanimously approved.

Sonoma-Marin Area Rail Transit District: McInnis Parkway to Smith Ranch Road Trail Design & Engineering (\$130,000)

-Gaffney Introduced the planning grant application submitted by the Sonoma-Marin Area Rail Transit District for \$130,000 to complete design and engineering documents for a Class I trail parallel to the proposed SMART rail corridor between McInnis Parkway and Smith Ranch Road in San Rafael.

The Committee discussed: potential permitting challenges due to existing sensitive habitat in the location of the proposed bridge and importance of highlighting this specific trail section providing access to McInnis Park.

ACTION: Buell moved, Woodbury seconded the motion to award a grant to the Sonoma-Marin Area Rail Transit District in the amount of \$130,000. Committee urged staff to discuss with the grantee the environmental issue and the importance of this specific Bay Trail gap along the rail corridor. The item was unanimously approved.

East Palo Alto Bay Trail Realignment

- Thompson Introduced the request from the City of East Palo Alto and the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District to add a new spur to the Bay Trail alignment that provides access to the proposed Cooley Landing Park at the end of Bay Road in East Palo Alto.

ACTION: Wiese moved, Buell seconded the motion to add a new spur to the Bay Trail alignment providing access to Cooley Landing in East Palo Alto. The item was unanimously approved.

Cooley Landing Bay Trail (\$244,649)

- Thompson Introduced the planning grant application submitted by the City of East Palo Alto for \$244,649 to construct 0.92-miles of trails around the proposed Cooley Landing Park at the end of Bay Road in East Palo Alto.

The Committee expressed concern that the trail width of 8 feet does not meet Bay Trail design guidelines for a two-way multi-use path and will not be wide enough to accommodate bicycle and pedestrian access to this new shoreline destination. The Committee directed staff to work with the grantee to increase the width of the trail to at least 10 feet and 12 feet where possible.

ACTION: Wiese moved, Buell seconded the motion to award a grant to the City of East Palo Alto in the amount of \$244,649 with the requirement that staff work with the City to increase the width of the primary spur trail as much as possible. The item was unanimously approved.

Point Gateway Grant Update

- Thompson Informed the Committee that the Point Gateway Foundation has withdrawn their \$17,600 grant awarded on April 28, 2008 to improve the streetscape near Cutting and Garrard, and has officially supported the City of Richmond's grant application to complete the Bay Trail between Cutting Boulevard and Ferry Point Tunnel.

Cutting Boulevard to Ferry Point Tunnel Design (\$20,000)

-Thompson Introduced the planning grant application submitted by the City of Richmond for \$20,000 to complete design for the .16-mile Bay Trail section adjacent to the Richmond Plunge between Cutting Boulevard and the Ferry Point Tunnel.

ACTION: Woodbury moved, Wiese seconded the motion to award a grant to the City of Richmond in the amount of \$20,000. The item was unanimously approved.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:50 PM.