

**San Francisco Bay Trail
Steering Committee Meeting Minutes
ABAG Metro Center
March 12, 2009**

Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 1:30 PM.

Attendance

Steering Committee

Rick Parmer, Chair
Joe LaClair
Julie Bondurant
Cathy Woodbury
Moirra McEnespy
Leo DuBose

Bay Trail Staff

Laura Thompson
Maureen Gaffney
Lee Huo

Board

Betty Moose
Bill Long
Bruce Beyaert

Guests

Neil Hrushowy, San Francisco
Planning Department

ACTION Adoption of 03/12/09 agenda and approval of 12/09/08 minutes.

LaClair moved, DuBose seconded adoption of agenda and approval of minutes.

Announcements by Chair and Boardmembers

- DuBose Informed the Committee that the East Bay Bicycle Coalition is organizing a Team Bicycle Challenge for Bike to Work Day on May 14.

- McEnespy Announced that the Conservancy is able to reimburse grantees for work conducted during the bond freeze, but it is not clear when funds will be released. After the special election in May, the Conservancy will have a better idea of the funding landscape and reimbursement timeline. The Conservancy is also encouraging foundations and agencies to enter into agreements for the private placement of bonds.

- Beyaert Announced that TRAC is working with East Bay Regional Park District and the National Park Service to develop a new Ferry Point Loop Bay Trail guide, based on the popular brochure for the Bay Trail in Richmond's Marina Bay. Reported that in late January the State Lands

Commission did not require construction of the Bay Trail segment along Chevron's property as a condition of the Long Wharf lease renewal. As a result, TRAC has filed a lawsuit in Superior Court against the Commission based on CEQA and public trust doctrine principles with Chevron as a real party at interest. Citizens for Eastshore State Parks and Dan Doellstedt are co-plaintiffs.

- Parmer Recommended that we organize an event recognizing the Wildlife and Public Access Study lead scientists and volunteers. The study was published in the *Journal of Wildlife Management* last November.

Staff Announcements

- Gaffney Announced results of a recent BCDC meeting where Caltrans rejected the MTC/Bay Area Toll authority proposal to initiate a demonstration project allowing bicycle and pedestrian access to a modified third lane on the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge. Staff will assess the appropriate time to revisit this effort. Also announced that the Department of Corrections pulled their BCDC permit for San Quentin expansion in response to Commission support for extensive in-lieu public access fees.
- Huo Reported that the Bay Trail website is undergoing a significant redesign and will go live in April. Staff plans to post website pages as they are completed. Also announced that on March 18 the Waterfront Coalition will host a presentation on the Central Oakland Waterfront Plan.
- Thompson Updated the Committee on the bond freeze: some grant projects will be delayed; unable to pay invoices until we receive payment from the Conservancy; unable to enter into contract until the bond freeze is lifted. // Announced that the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority will be officially designated by the ABAG Executive Board on March 19. Members of this new authority include: Sam Schuchat as chair, Phil Ting (SF Assessor), John Gioia (Contra Costa County Supervisor), Charles McGlashan (Marin Sup), Roseanne Faust (Redwood City Mayor), Dave Cortese (Santa Clara County Supervisor), John Sutter (East Bay Regional Park District). // Bay Trail will be involved in developing the work program for this authority. // Announced that the Palo Alto Art Commission has issued an RFP for a memorial to honor Bill Bliss along the Bay Trail at the Palo Alto Baylands. Proposals will be submitted through the end of March. // Notified the Committee that the Carquinez Strait Scenic Loop Trail grant funded through the Goldman Fund has been completed. Bay/Ridge Trail staff are finalizing the summary report and developing a proposal for the second round. // Noted that Bay Trail staff will attend the California Trails & Greenways Conference April 22-24 in Yosemite.

20th Anniversary Celebration Update

- Thompson Presented an update on events, activities, media outreach and promotional items for the Bay Trail 20th Anniversary. The Committee provided feedback about outreach and the importance of highlighting accomplishments and the remaining gaps. The Committee also expressed an interest in a complete bicycle ‘relay ride’ around the Bay Trail that would involve several board members and staff. The event could be a fundraiser to highlight completion of gaps and the challenge of sea level rise. The Committee suggested bringing this to the full board as a topic of discussion at the next meeting.

- Moose Betty Moose presented an overview of the Hayward Area Shoreline Planning Agency/East Bay Regional Park District event planned for June 6 that will honor Bill Lockyer and the Bay Trail 20th Anniversary at the Hayward Shoreline Interpretive Center. Treasurer Bill Lockyer, State Senator Ellen Corbett and numerous local elected officials will participate in the ceremony followed by a walk along the Hayward Shoreline. Invitations will be sent one month in advance of the event.

Bay Trail Alignment in Novato

- Gaffney Following on a presentation at the December 2008 Steering Committee meeting, Gaffney presented a detailed map showing the alternatives that were studied by the City of Novato and consultants to complete the Bay Trail gap between the Hamilton/Bel Marin Keys trail and the County border at the Petaluma River Bridge. Due to significant obstacles for implementation and failure to meet key goals of the Bay Trail Plan, staff recommends that no alignment move forward at this time.

ACTION DuBose moved, Woodbury seconded the motion to support the staff recommendation and as a way to move forward, directed staff to present the problems identified in the study and ideas for resolution to relevant governing boards. The item was unanimously approved.

Jefferson Street Redesign Study Alternatives

- Hrushowy The project manager of the City of San Francisco’s Jefferson Street Redesign Study presented preliminary design considerations for the Fisherman’s Wharf area that were developed in partnership with Jan Gehl’s design firm of Denmark. Highlighting the ‘single surface street’ concept, Hrushowy illustrated how bicyclists and pedestrians would travel along the Jefferson Street corridor without delineated sidewalks or bike lanes, merging westbound slow-moving vehicles with walkers and bicyclists in both directions. The Steering Committee was open to the

concept and expressed support for increased access to the Bay and the overall approach to designing the corridor as a slow-paced area for bicycle and pedestrian access. They expressed some concern about bicyclists traveling against traffic without a designated bike lane and the potential for drivers to bring traditional driving habits to this part of the city.

Crockett Bay Trail Alignment Discussion

-Huo As part of the Carquinez Strait Scenic Loop Trail initiative, Huo provided a photo tour of the currently adopted Bay Trail alignment through Crockett between the Zampa Bridge and Carquinez Scenic Drive. He also presented two proposed alternative alignments that would provide access to downtown Crockett and overlap with a segment of the Bay Area Ridge Trail. The Steering Committee expressed support for bringing the Bay Trail through the downtown area sharing with the Ridge Trail alignment, but had reservations about eliminating the original alignment that provides access to the C&H Sugar factory and an existing BCDC overlook of the Carquinez Strait. Staff will continue to work with the Board on this topic.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 PM.