

**San Francisco Bay Trail
Steering Committee Meeting Minutes
ABAG MetroCenter
March 12, 2015**

Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m.

Attendance

Steering Committee

John Woodbury, *Chair*
Tom Huening, *Co-Chair*
Julie Bondurant
Leo DuBose
Maggie Wenger (*Alternate*)
Betsy Wilson

Bay Trail Staff

Maureen Gaffney
Lee Huo
Laura Thompson

Guests

Juan Raigoza

Board

Betty Moose, HASPA

ACTION: Adoption of the 3/12/15 agenda: DuBose moved, Huening seconded.

The Committee agreed to rearrange the order of the agenda items to accommodate staff schedules.

ACTION: Adoption of the 1/15/15 meeting minutes: Wenger moved, DuBose seconded.

Yes Votes:

*John Woodbury
Tom Huening
Julie Bondurant*

*Leo DuBose
Maggie Wenger
Betsy Wilson*

No Votes: None

Abstentions: None

Announcements by Chair and Boardmembers

None

Staff Announcements

-Thompson Updated the Committee on staff meetings with state legislators. Informed the Committee about AB 40 (Ting), legislation to protect free sidewalk access for bicyclists

and pedestrians on the Golden Gate Bridge. Concluded the interview process for the Water Trail/Bay Trail Planner position and will hire a new planner soon. Mentioned that Thompson is serving as a representative on the East Bay Regional Park District Park Advisory Committee. The California Trails Conference is coming up April 22-24 in Yosemite and Thompson will be serving on a panel called "Trail Partnerships: the Power of Collective Impact." Informed the Committee that the Bay Trail Project and its public art partners did not receive the \$1 million Bloomberg grant, but the parties want to move forward with the Migrations initiative and fundraise to make it happen.

-Huo Announced that the Embarcadero Bridge project will conduct a community meeting in the City of Oakland for the rebuilding of the bridge linking to the Lake Merritt Bay Trail Connector project. Contra Costa County has started a planning process for the Adapting to Rising Tides initiative focusing on the shoreline between Richmond and Pittsburg/Baypoint. The Bay Trail Design Guidelines RFP proposal process has concluded and ABAG will enter into contract with 2M Associates leading a team that includes Placeworks, Questa and Michelle DiRobertis. "National Opening Day for Trails" will be held on Saturday, March 28, an initiative lead by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy to encourage use of trails throughout the country. Bay Trail will be involved in this special day hosting several events with our partners in San Francisco, Mountain View and Richmond in addition to promoting self-guided walks of our four Canogle smart phone tours. Good news regarding the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge, a 2-year pilot program is proposed for a 10-foot-wide multi-use path on bridge.

-Gaffney Announced that the Bay Trail Canogle smart phone tours received the California Trails & Greenways award for social media. Bay Trail staff will accept the award in at the conference in Yosemite. The Pond 10 trail in Napa is moving towards completion with improvements to the levee made by the California Department of Fish & Wildlife.

Sonoma Land Trust – Sears Point Construction (\$200,000)

Gaffney provided an overview of the Sonoma Land Trust's request for \$200,000 to complete construction of a 2.4-mile segment of Bay Trail spine along the Sears Point Restoration area in unincorporated Sonoma County. The project includes construction of the trail on the levee, benches, trash cans, a railroad crossing upgrade and a new Canogle smart phone walking tour. The project connects to existing Bay Trail at Sonoma Baylands and the nearby U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Headquarters.

Discussion about the railroad crossing and the infrastructure needed to make safe crossings, including the height of the levee and frequency of train traffic.

ACTION: **Huening moved, Bondurant seconded the motion to award a grant to the Sonoma Land Trust in the amount of \$200,000 to construct a 2.4-mile segment of the Bay Trail spine along the Sears Point Restoration area in unincorporated Sonoma County. The vote was approved unanimously.**

Yes Votes:

*John Woodbury
Tom Huening
Julie Bondurant*

*Betsy Wilson
Maggie Wenger
Leo DuBose*

No Votes: None

Abstentions: None

Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy – Vista Point Soils Testing (\$28,400)

Gaffney provided an overview of the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy’s request for \$28,400 to conduct a soils analysis along the Vista Point Trail, a proposed segment of the Bay Trail in Fort Baker, Marin County. The Committee recalled a board bike ride on this trail with a Park Service escort during a Bay Trail Project guided bike ride. Agreed this alignment offers a better route for a wider range of users. Preliminary lead testing as part of this project would move this part of the lead remediation project forward faster.

ACTION: Huening moved, DuBose seconded the motion to award a grant to the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy in the amount of \$28,400 to conduct a soils analysis along the Vista Point Trail, a proposed segment of the Bay Trail in Fort Baker, Marin County. The vote was approved unanimously.

Yes Votes:

*John Woodbury
Tom Huening
Julie Bondurant*

*Betsy Wilson
Maggie Wenger
Leo DuBose*

No Votes: None

Abstentions: None

Bay Trail Board Candidate Introduction

Huening introduced Riagoza, San Mateo County controller. Riagoza expressed his interest in serving on the Bay Trail Board of Directors and his personal interest in cycling. The Committee had a chance to talk to Riagoza and Thompson informed the Committee that he alerted us to a funding source in San Mateo County that could result in completion of a long-standing gap in Menlo Park/East Palo Alto.

East Bay Regional Park District – Gilman Street to Buchanan Street Construction (\$100,000)

Huo provided an overview of the East Bay Regional Park District’s request for \$100,000 to complete construction of a 0.8-mile segment of Bay Trail spine between Gilman and Buchanan Streets. This Golden Gate Fields Bay Trail gap is one of the most highly anticipated in Alameda County. Closure of this gap would stretch from Emeryville to North Richmond. The route will serve as a transportation corridor, linking to the Richmond ferry terminal and the proposed Berkeley ferry terminal. An additional letter of support from Senator Loni Hancock was distributed to the Committee.

Huo relayed concerns from board member Beyaert about the reduced width of shoulders at the bench cut and fence. The width reduction would essentially function as a 10-foot wide trail with a fence on one side. EBRPD is completing a supplemental EIR based on a challenge to the original EIR. Expect to certify in September 2015 and complete by December 2017.

The Committee pointed out the possibility that the wall could be an obvious target for graffiti.

ACTION: Huening moved, Wenger seconded the motion to award a grant to the East Bay Regional Park District in the amount of \$100,000 to construct a 0.8-mile segment of the Bay Trail spine between Gilman and Buchanan Streets in Alameda County.

Yes Votes:

*John Woodbury
Tom Huening
Betsy Wilson*

*Maggie Wenger
Leo DuBose*

No Votes: None

Abstentions: Julie Bondurant

East Bay Regional Park District – Pinole Shores to Bayfront Park Construction (\$50,000)

Huo provided an overview of the East Bay Regional Park District’s request for \$50,000 to complete construction of a 0.5-mile segment of Bay Trail spine from Pinole Shores to Bayfront Park in Contra Costa County. The proposed bridge brings the trail down from a high bluff to the bayfront. Three projects together will provide increased bayfront public access for Pinole and Rodeo. Intermodal station at Hercules will help the corridor serve as an alternative transportation corridor. Additional letters of support from Congressman Mike Thompson and Senator Loni Hancock were distributed to the Committee. The Park District expects to complete this project in December 2017.

ACTION: DuBose moved, Huening seconded the motion to award a grant to the East Bay Regional Park District in the amount of \$50,000 to construct a 0.5-mile segment of the Bay Trail spine from Pinole Shores to Bayfront Park in Contra Costa County.

Yes Votes:

*John Woodbury
Tom Huening
Betsy Wilson*

*Maggie Wenger
LeoDuBose*

No Votes: None

Abstentions: Julie Bondurant

Adjournment The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.