

**San Francisco Bay Trail
Steering Committee Meeting Minutes
ABAG Metro Center
April 12, 2007**

Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 1:30 PM.

Attendance

Steering Committee

Rick Parmer

Joe LaClair

Brian Wiese

Stana Hearne

Julie Bondurant

Bay Trail Staff

Laura Thompson

Maureen Gaffney

Patrycja Bossak

Lee Huo

Ceil Scandone

Bay Trail Board

Jim McGrath

Guests

Dr. Lynne Trulio, San Jose State Univ.

Jana Sokale, Environmental Planning

Ann Buell, Coastal Conservancy

Heather White, San Jose State Univ.

Doug Bell, East Bay Regional Park District

ACTION Adoption of 04/12/07 agenda and approval of 02/08/07 minutes.

Hearne moved, LaClair seconded adoption of agenda and approval of minutes. Motion passed.

Announcements by Staff and Board Members

- Huo Announced his attendance at the upcoming John Muir Earth Day celebration on April 21st in Martinez. Reported that the trail grade separation in Oakland near the Metropolitan Golf Course will be completed by the Port of Oakland this summer. The Bay Trail newsletter will be mailed in May and requests photographs of the Bay Trail for the new website.

- Wiese Informed the Committee that the City of San Leandro and the Port of Oakland are close to signing an agreement to move forward with construction of the bridge across San Leandro Slough. The environmental analysis is close to being certified by the city as the lead agency.

- Thompson Announced recent press coverage of the Bay Trail gap in Point Richmond near the Chevron refinery. The City of Richmond recently passed a resolution urging the State Lands Commission to require completion of the

Bay Trail gap as a condition of the 30-year Long Wharf lease renewal. The Bay Trail Project joins numerous elected officials and community members in support of this effort.

The Water Trail Steering Committee had their final meeting last month supporting a modified implementation structure for the project. The draft plan will be ready for public review in mid-May.

The Marin County Nonmotorized Transportation Pilot Program Advisory Committee reached consensus on a final list of project to fund through the \$25 million program. These recommendations will be considered by the Marin County Board of Supervisors on April 17. Stay tuned for information on the full board meeting date in June.

- Gaffney Provided an update on the recent Bay Trail/Ridge Trail coordination meeting. The subcommittee will meet again on June 22 to follow up on ideas for collaboration including joint 20-year anniversary events. Announced that the Sonoma Baylands Bay Trail ribbon cutting will be held on May 16. The City of Novato and Marin County have selected a consultant to move forward with a feasibility study for the area along Highway 37 between Highway 101 and the Petaluma River, funded in part through a Bay Trail grant. Announced her attendance at the upcoming Earthfest on April 22nd in at the Pier 39 plaza in San Francisco.
- Bossak Announced renewed interest from Doug McConnell for coverage of the Bay Trail in an upcoming show. Staff sent him several ideas highlighting new trails and parks along the alignment. Bay Trail Board Director Julia Miller donated over \$5,000 to the Bay Trail Project for a destination area along the Bay Trail in Sunnyvale that includes a bench and viewing scope. A dedication ceremony will be held later this Spring.

South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project

- Thompson /Bossak Provided an overview of the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project EIS/EIR and potential modifications to the Bay Trail. Overall, the restoration project could result in up to 30 new miles of Bay Trail, including closure of the Moffett Field and Eden Landing gaps. The Committee discussed the details of the environmental analysis focusing on specific alignments, access to the bay and proposed restoration plans. Phase 1 construction projects were also reviewed, highlighting consistency with the Bay Trail Plan, seasonal closures, observation platforms, interpretive displays and water trail access. Bay Trail staff will submit formal comments on the EIS/EIR by the April 23 deadline.

Presentation on Ducks and Trail Use

- White Heather White, graduate student at San Jose State University in the Department of Environmental Studies, provided an overview of the preliminary results of her independent research on the effects of trail use and ducks. She outlined the study methodology, the project goal to assess trail use adjacent to wintering duck habitat and the development of management strategies to determine options for trail placement and design. Based on the Wildlife and Public Access Study research structure, these data collected from South Bay ponds will help provide resource and trail managers with information about trail and wildlife compatibility. The project will be complete in Fall 2008.

San Francisco Marina Renovation Project

- Gaffney Presented an overview of the San Francisco Recreation and Park Department marina renovation project. Particular focus was placed on the East Harbor area where numerous stakeholders are working to find a safe trail alignment near the boat hoist that is proposed to open as part of the renovation. The Committee voiced support for a parallel alignment in this area, similar to the design of Crissy Field, meeting the needs of diverse uses along this popular stretch of the northern waterfront. The Committee expressed support for maintaining a shoreline experience in combination with an inland “greenway” alignment.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 PM.