

**San Francisco Bay Trail
Steering Committee Meeting Minutes
ABAG Metro Center
April 28, 2008**

Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 1:30 PM.

Attendance

Steering Committee

Rick Parmer, Chair
Julie Bondurant
Leo DuBose
Tom Huening
Joe LaClair
Moirra McEnespy

Bay Trail Staff

Laura Thompson
Maureen Gaffney
Lee Huo
Patrycja Bossak

Board

Bruce Beyaert
Jim Foran
Pat Mapelli

ACTION Adoption of 04/28/08 agenda and approval of 02/14/08 minutes.

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

Announcements by Chair and Boardmembers

- DuBose Announced that May is Bike to Work Month and May 15, 2008 is Bike to Work Day. Many events encouraging bicycle commuting will be held on this day throughout the region.

- Foran Informed the Committee that the California Supreme Court will hear oral arguments on the legal challenge to the Santa Clara County Open Space Authority's benefit assessment district on May 6, 2008.

- Beyaert Announced the grand opening of Boat Ramp Street Shoreline Park on Friday, May 9, 2008 at 3:30pm. The new shoreline park and non-motorized boat access site is adjacent to the Bay Trail.

Staff Announcements

- Huo Announced that the City of Alameda has launched a feasibility study to identify alternatives for a new bicycle/pedestrian crossing of the Oakland Estuary, linking Oakland to Alameda.

- Gaffney Informed the Committee that the Coastal Conservancy approved a grant to the Bay Trail Project for identification of Water Trail sign locations as part of the Regional Bay Trail Sign Plan.

- Thompson Announced that the Bay Trail and the Ridge Trail received a \$100,000 Goldman Fund grant to assist with completion of the Carquinez Strait Scenic Loop Trail. Informed the Committee that on April 3, BCDC Commissioners formally expressed support for public access on the Richmond San Rafael Bridge. Another hearing will be held in six months to revisit the issue. Announced the Spring Bay Trail Board Meeting on May 22, 2008 from 12:00 to 4:00 at the Shoreline Center in Oakland. Topics of discussion will include climate change impacts on shoreline public access and the East Bay Regional Park District's reauthorization of Measure AA.

Proposition 84 - \$3 Million Grant Program Overview

- Thompson Provided an overview of the \$3 Million Proposition 84 grant program and distributed a summary of awarded projects and applications under consideration. The Committee will consider five grant requests at this meeting.

Bair Island Bay Trail Realignment

- Bossak Presented the proposal to modify the Bay Trail alignment on Inner Bair Island to be consistent with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Bair Island Restoration Project. The Committee discussed the details of the project and trail connections north and south of the island. LaClair suggested keeping the southern levee alignment as part of the Bay Trail system to ensure safe connections to the street network.

ACTION Huening moved to approve the realignment as recommended by staff. LaClair seconded the motion with the added action of keeping the southern levee as the Bay Trail alignment between the parking area and Whipple Avenue. The motion was approved with one abstention.

Bair Island Bay Trail (\$200,000)

-Bossak Presented the Ducks Unlimited grant request and recommended approval of a grant award in the amount of \$200,000 to construct a 175-foot bicycle and pedestrian bridge to the Bair Island Restoration Area. The Committee discussed the details of the project and directed staff to follow up on these requests:

- request that Ducks Unlimited conduct a monitoring program on the effectiveness of the predator resistant barrier
- acquire the bridge cross section plans and ensure that the travel width of the bridge is no less than 10 feet
- add bicycles to the construction plan labels and titles for the bicycle and pedestrian bridge
- determine funding status and the grant request amount to the Wildlife Conservation Board

ACTION Huening moved, LaClair seconded the motion to award a grant in the amount of \$200,000. Unanimous approval.

Palo Alto EcoCenter Trail (\$58,749)

-Bossak Presented the Environmental Volunteers grant request and recommended approval of a grant in the amount of \$58,749 to construct two parallel paths along a 370-foot Bay Trail gap adjacent to the Sea Scout Building in the Palo Alto Baylands. The Committee discussed the trail design and expressed concerns about the proposed substandard, six-foot bicycle path. The Committee directed staff to follow up with the project designers to ensure that:

- both pedestrian and bicycle paths be widened to at least eight feet
- clear signage is placed in the area directing bicyclists and pedestrians to the appropriate paths

The grant request will be brought back to the Committee for consideration if these design revisions are achieved.

Newark/Fremont Realignment Feasibility Study (\$80,000)

-Huo Presented the City of Newark grant request and recommended approval of a grant award in the amount of \$80,000 to complete a trail feasibility study and alternatives analysis for 13 miles of shoreline between Highway 84 in Newark and the Fremont Boulevard/West Warren intersection in Fremont. Board member Pat Mapelli, representing Cargill Salt, expressed concern about the project study area passing through the central part of the Cargill facility where heavy machinery operates.

The Committee recommended that staff bring the grant request back to the Steering Committee after convening a meeting with the City of Newark, City of Fremont and Cargill to discuss project details.

Fremont Bay Trail Gap Feasibility Study (\$75,000)

-Huo Presented the City of Fremont grant request and recommended approval of a grant award in the amount of \$75,000 to complete feasibility and preliminary engineering analysis of a shoreline trail alignment between Fremont Boulevard and the Fremont/Milpitas border. The Committee discussed the importance of this small but critical segment connecting Santa Clara and Alameda counties. The Committee requested a higher matching percentage if the City submits a construction grant application in the future.

ACTION LaClair moved, Huening seconded the motion to award a grant in the amount of \$75,000. Unanimous approval.

Point Gateway Bay Trail Improvements (\$17,600)

-Huo Presented the Point Richmond Gateway Foundation grant request and recommended approval of a grant award in the amount of \$17,600 to complete sidewalks and bike lanes at the entrance to Point Richmond. The Committee discussed the applicant's answers to their questions from the previous meeting.

ACTION DuBose moved, Huening seconded the motion to award a grant in the amount of \$17,600. Unanimous approval.

Vallejo Feasibility Study Update

-Gaffney Presented an overview of the proposed Bay Trail realignment in Vallejo as part of the Vallejo Bay/Ridge Trail feasibility study. The Committee discussed the importance of preserving the shoreline alignment, accommodating all modes of trail users and alerting bicyclists and pedestrians to the steep grades along the trail. The Committee expressed an interested in conducting a site visit of the area. Staff will consider hosting the fall 2008 Bay Trail Board meeting in Vallejo.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 PM.