

**San Francisco Bay Trail  
Steering Committee Meeting  
ABAG Metro Center  
May 10, 2001**

**Call to Order**

Meeting was called to order at 1:35 PM

**Attendance**

Steering Committee:

Chair: Rick Parmer

Julie Bondurant

Leo DuBose

Stana Hearne

Joe LaClair

Brian Wiese (Alternate)

Cathy Woodbury (Alternate)

Staff:

Janet McBride

Niko Letunic

Laura Thompson

Board Members:

Bruce Beyaert

Lori Johnson, Public Affairs Manager, Cargill Salt

Dave Mitchell

Guests:

Mike Sellers, Policy Director, National Audubon Society - San Francisco Bay Restoration Program

**Adoption of Agenda and Minutes**

Hearne moved for adoption of the agenda and minutes; Wiese seconded. Adopted unanimously.

**Announcements by Staff**

McBride- Announced two Bay Trail ribbon cuttings scheduled: City of Alameda Main Street Linear Park on June 2<sup>nd</sup>, and Sunnyvale Lockheed on June 5<sup>th</sup>.

Provided overview of schedule and process for convening selection panels to review and score grant applications.

Reviewed status of the Wildlife & Public Access Study. The project has recently completed the first six months of the second year of field research. McBride also announced that she will be presenting on a panel at the upcoming Conference of Association of Environmental Professionals on the study.

### **Announcements by Chair and Boardmembers**

- LaClair- Announced that BCDC will be receiving approximately \$1 million from the Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP) for implementing the Bay Trail. Approximately half the money will go towards program improvements, for example, BCDC's continuing discussion of protection of resources and expansion of recreation opportunities focusing on restoration sites. Approximately \$500,000 will be used to leverage CIAP funds received by Bay Area counties for Bay Trail construction projects.
- Parmer- Complimented staff and TRAC members for a successful Bay Trail Board meeting.

### **Bay Trail Map Update**

- Letunic- Provided overview of staff decision to update the Bay Trail maps used by trail users. Proposed a sole source contract with Reineck & Reineck, creators of the Bay Trail maps in the Shoreline Guide. Funding for the maps is proposed to come from last year's State funds allocated to the Bay Trail. Estimated costs for map design is between \$10,000 and \$20,000. The Committee suggested that an agreement be secured with the map designer to allow for staff update to the maps, and that staff explore opportunities for coordination with other agencies. Funding authorization will be requested from the Coastal Conservancy Board.

LaClair moved and Stana seconded conceptual approval to request Conservancy funding authorization for map updates.

### **Cargill Presentation**

- Sellers- Provided background on Audubon's San Francisco Bay Restoration Program. The goal of the national initiative is comprehensive acquisition, restoration and long-term management of San Francisco Bay. The first phase of this program is to implement the recommendations outlined in the 1999 Baylands Ecosystem Habitat Goals Report. Restoration of Cargill's 18,000 acres of salt ponds represents almost 20% of the wetlands recommended for restoration in the Habitat Goals Report.
- Johnson- Cargill has recently determined that it can more efficiently produce salt on less of their land. In response to the Habitat Goals Report and new technology, the company is interested in selling the South Bay salt ponds. Of the 29,000 acres currently used for salt production in the South Bay, 18,000 acres will be available for marsh restoration. Cargill requested Bay Trail support for public allocation of funding to implement this restoration program.

Parmer- Additional discussion is necessary for Bay Trail support for the restoration of Cargill salt ponds. The Committee requested this item on a future meeting agenda to discuss the Bay Trail's involvement in the process. Parmer suggested inviting Carl Wilcox, Department of Fish & Game biologist, to the next Steering Committee meeting.

### **Bay Trail Through Moffett Field**

Letunic- Provided details on recent changes regarding the Moffett Field segment of the Bay Trail. NASA has recently expressed a willingness to grant an easement for the Bay Trail through their entire property and has agreed to enter into a planning agreement with the Bay Trail Project. The city of Mountain View, previously awarded a planning grant for a small segment, is willing to give the grant back in the interest on studying the entire segment. The planning study would be administered by Bay Trail staff, and a consultant would be hired to do the feasibility study. Approximate costs for the study is estimated between \$100,000 to \$200,000. The proposal needs to be approved by the Coastal Conservancy Board prior to requesting consultant proposals.

One of the tasks of the consultant would be to complete a review of plans completed by Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District and others for the trail segment. The Committee also expressed concern regarding future flood control efforts and impacts to a trail alignment.

The Committee expressed strong support for this opportunity, but requested that the final product include an easement from NASA for the trail alignment.

Hearne moved, and DuBose seconded to authorize staff to move forward to implement a comprehensive planning study for Moffett Field with an expected result to include an easement dedication.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:40 PM.