

**San Francisco Bay Trail  
Steering Committee Meeting  
ABAG Metro Center  
May 13, 2004**

**Call to Order**

Meeting was called to order at 1:30 PM.

**Attendance**

Steering Committee:

Rick Parmer  
Stana Hearne  
Brian Wiese  
Joe LaClair

Bay Trail Staff:

Janet McBride  
Laura Thompson  
David Lipsetz  
Ceil Scandone

Board and Advisory Council:

Mary Burns  
Linda Stonier

Guests:

Ron Blatman  
Lynne Trullio  
Jana Sokale  
Jim Foran

**ACTION - Adoption of 05/13/04 Agenda and Approval of 03/18/04 Minutes**

Hearne moved for adoption of agenda and approval of minutes; LaClair seconded. Adopted unanimously.

**Introductions**

**Announcements by Staff and Board Members**

-Thompson

Caltrans will be hosting a ribbon cutting ceremony for the bicycle and pedestrian lane on the new Al Zampa (formerly Carquinez) Bridge Sunday, May 16<sup>th</sup>. This is a shared alignment of the Bay Trail and Ridge Trail.

-Burns

Described ongoing discussions about the fishing pier and trail at the base of the San Mateo Bridge. Foster City, San Mateo County Parks and Rec., Caltrans, State Hwy. Patrol, and other stakeholders meeting to discuss safety, access and Homeland Security issues around this segment of the Bay Trail.

-Lipsetz

Union Point Park has broken ground. This Oakland park is being built, in part, with a grant from Bay Trail.

A study has begun on the habitat and potential trail alignments along Richmond's Breuener and Giant marshes.

A task force is forming to consider an Alameda County Agriculture, and Open Space ballot measure.

South Bay Salt Pond restoration planning has begun, and a draft of the first set of planning documents will be made public for comments in early June.

-McBride

Ballots for the Contra Costa County Open Space assessment district will be mailed soon.

The current cycle for the planning and construction grants awarded by Bay Trail is coming to an end. The \$2.5M in CA General Funds must be expended by June, '04. The \$7.5M in Prop. 12 funds must be expended by Spring, '04.

The Regional SF Bay Protection and Recreation District legislation proposed initially by Save the Bay, and presented at the last Steering Committee meeting, has been scaled back. At this point, the legislation has been stripped of all direct references to a benefit assessment district, and reworked to only facilitate CA Coastal Conservancy's ability to enter a JPA (thus allowing CC to take part in the administration of a district if established at some future date.)

### **Wildlife and Public Access Study – 3<sup>rd</sup> Year Research Topic**

-Sokale and Trullio

Briefly reviewed results of Wildlife & Public Access study to this point, then presented two alternatives under consideration for the upcoming 3<sup>rd</sup> year of study. Steering Committee Members were asked to consider and choose between:

1. A "Before After Control Impact (BACI)" study,
2. A "Benthic Invertebrate (Benthic)" study.

A 3<sup>rd</sup> study was mentioned that Bay Trail will consider at a future date. It would involve returning to study sites and repeating data collection using camera or other non-human observation techniques to understand any "observer bias" that may occur.

The 2 alternatives being considered were designed to meet the main criteria:

- A. Study could be completed during the time frame for expending BCDC, NOAA and ABAG grant funds (approx. 15 months).
- B. Study would build on years one and two of WPA study.

The BACI study would begin by analyzing the abundance, diversity and behavior of birds at sites that are not currently part of the Bay Trail, but are designated to be trail segments in the near future. Once the new trail segment is constructed, the research team would return to the site and conduct the same analysis. The “before” and “after” results would then be compared to see how much of an impact the trail and trail users have.

Benthic study could provide information on what was described as “one of the most important variables to understanding bird behavior” – food supply. The study would allow the researchers to identify the impact of trail users on birds more clearly by controlling for the variations in bird behavior caused by differences in food supply. It was presented that varying food supplies may have such a significant impact that it affects the reliability of the study’s findings on trail and trail user impacts on birds.

Budgets and schedules for both options were presented and discussed. In response to questions, the research team further clarified: the relative importance of understanding the food supply variable; data collected w/benthic may only be qualitatively compared to previous years WPA data; that the scale of benthic study would be “exploratory” not comprehensive; difficulties in BACI site selection exist as schedule for trail construction is often unknown; concern that issue of buffer distances and available upland refuge not focus of either alternative; and restraints dictated by BCDC funding schedule.

Hearne moved that the Steering Committee express a preference for Bay Trail funds to be spent on the Benthic Analysis alternative. Cardellino seconded. Approved unanimously with LaClair abstaining.

## **Saving the Bay Video Update**

- Blatman

Idea for a one hour video on San Francisco Bay for local public broadcast stations was first brought to BCDC some years ago. The project has, through the support of Bay Trail and others, grown into a four-part, four-hour high definition series intended for national broadcast.

Video shooting has begun, including 30+ hours worth of interviews. Significant funding is in place, though the budget is not completely covered. A five minute DVD trailer is expected to be complete in three months

The project scope has expanded from 1849 to present, to now beginning with the geologic formation of the Bay and going up to the present. Interviews have been conducted with many of the founders and important figures in the Save the Bay movement. Animation and USGS GIS graphics are being developed, including time lapse simulations. Historic images, site-specific footage and footage to support subplots and storyline tangents are still being collected. The four parts of the video series have been divided into: geologic formation to gold rush; gold rush to 1906; 1906 to 1960; and 1960 to present.

Ten minutes of raw footage shown, including interviews, aerials and landscape.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 PM.