

**San Francisco Bay Trail
Steering Committee Meeting Minutes
ABAG Metro Center
June 15, 2006**

Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 1:30 PM.

Attendance

Steering Committee:

Rick Parmer, Chair
Brian Wiese
Stana Hearne
Cathy Woodbury
Julie Bondurant

Bay Trail Staff:

Laura Thompson
Patrycja Bossak
Maureen Gaffney
Lee Huo
Ceil Scandone

Board of Directors:

John Woodbury

ACTION Adoption of 06/15/06 agenda and approval of 04/13/06 minutes.

Hearne moved, Wiese seconded adoption of agenda and approval of minutes.

Announcements by Staff and Board Members

- Wiese Informed the Committee and Staff that the East Bay Regional Park District selected a consultant for the Union City Bay Trail environmental review.

- C. Woodbury Informed the Committee that the Environmental Impact Report has been certified for the golf course project at Alameda Point which includes a segment of Bay Trail.

- Hearne Announced that Sylvia McLaughlin will be honored for her work on public access and Save the Bay. East Bay Regional Park District will help celebrate her 89th birthday.

- J. Woodbury Announced that the decision to form a park district or county parks department for Napa County has been placed on the November ballot.

- Gaffney Informed the Committee about the ribbon cutting ceremony at Pier 14 in San Francisco on June 16th at 11 am. Announced that the BlueGreenway Imagine the Way celebration will take place on June 24th in India Basin Shorelin Park and announced that the Bay Trail Gap Analysis was awarded an honorable

mention for focused issue planning by the Northern Section of the California Chapter American Planning Association.

- Thompson Informed the Committee that the Water Trail Steering Committee will have its fourth planning meeting at BCDC on July 18th.
- Huo Informed the Committee about the Union Point Park celebration ceremony unveiling the art piece by Ned Kahn and announced the West County Landfill trail opening in Richmond. Also announced that the MTC Planning Committee approved new routine accommodations policies that will go to the full MTC Commission on June 28th – the first regional policy to incorporate bicycle and pedestrian facilities in all transit projects.
- Wiese Suggested that since the Bay Trail had so many dedication and celebration ceremonies, staff should prepare a Powerpoint presentation of recent openings and present it to the full Bay Trail Board.
- Bossak Informed the Committee about the trail dedication ceremony in Milpitas and that the new Bay Trail t-shirts and caps have arrived and are ready for purchase.
- Parmer Announced that former Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt will speak in San Jose on June 25th about the “Future of Land Use Planning.”

Review of Planning and Construction Grant Applications for the \$3.8 Million Grant Program

- Thompson Introduced a fourth batch of planning grant applications received under the \$3.8 million program. Staff reviewed and scored three projects recommended for Steering Committee review.
- Huo Presented follow-up information on the Carquinez Scenic Drive Bay Trail planning grant request in the amount of \$50,000 from the Contra Costa County Public Works Department. The County requested funding for two studies along the Carquinez Scenic Drive corridor – Biological Assessment/Wetlands Delineation and Historic Property Survey and will contract these projects to an outside firm. Staff clarified schedule and budget information that was requested by the Committee at the April meeting.

ACTION Bondurant moved, C. Woodbury seconded the motion. Unanimous approval.

- Gaffney Presented the Napa River Trail Feasibility Study. The County of Napa seeks funds in the amount of \$75,000 to develop feasible alignment alternatives for 8.5 miles of the Bay Trail along the eastern edge of the Napa River between American Canyon and the City of Napa. Wiese and Parmer noted great

support for the project and J. Woodbury noted that with six public agency landowners there is willingness and support for providing the physical space for the trail.

ACTION Wiese moved, Hearne seconded the motion. Unanimous approval.

-Gaffney Presented the San Rafael Canalfront Conceptual Plan. City of San Rafael seeks \$20,000 to complete detailed planning, feasibility and conceptual design for an improved Bay Trail alignment along the canal waterfront. This project would require an evaluation of a new alignment of the Bay Trail along the shoreline.

ACTION C. Woodbury moved, Wiese seconded the motion. Unanimous approval.

Wildlife and Public Access Study Follow-up Discussion

-Scandone/
Thompson Staff distributed a revised Wildlife and Public Access Study Executive Summary based on Bay Trail Board feedback received at the May 11 meeting. The Committee offered additional suggestions that included:

- Placing “draft” on every page, removing “sponsored by the SF Bay Trail Project” to avoid confusion and adding a boxed comment on the first page stating that the study papers are undergoing scientific review.
- Listing the caveats about what the study doesn’t apply to in a different section and revising the management implications section to focus on the habitats/conditions/circumstances the study does address. Focusing this section on the design and management implications that can be used by trail managers and how the study findings can be used to assist with the siting and management of trails.
- Adding information about the design details of the trail and control sites such as whether there was fencing or visual barriers. Adding the cross sections for each study site, photographs and the range of levee elevations above the mudflats.
- Modifying the 2nd sentence in the 3rd paragraph of the phrase “we recommend placing trails...” to read “the findings suggest that trails be placed on elevated levees...”(avoid saying “we recommend”)
- Clarifying whether there was upland refugio between the levee and mudflat, identify the type of vegetation, riprap or possible edge effect and if the data tell us anything about that relative to tangential trails.

- Identifying any information from the study or in the literature that addresses visual issues and also list the permitted uses at the sites.
- Developing a clear message and outreach strategy that can be distributed to the Board in preparation for questions from the press and the public.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 PM.