

**San Francisco Bay Trail
Steering Committee Meeting
ABAG Metro Center
August 8, 2002**

Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 1:30 PM.

Attendance

Steering Committee:

Chair: Rick Parmer

Stana Hearne

Julie Bondurant

Joseph La Clair

Brian Wiese

Staff:

Janet McBride

Laura Thompson

Melissa Barry

David Lipsetz

Board Members:

Steve McAdam

Bill Long

Adoption of Agenda and Approval of 6/13/02 Minutes:

Hearne moved for adoption of the agenda; La Clair seconded. Adopted unanimously.

Announcements by Chair and Boardmembers

- Hearne Announced that a series of public meetings on the Park Concept Plan for Eastshore State Park would be held in September.

- La Clair Announced that BCDC is currently completing updates to recreation policies directed towards the reuse of military bases as parks. The updates will include references to the Bay Trail.

 Announced that BCDC is initiating a planning process for Fisherman's Wharf that may also include some Bay Trail improvements.

- Wiese Announced that the City of Oakland would be placing a bond measure for \$198 million on next year's ballot. The bond funds would be used to implement the Lake Merritt Improvement Plan and complete estuary public access. Distributed a draft map of the project.

Announcements by Staff

- McBride Announced that she would be attending a conference in Sydney, Australia for a proposed new trail around Botany Bay the first week of September as a keynote speaker.

-Thompson Reminded committee members that the Bay Trail Project will be co-hosting a dedication ceremony with the East Bay Regional Park District on September 14th. The “Point to Pier Trailhop” event will celebrate recent trail progress along Richmond’s southern shoreline.

Thanked committee and board members for their comments on the draft Bay Trail maps.

Bay Trail Board Funding Overview & Next Steps

-McBride Provided an overview of the \$7.5 million allocation. Noted that approximately \$6.9 of the \$7.5 million Regional Development Program funds has been allocated, and approximately \$1 to \$1.5 million remain.

-Thompson Briefly described categories for spending additional funds (below) and projects within.

1. Full grant requests from last year’s round. This includes projects already authorized by the Conservancy that are now seeking additional Bay Trail funds, projects that were selected by the Steering Committee that have not yet been authorized by the Conservancy, and projects that have been awarded grants that are not moving forward.
2. Bay trail Project sponsored proposals to advance implementation.
3. New grant requests.
4. Completed planning or feasibility studies that are possibly ready for construction funds.
5. “Project Inquiry” short forms from previous grant round.

Asked committee for feedback on priorities and an equitable process for considering funding requests for the balance of available funds.

The committee discussed the various priorities and agreed upon a quarterly review process for planning and construction grant projects. The committee noted that although the remaining funds will not go through a new grant round, the criteria for selection should still be used as guidance. The committee acknowledged that some requests are time-sensitive, and that staff should use judgement in bringing these to the committee. The committee asked staff to develop priorities for the categories and report back at the next meeting.

A discussion of a gap analysis followed. The committee discussed the functions of a gap analysis. McBride noted that it would be helpful (among other things) to identify needs to the Conservancy for potential Proposition 40 funds. She also noted that the analysis would help staff to strategize internally.

McAdam noted that the analysis could be extended to look at linkages between the trail and communities. Parmer noted that a reevaluation of the strategic plan to develop a common vision for the next 2-3 years is in order. Long agreed and discussed the opportunity to develop both a long-range and short-range plan. Long also discussed the potential to include a survey of local governments and special districts as part of the gap analysis. McAdam reiterated the opportunity to develop partnerships with special districts, noting the potential for a partnership between the Alameda County Flood Control District, the East Bay Regional Park District, and the Bay Trail Project.

McBride Noted that staff will follow-up on the allocation of the remaining funds by prioritizing the categories discussed. Also noted that staff will report back with a detailed work program and tasks for the gap analysis.

Bay Trail Plan Update

-McBride Discussed several elements of the 1989 Bay Trail Plan that are outdated, including the alignment maps, design guidelines, and environmental protection policies. Invited a discussion about plan revision.

La Clair noted that BCDC would be updating design guidelines soon. Discussed the potential opportunity for Bay Trail Project staff to partner with BCDC on the development of the guidelines, and adopt as an appendix to the Bay Trail Plan.

The committee discussed what level of update would trigger a public review process through CEQA. The committee also discussed ABAG's role in the Bay Trail Plan revision process. The committee and staff agreed that ABAG's endorsement is important.

La Clair discussed the potential to add restoration policies to reflect new opportunities.

McBride Noted that Bay Trail Project staff will discuss the environmental review issues and the potential for ABAG involvement related to a plan update with ABAG Planning Director and legal counsel and report back.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 PM.