

**San Francisco Bay Trail
Steering Committee Meeting
ABAG Metro Center
October 10, 2002**

Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 1:30 PM.

Attendance

Steering Committee:

Chair: Rick Parmer
Co-chair: Tom Huening
Julie Bondurant
Joan Cardellino
Stana Hearne
Joseph La Clair
Brian Wiese

Staff:

Janet McBride
Laura Thompson
Melissa Barry
David Lipsetz
JoAnna Bullock

Board Members:

Bruce Beyaert

Adoption of Agenda and Approval of 8/8/02 Minutes:

Wiese noted incorrect notes to strike from 8/8/02 minutes. Hearne moved for adoption of the agenda; La Clair seconded. Adopted unanimously.

Announcements by Chair and Boardmembers

- Beyaert Thanked all involved in the Point to Pier Trailhop event in September. Announced that TRAC and the City of Richmond submitted several applications for funding the Bay Trail gap along the Richmond Parkway.

- Cardellino Announced that the Spanish Speaking Unity Council will be co-sponsoring the Dia de los Muertos celebration on October 27th.

- La Clair Noted that Prop. 40 allocations related to the Cargill acquisition (and specifically to public access) may be a potential agenda item for a future Steering Committee meeting.

- Parmer Noted that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has decided to defer planning of the proposed National Wildlife Refuge in Marin County (which would have potentially included the restored lands of Hamilton, Bel Marin Keys, Corte Madera Marsh, etc.).

Announcements by Staff

- Thompson Reiterated the success of the Richmond Ferry Point Pier event. Noted that the final edited version of Bay Trail maps will be

complete soon, and that we will release the new maps on the Bay Trail website before the final maps are printed.

-Lipsetz Discussed recent groundbreaking ceremony for the Mandela Parkway segment in West Oakland. Noted that the Bay Trail public display board has been reworked and has been set up at recent events. Provided a brief update on the two recent conferences - the California Trails Conference and the Open Space Conference held by the Open Space Council.

-Barry Announced that the City of Palo Alto is about to begin construction of the East Palo Alto segment that will connect Ravenswood Open Space Preserve to Palo Alto Baylands.

-Bullock Noted that all but four Bay Trail grant contracts are now signed and that grant projects are making progress.

-McBride Offered extra copies of the Bay Nature magazine inserts, or copies of the entire magazine to Steering Committee members or others.

Passed around the recently completed “Sunnyvale Activity Guide,” a workbook full of Bay Trail-related activities for children. Offered copies to Steering Committee members.

Noted that the next Board meeting is approaching, and asked Steering Committee members to provide ideas for both location and topic.

Bay Trail Bond Funding Prioritization

-McBride Discussed staff recommendations for spending the remaining Prop 12 grant allocation, including a process and priorities for Steering Committee consideration of future funding requests. Solicited Steering Committee comments on proposed prioritization.

A discussion on the need to ensure an equitable approach to distribution followed. LaClair reiterated that the geographic spread was inherent in the last process because Steering Committee members were broken up into subcommittees by geographic area. Beyaert noted the scoring criteria for other State/regional grant programs often include some type of “underserved community” criteria as well as some type of criteria to ensure equitable north-south distribution. Huening noted that transportation funds are broken down by population.

Several committee members noted that the review process for grants should avoid holding back ready-to-go projects. Bondurant

noted that if the review process was minimized it may limit the grantee's ability to leverage funds.

The committee approved the approach outlined in the staff recommendations handout and reiterated that staff should use judgement in bringing urgent or timely projects to the committee for consideration.

Request for Grant Augmentation

-Barry Introduced a request for augmentation of an existing grant from the County of San Mateo for a trail segment in Coyote Point Park. The augmentation would increase the amount of the grant from \$42,000 to \$71,500 and revise the scope of the project from a planning study to engineering alternatives for approximately one mile of Class I trail. Recommended that the Committee approve the augmentation request.

La Clair moved to approved the staff recommendation (that the augmentation be approved) contingent upon the grantee expressing a commitment to explore future spur trails. Huening seconded the motion. Bondurant and Cardellino abstained. Motion passed unanimously.

Bay Trail Plan Update

-McBride Reported back to the Committee on items discussed at the last meeting pertaining to potential update of the Bay Trail Plan. Reported that the portions of the plan that staff feels need to be updated include statistics, maps, and design guidelines, and policies to a lesser extent. Briefly outlined several approaches for updating the plan that were discussed with ABAG staff and legal council. Recommended that staff take six months to work on updates and raise potential funds for environmental review.

The Committee discussed the usefulness of a Bay Trail Plan update, with a split of opinion on whether the update is a beneficial use of staff time and energy. A general discussion about whether the plan could be brought up to date with existing BCDC and Conservancy policies without triggering new environmental review.

McBride noted that staff will do more research on options and bring this item back for discussion at a future meeting.

Oakland Measure DD

-Lipsetz Introduced Oakland ballot Measure DD, which would earmark significant funds for the Bay Trail and related projects. Discussed several important elements of the measure, and recommended that the Steering Committee consider endorsing the measure.

Huening moved to endorse Measure DD. Hearne seconded. Cardellino and La Clair abstained. Motion passed unanimously.

Bay Trail Gap Analysis

-McBride Introduced the Gap Analysis project, including overall scope of work and potential products. Noted that the overall purpose of the analysis would be to answer the two questions most posed by policymakers: when will the Bay Trail be finished? *and* how much will it cost? Walked the Committee through the various stages involved in the gap analysis project. Solicited comments from the Committee on overall process as well as need and purpose for the Gap Analysis.

The Committee discussed several elements of the Gap Analysis in detail. The use of surveys for local governments, etc. was generally agreed to be an excellent tool, but that perhaps staff should perform the surveys to develop local contacts and foster relationships.

Several Committee members noted that staff time is limited and that it's important to develop a balance such that staff is included in the process and learns and develops contacts but that a consultant would do the majority of the work.

The Committee agreed that is important to ask answerable questions, and that the analysis will be an important tool for funding justification. It was noted that it may be impossible to come up with precise \$ amounts, but that the figures would be generally useful for determining basic funding needs. The Committee generally agreed that the scope of work appears to be feasible and useful, but that some tweaking will be necessary.

-McBride Staff will continue to refine scope of work, working closely with the Coastal Conservancy (Cardellino) on goals, process, and schedule, and will check back with Committee regarding next steps. Solicited additional comments from Committee through phone/e-mail (as suggested by Parmer).

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 PM.