

**San Francisco Bay Trail
Fall Board Meeting Minutes
Port Costa School
October 10, 2007**

Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m.

Attendance

Board Members:

Chair: Rick Parmer

Bill Long

Tom Huening

Sean Co

Jody Zaitlin

Cathy Woodbury

Judy Malamut

Rob Powell

Rosemary Corbin

Dan Hodapp

Jim McGrath

Joe LaClair

Don Weden

Philip Sales

Bruce Beyaert

Diane Ross Leech

Linda Stonier

Leo DuBose

Jim Foran

Guests:

State Senator Tom Torlakson

Rich Shimano, Contra Costa County

Katie Tague, Office of Senator Ellen Corbett

Ridge Greene, Port Costa Conservation Society

Lewis Stewart, Port Costa Conservation Society

Ted Radke, East Bay Regional Park District

Jim Townsend, East Bay Regional Park District

Erin Gabel, Office of Senator Tom Torlakson

Kathy Hoffman, Office of Representative George Miller's Office

Janet McBride, Bay Area Ridge Trail Council

Elish Ryan, Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Dept

Staff:

Laura Thompson

Lee Huo

Maureen Gaffney

Patrycja Bossak

Introductions / Agenda / Announcements

Parmer welcomed Board members and guests, and thanked Port Costa Historical Preservation Society staff for providing the facilities for the Board meeting.

Introductions were made.

Agenda/Minutes:

Corbin made a motion to adopt the agenda; Beyaert seconded. LaClair made a motion to adopt the previous meeting's minutes; Huening seconded. The agenda and minutes were adopted.

Board Announcements

-McGrath Announced that South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project meetings were scheduled to discuss public access. Funding for trail improvements and beach restoration at Coyote Point Park has been secured.

- Powell Announced that the bicycle/pedestrian facilities on Wilson Avenue are nearly complete, filling an important Bay Trail gap in Vallejo.
- Hodapp Informed the Board that the Port of San Francisco will be coordinating with the San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department to place a \$33 million general obligation bond measure on the February 2008 ballot. If voters approve this bond, many waterfront Bay Trail Projects stand to benefit.
- Weise Informed the Board that the East Bay Regional Park District will be looking for reauthorization of their 1988 parkland acquisition bond, Measure AA, that will benefit both the Bay and Ridge Trails if passed.
- Beyaert Suggested that the Bay Trail Board be kept aware of bond progress in San Francisco.

Staff Announcements

- Thompson Announced that Doug McConnell has filmed another piece on the Bay Trail for *Bay Area Backroads* and will alert the Board regarding the airing date.

Informed the Board that the Bay Trail Staff is moving forward with negotiations on the Chevron gap.

Announced that TRAC will be receiving a Clearwater Award from the Waterfront Center for their outstanding work with the community.
- Gaffney Announced that significant progress is being made on the Bay Trail in Napa County with the completion of the joint American Canyon/County of Napa Bay Trail Feasibility Study evaluating more than 8 miles of Bay Trail along the Napa River. The City and County are jointly applying for a \$1 million + grant from the Proposition 50 Rivers and Parkways grant program.
- Huo Announced that the Alameda Avenue Bay Trail has just been completed, and that the Cities of Newark and Fremont are both working on off-street alignments.

Bay Trail Board Candidates

Thompson announced that two Bay Trail Board members are resigning—Bob Douglass and Mark Frederick. Pat Mapelli from Cargill is the candidate to replace Bob Douglass, and Elish Ryan from Santa Clara County Parks is the candidate to replace Mark Frederick, and John Falkowski is the candidate for alternate. A motion to approve the candidates was made by Don Weden and seconded by Stana Hearne. All board members approved and welcomed the new directors.

Proposition 84 Grant Round Overview

Thompson reported her attendance at the Coastal Conservancy Board meeting in Mendocino where she presented a power point presentation highlighting the 80+ projects the Bay Trail grant program has funded with Coastal Conservancy assistance. The Conservancy Board approved the \$3 million grant to the Bay Trail Project, and another \$3 million will be allocated to the Project in 2009. Staff has alerted local jurisdictions regarding the availability of grant funds and three applications have been received. There is no hard deadline for the receipt of grant applications—the Project will accept applications until

the funds are exhausted. Staff expects to bring a large number of applications to the Steering Committee in December. A sampling of expected applications includes construction funding for:

- Bair Island Bay Trail
- Moffett Field Bay Trail
- Sears Point Bay Trail
- Oakland Waterfront Pathway
- San Francisco Northern Waterfront and Fort Mason
- BioRad Bay Trail
- West County Wastewater District Bay Trail
- San Leandro Slough Overcrossing
- Regional Signage Program

Update from Sacramento

State Senator Tom Torlakson expressed his appreciation for the Bay Trail vision and talked about his proposal for the Delta Trail—a project that is currently in the planning phase. The Delta Trail will receive some funding from Proposition 84, but more is needed. Regarding new proposals for trail funding, Torlakson stated that the support of at least two Republicans would be needed in order to achieve the required 2/3 majority in the legislature, and that a fee proposal rather than a tax proposal was more likely to succeed. Torlakson referenced the fact that Will Kempton, director of Caltrans is a bicyclist and that we would do well to engage him in our efforts. Torlakson reported that some public access money had been set aside many years ago with the closure of Port Chicago Highway, and that this would be a good source of funding for trails and greenways. Additionally, a transportation bill that Torlakson authored—Proposition 1A—can provide funds for non-motorized transportation in addition to motor-vehicle projects. Propositions IB and IC could also be a source of funds.

A carbon emissions reduction fee of approximately \$5.00-\$6.00/month per registered vehicle or a \$1.00/month fee on water bills is being considered and could be a source of funds for trails and greenway projects.

Bay Trail/Ridge Trail Coordination

Thompson provided an update to the Board on the subcommittee activities and ideas for fostering better coordination between the Bay and Ridge Trail Projects. A draft joint proclamation re-endorsing local jurisdiction support for the Bay and Ridge Trail goals was endorsed by the Ridge Trail Board on October 9th, and feedback from the Bay Trail Board was sought at this meeting.

Thompson also stated that both projects had their respective 20th Anniversary's upcoming in 2008/2009 and that this seemed a logical way to jointly celebrate both trails around the region.

A discussion regarding connector trails ensued with several Board members expressing concern that a focus on connector trails would dilute our core mission of completing the Bay Trail spine. Several other board members commented that connectors are important in making the entire system relevant, that they can increase the Bay Trail's viability as a transportation option, and connectors can make it possible to get around a gap in the spine. Several commented regarding the need—at some point—for a “regional trail authority” that would coordinate the several regional trail systems currently in planning or construction. Several Board members raised the idea of securing a new source of funding for connector trails from the Conservancy or elsewhere. Also mentioned was the idea of looking at our granting criteria and perhaps assigning points and funds to connector trails only if they have a strong local match.

Thompson asked the Board to provide feedback on the joint resolution. After much discussion, McGrath suggested the inclusion of the following concepts:

- Connections to the Ridge Trail and other trail systems increase use, connections to users, and help build coalitions
- Priority remains to complete the Bay Trail spine and Ridge Trail primary routes
- Work together and with local governments to coordinate efforts for improving recreational access and non-polluting transportation
- Add recreational and health benefits to resolution language.

With McGrath's additions and another round of review by the respective Bay and Ridge Trail steering committees, Huening moved and Hearne seconded a motion to adopt the proposed resolution.

Maureen Gaffney and Lee Huo then provided an update on projects within the Carquinez Loop, and Jim Townsend from East Bay Regional Park District reported on progress regarding Carquinez Scenic Drive.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Carquinez Scenic Drive Walking Tour

The Bay Trail Board members and staff enjoyed a walking tour along the Carquinez Scenic Drive led by Jim Townsend of the East Bay Regional Park District, and representatives of the Contra Costa County Department of Public Works.