

**San Francisco Bay Trail
Steering Committee Meeting Minutes
ABAG Metro Center
December 14, 2006**

Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 1:30 PM.

Attendance

Steering Committee

Joe LaClair
Brian Wiese
Stana Hearne
Leo DuBose
Rick Parmer

Bay Trail Staff

Laura Thompson
Patrycja Bossak
Maureen Gaffney
Lee Huo
Ceil Scandone

Board of Directors

Jim McGrath
Rob Powell

ACTION Adoption of 12/14/06 agenda and approval of 10/12/06 minutes.

Hearne moved, DuBose seconded adoption of agenda and approval of minutes. Motion passed.

Announcements by Staff and Board Members

- Wiese Informed the Committee and staff that the Park District is currently considering requests for proposals for design of the West County Wastewater District trail project. Under the current schedule, the project will be complete in one year.

- Scandone Updated the Committee on preparation of the Wildlife and Public Access Study paper for publication. After submitting the paper to *Biological Conservation*, the study scientists have reoriented and rewritten the paper to focus entirely on shorebirds based on input from the editor. While ducks and other waterbirds were seen at the study sites, there was not enough data for further analysis. The scientists will submit the reworked version of the paper to several additional scientific journals this winter.

- Thompson Announced that BCDC is planning to award a grant of \$15,000 to ABAG from Coastal Impact Assessment Program funds for geographic information systems (GIS) mapping for the Bay Area Water Trail project. Tasks will include mapping potential launch/landing sites along the bay, sensitive habitat areas, navigational exclusion zones and Bay Trail

alignment. The grant also includes improving the functionality of the BCDC-Bay Trail shoreline access webguide making it more user-friendly.

Bay Trail staff is participating in the \$25 million Marin County Nonmotorized Transportation Pilot Program awarded by Congress and funded through federal SAFETEA-LU funds. The purpose of the program is to demonstrate mode shift by getting people out of their cars with incentives that include educational programs, promotion, construction of sidewalks, bike lanes and trails that connect to transit stations, schools, residences, businesses, recreation areas and community centers. The advisory committee is currently reviewing a project list with over 240 projects/educational programs and plans to finalize by March 2007.

In partnership with Wowhaus, a Bay Area artist team known for ecological design, the Bay Trail Project submitted a letter of inquiry for a \$35,000 grant to the Haas Creative Art Fund. In response, Haas asked us to submit a formal grant proposal for the project which will create visual and audio portraits of the ecological and cultural diversity of the bay. If awarded, Bay Trail staff will help identify unique sites as the subject for these multimedia portraits. The portraits will then be available for the public to download as video or audio mp3 files for use as a tour during a hike along the Bay Trail.

Announced that the Salt Pond Restoration Project EIS/EIR will be available for public comment in January 2007. The project presents the potential for up to 37 miles of new Bay Trail, including completion of the Moffett Field gap.

-Gaffney Announced that the updated Bay Trail map sets will be available for purchase in January 2007. The revised maps reflect the most up-to-date alignment with new photographs and additional hike/bicycle ride descriptions.

Described a project recently completed by University of California Extension students for the Bay Trail Project identifying existing and proposed locations of Bay Trail signs and wayfinding arrows. The project was well done and could likely serve as a model for a regionwide sign placement effort.

-Bossak Informed the Committee that Bay Trail Staff will be working with Doug McConnell of *Bay Area Backroads* and Liam Mayclem of *Eye on the Bay* to highlight the Bay Trail on these television specials.

Announced that Bay Trail Board member Julia Miller donated over \$4,700 to the Bay Trail Project for placement of a bench, spotting scope and overlook area along the trail in Sunnyvale Baylands Park. Bay Trail staff

will organize a dedication ceremony for this generous donation in early 2007.

-Huo Updated the Committee on continued staff involvement in the Point Richmond Shores development project and participation in the design charette process to finalize the open space and public access components of the project.

Mentioned that the Emeryville City Council has authorized funding for a planning study to explore the feasibility of a Highway 80 bicycle and pedestrian overcrossing along Temescal Creek.

Announced that the City of Alameda will provide staff with information about new alignments with the city for the next Steering Committee meeting, including planned trail at Alameda Point along the edge of the former naval air station and other waterfront projects with Bay Trail segments.

Announced that the Alameda County-Wide Bicycle Plan Update and the Alameda County-Wide Pedestrian Plan were adopted by both ACTIA and ACCMA in October. Both plans include the entire Bay Trail in Alameda County.

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

-Thompson Provided an overview of the construction and planning grant applications received under the \$3.8 million grant program and informed the Committee that a small portion of the remaining grant money will be reserved as a buffer for unforeseen changes.

Vallejo Bay Trail/Ridge Trail Alignment Study (\$17,000)

-Gaffney Presented a \$17,000 planning grant proposal for sole source funding to LandPeople, Inc. to identify preferred alignments for both Bay Trail and Ridge Trail in Vallejo from Benicia State Recreation Area to the Al Zampa Bridge. The Ridge Trail Council approved a matching grant of \$17,000.

The Committee discussed an expanded scope of work to include analysis of potential alignments further inland for road bicyclists. The Committee recommended that staff ask Vallejo City Council for a resolution in support of this planning study.

The Committee introduced a motion to approve the planning grant for an amount not to exceed \$25,000.

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

City of Richmond Realignment Appeal

-Thompson Presented a request from the City of Richmond Planning Department to reverse the approval of a new Bay Trail alignment between Regatta Boulevard and Harbour Way South as shown on the map in the meeting packet. This action was taken by the Steering Committee at the October 12, 2006 meeting.

Announced that after reviewing the letter from Richmond requesting this action, staff recommends that the Steering Committee honor the city's request and rescind the addition of this alignment to the Bay Trail system.

The Committee discussed the rapid growth along the southern Richmond waterfront and the importance for Bay Trail continuity. The Committee recommended that staff work with the City of Richmond to explore options for improving the existing Bay Trail alignment near this development site.

The Committee introduced a motion to approve the staff recommendation.

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

Proposition 84/Future Bay Trail Funding

This item was postponed to the February 2007 meeting.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 PM.