



MONTHLY UPDATE

EBATC Announcements, Meeting Minutes, News: July 2002

EBATC website: <http://www.ebtrails.org>

East
Bay Area
Trails
Council



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Oakland,
California



94605

The EBATC is composed of public agencies, equestrians, hikers, bicyclists, and conservationists who are committed to furthering the protection of the scenic and recreational resources of the East Bay.

BUDGET CUTS FEARED

SACRAMENTO UPDATE ON STATE BUDGET CUTS AND POTENTIAL IMPACT TO EBRPD

As of July 10, 2002

The State of California Governor's 2002/2003 State Budget proposed a \$45 million property tax shift from Multi-County Districts to education (schools). This proposal would result in a permanent loss of revenue to the East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) of at least \$9.3 million per year. Because there was some uncertainty regarding the number of Multi-County District's affected and the exact formula application, the impact to EBRPD could go as high as \$11 million. As you know, such a reduction in revenues would severely impact the District's ability to provide the high level of services and programs our constituents currently enjoy.

The Governor's proposal also disproportionately impacts the Bay Area which would absorb about 70% of the state-wide impact; the East Bay would be hit with 66% of the entire Multi-County tax shift. EBRPD Sacramento legislative advocates, Bob and Doug Houston, and EBRPD General Manager Pat O'Brien, have worked very hard to reduce the impact of the Governor's budget proposal on EBRPD and other Bay Area Multi-County Districts, such as BART and AC Transit. While the entire East Bay Legislative Delegation supported the revised formula EBRPD developed to proportionately distribute the revenue loss amongst multi-county agencies throughout the state, it was, as expected, opposed by those agencies not affected under the Governor's proposal as well as their legislative representatives. Nonetheless, the East Bay legislative delegation remained committed to protecting East Bay multi-county agencies from carrying the burden of most of the \$45 million shift. As a result, the Senate passed the Governor's budget including the \$45 million shift, but without a mechanism to legally transfer funds from EBRPD property tax revenues. The Assembly must also pass the budget, but as of this

IMPORTANT MESSAGE
EBATC JULY MEETING
IS CANCELLED DUE TO
SCHEDULE CONFLICTS:
NEXT MEETING WILL
BE ANNOUNCED

CHABOT TRAIL MAINTENANCE: AUGUST 10

Saturday, August 10 is an Ivan Dickson Volunteer Trail Maintenance Project at Anthony Chabot Regional Park. Please call (510) 544-2631 to register.

writing, they are currently deadlocked. It appears that the Assembly cannot change the current budget packet (as it affects EBRPD) without the concurrence of the Senate, and the Senate is off for the summer.

State Finance is still intent on the Multi-County shift of revenues to schools, and the Davis administration may attempt to get a legislator to propose a Trailer Budget Bill which would include language supporting such a shift. EBRPD continues to be watching for that event, but even such a Trailer Bill would need 54 votes which would be difficult to achieve. In summary, EBRPD is still at great risk and is continuing to work hard.



EBATC Minutes for the Meeting of May 15, 2002

In attendance were:

Glenn Kirby, Chair	BARTC
	GKirby@Silcon.com
Alice Quinn	CRHT
	Alicewholoveshorses@Yahoo.com
Michael Kelley	IMBA
Terry Noonan	EBRPD
William Kuo	BTCEB
	wckuo@hostmail.com
Joseph Jones	TCLAV
Dick Quigley	Tri-Valley Trail Blazers
	Quigley1@llnl.gov
Rich Guarienti	HHC
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Tom Manger	TAP
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Dolores Bengtson	TCLAV
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Melinda Lunn	ACES
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Judi Bank	MHA
	judibank@aol.com

Meeting was called to order by Dick Quigley at 7:15 p.m. The meeting this month was held at Garms Ranch in Pleasanton. The Garms ranch house serves as the headquarters for Pleasanton Ridge Regional Park.

Additions to agenda were a report on the Ordinance 38 letter and discussion of moving the Web Site. Approval of Minutes included a minor correction of the date of the minutes for the April 2002 meeting. The agenda and minutes were approved with the additions and corrections.

Reports and Updates

Treasurer's Report:

Michael Kelley reported that he recently deposited \$195.00 in membership renewals and that we have approximately \$2,300.00 in the main account and \$900.00 in savings. He explained that because we do not have much activity he has not printed out more detailed financial reports each month but will provide an updated report on request.

Bay Area Ridge Trail Issues and Projects:

Glenn Kirby and Terry Noonan reported on recent work on Feeder Trail Number 1 in the Alhambra Valley area of Contra Costa County. EBRPD and BARTC are jointly coordinating a project involving clearing a section of the former County road. BARTC is funding a portion of the project and the California Conservation Corps crews are doing some of the work. The new Trail

Steward, John Aranson, will be assisting Terry Noonan on this project. The old road has become overgrown and must be cleared to permit survey crews to determine the location of the property boundaries for the adjacent landowners before this important link to the Bay Area Ridge Trail and the California Riding and Hiking Trail can be opened. Glenn also reported on the Trail Dedication ceremony in Alum Rock Park in Santa Clara County. The Boccardo Trail completes a portion of the trail between Ed Levin and Grant County Parks and provides an important connection to the Ridge Trail for San Jose residents. This project was a joint effort of the Ridge Trail and the Santa Clara County Open Space Authority and was the first opening of a property and first trail opening for the Authority. Michael then recapped some of the Ridge Trail history and current challenges, particularly focusing on the role the Trails Council plays in the East Bay acting as the County Committee for the two East Bay Counties. Michael reported that Bill Long, Chair of the Ridge Trail Council has encouraged the County Committees to look for projects which might be eligible for funding through Coastal Conservancy grants.

CA Trails Day and National Trail Days:

Glenn and Terry reported on the Trails Day event at Quarry Lakes Regional Park. This project, in the newest park in the district, was mostly habitat creation with tree and shrub planting and clearing weeds. A couple of small trail grooming projects were also completed. There were about 160 participants at this event.

June 1st will be National Trail Days and the Trails Council, along with REI Coop, will host a trail project in Redwood Regional Park. Those wishing to participate in this event should call REI Special Events in Berkeley to register. There will also be an opportunity for some to camp in the park Friday night prior to the Trails Day event on Saturday.

Ordinance 38 Letter:

A letter was sent to the Board of Directors of EBRPD requesting a report written by the Park Advisory Committee Ordinance 38 Special Committee on Bicycles be revived and reviewed by the District. The PAC Special Committee was formed by the Board of Directors after a request by the Trails Council to consider permitting bicycle access on several trails in the District. The Trails Council membership was particularly supportive of a Bicycle Decision Matrix as a staff tool to evaluate whether narrow trails could be considered for multi-use access. We also requested that one trail that was evaluated by a draft version of the matrix be opened for bicycle access for safety reasons. This trail is a short section of the Brandon Trail connect-

ing Ten Hills Trail to Willow Park Golf Course in Anthony Chabot Regional Park. The PAC Special Committee also recommended this trail be open to bicycles. The Board Operations Committee will be holding an evening meeting on June 11th to discuss this and other matters pertaining to Ordinance 38. Glenn will represent the Trails Council at that meeting.

Terry Noonan distributed copies of latest draft version of the Matrix. Jerry Kent, Asst. General Manager of Operations, has modified the Matrix to be an evaluation tool for use for more than bicycles. This version is now called the "Checklist for Analyzing Proposed Changes in a Trail's Uses". Comments from the membership included Dick's suggestion that an Integrated Safety Plan be considered for trail use. Rich Guarienti suggested that a Risk Assessment approach could also be considered for evaluating change. A proposed change to Ordinance 38 defining bicycles also includes skates, scooters and other conveyances. The members suggested a new section be created to define what bicycles are and what the other uses are. Clarification should be made to the section for reporting accidents. There was also discussion of what the term "Under Control" meant for dogs off leash. Dick reported that the Carrot Ride, an event for equestrian and bicycle riders, was cancelled because insurers were reluctant to cover a mixed user event. Michael suggested that IMBA may have coverage for this type event.

EBATC Web Site:

Dick welcomed Joseph Jones and introduced Melinda Lunn. They, along with Debbie Smith have contributed to the development of the Trails Council of the Livermore/Amador Valley web site. Joseph has volunteered to assist in reviving our site. Another guest, Tom Manger introduced himself and his company, The Adventure Pages and www.theadventurepages.com. He also expressed interest in helping to get our site up and running and offered to help us get greater exposure through his listing service. www.EBTrails.org is currently residing on Michael Kelley's personal ISP and has not been updated for some time. A number of issues were discussed that will need to be resolved either prior to or during the move of the site to another ISP. Glenn offered to facilitate a committee meeting or conference call during the month as an attempt to resolve these issues. Dick expressed his hope that the web site could be moved and updated as soon as possible.

Membership:

Glenn reported on a membership campaign that was discussed at the special EBATC Leadership meeting. The revival of the Web Site should be helpful in getting the word out about our mis-

sion and what we are currently doing. We should also consider holding meetings in other locations, hosting hikes and rides and other events, etc. Ideas for increasing our membership will continue to be a topic of discussion in meetings to come

Tri-Valley Update:

Dolores Bengtson explained that the original goal of the Tri-Valley group was to get the existing trail plans implemented. They have made considerable progress. Starting in Pleasanton one year ago, through a combination of web site, email, letter writing and attending meetings and hearings, they successfully overcame opposition from neighbors in getting support from the Pleasanton City Council to open the maintenance roads along the Arroyo Mocho for trail use. She acknowledged the help they received from equestrian groups and Jamie Perkins from the Park District. The accomplishments of this small group demonstrate that grass roots organizing works. Their current project is the Highway 84 under-crossing to Sycamore Park. Alice Quinn reported on the Dublin annexation lawsuit. Dublin has proposed to annex land under LARPD jurisdiction and a lawsuit appears to be necessary to determine just compensation.

Shelly Miller, Supervisor for Brushy Peak, Shadow Cliffs and Tassajara Creek Trail updated the group on the Brushy Peak Land Use Plan, the proposed expansion of uses at Shadow Cliffs and the challenges for completing Tassajara Creek Trail. Dick mentioned the Draft Management Plan for Sycamore Regional Park and said he hoped John Steere, one of the consultants for the plan, would attend a future meeting for more information on this park.

Round Robin and Future Agenda:

Rich Guarienti announced that the Hayward Hiking Club would be hosting an information table at the Sulphur Creek Nature Center Wildlife Faire

Alice Quinn mentioned possible development alternatives for the lands in the north of Livermore, including a possible equestrian centered development or equestrian supporting zoning. She is hoping to explore alternatives supportive of equestrian uses, including trails within developments.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Submitted by Glenn Kirby

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