



MONTHLY UPDATE

EBATC Announcements, Meeting Minutes, News: March 2002

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

East
Bay Area
Trails
Council
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2950
Peralta
Oaks
Court
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Oakland,
California
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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.

Trails Council to visit Sunol for March Meeting

The East Bay Area Trails Council will be participating in the initial public meeting for the Land Use Plan being developed for Sunol Wilderness Regional Preserve and Ohlone Wilderness Regional Preserve. The meeting will be held Wednesday, March 20, 2002, 7-9 p.m. This is the normal meeting time for our monthly Trails Council meeting. This month, rather than meet at the Park District Administrative Offices, we will travel to the Sunol Glen School Community Room, 11601 Main St. (off Niles Cyn Rd.) in Sunol, California. The Trails Council members will get together briefly at the back of the meeting room at the beginning for any Trails Council matters. But, the majority of the evening will be as participants of the Land Use Plan Public Meeting.

Sunol and Ohlone Wilderness Regional Preserves are two of my favorite parks. I have spent many hours and days hiking and riding into the back country at the southern end of Alameda County. Many people do not realize there is a 20 plus mile wilderness trail from Mission San Jose in Fremont all the way to Del Valle in Livermore. Along this trail is Rose Peak, the highest point in Alameda County. The elevation of Rose Peak is 3,817', which is only 17 feet lower than Mt Diablo. There is also Little Yosemite, a small gorge along Alameda Creek. This is a popular spot for park visitors and a short walk from the visitors center. An equestrian pack station regularly takes novice riders out on the trail to Little Yosemite on stable horses. One of my favorite hikes or bike rides is to McGuire Peaks on the northern end of the park. This area is not well known to park visitors and, on most visits, I have seen only one or two other visitors on the trail. The rock formations at the peaks, as well as the views of the Livermore Valley and Mt Diablo are spectacular.

The lands around, and partially within these parks are owned by the San Francisco Water District and are part of the watershed for Alameda Creek, the largest watershed in the County. The Park District has purchased land from SFWD and from private ranchers

****IMPORTANT NOTICE****

MARCH MEETING AT SUNOL
Sunol Glen School,
11601 Main Street (off Niles
Canyon Rd.), Sunol: in conjunction
with the Land Use Planning meeting (see notice on back page)

EBATC MARCH 20 MEETING
Wednesday, March 20, 2002
7:00 to 9:30 pm

The Trails Council will meet at the rear of the School Community Room at the beginning of the meeting to take care of Trails Council business.

Agenda: March 20, 2002 Meeting

1. Call to order: 7:00 p.m.

Approval of Agenda:	Action
Approval of February Minutes:	Action
2. Brief Reports and Updates:

Treasurer's Report	Report
Governance/officers	Report
Bay Area Ridge Trail Issues	Report
Measure K for March 2002	Report
3. New Business

Sunol Wilderness Regional Preserve and Ohlone Wilderness Regional Preserve Land Use Plan Public Meeting

and also leases land from SFWD. The next few paragraphs are taken from the Park District Web Site to describe the Parks:

The Park District opened Sunol Valley Regional Park for public outdoor recreation in the early 1960s. In the following decades this park has grown as the Park District continued to buy ranchland and lease property from the city of San Francisco's surrounding watershed lands. The one parkland became two, with Sunol having better public access and developed park facilities, and the Ohlone parkland considered more remote backcountry. The public has inherited a treasure of natural, geologic, and cultural re-
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MEETING MINUTES

February 20, 2002, EBRPD Headquarters

In attendance were:

Bob Power - BARTC ridgebp@aol.com
Dick Quigley- Tri Valley Trail Blazers
quigley1@ltnl.gov
Glenn Kirby-BARTC gkirby@silcon.com
Jamie Perkins-EBRPD jperkins@ebparks.org
Don de Fremery- Sierra Club
Howard Hornig- Hayward Hiking Club
Rich Guarienti-PAC/Trail Safety Patrol
guari@earthlink.net
Judi Bank- MHA judibank@aol.com

Glenn called the meeting to order at 7:15.

Minutes of the January meeting were referenced and accepted and approved with no additions or corrections. The evening agenda was approved and Glenn mentioned in the absence of our treasurer we all need to review and make sure have been paid. Jamie indicated that if a 2 was on your address label for the EBATC meeting announcement you are paid for 2002. If a 1 appears you need to send a check in. Please check to see that you're currently paid up.

The Yes on Measure K Campaign Committee is hard at work in the final days before the March 5th Election. Activities include fund-raising to pay for the mailing of campaign literature and distribution of flyers. Volunteers are needed for flyer distribution and telephoning. Polling shows that there is a high level of support for the measure among those who have heard about it, but many do not know what the measure is about.

Governance

Glenn suggested that governance of the EBATC organization has been a concern of the board for a couple of years and we may need to hold another meeting soon. Glenn, Bob, Michael, Jack and Dick are in favor and the eve of Tues March 19 is a possibility for a meeting. Glenn will circulate e-mails putting a meeting and place together. For the past two years the EBATC monthly meeting chairperson has been a revolving series of board members.

Ridge Trail

Bob Power recalled Ron Brown and his involvement in trails over the years. Bob shared that the Ridge Trail asked Ron to do an inventory of the Ridge Trail system and identify foreseeable gap segments which could be completed and dedicated. These gaps would be the highest potential. The Golden Gate Bridge was the likely poster child.

Bob shared some data that Ron produced showing a recap of all counties for the entire Ridge Trail System as of 1/1/02. Bob said that the spread sheet data developed by Ron was a brain teaser for gaps to fill to get around the Bay Area. He also shared Ridge Trail was searching for a new executive director and for a trail steward position. Candidates have been interviewed and offers have been made. Bob also shared that Terry Noonan has been working to clear a difficult section of the Feeder Trail. Bob asked a question about Contra Costa County land use and open space funding at the County level. Jamie indicated that it was her understanding Supervisor Donna Gerber's Office was working on an Open Space Initiative for the Contra Costa voters.

Jamie Perkins shared information on the Ivan Dickson Volunteer Trail Maintenance Program and gave us an overview of the camp out and trail project scheduled for Redwood Park on June 1-National Trails Day with REI. Call REI to register (510) 527-7377. California Trail day is in its 32nd year and EBRPD is seeking partners for co-sponsorship for Quarry Lakes California Trail Days/Earth Day event on April 20th. The effort will be on beautification projects for the newest park in the District. Measure K review discussion and signs were passed out as well as more brochures. Glenn said that early indicators suggest that 73% are in favor. Glenn shared some of the negative letters to editors and suggested a real need for counter point arguments correcting some of the misinformation. Glenn mentioned the East Shore State Park project and the partnership with the Coastal Conservancy, EBRPD and CA State Parks. There is an EIR scoping meeting February 27 at 4 PM at His Lordships restaurant at the Berkley marina.

Alternative meeting sites for future Trails Council meetings were discussed. Bob shared that our away meetings last year were well attended and we may want to consider some alternative meeting spots. Dick suggested the March 20 LARPD Sycamore Grove study meeting and the Camp Arroyo facility as possible sites to consider. Rich suggested the possibility of Black Diamond in east Co Co, and possibly the Green Barn at Sunol. We are asking reader members of EBATC to invite the group to your favorite location on the third Wednesday of the month. The meeting we held in Oakley in eastern Contra Costa County had great attendance. We learned from County planners about plans to complete bicycle trails in East County. Funding of multi-use trails and bicycle trails is available through the County voter approved Measure C. Jamie shared a wonderful new video titled The Trail Next Door produced by the City of Folsom. It was an 11-minute film that demonstrated the social, economic, and health benefits of linear multi

use trail corridors. It got rave reviews and a multi star rating from the group.

Judi shared recent information on Joaquin Miller Park (City of Oakland). There have been a series of meeting to develop trail use rules and signing procedures. Oakland is attempting to get funding for a Master Plan up-date.

Dick shared a multi-use Carrot Day trail event his Tri- Valley Trailblazer group is coordinating with mountain bike and hiker organizations. The purpose of the event will be to cooperatively educate and demonstrate the effectiveness of using trails safely together.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:15

Submitted by Dick Quigley, *secretary*.

Delta de Anza Regional Trail Closures Due to Construction in Antioch

Contra Costa Water District contractors have begun the excavation work to lay water pipe between Wildhorse Drive at Hillcrest and Via Dora Drive. This trail section is now closed and will remain closed for at least 5 weeks. The trail section between Via Dora Drive and Deer Valley Drive will close within two weeks. From Deer Valley Road west, rolling trail closures will progress towards Somersville Road.

Ridge Trail's New Team

The Bay Area RidgeTrail Council is extremely pleased to announce the filling of not one, but two strategic positions. Holly Van Houten will start her new assignment as Executive Director of the Council on April 8th. Holly brings with her significant multi-use trail planning experience from her years with the National Park Service's Rivers, Trails and Conservation assistance Program. Holly served as a member of our Board for several years, and many of you may have known Holly through her work in helping to organize the Redding State-wide Trails conference.

Additionally, John Aranson, Supervising Trails Ranger for the Marin County Open Space District, will also be joining us starting April 8th in the position of Trail Planner and Steward. John brings with him over 13 years of experience in planning and constructing trails, as well as organizing volunteer events and working closely with private landowners. John's primary focus will be overseeing planning and construction projects in the North Bay. With these two additions we've increased the size of our staff by 50%, added immeasurably to our staff expertise, and set the stage for significant Ridge Trail progress and success for many years to come.

NATIONAL TRAILS DAY CHANGE

To register for the June 1, 2002 National Trails Day Event at Redwood Regional Park in Oakland, the **correct number to register as a volunteer at REI is (510) 527-7377**.

Additional corrections to the 2002 Trail Maintenance Volunteer Newsletter:

Trail Training Workshop to be held Sunday, October 13, 2002

For other volunteer opportunities in EBPRD Parklands, please see or e-mail: www.opervol@ebparks.org and www.ebparks.org

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sources that were home to the Ohlone people for thousands of years as well as several generations of California's early pioneers. The parklands are now designated as Wilderness Regional Preserves. They are landscapes of steep, grassy slopes and forested valleys, punctuated with rocky peaks and thriving with native plants and wildlife. The Preserves are an important natural refuge and outdoor classroom. They continue to be popular destinations for backcountry recreation and organized trail events, especially on the Ohlone Wilderness Regional Trail. Currently Sunol Wilderness Regional Preserve consists of over 6,800 acres, and Ohlone Wilderness Regional Preserve has over 9,700 acres. The Park District has been entrusted to preserve their special resources. The Park District has learned from 40 years of experience how to protect these resources while providing the public an opportunity to study and enjoy these unique landscapes.

We encourage our Trails Council members and supporters to come to this meeting and to support the Park District's Land Use Planning process. You do not need to attend to participate in the planning process. Comment letters are also welcome: mail them to East Bay Regional Park District, Attn: Dan Sykes, Park Planner, 2950 Peralta Oaks Court, Oakland, CA 94605. This meeting is the beginning of the Land Use Plan process. The purpose of the Land Use Plan will be to set a common vision for continued resource management, environmental education and appropriate recreational activities. When completed, the Plan will contain the land use goals and future projects for the Preserves. The District will implement the Plan as funding is available, over the 20-year span of the Plan.

We hope to see you at the meeting.

Happy Trails.

Glenn Kirby, *President*

Land Use Planning Process Underway for Sunol and Ohlone Wilderness Regional Preserves

Public Meeting

Wednesday, March 20, 2002

7:00 - 9:00 p.m., Sunol Glen School
11601 Main St. (off Niles Cyn Rd.), Sunol CA

East Bay Regional Park District invites you to a public input meeting to share your ideas about the management and use of these special preserves. Sunol Preserve consists of more than 6,800 acres of open space and Ohlone Preserve more than 9,700 acres. The purpose of the Land Use Plan will be to set a common vision for continued resource management, environmental education, and appropriate recreational activities. When completed, the Plan will contain the land use goals and future projects for the Preserves. The District will implement the Plan, as funding is available over the 20-year span of the Plan.

For a map/directions to the meeting, log onto www.ebparcs.org, and click on the 'Meetings' link. To send comments in writing, send to:

EBRPD,
Planning/Stewardship/GIS Services Dept., P.O.
Box 5381, Oakland, CA 94605
Attn: Dan Sykes
For more information, call (510) 544-2320.

EBATC

**2950 Peralta Oaks Court, P.O. Box 5381
Oakland, CA 94605-5369**