



MONTHLY UPDATE

EBATC Announcements, Meeting Minutes, News: February 2004

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

East
Bay Area
Trails
Council



2950
Peralta
Oaks
Court



Oakland,
California



94605

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

Trail Notes

We've got a lot to talk about at the next EBATC meeting. I'm stoked.

The Los Vaqueros campaign, Stop the Dam Waste, is heating up. As you know, the Contra Costa Water District (CCWD) put measure N on the March Ballot, proposing a study to tear down the 4 year old dam, and build one that is 5 times larger. At the November meeting in Oakley, EBATC agreed to oppose that expansion, and endorse the Stop the Dam Waste campaign.

The CCWD has stated we were wrong when we said they didn't keep their many promises to provide extensive recreational opportunities with the first dam project. So, I did some research.

Many of you recall the big sales pitch that CCWD gave us in the late 80's. We were promised huge recreational opportunities, and because of this, we supported, or remained neutral on the first dam. Fortunately, we don't have to assemble the testimony of all of those who heard those promises. In 1991, the CCWD had a draft Recreation Plan for the CCWD prepared. It became a part of the project, and was incorporated into, and evaluated by the 1993 EIR. It reflected the promises made 2-3 years earlier by the District. You would be astounded at the recreational opportunities the CCWD had in store for us.

The plan was guided by seven inter-related themes. The second of these, after water quality, was:

"Multiple use: A wide variety of outdoor recreational pursuits, both active and passive, will be supported within the watershed. These activities include fishing, boating, swimming, picnicking, open play, camping and nonmotorized trail use." That theme also mentioned environmental educational opportunities, day use and overnight facilities, specially designated research areas, a comprehensive equestrian center and a small conference center.

The sixth theme dealt with access. It stated in part, "General vehicular access by the public will be limited to the perimeter of the watershed. Visitors will be able to reach the reser-

EBATC FEBRUARY MEETING

Wednesday, February 18, 2004

7:15 to 9:30 pm

East Bay Regional Park District
Headquarters: Board Room
2950 Peralta Court, Oakland
Telephone (510) 635-0135

Agenda: February 18, 2004 Meeting

1. Call to order: 7:15 p.m.
Approval of Agenda: Action
Approval of Nov. 2003 Minutes: Action
2. Presentation: David Lipsetz
SF Bay Trail Presentation:
East Bay Overview
3. Presentation:
Contra Costa Open Space Measure
4. Reports and Updates
Treasurer's report
Feeder Trail #1
Los Vaqueros update
Del Valle trail proposal update
Update on Segways on Iron Horse Study
5. Round Robin and Future Agenda
Reports from members

voir and other public amenities via a tram ride or by foot, bicycle, horse, or other nonmotorized means. Access will be made possible by a north-south tram route and multiple-use trail through the watershed, providing general public access and serving operations and maintenance vehicles, emergency vehicles, and special access needs."

The plan's discussion of Management Zones indicated the degree that CCWD promised recreation. It mentioned many recreational activities and facilities: staging areas; a visitor/environmental education center, a full equestrian center, a swimming area with beaches and sanitary facilities, open play fields, picnic areas for families and large groups, trails and drive-in campgrounds.
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MEETING MINUTES

The November 19th, 2003 meeting was held in the Library of the Delta Vista Middle School, 4901 Frank Hengel Way, Oakley.

Attendees:

Glenn Kirby BARTC GKirby@Silcon.com
Bob Power BARTC
Michael Kelley BARTC/IMBA
Steve Fiala EBRPD (510) 544-2602
Judi Bank MHA judibank@aol.com
Jean Tarabek Mokelumne Coast to Crest Trail
rvjean@juno.com
Kathy Roemer Mokelumne Coast to Crest Trail
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Chuck Pierce cpcycle@earthlink.net
Nancy Kaiser City of Oakley
kaiser@ci.oakley.ca.us
Ken De Silva City of Brentwood
kdesilva@ci.brentwood.ca.us
Annette Rains ECHO (925) 634 6257
Steve Guinn Byron MAC (925) 634 4539
Brenda de la Ossa Supervisor Greenberg
(925) 240 7260
Susan Stephenson Committee to Stop the Dam
Waste (510) 444 4710
Brent Englund BTCEB brent@btceb.org
Dave Stoeffler Delta Pedalers Bicycle Club
daves@ecis.com

The meeting was called to order by Glenn Kirby at 7:15 p.m. Oakley staff set up the meeting in the library of the new middle school on Cypress Road between Oakley's Highway 4 and Bethel Island. The school connects to EBRPD's Marsh Creek Regional Trail via a connector trail for the students. Cypress Road is ready for transformation into Oakley's newest thoroughfare into future residential neighborhoods, where now cattle pastures exist. One of the reasons the Trails Council meets in the East County at least once a year, is to learn what the cities and the county are doing to provide for the recreational needs of new residents in an area experiencing tremendous growth rates.

New Business: Presentations on trail opportunities in the East Counties by the Cities of Oakley, Brentwood and East Bay Regional Park District.

Nancy Kaiser, Director of Parks and Recreation for the City of Oakley, welcomed us and presented her city's plans for parks and local and regional trails. She discussed the regional Delta De Anza, March Creek and Big Break trails and showed us plans for connecting regional trails through to both Antioch and Brentwood. Oakley is receiving funds for these projects from EBRPD and Contra Costa County Measure C Transportation Funds.

Ken De Silva, Park and Recreation Manager for the City of Brentwood, presented the

Brentwood Parks, Trails and Recreation Master Plan map. He highlighted some of the proposed trails that are currently, or soon to be under construction. There will be opportunities for new parks and trails through a future annexation and along the future Highway 4 extension. A trail connection is planned between the John Marsh Historic Home and Round Valley Regional Preserve. Also, a section of the Mokelumne Coast to Crest Trail will be constructed along the aqueduct where it passes through the City.

Steve Fiala, Trail Development Program Manager, reported on the efforts of EBRPD to provide recreational opportunities to this growing part of the County. He explained that there is a special Landscaping and Lighting District providing maintenance and operations funding for this part of the County. However, the special assessment does not provide adequate funding for new facilities. Steve's brief report set the stage for the main topic of the evening; the proposed expansion of the Los Vaqueros Reservoir in the hills between Brentwood and Livermore.

Continuing Business: Proposed Los Vaqueros Expansion

Michael Kelley provided the historical perspective. He has followed this controversial project since 1988 when the Contra Costa Water District ("the District") first proposed to fund the construction of a 100,000-acre foot water storage reservoir within an 18,000-acre valley east of Mount Diablo through a voter approved bond measure. The proposed reservoir would bring dramatic changes to the delta region but would only require the vote of a relatively small number of ratepayers within the CCWD service area. To build support within the district and with the environmental community, the district promised extensive recreational amenities and included millions of dollars in the bond measure to pay for them. The district promised to construct boat marinas, picnic areas, campgrounds and trails for public use.

Michael and others from the Trails Council were invited to participate in a public process to develop a Recreation Master Plan. Trail supporters wanted to ensure that the trail connections to surrounding parks would be included in the plan. As time passed, members of the committee realized that district staff did not support the promised trail connections and there was no support on the Board of Directors. Other recreational facilities on or around the lake were also left out of the plan. To date, very little of what the committee envisioned has been provided and very few of the promises made to the voters were kept.

Almost from the beginning, and before the current reservoir was even full, Michael and others became skeptical of CCWD's commitment to recreation. There was talk of an expanded reservoir

to be funded by CalFED, a state and federal program designed to protect the delta. Recreation supporters doubted district staff's response that there was no plan to expand the reservoir. Many of the people involved in the early planning have become openly critical now that the district has announced plans to enlarge the lake to 500,000 acre feet. They point out that the district has not kept past promises and should not be trusted this time around.

Steve Fiala recalled the original trail plan and the trails that were expected to be provided within the district lands. After the voters passed the bond the plan soon began to shrink. Although 55 miles of trails have been provided, these are mostly hiker-only trails and do not provide expected multi-use connections to other parks or loop trails within the valley. Only a small section of multi-use trail has been provided outside of the main watershed. Within the watershed, no bicycles are allowed, even on existing service roads used by district service vehicles. Horses/equestrians are not allowed due of claims of water quality concerns even though cattle are grazed within the watershed. The proposed expansion would inundate sensitive portions of Kellogg Creek reported to be one of the most productive breeding areas in the region for red legged frogs. Also, miles of trails and acres of habitat created with voter approved funds, as part of the original mitigation, will be under water.

Although the advisory vote in March will be limited to CCWD ratepayers, this is a regional project with wide-reaching impacts. CCWD is placing this measure on the ballot before completing required environmental review and identifying full funding. EBRPD includes in its Trails Master Plan, trail connections through the valley connecting Mount Diablo, Morgan Territory, Vasco Caves and Brushy Peak. CCWD currently has no plans to expand trails in the remaining watershed. Although Brushy Peak is scheduled to open next year, CCWD has not agreed to provide new regional connections.

Susan Stephenson, Campaign Coordinator for the "Committee to Stop the Dam Waste" introduced the coalition of local and environmental groups forming to mount a campaign to oppose the advisory vote in March. She provided post cards addressed to the water district requesting that the measure be pulled from the ballot on the grounds that it is illegal and violates CEQA, the CA Environmental Quality Act. If this request fails, the committee hopes to raise \$100,000 to fund public opinion polling and fund the campaign against the expansion of the dam. The committee already has the support of the Sierra Club, Save Mount Diablo, Greenbelt Alliance, the East Bay Chapter of the CA Native Plant Society, the Natural Resources Defense Council, Save San Francisco Bay Association, Preserve Area Ridgeland Committee and others. Retired State Senator John Nejedley will chair the cam-

paign. Ms Stephenson asked for the support of the Trails Council.

After brief discussion among the voting members of the Trails Council, Bob Power moved to support the Committee to Stop the Dam Waste and to endorse the No Vote, including providing space in our newsletter for information and enlisting the support of our member organizations. The motion passed unanimously.

Glenn Kirby proposed pledging \$500.00 toward the campaign, \$250.00 of which would be a direct contribution by the Trails Council and members would match the remainder. This motion also passed unanimously. Several members made a commitment to match funds at the meeting.

Brenda de la Ossa, Community Liaison for Contra Costa County Supervisor Millie Greenberg thanked us for inviting her to the meeting and invited us to attend an upcoming meeting to be hosted by Supervisor Greenberg and Federal Grover, her colleague on the Contra Costa Board of Supervisors. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss issues of county and regional significance. Several members of the Trails Council expressed an interest in attending.

The remaining few minutes of the meeting was taken up in discussions among the members and visitors.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m., Submitted by Glenn Kirby

Register for the 20th California Trails and Greenway Conference in Folsom, CA March 25-28, 2004.

This conference brings trail managers and public advocacy groups together from all over the State to exchange ideas on the state-of-the-art of trails planning, design, construction, maintenance, advocacy and use. Conference information is available on www.rec-trails-conf.cjb.net. Early registration discounts till March 5. Hardcopies of reg materials can be obtained by writing California Trails and Greenway Conference, California State Parks, State-wide Trails Office, PO Box 942896, Sacramento, CA 94296-0001.

Renew your EBATC Membership

Membership Dues for 2004:

Individuals \$15

Organizations \$30

Make checks payable to:

East Bay Area Trails Council

Send check to:

East Bay Area Trails Council

P.O. Box 5381

Oakland, CA 94605-0381

Boating was to be provided by rental fleet of people-powered, wind-powered and low-horsepower motorboats, either gas or electric. In the Watershed Reserve section, access was to be generally restricted to trail users.

The plan proposed 55 miles of trails in three zones. These included:

- Fire roads, including double tracks greater than 8 feet wide, were to be open to all users. They were to be available in all three zones.
- Equestrian and hiking trails were to be available in 2 of the 3 zones.
- Hiking and fishing were to be provided in one zone, around the lake.
- Multiple use paved trails were to be provided in 2 zones. They were intended for tram use, but would be for all users.

Significantly, the plan also stated that fire and multiple-use trails were intended to allow for possible future connections to the East Bay Regional Park District's Morgan Territory regional Preserve and Round Valley properties, as well as providing future trail connections to Brentwood, and Brushy Creek.

Overnight camping for long-distance trail users were to be provided. Three campsites were to be built, ranging from a 120 space unit in the

Kellogg Creek zone, to a small one intended for boaters.

These things clearly show the CCWD intended to, and did promise a great deal of recreational opportunities. These promises were broken when the final recreation plan was adopted. We will discuss this campaign at our meeting. Time is short; and funds and getting the word out are urgently needed by the Stop the Dam Waste Committee to fight this measure.

We are going to be treated as well to a presentation on the Bay Trail. When complete, this spectacular trail will encircle San Francisco and San Pablo Bays with a continuous 400 mile network of cycling and hiking trails. Go to <http://baytrail.abag.ca.gov/overview.html> for more information. Finally, we're going to hear about Contra Costa County's proposal for a \$130 million dollar benefit assessment district to fund open space projects, such as scenic landscapes and regional parks, creeks and watersheds, farmland, shorelines, trails and public access facilities, among other things. I can hardly wait.

See you February 18!

Happy trails,
Michael Kelley

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