



MONTHLY UPDATE

EBATC Announcements, Meeting Minutes, News: June 2003

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.

View from the Ridge Trail

On a quarterly basis EBATC focuses on Bay Area Ridge Trail progress and projects. Following is this quarter's report.

C&H Sugar Landbank (EBRPD):

In the late 1990's the Park District purchased this C&H property with an ultimate goal of expanding the Carquinez Straits Regional Park. Just south of Crockett and straddling Cummings Skyway, this is a gorgeous landscape of rolling oak woodland, grassland, and riparian corridors. A Land Use Plan was adopted by the district in 1999 which includes a 4-mile segment of the Ridge Trail, staging areas, and several other trails to create a new park addition with a trail system and amenities. In April 2003, the Coastal Conservancy approved a \$100,000 grant request from the Ridge Trail for the purpose of implementing this land use plan. We'll review the land-use plan for the property, with an emphasis on the trail system of course, at our June meeting in anticipation of a 2004-2005 opening of this property.

Dutra Ranch:

The Dutra Ranch, the bridge between Muir Heritage Land Trust's Gustin and Sky Ranch properties, has been in the family since 1917. Family members recently approached the Land Trust because they want to ensure that their land is preserved for all to enjoy. Part of the beautiful agricultural and historical lands of the Franklin Ridge, the Dutra Ranch sits above Martinez and is bounded on the southeast edge by Feeder Trail #1. The Bay Area Ridge Trail Council is excited to be a funding partner for this acquisition and we are contributing \$100,000 for the purchase of the property from our Proposition 12 funds. This acquisition will ensure the integrity of Feeder Trail #1 as an historic recreational trail for this and future generations.

Feeder Trail #1:

I suspect most readers are familiar with the decade-long effort to secure the Feeder Trail as a multi-use segment of the east bay's regional trail system and as a critical segment of the Bay Area Ridge Trail. If you're not fa-

EBATC JUNE MEETING

Wednesday, June 18, 2003

7:15 to 9:30 pm

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

Agenda: June 18, 2003 Meeting

1. Call to order: 7:15 p.m.
Approval of Agenda: Action
Approval of May 2003 Minutes: Action
2. New Business:
Bay Area Ridge Trail Review
C&H Sugar Project overview
3. Reports and Updates
Los Vaqueros Expansion Report
Measure C Report
Iron Horse Bridge Overcrossing Report
Iron Horse Trail Day Update
4. Round Robin and Future Agenda
Reports from members

miliar, please call me and I'll give you as much background as I can. For those who are familiar, currently the Ridge Trail Council and the Park district are working with Contra Costa County's Public Works Dept. to identify the appropriate steps that will lead to a fully-functional and official multi-use recreational trail.

One of the key issues for the trail is that of responsibility. Who will manage and maintain the trail once it's open? The County is not in the trail management business. The Park District is in the trail management business, but until a maintenance and management funding measure is passed by east bay voters, they are understandably reluctant to add this backcountry trail to their system. A third option is maintenance and management by the Ridge Trail Council for a limited time (e.g. until such time as a Regional Parks maintenance and management measure is passed).
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MEETING MINUTES

May 19, 2003, EBRPD Headquarters

Attendees:

Bob Power BARTC ridgebp@aol.com

Terry Noonan EBRPD

Dick Quigley- Tri Valley Trail Blazers
quigley1@ltnl.gov

Michael Kelley

Marilynn Terstegge Tilden Wildcat Horsemen

Scott Hill EBMUD

Ed Mendelsonn Sierra Club- Mt. Diablo Group

Dick called the meeting to order at 7:25 PM. The evening agenda was reviewed and subjects of Measure C letter and Los Vaqueros letter were added. Minutes of the April EBATC meeting were approved.

Tri-Valley Trails

Dick shared a Tri-Valley focus presentation. Dick made a presentation on some information about parks and trails in the Tri-Valley Region of the Park District. Dick created a handout with the following information.

Regional Parks in The Tri Valley area:

Del Valle	3,997 acres	40 miles of trail
Ohlone Wilderness	9,156 acres	28 miles
Sunol Regional	6,858 acres	16 miles
Pleasanton Ridge	3,163 acres	26 miles
Shadow Cliffs	296 acres	6 miles
Iron Horse Trail		33 miles
Dublin Hills	700 acres	
Morgan Territory	4147 acres	35 miles
Las Trampas	3,798 acres	20 miles
Brushy Peak	2,000 acres	not yet open
Vasco Caves	900 acres	not yet open
Vargas Plateau	1,000 acres	not yet open
Total	36,015 acres	204 miles

Dick shared that this resource list suggests the Tri Valley has 38% of the Land, 20 % of the parks, and 17 % of the trail miles. Many issues remain active within this region, local business leaders are still developing the Tri Valley 2010 Vision Plan, which has a trail and open space component. The voice from a few local trail activist's recently convinced the City of Dublin to support a trail along the top of a flood control levee. Please contact Dick for more information about this victory for trails in the Tri-Valley.

Los Vaqueros

Michael made a presentation about impacts to recreation and open space if the reservoir is expanded. Michael also gave a review of the history on this project, some of the facts are;

- In the late 80's and early 90's, the Contra Costa County Water District started plans for building a reservoir, and obtained the support of the trails community, including cyclists, equestrians and hikers. It promised some 50 miles of multi-use trails.

- When the final recreation program was approved in 1998, the CCWD only provided 14 miles of multi use trails, which were in remote, steep terrain, not at all in proximity to the reservoir.

- The trail system totals some 50 miles of roads, built to service road standards of 12-16 feet. In spite of this, they are called "hiking trails" by the CCWD, and bikes and horses are prohibited, except for the 14 miles referred to above.

- The proposed expansion will remove many of the trails provided the first time around.

- It is critical that CCWD provide many more multi use trails.

The impact of bikes and horses, particularly on gravel covered service roads is insignificant, and can be easily managed. It is particularly important that multi use links be provided within the watershed to connect Brushy Peak to Morgan Territory and Round Valley, in addition to a multiuse East-West trail.

Trail users need to be there to speak out for public and multiuse access. If we do not participate, we will only have ourselves to blame. EBATC voted to submit a letter to CCWD in support of multi-use trails in the Los Vaqueros expansion study.

Measure C

Michael also presented a draft letter in support of allowing the continuation of the existing 1/2 cent sales tax to support transportation projects and programs in Contra Costa County. The EBATC letter recommends a 5% set aside for bicycle, pedestrian and multi use trail funding support. This letter asserts these funds could be used to "complete the East Bay Regional Park District regional trail system, including the ABAG sponsored San Francisco Bay Trail. EBATC voted to submit a letter to Contra Costa Transportation Authority supporting a 5% set aside for non-motorized transportation.

Ridge Trail

Bob Power gave an update on a few projects. The C&H sugar parcel (currently land-banked) holds a 4-mile segment of the Ridge Trail. Through a Ridge Trail grant and district funds work will begin later this year to develop a staging area in Crockett and implement the district's land use plan for the property. Bob discussed Feeder Trail #1 the Ridge Trail might entertain the possibility of managing the trail. Bob shared Pinole Watershed

status, and suggested efforts we under way at getting a meeting and a discussion about what the steps would be to open up the trail within the watershed. Fund raising heads up given by Bob, for July 26th Tour De Phat, Berkeley Ca. – New Belgium Brewing, brewers of Phat tire Ale, puts on major events across the country. The Ridge Trail will be pouring the suds at this event in Berkeley and will be the recipient of all proceeds from that concession.

Iron Horse

Terry gave an update about the May 31 Iron Horse Regional Trail dedication connecting the trail to the Dublin/Pleasanton BART Station, all are welcome to attend. Terry also discussed future extension of the Iron Horse into Pleasanton, along with development projects at Hookston & Mayhew, Treat Ave. Bridge, Concord Ave. and Diamond Blvd. The National Trail Days REI 2003 service project to remove puncture vine is July 12, in Concord. The goal is for 100 volunteers. To register for this event call REI (510) 527-4140 if you would like to help.

Round Robin

Marilynn shared the new EBMUD Lake Camanche Horse camp. It is in the Pardee Watershed. Twenty-five miles of new trails open to hikers and equestrians. (No mountain bikes or pets allowed)..

Being no further business meeting adjourned at 9:16 PM.

Respectfully submitted- Dick Quigley

National Trails Day: July 12, 2003

Join EBRPD, EBATC and REI in celebrating National Trails Day on the Iron Horse Trail in Concord.

Originally scheduled for the June 7, National Trails Day will be celebrated on Saturday, July 12, 2003. More than 100 volunteers are needed from 8:30 to 12:30 to remove puncture vine weed adjacent to the Iron Horse Trail in Concord. REI is handling registration and EBRPD will be providing crew leaders and instruction. The weed produced spiny seeds that puncture bicycle tires and spreads easily. The Willows Shopping Center merchants are co-sponsoring as well.

Please call (510) 527-4140, ext. 206 very soon to register. Space is limited!

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

It is easy to forget when the trails beckon, that this organization and the trails that it protects, need your support. Please take a few moments to send in your renewal check. A membership form is available on the back of this newsletter.

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At the Bay Area Ridge Trail Council we've begun the analysis and started internal discussion about what this commitment would require of us organizationally. Our estimates would require approximately \$14,000 per year for maintenance and management of the trail. This is an unbudgeted \$14,000 we would have to raise annually above and beyond our current fund-raising targets. This is an exciting issue for our organization and a challenge to our fund-raising efforts in the east bay. I will keep you apprised of the direction of this internal discussion.

Pinole Watershed (East Bay Municipal Utility

District):

Many thanks to all of you who have taken a personal interest in this project by writing letters to EBMUD's Board of Directors requesting implementation of the RidgeTrail segment in the Pinole Watershed. EBMUD's Board has taken a keen interest in the project and is supporting their staff in an effort to meet with Ridge Trail and Park District representatives. The three organizations will review the current status of the trail and the steps that would need to be in place for the trail to open. We had EBMUD staff in attendance at our May meeting; a welcome and positive sign of future partnership.

Outreach:

Want to be a hiking, biking or equestrian outings leader? Already a leader and just not letting us know? Like to see your name in lights, be held in the highest esteem of your outdoor peers, able to answer questions like: Where's the next bathroom? The Ridge Trail has outings throughout the Bay Area in some of the most scenic lands on the west coast. Our outings are terribly under-represented in the East Bay. Please contact Martha or Bob at 415-561-2595 if this has piqued your interest.

Get outdoors,

Bob Power

South and East Bay Trail Director

Bay Area Ridge Trail Council

TRAILS CHALLENGE !

Join in on the EBRPD 10th Anniversary of Trails Challenge - one of the agency's most popular programs! Your registration includes the 10th Anniversary edition of the Challenge Guidebook, with detailed maps and descriptions of the top 20 trails accessible to hikers, bikers, equestrians and the disabled. Earn a commemorative pin for completing five trails by Dec. 1. Dare to become a true Trails Challenger. Please call (510) 544-2553 for registration information.

East Bay Area Trails Council: Membership Dues for Calendar Year 2003

With the arrival of spring wildflowers, it's time to renew your membership in the East Bay Area Trails Council. Your participation is important in our ongoing efforts to preserve and expand the East Bay trail system.

Membership Dues for 2003: Check enclosed:
Individuals \$15
Organizations \$30
Make checks payable to:
East Bay Area Trails Council

Please list below your name, address, phone number and if applicable, the name of the organization that you represent on the Trails Council.

Send check and completed form below to:
East Bay Area Trails Council
P.O. Box 5381
Oakland, CA 94605-0381

Please print

Name: _____

Organization Represented: _____ *(if applicable)*

Address: _____

City / State / Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____ Fax Number: _____ e-mail: _____

Area(s) of Interest: _____
(hiker, cyclist, equestrian, skater, etc.)

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