



MONTHLY UPDATE

EBATC Announcements, Meeting Minutes, News: March 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 conservationists who are committed to furthering the protection of the scenic and recreational resources of the East Bay.

East Bay Trail Talk

Happy Spring everyone! By the time you read this, we'll be on the verge of another equinox and the beginning of a terrific year of outings, projects and planning for East Bay Trail users.

At our meeting in February we discussed some of the issues of critical importance to East Bay trail users, and we hope to spend even more time this month developing ideas of interest to the East Bay Trails community that we can track as a group. If you or your organization have any items of particular interest to Trail users, please join us and let us know what's going on. The EBATC meetings are the forum for staying in touch and staying involved with project ideas and collective strategies for maintaining our current fantastic trail network and developing that network for ours and future generations.

Some of the issues we're staying on top of:

- Threatened closure of the Sunrise Trail – Lafayette
- The Sunol/Ohlone Land Use Plan
- Los Vaqueros Reservoir expansion plans
- Brushy Peak Regional Park's recreational access
- East Bay State Park development
- Volunteer Trail Work Opportunities
- Bay Area Ridge Trail projects
- Bay Trail projects

We work to actively support activities that are trail friendly and we weigh in on activities and developments that are not trail friendly. We hope you or someone from your organization can join us this month!

Bay Area Ridge Trail Update

On April 24th the Coastal Conservancy will vote on the Ridge Trail Council's funding proposal to assist the Park District with opening the C&H Sugar property. This project will open up another four-mile segment of multi-use Ridge Trail by implementing a staging area in Crockett. Currently land-banked, this property will become part of the Carquinez Straits Regional Shoreline and will add a fantastic landscape of rolling Contra Costa hills to the other beautiful parks in the area.

Work on Feeder Trail #1 continues

EBATC MARCH MEETING

Wednesday, March 19, 2003

7:15 to 9:30 pm

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

Agenda: March 19, 2003 Meeting

1. Call to order: 7:15 p.m.
Approval of Agenda: Action
Approval of Feb. 2003 Minutes: Action
2. New Business
Meeting Schedule 2003
Remote Meeting venue and date
Generate list of topics/issues for future meetings
3. Reports and Updates
Ridge Trail Report
Zone 7 Report
Los Vaqueros Expansion Report
4. Round Robin and Future Agenda
Reports from members

with our latest proposal of using Ridge Trail funding to hire a consulting attorney to address the ownership issues relative to the trail. We are waiting on comment from the County before proceeding with this proposal.

Our outreach efforts regarding the opening of the Pinole Watershed Ridge Trail have begun to build momentum. Many thanks to Morris Older, Carolyne Blanckenburg, and the leadership of the Tilden-Wildcat Horsemen's Association for their letters of support for this project. I am addressing the Bicycle Trails Council of the East Bay in March, and the Martinez Horsemen's Association in May. If your group is interested in this project, I'm happy to pack up my slides (thank you Ron Brown) and give you the full orientation. The Bay Area Ridge *continued on back page*

MEETING MINUTES

February 12, 2003, EBRPD Headquarters

Attendees:

Brad Beck, Contra Costa County Transportation Authority, Sr. Transportation Planner
Erik Johnson, Bicycle Trails Council of the East Bay (BTCEB)
Rebecca Thomas, Metropolitan Horseman's Assn.
Rich Guarienti, Hayward Hiking Club
Jerry Dischter, BTCEB
John Eastman, Temescal to Ridge Trail Group
Jim Townsend, EBRPD
Jeff Edmonston, BTCEB and E. B. Bicycle Coalition
Shaun Reid, BTCEB and International Mountain Bike Association (IMBA)
Steve Fiala, EBRPD Trails Development Program Manager
Laura Comstock, EBPRD Pleasanton Ridge Park Supervisor
Bob Power, Bay Area Ridge Trail
Michael Kelly, IMBA and Bay Area Ridge Trail Council
Don de Femery, Sierra Club
Terry Noonan, EBRPD Regional Trails Dept.
Jamie Perkins, EBRPD Regional Trails Dept.
Jack Appleyard, Bay Area Ridge Trail

Report by Brad Beck, Contra Costa Transportation Authority, Senior Transportation Planner

Brad made a PowerPoint presentation on the draft Countywide Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan (CBPP), which has been 1.5 years in the making by the Authority and was released in December 02. On a fast track for review and comment, it is available to view online at www.ccta.net. Comments are due by the end of February and three public workshops are planned that month. The Plan outline included establishing a long-term vision (20-year) for coordinating local bicycle and pedestrian polices countywide, identifying a countywide bicycle system, and establishing criteria for development. Specific goals include expanding and improving the existing system, safety, and support of local existing and future plans and policies. Plan recommendations include a bikeway network of 246.4 miles of existing on- and off-street bikeways and 348.5 miles of proposed on- and off-street bikeways. Regarding the specific bikeway network, 18 priority corridor projects are recommended under criteria which includes that there be a transportation element, a pedestrian component, provide a link to transit, and include safety and supports; signing, etc. They were ranked according to destinations they served, feasibility, degree of connectivity, safety, and input from the public. The estimated costs for the projects over 20 years are \$276.9 million or \$13.8 million/year.

Presentation by Steve Fiala, EBRPD Trails Development Program Manager on Measure C and the Draft Contra Costa Countywide Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan

Steve Fiala, Trail Development Program Manager for EBRPD, presented additional information on the Draft CBPP and on the issue of Measure C – the Contra Costa County Transportation Sales Tax (1/2 cent) renewal in 2004 and alerted the audience to the low percentage of capital funding being sought for non-motorized transportation facilities (pedestrian and bicycle facilities) in the 20-year Measure C expenditure plan. He gave background on the recently passed (2000) Alameda County Measure B (1/2 cent sales tax) which won an 81.5% voter approval rating due to garnering of support from multiple groups to get the Measure passed with a 5% set aside for non-motorized transportation (bicycle and pedestrian facilities) that are included in the new 2001 Alameda Countywide Bicycle Plan. This will provided close to 100 million dollars for capital improvements over a 20-year period. The Draft CBPP states “Measure B provides a benchmark for non-motorized transportation causes”.

Steve shared some recommended issues to address for Measure C, including a basic 5% set aside should be requested to help fund the proposed Countywide Bikeway network. This set-aside was achieved in the reauthorization of Measure B in Al Co. wherein 75% of the funding was allocated to local jurisdictions and 25% of the funding was allocated for regional projects “with priority given to EBRPD regional trail projects”. A 5% set aside from the planned 1.6 billion-dollar Measure C would yield 80 million dollars over a 20-year period. EBRPD, as the two-county governmental special district for parks, non-motorized trails and recreation in both Alameda and Contra Costa County, comments include that the funds could be used towards: (a) completing regional trails (EBRPD), Bay Trail (ABAG and other agencies), (b) completing the unbuilt segments of the proposed Countywide Bicycle Network, (c) creating a funding source for major trail maintenance/rehabilitation projects, (d) upgrading existing trail facilities to higher standards, and (e) providing funding for support facilities that encourage bicycle transportation (lockers at BART stations, commercial areas, bike racks at public facilities, etc.). The existing Measure C ends in 2008, the new C will take effect in 2009. It will come before the voters in Nov. 2004, with the Plan approval date set for Jan. 04; the time to comment is now. Check www.ccta.net for information.

Discussion item presented by Michael Kelly, IMBA

Michael gave an overview of his perspective on EBATC at this time, its potential as a trails organization and highlighted potential projects to stay involved with. He stated that EBATC is at a critical point in many respects. With a long and distinguished history of trail advocacy, there is room to do more. Ideas for EBATC include finding ways to assist public agencies in opening up land-banked properties, which have been purchased with bond funds and leveraged with grants for land acquisition vs. operating and maintenance uses (O&M). O&M funds are difficult to obtain, as demonstrated by EBRPD's recent efforts of twice seeking 2/3-voter approval for additional parcel tax funding, which the voters did not pass. It's unclear when these efforts will be revived, but when they are, EBATC needs to play a larger role in making sure that they pass. For EBRPD, purchasing land continues to occur as set forth in the bond measures and to stay on top of market conditions, yet until additional funding is obtained, properties will probably remain land-banked.

Michael doesn't think EBATC has come close to realizing the potential for participation in these and similar projects and thus might start by forming a subcommittee to deal with them and to find out the ways that volunteers can organize to participate in meaningful ways and stay in communication with the public agencies in order to know where our efforts would be most effective; volunteering, writing comment letters, attending public hearings, etc. He thinks if the org can develop more skills and organization, for example, he would like to go to EBRPD and ask for a greater role for EBATC.

Michael thinks another worthy project is Annadel State Park in Santa Rosa. The park decided to do master trail plan a few years back consisting of representatives from all user groups and agency staff. They met for some time, at first dealing with the usual conflicts among users. Through these efforts, trust was built between folks, and they came to the conclusion that their interests were really the same, and that they could accomplish more by uniting. In that case, they determined that there was too many fire roads in the park, and embarked on an effort to convert them to wide single track trails. Fire roads were replaced with gently winding trails.

He thinks EBATC has the potential of nearly wiping out trail conflicts, which could be done by working together on the types of projects, build the kind of trust that works in other areas, and which we need. He acknowledges that it has been years since EBATC experienced the big conflicts, but has done

pretty well in this regard e.g., access to Los Vaqueros and EBMUD.

He suggested creating an e-mail "e-tree" to take advantage of the benefits of email. He thinks that if discussions can get going between meetings, much more could be achieved. E-mail addresses are needed and members need to contact members and interested folks to get these addresses. Then a Topica-like email list can be made. We can post messages on the EBATC website bulletin board, www.ebtrails.org, but the email list (direct mailing) has an advantage over going to the website. I hope that one or two folks could take this on, and obtain the data. There are many other things that EBATC could do, which we can consider later. I have a vision that one day, EBATC could be a non-profit organization, which plays a significant role in all trail and open space activities in our area.

Presentation by EBRPD Park Supervisor, Laura Comstock on Pleasanton Ridge Regional Park

Pleasanton Ridge Park Supervisor Comstock gave a mini-presentation to the group on park efforts to rehabilitate bootleg and cattle narrow trails via land restoration techniques including moving soil, re-grading, planting seed, and providing protective mulch. By demonstrating digital images before, during, and after, as well as discussing current allowed trail uses at PR, she was able to share District information on land management techniques to the public. The majority of the trails in PR Park are multi-use fire roads, typically 10-12 feet wide. The only exception allowing multi-use narrow trail access is the Sinbad Connector Trail, which was specifically designed to accommodate multi-users in a more remote locale to connect to pieces of parkland. EBRPD encourages trail users to pick up trail maps at the Park's entrance to check trail use designations.

Distribution of final draft version of the EBRPD Checklist for Analyzing Proposed Changes in Trail Use

EBRPD handed out the final draft of the Checklist for Analyzing Proposed Changes in Trail Use for consideration at the Feb. 28 Board Operations Committee meeting. The Checklist includes a Statement of Purpose, the actual Checklist consisting of 38 questions for the EBPRD Staff Trail Review Screening Committee (Trail Development Program Manager, Chief of Park Operations, and staff from Planning and Public Safety Depts.) to utilize, and a flow-chart of the EBRPD Trail Use Change Process. Most important for EBATC, is its role as a reviewing en-

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tity for completed checklists, which will then be returned to the Committee for a second review prior to recommendation to the General Manager. EBATC is recognized by the District as a multi-user trail organization which has been working with EBRPD of over 30 years on open space protection, trail development, and other trail uses. EBATC meetings provide an excellent opportunity to discuss trail use change ideas, receive diverse viewpoints, and create trail user consensus on projects to be submitted for final consideration by the District. Typically, held monthly the third Wed. of the month (7:15 pm) at EBRPD Board HQ in Oakland, see www.ebtrails.org.

Next Meeting: March 19th 7:15 to 9:30 p.m Peralta Oaks Boardroom

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Trail Council is very excited about the potential for working with the East Bay Municipal Utility District again.

Hope to see you Wednesday the 19th at 7:15, and if not, let's meet up on the trail.

Bob Power, *South and East Bay Trail Director*

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