



# MONTHLY UPDATE

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

## Views Along the Ridge Trail

There's so much going on around the East Bay these days I'll have to resort to bullets and sound bites to get it all in.

- The advisory vote in Contra Costa County for the Los Vaqueros Reservoir expansion studies passed despite a strong grassroots effort opposed to the expansion. It will be important for all East Bay trail and open space advocates to keep an eye on this process in the coming months.

- Carquinez Bridge trail dedication coming up in May! Watch for news on INK <http://www.ridgetrail.org>, or call 415-561-2595 to check status, date, and time.

- Getting from the south end of the Carquinez Bridge to the new Crockett Hills Regional Park will take the cooperation of the City of Crockett, possibly Swett High School, and Contra Costa Public Works. We've started to analyze this route for possibilities.

- Plans are being finalized for the staging area and trail improvements that will open up Crockett Hills Regional Park in 2005. Volunteer projects will be included in the overall park plan to bring the trails up to current EBRPD multi-use standards. Look for volunteer opportunities this fall.

- The Bay Program of the State Coastal Conservancy will allocate up to \$1,000,000 to fund projects that help complete the Bay Area Ridge Trail. Funding will be made available through a competitive grant program administered by the Bay Area Ridge Trail Council and the Coastal Conservancy. The Ridge Trail Council is hoping to see project proposals come forward from both the Park District and the Muir Heritage Land Trust for the initial grant round deadline of March 15<sup>th</sup>.

- The Feeder Trail #1 task force met in early February and identified the next series of steps necessary for opening this trail. All parties (Park District, Contra Costa County, Ridge Trail Council) have renewed interest in seeing this project completed and the trail opened. The momentum indicates that 2005 may be the year we open Feeder Trail #1.

- Discussions with EBMUD staff have been very positive about how to complete the trail through the Pinole watershed. A working group will get out on the property this spring

## EBATC MARCH MEETING

Wednesday, March 17, 2004

7:15 to 9:30 pm

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

### Agenda: March 17, 2004 Meeting

1. Call to order: 7:15 p.m.  
Approval of Agenda: Action  
Approval of Feb. 2004 Minutes: Action
2. Reports and Updates  
Ridge Trail- Current Status  
Del Valle multiuse trail update  
Los Vaqueros recap  
SFPUC Alameda Watershed HCP  
South Bay Aqueduct Trail
3. Round Robin and Future Agenda  
Reports from members

to assess alternative routes, identify appropriate trail improvements and infrastructure, and continue discussions about funding options.

- The Tilden Wildcat Horsemen's Association has started early in planning this year's Labor Day Trail ride. I believe proceeds this year will go for refurbishing the horse camp at Tilden Regional Park. Don't be shy about helping out as a volunteer this year. As a non-equestrian last year, my eyes were opened to the beauty of a major equestrian event on the Ridge Trail. Cooks, cleaners, shuttle drivers, astronomers... all are needed to make this thing go. Call Morris Older @ 925-254-8943. Get in touch with our friends at TWHA, they're doing great things for east bay trails.

- In Alameda County, Director Severin has been working hard to identify a good project for Prop 40 funding. We're keeping our fingers crossed that the Park District will bring forward a project proposal this spring. Vargas Plateau may not be a land-bank for long!

Finally, we will want to stay closely involved with the upcoming Contra Costa County Open Space Measure. CCC property owners will soon be given (May 2004) the opportunity to forever protect natural open spaces, wildlife areas, waterways and Mount

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## MEETING MINUTES

The February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2004 meeting was held in the East Bay Regional Park District Boardroom.

### Attendees:

Jamie Perkins EBRPD jperkins@ebparks.org  
Ivy Morrison Co Co Coalition for Open Space  
imorrison@contracostaopenspace.org  
David Dolberg TRAC dsdol@pacbell.net  
Eric Johnson BTCEB ebmtnbkr@hotmail.com  
Katie Harris Hayward Hills POA  
ktharris@pacbell.net  
John Kriege Hayward Hills POA  
Ed Mendelsohn Sierra Club  
Glenn Kirby BARTC GKirby@Silcon.com  
Brent Englund BTCEB brent@btceb.org  
Howard Hornig Hayward Hiking Club  
hc.hornig@juno.com  
Scott Hill EBMUD  
Rich Garenti Tri-Valley Trail Trekkers  
guari@earthlink.net  
Michael Kelley BARTC/IMBA  
mkelley.dnai@rcn.com  
Judi Bank MHA judibank@aol.com

### Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Michael Kelley at 7:15 p.m.

Agenda: Additions to the Agenda were approved:

Contra Costa Open Space Measure  
SF PUC Meeting  
Alameda County developer fees for HARD  
and LARPD  
State Trails Conference  
Hayward Hills POA support for BARTC  
gap at 5-Canyons

Minutes: Approved as presented

### San Francisco Bay Trail, East Bay Overview

David Lipsetz, a Planner for the SF Bay Trail Program of Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG), presented an overview of the program. The Bay Trail was first envisioned by Senator Bill Lockyer in 1985 and was brought into being by SB 100 in 1987. The project was adopted by ABAG in 1989 to provide public access all the way around the Bay's shoreline where feasible. The project involves coordination with all nine Bay Area Counties, 47 shoreline cities, many special districts and private property owners. It will eventually cover 400 miles. There are currently 240 miles completed and in use today. The goal is to complete the trail around the Bay getting as close to the shoreline as possible. 80% of the trail is on separated Class I trail. The Bay Trail Project team provides technical assistance, outreach, planning and funding to partner jurisdictions. The number of planned miles in Alameda and Contra Costa County is 222 with 110 complete. Fifteen of the 47 cities are in the

East Bay counties.

The programs administrated by the Bay Trail staff include the Bay Trail Grant Program providing funding to partners for planning, feasibility studies, to accelerate construction and to leverage funds from other sources. Staff is currently surveying jurisdictions and agencies to identify gaps. Key gaps currently being funding for feasibility studies or construction include Richmond Parkway to Point Pinole, San Leandro Slough bridge crossing and Dixon Landing to McMarthy Blvd in Fremont. Bay Trail information and map guides are available at [www.baytrail.org](http://www.baytrail.org) or at the Book and Map Store in the S.F. Ferry Building.

### Contra Costa Open Space Measure

Ivy Morrison and Dave Dolberg presented the details of the Contra Costa Open Space Measure that may be mailed to property owners in the County in May. The measure has been four years in the planning and involved many stakeholders attending numerous meetings. The passage of the measure will result in a projected funding source of 8 million dollars a year. The funds will be used to acquire and maintain open space land in the county. The proposal calls for 75% for acquisition and 25% for maintenance. A Joint Powers Authority will be created among the participating agencies and an Oversight Committee will have 17 members appointed by the JPA to oversee the distribution of funds for projects. There will be 12 Flagship Projects including the Bay Trail, the San Pablo Open Space Project at Point Molate and funds for trails generally. There will also be funds for conservation easements. Regional Projects will be funded and Per Capita funds will be available for local projects in the Cities. The campaign committee needs support for phone banks, walking precincts and donations. After discussion by the Council membership, Glenn Kirby moved that EBATC endorse and support the campaign and pledge \$500.00 to the campaign with a direct contribution of \$250.00 and a solicitation of matching funds from members and member organizations. We would also provide space in our newsletter for the campaign. The motion passed unanimously.

The Coalition for Open Space and Ivy Morrison, Community Outreach Coordinator can be reached at:

1196 Boulevard Way, Suite 10, Walnut  
Creek, CA 94595  
(925) 381 4187 FAX (925) 947 3603  
imorrison@contracostaopenspace.org

### Treasurer's Report:

Michael reported that we had \$1625.00 in the checking account and \$900.00 in savings. He reminded the group that several voting members were not current with their membership dues.

### **Feeder Trail #1**

A recommendation has been made that the Bay Area Ridge Trail manage this property and the trail. A management agreement could bring this gap closer to completion. The proposal would be for a two year maintenance and management agreement. BARTC would be responsible for raising \$30,000 toward a construction cost of \$100,000. BARTC will negotiate with Contra Costa County and the East Bay Regional Park District. Glenn Kirby moved to recommend that the Trails Council supported this action. The motion passed.

### **Los Vaqueros Update:**

EBATC members have been active in the campaign to defeat Measure N. The campaign will need additional funding to complete the leafletting and walking campaign in the Contra Costa Water District service area. An additional \$60.00 was raised at the meeting toward our \$100.00 pledge.

### **Del Valle Trail Proposal:**

A proposed trail use change to put through the EBRPD Trail Use Change Checklist process on the east side of the dam is being discussed. No action has been taken yet. A meeting is scheduled for the upcoming Thursday afternoon. The proposal is for mt. Bikes using an existing fire road and creating loop trail connections. The Checklist for Change procedure will be used by Park staff and will involve nominations of potential trails and review by EBATC. Jamie explained that the cycle for the Checklist for Change will be annual, similar to that for Ordinance 38. The first cycle will be for the trails that BTCEB and EBATC recommended in Chabot and Wildcat some time ago. The proposed trail in Del Valle could be brought forward the following year. There was some discussion of how long some of these proposals take. Members were critical of the length of time these procedures have taken. The recommendations for new multi-use trails in Chabot and Wildcat were made 4 or 5 year ago and have still not been brought forward for consideration. Our hopes for a new trail in Del Valle appears to be a minimum of another two years away. Jamie explained that staffing constraints and the need to complete the extensive planning process for the Land Use Plan for Sunol/Ohlone as the latest delay in allocating staff time from the Planning and Stewardship Department to this process.

### **Segway Study on Iron Horse Trail Update**

The research project scheduled to be conducted by students from the University of California, Berkeley has received approval by the Board of Directors to submit an application for a Special Use Permit. Details need to be worked out for the number of conveyances to be used in the study and

the location of some of the destinations and employment centers.

### **Contra Costa Special Meeting:**

A meeting to discuss trail opportunities in the eastern portion of Contra Costa hosted by County Supervisors Millie Greenberg and Federal Glover will be held this coming Thursday. There was an article announcing this meeting in the Contra Costa Times. Steve Fiala will represent the EBRPD at this meeting. No members of the Trails Council indicated that they would be available to attend.

### **SF - PUC Meeting:**

A Hearing will be held in Dublin to discuss the Alameda County Watershed and a proposed Habitat Conservation Plan. The meeting will be hosted by the San Francisco PUC and will be held in the Dublin Library on February 19, 2004 from 6:30 - 9:00 pm.

### **Alameda Cty. Proposal to Increase Developer Fees:**

Alameda County is currently holding a series of meetings to discuss a proposal brought forward by the Livermore and Hayward Area Park and Recreation Special Districts. In-lieu fees have traditionally been assessed for new construction to fund services provided by the parks for the residents of these new homes. The fees have not been raised for over ten years. The request for a fee increase could result in a cost of over \$11,000 per new home in the county. While these costs are comparable to what many cities charge, there has been discussion about the impact on the affordability of homes in the county. Glenn moved that the Trails Council support the increase in fees to support the parks but to not support a particular amount for the increase. The motion passed.

### **State Trails Conference**

The 20th Trails and Greenways Conference, March 25-28, 2004 is being held in the Gold Rush town of Folsom, California. The web site for details on the conference is [www.rec-trails-conf.cjb.net](http://www.rec-trails-conf.cjb.net) The Trails Council is usually well represented at this annual event. We encourage our members and member organizations to attend.

### **Hayward Hills POA**

Katie Harris and John Kriege alerted the Trails Council to their concerns for the Ridge Trail GAP in the Hayward Hills between 5-Canyons and Garin Regional Park. This Ridge Trail segment is in EBRPD land-bank status until additional funding mechanisms are identified for operations and maintenance. A community connector trail is attached to a development application before the Alameda

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County Planning Commission for a 24-home development that will be adjacent to the trail. The Fairview community residents have been monitoring the discussions and have some concerns with the development and the trail connector to the future Ridge Trail not being included. They asked the Trails Council to support the inclusion of the local access to the future Ridge Trail from Fairview and also support for permitting the homeowners in this development to keep livestock on their property.

#### **Bay Trail through the Carquinez Strait between Crockett and Martinez**

Planning is underway to repair an old road that has been closed to traffic for many years between Crockett and Martinez along the shoreline. The plan is to repair the road for trail use and open it as a segment of the Bay Trail. The Trails Council voted to support full multi-use on this segment of trail, including hikers, bicycles and equestrians.

**Round Robin** items were covered in the added agenda items.

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

Submitted by Glenn Kirby

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

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Diablo. The Measure is an unprecedented opportunity to create a permanent local solution that will preserve and protect our most important natural resources for current and future generations.

See the following websites ([www.contracostaopenspace.org](http://www.contracostaopenspace.org)) or ([www.cocoplans.org](http://www.cocoplans.org), and click on Open Space Funding Committee link). This measure, which will be decided by mailed ballot to property owners, would provide approximately \$8 million dollars per year to:

- Preserve natural open spaces, wildlife areas, hiking trails, and remaining agricultural lands for future generations.
- Protect shorelines and the Bay from polluted runoff.
- Maintain and improve neighborhood parks and recreation areas to provide safe places for children.
- Protect lands around rivers, streams and the Bay to maintain water quality.
- Protect Mount Diablo and other important natural lands and wildlife areas.
- Maintain and improve existing regional parks, open space areas and trails such as the Briones to Mt. Diablo Regional Trail, Point Isabel Regional Shoreline and Tilden Regional Park.

Wildflower season is upon us and the views are phenomenal. Get out on the trail!

Bob Power, South and East Bay Trail Director  
Bay Area Ridge Trail Council