



MONTHLY UPDATE

EBATC Announcements, Meeting Minutes, News: May 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.

Tri Valley Trail Notes

Hello all and happy spring. I am sure our trails will dry out for use soon. We have been blessed with a rich bounty of wildflowers. Since the May EBATC meeting will focus on the Tri Valley area of Pleasanton, Dublin, Livermore, and Mountain house, as well as Los Vaqueros, I thought I would take this opportunity to give you an over view of some of the activity and trail excitement.

Brad Olson, Environmental Programs Manager for EBRPD shared that the public may attend the May 20 EBRPD Board Meeting to view his presentation on Los Vaqueros expansion if they are interested in the EBRPD position. We plan to get him on a future agenda to talk about EBRPD conservation and planning for trails in the East Bay. There was much discussion at the last meeting.

I am pleased to report that the Zone 7 Stream Management Master Plan workshop which was held Friday, April 18th, was impressive. The plan is focused on Flood protection, Water Supply, Water Quality, Habit and Environment, Recreation, Trails, and Public Education, Mining and Reclamation. I noticed the great trail article in the recent Zone 7 Water Ways newsletter which I think is superb. Hats Off To Zone 7. I have commented in the SSMP meetings that the Arroyo flood control channels closely follow the trail alignments recommended in the master plans of not only Pleasanton, but Dublin, Livermore, and East Bay Regional Park District as well. Additionally they follow closely the Alameda and Contra Costa County Bike Ways master trail plan. I have suggested the study project enlarge the Pleasanton map beyond the 10 miles of completed trail, by adding Livermore and Dublin and identify connector gaps. We have also suggested that poster size maps would be good resources to use at volunteer Trail Group meetings. We suggested a virtual tour of Arroyos by reach as something of value we would like to see. More SSMP information is available at :<http://www.zone7water.com/news.html>

Why is it so important to me as a passionate trail person? Because there are 120 miles of flood control channel system, not always on the tops of mountains or ridges, but they are close to communities, schools and

EBATC MAY MEETING

Wednesday, May 21, 2003

7:15 to 9:30 pm

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

Agenda: May 21, 2003 Meeting

1. Call to order: 7:15 p.m.
Approval of Agenda: Action
Approval of Mar. 2003 Minutes: Action
2. Presentation:
Tri Valley Trail Focus
3. Reports and Updates
Los Vaqueros Expansion Report
Ridge Trail Report
Trail Issues Report
Iron Horse Trail Day Update
4. Round Robin and Future Agenda
Reports from members

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.

business in the Tri Valley area. The Tri Valley Business Council is very supportive of trails in general, and favors the completion of master trail plans which often have been in place for years. As we know, trail alignments can easily be lost to development. For our area these trails can provide valuable connectors to Regional Parks. I would add that the South Bay Aqueduct that feeds Lake Del Valle is currently undergoing a aqueduct rehabilitation project. This multimillion DWR/Zone-7 *continued on the right inside page*

MEETING MINUTES

April 16, 2003, EBRPD Headquarters

Attendees:

Michael Kelly, IMBA and Ridge Trail Council
Don de Femery, Sierra Club
Jamie Perkins, EBRPD Regional Trails Dept.
Laura Warren, BTCEB
Erik Johnson, BTCEB
Wanda Moore
Rita Schlim, ATRA and DAHA Equestrians
Howard Hornig, Hayward Hiking Club
Geoffrey Carter
Ed Mendelsohn
Jaye Winkler, Metropolitan Horsemen's Association
Gretchen Mork

Michael called the meeting to order at 7:15 PM.

Trail News

Jamie gave a quick overview of the successful start to the 2003 EBRPD Ivan Dickson Volunteer Trail Maintenance Program. Twenty-five volunteers installed new entry structures and fencing on the California Riding and Hiking Trail adjacent to Walnut Creek Open Space on 3/22. On California Trail Days/Earth Day, April 12 in the rain, more than 60 volunteers came out to enhance Cull Canyon Regional Recreation Area. May 17 is the next date at Round Valley to continue hand tool work to groom the Hardy Canyon Trail. The National Trails Day event on the Iron Horse Trail in Concord was scheduled for June 7, but will be postponed to July 12 due to the delay in the targeted weed's growth due to the late rains. EBATC is a co-sponsor for National Trails Day, also known as the EBRPD/REI Service Project. Finally, July 19 will bring volunteers out on the Selby Trail in Tilden Park. See "<http://www.ebparks.org>" www.ebparks.org, under "trail volunteers" for more info how to participate.

Jamie also mentioned the CCC Planning Commission meeting on 4/22 on approving the bridge and design standards for the new Iron Horse Trail bridge overcrossing of Treat Blvd. in Walnut Creek. This project is being managed by the CCC Redevelopment Dept. and is part of a larger Pleasant Hill BART Station Specific Plan process that has been underway for years.

Measure C

The Measure C Renewal Public Workshops were discussed extensively and EBATC urged members to attend one of five meetings in April and early May to encourage the Contra Costa Transportation Authority (CCTA) to include a 5% set-aside of the Measure's \$1.6 billion in funds for non-motorized transportation opportunities and main-

tenance, including bicycle and regional trail projects and their maintenance. The funds would be derived from the renewal of the 1/2 cent sales tax in the County, which will expire in 2009. The programs to be funded will cover a 20-year period and the public can participate by attending these workshops and staying informed. See www.ccta.net. It was agreed that EBATC would write a letter in support of a 5% set-aside for non-motorized transportation, including trails, in Measure C, which funds transportation projects in Contra Costa County.

Updates:

Los Vaqueros Reservoir Expansion Studies

Michael Kelley reported on Los Vaqueros. The Contra Costa Water District and Cal Fed are evaluating the potential expansion of the reservoir from 100,000 acre feet, to 500,000 acre feet. As part of this proposal, it is holding public input workshops. Part 3 of these workshops concludes on Tuesday, April 22, when there will be two meetings at the Heald College Conference Center, 5130 Commercial Circle, in Concord. The meetings will take place at 2:00 PM, and 6:30 PM, and will deal with Effects and Mitigation. Part 4 of the meetings will deal with Review of CCWD Principles & Response to Comments. The first of these will take place May 29, followed by two meetings on June 3. Check out www.lvstudies.com for more information about these meetings, and try to attend to speak on behalf of ensuring that recreation opportunities, including multi-use regional trail connections, such as the Morgan Territory to Brushy Peak Trail, shown on adopted plans by other agencies move forward.

It was pointed out that trail enthusiasts got the short end of the stick when the final recreational plan came out for the first dam. This was despite strong promises from the CCWD in the late 80's, when the voters first approved the dam. It is critical that EBATC members participate, and be sure to stress the importance of recreational opportunities, and mitigation of any loss of recreational values, should this project go forward. It was agreed that EBATC would write a letter regarding the proposed LV Expansion and that if time permits, Michael Kelley would draft such a letter for approval at the next EBATC meeting. The letter will stress the need for recreation, should the expansion be approved.

EBATC Networking

EBATC has set up a Topica email list to enable us to network outside meetings about the issues that concern us. It is important that as many people as possible in the EBATC community join this list. List participants can post comments to the list, and receive the thoughts of others. Mail is posted to EBATC@Topica.com, and mail received

comes from that address, ensuring privacy. Topica makes its money from advertisements, and does not sell the email addresses to others, so there is no danger of spam. We control who gets on the list. If you have questions, or wish to join the list, email imbamsk@musichael.com. Then an invitation will be sent to you from Topica. To get on the list, you must reply to that message. Please participate.

Other brief updates were provided on Bay Area Ridge Trail and other trail projects:

C &H Staging Area development at Carquinez
Regional Shoreline
Feeder Trail #1 development
Pinole Watershed access issues
Sunrise Trail at Briones

EBRPD Sunol Land Use Plan Public Meeting will be held on April 22 at 7:00 p.m. to share information with the public on the Plan Update and Environmental Scoping for the Land Use Plan for Sunol and Ohlone Wilderness Regional Preserves.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

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.

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!

continued from the front page

project offers long distance trail opportunity. See: <http://www.doe.water.ca.gov/projects/sbapr/> for more. Steve Fiala often describes this SBA trail opportunity as a dream trail. It could reach from Bethany Forebay on the one hand to Camp Arroyo and Lake Del Valle on the other end. It could connect to Brushy Peak, Vasco Caves, Los Vaqueros as well.

I must share a recent Channel 30 (Pleasanton Public Television) Valley Forum hour round table where Pat O'Brien, Ayn Wieskamp, and Steve Fiala were being interviewed by Dawn Gardner, Tri Valley's favorite grandmother. The presentation was great and Steve did a fantastic job of demonstrating (with a telestrator) the trails, parks, and trail plans for the Tri Valley area. I have suggested that the video feed content of this presentation is powerfully persuasive and a condensation of sound bites that would be good for sharing with EBATC and others.

The South Livermore Valley Agricultural Land Trust board will vote on a new, expanded mission and a new name at its meeting on May 8. If approved by the board, the trust would become the Tri-Valley Conservancy. It would have the goal to protect the fertile soils, rangelands, open space and biological resources. In addition, it would support a viable agricultural economy in the Tri-Valley area. Land Trust executive director Sharon Burnham said, "We would create a larger conservation vision. We would broaden our scope both geographically and in the types of properties that would be considered for conservation." She mentioned habitat corridors and establishing greenbelts around cities as goals. This approach would have a trail wind through the vineyards, similar to the annual spring stampede ride through this area by the California State Horseman. The land is not generally open to the public.

In closing I will mention that Rich Guarienti, I and a few other Tri Valley trail advocates were at the Sunol LUP meeting on April 22, and the May 8 Contra Costa County Workshop on Measure C (the 1/2 sales tax to support transportation projects in the County--\$1.6 billion in transportation dollars will be available). We were asked to help spend the \$1.6 billion play money and we will share time permitting. Hope to see you on May 22.

Happy Trails
Dick Quigley

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 2002: 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.)

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