



# MONTHLY UPDATE

EBATC Announcements, Meeting Minutes, News: May 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.

## Open Space Preservation –

That's where it starts. Open Space preservation leads to parks and preserves. Parks and preserves beget trails. These notes will concentrate on the Open Space Measure in Contra Costa County, but Alameda County trails advocates will want to pay attention. Open space funding efforts are ramping up there as we go to print.

## WATCH FOR AN OPEN SPACE MAIL BALLOT STARTING JUNE 11, 2004.

This June, Contra Costa property owners will have an unprecedented opportunity to restore and maintain existing neighborhood and regional parks; protect lands around creeks, streams, lakes and the Bay to maintain our clean water sources; and protect and preserve our most important remaining open spaces, wildlife habitats, farmlands and shorelines, to ensure that our children and grandchildren will enjoy the same quality of life that we do.

**On June 10, 2004** a ballot will be mailed to Contra Costa County property owners regarding this important Open Space Measure. **The East Bay Area Trails Council strongly endorses this measure and urges you to watch for your Open Space ballot in the mail and to return it with a Yes vote!**

## PRESERVATION OF REMAINING NATURAL LANDS

This "landmark" measure would provide funding for the protection and preservation of new lands, including expansions on and around Mt. Diablo, as well as other important natural lands and wildlife areas throughout the county. It would enable the protection of lands around creeks, streams, lakes and the Bay-Delta, and would provide funding towards the creation and restoration of key educational and wildlife facilities, including an Off Site Rehabilitation Center for the Lindsay Wildlife Museum, the establishment of the Delta Science Center, and the restoration of the John Marsh historic home.

## MAINTENANCE AND RENOVATION OF EXISTING PARKLANDS

Twenty-five percent of the funding

## EBATC MAY MEETING

Wednesday, May 19, 2004

7:15 to 9:30 pm

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

## Agenda: May 19, 2004 Meeting

1. Call to order: 7:15 p.m.  
Approval of Agenda: Action  
Approval of Feb. 2004 Minutes: Action
2. New Business  
Equestrian/Canine Conflict - Discussion  
The Role of EBATC
3. Reports and Updates  
Checklist review of trails: Chabot and Del Valle  
TWA Labor Day Ride  
Ridge Trail report  
Los Vaqueros Expansion Measure C  
National Trails Day — Garin-Dry Creek
4. Round Robin and Future Agenda  
Reports from members

raised through the Open Space Measure would support the maintenance and renovation of existing parkland and recreational areas throughout the county, including Tilden, Briones and Black Diamond Mines, the Iron Horse and Lafayette-Moraga Regional Trails, Pt. Pinole, Antioch, Oakley and Martinez Regional Shorelines, and many more park and recreational areas throughout the county.

## A SMALL INVESTMENT = IMPORTANT RESULTS

The measure will raise approximately \$8 million annually. The proposed rate for virtually all single family homes is \$25 a year – or about \$2 a month — a very modest investment for ensuring that our most important remaining natural lands and clean water sources are preserved and protected - for today and our children tomorrow.

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## Minutes for the Meeting of March 17, 2004

The meeting was held in the East Bay Regional Park District Boardroom. (note: there was no meeting in April.)

### Participants:

Bob Power BARTC  
bob\_power@ridgetrail.org  
Jamie Perkins EBRPD  
jperkins@ebparks.org  
Eric Johnson BTCEB  
ebmtnbkr@hotmail.com  
Ed Mendelsohn Sierra Club  
edgarmd@earthlink.net  
Brent Englund BTCEB  
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Howard Hornig Hayward Hiking Club  
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Scott Hill EBMUD  
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Judi Bank MHA  
judibank@aol.com  
Jack Appleyard BARTC  
jackyard@aol.com  
Bob Ward REI/BTCEB  
rward@rei.com

### Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Bob Power at 7:20 p.m.  
Agenda: Additions to the Agenda were approved:  
Minutes: Approved as presented

## Reports and Updates

### Feeder Trail #1

Bob presented a status report with a map of the current trail and the potential alignment changes being negotiated. Bob spoke about the adjacent land uses as well as efforts of the Ridge Trail Council, the County, and EBRPD as a trails working group to identify steps to eliminate the road status of this trail while maintaining its status as part of the regional trails network.

### Contra Costa Open Space Measure

Jamie reminded the group about the Contra Costa Open Space Measure that will be mailed to property owners in the County in June. 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 funding source of \$175 million dollars over 20 years. 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.

BALLOTS WILL BE MAILED TO HOMES IN CONTRA COSTA COUNTY IN JUNE 2004. VOTER APPROVAL IS BASED ON THE NUMBER OF BALLOTS RECEIVED BACK IN THE REGISTRAR'S OFFICE. For more info, visit [www.contracostaopenspace.org](http://www.contracostaopenspace.org)

### Trail Use Change Checklist Process Update:

A Proposal for trail use change at Del Valle Regional Park in Place of the Proposed Review for a Trail at Wildcat Regional Park.

A proposed trail use change on the narrow segments of the East Shore Trail at Del Valle (to put through the EBRPD Trail Use Change Checklist process) was discussed in more detail. The notion of replacing the proposal for developing an existing cowpath into a new designated trail at Wildcat Regional Park came about due to the environmental impact constraints on the cowpath which crosses jurisdictional wetlands. The environmental review, analysis, permitting, and related delays, made the possibility of formalizing this trail extremely costly and difficult. The proposal would be to analyze the possibility for the addition of bicycle trail use on the narrow trail alignment which runs somewhat parallel to the existing East Shore Trail (fire road width), several miles which is graveled. The merit of proposing the Del Valle Trail came about from a combination of EBRPD Staff input and a proposal from the public. Elements which make it favorable as a possible candidate trail include its low use, low trail use conflict, and additional opportunities for loop trail travel. At the meeting, it was moved, seconded and passed unanimously to recommend replacing the Wildcat trail proposal with the Del Valle East Shore Trail review. Jamie said she would take this information back to staff for their consideration in their review schedule for the Trail Use Change Checklist process which is beginning under EBRPD's Planning Department staff as lead in May.

### Los Vaqueros Reservoir Expansion Studies

On March 2, 2004, voters in the CCWD service area passed Measure N with 61.8% of the vote. Measure N asked Contra Costa Water District customers: "Shall Contra Costa Water District work with public water agencies to expand Los Vaqueros Reservoir, at no cost to District ratepayers, to: (1) increase water supplies for

drought protection; (2) improve drinking water quality; and (3) protect endangered fish in the Delta, on condition that: (a) CCWD water rates will not increase; (b) no water will be exported to Southern California or a peripheral canal; and (c) CCWD will still operate the expanded reservoir?"

The support for Measure N allows environmental and engineering studies of the potential reservoir expansion to continue.

Public scoping meetings will be held later this year to provide opportunities for all interested stakeholders to comment on the scope of the environmental studies. The focus of the meetings will be to gather comments and suggestions about the environmental review and alternatives analysis. Meetings will be held in Concord, Antioch, Sacramento, and the South Bay. EBATC needs to stay on top of this, monitor progress, develop more partnerships, understand the timeline and comment periods, etc. IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT WE UNDERSTAND HOW THEY PLAN TO MITIGATE FOR LOSSES IN PUBLIC ACCESS, TRAILS, OPEN SPACE, WILDLIFE HABITAT, RECREATION WHICH WERE PROVIDED AS PREVIOUS MITIGATION REQUIREMENTS. See [www.lvstudies.com](http://www.lvstudies.com) for more info.

#### **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.

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

Judy Bank attended a presentation by Contra Costa County and Alta Planning (consultants) on the feasibility study for the Bay Trail segment from Crockett to Martinez. This alignment is the old Carquinez Scenic Drive, which was closed to cars because of landslides. This feasibility study evaluated options for constructing a multi-use trail on this route and was funded by a grant from the ABAG Bay Trail project. For more information about this study contact Al Schaal, Contra Costa County Public Works (925) 313-2234. Equestrian access was promoted by some as was the potential for it to remain open to vehicle traffic. The Trails Council voted to support full multi-use on this segment of trail, including hikers, bicycles and equestrians.

**Round Robin** items were discussed such as the REI Grants Program (see [www.rei.com](http://www.rei.com)), and the Bay Area Ridge Trail Outings (see [www.ridgetrail.org](http://www.ridgetrail.org)).

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Submitted by Jamie Perkins / Bob Power

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*Open Space: continued from front page*

#### **STRONG FISCAL SAFEGUARDS**

The measure incorporates strong fiscal safeguards, including a citizen's oversight committee, annual audits, and a requirement that only 3% of the funds raised can be used for administration. Ninety-seven percent of the funds will go to projects throughout the county.

#### **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

The Open Space Measure is sponsored by the Contra Costa Coalition for Open Space in conjunction with Contra Costa County. For more information, visit [www.contracostaopenspace.org](http://www.contracostaopenspace.org), or call the Coalition for Open Space at (925) 381-4187.

It's May. It's beautiful. You are getting out there, aren't you?

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

# East Bay Area Trails Council: Membership Dues for Calendar Year 2004

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With the explosion 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 2004:      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

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*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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