



MONTHLY UPDATE

EBATC Announcements, Meeting Minutes, News: November 2003

EBATC website: <http://www.ebtrails.org>

East
Bay Area
Trails
Council



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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 County Trails

For our November 19th meeting, we will be making our annual trek to the Oakley / Brentwood area. There are tremendous opportunities and projects underway for creating new parks and trails as the delta lands and farmlands become developed and more people move to these areas. East Contra Costa County is part of the East Bay Regional Park District's jurisdiction and the District has already created many miles of trails, including the Big Break Trail, Delta de Anza and Marsh Creek Trails. The potential extensions of these trails are on the horizon. Additionally, several parks have been created or expanded to serve the growing population: Round Valley, Big Break and a future expansion of Black Diamond Mines will add miles of unpaved trails. With Vasco Caves and Brushy Peak coming on line soon, there could be trail connections into east Alameda County. Eventually, there could be a giant trail system complete encircling Mount Diablo through both counties.

One of the key players in the region is the Contra Costa Water District (CCWD). This public agency owns thousands of acres of land and has provided some recreational trail access in the Los Vaqueros area as a part of a bond funded by their rate payers to construct a reservoir in their watershed. Providing multi-use trail connections through this land and connecting with EBRPD and State Park lands has long been a goal of EBATC and the many trail supporters in that area. CCWD now proposes to increase the size of this reservoir by a factor of five, increasing the flooded land from 100,000 to 500,000 acre feet and covering an additional 2,600 acres. The rate payers will once again be asked to approve this project on a ballot measure to be placed on the March 2004 ballot. This measure will only be on the ballot for the customers within the district. While the recreational opportunities benefit the region, a relatively small voter base will be making the decision.

This month Los Vaqueros will be the main topic of discussion at our East County meeting. We hope to have as guests some of the community members and representatives of organizations that will be working on the *continued on the back page*

EBATC NOVEMBER MEETING
Wednesday, NOVEMBER 19, 2003
7:00 to 9:15 pm

New Location:

Delta Vista Middle School Library
4901 Frank Hengel Way, Oakley

For Info: EBRPD Telephone (510) 544-2611

Agenda: November 19, 2003 Meeting

1. Introductions
2. New Business: Presentations on trail opportunities in the East Counties by the cities of Oakley and Brentwood and EBRPD
3. Continuing Business
Proposed Los Vaqueros Expansion
Discussion
4. Round Robin and Future Agenda
Reports from members

Directions to November Meeting at New Location

Highway 4 East through Antioch, as the highway bends north - take the Hwy 4 Stockton / Brentwood / Oakley exit. If you get to Wilbur Ave you have gone too far. At the bottom of the exit ramp turn right. You are now in Oakley and this road becomes Main Street. Follow Main Street all the way through town. Turn left on East Cypress Rd. Cross the railroad tracks and take the next left - Frank Hengel Way (no street signage). Delta Vista Middle School is the only visible structure. The Library is through the gate, on your right

If anyone comes from 580 take Vasco Road north into Brentwood follow Vasco through Brentwood (becomes Walnut) until you get to a T intersection at Central. Turn right on Central, follow to Brentwood Blvd. Turn left on Brentwood Blvd and follow Brentwood Blvd into Oakley (becomes Main Street). Turn right on East Cypress, then same as above.

MEETING MINUTES

September 17, 2003, EBRPD Board Room

Attendees:

Terry Noonan EBRPD
Michael Kelley BARTC, IMBA
Joseph Jones TCLAV
Dick Quigley Tri Valley Trail Trekkers
Rich Guarienti Tri Valley Trail Trekkers
Brent Englund BTCEB
Marilyn Terstegge Tilden Wildcat Horsemen
Jean Tarabank Moke. Coast to Coast
John Escobar EBRPD
Scott Hill EBMUD
Erik Johnson BTCEB
Howard Hornig Hayward Hiking Club
Bob Power BARTC
Bill Long BARTC
Jim Townsend EBRPD
Don deFremery Sierra Club
Gary Fend Moraga Horsemen's Assn.
Dan Sykes EBRPD
Ed Mendelsonn Sierra Club
Judy Bank Metropolitan Horsemen

Michael Kelley called the meeting to order at 7:10. The minutes and agenda were approved.

Los Vaqueros

Michael opened the meeting with a discussion of the Contra Costa Water Department's (CCWD) plans to expand the Los Vaqueros Reservoir. The CCWD will place a study measure on the March ballot looking at increasing the reservoir size from 100,000 to 500,000 acre ft. In brief, in 1988, the CCWD asked voters to approve construction of a dam. In doing so, it promised many recreational opportunities. In 1998, when seeking public input on the proposed recreation plan, EBATC discovered that the CCWD had little intention of keeping those promises, and provided few trails. At that time it was suspected that the CCWD had plans to expand the dam. That has proven to be true. CCWD has proposed a dam that will cover 2,600 more acres, and will wipe out many of the few recreational opportunities provided the first time around. A committee has been formed to fight the proposed expansion. Michael suggested it is an issue EBATC should stay focused on. It will be featured at the next EBATC meeting.

Segway Human Transporter

Michael gave a strong welcome to John Escobar, new AGM for operations at EBRPD, EBATC members introduced themselves. John Escobar discussed a proposal received by the district Board Operations Committee from a research

specialist Linda Novick, with the UC Berkeley Institute of Transportation Studies analyzing the Segway Human Transporter (HT), electric bicycles, and bicycles. It is the researchers' hope to test the concept in a 4-5 mile radius of a section of the Iron Horse Trail in the vicinity of the Pleasant Hill Bart Station. The test proposes 15 Segways, 5 electric assisted bicycles and 5 peddle -powered bicycles operating from the Bart station. This would be a CalTrans funded study and the Segway manufacturer has donated 15 devices. John mentioned that 5-6 companies would be selected to participate. The top speed of the vehicles is said to be 12 miles per hour. The District will develop survey questions and share the results of device operators and trail community members. If successful, the test will lead to a revision of Ordinance 38. John distributed a memo to the EBATC with the UC request and a white paper titled "Improving Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) District Connectivity and access with the Segway Human Transporter and Other Low Speed Mobility Devices." John indicated that the proposal will be on the Oct 28 Board Operations Committee agenda.

During discussion, Bob suggested that the Segways are faster than other trail users, indicative of a potential conflict and safety concerns. Jim Townsend said he thinks it is a terrible idea, and he does not think the district has the resources to police the impact. Questions surfaced as to what police costs would be. It was suggested that the issue should be well thought out before the district performs the test. There are contradictions. Electric wheel chairs are permitted, but electric bikes and scooters are not. It was suggested that permitting Segways might encourage powered scooters, which have become a recent problem. There is a trail patrol, but signage would be needed. Fast bike traffic occurs on the Iron Horse now. It was suggested that Power users could feel they had a right to the trail if the door was opened on a test, and that small kids electric cars and buggies might jump in. Terry Noonan said that this is just another vehicle that the question will be whether it fits into the mix.

Sunol/Ohlone Land Use Plan (LUP)

Dan Sykes, EBRPD staff planner, gave a presentation on the Sunol/Ohlone LUP. He stated it is a long-term, 20-year balanced plan, and has a Wilderness Preserve designation. This is a large open space, containing landscapes, local history, watersheds, and habit. Dan shared the key elements of the LUP setting guidelines on grassing, fences, and trails. Only one percent of the area is developed. The proposal covers a land-banked area called the Wauhab Ridge, which contains over 2,000 acres and 20 miles of existing multiuse fire roads. It is adjacent to, and straddles both the Sunol and Ohlone parks. When opened, only hikers and

equestrians will be permitted under the LUP. About 60 miles of trails and fire roads now exist, and there are multi use opportunities now in Sunol, which will remain. The Ohlone portion of the plan does not include biking. Dan shared maps and slides of the areas and answered questions from the group. The public comment period ends Oct 31. The plan will come before the board in early Dec.

There were questions as to why bikes are to be restricted from the Wauhab Ridge, if and when it is opened. Dan indicated that the problem was that access and egress points to the land banked area involved the Ohlone Trail, and intervening property owned by the SF PUC, both of which are closed to bikes. As well, The Ohlone Preserve is adjacent to the Wauhab Ridge, and is also closed to bikes. Several suggested that these were not justifiable reasons to close the land-banked area to bikes at this stage. The prohibition had little to do with the characteristics of the Wauhab Ridge fire roads, but instead dealt with access problems on surrounding lands. It was felt that this would more properly be handled by Ordinance 38. As well, it was pointed out that trail users have been informed that they would have access to land banked parcels when they become opened, and that this could happen if adequate funding is secured through a ballot measure. It was felt that this kind of restriction might jeopardize the unity of trail community that will be required to pass the measure. It was noted that cyclists had participated in the scoping sessions, but their remarks had not been included in the LUP. Dan agreed that this was so, and that their omission was an oversight. A motion was made and passed to approve the LUP, with the exception that the restriction against bikes be removed from the Wauhab Ridge land banked parcel.

Ridge Trail and Pinole Watershed

Bob Power reported that a major grant was in process for a significant section associated with Feeder Trail #1. The Pinole Water Shed Ridge Trail segment was discussed extensively. At the last EBATC meeting, a subcommittee had been formed to draft a recommendation for EBATC, which acts as the County Committees for Contra Costa and Alameda Counties. This recommendation would be forwarded to the Bay Area Ridge Trail's Trail Committee for consideration as to how to proceed in working with EBMUD. The recommendation was to work with EBMUD in partnership to open the Ridge Trail through the Pinole Watershed. EBMUD prohibits bikes. The recommendation also stipulated that any trail improvements or infrastructure funded by the Ridge Trail Council should be designed for multi-use in recognition of a future point in time when land use policies or a change in ownership might change the types of use currently allowed on the trail. The recommenda-

tion further advised EBATC to keep the sub-committee intact for on-going communication and advocacy with EBMUD's Board, and that the Ridge Trail and EBATC revisit the issue of bike access.

It was moved, seconded and passed unanimously to forward these recommendations to the Ridge Trail Council's Trail Committee.

Howard Hornig spoke of the Crystal Springs model and shared his concern that it is very limited and restrictive. Only 17 people are allowed in a group three days a week, on a ten-mile trail. He said he considers the SF water approach a poor model. Terry Noonan shared additional information suggesting that if Ridge trail can be successful at Pinole watershed, East Bay would be amenable to taking over the management of the corridor. Funding would be an issue.

Bay Trail – San Leandro Slough Bridge

Terry shared info that the City of San Leandro is taking the lead, with EBPRD as a partnering agency, to apply for Countywide Measure B transportation sales tax funds to close a gap of the SF Bay Trail at San Leandro Slough via a bridge and new trail. This would connect Oyster Bay Regional Shoreline Park and Bay Trail south to Hayward Shoreline and north to Oakland Airport and surrounding businesses, a proposed connector to Oakland Coliseum and BART, Martin Luther King Jr. Shoreline Park, etc via this non-motorized transportation and recreation corridor. A letter of support is requested from EBATC. Rich moved to support, which passed unanimously. Nov 9th is the submittal deadline and Bob will draft.

Round Robin

Michael shared treasurers report with no bills but a heads up on spring trail conference, the 20th California Trails and Greenways Conference, March 25-28, 2004 in Folsom. Check the website, www.rec-trails-conf.org for updates.

Dick mentioned Department of Water Resources holding scoping meetings on the South Bay Aqueduct enlargement. See http://sdelta.water.ca.gov/web_pg/pub_doc/psm.htm This has impact on master trail plan opportunity between Brentwood and Livermore, between Contra Costa and Alameda Counties.

Rich complemented staff on their preparation of maps for the Diablo Foothills.

Terry mentioned that on Nov 8th, there would be a dedication ceremony for the two new undercrossings of Iron Horse Trail at Willow Pass Road and Diamond Blvd in Concord. Dedication is at noon (12:00 to 1:00) next to El Torito Restaurant in the Willows Shopping Center (near REI).

Ed asked who owns the old Sacramento North-

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ern right of way close to Sibley? Scott Hill offered insight.

Bob shared several trail hikes to think about 10/25 and 11/8 and asked interested folks to contact him at the Ridge Trail offices in San Francisco. Terry shared that the plan was to have the November EBATC meeting in East Contra Costa County, at a location to be determined in Oakley. Stay tuned. Meeting was adjourned at 9:15 PM

Respectfully submitted by: Dick Quigley

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campaign to educate the voting public between now and March.

When the original dam was constructed, members of the trail community were invited to participate in the development of the recreational plan. EBATC was well represented on that committee. The plan was thought to be the implementation of the promises made to the voters when the original dam was built. We were astonished to learn that the CCWD had no intention of honoring its promises. The recreation proposed was miniscule, compared with what they had promised during the bond measure. With one short exception, multi use trails were limited to steep fire roads outside of the reservoir watershed. Water use was limited to elec-

tric boats rented by the district. It was estimated that CCWD only supplied 10% of the recreational opportunities it had promised. This was in spite of a huge outpouring of public support for recreation, including clear recommendations from CCWD's own advisory task force.

This time around, Save Mt. Diablo, the Sierra Club, Greenbelt Alliance, Save San Francisco Bay, and many others have formed a committee to oppose the expansion. Senator Nejedly is chair. Michael Kelley has joined that committee. The task is to mount an effective campaign opposing the expansion. EBATC will be considering what role we can play in the campaign.

We need your thoughts and support. We hope you can attend this meeting and weigh in on this important issue. This is a timely and critical issue and Oakley is an excellent location and forum for its discussion. We look forward to seeing you at this meeting.

In addition to Los Vaqueros, we have invited staff from the Park District, the Cities of Oakley and Brentwood to report on what has been taking place and what is planned for the future in East County. We hope these staff will consider staying for the Los Vaqueros discussion after their presentations.

Happy Trails,
Glenn Kirby and Michael Kelley

EBATC

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