



MONTHLY UPDATE

EBATC Announcements, Meeting Minutes, News: November 2006

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

East
Bay Area
Trails
Council
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2950
Peralta
Oaks
Court
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Oakland,
California
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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 woven with tangled web of trails

The trail is impossible to resist. Not this or that trail. Any trail. Hikers, cyclists, equestrians – we're all drawn to the trail as irrationally as a salmon to the stream of its spawning.

East Bay trails are impressive in their present state, from Miwok Trail's mosey through the placid grandeur of Brentwood's Round Valley to the historic marvels of Nortonville Trail at Antioch's Black Diamond Mines. We can ride horses at Morgan Territory and mountain bikes at Mt. Diablo. Recreational opportunities abound just off the trail: kayaking at Del Valle, fishing at Los Vaqueros, bird watching at Big Break in Oakley. But right now, as rich and varied as our trails are, they comprise a patchwork, not a mosaic.

East Bay Area Trails Council (EBATC) has a vision. The advocacy group imagines a day when our parks are transformed from isolated islands to an interconnected archipelago. And they're helping to make it happen by strengthening the network of public agencies, hikers, bicyclists, equestrians and conservationists committed to enhancing East County's natural treasures.

It's a tangled web. In order to realize the potential of our trail system, coordination must be achieved between a complication of entities – city, county and state governing bodies plus private landowners – that makes a NASA shuttle launch seem simple.

At a recent EBATC meeting held in the council chambers of City Hall in Brentwood, representatives from local, regional and state agencies shared information on the many current developments in East Bay's trail system, plus plots in the hatching stage. (*editor's note: see inside meeting notes for trail planning details*)...

As more people call East County home,

EBATC NOVEMBER MEETING Wednesday, November 15, 2006 7:15 to 9:15 pm

Larkspur North Room
Robert Livermore Community Ctr.
4444 East Avenue, Livermore
for directions: see back page

Agenda: November 15, 2005 Meeting

1. Call to order: 7:15 p.m.
Approval of Agenda: Action
Approval of Sept. 2006 Minutes: Action
2. Livermore Area Recreation and Park District (LARPD) Master Plan Update and Livermore Trails Planning: LARPD and EBRPD
3. Bay Area Ridge Trail Council: discuss dedication of Mt Wanda segment of Bay Area Ridge Trail-Bern Smith
4. EBRPD 2006 Trail Use Change Checklist Update-EBRPD
5. Road to trail conversions– conversation with CA State Parks and Rec.- C. Towles
6. EBATC Holiday Dinner, Dec. 13, 2006
2007 EBATC Planning Meeting-M. Kelley
7. Round Robin

untangling the web of East Bay trails will require increased resourcefulness. Organizations such as EBATC are doing their part by encouraging collaboration in the planning, funding, acquisition, development and maintenance of our trails. But the public must do its part, too – make its voice heard by getting out and using those treasured trails.

Social activism was never so pleasurable.

by **Ger Erickson**, excerpted from the Brentwood Press, see web for full article <http://www.brentwoodpress.com/article.cfm?articleID=1001#>.

Minutes for the Meeting of September 20, 2006 -

The meeting was held in Brentwood at the City Council Chambers and began at 7:30 p.m.

In Attendance:

Chris Towles BTCEB
Felix Errico Brentwood Parks and Recreation
Ken Da Silva Brentwood Parks and Recreation
Craig Mattson CA Dept. of Parks & Recreation
Jan Melloni City of Brentwood Parks Comm.
Barbara Guise Tri Delta Transit/Art Comm.sion
Ger Erickson Brentwood Press
Jamie Perkins EBRPD Staff
Jim Townsend EBRPD Staff
Al Olivera EBRPD Staff
Bern Smith Bay Area Ridge Trail Council
Joe Stadum Muir Heritage Land Trust
Marilynn Terstegge Tilden Wildcat Horsemen
Annette Rains East County Horsemens Org.
Donna C.
B. Bollinger
Jo Schliesman

1. Call to order, Welcome, and Introductions: Chris Towles called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and welcomed attendees to the semi-annual East County EBATC meeting. Attendees introduced themselves.

2. Presentations on East County Trails, Parks, and Open Space: Chris introduced Felix Errico, Brentwood Parks Planner, who gave an overview of the proposed and existing City's parks and trails designated in the 2002 Brentwood Parks, Trails and Recreation Master Plan. The Parks and Rec. Dept. actively work with their Community Development Dept. in order to address and complete trail development opportunities to be included in developers subdivision plans. In a collaborative partnership, California State Parks and the City of Brentwood Parks and Rec Dept. have launched a joint planning process to plan for the future development of John Marsh/Cowell Ranch. Working together with the community, and other agencies including EBRPD, this planning process will create a vision for the future, provide recommendations for the future of the historic John Marsh House, public recreation access, and natural resource management as well as set guidelines for implementation of a long term vision for the Park. For more info on Brentwood park and recreation resources, see <http://www.ci.brentwood.ca.us/departments/parks/parksrec.cfm>

Chris introduced CA Dept of Park and Recreation's Craig Mattson, Bay Sector, Diablo District Superintendent. His district includes Mt. Diablo, Candlestick Point, John Marsh/Cowell Ranch and Eastshore State Parks. Craig provided an overview

of the status of the John Marsh/Cowell Ranch General Plan development. Slated to be completed in 2007, the Plan will define the purpose and vision of the park. It also defines long term goals and guidelines and the broadest management framework for the unit's development, ongoing management, and public use for the historic John Marsh house and the Cowell Ranch's 4000 acres of natural habitat, wildlife and unique cultural features. The first public meeting was held in May '06 and a second public meeting will be this Fall, with a draft plan distributed in '07. At the first meeting, the public broke out into visioning session workgroups and common themes were identified as desirable: multi-use trails (internal and regional), public access, passive recreation development, endangered species protection, restoration of John Marsh Home and adobe, living interpretive center, and commemoration of the Native American influence.

In the vicinity of the proposed John Marsh/Cowell Ranch, the EBRPD 1997 Trails Master Plan map indicates several regional trails and parklands. EBRPD currently manages and operates the Marsh Creek Regional Trail, which is a paved multi-use trail which currently extends 9.2 miles from the Delta shores of Big Break in Oakley to Concord Avenue south of Creekside Park in Brentwood, adjacent to Marsh Creek. Future Marsh Creek Trail development is proposed to continue south through the new John Marsh/Cowell Ranch to link with EBRPD's Round Valley Regional Preserve, a 2,024 acre Preserve with trail access and open space.

The public is encouraged to be a part of the General Plan's development and are invited to see first hand the not-yet-open property with Craig at a series of hikes scheduled for Oct.12, Oct. 14, or Oct. 25. Hikers should meet at 9:00 a.m. at the John Marsh House gate off Marsh Creek Road. To rsvp or more info, contact Craig at (925) 673-2895 or cmat@parks.ca.gov. See http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=24322.

Jim Townsend, EBRPD Trail Development Program Manager, gave an overview of East County existing and proposed trails and parklands in the 1997 EBRPD Trails Master Plan. Existing and future extensions of the Delta De Anza, Marsh Creek and Big Break Regional Trails were discussed. The De Anza Trail will continue eastward adjacent to the East Cypress Corridor Specific Plan and its link with the Marsh Creek Trail will create a future alignment through the Cowell Ranch property to connect with Round Valley Regional Preserve. EBRPD is discussing a potential trail extension from Brentwood of the Marsh Creek to Discovery Bay Trail with the East Contra Costa County Irri-

gation District (ECCID) along the north side of the Canal right-of-way to continue to the Delta. The extension of the Marsh Creek Trail to Delta (Rock Slough) as part of the Mokelumne Coast to Crest Trail was discussed, as was the need for the new east-west Orwood Rd. bridge replacement to include bike/ped accommodation for safe passage over the Werner Dredge Cut as a part of this trail segment, which could potentially run along the Mokelumne Aqueduct right-of-way. Jim also discussed the planned Highway 4 Bypass project and the need for a bike/ped bridge crossing over the Bypass in Antioch. The Bypass Authority needs encouragement to include this facility as part of their project. Recently offered \$1.5 million dollars by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) which would pay a portion of the estimated \$4.0 million dollar bridge, they should be encouraged to accept this funding and commit to finding the additional needed funds.

Ger Erickson from the Brentwood Press inquired as to the status of trail openings across the District's recently-acquired Lentzner property. The Lentzner property is located adjacent to Black Diamond Mines and includes much of Oil Canyon. Jim responded that several additional acquisitions were needed to connect the Lentzner property to the District's Clayton Ranch land-banked parcels, which would complete a trail connection from Black Diamond to Mt. Diablo State Park.

Jamie relayed information from the County about the East Contra Costa County Bikeway Plan 2005 Update. This was developed by Transplan for the Cities of Antioch, Brentwood, Oakley, Pittsburg, and the unincorporated areas of eastern Contra Costa County (Bay Point, Bethel Island, Byron, Discovery Bay, and Knightsen). The plan recommends an updated network of bikeways, including on-road and off-road bikeways which will provide bikeway connections serving major activity centers in East County, including schools, government buildings, and major shopping and recreational areas. The plan reflects the existing bikeway and trails plans of the five member jurisdictions and EBRPD and meets Caltrans requirements for Bicycle Transportation Account (BTA) guidelines to maintain eligibility for BTA grants. In order to receive a copy of the Plan, contact John Greitzer at CCC Community Development at (925) 335-1201 or jgrei@cd.cccounty.us.

Jamie also shared info on the new California State Senate Bill 1556 introduced by State Senator Tom Torlakson entitled The Great California Delta Trail System. This legislation (recently signed by the Governor) proposes to create a Delta Trail which would connect with the San Francisco Bay Trail to

the Sacramento/San Joaquin Delta's region environment to create a continuous recreation and non-motorized corridor around the perimeter of the Delta. This bill will authorize the transportation planning agencies that allocate MTC bicycle and pedestrian funds to communities within the Delta to instead allocate these funds to the Delta Protection Commission for specified activities around the Delta. A draft alignment is in the East County Bikeway Plan Update. For more information or to learn about the stakeholder advisory group, contact Delta Protection Commission at 916-772-2290.

Bern Smith, the new Bay Area Ridge Trail staff member who replaced Bob Power, was introduced. Bern, a long-time park professional and trail advocate joined the Council in June 2006. Most recently, he was the principal of Landsmiths, managing properties for organizations such as the Peninsula Open Space Trust and Trust for Public Land. He also brings expertise gained from working with the City of San Jose Regional Parks and California Department of Parks and Recreation. Bern was a co-founder of the Trail Center, and president from 1987-1993. In addition to his AS Degree in Park Management from West Valley College, Bern is a member of the Professional Trailbuilders Association. Bern looks forward to meeting all the East Bay Area Trails Council folks and working collaboratively with the land agencies, volunteers, and neighbors to complete the proposed 500-mile Ridge Trail around the SF Bay Area. For more info, see www.ridgetrail.org.

2006 EBRPD Trail Use Change Checklist - Public Input Meeting, Sept. 27

Jamie gave a brief overview on the Trail Use Change Checklist procedure developed, in part, because of requests by the trail cycling community through EBATC to consider opening narrower EBRPD trails to full multi-use access. Currently, with few exemptions, bicycles are only permitted on wide (10-12') trails within the District. The exemptions are contained in Park District Ordinance 38. The Park District, with considerable public input, developed the procedure for staff to evaluate proposed changes on trails. The changes could include allowing bicycles, but could also involve other changes in the use of a trail. The procedure considers implications to EBRPD Land Use Plans (LUP's) and California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review. A multi-department, multi-discipline team meets in the field to evaluate each candidate trail for a number of criteria including safety, sight lines, slope, trail surface, impact on park resources and maintenance and fiscal implications. For 2006, the District reviewed two trails proposed for change to include access to bicycles: 1) an *continued on back page*

November EBATC Meeting: Learn about trails and park plans in Livermore



**WEDNESDAY,
NOVEMBER 15, 2006
7:15 TO 9:15 P.M.**

**Larkspur North Room,
Robert Livermore Community Ctr.,
4444 East Ave., Livermore**

The next EBATC meeting will be hosted by the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District (LARPD) on November 15, 2006 at the Larkspur North Room in the Robert Livermore Community Center. The address of the facility is 4444 East Avenue. Directions: Take I-580 east towards Dublin, Livermore and exit at the North Livermore Ave. exit. Proceed straight ahead for 1.8 miles and then bear left (across an intersection) onto East Ave. Proceed 1.3 miles to 4444 East Ave. and the new Robert Livermore Community Center and parking on the left side of the street.

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

Minutes: continued from inside page

most one-mile portion of the Towhee Trail just north of Marciel Road and the family campground in Anthony Chabot Regional Park and 2) just under a half-mile segment of the Pine Tree Trail paralleling the west side of Briones Road in Briones Regional Park. Both seek to allow bicyclists as an additional trail user group on narrow portions of these trails, which are now designated for hiking and equestrian use. The Public Input Meeting will be held on Wed. Sept. 27, 2006 at 6:30 p.m. at EBRPD HQ at Peralta Oaks. The meeting will focus on identifying issues and concerns related to this year's trail use change requests. The public is encouraged to attend the meeting and speak on the requests potential effects (both positive and negative) on trail user safety, compatibility, circulation, natural resources, etc. Staff will consider oral and written comments and will make formal recommendations on these proposals. Written comments can be sent to Rafael Breines at rbreines@ebparks.org or to his attention at EBRPD 2950 Peralta Oaks Ct. Oakland, CA 94605 by Friday, Sept. 29, 2006. Planner Breines can be reached at (510) 544-2325 for more information.

Minutes submitted by Jamie Perkins