



# MONTHLY UPDATE

EBATC Announcements, Meeting Minutes, News: January 2008

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

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Bay Area  
Trails  
Council  
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Peralta  
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Oakland,  
California  
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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.

## Trail Notes from Michael

It is an exciting time for East Bay trails and open spaces. During the course of the coming year, we will have many opportunities to improve our lot, if only we take advantage of them. One of the next of these will be the EBATC meeting on January 16. Several items will be discussed.

The highlight of this meeting will be a workshop facilitated by Jim Townsend. Its working title is "New Trails and Improvement of Old Trails: Opportunities and Constraints." All of us take tremendous satisfaction and inspiration in visiting our open spaces, and want the best trail experience possible. Frequently, this will mean building new trails, or making old ones better. Many folks believe there should be more multi use access to our open spaces. How do we accomplish these things? Jim will guide us through some of the opportunities and constraints involved. Permitting is always an issue, frequently requiring the complexities of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Habitat is critical, and according to some authorities, more challenging in the East Bay, than in other parts of the region. Density of trails is important, and involves different schools of thought. Some say more trails are needed, while others suggest we only need improve the ones we have. Operations are important considerations, involving volunteers, staff supervision, cost, and bootleg trails, to name just a few. As we all know, multi use access for muscle-powered users is always an issue. In addition to the trail matters, there are forces at work reflecting folks' different ways of enjoying our parks. Some want more visitor centers, others more shoreline. Some want more access, while others favor keeping people out of open spaces. The list goes on. These matters reflect the huge political forces that are always at play. Come and hear Jim Townsend guide us through these labyrinths, and provide answers to all of your questions!

Last month, we heard a superb presentation on the Concord Community Reuse Project from EBRPD's Brian Holt. Although we won't

## EBATC JANUARY MEETING Wednesday, January 16, 2008 7:15 to 9:30 pm

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

### Agenda: January 16, 2008 Meeting

1. Call to order: 7:15 p.m.  
Approval of Agenda: Action  
Approval of Nov. 2007 Minutes: Action
2. Presentation  
Trail Construction and Improvement:  
Opportunities and Constraints  
Jim Townsend
3. Reports/Updates  
Measure AA  
Ridge Trail Multi Use Gap Closures  
Vargas Plateau progress  
Ridge Trail Update
4. New Business  
EBRPD Volunteer Program for 2008  
Date for multi user trail event  
Planning for Next EBATC meeting
5. Reports from members-Round Robin

say much more about it at the coming meeting, it remains incredibly important. The minutes of the last meeting appended to this newsletter contain a brief summary of the presentation. For a more detailed outline of the project, go to <http://www.concordreuseproject.org/>, and for a more detailed EBATC summary of the matter, take a gander at last month's EBATC newsletter at <http://www.ebtrails.org/news/NewsletterNov2007.pdf>. This one's important! Keep in touch with it.

There are a lot of other trail and open space matters coming up over the next period of time. We've referred to a few of them. The *continued on inside right page*

EBATC Minutes for November 28, 2007

Michael Kelley called the meeting to order at 7:25 pm.

In attendance were:

Terry Noonan, EBRPD Staff  
Brian Holt, EBRPD Staff  
Glenn Kirby, BARTC  
Marilyn Terstege, TWHA / CSHA  
Michael Kelley, BARTC, IMBA  
Howard Hornig, Hayward Hiking Club  
Judith Etheridge, BARTC/TWHA/SRVHA  
Morris Older, BARTC, TWHA  
Judi Bank, MHA  
Bern Smith, BARTC Staff  
David Lunn, TCLAV  
Mike Sedlak, Pleasanton

The Agenda and the Minutes were approved.

### **Concord Naval Weapons Station Community Reuse Project**

Brian Holt, EBRPD Senior Planner, presented copies of maps showing the former military base property and a copy of the 7 proposed alternative concepts. EBRPD has submitted a proposal, supported by the National Park Service, for a Public Conveyance of about 3,000 acres or 59% of the property for a regional park. The Community Coalition for a Sustainable Concord has proposed leaving up to 81% of the property as undeveloped. This would include the EBRPD proposal east of the creek as well as other land that could be used for a golf course or city parks. The Trails Council will be monitoring the process and will advocate for an alternative that provides adequate parkland and trails.

### **New Business**

#### **BARTC Multi-use Gap Closure Project**

Bern Smith presented maps and a chart of trail gaps that have exclusions for one or more user groups. Some of the gaps are on dedicated trail while others are on planned future trails that could present access challenges. EBATC will form a committee to evaluate these exclusions, considering completed trail where there may be a possibility to upgrade access, possible alternative routes, or for planned trails to resolve access issues during the planning process.

#### **2008 EBRPD Multi-Use Trail Users Event Planning**

EBATC will form a committee to consider possible dates and planning for a summer event to bring all types of trail users together for a group hike and barbeque in one of the parks similar to the

Briones event held in 2007.

### **Measure AA Bond Extension Planning**

Discussion of how EBRPD might "Spend the Money". Suggestions included trails and open-space, of course, but there was also support for backpack and group campgrounds to provide opportunities for longer, multi-day treks and the completion of regional gaps in parklands and trails as well as providing more trail connections to communities.

### **Future Meeting Schedule**

Judy Etheridge volunteered to be the Secretary for future meetings. Michael Kelley agreed to chair the January 16 meeting. A motion was passed to add three EBATC meetings for 2008. In addition to the January 16, March 19, May 21, September 17 and October 15 meetings, it was suggested that we meet February 20, June 18 and October 15. We will check the availability of the EBRPD HQ Board room for meetings on those dates. There was discussion of making the meeting preparation more efficient including the possibility of not publishing newsletters for the added meetings, just an agenda.

### **Holiday Dinner**

This year, as in past years the EBATC Holiday Dinner will be held at 'Los Compadres' restaurant in Oakland. Members and guests are invited to come to our dinner celebration on December 19, 2007 at 7:15 pm.

### **EBRPD Ordinance 38 Checklist update**

Panorama Trail in Mission Peak Regional Park was recommended to the EBRPD Board of Directors by the EBRPD Park Advisory Committee (PAC) for upgrade to full multi-use access. This recommendation is expected to go to the EBRPD Board in January 2008.

### **Old Business – Reports**

#### **Vargas Plateau Land Use Plan**

EBRPD held a meeting in Fremont on Wednesday, November 14, which was our regular meeting night for EBATC. The EBATC meeting was moved up one week so that members could attend this meeting. Bern Smith and Glenn Kirby spoke in support of the Draft Land Use Plan (LUP) and the CEQA Mitigated Negative Declaration. This 1,000 acre property has been held in Land Bank status for several years. If approved by the Board of Directors, this new park could be opened to the public in a limited phase sometime in 2008. About 60 people attended the meeting, most were residents of Vargas Road or Morrison Canyon Road. They had questions about the impact of opening the park, particularly the capacity and emergency ac-

cess on the narrow roads, which do not meet current minimum standards for the City of Fremont. The Park District responded that they are working with the city to improve certain sections of the roads and would be willing to contribute a fair portion of the cost. On Monday, November 26, the EBRPD Park Advisory Committee (PAC) recommended adoption of the LUP to the Board of Directors.

### **Pinole Dedication**

About 200 people, including 15 equestrians, attended the EBMUD opening of a new section of the Bay Area Ridge Trail on the Pinole Watershed property. After the acknowledgements, speeches, and the ribbon cutting, several group hikes were offered along the lower portion of the trail and also to the top of the ridge. Some hikers and riders did the full 7-1/2 miles and returned along Alhambra Valley Road to the staging area.

Submitted by Glenn Kirby, Acting Secretary

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### **23rd California Trails and Greenway Conference at Mission Bay , San Diego , CA, May 29-31, 2008**

This conference brings together California trails professionals, advocates, volunteers, and trail users to share practical up-to-date trail management skills, provide a forum for networking, and to build support for non-motorized trail systems, locally and statewide. This year's theme is 'Building Partnerships for Trails', which emphasizes the need for innovative partnerships to finance, design, construct, and maintain recreational trails. Conference information is available at [www.parks.ca.gov/trails](http://www.parks.ca.gov/trails), including conference and lodging fees at Bahia Resort Hotel on Mission Bay , or e-mail [trails@parks.ca.gov](mailto:trails@parks.ca.gov).

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### **Course offered on The Greening of the San Francisco Bay Area**

San Francisco's most revered natural environments have provoked some of the fiercest environmental battles in the country, making the region a leader in green ideas and organizations for more than a century. From John Muir's early reflections on conservation to the mass political movement in the 1960s to recent efforts to stop toxic pollution, environmentalism is at the core of Bay Area life and politics. In this course, we will explore the history that has made the Bay Area a global center of environmentalism. Taught by Richard Walker, a professor of geography at UC Berkeley for 30 years. For more info, check the website: [www.oli.berkeley.edu](http://www.oli.berkeley.edu)

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Ridge Trail has just dedicated a significant 7+ mile stretch for horses and hikers on the Pinole Watershed. We expect to join that organization in a strong effort to close multi use gaps, and dedicate other Ridge Trail segments. Our work in support of Measure AA, which will appear on the November ballot, is getting under way. The EBRPD is currently gathering proposed projects to be funded by the measure, and at the end of January, will open these up to the public for input. There will be a lot to do in that effort. Vargas plateau will continue to require attention. During the coming year, we will be working hard on the Master Plan Map Update project, as well as Dublin Hills, a new EBRPD Park. Things will be active on Mt. Diablo. I hear Los Vaqueros may again become heated over the next year or two. In Contra Costa County, we will have to deal with an attempt to break the urban limit line in the Tassajara Valley. There will be effort needed to deal with the Pittsburg Hills Hillside Protection ordinance. I hope Feeder Trail #1 becomes a reality. And so it goes.

The bottom line is we all need to become more active. In particular, we need new folks to participate, including attending EBATC meetings. Communication among us is increasingly important. I encourage all of you to visit the EBATC website at <http://www.ebtrails.org/index.php> to see some of the things we are doing.

Here's something simple you can do. Join EBATC's Google list. Last time I looked, it only had about 50 members, and relatively little activity. It's time we increase our use of this great tool. For those of you unfamiliar with lists, they are a secure way to exchange ideas and information. Only list members can read messages and post to the list. To become a member, go to <http://groups.google.com/group/ebatc?hl=en> and follow the prompts to join.

Happy trails,

Michael Kelley

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# East Bay Area Trails Council: Membership Dues for Calendar Year 2008

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With the days beginning to lengthen, 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 2007:      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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**EBATC**  
**2950 Peralta Oaks Court, P.O. Box 5381**  
**Oakland, CA 94605-5369**