



# MONTHLY UPDATE

EBATC Announcements, Meeting Minutes, News: November 2007

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.

## Trail Notes from Michael

We have a huge agenda for our next EBATC meeting on Wednesday, November 28. There is a lot going on. One of the important matters is the Concord Community Reuse Project. The navy has closed down the Naval Weapons Station, and substantial efforts are being made to determine what to do with the land. 5000 acres of prime real estate are at stake, which will have a huge impact on the shape of East Bay open spaces. EBRPD staffer Brian Holt will give a presentation at the meeting. Several important processes will shape the final result, and public input will continue to be critical. The Navy and the City of Concord will be urged to use a Public Benefit Conveyance to give a certain portion of the land to the public. As well, Concord wants the project to be financially feasible and financially sustainable. These aspects must be considered in light of the Navy's desire to obtain Fair Market Value (FMV) for the land, which in turn, depends upon the numerous factors common to land use decisions. There will be pressures to allow development in order to pay for the project, spur redevelopment of the existing city, and to supply housing to an increasing population. Balanced against that will be a great many folks who want to maximize open space for the benefit of future generations.

There are several groups working on this. The Community Coalition for a Sustainable Concord consists of some 30 organizations, ranging from environmental and open space groups to trade unions. I don't know for sure if EBATC is part of that coalition, but our own Diane Offut has been participating. The City of Concord is also quite active. The City Council has appointed a Citizen's Advisory Committee, which has been holding hearings. That Committee reports to the City Council, whose task will be to evaluate everything, and come up with a proposed Reuse Plan. As part of this, there is a Technical Advisory Group, which also reports to the City Council. Its task is to receive input on various proposals for the use of the land. As examples, softball enthusiasts, radio controlled aircraft supporters, and frisbee park proponents are being heard.

## EBATC NOVEMBER MEETING Wednesday, November 28, 2007 7:15 to 9:30 pm

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

### Agenda: November 28, 2007 Meeting

1. Call to order: 7:15 p.m.  
Approval of Agenda: Action  
Approval of May Minutes: Action
2. Project Focus  
Concord Community Reuse Project  
Brian Holt
3. New Business  
Ridge Trail Multi Use Gap Closure Project  
2008 EBRPD Multi Use Event Planning  
Measure AA Bond Extension Priorities  
Holiday Party in December
4. Old Business  
Vargas Plateau Report  
Pinole Watershed Dedication Report
5. Reports from members/Round Robin

This would be an ideal place for EBATC members to present proposals for things like equestrian facilities, a creek side trail, mountain bike facilities, or possible trail routes.

At this point, 7 alternatives have been developed, ranging greatly in the type of development that will be permitted, as well as the amount of open space that will be left. They propose between 47% and 81% open space. Recently, the EBRPD requested that 3000 acres be given to the District under the Public Benefit Conveyance procedure, for use as a Regional Park. This would be compatible with Alternatives 6 & 7 and potentially with Alternative 5, if it is tweaked a bit. We need to *continued on back page*

## EBATC Minutes for September 19, 2007

The meeting at EBRPD Headquarters was called to order by Morris Older, at 7:25 p.m.

In attendance were:

Judy Etheridge	SRVA
Marilynn Terstegge	TWHA
Diane Offutt	CSHA
Judy Barek	MHA
Jim Townsend	EBRPD
Brent Englund	BTCEB
Howard Hornig	Hayward Hiking Club
Morris Older	TWHA, BARTC
Eryn Hughes	BTCEB
Bern Smith	BARTC

The agenda was approved with amendments. The minutes from the previous meeting were approved as presented.

### Projects

- EBRPD: Jim reported that the District is preparing to extend Measure AA, the parks funding bond, raise \$500 million over the next 20 years. Jim recommended a November meeting agenda item: establish a wish list for projects to fund
  - Staff is working on a District Master Plan update
- Brent reported on the Briones EBATC BBQ — very enjoyable event; consensus to repeat.
- Ridge Trail: Bern gave an update on Pinole Watershed trail dedication
  - Multiuse upgrade strategy presented and discussed; Brent, Judy, Morris, Eryn and Michael Kelley (by previous request) offered to serve on a subcommittee to pursue the strategy. Bern will devise a digital map of the East Bay dedicated trail segments with multiuse gaps
  - Discussion of Hwy 4 crossing and Crockett streets trail route in north Contra Costa
  - Jim noted 3 possible Ridge Trail connectors in the Hayward region

### New business

- Jim reported that there is a vacancy on the California Recreational Trails Committee and that he has been asked to serve. Sen. Torlakson has stated his support; Jim asked for EBATC support. Judy moved to offer EBATC support; 2<sup>nd</sup> Bern. Approved unanimously.

- Morris presented a proposed 'horse information' sign posting for EBRPD trailheads. Jim offered to present to EBRPD parkland operations staff meeting. EBATC approved, and additionally supported a suggestion to post the text info to the EBATC e-mail list.
- There was some general discussion regarding future projects

### General updates

- EBRPD Trail use checklist update - Jim
  - Pine Tree Trail (Briones RP) Though staff recommended upgrade to full MU, the board declined approval, following lots of negative public comment.
  - Stream Trail (Redwood RP) Staff declined recommendation to approve upgrade
  - Panoramic Trail (Mission Peak RP) Staff recommends upgrade; board has not acted yet

Jim said there is some internal discussion regarding the process; for now, the trail community should plan to bring new proposals to the January EBATC meeting.

- National Public Lands Day, September 29 – Morris, Jim
  - Dedication of Tina Batt Trail @ Sky Ranch
  - Ivan Dixon workday: Briones to Mt Diablo
  - Ridge Trail workday at Skyline OSP (MROSD)

### Naval Weapons Station (Concord)

The locals are pushing for 80% open space set aside

Bern is looking for multiuse trail success stories

Morris announced a VOCal project October 6/7 at Joaquin Miller RP

Howard announced Hayward Hikers 40<sup>th</sup> birthday next year.

EBATC assigned Glenn Kirby and Michael Kelley as chair & secretary for the November meeting.

Acting Secretary, *Bern Smith*

## **Ivan Dickson Volunteer Trail Maintenance Projects**

EBRPD sends along field notes of the last two trail maintenance projects. EBRPD staff will be planning the 2008 projects with Park Supervisors over the winter. For future trail maintenance and other volunteer projects, keep an eye on [www.ebparks.org](http://www.ebparks.org), Get Involved, Volunteer.

On Saturday, September 29, 33 Ivan Dickson Program volunteers contributed 132 volunteer hours on a multi-faceted project to improve the Briones to Mt. Diablo Regional Trail which had received extensive storm damage.

Volunteers worked alongside the Contra Costa County Trails Unit and the Alternative Work Program of Contra Costa County, who had done extensive preparation work, to transport and install materials, including ten tons of drain rock and 200 feet of drain board, drain pipe, retaining wall, and two-rail wood fence, which they then painted. Additional projects included the installation of 300 feet of erosion control fabric on the steep hillside below the fence, the removal of 150 feet of hog wire fence, and its replacement with upgraded hog wire and braces. In addition, 20 yards of vegetation was pruned back and transported to green waste to improve access and visibility on the trail.

Board Member Beverly Lane welcomed the volunteers and worked alongside the crews. This project commemorated National Public Lands Day and the 100th Ivan Dickson volunteer trail maintenance project.

On Saturday, October 13, 40 Ivan Dickson Program volunteers contributed 160 volunteer hours at Lake Chabot Regional Park with Hands on Bay Area, a non-profit community on-line volunteer group, as part of "Hands on Bay Area Day", one of the single largest days of volunteer projects in the Bay Area. See [www.handsonbayarea.org](http://www.handsonbayarea.org) for more information.

Volunteers worked alongside Lake Chabot staff to obliterate a steep bootleg trail prone to erosion which had become a 'shortcut' for park users to and from the lake from upper ridgelines. Other projects included addition of erosion controls with jute netting and grass seed for soil stabilization. In order to provide an alternative trail alignment, volunteers also assisted in building 1/3 of new trail and a rock retaining wall which will provide the desired trail connection.



**Ivan Dickson, 1893-1993**

What a difference one person can make!

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*Trail Notes: continued from front page*

support the District in this. Each alternative will require environmental review under CEQA, so there will be plenty of opportunities for public comment.

This presents a great opportunity for the City of Concord to prepare for the future. We do need development, but perhaps more importantly, we have a great opportunity to preserve as much open space as possible. When it's gone, it's gone. Come to the meeting to learn about the issues, and find out what you can do to help. Go to

<http://www.concordreuseproject.org/> to learn about the project and the alternatives being proposed.

The Bay Area Ridge Trail is undertaking a great new project to close multi use gaps in the trail. As you know, not every trail dedicated allows all users. In our 2 counties, there are 5.9 miles of dedicated Ridge Trail that are closed to horses, and 21.7 miles that prohibit bikes. The new Ridge Trail strategy has several components. It proposes to identify a few existing multi-use gaps as priorities to close in the next couple of years. These should have

a relatively high likelihood of success. As well it seeks to identify a few existing multi-use gaps that seem highly unlikely to close in the foreseeable future, and where there's a reasonable chance that a desirable alternative can be found. Finally, it proposes to consider a route being planned, where a gap is anticipated for one or more user group, and highlight at least one where the Ridge Trail will concentrate on finding a viable alternative. At the last meeting, EBATC appointed a sub-committee to look into this. At minimum, we will hear a report on the existing gaps.

I look forward to discussing these matters and many more at the EBATC meeting. See you there.

Happy trails,

Michael Kelley

**EBATC**  
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