

M E M O

Date: November 3, 2008

To: ABAG Executive Board

From: Laura Thompson
Bay Trail Project Manager

Subject: **Resolution Supporting the San Francisco Bay Trail
and the Bay Area Ridge Trail**

Overview

The Bay Area is fortunate to have two complementary long-distance trails: the San Francisco Bay Trail and the Bay Area Ridge Trail. Both trails will ultimately stretch over 500 miles and both can boast about 300 miles of dedicated trail. This year and next, the Ridge Trail and the Bay Trail are celebrating the 20th anniversary of their founding and are eager to engage a new generation of trail enthusiasts. The two organizations have distinctly different organizational structures but share a similar vision. Both have achieved success through a dedicated, persistent effort by public, private and nonprofit partners.

The Bay Trail and the Ridge Trail boards have adopted a joint proclamation supporting the uniqueness and many benefits of these two regional trails. It also celebrates how far the region has come and the commitment to completion.

Proposal

ABAG/Bay Trail Project staff requests Executive Board adoption of a resolution supporting the San Francisco Bay Trail and the Bay Area Ridge Trail joint proclamation. This joint declaration celebrates the benefits and the vision of these two legacy trails. ABAG support for this resolution will send a message that the public agencies of the region are united behind the visions of these two regional trails.

A draft resolution pledging renewed support for completion of these two legacy trails is provided for ABAG's consideration.

**ASSOCIATION OF BAY AREA GOVERNMENTS
EXECUTIVE BOARD**

RESOLUTION NO. 08-08

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING A JOINT PROCLAMATION FOR THE
SAN FRANCISCO BAY TRAIL AND THE BAY AREA RIDGE TRAIL**

WHEREAS, the San Francisco Bay Area is a special place to live, in part, because of the close proximity of cities to magnificent open spaces, water and hills; and

WHEREAS, the region is defined by the relationship of land and water. The San Francisco Bay is central in our shared experience and identity, as well as our geography. We are inspired by its spectacular beauty, viewed both from its shore and ridgelines; and

WHEREAS, the Bay Area is also blessed by the unique bounty of hosting not one but two significant and complementary long distance regional trails: The San Francisco Bay Trail hugs the shoreline and the Bay Area Ridge Trail runs along the ridgelines overlooking the Bay; and

WHEREAS, the two trails form large concentric ovals, converging at key junctures and connector trails create "spokes" between the two trails, and also extend outward, linking to the ocean on the west and the Bay delta on the east; and

WHEREAS, the Bay and Ridge Trails have distinctly different administering entities and organizational structures, they share remarkably similar missions and characteristics. Both trails:

- cross all nine counties and will ultimately reach over 500 miles
- have or will soon celebrate 300 miles of permanently-protected, dedicated trail
- are celebrating their respective 20th anniversaries
- are enjoyed by hikers, runners, cyclists, equestrians, and people of all ages, abilities, and incomes; and

WHEREAS, trails provide demonstrated synergistic benefits to individuals and communities, including health and fitness, active transportation, economic development and environmental stewardship. Trails:

- connect people and communities to each other, to parks and open space, to home, work and recreation, and to countless areas of cultural and historic interest
- provide opportunities for solitude and passive and active recreation, including promoting fitness through healthy exercise
- increase transportation options and reduce auto travel

**ASSOCIATION OF BAY AREA GOVERNMENTS
RESOLUTION NO. 08-08**

- offer untold opportunities to observe, learn about, and care for the environment
- offer economic benefits such as increased tourism and increased property values; and

WHEREAS, the San Francisco Bay Trail and the Bay Area Ridge Trail are outstanding national models demonstrating what can be achieved through regional cooperation and public-private partnership. Both projects benefit from the combined efforts of local governments, public agencies, park and open space districts, private landowners, businesses, and environmental, recreational, and development interests and organizations; and

WHEREAS, trail links between the Bay, Ridge, and other trails increase overall use and utility and help build support, the Bay and Ridge Trail Projects will work together with local governments and other stakeholders to coordinate connector trails to improve recreational access and non-polluting transportation; and

WHEREAS, the priority for both projects remains to complete their respective spine (Bay Trail) and primary (Ridge Trail) alignments; and

WHEREAS, the Association of Bay Area Government's San Francisco Bay Trail Project and the Bay Area Ridge Trail Council have played vital roles as the entities responsible for implementing these two regional trails; and

WHEREAS, the vision and foresight of those who established these two trails 20 years ago is recognized as well as the sustained effort of so many, leading to the significant accomplishment of 300 miles of dedicated trail for each project, now enjoyed by millions of Bay Area residents and visitors from around the world.

**ASSOCIATION OF BAY AREA GOVERNMENTS
RESOLUTION NO. 08-08**

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Executive Board of the Association of Bay Area Governments pledges support to speed completion and achieve the vision of these legacy trails within a generation. So as today's toddlers take their first tentative steps, perhaps on a close-to-home section of Bay or Ridge Trail, we commit to make it possible for them to celebrate their 21st birthday with a long-distance trek around the full length of these special regional trails.

The foregoing adopted by the Executive Board this 20th day of November, 2008.

Rose Jacobs Gibson
President

Certification of Executive Board Approval

I, the undersigned, the appointed and qualified Secretary-Treasurer of the Association of Bay Area Governments (Association), do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the Executive Board of the Association at a duly called meeting held on the 20th day of November, 2008.

Henry L. Gardner
Secretary-Treasurer

Approved as To Legal Form

Kenneth K. Moy
Legal Counsel