



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY TRAIL PROJECT, A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION ADMINISTERED BY THE ASSOCIATION OF BAY AREA GOVERNMENTS

Baywide Restoration Offers Improved Habitat and New Access

The Bay Trail Board of Directors' June meeting, held at the Lucy Evans Baylands Nature Interpretive Center in Palo Alto, featured a panel discussion on Bayland restoration and public access. The panel consisted of experts from local, state, and federal agencies and corporations, including **Lori Johnson** from Cargill Salt, **Marge Kolar** from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, **Joe LaClair** from the Bay Development and Conservation Commission (BCDC), **Mike Sellors** from the National Audubon Society's San Francisco Bay Restoration Program, and **Carl Wilcox** from the California Department of Fish and Game.

The meeting topic was sparked by recent negotiations between Cargill Salt, the nation's largest marketer of salt products, and state and federal officials over the potential sale of 16,500 acres of Cargill's San Francisco Bay salt ponds. The salt evaporation ponds would be restored to wetlands, becoming the largest wetland restoration project ever outside the Florida Everglades. While negotiations are still in process, the restoration would substantially augment existing open space in and around San Francisco Bay, possibly adding acres of wetland habitat to the existing Don Edwards National Wildlife Refuge. The sale and restoration of Cargill



Meeting participants enjoy views of a preserved tidal salt marsh along the boardwalk trail.



Panelists gather in front of the interpretive center. **Back row (left to right):** Rick Parmer (Bay Trail Board Chair), Mike Sellors; **front row (left to right):** Carl Wilcox, Marge Kolar, Lori Johnson, Joe LaClair.

ponds may also open up opportunities to complete some long-standing gaps in the Bay Trail alignment on levees.

At the board meeting, discussion ranged from the science of wetland restoration to the particulars of negotiating the Cargill salt pond sale. Board members and panelists agreed that public access trails will be an important part of this and other wetland restoration projects. Department of Fish and Game's Carl Wilcox summed it up eloquently by describing the potential of large-scale Bayland restoration to shift the dynamic from bitter disputes over remnant scraps of land to coordinated restoration planning, where both wildlife habitat and public access values can be maximized.

Following up on the theme, Bay Trail staff testified in June at a California State Senate hearing of the Select Committee on Baylands Restoration in Sacramento. Bay Trail Planner **David Lipsetz** carried the message that public access to the shoreline connects residents with the Bay, and helps to garner ongoing support for spending significant public funds on wetland restoration.

NEW BAY TRAIL GRANTS

Four exciting new Bay Trail grants were recently authorized by the State Coastal Conservancy:

City of Martinez - Martinez Regional Shoreline (\$60,000)

Martinez is conducting a planning study as the first phase of a larger project to construct a continuous Bay Trail along the City's shoreline. The study will identify a feasible alignment, including railroad crossings, for the section between Carquinez Scenic Drive to the west and Berrellessa Avenue downtown. The larger project, which the Bay Trail intends to help fund, will continue east to the Benicia/Martinez Bridge.



City of Larkspur - Corte Madera Creek Crossing Study (\$60,000)

Larkspur will conduct a feasibility study evaluating alternative routes for a 1-mile stretch of the Bay Trail between the end of the pathway in Corte Madera and the pedestrian/bicycle pathway along East Sir Francis Drake Boulevard. The study will address possible improvements to the existing Bay Trail alignment, which currently requires bicyclists and pedestrians to cross over and under Highway 101 in a circuitous manner.



City of Palo Alto - East Palo Alto Bay Trail (\$70,000)

The City of Palo Alto will construct and improve 1 mile of Bay Trail along the edge of the Faber-Laumeister Marsh in East Palo Alto, connecting the existing Bay Trail in Palo Alto Baylands with an area near the Ravenswood Open Space Preserve. Trail construction will involve widening and paving the existing trail corridor.



Paden Parent Teacher Association - Paden School (\$18,000)

A Bay Trail grant was recently authorized for planning and design of a possible new 750-foot spur trail around Paden Elementary School in Alameda, connecting to the planned Bay Trail spine on Central Avenue. The proposed trail is envisioned as a way to open up and link the school grounds to the Bay, and also to facilitate hands-on environmental educational opportunities.



Photo by Julio Martinez

BAY TRAIL IN UPCOMING BAY NATURE MAGAZINE

Look for the BAY TRAIL in the upcoming (fall) edition of *Bay Nature Magazine*.



The spread will feature a regional map of the Bay Trail and highlight five completed Bay Trail routes. Accompanying photos and descriptions of the routes will give readers a feel for the local character and nature, hopefully enticing new exploration of the Bay Trail.

CHANGES ON BAY TRAIL BOARD

The Bay Trail Board recently voted in two new Directors, **Dan Hodapp** and **Ron Schafer**. Hodapp brings to the Board a wealth of experience as a planner, urban designer, and landscape architect for the Port of San Francisco. His knowledge of waterfront and open space planning will be a valuable addition to the Board. Schafer is District Superintendent for the Bay Area District of California State Parks. His district includes two parks within Bay Trail alignment – Candlestick Point State Recreation Area and the planned Eastshore State Park. He has extensive experience in trail planning and design.

Bay Trail Board and Staff would also like to offer a heartfelt thank-you and farewell to departing Directors **Carol Nelson**, California State Parks, and **Carol Bach**, Port of San Francisco. Bach served on the Bay Trail board for three years, beginning in September 1999, and Nelson served for over two years, beginning on January 2000.

LONG-AWAITED CHANGES TRANSFORMING EAST BAY SHORELINE

Years of patient, persistent effort invested by advocates of East Bay shoreline open space and access are beginning to pay rich dividends. Piece by piece, the Bay Trail is coming together, as are plans for a new sparkling Eastshore State Park. Although the pace of trail construction in this area has been painfully slow, recent activity lends momentum to the tantalizing prospect of a continuous Bay Trail along the East Bay shoreline.



The triumphant opening of the Bay Area's newest bridge.

Most visible among these shoreline enhancements is the elegant new pedestrian and bicycle bridge at University Avenue in Berkeley. The \$6.4 million "basket-handle" steel arch bridge was designed by OPAC Consulting Engineers with assistance from UC Berkeley professor emeritus T. Y. Lin. It connects areas east of I-80, such as the trendy 4th street shops and the popular Aquatic Park, to the Berkeley Marina and the planned Eastshore State Park.

The pedestrian and bicycle bridge will also connect to new Bay Trail segments currently under construction along West Frontage Road. The new paved and landscaped trail will fill a gap between Point Emery and Virginia Street, along one of the Bay Area's most popular shoreline recreation areas. With the completion these segments, the only remaining gap in the Bay Trail spine between Emeryville and Richmond will be at the privately-owned Golden Gate Fields, where a proposal for a mixed development including hotels, restaurants, and a conference facility is currently undergoing environmental review.

Another vital access transformation underway along the East Bay shoreline is the pathway construction on the new east span of the Bay Bridge. The inclusion of the Bay Trail can be credited in part to the tireless efforts of bicycle and pedestrian advocates, who have been lobbying for access on the Bay Bridge for years. The Bay Trail will be incorporated as a 15.5-foot wide pedestrian and bicycle pathway positioned above the automobile deck to shield trail users from traffic noise and exhaust. Construction of the east span kicked off in January of this

NAPA OPENS NEW BAY TRAIL - RIDGE TRAIL CONNECTOR

Bikers, hikers, and even a few horse riders gathered in Napa's Kennedy Park for the June 15th dedication of a Bay Trail connector, the **River to**



A biker stops to enjoy the view along the new River to Ridge trail.

Ridge Trail. Morning coffee and a short ceremony were followed by an exciting excursion from Kennedy Park on the Bay Trail up to Skyline Park on the Ridge Trail. Over 25 people pedaled, galloped, and walked the 2.5 miles of new trail. The trail serves as an important North Bay connection between the Bay Trail in Kennedy Park along the Napa River and the Ridge Trail in Skyline Park.

The event was sponsored by the Bay Area Ridge Trail and the City and County of Napa. Speakers included **Jill Techel**, Vice Mayor of Napa, **Bill Dodd**, Chair of the Napa County Board of Supervisors, **Bill Long**, Bay Trail Director and Ridge Trail Council Chair, and our own Bay Trail Planner **Laura Thompson**. Thompson noted that, "this was a great opportunity to work with our friends at the Ridge Trail Council, and Napa has built a great new connector trail."

year, and is expected to be complete in five years. Meanwhile, trail enthusiasts continue to advocate for the extension of the Bay Trail along the west span of the Bay Bridge.

The new east span pathway will connect pedestrians and cyclists from Yerba Buena and Treasure Islands to what will become the State's newest park. The Eastshore State Park is planned to stretch along the East Bay shoreline for 8.5 miles, from the Bay Bridge north to Marina Bay in Richmond. Though much of the Bay Trail is already complete through the future Eastshore State Park, plans highlight the role of a continuous Bay Trail that will serve as a linear corridor, linking together the park's various types of open space. Park planners seek to provide exceptional recreational opportunities while preserving existing natural and cultural resources.

Finally, plans for trail enhancements within the Berkeley Marina will supplement the aforementioned improvements by establishing safe connections between the Berkeley Marina and the Bay Trail spine. The City of Berkeley is using a Bay Trail

Continued on Page 4.

SAN RAFAEL'S SHORELINE PARK NEAR COMPLETION

A new Bay Trail segment in **San Rafael Shoreline Park** was completed just in time for dedication at the "Celebrate the Bay" Earth Day event in April of this year. The new 1,000-foot, paved "Shoreline Green" segment was funded in part by a \$140,000 Bay Trail grant. It connects to another recently completed Bay Trail segment that extends along the Marin Municipal Water District pond.

The Marin Conservation League (MCL) sponsored the dedication ceremony in San Rafael Shoreline Park. The event featured an interpretive walk led by local naturalist **Jean Starkweather**, hands-on restoration work with the Marin Conservation Corps and the Bay Institute, live music by Bluegrass Contraption, and opening remarks by **Mayor Al Boro**.

The trail project was a collaborative effort between the Marin Community Foundation, MCL, the City of San Rafael, the Marin Conservation Corps, the California Conservation Corps, and the San Francisco Bay Trail. Grant funds were used to develop a paved pedestrian and bicycle path, jogging path, and landscaped park.

Only two trail gaps remain in Shoreline Park. The City recently received a Bay Trail grant to construct the 1/4-mile "South Pond" segment, and it works to complete the final gap.

For more information about the Bay Trail through Shoreline Park, contact Bay Trail Planner Laura Thompson at 510/464-7909 or LauraT@abag.ca.gov.

Long-awaited Changes Transforming East Bay Shoreline (Continued from Page 3):

planning grant to design a class I path along the south side of University Avenue and a promenade along Seawall Drive at the Berkeley waterfront. This much-needed Bay Trail spur will complete the linkage of the Berkeley Marina with the Eastshore State Park and the I-80 pedestrian Bridge.

These new and forthcoming changes will soon transform the East Bay shoreline into a world-class recreational destination that highlights and celebrates the Bay. A complete Bay Trail will provide outstanding alternative transportation and waterfront recreation opportunities, as well as an exceptional setting for viewing wildlife and the scenic urban skyline.

For more information about the Eastshore State Park, visit the Information Site at <http://www.eastshorestatepark.com>.



Top: Speakers at the Earth Day dedication ceremony, from right to left: Tom Hinman, former Executive Director of the Marin Conservation League at podium, San Rafael Mayor Al Boro, Tom Peters, President/CEO of the Marin Community Foundation, and Bay Trail Planner Laura Thompson. **Bottom:** Recently constructed trail adjacent to the Marin Municipal Water District pond.

BAY TRAIL ADDS NEW PLANNER



Welcome to **David Lipsetz**, the Bay Trail Project's newest staff member. David brings extensive policy and research experience to our team. Most recently, he worked on a Fulbright Fellowship at the Institute for Ecological and Regional Development in Dresden, Germany. Prior to that, he spent five years in Washington, D.C. as a Legislative Assistant in the U.S. House of Representatives. He holds Masters degrees in both City Planning and Sociology. David will focus on extending the Bay Trail Project's outreach, interagency coordination, and legislative agenda.

David is the contact for Alameda and Contra Costa counties, and can be reached at 510/464-7915 or at DavidL@abag.ca.gov.

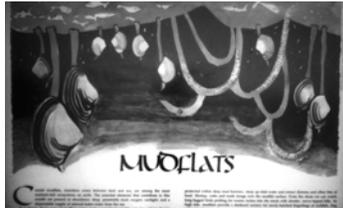
Along The Bay Trail

NAPA

On July 3rd, the American Canyon City Council adopted the **Wetlands Edge Bay Trail Concept Plan** and endorsed the preferred new alignment along the western edge of the city. The plan was funded through a \$15,000 Bay Trail grant to develop a new alignment to take the Bay Trail off of busy Highway 29.

SONOMA

A segment of the proposed **Petaluma River Trail** (a Bay Trail connector) was recently completed in Petaluma's Shollenberger Park. The 2-mile circular trail extends around a protected wetland and along the river's edge. Maps are available at the trailhead for a self-guided tour that follows artistic interpretive signs describing the wetland restoration and history of the area. A one-mile trail connection north to the marina is planned for later this year.



Artistic interpretive sign along the new trail segment.

SAN FRANCISCO

Working with a \$92,000 Bay Trail grant, consultants to the **Golden Gate National Recreation Area** have developed three preliminary alternative alignments for the Bay Trail through the Presidio, connecting Crissy Field to the Golden Gate Bridge. The alignment options are currently being refined, and local interest groups will have an opportunity to comment on the preferred alignment this fall. The study seeks to improve the safety and clarity of bicycle and pedestrian experience in the Presidio.

SAN MATEO

A new **bicycle/pedestrian bridge over Colma Creek** in South San Francisco was installed in late June. The new bridge closes a Bay Trail gap in South San Francisco by connecting an area near the San Francisco International Airport to the existing Bay Trail leading to the north, and ultimately to local destinations such as Oyster Point and Sierra Point.



The new Colma Creek Bridge.

photo by Brad McCrea

ALAMEDA

Planning and environmental review are underway for the championship level, municipal **Alameda Point Golf Links**. The project will include a new Bay Trail alignment that rings the site and connects to a proposed hotel. The trail will also offer seasonal access to the planned wildlife refuge to the south. Bay Trail staff has been coordinating with the project designers, staff from the City, East Bay Regional Park District, Bay Conservation and Development Commission, and local advocates on the trail location and design.

Using a \$60,000 Bay Trail planning grant, San Leandro recently completed a preliminary geotechnical report and conceptual design for a **pedestrian/ bicycle bridge across the San Leandro Slough**. The bridge would connect the existing path at Oyster Bay Regional Shoreline Park to the path being developed to the north, along the Galbraith golf course. Recommended bridge design features include a 340-foot bridge span, trestle construction, and a poured-in-place concrete deck.

SANTA CLARA

On Tuesday, June 25th, The San Jose City Council adopted the **Bay Trail Master Plan**, the result of a thorough planning process to gain consensus and identify next steps for a Bay Trail alignment along the San Jose shoreline. The 13.3-mile spine segment will extend through historic downtown Alviso and continue eastward to Coyote Creek. Completion of the plan and the accompanying environmental review gives the City a competitive edge when applying for grants to fund the trail segments.

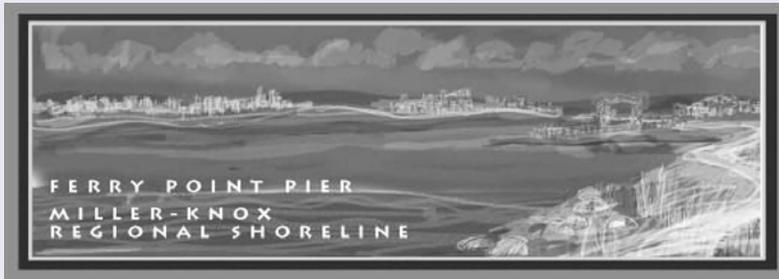
ABAG and Bay Trail Staff recently filmed a 3-minute segment for local cable access television. The **Community Journal** program featured Bay Trail Project Manager **Janet**

McBride, ABAG Principal Planner **Alex Amoroso**, and Palo Alto Superintendent of Open Space and Sciences, **Greg Betts**. The three discussed various efforts to complete the Bay Trail through Palo Alto and East Palo Alto, including two recently funded Bay Trail grants.



Greg Betts discusses the Bay Trail with ABAG Principal Planner Alex Amoroso.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR...



For the Richmond Point to Pier Trailhop September 14th, 10:00am to 1:00pm

The Bay Trail Project joins the East Bay Regional Park District, Coastal Conservancy, City of Richmond, AC Transit, Trails for Richmond Action Committee, and the National Park Service in sponsoring the **"Richmond Point to Pier Dedication and Trailhop"** on Saturday, September 14th. Ceremonies will be held from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm at Miller-Knox Regional Shoreline. The event will celebrate the advancing completion of Bay Trail along the south shore of Richmond, the official opening of the Ferry Point Pier in Miller-Knox Regional Shoreline, and the new National Historical Park along the shoreline.

Congressman George Miller, Senator Liz Figueroa, Assemblywoman Dion Aroner, Supervisor John Gioia, Mayor Irma Anderson and other elected officials will participate in the celebration. The dedication ceremony will be followed by guided bus tours and self-guided walking and bicycle tours of points of interest along Richmond's southern shoreline. For more information call Bay Trail Planner Laura Thompson at 510/464-7909.

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YOU CAN NOW ACCESS THE BAY TRAIL WEBSITE VIA WWW.BAYTRAIL.ORG.

THANKS to the following for their generous contributions to the Bay Trail Project:

Jerry L. Barker, Bonnie and Bill Bliss, John Dennis, Kristin Y. Hill, Janet C. Griffiths, Ron and Jill Keimach, Shanna S. O'Hare, Barry N. Pearl, P.G. & E, Keith Slibsager, Revan F. Tranter, Valero Refining Company, Watson Wyatt Worldwide

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