



The newsletter of the San Francisco Bay Trail Project

Administered by the Association of Bay Area Governments

State Awards \$2.5M to Extend the Bay Trail

Governor Gray Davis set off early fireworks with an on-time budget and \$2.5 million for a new round of Bay Trail extension grants! Bay Trail supporters are thrilled with the Governor's generous endorsement, which is the largest single state appropriation to the Bay Trail and will be the third grant round offered under the Regional Development Program. Funds are earmarked in the California Coastal Conservancy budget, to be administered by ABAG.

This innovative program offers state funds on a competitive basis to local jurisdictions and districts to build priority Bay Trail segments. California Conservation Corps and local corps members are employed to build, landscape and maintain the trail wherever possible. Prior appropriations include \$200,000 in 1996/7 and \$1 million in 1997/8; last year Governor Wilson eliminated a legislative appropriation. The program emphasizes maximum new trail miles, closing gaps, strong local match and creative public, private and community partnerships. A call for projects is expected in early October. It is not too early to begin thinking about and talking to potential local sponsors for segments you'd like to see completed!

We owe huge thanks, first and foremost, to Senator Liz Figueroa, who enthusiastically assumed the reins of chief legislative sponsor of the Bay Trail from former Senator Bill Lockyer. Senator Figueroa was a particularly effective champion for new funding, but success also depended on broad support from nearly the entire Bay Area legislative delegation, including key committee leaders Senators Byron Sher and John Burton, and Assembly Members Carole Migden and Tom Torlakson. Assembly Member Ellen Corbett served as lead legislative sponsor in the Assembly. Thanks also to the many helpful legislative staff, especially Aaron Carruthers, and to individuals, cities, counties, districts and organizations and other supporters who wrote letters to legislators and the Governor. You made it possible!

Check the Bay Trail website (<http://baytrail.abag.ca.gov>) in early October for details on the grant process, or contact Janet McBride, project manager, at 510/464.7935.



Sunnyvale Councilwoman Julia Miller and Mayor Manuel Valerio performed the ribbon cutting at the Bay Trail dedication ceremony.

Bay Trail Dedication at Sunnyvale Baylands

It was a warm, sunny day for the July 1 dedication of the newest Bay Trail section, at Sunnyvale Baylands Park. Attendees were treated to an optional guided tour and a barbecue lunch following the ribbon-cutting. Sunnyvale Parks Director Robert Walker served as emcee at the well-attended event; other speakers included Mayor Manuel Valerio; Councilwoman and Bay Trail board member Julia Miller; Bay Trail board member Del Woods; Jeff Barbosa from state Senator Liz Figueroa's office; and Bob Wilkins of the California Conservation Corps (CCC).

Councilmember Miller emphasized the importance of parks and open space in providing residents with a quiet place for recreation, and recalled her campaign pledge to complete the Bay Trail through Sunnyvale. Bob Wilkins spoke of the hard work of CCC

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CCC crew members and supervisors strike a pose at the Sunnyvale Baylands dedication ceremony; CCC members removed vegetation and installed signs.

Sunnyvale Dedication (continued from page 1)

crew members who removed non-native vegetation and installed signs (and who will also maintain the trail in coming years).

A \$69,700 grant from the first round of the Bay Trail Project's Regional Development Program provided a portion of the project funding. The remainder of the funding came from the City of Sunnyvale and the Bay Area Air Quality Management District's Transportation Fund for Clean Air (administered by the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority).

The new 2.75-mile trail segment skirts salt evaporation ponds and runs along levees between Calabazas Creek and West Channel. An agreement with the Santa Clara Valley Water District provides for development, maintenance and public access to

the levees. Cargill Salt was recognized for dedicating a small but critical segment. The trail will remain unpaved to accommodate the active use and maintenance of the levees, as well as to reduce disturbance to existing wildlife habitat. Newly created trails east of the path connect to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's environmental education center.

Special thanks go to Sunnyvale staff Jenny Shain, assistant to the Parks Director, and to Julie Oliver, Park Supervisor, for their efforts on the trail development and in organizing such a successful event. The new trail section can be reached from Baylands Park, just north of the Lawrence Expressway and Highway 237 interchange. For more information on the project, call Julie Oliver at 408/730.7311.



View of a creek crossing for bicyclists and pedestrians installed as part of the new Bay Trail extension in Sunnyvale Baylands Park.

NEW BAY TRAIL SEGMENTS FUNDED

In June, the State Coastal Conservancy awarded \$480,000 in grants to eight cities for improvements to the Bay Trail. The projects, described below, were reviewed by a panel of Conservancy and Bay Trail Project staff. The program favored projects that filled gaps in the Bay Trail, had evidence of local support, contributed matching funds and would employ California Conservation Corps members. The eight project sponsors will provide nearly \$3.2 million in matching funds.

Alameda (city), to construct a 400-foot trail along the northern waterfront, near Marina Village (\$41,700).

Benicia, to extend trail segments at Matthew Turner Park and at the Benicia Marina, and improve public access at the foot of E Street (\$50,000).

Martinez, to develop a study for a mile-long segment of the Bay Trail through Martinez Regional Shoreline Park and plans for a bicycle and pedestrian bridge into the park over railroad tracks (\$80,000).

Novato, to identify an alignment for the Bay Trail through Hamilton Field, a distance of 3 miles, from Bel Marin Keys to San Rafael (\$53,300).

Palo Alto, to construct a half mile of Bay Trail between the Duck Pond and Byxbee Park (\$50,000).

Redwood City, to construct 1,600 feet of trail atop the Steinberger Slough levee, immediately north of San Carlos Airport (\$90,000).

San Francisco, to develop a 1.25-mile route for the Bay Trail through Hunters Point Naval Shipyard, serving as an interim alignment until the soil along the waterfront can be cleaned up (\$100,000).

Sausalito, to survey and appraise two waterfront properties adjacent to Dunphy Park, which might be acquired to expand the park and extend the Bay Trail (\$15,000).

For more information about the above projects, contact Joan Cardellino of the Coastal Conservancy at 510/286.1015.

Field Research Begins on Wildlife Study

by Ceil Scandone

In response to concerns about the potential impacts of recreational trails on wildlife, the Bay Trail Project has launched its Wildlife and Public Access Study. The purpose of the study is to assess the effects trail users might have on the diversity, abundance and immediate behavior of shorebirds at three locations in San Francisco Bay. Data collected in three study areas with public trails will be compared with data from nearby sites without public trails. The yearlong field-observation phase of the study got underway on July 1; principal investigators Lynne Trulio, Ph.D., and Jana Sokale will guide three teams of observers as they collect data at paired sites in Marin, San Mateo and Santa Clara counties.

During the past few months, Lynne refined and standardized the study methodology with statisticians from the state's Department of Fish and Game and San Jose State University, and consulted with the Point Reyes Bird Observatory to ensure that data are collected in the most environmentally sensitive way. (The three experts praised the methodology and offered assistance as the study proceeds.) Next, field supervisors and observers were hired, trained and outfitted, and teams were formed. Supervisors Debra Chromczak, Ingrid Harrald and Lisa Hug have strong academic backgrounds in science and environmental studies, and professional experience with resource management and parks agencies. The observers include Victoria Baker, Michelle Boone, Allison Busch, Kelly Davidson, Anthony Fisher, Hazel Gibson, Elaine Hards, Mark Homrighausen, Esperanza Licad, Bob Long, David Luther, Barbara Maximovich, Carrie McCracken, Roni Rogers, Nicole Salgado, Jan Talbert, Amy Uppgren, and Pete Zavattero. The observers have in common a keen interest in birds and other wildlife, and a desire to be part of this groundbreaking study. We are delighted with the skills, enthusiasm and commitment of all the study participants.

Thanks for facilitating study preparations go to Steve Petterle and David Hansen of Marin County Parks and Open Space District; Teresa Le Blanc of Fish and Game; Peter Vorametsanti of the City of Redwood City; Glen Lyles of Shoreline at Mountain View; and Chuck Taylor and Bay Trail boardmember Jill Singleton of Cargill Salt. From now until next June, when you are out on the Bay Trail at Bothin Marsh (Marin), Redwood Shores, or Shoreline at Mountain View, you just might see observers in the field. Wave hello as you pass, but please don't disturb our researchers at work!

For more information about the study, contact Ceil Scandone, senior planner, at 510/464.7961.



Snowy Egret (*Leucophoyx thula*)

Bay Trail Project Wins Conference Award

The Bay Trail Project and the California Conservation Corps (CCC) jointly received an award at the 1999 California Trails Conference—held April 16-18 at Asilomar—for their innovative Regional Development Program (RDP). The award was presented by the California Trails and Greenways Foundation, the California Recreational Trails Committee, the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy, and California Trails Coordinators.

The RDP, funded by the State legislature, was initiated in 1996 by the CCC and the Bay Trail Project to award competitive grants to jurisdictions for construction of Bay Trail segments. In its two funding cycles, the RDP has awarded \$960,000 to eight Bay Area cities for the construction and maintenance of 15 miles of trail; these funds leveraged an impressive \$11 million in matching contributions.

Recognition of the RDP came at an opportune time, as the Bay Trail Project worked feverishly—and successfully!—to convince State legislators and the Governor to approve funds for a third round of the program (see story on the front page).

Auto-Free Mountain Biking Leaves Cars at Home

Do you wish you didn't have to load up your car and deal with the hassles of driving and parking everytime you went for a bike ride? (Or are you car-free but wish it were easier to get out of the city to recreate?) If so, consider the monthly "auto-free mountain bike" rides offered by a small but dedicated group of air-sparing mountain bikers. The rides always depart from, and end at, a transit hub.

The Bay Area is an ideal locale for the series: abundant rail, ferry and bus service make much of the region accessible without a car, and most transit agencies have adopted bike-friendly policies in recent years. Because participants are freed from having to return to a parked car, the rides usually begin and end in different places. The rides cover some of the most spectacular natural terrain in the region and vary in terms of fitness and skills levels required.

- For more information about auto-free mountain biking, contact Preston Jordan at 510/559.8684 or at pdjordan@lbl.gov.
- A schedule of rides is available at www.sfbike.org/afmb. Upcoming rides include:

September 25 (Saturday): 27-mile ride atop Franklin Ridge and through Briones Regional Park (meets at 9 am at Concord BART station and ends at Lafayette BART station).

October 16 (Saturday): Two-legged peak-to-peak ride of mounts Diablo and Tamalpais. First leg meets at 8 am at Pleasant Hill BART station and ends at Concord BART station; second leg begins at 1:30 pm after BART ride to Embarcadero and ends at the Larkspur ferry terminal.

- For information about bicycle access on transit systems and bridges in the Bay Area, visit www.transitinfo.org/bikes or call 817.1717 (from any area code in the Bay Area).
- Free mountain biking classes are offered by the Bicycle Trails Council of Marin (leave a message at 415/456.7512); Bicycle Trails Council of the East Bay (415/864.5484 or <http://www.btceastbay.org>); and Responsible Organized Mountain Pedalers (S.F. and the Peninsula; 650/964.6590 or pete3584@alink.net).

Some Concessions but no Path for the San Mateo-Hayward Bridge

In early May, the Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC) voted 14-2 to permit Caltrans to widen the eastern, or trestle portion, of the San Mateo-Hayward Bridge without the bicycle path that was demanded by bike advocates. The main reason BCDC did not require full public access to the bridge is that a path would only have extended halfway across the bridge. (The western half, or high-rise portion, of the bridge was built without a path and is not scheduled for reconstruction in the foreseeable future).

The new span will carry three west-bound lanes and two shoulders, while the existing span (which currently carries two lanes in each direction) will be restriped with three eastbound lanes and two shoulders. BCDC's decision means that bicyclists and pedestrians will not be allowed on the structures. However, stung by expectations and demands for public access improvements, Caltrans, in conjunction with the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, developed a package of measures to improve public access in the vicinity of the project area.

As part of the San Mateo-Hayward Bridge trestle widening project, Caltrans committed to the following measures to improve public access:

- A bicycle shuttle service across the bridge running hourly during the morning and evening commute periods and every two hours during the daytime on weekends.
- Funding to build a continuous Bay Trail connection in the East Bay between the San Mateo-Hayward and Dumbarton bridges.
- A bicycle/pedestrian bridge over Route 92, east of the Hayward Shoreline Interpretive Center, and improved access to the Center.
- Donation of a nearly 5-acre site on the south side of Route 92, funding to restore it and a neighboring site to tidal wetlands, and funding for a 2.5-mile path through these sites to connect the proposed Route 92 overcrossing to Hesperian Boulevard.
- \$100,000 to the Hayward Area Recreation and Park District for restoring marsh habitat and increasing shoreline recreational use.

Bay Trail Highlights

CONTRA COSTA / SOLANO

Caltrans staged a groundbreaking ceremony for the new span of the **Benicia-Martinez Bridge**. The new span across the Carquinez Strait, to be located immediately east of the existing bridge, will consist of five northbound lanes and will be designed to support the possible future addition of rail transit. Upon completion of the new span, the existing bridge—which currently carries three lanes in each direction—will be restriped to accommodate four southbound lanes as well as a 12 foot-wide bicycle/pedestrian path on the western edge, separated from automobile traffic by a concrete barrier. Access to the path will be from Marina Vista Boulevard in Martinez and from the intersection of Oak and Park roads in Benicia. Call project manager Elizabeth Wiecha of Caltrans at 510/286.5547.



A crowd of elected officials, community leaders and transportation agency representatives assembled in Benicia for the groundbreaking ceremony of the new span of the Benicia-Martinez Bridge.

SAN MATEO

The **County of San Mateo** is in the process of revising its countywide **trails plan**, adopted as part of the county general plan in 1990 and last revised in 1995. The plan proposes to improve existing trails throughout San Mateo County (among them the continuous Bay Trail stretch from Millbrae to San Carlos), and also to locate new trails (including the Bay Trail gaps through Brisbane, around San Francisco International Airport, from San Carlos Airport to Menlo Park's Bayfront Park, and through East Palo Alto). The plan will provide guidelines and policies and it will identify general trail routes though not exact alignments. Call Sam Herzberg, a planner with the San Mateo County Parks and Recreation Division, at 650/363.1823.

ALAMEDA

Oakland adopted its long-awaited **bicycle master plan**, intended "to enhance the role of bicycling as a viable and appropriate transportation choice" in the city. The plan recommends a network of bikeways—including the Bay Trail from Emeryville to San Leandro—to connect all the city's neighborhoods. The plan also includes chapters on parking; access on transit; education, safety and promotion; and funding and implementation. A key objective of the plan is to increase the percentage of bike-commuting Oaklanders to 4% by 2010. Call City of Oakland planner Colin Burgett at 510/238.6167.

Caltrans has embarked on a \$3 million plan to extend the Bay Trail by connecting Maritime Street in **Oakland** and **Emeryville's** Shellmound Street. (Shellmound already has bike lanes and a path is planned along the entire length of Maritime, to 7th Street, as part of a separate project.) Lighting for nighttime use and landscaping will be provided. The bikeway, which will eventually be extended to the east approach of the Bay Bridge and the proposed Gateway Park, is scheduled to begin construction in December 2000. Call Caltrans planning manager Susan Simpson at 510/286.5619.

The **City of Alameda** has proposed acquiring and redeveloping the **Naval Air Station and Fleet Industrial Supply Center Annex**, two closed federal facilities that occupy the western third of the island city. The reuse plan calls for a "transit-oriented development" with an extensive mixture of uses, including residences, offices, stores, hotels, schools, parks, a marina, a golf course, and a federal wildlife refuge. A bike and pedestrian trail is planned for the perimeter, allowing the Bay Trail to circle the entire island. Call Cynthia Eliason, a planning manager at the City of Alameda, at 510/748.4593.

Newark has prepared a development plan for "**Area Two**," a 500-acre zone bounded by Thornton Avenue, Willow Street, Don Edwards National Wildlife Refuge and Cargill salt ponds. Development will consist of a campus for Ohlone College, R&D and limited industrial facilities, and a commuter railroad station; half the acreage will remain in agricultural use and as permanent open space. The Bay Trail Project has encouraged the city to extend the Bay Trail through the site, especially since the plan provides a unique opportunity to take the Bay Trail off city streets—some which will see significant increases in traffic—and place it closer to the shoreline. Call Jim Reese, Newark's planning director, at 510/790.7214.

The California Department of Fish and Game has released its **Eden Landing** ecological reserve restoration and management plan, aiming to restore hundreds of acres of tidal salt marsh and seasonal wetlands, including the Baumberg Tract, in **Hayward**. The project will bring significant benefits, including enhancement of habitat for endangered species and other wildlife, preservation of open space, and improvement of water quality in the Bay. A major goal of the project is to provide a 2.5-mile Bay Trail connection through the site, from a proposed bicycle/pedestrian bridge over Route 92 to Hesperian Boulevard. Call Carl Wilcox of the Department of Fish and Game at 707/944.5525.

New Bay Trail T-Shirts and Caps!

Our newly designed Bay Trail t-shirts and caps have come in and are now for sale. Wear them to help increase the visibility of the Bay Trail and to identify yourself as a proud supporter, or give them to a loved one to demonstrate your good taste. All proceeds benefit the San Francisco Bay Trail Project. Below are item descriptions and ordering information.

Bay Trail T-Shirts 100% cotton. Available in three colors (gray heather, sand and slate blue) and four sizes (M, L, XL and XXL). Price: \$12 + \$3 postage and handling.

Front (in dark green):

Happy trails to you.



Back: full-color 8"-square Bay Trail logo.

Bay Trail Caps Six-panel cap with 2" x 2" Bay Trail logo printed in full color. Polo style in brushed cotton. Available in khaki; adjustable size. Price: \$12 + \$3 postage and handling.

To order, call (510) 464/7900 or visit the Bay Trail web site at <http://baytrail.abag.ca.gov>.

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Short Cuts

Thanks!

FEBRUARY - JULY, 1999, BAY TRAIL SUPPORTERS

We extend our thanks to Anthony Biebl, Jill Keimach, Marianne Locher, Keith Slibsager, and Frederick and Jane Willsea for their generous financial contributions to the Bay Trail Project during this period.

Bay Trail Plan Endorsed Anew

This July marked the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the S.F. Bay Trail Plan by ABAG. In May, to help mark the occasion, the Bay Trail Project sought resolutions of support from those cities and counties along the Bay Trail alignment that were not on record as having officially supported the Bay Trail Plan back in 1989. We already had resolutions from 29 of the 55 jurisdictions along the Bay Trail alignment (eight counties, 46 cities, and San Francisco, which is a city *and* county). Since May, we have received resolutions from another 19, bringing the total to 48. We expect that the remaining seven jurisdictions will follow through by the end of August.

Bay Trail Rider, the newsletter of the San Francisco Bay Trail Project, highlights the progress and development of the Bay Trail. For more information about the Bay Trail, visit our website at <http://baytrail.abag.ca.gov>, call us at 510/464.7935, e-mail us at BayTrail@abag.ca.gov, or write to us at the address below.

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