

AGENDA  
REGULAR MEETING  
BOARD OF BOARD MEMBERS

EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT

August 11, 2009

C. BUSINESS BEFORE THE BOARD

7. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

b. Contra Costa County/EBRPD Liaison Committee (06/29/09) (Radke)

Attendees:

Contra Costa County:

Supervisors: Federal Glover, Susan Bonilla

Staff:

Brian Balbas, Deputy Public Works Director; John Kopchik, Principal Planner, Community Development; Jim Kennedy, Redevelopment Director; Mike Carlson, Division Head, Public Works; Rich Shimano, Staff Engineer, Transportation Division, Public Works; Patrick Roche, Principal Planner, Community Development; John Greitzer, Senior Transportation Planner

East Bay Regional  
Park District

Board members: Ted Radke, Whitney Dotson, Beverly Lane

Staff:

Rosemary Cameron, AGM, Public Affairs; Jim Townsend, Trails Development Manager; Jeff Rasmussen, Grants Manager; Sue Rogers, Confidential Secretary, General Manager's Office

Guests:

None

I. Update on East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservation Plan

Contra Costa County Principal Planner John Kopchik (*passed out a map of an overview of the long-term Land Acquisition Priorities*) He indicated that early successes had been achieved through cooperation with EBRPD's land acquisition program which includes two in progress projects (221 Fox Ridge Manor property in Antioch area due to close escrow end of year and the 190 acre Souza II property in Byron area due to close escrow within the next month) and one completed project (153 acre Schwartz property near Clayton).

2. Measure WW

A. General update on the local grant program component of Measure WW

East Bay Regional Park District Grants Manager Jeff Rasmussen reported on the grant applications for Measure WW local grant funding. *(Passed out the grants schedule)* The District has received 47 applications and a number have made the 1st round approval with fully completed applications. Board Member Lane asked if there has been any confusion in the application process. Mr. Rasmussen stated that some applications were missing CEQA or Land Tenure documents. This issue has created about a month delay in the completion of the grant review process and final results are being pushed out to June 30<sup>th</sup>. Contra Costa Supervisor Susan Bonilla was surprised that the City of Concord's Boatwright Field application did not get approved. Mr. Rasmussen explained that this was due to the fact that Cal State Hayward and not the City of Concord owns the land.

B. Allocation of Measure WW local grant funds in Bay Point

Contra Costa County Deputy Public Works Director Brian Balbas explained the County's concern that overlapping jurisdiction in Bay Point and the need for Measure WW funding for County owned parks in Bay Point versus parks owned by Ambrose Recreation and Park District. Mr. Balbas indicated that County Public Works staff believed that the Measure WW allocation for Ambrose Recreation and Park District would be shared between the two agencies. The County, he continued, maintains a significant number of parks not maintained by Ambrose. Linbrook Park needs \$400,000 in improvements to soccer fields while Ambrose's sole focus is Community Park. Mr. Balbas further pointed out that Ambrose Community Park was annexed to Pittsburg last year. Supervisor Glover indicated that in Supervisor Gioia's and his discussions with EBRPD prior to the election they had discussed the question of funding for County Parks in Bay Point in addition to Ambrose. Supervisor Glover requested reconsideration and indicated that this was a matter that the Bay Point community was split on. EBRPD Grants Manager Jeff Rasmussen stated that EBRPD had believed that the County and Ambrose, which work together so closely, could negotiate an equitable split of funds. Mr. Balbas said that the county had proposed a split of Measure WW funds for Ambrose based on park acreage that would net \$400,000 to the County. EBRPD Board President Radke stated that he would be willing to take another look at the distribution of funds. Mr. Rasmussen added that he had received calls of concern from the community. Supervisor Glover stated that he and county staff will take the lead to meet with Ambrose to work out an equitable resolution. He indicated that all the players weren't at the original discussions with Ambrose including staff from his office.

3. Trails Update

A. Carquinez Scenic Drive Bay Trail Project

East Bay Regional Park District Trails Development Program Manager Jim Townsend reported on the status of the closed two mile section of Carquinez Scenic Drive

between Martinez and Port Costa. Despite the closure this remains a high use trail. Mr. Townsend introduced the idea of the use of new technology, such as soil nails, that could considerably reduce the cost of repairs from the original \$10 million estimate. The County has received a \$1 million earmark from the Federal government for construction of the project. The District proposes that the County pass on these earmarked funds to the District. The Park District would then hire a consultant to explore the repair options and do CEQA and NEPA. Mr. Townsend stated that there are two major concerns for this project. First, the Federal earmarked funds require \$200,000 of local funds to match their \$1 million. Mr. Townsend said that EBRPD was proposing that the County use \$200,000 from its Measure WW allocation for the match. Second, is the concern for the safety of existing trail users. The area is heavily used by cyclists and pedestrians despite the road closure. It appears impossible to deter usage with fencing and signage. Interim safety repairs could be done at 2 points but there is concern from the County which owns the corridor that they retain liability even with interim safety measures.

EBRPD Board President Radke suggested having both County and District legal counsels look at the Park District assuming liability for only those interim safety improvements. EBRPD Grants Manager Jeff Rasmussen commented that as the Bay Trail is noted in Measure WW this could possibly be a “mutual interest” project. Mr. Townsend stated this is part of the Bay Trail and we want to be ready to compete when the state releases Prop 84 funds. Mr. Rasmussen added that ABAG funds may also be available. CCC Staff Engineer Rich Shimano stated that the preliminary environmental studies are complete. Board Member Lane added that it should be a priority to do safety enhancements. Mr. Townsend will work with District Counsel regarding addressing the liability issues of this long term project. Board Member Radke encouraged this direction. Mr. Townsend stated that staff will meet to discuss the matter next week.

## B. Great California Delta Trail

Mr. Townsend reported that the RFP process is complete and the consultant Questa Engineering has been selected as the lead consultant. This feasibility study for the segment extending from Bay Point Wetlands and downtown Pittsburg will be funded by the County, the City of Pittsburg and EBRPD. On July 21<sup>st</sup> the project goes to the County Board of Supervisors to approve and the project should start in late summer. The District is working with PG&E on the project. Contra Costa County Community Development Principal Planner Patrick Roche stated that he is not sure how PG&E wants to move forward with its 800 plus adjacent acres. Board Member Radke suggested Randy Livingston at PG&E as a possible contact person. Mr. Townsend commented that it is critical to sit down with PG&E and get their input. Contra Costa County Supervisor Federal Glover questioned whether there are cleanup issues on the PG&E parcels. Mr. Townsend stated that there were some. Supervisor Glover added that the problem lies in the multiple departments at PG&E that are needed to make this decision.

Board Member Lane (observing the trail map) asked if the trail can be located closer to the water. Mr. Townsend stated that the trail is adjacent to marshland and when Questa

develops the plan the alignment will be as close to the shoreline as possible with spur options from the trail out toward the bay.

C. Bailey Road Pedestrian and Bicycle Improvement Project

Contra Costa County Transportation Planner John Greitzer indicated the County's focus is on an easier, safer and more convenient bicycle and pedestrian options along Bailey Road based on community input. Bailey Road serves as an access to BART and Highway 4. There is currently a County redevelopment project planned on the east side of Bailey which will make the area busier. Bailey Road also serves as a connector to the Delta De Anza Trail. The County wishes to ensure conformance with the Park District's trail requirements in terms of signage, sidewalk width, etc. The County's consultants attended a recent public meeting and summarized the feasibility study and the preferred alternatives. The County has \$1.5 million in funds committed to the project and may need more. The County hopes to complete the study by February 2010. Mr. Townsend stated he is on the committee and attending the public meetings to support the connecting of the two trail segments. Mr. Carlson indicated that a signalized cross walk across Bailey Road at the trail is approved and ready to go to construction.

D. Status of the Iron Horse Trail overcrossing of Treat Blvd

Contra Costa County Redevelopment Director Jim Kennedy reported that the contract for the overcrossing at Treat Blvd has been awarded. Construction bids came in less than the original estimate. Hard costs for the project are \$6.8 million, engineering is \$1.2 million, design and pre-development cost is from \$2 to \$2.5 million, with final costs estimated from \$10 to \$11 million. The construction will start September 1<sup>st</sup>. The prefabricated elements of the bridge will be ordered in the next few weeks. The project is scheduled to complete by July 1, 2010. The project requires that Treat Blvd. will need to be closed to put the bridge structure in place. Between now and September 1<sup>st</sup> the County will work with the District and Supervisor Susan Bonilla for a ground breaking ceremony. This project is a functional element of alternative transit at the Contra Costa Center. This area in particular must provide alternative modes of transportation. Mr. Kennedy stated there will be public outreach to communicate the Treat Blvd closing.

4. Big Break/Delta Discovery Center Update

EBRPD Board President Radke summarized the June 17<sup>th</sup> event in Oakley dedicating the bridge that connects Big Break Regional Shoreline Trail to Marsh Creek Trail. When complete the Delta Discovery Experience will include an interactive 30 x 50 foot map of the Delta system. Completion of the Delta model is scheduled for early 2010. The next phase will be a \$2.6 million Delta Learning Science Center.

Board Member Lane added that the project will be visitor friendly and will become an important educational and recreational amenity for East County.

5. Local Agency Budgets

Mr. Kennedy stated that the state budget still may not pass before the deadline due to the Governor's probable lack of support.

Supervisor Bonilla commented that the County is researching implementation of a County gas tax.

EBRPD Board President Radke concluded that the Park District which is on a calendar fiscal year, should be able to manage decreases in property tax revenues for the remainder of this year but there are concerns for 2010 and the implications the decrease in revenues will have for the agency's overall operations. Property taxes will not rebound quickly, President Radke indicated.

6. Public Comment

None

7. Set Next Meeting Date

No date was set at this time