

AGENDA
REGULAR MEETING
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT

Tuesday, May 5, 2009

C. BUSINESS BEFORE THE BOARD

5. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

b. Contra Costa County/EBRPD Liaison Committee (12/15/2008) (Radke)

Attendees:

Contra Costa County:

Supervisors: John Gioia, Federal Glover

Staff:

Julie Bueren, Public Works Director; Brian Balbas, Deputy Public Works Director; Jim Kennedy, Deputy Director, Redevelopment Agency; John Kopchik, Principal Planner, Conservation and Development; John Greitzer, Transportation Planning, Conservation and Development; Mike Carlson, Supervising Civil Engineer, Public Works; Hillary Heard, Public Works Planner III

East Bay Regional
Park District

Directors: Beverly Lane, Ted Radke, John Sutter

Staff:

Rosemary Cameron, AGM, Public Affairs; Jim Townsend, Regional Trails Program Manager; Jeff Rasmussen, Grants Manager; Mary Mattingly, Administrative Assistant, General Manager's Office

Guests:

None

Contra Costa County Supervisor John Gioia called the meeting to order at 12:50 p.m. and asked for introductions of all present.

I. Measure WW Follow-up

Supervisor Gioia congratulated the District on the passage of Measure WW and recapped that it passed in Contra Costa with over 71% of the votes. EBRPD AGM Public Affairs Rosemary Cameron stated that two weeks after the election, the District held a local grant kick-off meeting to share information about the program. She indicated that the District had asked the County to work with Ambrose Park District to jointly determine the overlapping population in Bay Point served by each agency. At the January 13, 2009 District Board meeting, the final local grant program guidelines will be adopted and the application

procedures finalized. The annual local grant application period will occur each February and March from 2009 to 2018. In response to Supervisor Gioia's question about whether local grant funds will be available this year or will have to be spread out over time, EBRPD Board Member Ted Radke indicated that since the projects need to be ready to go, and in the past the District has experienced that not many agencies have projects ready, it is anticipated that funds will be available for those agencies that are ready. EBRPD Grants Manager Jeff Rasmussen pointed out that each local agency, cities and the County, will also need to sign a Master Contract Agreement with the Park District for the full amount of the local agency's per capita allocation. In Contra Costa County's case this agreement will be a little different because the County's funding will be designated for CSAs.

2. Trails Update

A. Funding arrangements for Great California Delta Trail

Conservation and Development, Transportation Planner, John Greitzer indicated that in July \$350,000 was approved by the Board of Supervisors from the Navy Mitigation fund for planning for sections of the Delta Trail from the Bay Point Wetlands to downtown Pittsburg. Most of this property is actually owned by PG&E. Planning will be primarily done by EBRPD. EBRPD Regional Trails Program Manager Jim Townsend stated that the District had prepared an RFP, environmental review and feasibility study for the Downtown Pittsburg to Bay Point segment because PG&E owns the property and it will be necessary to get trail access across the property. A second segment of the Delta Trail from the Benicia Bridge to Bay Point wetlands is more technical and passes through portions of the CNWS retained by the military. Contra Costa County Supervisor Federal Glover urged staff not to forget the Port Chicago Mitigation fund as a possible funding source.

B. Bailey Road Pedestrian and Bicycle Improvement Project

Contra Costa County Principal Planner John Kopchik indicated that the County received a \$200,000 grant from the Transportation Authority for improving the Environment for pedestrians and bicyclists which includes a trail section of the Delta De Anza Trail along Bailey Road in Bay Point. He indicated that the funds would be used to improve the pedestrian and bicycle environment on and across Bailey Road near BART. There will also be aesthetic streetscaping north of the freeway ramps to Willow Pass Road. He also indicated that the County is working with the District as a stakeholder to encourage District participation and input and to ensure conformance to District needs in terms of signage and sidewalks, etc. The County has issued a request for consultant proposals which are due January 14. EBRPD Regional Trail Program Manager Jim Townsend stated that the County has done quite well in its role connecting Regional Trails to BART and that the District would continue to be supportive. Mr. Kopchik said that it has helped that to have CalTrans as a partner as well. EBRPD Board Member Beverly Lane reported that she has been on the CNWS base reuse Citizens Advisory Ccommittee and it has become clear that if the area is developed there will need to be improvements to Highway 4 planned far in advance. Mr. Greizer agreed and pointed out the importance of looking both at today's problems as well as future problems and that CalTrans can play a

role in capturing the scope of potential traffic and the sorts of infrastructure that is beneficial.

C. Status of the Iron Horse Trail Overcrossing of Treat Blvd

Contra Costa County Redevelopment Agency Deputy Director Jim Kennedy happily conveyed to the committee that the Iron Horse Trail Overcrossing at Treat Boulevard has been fully funded and fully designed and is in the last review steps with CalTrain. There are 8 funding sources and the project will go out to bid in the first quarter of 2009. Construction should begin in mid to late summer of 2009 and will last for about one year with an opening in mid to late summer of 2010. The project link is an integral part of transit access to the trail system. The total cost will be about \$12.5 million for an overcrossing that is about 1,000 feet long to cross 300 foot wide Treat Blvd. In response to EBRPD Board Member John Sutter's question regarding lower bids now, as compared to 2000 when it was originally supposed to have gone to bid, Mr. Kennedy agreed that the current financial situation has made a good environment for generating competitive bids.

D. Briefing on Contra Costa Centre Association Special Use Permit Request to EBRPD for use of battery-powered devices on portions of the Iron Horse Trail and Contra Costa Canal Trails

Mr. Kennedy introduced the topic stating that County Redevelopment and the Contra Costa Center wish to continue the special permit allowing Segway and Electric like use of the section of the Iron Horse trail in the vicinity of the Contra Costa Center and BART weekdays during business hours. He reminded the committee that the UC Berkeley study had received a special use permit for Segway use on the trails. The Redevelopment Agency and the Contra Costa Center Association find merit in the program and would like for it to continue in the current limited trail area around the center. They have filed for a permit extension with the District. It went through the Operations Committee and will soon go to the full Board. Ms. Lane pointed out that the study was academic and while it may be positive in terms of finding ways to get people out of their cars, there is a danger that people will feel they can use Segways on other parts of the trail system. Ms. Lane would rather the District does not approve permanently allowing Segways, and stated that if the issue does move forward it will need to be studied closely, including looking at physical improvements that would be required to accommodate Segways.

Mr. Sutter indicated the Operations Committee supported Segways by a two to one vote, and that it will go next to the Parks Advisory Committee before it goes to the Board, which will likely take some months. He pointed out that the topic poses some complex philosophical issues, such as whether bike trails include electric bikes, and if those include Segways, motorized scooters. There have been objections from the bike community, but the issue also impacts the entire park District due to proximity of other trails to BART, and the expectancy of creating/acquiring more trails with BART access. Enforcement is also a major issue. Mr. Kennedy responded that the request is limited to those who have enhanced safety training on specific center-owned Segways with speed governors during the business week, but expressed understanding that the District's considerations are much larger. Mr. Townsend echoed Mr. Sutter's philosophical concerns and added

several more concerns regarding such motorized transportation, including the lack of health benefit, only marginal improvement in distances/speeds as compared to walking or riding a bike, the potential for problems with Federal and State non-motorized transportation funding, and the fact that the Contra Costa Center receives the benefit while the burdens fall to the Park District. There was also an interesting statistic from a past study that indicated 20% of current users would stop using the trail if Segways are allowed.

3. East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservation Plan

Mr. Kopchik updated the committee as to the status of the County Habitat Conservancy Plan (HCP) which currently has 6 pending acquisitions totaling 4,000 acres that will close in 2009. There are two restoration projects underway and others planned. Unfortunately, mitigation funding has been drying up due to the significant slow-down in development. Mr. Radke stated that he is pleased with the implementation and pointed out that Measure WW has \$40 million for areas covered by the HCP. Mr. Kopchick responded that it is a good thing because the amount of Federal Conservation Funds available has been decreasing, while the Coalition of HCP's would like the amount to be doubled. Mr. Radke discussed the NRPA Advocacy trip that key Park District staff would be taking in March and told the committee that the Park District had sent letters to the congressional delegation in the Bay Area indicating how the District could play a role putting people to work under stimulus bill considering that many of the parks were built by the WPA during the Great Depression. Mr. Sutter pointed out that the District can put people to work quickly in non-skilled jobs on projects such as improving trails in partnerships with Civicorps which especially benefits minority, low income workers. Ms. Lane agreed and suggested that local grant projects are good examples of what can be done. Mr. Kopchik also stated that it is a good time to go to bids as two of his proposed projects came back with bids at 50% of the projected costs.

4. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

5. Set Next Meeting Date

The committee agreed to postpone setting a meeting date until the 2009 committee appointments were set.

6. Adjournment

Mr. Glover adjourned the meeting in the memory of Regional Park District Park Black Diamond Mines Supervisor Roger Epperson, stating that the Board of Supervisors meeting for the following week would also be adjourned in the name of the late Mr. Epperson.