

A BRIEF HISTORY
OF
THE PARK ADVISORY COMMITTEE

In 1970, General Manager Dick Trudeau asked Assemblyman Jack Knox to carry a property tax increase bill for the Park District. He said he would if the Park District received a good evaluation from the Legislative Analyst's office. That office researched the District and similar park agencies elsewhere and gave the tax increase the go-ahead on the condition that the District agree to undertake a District-wide Master Plan. The tax increase legislation, AB 925, went through both Houses and was signed by Governor Ronald Reagan.

Stewart Udall, hired as the lead consultant, and aided by staff from the District and from the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission, formed an 83-member Task Force to write the Master Plan. The 83-member Task Force, chaired by Alameda County Supervisor Joe Bort, had wide representation, including former U.S. Senator William Knowland, Dr. Glen Seaborg, former Assemblymember and Oakland Mayor Elihu Harris, and representatives from the Sierra Club, Audubon, and other environmental groups. In addition to the 83-member Task Force, the District formed a 60-member Public Agency Committee.

Both the 83-member Task Force and the 60-member Public Agency Committee met for more than a year culminating in the Board adoption of the first East Bay Regional Park District Master Plan in 1973.

After the two public groups were disbanded, the District continued citizen involvement through the creation of an advisory group. A number of people who served on the 83-member Task Force were part of the first "Park Advisory Committee" (PAC). One task designated for the PAC was periodic updates of the Master Plan, working with the District staff and Board of Directors. Since that time, the PAC continues to work with the District's Board and staff on Master Plan and other policy matters.

(Summarized from a report by Dick Trudeau)

May 1, 1998

Printed 10/09