

EBRPD-CHECKLIST FOR ANALYSING PROPOSED CHANGES IN TRAIL USE  
**Statement of Purpose- 2/20/03**

The Trail Use Change Checklist has evolved from a Bicycle Matrix that was developed by a Committee of EBRPD staff, PAC members, and a Board member from the Operations Committee who were assigned by the Board to review Ordinance #38 and bicycle uses of District trails. The Trail Use Change Checklist was developed to address all trail use changes as well as comments and concerns about the Matrix that were raised by members of the public representing a variety of trail interests including hiking, environmental, and equestrian uses. The Checklist has had several public review opportunities by the Parks Advisory Committee (PAC), the East Bay Area Trails Committee, and public input received through written correspondence and attendance at several Board Operations Committee meetings.

The purpose of the Checklist is to provide staff and trail use change proponents with a specific tool and clear process for evaluating requests for changes in uses to an existing trail. District staff, interested individuals, and any organization may submit trail use change proposals. Existing decision processes that involve a Board Vote include new Land Use Plans, Land Use Plan Amendments, and the approval of Ordinance #38 trail use regulations. Natural resource issues will be addressed through current policies and procedures already in place for the preparation of Land Use Plans and the environmental document associated with California Environmental Quality Act compliance.

The District will work closely with the East Bay Area Trails Council during the review of trail use change proposals. This organization represents a variety of trail user organizations and individuals interested in hiking, biking, horseback riding, in-line skating and other trail activities, and has been working with the District for over 30 years on open space protection, trail development, and other trail use issues. EBATC meetings provide an excellent opportunity to discuss trail use change ideas, receive diverse viewpoints, and create trail user consensus on projects to be submitted for final consideration by the District.

All trail use change proposals will be reviewed in relation to their fiscal impact on the District. These include such items as time commitment by staff to review proposals, conduct resource studies, obtain permits and incorporate the trail changes in planning documents. In addition, cost estimates need to be assessed for technical features (layout, structures, etc.), materials, equipment time, and other associated construction costs. Long-term maintenance also needs to be evaluated for fiscal impact.

Upon approval of a trail use change by the Board of Directors, a project manager will be assigned to develop an implementation plan for approved projects. This plan will involve identifying a time line, funding needs, permitting, a construction schedule, and determination for who will perform the work and oversee the construction. The District's Creeks, Trails and Ponds annual staff review will be used to assist in setting priorities and guiding projects through any regulatory permitting process that may be required for trail use changes or any new trail construction.