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BOARD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Thursday, October 3, 2019

12:30 p.m.

**EBRPD - Administrative Headquarters
2950 Peralta Oaks Court
Oakland, California 94605**

The following agenda items are listed for Committee consideration. In accordance with the Board Operating Guidelines, no official action of the Board will be taken at this meeting; rather, the Committee's purpose shall be to review the listed items and to consider developing recommendations to the Board of Directors.

A copy of the background materials concerning these agenda items, including any material that may have been submitted less than 72 hours before the meeting, is available for inspection on the District's website (www.ebparks.org), the Headquarters reception desk, and at the meeting.

Public Comment on Agenda Items

If you wish to testify on an item on the agenda, please complete a speaker's form and submit it to the recording secretary. Your name will be called when the item is announced for discussion.

Accommodations and Access

District facilities and meetings comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act. If special accommodations are needed for you to participate, please contact the Clerk of the Board at 510-544-2020 as soon as possible, but preferably at least three working days prior to the meeting.

AGENDA

<u>TIME</u>	<u>ITEM</u>	<u>STATUS</u>	<u>STAFF</u>
12:30 pm	1. Black Diamond Mines Land Use Plan Amendment	I	Chantal Alatorre, Brian Holt
1:00 pm	2. Doolittle Drive San Francisco Bay Trail Alignment	I	Ren Bates, Kristina Kelchner
1:30 pm	3. Open Forum for Public Comments <i>Individuals wishing to address the Committee on a topic not on the agenda may do so by completing a speaker's form and submitting it to the recording secretary.</i>		
2:00 pm	4. Board Comments		

Board Executive Committee Members

Ayn Wieskamp (Chair), Ellen Corbett, Dennis Waespi
Dee Rosario, Alternate
Robert E. Doyle, Staff Coordinator

R - Recommendation for Future Board Consideration

I - Informational

D - Discussion

2019 Meeting Dates

January 10	July 11
February 7	August 1
March 7	September 5
April 4	October 3
May 2	November 7
June 6	December 5

Board of Directors

Ayn Wieskamp President Ward 5	Ellen Corbett Vice-President Ward 4	Dee Rosario Treasurer Ward 2	Colin Coffey Secretary Ward 7	Whitney Dotson Ward 1	Dennis Waespi Ward 3	Beverly Lane Ward 6	Robert E. Doyle General Manager
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EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT

BOARD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Meeting of October 3, 2019

TO: Board Executive Committee

FROM: Robert E. Doyle, General Manager

STAFF REPORT
PREPARED BY: Chantal Alatorre, Planner

SUBJECT: Black Diamond Mines Land Use Plan Amendment

Chantal Alatorre, Planner, will make a presentation on this agenda item.

BACKGROUND

The East Bay Regional Park District (Park District) is preparing a Land Use Plan Amendment (LUPA) for Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve to update the 1977 Land Use Development Plan, consistent with the Park District's 2013 Master Plan. Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve has grown since 1977, and today is comprised of 4,641 acres of moderately to extremely steep peaks and valleys that are open to the public. Since 1999, the Park District has added nearly 5,000 acres of parkland contiguous to Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve that is currently closed to the public; the LUPA represents a major step towards opening this land to the public. An Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is the environmental document being prepared to support the LUPA and comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

Project Location and Site Conditions: Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve is located in eastern Contra Costa County, in the northern foothills of the Diablo Valley Range, immediately south of the cities of Antioch and Pittsburg and east of the City of Clayton's urban limit line. This expanse of protected open space now forms an almost six-mile wide block of open space that preserves one of the East Bay's largest intact ecosystems of native biota and provides habitat for resident and migratory wildlife. The habitat value of the preserve is further increased by its connection to over 76,000 acres of public land, forming the largest contiguous open space in the East Bay. The planning area comprises a dramatic landscape of high ridgelines and canyons covered with grasses, shrubs, chaparral and oak woodlands that contain natural resources recognized statewide. The planning area also contains significant cultural and geologic resources. Black Diamond Mines has a rich cultural history and the Mount Diablo Coal Field is listed on the state and national historic registers. Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve is located within an area that has been designated a high priority preservation area by the East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservancy (Conservancy), which is a partner with the Park District on this project (Exhibit I).

Project Area: The LUPA outlines the project area as two separate planning areas: Northern and Southern Planning Areas – see Exhibit 2. The Southern Planning Area, also known as Clayton Ranch, comprises 4,199-acres of open space land acquired over 20-years in 12 separate land

transactions – 8 of which were purchased in partnership with the Conservancy and are subject to their guidelines. There are two conservation easements totaling 188-acres within the Southern Planning Area and all of the Southern Planning Area is currently in Landbank status. The Northern Planning Area consists of six landbank parcels (Arata Ranch, Suncrest, Seeno, Newry, Panhandle, and Thomas Central) that total 803 acres that will be appended to the 4,461 acres of existing open parkland. Thomas Central was purchased in partnership with the Conservancy and is subject to their guidelines. There are two conservation easements recorded in the Northern Planning Area totaling 290.15-acres.

Proposed Project: The purpose of the LUPA is to set forth a framework for land use and management that maintains a balance between conserving the planning area’s significant resources and providing the public and staff with improved access and facilities and increased opportunities for low-intensity recreational use and interpretation. The following summarizes key recommendations of the LUPA:

- Open an additional 5,002 acres of land to public use, bringing the total acres of parkland in the planning area to 9,643.
- Establish the 5,444-acre Northern Planning Area and the 4,199-acre Southern Planning Area as separate park units.
- Designate over 99 percent of the Regional Preserve as a natural unit.
- Establish the Arata Ranch Recreation/Staging Unit as a destination facility in the Northern Planning Area to provide parking, public and staff facilities, and interpretive programs to enhance visitors’ experience, and contribute to environmental and historical education. Repurpose buildings for staff and public use while maintaining the integrity of the Arata Ranch Historic District.
- Designate and open one access area/off-street parking and three trail head/multi-use entry points in the Northern Planning Area to the public.
- Designate and develop the Clayton Recreation/Staging Unit located off Marsh Creek Road in the Southern Planning Area.
- Designate and open one access area/off-street parking and two trailhead/multi-use entry points in the Southern Planning Area to the public.
- Develop a pedestrian crossing of Marsh Creek Road to connect the Southern Planning Area and Mount Diablo State Park.
- Develop the Over the Rainbow Backpack Camp in the Southern Planning Area.
- When built-out, the planning area will total almost approximately 72 miles of publicly accessible roads and trails including approximately 51 miles in the Northern Planning Area and approximately 21 miles in the Southern Planning Area. There are now more than 47 miles of trail open to the public in the Northern Planning Area.

In June 2017, Park District staff published a Notice of Preparation and accepted public comments over a 30-day public review period. A community meeting that served as a CEQA scoping meeting was held on June 14, 2017. Between 2017 and 2019, Park District staff coordinated with stakeholders and partner agencies to establish the Park District’s recommendations in the Black Diamond Mines LUPA.

Staff's presentation will provide information to the Board Executive Committee regarding the LUPA recommendations, public input regarding the LUPA recommendations, status of the LUPA and EIR, and schedule overview.

RECOMMENDATION

None. This is an informational item. At a later date, the Draft LUPA and Draft EIR will be brought before this committee for consideration and approval to forward to the Park Advisory Committee and Board of Directors.

ATTACHMENTS

Exhibit 1: Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve Easement and Legal Agreement

Exhibit 2: Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve Planning Areas

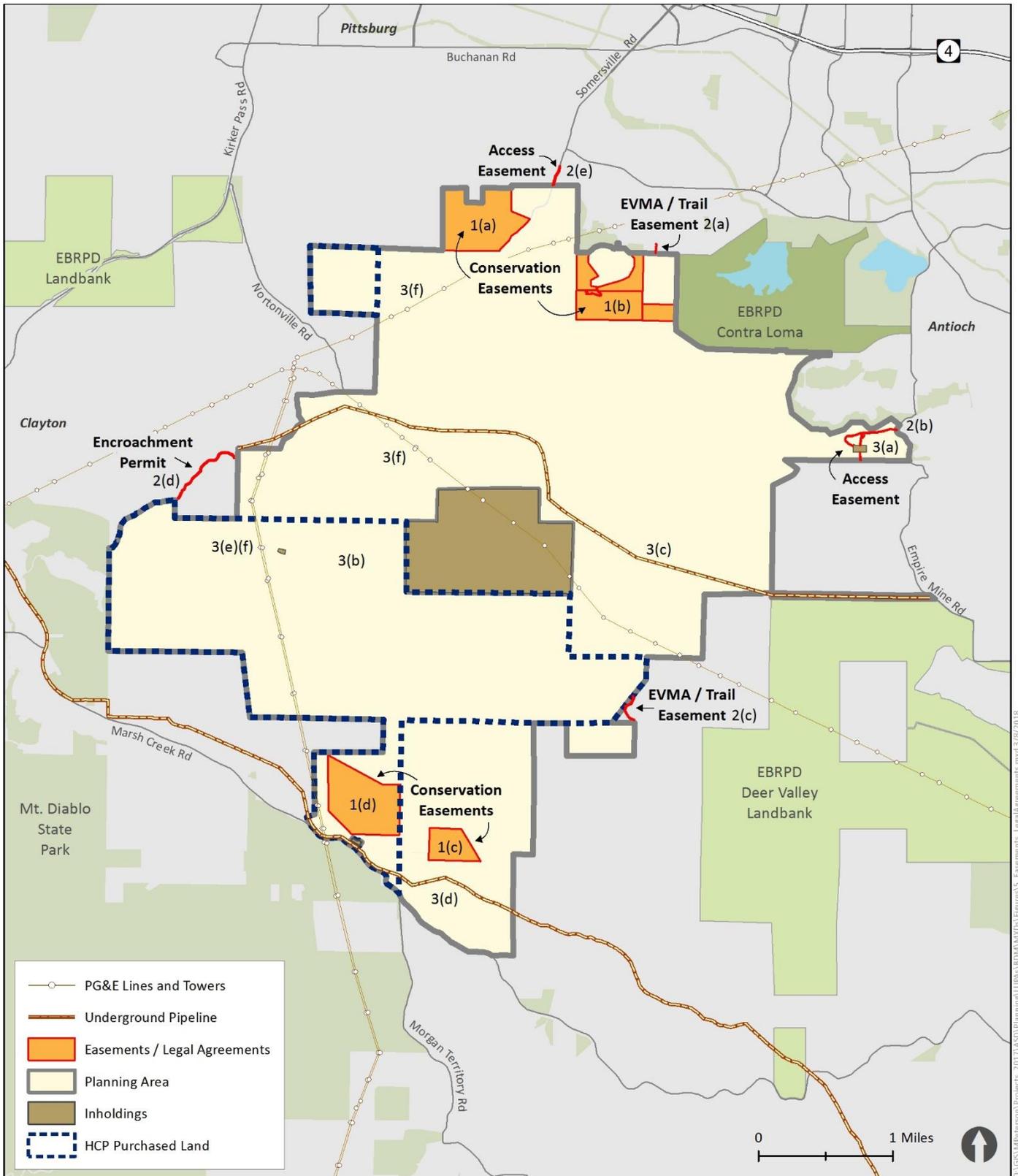


EXHIBIT I: BLACK DIAMOND MINES REGIONAL PRESERVE EASEMENT AND LEGAL AGREEMENTS

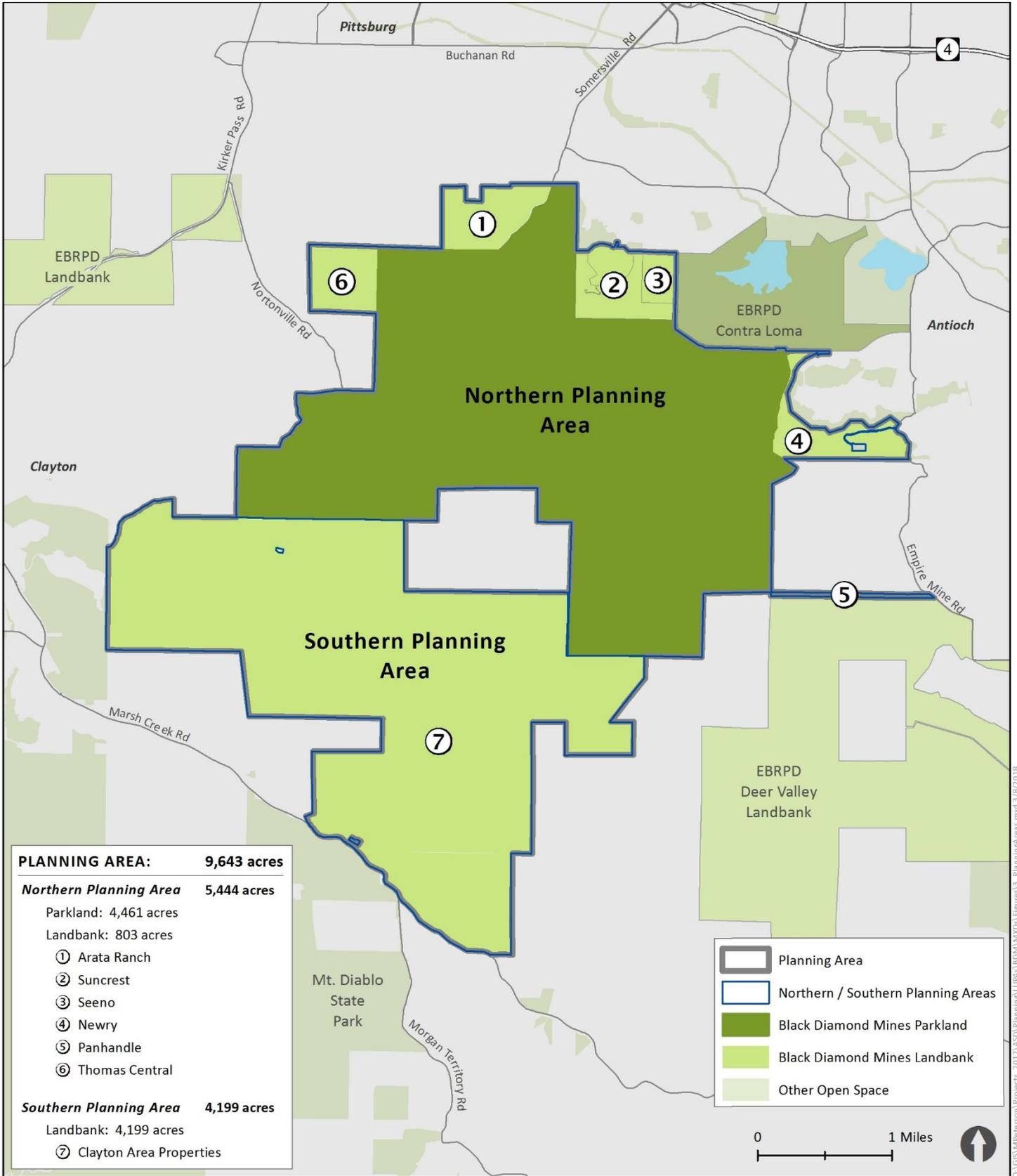


EXHIBIT 2: BLACK DIAMOND MINES REGIONAL PRESERVE PLANNING AREAS

EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT

BOARD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Meeting of October 3, 2019

TO: Board Executive Committee

FROM: Robert E. Doyle, General Manager

STAFF REPORT
PREPARED BY: Ren Bates, Capital Program Manager

SUBJECT: Doolittle Drive San Francisco Bay Trail Alignment

Ren Bates, Capital Program Manager, will present this agenda item.

BACKGROUND

The East Bay Regional Park District has been working on closing a gap in the San Francisco Bay Trail along Doolittle Drive, from Swan Way to Langley Street, in Oakland. Initially an alignment was proposed that would have built an elevated causeway in the Airport Channel of San Leandro Bay. Due to environmental concerns, the District abandoned pursuing that alignment and has been working on an upland alignment within California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) right of way. On May 21, 2019 the Board of Directors authorized a cooperative agreement with Caltrans which allowed staff to work with Caltrans on the development of the SF Bay trail gap closure.

35% of construction drawings have been completed and will be presented to show the new alignment for the trail and as an update on the current project status.

RECOMMENDATION

None. This is an informational item.