

AGENDA

ALAMEDA COUNTY/EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT LIAISON COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, December 17, 2008
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon
County Administrator's Office
Board of Supervisors Conference Room
1221 Oak Street, Suite 536, Oakland, CA

<u>TOPIC</u>		<u>STATUS</u>
1. Measure WW Follow-up	(EBRPD)	(I)
2. San Francisco Bay Trail Union City Segment/ County Flood Control Improvement Project	(County/EBRPD)	(I)
a. Eden Landing to Union City Blvd. Bay Trail Segment		
b. Union City Interest in Recreational Development of Alameda Creek Trail Stable Property		
3. Alameda County Flood Control Property Adjacent to Coyote Hills – County Proposal for License to California State Department of Agriculture	(County)	(I)
4. San Lorenzo Barn Update	(County)	(I)
5. Public Comments		
6. Set Date for Next Meeting		
(I) Information		
(D) Discussion		
(R) Recommendation		

Distribution List

Packet:

Liaison Committee Members:

Carol Severin, Doug Siden, John Sutter
Ayn Wieskamp, alt
Pat O'Brien, General Manager, EBRPD
Rosemary Cameron, AGM, Public Affairs
Allen Pulido, Clerk of the Board, EBRPD
Bob Doyle, AGM, Interagency Planning/Land Acquisition/Regional Trails
Jim Townsend, Program Manager, Regional Trails
John Escobar, AGM, Operations

Agenda Only:

AGMs
Yolande Barial, Clerk of the Board's Office
Lt. Jon King, Public Safety
Dave Kalahela, President, Local 2428

MEASURE WW FOLLOW-UP

With the passage of Measure WW, the District held a meeting on November 21, 2008 to kickoff the Measure WW Local Grant Program. The meeting was attended by representatives from nearly every local agency including some the County's public works and planning staff. At the meeting the District gave an overview of the program, reviewed the draft grant guidelines and requested feedback on the guidelines and its population figures. Any feedback was due to the District on December 12, 2008.

The program's procedural guidelines give the County the first opportunity to propose projects from the \$530,722 designated for park facilities that serve the unincorporated areas of the county. The District's Board of Directors will review and approve those projects to insure that the projects best meet the needs of the unincorporated areas and insure equitable geographic distribution of funds. District staff will work with the County to develop a list of projects for the unincorporated areas of the counties and bring these projects to the District's Board for approval.

Pending the District Board of Director's approval of the program on January 6, 2009, the District will begin accepting grant application every February and March through 2018. A technical workshop to assist local agencies in preparing grant application and in organizing the require back up documentation is tentatively scheduled for 9:00 a.m. on January 16, 2009 at the District's Richard C. Trudeau Training Center in Oakland.

SAN FRANCISCO BAY TRAIL UNION CITY SEGMENT/ COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

a. EDEN LANDING TO UNION CITY BLVD. BAY TRAIL SEGMENT

EBRPD has been working with Union City, the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project and Alameda County Flood Control to extend the San Francisco Bay Trail south from Eden Landing to Union City Blvd. and on to Coyote Hills Regional Park. The District is aware that Flood Control has also been pursuing a levee improvement project at that location, but until recently, the time frame for the implementation of that project has been unknown. Recently, Flood Control informed EBRPD that the timing of that project has been accelerated, and has requested that the Park District suspend its planning efforts, with an eye towards incorporating the Bay Trail into the levee rebuilding project. The Park District is willing to suspend its efforts, and has requested written confirmation of the County's proposed timeline and inclusion of the Bay Trail into the project. The Park District is requesting this information so as to keep its funding partners and other Bay Trail supporters and stakeholders accurately informed as to the status of the project.

b. UNION CITY INTEREST IN RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF ALAMEDA CREEK TRAIL STABLE PROPERTY

Union City Deputy City Manager Tony Acosta has contacted Alameda County Flood Control and EBRPD to express the City's interest in pursuing discussions with the County regarding the former equestrian stable site located on the northern side of Alameda Creek just west of Union City Blvd. The City's is interested in acquiring a long-term (minimum 20 year) leasehold interest in the parcel and developing a multi-use public recreation facility which would include an equestrian facility, community garden, youth program facilities (related to equestrian and environmental programs for at-risk youth), and perhaps a tennis court or two if feasible. Supervisor Gail Steele has visited the site with Union City staff and has indicated her support to the city for this concept, which obviously requires much more planning and discussion prior to seeking approval from the County.

Flood Control Program Manager for the Alameda County Flood Control & Water Conservation District Hank Ackerman has responded to Mr. Acosta indicating that at this time Flood Control does not have enough information yet to determine whether or not they will have to reconstruct or improve the levees. FEMA has recently begun requiring that all flood protection levees be certified as meeting a series of criteria that they have established in order for FEMA to consider that the levees will function during their time of greatest need. If the levees cannot be certified, for whatever reason, FEMA will map the area protected by the levees as being in a flood hazard zone. Flood Control is now conducting the necessary field investigations, primarily geotechnical borings through the levees and into the supporting soil below. Once they have evaluated all pertinent data, including the geotechnical investigations and studies, they will be able to determine whether or not they will have to make any repairs or improvements to the levees before they can be certified. Flood control believes that it may be another 6 months before they will be in a position to make that determination.

With regard to the area behind the levee, Flood Control has indicated that this property was purchased as a ponding area to hold storm water runoff from the surrounding lands (all developed now) at times when the flow in Alameda Creek is so high that water from those lands can't drain to the creek. Therefore, any uses on that property must not negatively impact the flood control use for which the property was purchased. At this time, Flood Control is preparing to demolish and remove the existing dilapidated structures on the property. This includes the stables and the riding arena. Flood Control has indicated its willingness to license the Flood Control property to EBRPD, for future development of family friendly outdoor recreational facilities. Given the many Measure WW projects that will soon be priorities, staff is not certain that developing additional recreational amenities in this area is appropriate. Staff is, however, open to meeting with Flood Control and Union City staff to discuss potential appropriate public use options.

**ALAMEDA COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL PROPERTY
ADJACENT TO COYOTE HILLS – COUNTY PROPOSAL FOR LICENSE TO
CALIFORNIA STATE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

The Alameda County Flood Control District proposes to use up to ten acres in Coyote Hills Regional Park adjacent to the Patterson Road entry kiosk on which the State Department of Agriculture would establish a “world class” nursery for the study of Sudden Oak Death Syndrome, as well as other plant pathogens. The nursery would be housed in portable buildings, and an impermeable membrane would be laid down to contain and recapture any water used on the site. Trees would be planted in containers rather than in-ground, in order to better control the spread of pathogens they will be studying. The project would have to meet CEQA requirements, including meetings for public comment on its environmental impacts.

EBRPD Land Acquisition Manager Nancy Wenninger and AGM, Operations John Escobar met recently with County Flood Control Program Manager Hank Ackerman on site to discuss the County’s desire to lease their property to the State Department of Agriculture. This particular site, which is adjacent to property that will be added to Coyote Hills as part of the Patterson development, will soon be at the entrance to Coyote Hills and opposite the area that is being considered for future development of a new visitor center. As such, EBRPD management staff has strong concerns that the proposed Department of Agriculture use would be inappropriate at this location and not acceptable to the Park District. It is staff’s hope that it will be possible to work with Alameda County Flood Control District staff to develop an alternative site for the Department of Agriculture use that will not have such a negative visual impact on the park.

SAN LORENZO BARN UPDATE

This item was requested during the last Liaison Committee meeting to be placed on the agenda for this meeting by Alameda County Supervisor Gail Steele. Staff is not aware of any specific new request on Supervisor Steel's part however she visited Ardenwood for the first time several months ago. After her visit she put forward the idea of using the San Lorenzo Barn to create an agriculture museum at Ardenwood. She presented this concept to the Alameda County Agricultural Advisory Committee. EBRPD continues to store the San Lorenzo Barn's wood near the South County Corp Yard and the Public Safety headquarters. Unfortunately, after the many years that the barn's wood and roofing tin has been stored, it is in very poor condition. At this point the wood's use is very limited but could possibly be used to build a barn-like façade.

Given the existing land use and business plans in place for Ardenwood and the ongoing efforts to fund and develop specific educational/interpretative facilities, customer service amenities as well as operational costs at the park EBRPD staff would have concerns regarding any additional development proposals.