

# California Recreational Trails Committee

## Regular Meeting Minutes

April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2011 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.

San Ramon Marriott  
2600 Bishop Drive  
San Ramon, California

### I. Call to Order

- a. Meeting called to order at 1:40 PM by Laura Zabkar, Chair. There were 20 members of the public in attendance; three of these requested to speak.

### II. Introduction of Committee Members and Staff

- a. Cathy Haagen-Smit (CH), Member
- b. David March (DM), Member
- c. John Mercurio (JM), Member
- d. Maryanne Vancio (MV), Member
- e. Laura Zabkar (LZ), Chair
- f. Dan Ray (DR), Planning Division Chief, California State Parks (CSP)
- g. Alex Stehl (AS), Acting Executive Secretary of CRTC / Statewide Trails Manager for CSP
- h. Cheryl Essex (CE), Assoc. Park & Recreation Specialist for CSP

### III. Minutes approval from October & December 2010 Meetings

- a. October 2010: Motion to approve minutes by JM, seconded by DM, and approved unanimously.
- b. December 2010: Motion to approve minutes by MV with revision noted by LZ, seconded by JM, and approved unanimously.

### IV. Reports

- a. State Park Director's Report (DR)
  - State government budget is shrinking and CSP will share the burden with \$22 million proposed to be eliminated from our budget next year. Permanent cuts are necessary with reduced services continuing and closures likely beginning in the fall, including \$10 million more cut in the Off Highway Vehicle program. Bond sales are unlikely, federal funding is likely reduced and concession income is down. We are working to develop more robust relationships with non-profits to run parks.
  - Planning projects include Del Norte SP Coast-to-Crest Trail, Candlestick Point SP General Plan with Bay Trail and shoreline access, Big Basin Redwoods/Castle Rock SP route improvements to extend mountain biking to the beach which will reduce user conflicts, Backbone Trail in Topanga Canyon SP, Cuyamaca Rancho SP equestrian facilities, protection of the historic routes Southern Overland Trail and Anza Trail in Anza Borrego Desert SP. Road and Trail Management Plans for Mt Diablo SP, Humboldt Redwoods, Folsom SP, Donner SP, Castle Rock SP and the Santa Monica Mountains. Sacramento San Joaquin Delta Recreation planning proposing boating trails, completion of California Recreational Trails System routes, new routes, and new or expanded state recreation areas.
  - Sunset legislation was carried by Alison Huber to eliminate many boards and commissions. CRTC is proposed for elimination in 2012. With our inability to staff CRTC activities, the last meeting is proposed to be at next year's California Trails & Greenways Conference. JM: What are park staff thoughts? DR: Diverse views. We wanted to build stronger CRTC partnerships. JM: Could CRTC reduce its involvement then return later? DR: I don't know how that would happen. The governor is focused on the budget. Reauthorization is

unlikely. MV: Useless to try to change the sunset law? DR: I'm not the right person to ask that question and we probably cannot provide staff support. JM: Does the Recreational Trails Plan need the CRTC? DR: Not necessarily—the trails community, including you, can comment individually. CH: California Trails & Greenways Foundation and other non-profits can fulfill some of this capacity. JM: This is disappointing because trails are increasingly important. I'm not willing to give up and want to influence the process.

b. Statewide Trail Manager's Report (AS)

- Other Power Driven Mobility Devices - The Department of Justice amended the language in Title II of the American with Disabilities Act to include another category of mobility aids known as Other Power Driven Mobility Devices or OPDMD. Examples would be golf carts, electric bikes and Segways. The Department has adopted a policy that will be implemented through the use of the District Superintendent Order. OPDMDs may be used in any unit of the California State Park System if they meet the following conditions: Evidence of Mobility Disability; OPDMD meets specified standards for size, weight, speed, noise, and emissions; are within authorized use areas. A detailed Department Notice has been added to the Department's Operations Manual.
- Project Update: Trail Minors Program - Statewide Trails selected the following projects for Prop 84 Trail Minor 's funding: construction of (1) Calaveras Big Trees Meadowview boardwalk, (2) Sonoma State Beach Coastal Trail (Kortum Trail reach) a reach of the coastal trail, (3) Mt San Jacinto State Park Pacific Crest Trail: and environmental review for trail projects at (1) Jedediah Smith Redwoods (Redwood Coast to Crest Trail), (2) Mount Tamalpais State Park (Easy Grade Trail) , (3) Donner Lake (Donner Rim Trail), and (4) Humboldt Redwoods State Park (River Trail). Next year, Proposition 84 funds will be used to complete CEQA before trail projects are funded. These projects include: Coast to Crest Trail at Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park, Easy Grade Trail in Mount Tamalpais State Park and Donner Rim Trail in Donner Memorial State Park. Materials for the Folsom Lake SRA Snipes Pershing Ravine Trail Bridge have been purchased. CEQA Project Evaluation Form and Notice of Exemption (NOE) have been completed. The NOE was filed on 12/20/10. A CDFG Stream-bed Alteration Agreement is pending. Brushing of the trail corridor and bridge area was scheduled to begin in February. Trail and bridge construction to follow in April. Good news that we've approved the \$350k 2010/11 Recreation Minor – Pacific Crest Trail Project @ Mt San Jacinto SP (Deer Spring to southern boundary).
- Recreational Trails Program (RTP) - A Memo has been sent to District and Sector Superintendents requesting Letters of Intent for the 2011/12 RTP cycle
- State Coastal Conservancy - Waters Ridge in Julia Pfeiffer Burns SP (a reach of the Coastal Trail) - The federal 106 document has been submitted to CSP Office of Grants & Local Services (OGALS) and sent to the State Historic Preservation Officer. When the 106 is approved, the interpretive signs will be installed and the project will be scheduled for final inspection. This trail project connects the Tanbark Oak trail in a remote portion of the park with the Ewoldson Trail next to the ocean. Elephant Seal in Hearst San Simeon SP (a reach of the Coastal Trail) - The Elephant Seal Boardwalk is finished. Final invoicing and project closeout paperwork is in process. The Grant Status Progress Report has been submitted to OGALS by the 3/1/11 deadline and the project is 98% complete. Garrapata SP (Big Sur) – Trail design and development is on hold for this stretch of the Coastal Trail because of the discovery of a rare butterfly inhabiting the area. This will alter the costs of setting up this project and will require a Mitigated Negative Declaration-level Environmental Impact Report (EIR). The State Coastal Conservancy offered \$50,000 in funding for the EIR Implementation plan. If there is funding available when this is finished, it will be used to build a spur trail leading to cable steps

access to the beach. Glass Beach in McKerricher SP (Fort Bragg) – EIR was released in December. It suggests that the city's preferred trail alignment would locate the trail back from the bluff and dunes to protect rare plants, but along a route that does not provide the coastal access or views that State Parks and the Conservancy had sought. The city determined it was environmentally damaging. This project will be defunded and a new project will be identified

- Statewide Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) has been funded and the Department has finalized a contract with Ascent. Public comments have been compiled and once ready, will be posted on both the CRTC website and the PEIR website. A draft report, from Ascent, is expected in Fall 2011, with the final document due in 2012. Staffing for this effort continues to be a concern.
  - Statewide Trails Manager Position - Alex Stehl's out-of-class assignment as the acting Statewide Trails Manager ends May 20. As discussed by Dan, the Department is currently awaiting the outcome of the state budget before filling the position
  - Announcements - The San Francisco Bay Trail, the Palo Alto Arts Commission, and the Bill Bliss Family Trust want to announce the "Bliss in the Moment", a statue honoring Bay trail volunteers and donors. The statue is located in Palo Alto on the Bay Trail at 101 Frontage Road between San Antonio & Embarcadero. Please ride by and enjoy the view. A cell phone app has been initiated by the CA State Parks Foundation with trails in the top 50 parks.
- c. Chair Report (LZ)
- Mormon's Ravine trail was maintained by my father for 25 years until his passing this year. Thanks to the volunteers who will continue this work.
- d. Member Reports
- DM: The Irvine Company donated 20,000 acre Saddleback Range and will build many trails. The Pacific Crest Trail will be rerouted over the Tehachapi Mountains through the Tejon Ranch.
  - MV: San Diego County acquired multi-species preservation land in Ramona. Public access plan followed natural resources plan. 300-400 through-hikers begin hiking the PCT from Campo Marino annually. I'm educating CalTrans and public works staff that PCT shouldn't be closed when nearby construction work starts.
  - CH: The conference was great especially the youth and diversity theme. I met a high school student in Auburn who organized a trail maintenance event for California Trails Days.
  - JM: Great conference! Great attendance! Loved the Iron Horse Trail workshop. We will be in Woodland Hills next year. I worked on an Earth Day trails project on Mt Diablo recently.
- e. Subcommittee Reports
- California Recreational Trails Committee Awards. LZ: The awards nomination form is on the website so please apply for next year.
  - User Conflict (no report)

## V. New Business

- a. Officer and Subcommittee Member Elections
- LZ nominated and DM seconded motion to elect JM as chair. Motion carried unanimously.
  - LZ nominated and MV seconded motion to elect CH as vice chair. Motion carried unanimously.
  - DM nominated and LZ seconded motion to elect MV as vice chair. Motion carried unanimously.
- b. Meeting Calendar
- April 2012 at California Trails & Greenways Conference. Unanimous consent.

**VI. Old Business**

- a. Trails Progress Report. AS: We placed copies of the draft progress report in your packet and need comments by May 15, 2011 for inclusion.

**VII. Presentations**

- a. Mokelumne Coast to Crest Trail, East Bay Regional Park District
  - Dan Cunningham reported the first segment of this trail was dedicated in Tilden Park 20 years ago. Along Lafayette Ridge, Carquinez shoreline. The Contra Costa Canal Trail has 35,000 users a month. Through Mt. Diablo SP, Black Diamond Corcoran Mine, Contra Loma Regional Park, Delta De Anza to the Antioch Bridge. He asks others to embrace the trail and tie it into the Pacific Crest Trail.
- b. Anza National Historic Trail Update, East Bay Regional Park District
  - Nancy Kaiser reported new interpretive initiatives along the Anza Trail in Contra Costa County to bring history to life, including QR codes on brochures.

**VIII. Correspondence**

- a. San Diego Mountain Biking Association
- b. Mark Engemann

**IX. Public Comment**

- a. Diane Dixon Johnson from Greenwood is a Western States volunteer. She says that Auburn SRA trails are old and made by horses. Wants single track trails with poor visibility and narrow, steep shoulders reserved for horses and hikers. Alternate routes for mountain bikers encouraged, especially multi-use trails. Park Watch patrol cards issued. One solution is to build new trails with line-of-sight and wider shoulders for bikes like Pollock Pines and Oroville. Build bike parks. She would hate to see CRTC dissolved.
- b. Trina Romo from Greenwood would love to host the CRTC. She decries the draconian park cuts and has seen park use increasing greatly. She wants CSP to look for more trail volunteer opportunities. There is a rumor circulating that CSP is converting all trails to include mountain bikes. Bikes and horses don't work on technical trails as there is no place to pass.
- c. Jim Hasenaur is very concerned about the CRTC sunset as they are the only legitimate voice of the public. He recommends adding a note on the sunset to the Progress Report. What can the California Trails & Greenways Foundation do? We have grant programs with \$500-1,000 grants. IMBA shares SDMBA opinions in their letter that the PEIR wouldn't typically study social impacts. The Precautionary Principle (of doing nothing unless you prove it's not detrimental) isn't fair for mountain bikers. The current policies breed discontent.

**X. Adjournment**

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