BAY AREA BARNS AND TRAILS - EDUCATION, PRESERVATION & STEWARDSHIP 'Helping preserve and grow stables, trails, pastures, staging areas, and horse camps in the San Francisco Bay Area.'

# REGIONAL E-NEWS FROM 'BAY AREA BARNS AND TRAILS' | May 19, 2007 | Page 1 of 3 "LAND FOR HORSES - STABLING, COMPETING, ENJOYING"

'In practical terms: 197 acres = one nice farm...95.5 miles of 4' wide trail...are lost- every hour - for the past 20 years\"...Join your local open space preservation organization...help save land for wildlife...agriculture... recreation...your family.
-Natural Resource Conservation Service



- photo by Robert Eichstaedt

#### HORSE HILL... 'EVERY TOWN NEEDS HILLS FOR HORSES'

'Horse Hill is a very special place on the border of Mill Valley and Corte Madera, adjacent to Highway 101 in Marin. Fourteen privately owned horses graze freely. The horses are able to graze on this land thanks to an arrangement between the Marin County Open Space District (MCOSD) and the Alto Bowl Horseowners Association (ABHA). ABHA is a non-profit coalition of horseowners that work in close collaboration with the County to remain in compliance with the Open Space regulations...Just like all Open Space in Marin, people are welcome on Horse Hill with little interference from the horses. When not under saddle, the horses have little interest in the trails. They are mostly interested in the grass. People walking with their canine companions are also welcomed. The horses simply ask that the dogs stay with their human companions, either on leash or by voice control, just as they would around other wildlife.'

#### ALAMEDA/CONTRA COSTA COUNTIES

Tilden Wildcat Horsemen www.twha.org and Metropolitan Horsemen are preparing for 2007 Six-Day 100-Mile East Bay Hills ride. Wednesday, August 29 - Monday, September 3, 2007. Ride and Camp all or part of the Memorial Weekend. Funds raised support East Bay Parks trails and the Bay Area Ridge Trail. Bay Area Barns and Trails will match the first \$5,000 raised.

- Morris Older: ebhillsride@comcast.net or 925-254-8943

#### SANTA CLARA COUNTY

#### Update: Victory for South Bay Farmland: From Greenbelt Alliance

"Last month, we asked you to speak up to protect South Bay farmland - and now we have some good news to report! Until now, developers paving over Santa Clara County farmland have not had to pay the true costs of destroying this resource, and thousands of acres of farmland have disappeared from "the Valley of Heart's Delight." Greenbelt Alliance has been working hard to change that, so that all of the agricultural land in Santa Clara County is not lost to sprawl development, and developers pay their fair share.

On April 4, Santa Clara's Local Area Formation Commission (LAFCO) adopted policies that will help preserve some of the last prime farmland in the county. The new LAFCO policies recommend that cities require that for every acre of farmland being paved, an acre of local farmland must be preserved. Because LAFCO makes the decision about when and how cities can annex land for development, cities have a strong incentive to adopt the recommended requirements.

This decision could lead to the preservation of hundreds of acres of prime farmland outside Gilroy, Morgan Hill, and San Jose. This is a great victory for Greenbelt Alliance, its local partners, and everyone who appreciates the agricultural heritage of the South Bay."

- www.greenbeltalliance.org

#### REGIONAL E-NEWS FROM 'BAY AREA BARNS AND TRAILS' | May 19, 2007 | Page 2 of 3

#### EVENT: FORUM ON COYOTE VALLEY WILDLIFE, MAY 6...

(too late for you to attend...however, please get involved and support Forum sponsors)

"Have a wild afternoon! Join us for a community forum on the wildlife of Coyote Valley, the 6,800-acre swath of open space south of San Jose that is being planned for development. Coyote Valley and the neighboring hillsides are home to many fascinating animals, including tule elk, mountain lions, badgers, and rare butterflies.

The City of San Jose has just released a draft Environmental Impact Report on its plan to develop the valley. This is an important opportunity to protect Coyote Valley's wildlife habitat and biological diversity.

This event is free and open to the public.

When: Sunday, May 6, 1:00 - 4:00 pm

Where: Almaden Library & Community Center, 6445 Camden Avenue, San Jose

Speakers: Councilmember Nancy Pyle, City of San Jose. Dr. Grey Hayes, Elkhorn Slough Foundation. Dr. Stuart Weiss,

Conservation Biologist. Tanya Diamond, San Jose State University

Sponsored by: Greenbelt Alliance, Committee for Green Foothills, Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society, Sierra Club Loma Prieta

Chapter, Silicon Valley Land Conservancy

#### CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

#### Golden Gate Park Stables

"Day 1,177: "Public stables in Golden Gate Park remain closed which undergoing environmental review...

Please let Mr. Agunbiade know that you are anxious to help move this effort forward:

Who is responsible? Yomi Agunbiade, Director of the San Francisco Recreation and Park Department (415-831-2700)

yomi.agunbiade@sfgov.org www.sfstablesfoundation.org

San Francisco Horsemen's Association www.sfhorsemen.org

#### **SOLANO COUNTY**

#### Lynch Canyon is now open to the public

Solano County has partnered with Solano Land Trust to open Lynch Canyon to the public Wednesday through Sunday from 8:00 a.m. to posted closing time. Closed Monday and Tuesday. This agreement is good for three years; it is important that the public support participating agencies and landowners.

#### **About Lynch Canyon**

Drop into the magic of Lynch Canyon, a Bay Area getaway just minutes from I-80 between Fairfield and Vallejo. The hum of traffic disappears when you step into the 1,039-acre Lynch Canyon property and enter a world of steeply rolling hills blanketed with grasslands and accented with groves of buckeyes and live oaks. This enclosed watershed drains to the Suisun Marsh via Lynch Creek. Grasslands, oak groves, riparian woodlands, and wetland meadows provide shelter and forage for deer, gray fox, coyote, bobcat, meadowlark, goldfinch, waterfowl, and many raptors, including the golden eagle. The 900-foot ridges offer panoramic views extending from the Coast Ranges to San Francisco Bay and across the Delta to the Sierra Nevada. Lynch Canyon was acquired by the Solano Land Trust in 1996, and is now home to a section of the Bay Area Ridge Trail.

Hours: Wednesday through Sunday from 8:00 a.m. to posted closing time.

Closed Monday and Tuesday. Restrooms are available at the parking area. No drinking water.

Water on trail; Hitchrails and parking for horse trailers

**Directions:** From I-80 take the Hiddenbrooke/American Canyon Exit between Vallejo and Fairfield. Turn east on McGary Road (frontage road that runs parallel on the south side of I-80) and proceed to the I-80 underpass. Turn left at the underpass. Proceed through gate at end of cul-de-sac to gravel parking lot.

Fee: A daily parking fee is required as posted. Annual parking passes are available through County Parks at (707) 784-7905.

- www.solanolandtrust.org

REGIONAL E-NEWS FROM 'BAY AREA BARNS AND TRAILS' | May 19, 2007 | Page 3 of 3

## BAY AREA BARNS AND TRAILS (BABTT) GRANTS AVAILABLE TO BAY AREA EQUESTRIANS... PREPARE YOUR PROJECT FOR OCTOBER.

Equestrian coalitions, public and private landowners, land and trail trusts, and non-profit equestrian organizations are invited to apply for small grants (\$500.00-\$2,500.00) to support land, trail and barn acquisition, restoration, construction, public education, and capacity building.

Preference is given to applicants that have raised matching funds during equestrian-sponsored rides or events.

### EDUCATION, PRESERVATION, STEWARDSHIP, AND CAPACITY BUILDING GRANTS 1999 - 2006: \$97,019

BAY AREA BARNS AND TRAILS GRANTS 2007 | 2007 \$ 5,000; Pending \$ 18,000.

Marin County May 2007 \$ 2,500

Friends of Marin Stables/Marin Municipal Water District:

Support restoration of seasonal creek adjacent to horse paddocks: Stewardship

Solano County May 2007 \$ 2,500

Solano Land Trust:

Support Lynch Canyon Grand Opening: Stewardship

PENDING 2007

Contra Costa County proposed \$ 2,500

M & M Stables/El Sobrante

Support Stable & Creek Cleanup: Stewardship

Alameda/Contra Costa County September 2007 \$ 5,000

Tilden/Wildcat Horsemen/Metropolitan Horsemen:

6th Annual 5-Day Labor Day Weekend Ride:

East Bay Regional Parks District and the Bay Area Ridge Trail Council: Stewardship

Contra Costa County proposed \$ 2,500

Muir Heritage Land Trust

Support trail planning, construction and management: Stewardship

Marin County October 2007 \$ 500

Alto Bowl Horseowner's Association/Marin County Open Space District: Habitat Restoration/Invasive Plant Removal: Stewardship/Volunteer Support

Napa County proposed \$ 2,500

Skyline Riders/Support construction of covered arena in Skyline Wilderness Park

Solano & Contra Costa Counties proposed \$ 2,500

Michael Muir/Access Adventure: Assist with Corrals construction/Rush Ranch

Solano Land Trust properties: Education

Sonoma County PENDING \$ 2,500

Back Country Horsemen: Support Construction of Manure Bunker in Annadel State Park: Stewardship

#### BAY AREA BARNS AND TRAILS E-News | May 19, 2007

P. O. Box 2435, Mill Valley, California 94941-2435 | Phone 415-383-6283; Fax 415-381-3809; e-mail BABTT@earthlink.net www.bayareabarnsandtrails.org