



BAY AREA BARNs AND TRAILS

Helping Preserve Equestrian Land & Trails in the San Francisco Bay Area

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Stewart Horse Camp -- SAVED!

Connie Berto reports the existing operators of Stewart Horse Camp have signed the contract with the National Park Service to continue as the official concessionaires. The signing took place on Friday March 28.

The "Trail Rules" submitted by the Marin Horse Council as part of the conditions were approved. The plans to develop the front meadow (next to Hwy. One) for more campers has been put on hold.

Thanks to a lot of work by a few individuals and also in part to a widespread letter-writing campaign, the situation was changed from potentially disastrous to that of a happy conclusion. The tradition will continue!

HISTORIC MARCH to Protest State Parks Closures

FROM SUTTER'S FORT TO THE STATE CAPITOL,
Monday, April 21, 2008 - 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Sacramento, CA.

Take part in a historic march to protest the 48 state park closures. Participants will be dressed in period clothing. The march will end with a press conference on the steps of the Capitol and the delivery of thousands of petitions, postcards and letters to the Governor. Please e-mail Advocacy@calparks.org for more information.

Oakland Hills PARK BOND - MEASURE AA EXTENSION

PUBLIC MEETING, Wednesday, April 16 - 7-8:30 p.m.
Centre Concord (classroom) 5298 Clayton Road, Concord, CA.

Come and hear about East Bay Regional Park District's proposal to extend the AA Bond Measure in this November's election. With increased urbanization in the East Bay and a growing population, the park district is one of our only bastions against encroaching development. In 1988 Bond Measure AA was passed, providing funds for EBRPD to acquire and preserve more than 34,000 acres of incredible land for open space, parks, and trails. This bond measure will expire in 2008 unless we vote in November to extend it. This would not entail a tax increase, only an extension of what we are paying right now. We need this bond measure if we want to continue preserving our open spaces and land for the future. Please attend, learn about the Bond Measure and help spread the word before November. For information:

[www.ebparks.org/news/measureAA?
utm_source=Pub_ews_2008_0304&utm_medium=MailChimp](http://www.ebparks.org/news/measureAA?utm_source=Pub_ews_2008_0304&utm_medium=MailChimp)

SUCCESS: Developers Pull the Plug on Coyote Valley

In a reprieve for 3,500 acres of working farmland, developers withdrew their support for the Coyote Valley Specific Plan process, citing a downturn in the housing market and costly planning delays. This is a great victory for Greenbelt Alliance and others who have fought a massive new development that would have housed 80,000 people in the rural valley.

Greenbelt Alliance and many environmental advocates submitted over 1,300 pages of comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Report. The concerns spurred the City to revise the entire document, further delaying the process and frustrating developers.

www.greenbelt.org/resources/newswire/2008April

SUCCESS: Vacaville Adopts Urban Growth Boundary

After Greenbelt Alliance and its partners collected over 10,000 signatures from Vacaville residents in support of a growth boundary, the City Council chose on March 25 to adopt the boundary outright. The urban line will protect thousands of acres of farmlands and hills around

the city.

Because of the number of signatures gathered, this ordinance will have the same weight as a voter-adopted ordinance-it will last for 20 years and can only be changed by a vote of the people.

Vacaville joins Fairfield and Benicia as Solano County cities with boundaries defining where development should and should not go. These boundaries protect open space and help promote more sustainable growth. Greenbelt Alliance applauds Vacaville's leaders for taking this important step.

www.greenbelt.org/resources/newswire/2008April

Judge Strikes Down OAK GROVE REFERENDUM PETITION

Decision Ends Costly June Referendum Drive and Helps Speed the Donation of Open Space to the City of Pleasanton

PLEASANTON-Community supporters of a plan to donate almost 500 acres of open space to the City of Pleasanton for public trails and recreation applauded a court ruling today that concluded project opponents deceived residents during a referendum drive targeted for the June ballot.

“This decision is a victory for the Lin Family, the city and the residents of Pleasanton and a repudiation of the deceptive tactics used by a small group of opponents to misrepresent a project that has widespread community support,” said Marty Inderbitzen, attorney for the Lin family, owners of the Oak Grove property. “When we initiated this project, we made a commitment to an open, honest and candid process that would involve the entire community. That's why we have spent four years of intensive planning with elected officials, homeowners' associations, environmentalists and community leaders and held open house sessions, participated in 'First Wednesdays,' and nine formally noticed public hearings before City committees, commissions and the City Council.”

Alameda County Superior Court Judge Frank Roesch invalidated a petition that opponents had circulated to place the Oak Grove project on the ballot. The judge said opponents misled residents into signing the petition by failing to provide the full text of the ordinance approved by the Pleasanton City Council.

The court's decision saves Pleasanton from having to hold an expensive election with taxpayer dollars. With no further delays, Pleasanton gets almost 500 acres of new park land - twice as large as Augustin Bernal - with trails suitable for hiking, biking and equestrian uses, a staging area and other amenities. A developer-funded endowment will maintain the open space in perpetuity.

Despite the extensive community planning process and the council's near-unanimous approval, a small group of opponents mounted a campaign to place the council's decision before voters. However, the petition that opponents circulated to get the referendum on the ballot failed to include the very ordinance it sought to challenge, a fatal flaw according to the judge's ruling.

Oak Grove supporters challenged the petition in court when they heard from many residents who learned only after they signed the petition that they were not given complete information

about the project. There were many more who stated that, had they seen the additional information, they would not have signed the petition.

The 497 acres being donated to the city as part of the Oak Grove project will serve as the first and most significant step in the creation of a 2,000-acre greenbelt to protect and buffer Pleasanton's southern border against future development forever.

Keep Our Park is a community based group of concerned citizens who care deeply about Pleasanton and its future.

Thank you, Dick Quigley, for forwarding this exciting news. rlquigl@comcast.net

ACTION ALERT: Protect South Bay Farmland

On April 30, Morgan Hill's City Council will consider the future of 1,250 acres of farmland southeast of the city. The City Council will also be looking at draft agricultural mitigation policies, which provide a funding source for protecting farmland.

Help preserve South Santa Clara County's farming legacy -- call or write the City Council and come to the hearing.

When: 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 30

Where: Council Chambers, 17555 Peak Avenue, Morgan Hill

Contact: mbeasley@greenbelt.org or (408) 983-0856

Information: www.greenbelt.org/regions/southbay/camp_morganhill.html

The Equestrian Center at GOLDEN GATE PARK STABLES

San Francisco Parks Trust is partnering with San Francisco Recreation and Park Department (RPD) to preserve the historic stables and bring horses back to Golden Gate Park. Recent accomplishments include:

- completed an "Economic Model Project", retaining 4 Bay Area equestrian facilities to write reports and share their data on most profitable programs, operating budgets, risk management strategies, etc.
- retained an equestrian consultant and initiated an extensive business plan for the successful business operations of the Stables
- produced a high-quality pro-bono cost estimate based on the City's Environmental Impact Report (EIR) concept drawings, including an initial structural analysis of the WPA-era stalls
- assisted RPD with the EIR process, including retaining Page & Turnbull Architects to help with additional designs required for the Historic Resource section of the EIR.
- negotiated an Memorandum of Understanding with RPD to fundraise for the design portion of the Stables' project and received unanimous approval to proceed by the Recreation & Park Commission

- retained Tom Eliot Fisch to be the SFPT architects for the Stables project and begin initial phase of Concept Design & Project Entitlements.
- received approval from the Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board to proceed with Grandstand removal.
- received cornerstone gift of \$500,000 to launch Design Phase of Stables Campaign
- worked with Supervisor McGoldrick's office to bring Proposition G to victory, and to secure \$750,000 of City General Funds through an established Stables Matching Fund.
- presented EIR to SF Planning Commission, & received unanimous approval and Project Certification
- presented the stables conceptual design to a Community Meeting group of approximately 50 interested individuals.
- met with Mayor's Office to update them on status of project and received letter of support from Mayor's Office
- presented the stables conceptual design to Recreation & Park Commission and received unanimous approval to proceed

If you are interested in learning more about the Equestrian Center at Golden Gate Park, please contact cynthia@sfpt.org with your address to sign up for informational emails and mailings! [San Francisco Parks Trust](#)

PLEASE CONSIDER JOINING OR RENEWING YOUR MEMBERSHIP! Your support enables BABTT and its partners to support the work of Bay Area equestrian organizations, landowners, land trusts, and land managing agencies.

Membership forms are available on our website, in the newsletter, or you may [click here to JOIN ONLINE](#) through 'Groundspring'



To help keep BABTT informed of acquisition, facility and trail maintenance opportunities and challenges in your area, please submit articles and photos to Bay Area Barns and Trails: babtt2@earthlink.net
visit us online @ www.bayareabarnsandtrails.org