

**ALTAMONT LANDFILL OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**July 17, 2015**  
**APPROVED MEETING MINUTES**

- I. Call to order** – The meeting was called to order by Liz McElligott at 12:45 p.m.
- II. Approval of Minutes May 15, 2015** – Liz acknowledged the correction under California Rangeland Trust, first paragraph referring to 400,000 conservation easements, should read 400,000 acres under easements. Steve Stewart would like the last paragraph under Next Meeting to delete the last sentence and add that the City of Livermore would be very supportive of the purchase of the Carnegie property. Dick Schneider moved to approve the minutes with changes. Steve Stewart seconded the motion. Motion passed.
- III. Public Comment – None**
- IV. Presentations by local open space and environmental groups regarding open space priorities in the County:**
- **Save Mount Diablo** – Seth Adams, Conservation Director, expressed that there are critical opportunities and linkages available for conservation goals and how this committee can play a critical role in providing the funds necessary to accomplish these goals.

Save Mount Diablo was formed in 1971. He expanded on the Mount Diablo Range and how it stretches 150 miles south from Mount Diablo. He talked about the waves of conservation which included saving areas such as the Sierras, Redwoods, followed by the deserts. The next big wave will be the coastal areas. Eastern Contra Costa and Alameda Counties are considered the biggest hot spots for endangered species in California. The Altamont Pass provides a critical linkage of the north and south Diablo range. He expanded on the importance of providing wildlife corridors, preserving Doolan and Collier Canyons would help with connections into Contra Costa County. Opportunities for preservation include ridgelines such as Highland and Morgan Territory.

Save Mount Diablo owns 20 parcels which total 2,300 acres with no benefits as a park district. The motto for Save Mount Diablo is preserve, defend, restore and enjoy. Engage the public and show them what it takes and encourage them to support park bonds. He said SMD is not against development, but works with developers to further preservation goals. SMD does advocacy work with other groups to defend urban limit lines.

He talked about the grasslands in the Altamont and the connection between grasslands and the wildlife. Raptors, eagles, and owls hunt in the grasslands. The largest concentration of golden eagles can be found in this area. He expanded on the importance of affecting land use patterns, protecting ridgelines, and guiding development to more efficient locations, along freeways and BART stations.

The highest priority aside from Tesla to use public dollars should be Cedar Mountain. It has 20,000 acres of serpentine geology, the single most important botanical hot spot outside of Mount Diablo. He encouraged the committee to focus on this area. It should be a park in its own right.

Summarizing, he said the following are the areas to have the committee concentrate on:

- Alameda side, southern Tassajara border
- Cedar Mountain
- Altamont Pass connections

- Doolan-Collier Canyons
  - Alameda side, Highland Ridge
  - Tesla – Corral Hollow
  - 580 crossings
  - Dyer Road addition to Brushy Peak
- East Bay Regional Park District – Bob Nisbet, Assistant Manager, talked about the 2013 Master Plan. The master plan drives the goals of the District. EBRPD was founded in 1934. It has 120,000 acres of land, 1,250 miles of trails and 725 employees. It covers Alameda and Contra Costa Counties. EBRPD works with other agencies. Voters in both counties agreed to tax themselves for the purchase of open space. The district also receives funds from mitigation from development. The park district uses matching funds to leverage their purchases.

The three top areas of opportunities are Brushy Peak, Doolan Canyon, and Pleasanton Ridge. Areas of interest are Cedar Mountain, Duarte Canyon, Bethany Reservoir and the Chain of Lakes. The district normally does not seek land. The district receives tips on potential sites and then follows up on the leads. Brushy Peak or Doolan Canyon could be on the district's next request for funding.

Mr. Nisbet emphasized that their parks are never done. There are always possibilities for connectivity and expansion. There's always potential for extension of trails.

Dick Schneider asked if the district acquires easements on private land to extend trails. Mr. Nisbet said yes. They prefer doing that instead of buying the whole property. It all depends on priorities and if it is a high priority trail.

- Alameda Creek Alliance – Ralph Boniello said they do outreach and education on watersheds. General areas of interest are Stonybrook Creek along Palomares Road as well as Arroyo Mocho Canyon. The Alameda Creek is an anchor for Steelhead watershed. The tributaries include Arroyo de la Laguna, Arroyo del Valle, San Antonio Creek and Calaveras Creek. Mr. Boniello asked the committee to consider preserving areas that assist with groundwater recharge.

- V. Discussion of developing a strategic vision of the Committee** – Continued to the September 18<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- VI. Presentation on the Annual Christmas Bird Count** – Rich Cimino, Ohlone Audubon, talked about the group's annual Christmas Bird count which provides a way to track birds and monitor changes in land. The area is centered a few hundred yards south of Highway 84 on San Francisco PUC land. The volunteers have counted on average a total of 148 different bird species. The single best count year was 2011 with 155 species. He announced that this year's count would be on December 19, 2015 and asked anyone who is interested in participating to contact him.
- VII. Update on the proposal to dispose of San Francisco waste in Solano County** – David Tam referred to the San Francisco Examiner articles on the issue. He said San Francisco is planning to have their garbage hauled to a landfill east of Vacaville. He said the negative declaration for the project is being appealed and he will have more information in September.
- VIII. Presentation on the burrowing owl mitigation contract for City of Livermore properties on Doolan Road** – Steve Stewart said the city is working on an agreement to use the Doolan Canyon property for burrowing owl mitigation. Some of the funds to purchase the property came from this committee in 2009 and the city anticipates completing the whole mitigation transaction and paying back the funds to the committee in the fall.

- IX. Update on available funding** – Maria Palmeri updated the committee on available funding.
- X. Future Agenda Items/Speakers** – Strategic vision, committee operation, funds available, Springtown Preserve
- XI. Next meeting** – September 18, 2015.
- XII. Questions/Comments**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m.