

ALTAMONT LANDFILL OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
October 18, 2013
APPROVED MEETING MINUTES

- I. Call to order** – The meeting was called to order by Shawn Wilson at 12:30 p.m.
- II. Approval of Minutes January 20, 2012 and September 21, 2012** – On the September minutes, Dick Schneider asked that the word moot be corrected. He also asked that on item V on the second paragraph, to add the name Arthur Boone after “Dick Schneider said...”. Dick Schneider moved to approve the minutes with corrections, Werner Schlapfer seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- III. Public Comment** – Ayn Wieskamp, EBRPD board member, thanked the committee for the support of EBRPD grants and presented the Open Space Committee members the Living Landscape book from EBRPD.
- IV. East Bay Regional Park District grant application to purchase the Castleridge property, 231.57 acres, to expand Pleasanton Ridge Regional Park** – Liz Musbach, Land Acquisition Manager for EBRPD, presented the grant application. This property is adjacent to the Pleasanton Ridge Regional Park. This purchase will protect the critical, contiguous habitat corridor that is created by Pleasanton Ridge Regional Park and other local open space lands. This acquisition will prevent development and protect Pleasanton Ridge scenic views and habitat. The Park District will contribute 1.2 million and is asking one million from the Open Space funds.

Dick Schneider said he hiked the beautiful trail. Werner Schlapfer commented that the access to the site is problematic. Ms. Musbach said a staging area would be ideal and staff will be looking at future opportunities for best access. Shawn Wilson applauded EBRPD for working with all of 18 property owners and getting the price down by \$200,000.

Jerry Pentin, City of Pleasanton, moved to approve the grant as submitted. Mr. Werner Schlapfer from the Sierra Club seconded. Motion approved.

- V. East Bay Regional Park District grant application to purchase the William E. Ralph Trust property, 79.02 acres, adjacent to Brushy Peak Regional Preserve** – John Bouyea, Real Estate Appraiser for EBRPD, presented the grant application. This property is adjacent to Brushy Peak Regional Preserve and will connect to Laughlin Road to the preserve’s former Dyer property. This purchase will protect the preserve’s western view-sheds and potentially provide linkages into the park. The purchase will also permanently preserve important natural resources including seasonal wetlands, vernal pools and other sensitive habitat.

The Park district is asking for \$250,000 from the West Open Space funds and \$250,000 is coming from the City of Livermore, \$50,000 will come from the EBRPD Murray Township Funds.

Werner Schlapfer from the Sierra Club moved to approve the grant proposal as submitted. Steve Stewart from the City of Livermore seconded. Motion approved.

- VI. City of Livermore grant application to purchase the Doolan Road Partnership property, 81 acres, adjacent and north of the City-owned open space and water tank parcels** – Steve Stewart from the City of Livermore presented the grant proposal. He said the City is seeking to acquire in fee-title approximately 81 acres currently owned by Doolan Road Partnership. The proposal is to fund one-half of the acquisition with the Altamont Landfill Open Space fund and the other half with the City of Livermore Transferable Development Credits Fund. The City would like to close escrow by December 12, 2013.

Werner Schlapfer, Sierra Club, said it seems the city is purchasing this site as a green belt buffer. Steve said yes but also for open space preservation. He said this is part of Doolan Canyon between the City of Dublin

and Livermore. This is an opportunity acquisition. This site is strategic for preserving Doolan Canyon. EBRPD said they feel strongly about preserving Doolan Canyon and would like to eventually have a connection to Tassajara and Pleasanton. It also has potential for a future trail.

Dick Schneider, Sierra Club, said it has habitat value but he is concerned about how property will be managed since it is a critical habitat for different species. He asked for assurance that the City will have appropriate land management. He said intensive agriculture would destroy its suitability as habitat for the California Tiger Salamander. Steve said the City does not have any plans to do intensive ag or plant vineyards. They would like to continue cattle grazing on the property, the creek channel is very unstable and steep and there are a lot of opportunities for repairs. Dick Schneider asked if the City of Livermore has plans to pay back the \$550,000 borrowed from the Open Space account to purchase land in 2009. Steve said staff will be looking for mitigation opportunities such as providing bank land to other projects and use the mitigation money to pay-back the Open Space funds.

Dick Schneider moved to approve the grant as submitted. Steve Stewart seconded. Motion approved.

VII. Grant request by the East Alameda County Conservation Strategy Implementation Committee in the amount of \$5,000 to fund the development and maintenance of a public geographic information system. The mapping system will provide users with East Alameda County biological and environmental information.

Steve Stewart presented the proposal. He said the EACCS is a collaborative effort between the cities of Dublin, Livermore, Pleasanton, and County of Alameda, Zone 7, EBRPD, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, SFBRWQCB, Ca Dept of Fish and Wildlife, Alameda County Waste Management Authority, AC Congestion Management District and AC Resource Conservation District, to preserve endangered species by developing and adopting a shared vision for habitat protection. In 2010 the final draft of the East Alameda County Conservation Strategy was finalized. This is not a regulatory document. This document will provide guidance during project planning and permitting process. The committee thought that having a website with a mapping system available with biological and environmental information would be useful to the public. The plan is to gather existing information and make it available to anyone, it does not target specific properties, it is just a way to consolidate all this information and have it in one place. This site can be used as a tool for someone who is doing a biological study. The work will be conducted by Lynx Technologies. The cost includes uploading the data and will cover maintenance for the first year. The total cost is \$8,000.

Dick Schneider said it is a good way to have all the information in one place. Werner Schlapfer said that he is a bit skeptical since the current site has been inactive for a couple of years. Steve said that it is true, the information on the site has not been changed for the last two years. County Counsel said that the appropriation of open space funds for this use does not seem appropriate, unless this information will help the committee carry out its duty. Dick Schneider said the information would be useful to him and it is important that the information is kept up to date. Shawn Wilson said that to have updated information is crucial.

Dick Schneider moved to approve the grant as submitted. Jerry Pentin from the City of Pleasanton seconded the motion. Motion approved.

VIII. Discussion of proposed amendments to the Altamont Landfill Settlement Agreement on guidelines and procedures for the Altamont Open Space Committee – County Counsel Fleishhacker updated the committee on the amendments. He said the committee already approved the changes. He said all of the parties to the settlement agreement present today at this meeting are in favor of the changes. Some have not responded. The approval should come from the respective boards. Dick Schneider said the Sierra Club is in

favor of the submitted changes. The Sierra Club is not in favor of any significant changes, it would not be acceptable.

County Counsel said these changes are procedural changes. These changes solidify the current procedures. Jerry Pentin from the City of Pleasanton said he will discuss it with their Counsel before giving a final decision. Discussion ensued on other changes. County Counsel asked that Liz contact Waste Management. Jerry Pentin said he would like to see all proposed changes together before discussing it with City's Counsel. Luke Sims from City of Dublin said that because of the agreement between the two cities, Pleasanton and Dublin, they will have to discuss the changes and if it affects their agreement.

Joan Sepalla asked that David Tam's suggested changes on increasing geographical area and increasing the fee be brought up at the next meeting. County Counsel said this will be a very significant change to the agreement.

- IX. Discussion of Potential Wildlife Corridor in Eastern Alameda County** – Celeste Garamendi, Friends of the Tesla Park, spoke to the committee. She said Friends of the Tesla Park is an alliance dedicated to protecting the biologically unique and culturally sensitive Tesla Park land. There are a number of organizations in support of protecting this land. The goal is to permanently protect Tesla Park as a non-motorized low impact recreation historic and natural resource park and preserve. This area is identified in the EBRPD Master Plan as a potential regional preserve.

She distributed a letter from David Tam, representing Sustainability, Park, Recycling, Wildlife Legal Defense Fund (SPRAWLDEF), in which he expressed his interest in working with all supportive parties to further the long-range goal of preserving forever the Altamont Hills Wildlife Corridor. She also shared photos and a map of the area. She said it is important to preserve this area as a non motorized area. She said that the DEIR for the proposed expansion of the Carnegie State Vehicular Recreation Area will be released in December.

Dick Schneider said his big concern has always been the migration corridor of the Altamont Hills. This issue was his inspiration in the creation of this committee.

- X. Update on available funding** – Maria Palmeri reported on funding available. The total for the 80% area of the East County is approximately \$8.5 million and the total for the 20% for the West area is approximately 1.5 million. These figures include Vasco Road Landfill funds.

- XI. Future Agenda Items/Speakers** – Save Tesla Park and Carnegie Plan

- XII. Next meeting** - January 17, 2014

- XIII. Questions/Comments**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:35 p.m.