



San Francisco Bay Trail Project
Bay Area Metro Center
375 Beale Street, Suite 700
San Francisco, CA 94105

TO: Bay Trail Steering Committee
FR: Laura Thompson
RE: New Regional Coalition Membership

DATE: January 2, 2020

Background

The San Francisco Bay Trail non-profit organization has received an invitation to become a founding member of the newly configured Bay Area Open Space Council. The Bay Trail has been a member of the Bay Area Open Space Council since the early 1990s.

In 2018, the Council faced an uncertain future. In response, dedicated supporters and board members launched an 8-month public rebuilding process that resulted in overwhelming enthusiasm for saving the organization and development of a long-term vision, strategy and implementation plan that defines the new organization's role in the region.

Bay Trail staff contributed to the plan by emphasizing the importance of a regional voice for trails. Historically, the Bay Area Open Space Council has not been as strong a champion for trails as we think necessary. Having a strong and dependable advocate in Sacramento and the region that communicates the value of multi-jurisdictional trails to decision-makers is essential in our work to complete the remaining complicated gaps.

A recent conversation with the new Executive Director of the coalition, Annie Burke, provided some assurances that regional trails are an integral component of the new coalition's work. An intentional shift will occur as part of the new organizational goals to include people, i.e. education, public access, outdoor recreation, farming and working lands.

New Coalition

With input from hundreds of people around the region through an online survey and focused conversations, the following two programs have been identified as priorities for the new organization:

1. **Advocacy for Funding and Policies for Resilient Lands and People.** The goal of this program is to transform how we as a region create resilient lands and people in the face of climate change while working towards justice and equity. A policy director will lead the process to set up the infrastructure that guides decision-making for the organization.

2. **Convening a Powerful Coalition.** The goal of this program is to build the relationships that support the environmental and social changes required for resilient lands and people. An annual summit will be held to work on specific platforms or campaigns. Site visits will be conducted to visit places around the region that demonstrate the multi-benefit projects members are leading.

Attached are materials describing the structure and focus of the new organization. Staff sees value in actively participating in this organization and recommends the Bay Trail non-profit join as a member.

Dues

The annual Bay Trail non-profit budget is well under \$250,000, with FY 2019-20 revenues and expenses under \$10,000. According to the dues chart in the attached materials, this budget level results in annual dues of \$250 to the new organization.

We welcome a Steering Committee conversation about this recommendation.