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Cc: [Andrew Fremier](#); [Toshi Shepard-Ohta](#); [Kathleen Kane](#); [Rosemary Corbin](#); [Bill Long](#)
Subject: ABAG Executive Board Agenda Item 13 - San Francisco Bay Trail Nonprofit
Date: Monday, November 11, 2024 9:40:34 PM
Attachments: [BT Stalled.pdf](#)

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President Ramos, Vice President Arreguin and Members of ABAG Executive Board,

The San Francisco Bay Trail Project nonprofit Board of Directors recognizes the need for a new structure to carry out the advocacy which is essential for completing and maintaining the planned 500 miles of San Francisco Bay Trail. There are 150 miles of gaps in the trail, and 70 miles of the existing route are in substandard condition. Moreover, much of the existing trail is threatened by sea level rise.

Good, steady progress was made toward completing the trail when ABAG staffed the San Francisco Bay Trail Project and engaged in advocacy, outreach and support with the many agencies involved in planning, building and maintaining the trail. The attached figure “After 15 Years of Growth the Bay Trail Has Stalled” shows that Bay Trail growth came to a halt with the shift to staffing by MTC, which cannot actively promote the Bay Trail due to restrictions associated with federal funding it receives. Promotion and advocacy are essential to ensure that completion and maintenance of the Bay Trail is a high priority for local government agencies with limited staff and a full plate of competing projects.

A restructured nonprofit in a public-private partnership with MTC could take advantage of significant opportunities to help build, promote and sustain the Bay Trail. A robust nonprofit would have the flexibility to effectively advocate, nurture strong relationships with partners and landowners, lead fundraising and capital campaigns, and build awareness and support through events and outreach.

Transition funding will be needed for hiring advocacy and development staff focused on fundraising if an existing nonprofit such as the Bay Area Ridge Trail or Save the Bay is to consider adding the Bay Trail project to its existing mission. Under contract to MTC, the Potrero’s Group estimated that operating expenses would be about \$3.3 million for the first five years with initial seed funding of \$1.5 million needed to support the project for the first 3 years until new revenue from fundraising efforts begins offsetting expenses.

Therefore, we request addition of the following underlined language to the Executive Board resolution in order to be consistent with the October 25 resolution adopted by the San Francisco Bay Trail Project Board of Directors:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Executive Board of the Association of Bay Area Governments hereby authorizes MTC/ABAG to carry out the mandates of SB 100 with policy decision-making under the Joint MTC Planning and ABAG Administrative Committee, ~~and~~ dissolve the September 5, 1990 agreement between ABAG and the San Francisco Bay Trail Project Nonprofit through a 60-day notice of termination and assist the San Francisco Bay Trail Project nonprofit in discussions with potential partners and obtaining transition funding that would enable a new nonprofit to take on the Bay Trail Project’s mission; and be it further

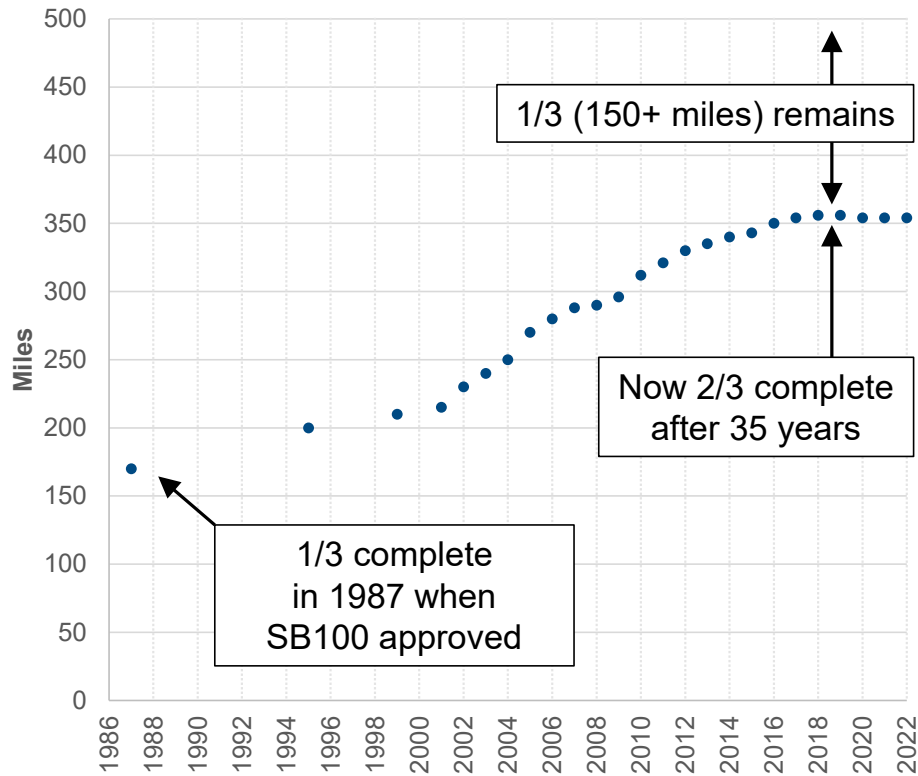
RESOLVED the Executive Director of ABAG is authorized and directed to take all actions necessary to effectuate the purposes of this Resolution.

Rosemary Corbin, Chair Pro Tem of San Francisco Bay Trail Project Board of Directors

Bill Long, Chair of San Francisco Bay Trail Project Organizational Ad Hoc Committee

After 15 Years of Growth the Bay Trail Has Stalled

Bay Trail Mileage 1987 – 2022



Bay Trail Mileage Added Per Year

