

EQUESTRIAN TRAIL RIDERS' ACTION COMMITTEE

ETRAC 2014 Year End Report

The volunteer members of ETRAC Committee have attended a lot of meetings this year! The various land managers of the many open spaces in our County have been busy planning and purchasing. ETRAC has worked hard to keep abreast of all their activities and to always interject the equestrian point of view to those that manage/control these public lands.

The Bay Area Ridge Trail will be extended 6 miles along Hwy 35, north of Purissima Creek Open Space to the Skylawn Cemetery. This trail is set to be completed by 2017. This trail will then connect to the Cahill-Fifield Trail on SFPUC lands which extends 10 mi from the Quarry on Hwy 92 to Sweeny Ridge in San Bruno. The Cahill-Fifield Trail is currently open to equestrians, but only on permit basis. <http://sfwater.org/index.aspx?page=147>. There are more talks of opening up this trail more; ETRAC will keep you informed.

San Mateo County Parks has completed one of several sections to the Crystal Springs Trails this year. Envisioned as part a 17.5 mi linear Park (Regional Crystal Springs Trail) stretching from San Bruno to Huddart Park, the completed section runs south from the Crystal Springs Dam to Hwy 92. A 2nd section will connect the end of the Crystal Springs Trail (which ends about a mile south of Hwy 92) to Hwy 92. Both of these trails are open to horses, however because of constraints of the landscape, not all sections have a 3 foot gravel shoulder. Also because of the CAL Trans stipulations, none of these sections will be opened up until the bridge crossing has been completed. Again ETRAC has stressed the importance of equestrian safe footing.

Many meetings have been associated with the reconstruction of the Alpine Trail along Alpine Road. Unfortunately much of the trail will now be paved, but it will continue to be multi-use for horses. ETRAC will continue to work for a gravel shoulder.

Improvements to Old Haul Road (Pescadero Creek Park) are being discussed as is a new trail, Greer Mill Trail. (Ernst Meissner and Mike Bushue initially mapped this trail out and finally Measure A funds has enable the Parks to look into its creation; again...stayed tuned). ETRAC has also been in talks about equestrian access to the Green Valley Trail (trail parking), located near McNee Ranch State Park and also informed the new members of the SMC Parks Commission of all the positive, environmentally sound reasons for '*not paving*' anymore multi-use trails.

MROSD, because of Measure AA passage, has been able to work towards opening up all the lands that they have had closed. A new constructed horse friendly trail has opened up to Mt. Umumhum in Sierra Azul. New Trail connections in Russian Ridge Open Space to Mindego Ranch are being worked on. ETRAC has continued to push hard for the opening up of La Honda Creek/Driscoll Ranch to the public. MROSD is now open to permitted usage of equestrian facilities at the equestrian center. ETRAC helped to forge a plan for the Arena Panels which the former owner planned on selling. See details of the 25 top MROSD projects http://www.openspace.org/Imagine/downloads/Top25_Future_Projects_sm.pdf

GGNRA Again, many meetings with this Land manager and much associated with Corral de Tierra. While public input has been sought, there is little known of the outcome of these meetings. It should be stated that a big concern of theirs is preservation of environment as well as habitat restoration. (** As this is a huge concern with all the managers, ETRAC cannot stress how important it is that equestrians plan on cleaning up/hauling out their horse manure at trailer parking sites) Again, ETRAC will continue to monitor and speak to equestrian concerns.

State Parks While ETRAC has attempted to keep close tabs on these parks, this land manager has been difficult to follow; no meetings & less information about their trail management/concerns. If you are interested in checking on a specific trail prior to going to the State Park, check their web site. www.parks.ca.gov/ParksIndex ETRAC will continue to keep in touch with them

Woodside It should be noted several equestrian groups (WHOA!, Mounted Patrol, Los Viajeros, and CHAPS) have worked together to fund new horse tie racks at Bucks and soon, at Alice's.

A COALITION OF EQUESTRIAN ORGANIZATIONS :

COAST SIDE HORSE COUNCIL - DISABLED EQUESTRIANS - JBH CAMP AD HOC COMMITTEE - LOS ALTOS HOUNDS - LOS ALTOS HORSEMEN'S ASSOC. - LOS VIAJEROS RIDING CLUB - MOUNTED PATROL OF SMC - PORTOLA VALLEY TRAILS ASSOC. - SAN FRANCISCO HORSEMEN'S ASSOC. - SAN MATEO COUNTY HORSEMEN'S ASSOC. - THE SHACK RIDERS - WOODSIDE HORSE OWNERS ASSOC. - WOODSIDE TRAILS CLUB