



Connor O'Brien reaches the crux of a climb at Sanborn County Park.

| SANTA CLARA COUNTY |

Sanborn County Park Sends Us Skyward

By Brian Schmidt

Sanborn County Park, extending from Saratoga up to the county line, constitutes a prime example of why local open space must be preserved. Santa Clara County established the 3700-acre park in the 1970s around the time that the Parks Charter Fund had been established, guaranteeing a stable source of funding that makes park operation possible.

Many people know about the heavily-used, lower area of the park near Saratoga and Hakone Gardens, where grass fields and bar-

becue pits attract crowds. Less well-known is that the land and trails on the Bay side of Skyline Drive are not part of Castle Rock State Park but of Sanborn. Rock-climbers, among other groups, use the "rock" part of nearby Castle Rock, and some of them know they can cross Skyline to climb at Sanborn.

Local rock-climbing is part of mountaineering history. In the decades before climbing gyms, California mountain climbers kept up their skills and techniques

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| MENLO PARK & EAST PALO ALTO |

Partnering for Open Space

By Cynthia D'Agosta

The roughly three square mile area that encompasses the communities of Belle Haven in Menlo Park and East Palo Alto hold some of the most stunning natural resources and landscape features of any San Francisco Bay community, yet they are little known or encountered by its residents. From vantage points along the Bay in this area, one is afforded views of several cities and at least four counties. On clear days you can see the downtowns of Oakland and San Francisco, the coastline extending from Alameda around San Jose and up the Peninsula, the ring of foothills that provide a colorful backdrop all the way around the Bay, and the many bridges that connect us across the water.

However, this same community has a familiar and ill-fated history of land use planning which impacted under-resourced neighborhoods throughout the state from the 1930's through the 1960's by imposed zoning that included garbage dumps, gun clubs, liquor stores, chemical plants, sewage & water treatment plants, and airports. The Highway 101 corridor physically divided the community, and the Dumbarton Bridge brought traffic jams on city streets, increased noise levels, and diminished air quality. These historic land use patterns, together with government land swaps, the movement and engineering of creeks, and the Cargill salt

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COMMITTEE FOR GREEN FOOTHILLS

Committee for Green Foothills is a grassroots 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization working to establish and maintain land use policies that protect the environment throughout Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties.

Committee for Green Foothills mission is to protect the open space, farmlands, and natural resources of Santa Clara and San Mateo counties through advocacy, education and grassroots action.

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It seems like change is in the air. As I write this in late February, the mornings still feel like winter. However, the sun is staying around late enough that it's almost time to put away the bike lights I use for my evening commute until next fall. Spring will be here soon! Change has come to Washington where a new administration is thoroughly rethinking and repositioning our nation on a wide range of issues. Hurray for change! Unfortunately, the major preoccupation of those in DC is the worsening economy, where change has meant real hardship for many citizens and fear and uncertainty for millions of others.

From the **President**

Jeff Segall

At CGF, the end of March will mark the end of my role as Board president as well as my term as a Director. A few years back, the Board adopted a 6-year term limit for Board members. Though controversial, I believe in this case that term limits are a net plus because they bring fresh perspectives to our Board and challenge us to work harder



Because things are the way they are things will not stay the way they are.

— Bertold Brecht



to broaden our outreach, especially in communities where CGF may have less exposure. Recently, we were honored to have Ms. Helen Chapman of San Jose join our Board. Helen has been very active in San Jose for many years, serving on several education committees and chairing the San Jose City Parks Commission. Welcome, Helen!

It has been an honor to serve on the CGF Board for the past several years and as President this year. Interacting with our staff, members and fellow Directors has been truly enjoyable, a great privilege, and a wonderful opportunity to learn more about

CGF's incredible history. Looking forward, I leave the Board more convinced than ever that CGF's work on behalf of responsible stewardship for the natural landscape is an essential element for creating a sustainable future for mankind on this earth.

A bright, green future! Now that's change I can believe in! **CGF**

“The interior landscape responds to the character and subtlety of the exterior landscape; the shape of the individual mind is as affected by the land as it is by genes.”

— Barry Lopez



From the Executive Director

Cynthia D'Agosta

This quote is one I've used over the years each time I began my work on natural resources and open space in a new community. I use it to remind myself of the differences people bring to the table based on their experience of nature, and to remind myself of the importance natural experiences play in people's lives. It has carried me through many public meetings in Massachusetts, Maine, Los Angeles, and the Central Valley.

I discovered a new aspect of the quote when I began work in the San Francisquito Creek Watershed on the peninsula almost nine years ago now. I have often noticed how exterior landscapes can affect individuals, and even entire communities. But nowhere else, in my 20 years of community and open space planning, have I seen two communities living in close proximity hold such opposing views toward their shared environment.

The upper watershed of San Francisquito Creek includes the townships of Woodside and Portola Valley, parts of Palo Alto and Menlo Park, unincorporated areas of San Mateo County and Santa Clara County, and the 8,000 acres of Stanford lands. It is surrounded by open space and protected by low density zoning. People who live and work here often use vibrant imagery when describing their environment and quality of life.

The lower watershed of San Francisquito Creek includes Menlo Park's Belle Haven Community and East Palo Alto. The lower watershed has not been preserved, improved or well maintained and it offers few avenues for people to access recreation or inter-

act with nature and learn about the environment. People who live and work here often use negative language when describing their environment. They do not see that the creek and the Baylands improve their quality of life at all.

It is no wonder that the natural drainage of the watershed has failed. Since the 1950's the creek has flooded every ten to eleven years. Most of the flood damage occurs in its lower reaches affecting significant parts of Menlo Park, East Palo Alto and Palo Alto. Many times government entities have come in and tried to solve the problem of flooding but it seems that politics always gets in the way. Perhaps a different approach is in order; perhaps the exterior landscape is not well enough known and treasured by all of its inhabitants.

For the Committee, the entire San Francisquito Creek watershed and the issues within lie at the heart of our work. The watershed spans both counties that we address, encompasses the foothills that our founding members came together to save, and is home to the creeks and Baylands we work to protect. The character of the exterior landscape has great meaning and importance to us and to the communities we partner with.

Recently, the Committee began a process in the lower watershed (See Partnering for Open Space, pg 1) to improve open space planning and community access to natural areas. Our hope is that our work will inspire community members to preserve and appreciate the character and subtlety of this beautiful watershed. **CGF**

Housing In San Mateo County Faces Challenges

By Greg Richane, Housing Leadership Council SMC

| SAN MATEO COUNTY |

In cities and towns throughout our region, one of the biggest challenges to social and environmental vitality is the lack of affordable homes. Many of our co-workers, children, parents, and neighbors are faced with a lack of choices when looking for a place to live, and are simply unable to buy or rent a home that meets their needs. This imbalance begets urban sprawl, increased carbon emissions and social inequity – problems that affect all of us.

In San Mateo County, we need to improve the variety and supply of affordable places to live, by pursuing four key strategies: ensuring that all new development

includes a range of affordability, providing funds to support more affordable neighborhoods, encouraging better use of our limited space for development; and finally, utilizing more effective zoning and housing plans that facilitate the production of more affordable homes.

One such planning process is underway right now. Every eight years, jurisdictions are required by the state to update their plan for housing development, including affordable homes. The plan or Housing Element of the General Plan is required to analyze local need for homes, propose programs that address those needs, and identify suitable sites for development. When completed effectively, these plans are a guide

for cities, developers and residents as they work together to create more homes.

In the past, each city has undergone its own update process, with varying degrees of success. Many cities in San Mateo County met only minimum thresholds of compliance. However, the current update cycle has been more successful. Instead of undergoing individual updates, all 21 jurisdictions in the county collaborated with each other to distribute our County's share of the region's housing need. This "Sub-Regional Agreement" created more flexibility in allocating housing among different jurisdictions. Since then, jurisdictions have continued to work together in a collaborative effort called "21 Elements," which allows best practices and resources to be shared across jurisdictional boundaries as the cities develop their Housing Elements.

Regionally cooperative efforts like these are a big first step toward creating more affordable homes in this County. But for this process to be truly successful in every city, each jurisdiction will need to take the final step of adopting and implementing its own plans. Doing so will help make San Mateo County a more vibrant, equitable, and sustainable place for all of us.

You can stay updated on this process at www.hlcsmc.org/zoneforhomes. 

By Brian Schmidt

| SANTA CLARA COUNTY |

Santa Clara County cities face similar housing challenges as San Mateo, and in some cases even tougher challenges. A few of our cities, most notably San Jose, act as "bedroom communities" with more housing in those cities than the amount of demand for housing generated by total employment in the cities. The majority of our cities, however, have far less housing than that needed by their employment levels. California's tax structure under Proposition 13 explains the undersupply because cities can generate more tax revenue from business development than residential. The incentive then is for San Jose to decide it will stop acting as a bedroom community for the North County. But if San Jose stops providing housing needed by North County cities, then there will be tremendous pressure for destructive sprawl within the County, even more sprawl further to the south and east, and traffic jams that make current conditions seem dreamlike.

Committee for Green Foothills' policy since 2006 has been to get cities to make fixing their jobs/housing imbalance a priority. The Committee has worked on these issues in San Jose, Santa Clara, and especially with the effects of constant development efforts by Stanford. Unlike San Mateo County, cities in Santa Clara County are guiding the Housing Element revisions individually. We encourage readers to get involved in their own city's revisions to help achieve that environmentally important balance for needed housing. 

“
Many of our co-workers, children, parents, and neighbors are faced with a lack of choices when looking for a place to live, and are simply unable to buy or rent a home that meets their needs.
”

HOUSING POLICY

Committee for Green Foothills Policy on Housing
- Adopted by the board on May 17, 2006

PREAMBLE

The principles of good land use planning, which are implemented through General Plans and Zoning Regulations, include:

Directing new growth to existing urban centers with adequate infrastructure to accommodate it,
Promoting a balance between jobs and housing,
Building new housing near public transportation corridors, and making efficient use of land,
Minimizing impacts on natural systems,
Preserving watersheds, wildlife habitats, and agricultural, recreation, forests, and open space lands,
Maintaining a permanent boundary between urban and rural land uses.

TO THIS END, COMMITTEE FOR GREEN FOOTHILLS SUPPORTS THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS:

- Build necessary new housing, including affordable housing*, near downtown. Our communities should provide economic and social diversity in housing opportunities. We should promote affordable, attractive, livable housing in downtown areas and in communities along transportation corridors, through appropriate policies and regulations in General Plans, Specific Plans, and Zoning Regulations. New housing should be compatible with existing community character and identity. Preventing sprawl development through establishing permanent urban boundaries will help revitalize our downtowns and locate people where they can access nearby neighborhood services, enjoy attractive public spaces, and use convenient, efficient, public transportation.
- Add new housing when adding jobs. A root cause of sky-high housing prices is the imbalance between jobs and housing. In some communities, such as Pacifica, Half Moon Bay, and San Jose, there are more housing units than there are jobs, but in most of the Peninsula and South Bay, the opposite is true. As the growth of jobs outpaces available housing, housing prices rise, and workers are forced to live farther and farther away, clogging up the region's freeways, impacting air quality, consuming energy, and taking precious time away from families. Requiring the creation of new housing at the same time new jobs are created would be a major step towards reversing this trend. Redressing existing imbalance between jobs and housing should be a priority.
- Encourage good planning and land use decisions through economic incentives. The fiscal inequities that have become more extreme since the passage of Proposition 13 in 1978 need to be addressed by the State Legislature. With little incentive to make balanced decisions regarding land uses, cities are primarily driven by fiscal concerns. Cities vie for tax-lucrative land uses such as hotels and shopping centers, ignoring the fiscal and environmental impacts upon their neighbors. This is a major challenge, and requires a state-wide legislative solution.

CGF's role in protecting our future.

Committee for Green Foothills has been a staunch advocate for preserving our natural open space heritage. We will continue our leadership role focused on the "green" side of the green line between urban and rural areas, while continuing to advocate for policies that promote balanced land use planning in urban areas. As a matter of current practice, CGF does not take positions on specific development projects unless they would adversely affect the natural environment or are inconsistent with adopted General Plans and Zoning Regulations. We will continue our advocacy at the policy level for sustainable, liveable communities, which include affordable housing for diverse populations, efficient and convenient transportation systems, and a balance between jobs and housing.

* Affordable Housing is generally defined as housing for persons meeting the income criteria of Very Low Income (below 60% of the median), Low Income (between 60% and 80% of the median) and Moderate Income (between 80% and 120% of the median) income level in each County. These criteria are revised periodically based on HUD guidelines. 

Horse Park At Woodside Shines; Receives Prized Nine-Year Use Permit

by Lennie Roberts

A dedicated cadre of people at the 272-acre Horse Park at Woodside received an unusually long, nine-year Use Permit from the San Mateo County Planning Commission as a reward for its extraordinary hard work of environmental restoration.

Beginning in 1981, the Horse Park was a member-only facility known as Combined Training Equestrian Team Alliance (CTETA) located on land leased from Stanford and known

to many as “Guernsey Field”. No permits were required for the initial uses as there were no permanent structures and no animals were kept on-site. Over time, land uses expanded to include large equestrian events and boarding of horses. Neighbors became concerned about large-scale grading, erosion, diminished wildlife values, and aesthetic impacts as these intensive activities increased.

Land use and environmental protection

In December 2001, CGF filed a complaint with the County that documented extensive grading and disking of hillsides. In the middle of an El Nino winter, the resulting erosion dumped large amounts of sediment into Bear Creek, a tributary of San Francisquito Creek.

In response, the Horse Park began collaborating with interested neighbors and CGF to implement a program of land stewardship to restore the land and bring existing structures into code compliance. The Horse Park embraced the challenge of balancing its safety and operational needs with environmental goals of maintaining the oak savannah, natural grasslands, retaining view corridors and restoring the drainage swale that carries runoff from the large cross country field into the creek.

Ecological stewardship and adaptive management

Aided by the professional team of Dr. Stuart Weiss and Christal Niederer of the Creekside Center for Earth Observation, the Horse Park adopted a new goal of achieving effective ecological stewardship using a new approach of adaptive management.

The Horse Park planted native grasses and wildflowers on the abandoned cross country tracks, and reestablished willows and other wet-area-loving plants in the drainage swale, and trees and shrubs to help screen parking areas and buildings. In addition, the Horse Park restored a large area that had been graded, leveled, and covered with asphalt “grindings” to its natural contours, and seeded it with native grasses. The Horse Park continues to monitor these efforts and make modifications to reflect what works and what doesn’t.

To all of this, CGF says, “Bravo!” This extraordinary site is just one of several large agricultural and horse operations on Stanford land. We hope these important open space uses will continue for the next 100 years — and beyond! **CGF**



Mark Muntean

The Horse Park affords sweeping views of the western hills.

Board Member Profile

Helen Chapman

Q: How did you come to be a board member of CGF?

I was introduced to CGF by my involvement as a task force member for the San Jose Coyote Valley Task Force. I was intrigued by the determination of Brian Schmidt to continue to advocate for open space and keep Coyote Valley green. At the time I was on the San Jose Parks Commission and frustrated with the lack of policy discussion on open space and the critical relationship with healthy living and sustainable communities. This led me to work with a group of committed volunteer neighborhood leaders to form CalSJ and bring attention to parks and open space policies, the first being the Parkland Dedication Ordinance and currently the Riparian Corridor Policy. I viewed joining CGF as a natural progression in my attempt to gain advocacy and attention for Santa Clara Valley diminishing open spaces and recreational opportunities.



Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that has."

- Margaret Mead

Q: What are the top environmental issues that are important to you, that you want CGF to address?

I feel strongly that our park system, trails, recreational opportunities and open spaces play a critical role in a healthy lifestyle and should be seen as an economical viable part of a sustainable future for San Jose and Santa Clara county as it embarks on its update of the General plan 2040. We need to be concerned about the role our rivers and green spaces play in keeping a needed ecological balance for future generations.

Q: Why would you recommend someone join CGF?

I see CGF as an organization that is comprised of committed individuals who value their community, green spaces, and healthy living, and who want to make a difference by initiating change in their communities. There is power when members work together and share a collective common knowledge to further the commitment to a greener place to live. **CGF**

Sanborn | continued from page 1

during the Sierra Nevada snow season by practicing locally at Sanborn, Castle Rock, and a few other Bay Area locations. The Sanborn/Castle climbing opportunities still match Mount Diablo as the best in the Bay Area in the winters, and come out ahead for summer climbing that avoids the heat and sun.

As Committee for Green Foothills' Santa Clara County Advocate, I might like to claim that my rock-climbing at Sanborn constitutes research and open-space monitoring, but I've restricted that activity to my weekends. The Sanborn climbing locations – Summit Rock, Indian Rock, and the

strangely-named Lyme Disease Rock – offer a wide variety of climbs that can reach up over 50 feet. Those climbs require ropes and other specialized gear, while “bouldering” up shorter distances with a crash-pad below can happen in a variety of locations.

We preserve our local open spaces because we love them so much. Sanborn Park represents that love for reasons even deeper to me than rock-climbing – it's where my wife Karen and I were married, in the beautiful Peterson Grove redwoods. So long as we continue our work of open space protection, future generations will have the same opportunity for joy that we've found at Sanborn. **CGF**



The Committee is watching ...

The Town of Hillsborough, where owner Christian de Guigne proposes to subdivide into 26 parcels his historic family owned 47-acre estate, which could seriously impact important wildlife habitat, oak woodlands, chaparral, and a pristine stretch of San Mateo Creek.

Martin's Beach, whose new owners "temporarily" closed access to this popular beach in the Fall of 2008, and planted a dense row of 160 Monterey Cypress trees along a half-mile section of Highway One, which will eventually block ocean views.

San Benito County and DMB, which are considering a 6,800 unit development right across the Santa Clara County line, and are processing an EIR before the project has been finalized.

Santa Clara County Recycling and Waste Commission, considering whether to recommend a paper-and-plastic bag fee to reduce the tremendous pollution and waste from excess carry-out bags.

Gazos Creek, where the Ainsley Corporation has begun to install a bridge across the North Fork, without obtaining necessary permits.

Habitat Conservation Plan for Santa Clara County, where the expert wildlife agencies have raised a number of important concerns that must be addressed adequately and on a scientific basis.

The San Mateo County Planning Commission, which is reviewing a subdivision proposed by the Chamberlain Group, on steep, unstable and scenic lands adjacent to the Highlands community.

Redwood City, where DMB and Redwood City Saltworks, Cargill's development partner for 1400 acres of former salt ponds, has asked the City Council to postpone changing the existing Land Use designations in the City's General Plan.

San Mateo County Agricultural Advisory Committee, which is discussing changes to the County's Williamson Act Contract procedures and policies, in response to a critical audit by the State Department of Conservation.

Santa Clara County Supervisors, where an increasingly-new Board of Supervisors may miss some previous experience but can also bring new energy.



You can help us watch ...

Two landslides from a winery above Highway 9 into Saratoga Creek, where the Committee has twice notified Santa Clara County about the problem but has seen no action taken.

The Committee applauds ...

The California Coastal Commission, which is requiring "Affirmative Agricultural Easements" on agriculturally zoned lands, which require applicants to continue grazing or growing crops as a condition of permit approval in order to prevent conversion of productive coastal land into residential estates.

The new Green Building requirements, instituted in Santa Clara County in December 2008 that incorporated the Committee's suggestion to require more effort from the monster mansions springing up in the hillsides.

Patagonia, for its sponsorship of the "Freedom to Roam" campaign promoting knowledge of wildlife corridors and their crucial importance here. (Very true in Coyote Valley where badgers, bobcats, and mountain lions cross from the Santa Cruz Mountains to the Mount Hamilton Range.)

United States Navy, for moving along the toxic clean-up process at Moffett Field to eventually restore tidal wetlands as part of the larger South Bay restoration.

CGF Supports a Bag Fee Ordinance in Morgan Hill

The letter that follows is an example of CGF's day-to-day efforts to help the environment. In collaboration with Save the Bay, we are supporting a Bag Fee Ordinance in Morgan Hill to reduce the pollution of our environment from plastic and paper bags. We're relying on CGF members and friends to help counter resistance from the powerful plastics lobby. —Brian Schmidt, CGF Santa Clara County Legislative Advocate



January 8, 2009

Tony Eulo
City of Morgan Hill

Re: Committee for Green Foothills' support for the Single-Use Carryout Bag Fee Ordinance

Dear Tony;

The Committee for Green Foothills supports Morgan Hill's proposed Bag Fee Ordinance. As any Morgan Hill resident that has taken the opportunity to hike Coyote Ridge can see (and if any residents haven't hiked there, they should), even a well-managed landfill like Kirby Landfill has problems with wind-blown plastic bags escaping the landfill and polluting the countryside. These bags often settle in Coyote Ridge stream areas where they obstruct growth of endangered plants only found by the streams. Any streamside hiker or canoeist throughout the County will find countless plastic bags along larger creeks and rivers, and bags often obstruct storm sewer grates and limit flooding drainage. From the esthetic ugliness along roadsides alone, plastic bags constitute the perfect example of an environmental externality whose cost, absent the proposed fee, is imposed instead on society at large.

Paper bags create similar problems. When we opposed the permanent logging permit that San Jose Water Company requested for thousands of acres of redwoods and Douglas firs from Lexington Reservoir extending southeast halfway to Morgan Hill, we were appropriately challenged as to where wood and wood pulp would come from instead. An important response to this challenge is to avoid wasting wood pulp and energy in paper bags, and the fee will appropriately reduce that waste.

We hope that Morgan Hill will move forward in support of the position of City staff, Santa Clara County Cities Association, and the Recycling and Waste Reduction Commission of Santa Clara County.

Please contact us if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Brian A. Schmidt
Legislative Advocate, Santa Clara County

Partnering for Open Space | continued from page 1

industry's control of the bays' wetlands, resulted in environmental segregation and injustices for this community that still linger today. When you ask locals, they will tell you that the community is polluted: the land, the water, the air; and what hasn't been polluted has been lost.

Perhaps one of the most pressing, but not always obvious, environmental hazards that remain unsolved in the community today are the very serious flood dangers. As mentioned in my letter (pg 3) The San Francisco Creek forms the southern

The study reports that the area of Belle Haven and East Palo Alto are expected to receive a permanent rise of three feet of water. In planning for flood control, new regulations are being discussed at the State & Federal levels. Cities, counties, states, FEMA and Army Corps of Engineers are debating which level of flood to plan and build for. It is not an exaggeration to say that existing conditions and expected climate change pose the potential for yet un-experienced natural disasters in this area of the Peninsula.

In response to these and other concerns numerous planning projects are underway in the area. However, based on our own experiences and what community members are saying, with

these projects comes a multiplicity of jurisdictional overlap resulting in bottlenecks. Amongst the numerous agencies involved, each is working independently and none have emerged as a leader to bring the visions together for this small historically underserved community. Confusion and frustration is widespread amongst community members as to these numerous projects.

CGF believes that the projects can be linked and inspired to completion through development of a common vision for open spaces in the area. As such, we have assembled a team to work with these Bay-side communities to inspire and articulate a community driven vision for open spaces and natural areas that when planned correctly within these numerous projects, will make up a network of green infrastructure places that promote healthier lifestyles, inspire civic engagement, and restore or preserve open spaces for people of all ages. Our goal is that with community backing, we can deliver this vision to

the numerous ongoing projects in the area so that community voice drives implementation.

The team includes myself, a landscape architect and community planner with experience working in the watershed for the last nine years; Carolyn Finney, Assistant Professor of Geology, UC Berkeley who has expertise in issues of race, land and identity, and issues influencing African American environmental participation. Peg Henderson, National Park Service's Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Team (NPS, RTCA) will provide facilitation and coordination with and amongst implementing agencies.

Wolfram Alderson, ED of Collective Roots brings local knowledge and experience with implementing local projects. And Micheal Levine of EPA.net whose network of local media groups will video document our process providing jobs and experience to local teens.

The team began our efforts in December 2008 with a general lunch meeting at EPA City Hall, to share what we (the team)



A creek trailhead in East Palo Alto.

edge of East Palo Alto, and since 1955 it has flooded approximately every 11 years. In the flood event of 1998 homes and businesses were flooded, Hwy 101 & the Dumbarton Bridge were shut down, and documented damages were \$30 million. The natural banks and manmade levees of the creek did not hold this "moderate" storm event, and have almost spilled over twice since then. On the northern edge of the community in the Belle Haven neighborhood, Atherton Creek and the Bayfront Slough also fill during storms and are incapable of handling a major flood event. Turning east to the bayside, the levees that were built by Cargill in order to manufacture salt on the ponds, were never built for flood protection, leaving this entire stretch of the community principally unprotected from rising waters on three sides.

Today's changing environmental conditions of global warming and associated sea level rise present new challenges to these already troubled areas. The Association of Bay Area Governments recently published information on the anticipated impact of global climate change and resulting sea level rise in the San Francisco Bay and surrounding communities.

Continued on Page 11

know about open space and current projects in the area. It began with a presentation by Mr. Alderson and myself on projects and issues of access to local open spaces. The meeting included a round-robin style series of questions facilitated and captured by Peg Henderson of NPS, RTCA. We are now following up with one-on-one interviews/discussions with community residents, business owners, and non-profit leaders to discover what they know about these projects, and how they regard natural areas or parks in the community. This includes exchanges regarding global warming and sea level rise and the impacts this will have on open spaces.

Next, team members will meet with agency managers of these various projects underway to learn more about their public participation process to date. With this research, we will analyze the approaches taken and use this information to inspire new directions for community involvement. The team will work with community members to facilitate vision and deliver this vision to these projects (see list below).

To be successful this process should continue through to implementation stages of projects, using youth and community members along the way to 'push the vision'. The process has the potential to provide teaching and training opportunities attractive to a variety of interest and ages; meeting the call of President Obama for civic engagement. We believe, and will meet the call, that nature can provide the common thread to address these environmental concerns and connect citizens with the global conversation.

At time of print we only have funding for the first phase of this work: process design & set-up, and interviews with community and agency managers. The team has already begun to seek additional support through grant and foundation funding for steps beyond this phase. We are committed to empowering a collective community environmental vision, implementing it, and thereby providing opportunities for experiencing individual connections to natural resources. **CGF**

Update on "Plateau Bargaining" and the Stanford Sustainable Development Study

By Brian Schmidt

Nearly the only long-term commitment that Stanford conceded in return for five million square feet of permanent development rights was to produce a "Stanford Sustainable Development Study" that would describe the "maximum planned buildout potential" for the campus. Stanford made this promise in 2000 when it received the development rights.

Unfortunately, Stanford has decided it wishes to renege on its promise. The purpose of determining the maximum buildout potential was to obtain some non-binding, long-term assurances of where the Stanford foothills would be left safe from development. Instead of describing maximum buildout potential, Stanford chose to show buildout only for 25 years, which in turn is only ten years beyond existing protections of Stanford foothills.

This action has a familiar ring to those of us that have dealt with Stanford on its trail promises. Land use agreements with Stanford suffer from the university's practice of something called "plateau bargaining." Stanford offers a promise in return for a deal, but after significant effort and negotiation occurs to close the deal, Stanford then withdraws its promise and either offers something less or demands a higher price. The university did this earlier by offering a marginally-acceptable southern trail alignment on its campus and then after four years of negotiation and analysis, announced it withdrew its offer unless an environmentally destructive northern trail alignment was also accepted.

Withdrawing the southern trail promise that the County had relied on was dubious legally, but limiting the Sustainable Development Study is a clear violation of its obligations. Nothing in the permits or the administrative record supports the idea of a 25-year limit on the analysis. Multiple statements in the record support the opposite – that it should either use an indefinite or 99-year period for the study. The City of Palo Alto and then-Supervisors Joe Simitian and Jim Beall are on the record as making these kinds of statements.

The update since Stanford released its study last November is mixed – Santa Clara County staff have not stood up to Stanford, while the County Planning Commission provided a cursory and disinterested review. San Mateo County Planning Commission did a much better job, however, and we hope that Santa Clara County Supervisors will also do a much better job and obtain substantial revisions. Finally, Stanford has locked out its own community of environmentally-concerned students, and we hope a subsequent draft will involve them significantly. **CGF**

Land use agreements with Stanford suffer from the university's practice of something called "plateau bargaining."

Projects underway in same area:

■ South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project (federal and state)

■ Army Corps of Engineers Shoreline Project (levees around the bay)

■ San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority Corps of Engineers flood plan

■ Dumbarton Commuter Rail from East Bay to Menlo Park

■ Vision 2020 – Transportation Regional Plan (Dumbarton to Hwy 101 relief)

■ Cooley Landing Visioning

■ East Palo Alto's Redevelopment Zone

■ Bay Trail and Water Trail

■ Various private development proposals along Hwy 84

■ Palo Alto airport lease (expires in 2017)

■ Palo Alto golf course has more acres than needed and is being considered for redesign to accommodate flooding.

■ Redwood City flood control planning at Bayside Slough.



**COMMITTEE FOR
GREEN FOOTHILLS**

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click on CGF and search from
over 200 online retailers!
When you use the Maati.com
portal, a percentage of your
purchase price is donated
to CGF!



Love a good book or looking for a book for a friend?

When you shop at Kepler's mention
CGF and 10% of the purchase price is
donated to CGF. If you shop online just
click on Community Partners and click
CGF before you start shopping.

You can help!

**In the renewed spirit of
community service
CGF can use your
assistance in:**

Planning Events — such as
Nature's Inspiration, the Farm Tour
and other recreational outings!

Tabling — at local festivals, and
parks to let people know about
how CGF helps to keep our coun-
ties so wonderful!

Office Help — both with and
without computers.

Upcoming Events!

**June 27th
Urban Farm
Tour**

**September
20th
Nature's
Inspiration:
Honoring
Mary Davey**

**Watch your
email for more
information!**