



greenfootnotes

COMMITTEE FOR GREEN FOOTHILLS

www.GreenFoothills.org

Our Advocates: In Appreciation

In the past four years that I have had the privilege of serving on the Board of Directors for Committee for Green Foothills, it has been a distinct honor to work alongside our wonderful advocates, Brian Schmidt and Lennie Roberts. Being able to observe firsthand how they go about their work in Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties, respectively, has brought

new perspective for me in considering how to conduct my own professional life.

From the President

Matt Burrows

In today's turbulent economic waters, many of us have had to expand our work skill set, plan more carefully for the future, and collaborate with

others to make do with finite resources. For Brian and Lennie, that has always been a daily way of life. By employing the principles of perseverance, leadership, teamwork and vigilance, our advocates consistently are able to forge alliances that bring in results while staying within financial constraints.

A quick check of current issues illustrates how our advocates are able to use their influence in a nimble manner. In regard to the proposed development at the Cargill Salt property in Redwood City, Lennie has been invaluable to the coalition of organizations opposing the project with her leadership and sage advice. Additionally, in response to the Redwood City Saltworks (the face of Arizona-based developer DMB Associates) recent print and web advertising claiming they are only redeveloping an industrial site, Brian has put together two brief video clips that serenely and convincingly refute that assertion. I encourage all of you to check these videos out (just go to youtube.com and search for "Green Foothills"). The actions of Lennie and Brian on this critical local development issue are a microcosm of what they often do: face down well-funded interests through a combination of team building, leadership and imagination.

Other recent positive local decisions further illustrate how Committee for Green Foothills and our advocates are able to produce



From left: Lennie Roberts, Cynthia D'Agosta with Ed Chapuis and Bill Martin from KTVU, Channel 2.

results: in Palo Alto, with Brian using his influence as the only environmental representative on an advisory committee, the City Council voted to restrict second home proposals and develop maximum house size limits. This is a core issue for CGF, as we were originally founded in 1962 to combat Palo Alto's plans for sprawling residential development up to Skyline Boulevard.

Recently in Gilroy, two years of active opposition along with collaboration with local groups by Brian bore fruit with the rejection of four sprawl proposals by their City Council that would have affected over 1000 acres. On the San Mateo Coast, with the strong support of Lennie and other coastal advocates, the Coastal Commission approved changes to strengthen the County's Midcoast Update. As you can see, our advocates are achieving victories and earning respect

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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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LAYOUT

Bill Murray



I'm excited to share with you some of our future plans for highlighting our advocacy program.

As I sit to write this article I am almost overwhelmed by the many issues impacting nonprofits and environmental organizations in this period of unstable economics and “green” consciousness. With just those two subjects alone, there is no shortage of information or opportunity to register an opinion! But rather than be overwhelmed (I did say almost) these issues have given us cause at CGF to reflect on our organizational origins and strengths, reaching to our core and focusing on our mission. And I’m happy to say that in looking back, in planning for today, and in preparation for the future, we once again have concluded that “it’s all about Environmental Advocacy”. As you read this issue of Footnotes, you’ll see we are very busy with our current advocacy work — and I’m excited to share with you some of our future plans for highlighting our advocacy program.

From the Executive Director

Cynthia D'Agosta

Long standing Board member and lifetime advocate Tom Jordan retired from CGF Board of Directors effective in March. We didn’t let him get too far though — his new title and very important job for the next year or so, will be as Director Emeritus in charge of the History Project. We are excited to have Tom focus on this effort, leading up to CGF’s fifty year anniversary in 2012. And this is quite a challenge — how do you creatively document and tell the

story of the first open space advocacy organization in the Bay Area?

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our newest volunteer: Ms. Alice Chang-Kaufmann from Redwood City. She is a lawyer who enjoys doing research and writing comment letters on important issues.


The Committee for Green Foothills has been fortunate to be participating in the groundbreaking Environmental Studies Department of De Anza Community College over the last few years. CGF Advocate, Brian Schmidt has been an important influence with regards to students’ experience of governmental processes that help determine whether and how to protect habitat. The students work on wildlife passage and tracking provided key information that demonstrated the importance of Coyote Valley south of San Jose, helping stop some very misguided development proposals.

Under the leadership of Julie Phillips, Department Chair, value is being placed on the role of Advocacy. The programs are innovative, have real life applicability, and include partnerships with organizations such as CGF, Audubon, VTA and others. The Committee is excited to be involved with such a progressive program and looks forward to our next venture with De Anza students.

De Anza Programs can be seen in a video featuring staff and students describing their work in Coyote Valley and in introduction to a new Coyote Valley Landscape Institute. You can watch the video “Coyote Valley: Connecting People, Connecting Wildlife”:

<http://www.deanza.edu/es/wildlifecorrproj/index.html>.

Lastly, we will celebrate the “timelessness and value of environmental advocacy” at this year’s Nature’s Inspiration in the fall. I am pleased and delighted to announce that we will be honoring Mr. Pete McCloskey in CGF tradition at the event. You won’t want to miss this one!

And after you’ve read this issue, I think you’ll agree that environmental advocacy is infectious — in a good way of course. If you hang around people who practice it, you’re subject to getting “fired up” about the issues. Speaking out for the environment is your own personal expression of stewardship of the earth — don’t be overwhelmed, just do it! 

CGF's Fight To Complete Stanford Trails Continues Despite Recent Court Decision

by Brian Schmidt and Lennie Roberts

Advocates for public access to the foothills and open space, as well as those who sought to protect San Francisquito Creek and the neighboring community, have demonstrated their resolve to battle Stanford all the way to the California Supreme Court. In its own way, Stanford similarly demonstrated how determined it was to avoid putting a trail on its lands, despite previously agreeing to this in return for five million square feet of development rights.

In the end, the California Supreme Court didn't decide who was right — but what deadline applied to the lawsuit. The court applied a 30 day deadline instead of the 180 day deadline we believe truly applied in this case.

In their December 2005 decision to toss their trail into San Mateo County, Stanford and Santa Clara County never provided a coherent description of how their actions were or were not evaluated in previous environmental reviews. It's clear though that by offering the trail be built in San Mateo County, they were excluding the long-promised C1 Trail through Stanford land. It is also clear that they'd determined that if many years went by without the trail constructed in San Mateo County, Santa Clara County would accept money instead of the trail. The Supreme Court itself was left to guess that the lack of environmental reviews for these decisions meant the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors "thus implicitly determined this aspect of the agreement did not constitute a new project", and therefore, any action the Board took in December 2005, had been analyzed in previous environmental reviews.

Of course, no trail alignment in San Mateo County had been evaluated — in fact a trail map used in the two previous environmental reviews had shown the trail in Santa Clara County only, and nowhere did the reviews discuss eliminating the trail and accepting money instead. The problem that the Supreme Court missed is what the court calls an "implicit determination" by the Board of Supervisors was actually an after-the-fact rationalization by Stanford and County staff to try and fit the decision into a category that limited review of their actions. Staff submitted a filing notice to the County Clerk's office after the Supervisors had made their decision, and without Committee for Green Foothills or other advocates having a chance to demonstrate to the Supervisors that this was wrong.

The ruling is bad precedent for the future because it says that such a minor document filed in the County Clerk's office will determine what a court will consider to be the deciding action, not the execution of actions by the decision makers. Similar actions elsewhere can play tricks with the public review process that forms the core of proper environmental planning.

In a way the court has created the worst of all worlds for envi-

ronmental review. The law provides a very limited time period to challenge environmental decisions compared to other legal challenges, on the supposition that a challenger had plenty of notice and opportunity to participate in the prior environmental review process. For the Stanford trail decision, no environmental review process that included these new proposals/actions was conducted, and still the limited time period applied.

The court might have felt it was applying the law rather than making new law. While we disagree as to whether the decision was right, the only solution that can be taken at this point is to change the law via legislation. A simple requirement should be that a decision relying on previous environmental reviews must state in the required findings that are presented to the decision makers that environmental consequences of the decision had all been previously analyzed, and identify the environmental reviews where they had been analyzed. This would provide the notice to elected officials and to the watchdog groups that did not occur in the Stanford trails situation.



Meanwhile, the trails issue continues, and we have not stopped fighting. The argument that we never had a chance to present, that moving the trail to San Mateo County would require widening the Alpine Road sidewalk into the San Francisquito Creek riparian zone, moving Alpine Road, tearing down a hill, impacting the Stanford Weekend Acres area, and numerous other harms, still holds true. These proposals were considered by San Mateo County's Board of Supervisors, and they unanimously rejected the proposal in early 2008. We expect that Stanford will attempt to change San Mateo County's decision, after waiting as long as they possibly can to obtain a change of Supervisors who will not remember or be involved with the previous decisions. We will stay engaged with this issue.

In 2008 San Mateo County had proposed instead of this destructive proposal, that a grant program be established for immediate action on trail improvements in the vicinity of Stanford that would serve the broader community and the Stanford campus.

In our opinion this action without further delays, is the best proposal and we will continue to fight for it. We hope that Stanford and Santa Clara County will see the light, so all of us can finally see something like the trails that we have been promised. **CGF**



Redwood City's Baylands at risk

By Lennie Roberts

Ignoring warnings from citizens and environmental groups that creating a mini-city on restorable salt ponds in Redwood City would be environmental folly, city leaders appear ready and eager to embrace a wasteful, sprawling proposal that would increase the population of the city by almost 50%.

In May, 2009, DMB, a development company based in Arizona, submitted an application to Redwood City for development of Cargill's 1433 acre "Saltworks" site, which proposes to build 1,000,000 square feet of office space and housing for up to 30,000 people.

In September, 2009, Redwood City hired a consulting firm, Hart/Howerton, to conduct a preliminary review of the Saltworks proposal to identify significant topics regarding jurisdictional issues, water supply, and transportation/traffic impacts that must be addressed during the environmental review process. Not surprisingly, the consultants have called out some daunting challenges for the developers, but more questionably, concluded the proposal does not have any "fundamental insurmountable issues" that would preclude the continued processing of the application.

This, of course, serves the consultants well, as they are now in line to continue their lucrative role of helping the City understand and evaluate the proposal, which DMB is paying for. The potential stumbling blocks which could be show stoppers for this new City include:

Permits

Will DMB receive all necessary permits? Although Redwood City's elected officials appear to be marching in lockstep with the developers, up to 19 federal, state, and local agencies have jurisdiction or permitting authority over the site. The complexities of navigating through these agencies are enormous.

Traffic

How will traffic move in and out of the project area, and who will pay for the costly infrastructure improvements that will be

necessary? Highway 101 and its interchanges at Marsh Road and Woodside/Seaport intersections are already at a standstill during commute hours; even with proposed bus or trolley links to downtown, the project cannot go forward without extraordinarily expensive improvements to Marsh Road/Bayfront Expressway and Woodside Road/Seaport Boulevard interchanges, plus other new and expanded roadways.

Water

Where will the project get its water? Because Redwood City already consumes more than its allocation from the Hetch-Hetchy system, DMB initially proposed to drill wells underneath its property, but encountered enormous environmental and water quality problems, including subsidence of the land, possible contamination from underground storage tank leaks, and salt water intrusion. Now, under the latest scheme unveiled in the Hart/Howerton report, DMB proposes to transfer Kern River water entitlements owned by the Nickel family, by finding an existing customer of the Hetch-Hetchy system that uses both Hetch-Hetchy water and Delta water. This customer could then agree to use more Delta water and free up an equivalent amount of Hetchy-Hetchy water. Several agencies, including the State Division of Water Rights and the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission would have to approve such a substitution. There are numerous questions as to whether this scenario will be possible, or even legal.

Environmental groups have asked Redwood City to reject this proposal. Former Bay wetlands are no place to build a massive development. Urban sprawl, Bay fill, and diking have already reduced the Bay's size by one-third and destroyed more than 90 percent of the Bay's wetlands. These 1,433 acres of Bay shoreline should be restored to natural habitat to benefit wildlife and people.

An unprecedented number of elected officials (over 90 at the time of publication) have signed a letter to Redwood City officials asking them to oppose Cargill's ill-conceived project. You can help by sending your own letter to the City Council at: City Council, P.O. Box 391, Redwood City, CA 94064. **cgf**

Favorite Places

Emily Renzel Wetlands

by Wendee Crofoot

In the 1990's as a twenty-something, I often walked the Baylands with friends. In the 2000's I typically walked the Baylands at the end of the day. I always passed signs to the Emily Renzel Wetlands and wondered "Who is Emily Renzel and why is a wetland named for her?"

When asked to write this article about one of my favorite open spaces, I knew it was my opportunity to ask Emily (former CGF Board member 1991-2001) more about this preserved area. I want to thank Emily for taking the time to tell me the history of this open space that I have enjoyed for so long and for volunteering her time and expertise so that I (the next generation) would have the opportunity to walk these trails.

These lands were used for many years as an antenna farm for ship-to-shore communications, but as satellites were expected to soon take over these communications, the antenna farm would no longer be needed. However, a few antennas on a 35-acre easement were retained by ITT to continue providing an essential communication link to ships at sea. In 1969, the 153-acre ITT property was proposed as a site for light industry. However, Palo Alto City Council held firm with Open Space zoning and the City of Palo Alto purchased the land in 1977. Then the property, except for the 35-acre easement, was dedicated on May 3, 1982.

This dedication stopped many proposed industrial uses and transportation plans including a southern access to Dumbarton Bridge whose route would have gone right through this wetland. Palo Alto's marsh restoration and park dedication have effectively negated that possibility.

During the 1980s, Palo Alto's Regional Water Quality Control Plant was required to demonstrate beneficial uses of its treated effluent. Emily, who had already been involved with this site and was now on Palo Alto City Council (1979-1991), attended many meetings between Palo Alto staff and the various agencies regulating this wetland and a plan was approved to create two new permanent marshes, including a 15-acre freshwater marsh filled with purified water from the sewage treatment plant and a 25-acre saltwater marsh to provide increased habitat for the endangered Salt Marsh Harvest Mouse. (Freshwater marshes are very scarce around the bay as most have been built over)

During her six years on the Palo Alto Planning Commission (1973-1979), Emily served on its Baylands Subcommittee which oversaw the Baylands Master Plan, Palo Alto's first attempt to provide planning guidelines for Palo Alto's entire 1,800-acre baylands area. Emily formed the Baylands Conser-



Emily Renzel on Wetlands before restoration. Sign says ... "Danger: Soft Mud Keep Out"

vation Committee, whose concern about habitat destruction by dredging spoils ultimately led to closure of the Yacht Harbor's 109 berths which required constant dredging. She ensured an aesthetic component was included in the planning so that this location would become a beautiful place to visit.

On September 29, 1992, the area was named the Emily Renzel Wetlands to honor the decades she spent working to protect sensitive habitats, particularly in the Palo Alto Baylands. The Renzel Wetlands provides habitat for many species including among others, pelicans, burrowing owls, black shouldered kites, and the endangered Salt Marsh Harvest Mouse. When asked why she volunteered her time, Emily said "I just cared about habitat. People have run rough shod over many species. The most critical place for survival of species is their habitat." CGF

Will the Big Wave Project hit the coast?

Mega development planned for Pillar Point area north of Half Moon Bay

By Lisa Ketcham

The Big Wave Project is a major development proposed for 20 acres of farm fields and wetlands lying to the west of the Half Moon Bay Airport. It extends north behind the Princeton marine-related Waterfront industrial district and adjoining Pillar Point Marsh, which is part of

Fitzgerald Marine Reserve, an Area of Special Biological Significance.

Overlooking the Big Wave site are POST's protected Pillar Point Bluff lands and the Jean Lauer Memorial Trail, a new segment of the California Coastal Trail. To the north and east, across the open fields of the airport are the POST preserved lands of Rancho Corral de Tierra, rising up to Montara Mountain.

The County's Local Coastal Plan defines the priority uses for this area as visitor-serving and marine-related. The Princeton Harbor area is a popular visitor destination with its working harbor, restaurants, and coastal views.

Project Elements

Key elements of the Big Wave Project, the largest development ever proposed for the unincorporated San Mateo coast include:

- ▶ Wellness Center with housing, community center and potential job opportunities for up to 50 developmentally disabled adults and 20 caregivers
- ▶ Office Park with four 3-story 50-ft tall mixed-use office buildings totaling 225,000 square-feet — more than doubling the amount of existing office space on the Midcoast
- ▶ 36-ft tall Communications Building
- ▶ 20,000 square-foot Storage Building
- ▶ Parking lots for over 700 cars — with a special reduced-parking exception.

Site Hazards

The Big Wave project is in a tsunami inundation zone and immediately adjacent to an earthquake fault on one side and

the airport runway on the other. It overlaps an archeological site. The only water currently available to the site is an agricultural well.

Traffic Impacts

The project site, extending north behind the Princeton marine-related Waterfront industrial district, has no direct access to Highway 1 and is far from stores and community services. There would be an estimated 2,200 daily trips added to the narrow rural secondary roads which provide the only access to the site from only two available intersections off busy scenic 2-lane coastal Highway 1. The Princeton Harbor area is a popular visitor destination with its working harbor, restaurants, and coastal views. Visitor serving or marine related are the priority uses for this area in the County's Local Coastal Plan.

Impacts on Wetlands and Vegetation

In preparation for development the last few years, the wetlands and other native vegetation of the site have been deep plowed and farmed, and many loads of soil trucked in without permits.

Although an important project goal is to provide resident employment opportunities in an organic farming operation, all farmable land on the site is proposed to be developed. The proposed Big Wave farming would happen off-site on leased land, which is already being farmed and does not depend on Big Wave to continue being farmed. The proposed project wetlands restoration would not have been necessary if the wetlands had not been purposely destroyed by the pre-development agriculture.

Impacts on Scenic Views

Scenic coastal views would be affected by the unprecedented size of these buildings, far taller than any others on the Midcoast. Although the project is touted as "green", there are many gaps in the plans concerning water/sewer connection/capacity, drainage, geological studies, and economic feasibility.

There is great support for the needs of the developmentally disabled community, but many feel this site is not a good location for them to live, due to its hazards and isolation from all community resources.

The project is currently undergoing the Environmental Impact Report process. Documents are available on the County website. Public hearings initially scheduled for March have been postponed indefinitely due to over 250 comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Report.

— Lisa Ketcham is President of the Pillar Ridge Homeowners Association





Ralph W. Schardt

Santa Clara County Creeks Coalition **Creek Advocate of the Year Award**

Slender Salamander

By Cynthia D'Agosta

It is with much gratitude for many years of volunteerism and public service on issues affecting water, waterways and watersheds, that the SCCCC presented this year's Creek Advocate of the Year Award to Trish Mulvey — a true “creek-ie” at heart. The award was presented at the SCCCC annual conference last November by Cynthia D'Agosta, CGF's Executive Director. Following are Cynthia's remarks as published in the November 2009 Creekside News, published by the Santa Clara County Creeks Coalition. (The full article, with citations, is available at greenfoothills.org.)

Trish's passion for creeks began at an early age when her family moved to Palo Alto in the spring of 1951. She was in third grade when the family settled about three blocks from the Newell Road bridge crossing over San Francisquito Creek. The following year she began what would become an annual adventure for several years — catching pollywogs below the Newell Road

Bridge, raising them at home into little tiny, very dark green frogs, and then returning them to the creek.

More lessons were to come from the creek when in December of 1955 the Christmas-eve flood resulted in over-banking at the Pope-Chaucer Bridge. Although the water did reach Kings Lane via the Crescent Park elementary school playing fields at the end of the cul-d-sac, her home stayed high and dry. Kings Lane homes she learned were saved from flooding because San Francisquito Creek is a “perched creek” which causes water to flow away from the banks (following topography) rather than ponding just beyond them. Her interest was piqued, and these lessons stayed with her, but her real involvement began later in life with study and travels.

A signpost event in development of her affection for the environment came when in 1971 Trish and her mom took a Foothills College short-course on the Natural History of Baja California

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A partial list of Trish's volunteer leadership:

- Bay Area Audubon Council** – Delegate
- Citizens Committee to Complete the Refuge** – Convening member and Secretary
- CLEAN South Bay** – Cofounder and organizer
- Coyote Creek Riparian Station** – Board President
- Friends of the San Francisco Estuary** – Inaugural Board and Vice-President
- Greenbelt Alliance** – Board Vice-President
- Independent Monitoring Committee for Clean Safe Creeks & Natural Flood Protection** – SCVWD
- Planning & Conservation League** – Board alternate for Audubon Council
- San Francisco Estuary Institute** – Board Secretary and Board Treasurer
- San Francisco Estuary Project** – Management Conference and Public Advisory Committee; South Bay Geographic Subcommittee Land Use and Watershed Chair
- San Francisquito Creek Point Powers Authority** – Management Team alternate for San Francisquito Watershed Council
- San Francisquito Watershed Council** – Convening member, Management Advisory Committee, and Steelhead Taskforce
- Santa Clara Basin Watershed Management Initiative** – Convening member and Chair
- Santa Clara County Greenbelt Coalition** – Convening member
- Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society** – Board, and Environmental Action Committee Chair
- Santa Clara Valley Urban Runoff Pollution Prevention Program** – “Interested Party” and ad hoc task group participant
- Santa Clara Valley Water Resources Protection Collaborative** – Convening representative for Environmental and Civic Community
- Save San Francisco Bay Association** – Board President and Advisory Board
- The Silicon Valley Pollution Prevention Center** – Convening Board, and Board Secretary

Spending Taxpayer Money on Sprawl in Morgan Hill

By Brian Schmidt

Morgan Hill has started acting on proposals by property owners outside city limits to expand the city out to the southeast, encompassing 1000 acres of rural land, despite the fact that the city has plenty of land within current limits for commercial and residential development.

Normally the large amount of vacant land within city limits should be enough to stop sprawl proposals. Even if the city does not vote down sprawl on its own, an overseeing agency LAFCO (Local Agency Formation Commission) would veto the expansion of city limits until the available land within the city starts running short.

To get around this daunting barrier, would-be developers are suggesting that the land be designated for uses they claim are neither residential, commercial, nor industrial, which they label “sports, recreation and leisure”. Activities include an artificial “sno-park” to be built on an artificial hill in a totally flat area.

The recreational facility and other projects constitute rather obvious attempts to pretend a loophole exists in the LAFCO policies restricting sprawl. In reality, the uses the proponents suggest for the area could occur on residential and commercial land within city limits. A third proposal for a private

school is also something that appropriately belongs within the existing city, not beyond the far outskirts in a place that forces auto use.

Compounding the error, Morgan Hill has chosen to spend \$170,000 of taxpayer money to develop this proposal further. We at Committee for Green Foothills had never expected to refer favorably to the process that San Jose followed in its mistaken-and-ultimately failed attempt to develop Coyote Valley, but at the very least, San Jose made developers pay for 100% of the cost of that planning process. Morgan Hill has referred to the potential public “benefit” of developing this area because it will supposedly include some poorly defined agricultural preservation. While public benefit was argued for Coyote Valley as well, the developers there still had to pay.

Not bad enough? Committee for Green Foothills warned Morgan Hill City Council that the \$170,000 they’re spending might be wasted. We recommended that they wait for a written evaluation by LAFCO staff to see if there were any problems first, because LAFCO can reject the entire project in the end. Morgan Hill staff responded that they had talked to LAFCO staff, but the talk consisted of a one-sided briefing to LAFCO, with no feedback on prospects of LAFCO approval.

There may still be hope to save the environment and to save taxpayers’ money. Morgan Hill can cut its losses and stop any further spending. We hope at the very least that it considers any information it gets from LAFCO before proceeding.

Stay tuned . . .

Morgan Hill is expected to complete the review process within the next few months and the issue could be before LAFCO by the end of the year. **CGF**

Filling Appointments, Protecting Open Space

By Brian Schmidt

I was fortunate to be the vice-chair and then the chair of the Santa Clara Valley Water District’s Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC), working on new grant criteria, reducing toxics, and efforts to improve stream management. I saw part of my role and my work as making sure there was a successor ready to replace me when I became termed out as chair in January, and EAC member Rita Norton has stepped forward.

We at CGF understand how important it is that appointed committees and commissions have members who understand their jobs and their roles in protecting the environment. While we steer clear of any type of endorsement or opposition to candidates for elected offices, appointments are very different. Various committees are responsible for yeoman’s work that elected bodies then can use, and good work at the committee level is critical.

The Committee for Green Foothills welcomes the decision by the Mountain View Mayor, Margaret Abe-Koga, to volunteer for appointment to the five-member Santa Clara County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO), a key land-use agency that has a job of preventing unneeded sprawl. In the last three years, LAFCO has not done its job and instead overruled the recommendations of its expert staff to protect working farmlands. We hope that this new appointment signals a new day at LAFCO.

Personally, I recently filled an open position when I became vice-chair of the Santa Clara County Fish and Game Commission. Some of the positions on the critically-important County Planning Commission expire this year. Some may be filled by County Supervisors with reappointments, but new appointments are also possible. Many city planning commissions, park commissions, and special environmental committees like the ones being set up increasingly to develop Climate Change Action Plans, are also in need of people. These all provide excellent ways for people to get involved with their communities, and we strongly encourage people to get involved. And please contact us at Committee for Green Foothills if you have questions on what you can do! **CGF**

The Committee applauds ...



San Mateo Highlands Area Communities, which have successfully fought to preserve a 90-acre open space area from development over the past 20 years.



The Committee is watching ...

CalFire — which is considering allowing logging of old growth redwoods on a 30 acre parcel in the upper Tunitas Creek watershed.

Half Moon Bay and San Mateo County, which are considering a land swap involving sensitive blufftop parcels in the Wavecrest area.

San Mateo County — which will be selecting a new Planning Director and embarking on a new General Plan.

Santa Clara County — which is allowing the gradual loss of open space with every new small subdivision, and may want to consider tradeable development rights to protect open space.

Santa Clara County District 1 Supervisor's race — where the District covers most of the County's undeveloped land and the candidates are proposing ideas to help preserve the area.

San Jose — which is using employment projections that are not realistic and hopefully will impose plans that balance jobs with housing.

Sargent Ranch — a 6,500 acre area southwest of Gilroy where the owner has filed for bankruptcy and where the Gilroy Dispatch has called for its acquisition and preservation as a public park.

Honoring Eleanor Boushey

Eleanor Boushey died January 22nd at the age of 97. An environmental activist and former Director for the Committee for Green Foothills, we honor her lifetime of work.

"The cause of open space took a giant step forward with the establishment by public vote in 1972 of the MidPeninsula Open Space District, which has been extended to include San Mateo County as well. Members of Green Foothills were the inspiration and provided the drive to accomplish this."

"As long as life lasts the battle to preserve the wonders and beauties of nature will have to be fought. Looking back, I am glad I was able to play a part, and that I had so many good friends and companions beside me in the ranks."

— **Eleanor Boushey**

Words written by Eleanor Boushey for Committee for Green Foothills
20/20 Vision: in Celebration of the Peninsula Hills; 1982



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together. The exercise culminated with a field trip on a sports fishing boat along the islands from San Diego to Scammons' Lagoon. Her creativity and spirit were moved by the environment and subsequently she joined the Palo Alto Camera Club with a special interest in nature photography, and she became a member of the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society (SCVAS). In spring of 1983, Trish responded to a request in the Avocet (Audubon Santa Clara Valley newsletter) from SCVAS managing director Lynne Tennefoss which read: "if you are interested in saving wetlands, call the chapter office." As Trish says "the rest is history".


It's easy to see that Trish Mulvey has been, and continues to be, an important asset to the Bay Area community focused on water, waterways, and healthy watersheds.

In addition to providing leadership in these numerous ways, Trish continues to nurture collaborative efforts that are making a difference in the Santa Clara Valley and in the Bay Area.

With so many activities and achievements it's difficult for Trish to point out which of the groups she's convened, nurtured, or enabled she is most proud of. In this context though, she mentions helping convene the San Francisquito Watershed Council and the Santa Clara Basin Watershed Management Initiative (WMI). Trish considers helping fund-raise for the Oakland Museum Creek & Watershed Map Series for Santa Clara Valley

her latest effort to help the community understand and appreciate the resource values of creeks and the Bay – work that began as a convening member of the original Santa Clara County Creeks Coalition. (A creek-ie indeed!)

It's easy to see that Trish Mulvey has been, and continues to be, an important asset to the Bay Area community focused on water, waterways, and healthy watersheds. When asked what she feels is the most important work in front of us regarding our creeks and watersheds, Trish points to the need to integrate science with policy decisions. "Connecting the dots (including "silo busting")" between water, land use, energy, waste disposal and climate change/sea level rise — especially viewing rain as a resource are on her radar at the moment.

With such a portfolio as Trish has, she has been the recipient of numerous awards and accolades over time. However, we like to think that as the convener of the original Santa Clara County Creeks Coalition and a "creek-ie" from way back, this one will have special meaning for Trish too! Congratulations and Bravo! 



Western Bluebird

Ralph W. Schardt



Chestnut Backed Chickadee

Ralph W. Schardt

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from decision makers through their knowledge, relationships and vigilance, and will continue to do so with our support. All of this good work has not gone unrewarded. It was a great pleasure in December to join Cynthia D'Agosta, our Executive Director, Margaret MacNiven, our Board Vice-President and Lennie Roberts at the Sir Drake Hotel in San Francisco where Lennie was awarded the "Cox Conserves Hero's Award" by KTVU Channel 2. That Lennie was able to be awarded over a group of wonderful environmental activists is not only a testimony to her past accomplishments such as the "Tunnel Campaign" but also to her ongoing efforts as evidenced by the Coastal Commission decision. Naturally, Lennie donated her award back to CGF.

In Santa Clara County, Brian has employed his leadership abilities to forge an exciting new collaboration for the Committee with the De Anza College Environmental Center students. While the formal arrangements are still being made for a partnership with the De Anza students, it is instructive that Brian, through his valiant and successful efforts at thwarting development (temporarily, at least) in Coyote Valley south of San Jose, has become a hero to a legion of young environmentalists.

When you consider that Lennie, who has been an unpaid volunteer for over 30 years, and Brian, with his formidable law background (J.D. Stanford, 1999, Shute, Mihaly & Weinberger) are lending their considerable talents to Committee for Green Foothills, you have an unbeatable bang for the buck. Our advocates are the lifeblood of our organization, and we at CGF are incredibly fortunate to have two of the best in the business in Brian and Lennie. As I mentioned at the top of this column, their values of persistence, passion and preparation have been of great inspiration to me in my own professional life. As members of the Committee for Green Foothills community, we can all feel fortunate that our support is being represented by such talented and effective individuals. **CGF**

Planned Giving

Since 1962, the generosity of people like you has made the Committee for Green Foothills' advocacy work possible. Your gifts ensure that we will be able to continue to protect open space farmlands and natural resources for future generations.

For those who care deeply about our local environment, estate planning offers a unique opportunity to acknowledge a thoughtful life by helping future generations. Establishing a bequest can ensure your legacy and that of Committee for Green Foothills.

If you have included CGF in estate planning, we hope that you will let us know. We would appreciate the opportunity to express our gratitude, and to welcome you into the Green Foothills Legacy Society.

Contact Cynthia D'Agosta at (650) 968-7243 x 360 or cynthia@greenfoothills.org.

We need your help!

Volunteer opportunities at CGF — picture yourself in one of these positions!

Program Planning and Implementation: We love having a good time with friends, and we know it takes a team to host high-quality events — so come have a good time and help us pull off an ambitious schedule of fun events this year! There's always plenty to do!

Scanning: At almost 50 years old, CGF began before there were computers! Therefore, we have many years of hard copy files to move to electronic formats.

Tabling: We need folks to help us spread the word about environmental advocacy and open space preservation, and the good work we do at CGF. Each year around Earth Day, CGF 'tables' at several events; we could use a few members that like to talk and meet new folks to work these events with our Board members!

Web Designer: Use your skills and experience to help us plan and/or implement a redesign of our website.

Web Update: If you know how, we could use help with a regularly scheduled refreshing of the site to keep it updated and current!



Upcoming Events

Honoring Joan Bruce

Committee for Green Foothills supporter Joan Bruce passed away June 3, 2008. As a Palo Alto Elementary School teacher for 42 years she shared her passion for the outdoors with generations of youth by leading annual hiking and camping trips from 1962 until her retirement in 1994.

Join us as we celebrate her life and legacy by dedicating a bench in her memory.



Arastradero-Pearson Park May 1, 2pm

*For more details or to RSVP: Contact CGF at (650) 968-7243 x314
or info@greenfoothills.org.*

Coyote Ridge Hike

**Saturday April 17 2009
9 a.m. – 1 p.m.**

You're invited to the **only** hike to the top of Coyote Ridge, with spectacular wildflowers, habitat for the threatened Bay Checkerspot Butterfly, and beautiful views of Coyote and Santa Clara Valleys. The hike will be led by CGF Santa Clara County Advocate Brian Schmidt and a docent for the Santa Clara County Open Space Authority.

Space is limited to 30 hikers. RSVP to 650.968.7243 x314 or info@GreenFoot-hills.org; we'll send directions with your confirmation.

This hike is strenuous — 800' elevation gain in three mile round trip— and is not appropriate for children under 12.

Save the Dates!

**June 19 – Coyote Valley
Wildlife Corridor Tour**

**October 3 – Nature's Inspirations
honoring Pete McCloskey**