



**Bay Area Council Meeting
Saturday, May 6, 2017**

**Evelyn Cormier residence
Hayward, CA**

NOTES

Attending:

Bill Hudson, Golden Gate
Ariana Rickard, Mt. Diablo/Audubon CA
Robin Leong, Napa-Solano
Wendy Schackwitz, Napa-Solano
Allen Bertillion, Ohlone
Jackie Bertillion, Ohlone

Evelyn Cormier, Ohlone
Bill Hoppes, Ohlone
Marty Morrow, Ohlone
Pat Gordon, Ohlone
Susan Stratton, Sequoia
Marc Smiley, Solid Ground Consulting

AGENDA

**9:10 am Tesla Park and SB 249 (Legislation to reform Off-highway motor vehicle dept.)
Pat Gordon**

The Friends of Tesla and several Ohlone members have been meeting with our local legislators to gain support of preservation of this very unique biodiverse area. The lawsuits continue in the preliminary stages regarding the certification of the inadequate EIR for the OHMVR expansion of Carnegie, but a positive approach is sought. Tesla needs preserving as a park.

Ohlone and Friends of Tesla shared with State Senators Glazer, Skinner, and Wieckowski and Assemblywoman Baker the scientific consensus of the biological data attesting to the richness of the area, the overwhelming support of agencies, local officials, and environmental groups, and a means to purchase the land thru the Altamont Landfill Settlement Agreement funds. Numbers were also shared showing that off-road usage is down, while visits to surrounding parklands has increased.

Please support SB 249, the important environmental protection legislation which reforms the State Parks Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation (OHMVR) program. http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201720180SB249

SB 249 addresses resource protection, Division integration with the State Parks Department, misallocation of fuel tax funding, enforcement, and the future sunset and reauthorization.

Friends of Tesla Park and many organizations in the alliance support this legislation. We encourage you to support SB 249 and to contact your assembly member and senator to urge that they support SB 249 as it progresses through the legislature. For more information, please visit the Friends of Tesla Park website: <http://www.teslapark.org/>

**10:10 am Report on Audubon California board meeting
Wendy Schackwitz, Napa-Solano Audubon**

The Audubon California (AC) Board of Directors met in San Diego on the 9th and 10th of March 2017. The location was selected because of its proximity to the Salton Sea, which is the focus of a great amount of work by AC due to its critical importance to migrating birds and because the amount of water available for the sea will be drastically reduced beginning in 2018. Audubon is joining with many other government and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to address the environmental consequences of this reduction. We also acknowledged that the population and political power is concentrated in the southern half of California.

Mike Lynes addressed the group on 2017 policy priorities. The NAS response to the presidential election is to remain a centrist organization and a partner for conservation success with birds as the common ground. NAS has listed 10 national priorities for the coming year, which you can read about at <http://www.audubon.org/news/the-future-audubons-conservation-work-under-new-administration>. For Audubon California, priorities fall into four main policy areas: Water, Climate, Endangered Species and Public Lands. We will fight bad laws and policy while supporting science-based planning.

Salton Sea Summit for Audubon chapters – December 2 & 3

**10:45 am Assessing the Chapter Capacity Building program
Marc Smiley, Solid Ground Consulting**

**11:45 am Education Programs (Youth Birding, classes, docents)
Each chapter share success stories and lessons learned**

Napa-Solano – started with small grants, first thing was doing a CBC 4 Kids. Teachers were key for them. Another way to find partners is to contact environmental clubs at school. Teachers who run clubs are very motivated to do projects with their kids. Chapter has a bluebird box monitoring program at one school.

Source of funding - Wildlife Conservation Commission. Each county has one and grants are between \$600 - \$10,000. Chapter uses funds to hire someone to run education programs. Usually find a young person who is looking for resume experience and can devote more time to running program and establishing partnerships.

Golden Gate – Anthony DeCicco, Full-time education person, raises his own funds for programs.

Ohlone – Outreach aspect, taking education table to different events. Possible collaboration with SFBBO. Poster contest – “Habitat is home.” Very time-consuming.

Sequoia – school programs. Kids science museum. Field trips with Cubs Scouts. Nelle – Education

Mt. Diablo – New education chair. Have a No Kids Left Inside program that visits schools in spring for birding lesson and birding on school campus. Also have a Young Birders Club for weekend birding trips with parents.

Home school kids are looking for opportunities for field opportunities. Other possible audiences - Boys and Girls Scouts. Boys and Girls Club.

12:30 pm Chapter Reports – Lessons learned and/or current challenge

Sequoia – Bioblitzes. Connect with other people, mushroom people, lichen people. Edgewood Park, County parks.

New office manager – Chris O’Connell. Quarterly paper newsletter. Monthly e-newsletter.

PG & E – HCP plan, just started to dive into. Edgewood Park is going to be a particular challenge. Gas pipeline needs to be replaced.

Golden Gate – Centennial celebration this year. Early June going up in Oakland. Pictures in City Hall up near the chamber. Tides Center in SF. Then Lindsay Wildlife Museum in Walnut Creek.

Osprey Cam – Whirlycrane in Richmond. Three eggs will start hatching in a week or two.

Friends of Alameda Wildlife Refuge – Council looking at Bird Safe Alameda. Alameda wants to be the most bird friendly city in California.

Noreen Weeden – Least Tern migration study received funding. Pier 94

McCoster’s. Expansion of Sibley. 250 acres. Wilcox Staging Area. 350 acres open north of that.

Ohlone – Vargas Plateau opening May 15, new EBRPD property. Fundraising for Tesla Park conservation.

Napa-Solano. First bio-blitz on Napa Valley Community Golf Course. Three participants for 90 minutes. Bioblitz focused on vineyards.

BirdSeasons, Climate Watch and Soundscapes. Try to merge all three at American Canyon wetlands. Climate Watch, National Audubon, January and June – 10 blocks. 12 five minutes. Bluebirds and Nuthatch. Soundscape, project with Sonoma State – recording, identify species by calls.

Tricolored Blackbird – interns visiting colonies twice a week. Layering behaviors and sunrise. Audio recorder in field. Predict when incubation and/or fledging starts based on sounds recorded.

Next meeting – September 23