



March 28, 2011

Members, Association of Bay Area Governments San Francisco Bay Trail Steering Committee  
Association of Bay Area Governments  
101 Eighth Street  
Oakland, CA 94607

Re: Agenda item 3, Wednesday, March 30, 2011

Dear Committee Member:

Waterfront Action Inc. is an Oakland non-profit whose mission is to promote public access to our region's waterfront. We have worked actively to achieve closure of gaps in the Bay Trail along the Oakland-Alameda Estuary and provided workshops and tools to educate the public about the trail and its shoreline opportunities.

Waterfront Action firmly opposes any change in the Bay Trail's name.

Here is why:

First, the current name, *San Francisco Bay Trail*, perfectly describes the trail and its location. The name is familiar and widely used on signage and in extensive public references. There is simply no need for a change.



Second, changing the name to recognize the contribution of any single individual is inappropriate and ill advised. The implementation and progress of the Bay Trail reflects the efforts of many hard-working and committed individuals, not one:

Some contributors helped prepare the area's conceptual readiness and laid the foundation. The development of Save the Bay, the 1965 passage of the McAteer-Petris Act, the resulting formation of the Bay Conservation and Development Commission, and its creation of the San Francisco Bay Plan and its associated Public Access provisions were all critical foundational steps.

Some contributors played a seminal role, including the entire Bay Area legislative delegation which introduced or co-authored SB100, the State legislation authorizing the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) to "develop and adopt a plan ... for a continuous recreational corridor which will extend around the perimeter of San Francisco and San Pablo bays."

And some have played an ongoing role in the implementation of this plan, including the leaders and staff of the Bay Trail Project at the Association of Bay Area Governments as well as many key local individuals and groups dedicated to successful completion and operation of the Bay Trail in their respective areas.

Naming the trail after just one of these persons slights the historical and ongoing contributions of all others.

Thank you for your consideration of this input.

Sincerely,

*Sandra Threlfall*

Sandra Threlfall, Director

