MEASURE WW – \$12.3 MILLION FOR THE BAY TRAIL PROPOSAL TO CITY COUNCIL FROM WATERFRONT COMMITTEE

MEASURE WW goal: "...to connect urban communities to shoreline access and wildlife viewing opportunities by completing the 86 mile Bay Trail along the East Bay shoreline. Acquire and develop trail links to close the remaining gaps between Martinez and Fremont."

Interim Bay Trail - construct extension through Golden Gate Fields Property; or

<u>Permanent Bay Trail (preferred) - acquire land or easement for, and construct, a</u> Bay Trail extension through Golden Gate Fields Property.

Enhance the recreational opportunities at the Albany Waterfront by constructing a permanent (preferred) or interim segment of the Bay Trail through lands owned by Golden Gate Fields Racetrack. This approximately one (1) mile trail would connect two existing segments of the Bay Trail, thereby closing an important gap in the Bay Trail. Plans to build an interim trail have been prepared by the East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) trails division and are 95% complete. The trail would be a paved trail for combined pedestrian and bicycle use, which would be separated from the adjoining parking lot and travel lane by a fence and/or median barriers.

Regarding an <u>Interim</u> Bay Trail, EBRPD staff had been working cooperatively with Golden Gate Fields (GGF) staff to address their needs. Except for the lack of construction funding, the only remaining issue appeared to be the length of time associated with a right-of-way agreement (e.g., easement, license, encroachment).

Regarding a <u>Permanent</u> Bay Trail, initial focus would place on acquiring a segment of land, or easement, along the shoreline. Aspects of the interim Bay Trail (95%) plan could conceivably be incorporated into a permanent Bay Trail plan.

<u>Rationale</u>: The goal of the San Francisco Bay Trail program is to provide a continuous bicycle and pedestrian trail around the entire Bay. When completed the Bay Trail will provide residents and visitors a unique recreational opportunity. At present, the Bay Trail in this area terminates at Buchanan Street (Albany) on the north side of GGF, and at Gilman Street (Berkeley) on the south side of GGF. This trail is being completed in incremental steps, and completion of this trail segment would result in a significant benefit to the goals of the SF Bay Trail program.

<u>Cost</u>: Interim Bay Trail construction cost is estimated at \$850,000 (does not include acquisition of fee/easement). No cost estimate is available for fee/easement acquisition at this time. Permanent Bay Trail construction cost is similar to above.