



## Press Release

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## Ribbon Cutting Celebration of New Bay Trail at Hamilton Field in Novato 4 - 6 pm on Thursday, June 26, 2014

Oakland, CA... The Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG), Marin Community Foundation (MCF), the City of Novato, and the California State Coastal Conservancy will host a ribbon cutting celebrating the opening of a new Bay Trail segment at Hamilton Field on Thursday, June 26, 2014, at 5 Hamilton Landing in Novato. During the celebration, elected officials and partner agency representatives will officially open 2.7 new miles of Bay Trail adjacent to one of the largest restoration projects on the West Coast. "Opening this segment at Hamilton Field is a big leap forward for the Bay Trail and sets the new standard for public access adjacent to restored habitat." says Sam Schuchat, Executive Director of the State Coastal Conservancy.

The public walking/biking trail is located along an impressive, scenic, restored wetland built by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and its state partner the Coastal Conservancy as part of the conversion of 650 acres of the former military airfield. The new segment of trail sits along the edge of the Hamilton Wetlands Restoration Project adjacent to oak woodland, burgeoning habitat, and provides sweeping views of four state parks. "The Hamilton wetlands and the Bay Trail are Novato's new public shoreline with opportunities for outdoor exercise and bird watching in an area that used to be a military post," adds Novato Mayor Eric Lucan.

Representatives from the City of Novato, Marin County, MCF, Coastal Conservancy, ABAG, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the Bay Conservation and Development Commission will mark the Bay Trail significance at this historic opening. Dr. Thomas Peters, President & CEO of the Marin Community Foundation, says, "This project could not have been accomplished without the dedicated partnership of the government agencies and community-based organizations that contributed so much to its success."

Event emcee Doug McConnell, a TV journalist and Marin local, will lead a guided walk using the new Bay Trail smart phone audio tour as part of the festivities. The new smartphone audio tour, developed by Canogle and Doug McConnell of Convergence Media, and funded by the State Coastal Conservancy through an Explore the Coast grant, will be released in conjunction with the Hamilton Bay Trail opening. This Bay Trail audio tour, accessible by mobile phones using the *Point by Canogle* application, features historic points of interest and curated short stories. Smart phone app enthusiasts can begin their guided walking tour at either the Reservoir Hill Trailhead on Hamilton Parkway, or at the South Hamilton Park on Hangar Avenue, and experience a human history tour that spans multiple centuries--from Miwok habitation to military installation. The natural history tour highlights the landscape-scale wetlands restoration happening directly adjacent to the trail.

This celebration marks the completion of the 338<sup>th</sup> mile of the 500-mile Bay Trail system and the **25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Bay Trail Plan** adoption by ABAG. Other Bay Trail events, openings, and audio tour launches that will take place through October, have been designed to raise awareness of the Bay Trail and its significance as a regional recreation and alternative commute amenity that encourages healthy / active lifestyles and wellness. Bay Trail celebration events are *sponsored by Bay Trail Champion Cargill, Kaiser Permanente, Comcast, and Pacific Gas and Electric Company*. Find out more about the Bay Trail's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary at [www.baytrail.org](http://www.baytrail.org) or call (510) 464-7900.



# ASSOCIATION OF BAY AREA GOVERNMENTS

Representing City and County Governments of the San Francisco Bay Area

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ABAG

## **Bay Trail Background:**

The San Francisco Bay Trail Project, administered by the ABAG, is a planned 500-mile walking and bicycling trail. The Bay Trail will encircle the entire San Francisco Bay when completed, linking the shorelines of all nine Bay Area counties, 47 cities, and all seven major toll bridges in the region. Currently, there are 338 miles of completed Bay Trail, which provide scenic and recreation opportunities throughout the Bay Area, and also serves as a commute corridor, connecting commuters throughout the year to transit and Bay Area employers. The Bay Trail offers access to commercial, industrial and residential neighborhoods; points of historic, natural and cultural interest; recreational areas like beaches, marinas, fishing piers, boat launches, and over 130 parks and wildlife preserves totaling 57,000 acres of open space.

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