



BAY AREA BARNS AND TRAILS - PRESERVATION & STEWARDSHIP

'Helping acquire, protect, preserve, and maintain stables, trails, pastures, staging areas, and horse camps in the San Francisco Bay Area.'

REGIONAL E-NEWS FROM 'BAY AREA BARNS AND TRAILS'

December 1, 2005 (1 of 2 pages)

Proposals for Concession Services for the Oakland City Stables For Immediate Release - Thursday, November 17, 2005

The City of Oakland will be soliciting proposals from individuals, organizations, teams, or firms interested in providing concession services for the Oakland City Stables ("City Stables"), under the direction on the Office of Parks and Recreation (OPR). In order to submit a proposal, prospective concessionaires must first demonstrate their qualifications. A detailed description of the applicant's qualifications is due and must be received at the Office of Parks and Recreation, 250 Frank Ogawa Plaza, Suite 3330, no later than 4:00 p.m., on Thursday, February 16, 2006. Applications are to be addressed to the attention of the Director, Office of Parks and Recreation.

Download the RFQ packet from: <http://www.oaklandnet.com/parks/news/111705a.asp>

City of Oakland-Office of Parks and Recreation

250 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, Suite 3330 - Oakland, California 94612 (510) 238-PARK

BABTT Membership Drive and Donor Appeal Underway; your help is needed to distribute brochures

'Dear Friend of Horses, Ponies, Mules, and everything equine!

The saddest words a horse enthusiast can hear are: "There once were horses here." Whether spoken of a dilapidated barn, or closed trail, or meadow pastures now tightly overgrown with tract houses, the loss of horse 'habitat' means the ultimate loss of horses from our lives and landscapes.

Each of us knows all too well how having fewer trails to ride and fewer places to keep our horses diminishes everyone, whether horse owner or just horse lover. Horses bring their rich story and historic connection to the human experience...to everyone who keeps, rides, trains, or just watches them.

In the Bay Area, horse habitat is constantly threatened. Lands are sold and barns are leveled. Like any endangered species, horses depend on specific locations to survive and thrive...and if loss reaches a critical point, 'species' support in the form of retail businesses, vets, farriers, trainers, and stable operations also vanish.

The Bay Area Barns and Trails Trust (BABTT) was founded in 1999 to counter and reverse this process. BABTT's all-volunteer Board is helping protect and preserve our horse culture by supporting projects organized by equestrian organizations, landowners, land trusts, and land managing agencies.

BABTT provides networking support, technical advice and educational materials to equestrian organizations, educators, activists, landowners and managers. Its monthly 'E-News' and website (www.bayareabarnsandtrails.org) keep the equestrian community informed about challenges, and provide links to likeminded local, state and national land preservation agencies and organizations. BABTT is a member of the Land Trust Alliance, the California Council of Land Trusts, the Equestrian Land Conservation Resource, and the American Horse Council.

BABTT's sole income comes from horse enthusiasts who understand what's truly at stake. We understand that we must create an endowment fund that will allow us to support local groups seeking to purchase lands and equestrian facilities. To make a real difference, we need to raise at least one million dollars...to help buy and restore property!

Since its inception BABTT has provided critical support - over \$81,000 - for projects that are helping preserve equestrian trails, horse facilities, or at-risk open space:

- promoted and funded land, stables and trails acquisition, construction, or maintenance projects sponsored by: Back Country Horsemen/North Bay, Bay Area Ridge Trail Council, Landpaths, Muir Heritage Land Trust, Solano Land Trust, Sonoma County Parks Department, Sonoma County Trails Council.
- researched, promoted, and funded opportunities for stable acquisitions and restoration:
Private lands in Alameda, Marin, Sonoma, San Mateo, Santa Clara, and Contra Costa Counties;
Public lands in Marin, San Francisco, San Jose, San Mateo and Sonoma Counties.
- supported manure management projects: helped purchase tractor and install manure bunkers;
- supported habitat restoration through volunteer projects, helped purchase/plant trees and grasses;
- supported improvements to camping, parking, and staging areas: high lines, hitch rails, water troughs/tanks;
- matched funds for stable/barn renovations: new doors, roofs, drainage systems.
- supported public education and research projects:
 - Coalition for Outdoor Recreation Plan/Sonoma County
 - Bay Area Resource and Conservation Districts: "Horsekeeping Manual"; "Horse Keeping: A Guide to Land Management for Clean Water."
 - University of California at Davis: "Horse Manure Impacts on Public Health and the Environment";
 - Dominican University : "Manure Impacts and Management Strategies;
 - www.weedfreefeed.com website maintenance.

Although BABTT has worked energetically to protect and preserve horse habitat for you and your children, the less-than-best news is that many projects seeking support from BABTT have been declined because of unavailable funding.

Please be part of this effort to preserve all things equine in the Bay Area. Please act on your love of open lands, equines, and equestrian activities by contributing to help save a stall, a paddock, a trail, a pasture. If you remain unclear about why you should help, consult with a local horse, perhaps your own. He will certainly give you clarity. With your generous financial contribution, the Bay Area Barns and Trails Trust can do more to help preserve our equestrian lifestyle - acre by acre - barn by barn - trail by trail!

Thank you for your generosity and for your confidence in our work!

P.S. Your support at any level will help make possible the continuation of our efforts to protect and preserve our horse culture by supporting projects of Bay Area equestrian organizations, landowners, land trusts, and land managing agencies. Your donation is tax-deductible.

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