



**EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
AGENDA STAFF REPORT**

DATE	October 1, 2024
TITLE	Resolution Proclaiming the Month of October 2024 as East Bay Regional Park District Equestrian Trail Riding Month
DIVISION	General Manager's Office
FROM	Dr. Ana M Alvarez, Deputy General Manager Sabrina Landreth, General Manager
APPROVED	Sabrina Landreth, General Manager

RECOMMENDATION

The General Manager recommends the Board of Directors adopt a resolution to proclaim the month of October 2024 as East Bay Regional Park District Equestrian Trail Riding Month.

BACKGROUND

Representatives from the California State Horsemen Association (“CSHA”) - Region 5 led a community-driven effort to recognize equestrian trail riding on public lands and acknowledge the historical presence of the equestrian community thriving within the East Bay Regional Park District (“Park District”) jurisdiction. CSHA was founded in 1942 for the purpose of fostering interest in all breeds of horses and forms of horsemanship via eighteen (18) geographic regions within three areas (Northern, Central and Southern) throughout the state of California. Its primary objectives are:

1. Encourage and promote human equine activities, both recreational and competitive, for youth and adults
2. Cultivate respect for the horse and good sportsmanship in equine activities (on public and private lands)
3. Encourage and support acquisition, construction, maintenance, supervision, preservation of and access to equestrian trails on public and private lands
4. Encourage and support the construction and maintenance of horse campgrounds and facilities
5. Educate members about appropriate horse husbandry practices, health and safety measures
6. Award scholarships to outstanding competitors and provide monetary contributions to worthy equine charitable organizations
7. Encourage participation at state and local government levels to preserve equestrian traditions and to safeguard the equine community against policies that adversely impact its well-being.

On July 29, 2024 the CSHA Region 5 Trails Chair Amelia S. Marshall presented to the Park District a signed petition with 162 signatures requesting for the Board of Directors to proclaim a month in 2024 as Equestrian Trail Riding Month at the East Bay Regional Park District (Attachment A). Most petitions were circulated by the San Ramon Valley Horsemen Association, Tri-cities Horsemen Association, and Skyline Ranch, Piedmont Stables, and the Anthony Chabot Equestrian Center. CSHA Region 5 also provided a breakdown on the number of signatories who reside in Alameda and Contra Costa counties by Park District Wards, as follows: 9% in Ward 1; 21% in Ward 2, 4% in Ward 3, 3% in Ward 4, 4% in Ward 5, 30% in Ward 6 and 29% in Ward 7.

CSHA Region 5 current members includes the following associations and community groups: Alameda County Sheriff's Mounted Posse, Aahmes Shrine Mounted Patrol, Concord Mt. Diablo Trail Ride Association, Diablo Equestrian Heritage Association, the Equestrian Center of Walnut Creek, San Ramon Valley Horsemen's Association, and the Tri-cities Horsemen's Association.

The East Bay Regional Park District has a long history with the East Bay's equestrian community as far back as 1934 when equestrian riders from local stables and cattle ranches volunteered to clean and build many of the regional trails that Park visitors enjoy today. The first form of law enforcement in the Park District was comprised of voluntarily deputized mounted rangers who served for thirty years until 1964 when former General Manager William Penn Mott Jr. commissioned the Park District's inaugural sworn police force. Former Park District General Manager Richard Walpole shepherded the first equestrian concessions in regional parks with the pony rides at Tilden Regional Park and Roberts Park. Several bridle trails on regional parks are named after members of the East Bay's equestrian community.

There is a large community of diverse recreational equestrian trail riders who have enjoyed the bridleways and bridle-trails on public lands under the jurisdiction of the Park District including Association of Charros in Contra Loma Regional Park, Redwood Hills Pony Club at Skyline Ranch, and Oakland Black Cowboys Association. Today the Park District provides equestrian/ horse staging areas, horse arenas, horse boarding barns, horse camping, and horse-riding lessons and day camps at several regional parks, including Anthony Chabot, Del Valle Regional Park, Diablo Foothills-Castle Rock Regional Parks, Las Trampas Wilderness Regional Preserve, Ted and Kathy Radke Martinez Regional Shoreline, Dr. Aurelia Reinhardt Redwood Regional Park and Sunol-Ohlone Wilderness Regional Preserves.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact with this action.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A – Signed Petition Requesting to Proclaim an Equestrian Trail Riding Month in the Park District.

Attachment B – Equestrian Trail Riding Month Petition Signatures Data Summary dated July 27, 2024

Attachment C – Presentation Materials



**EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT
RESOLUTION NO. 2024 – 10 -
OCTOBER 1, 2024**

**RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING OCTOBER 2024 AS EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK
DISTRICT EQUESTRIAN TRAIL RIDING MONTH**

WHEREAS, the equestrian community of the East Bay has been actively present and have partnered with the East Bay Regional Park District (“Park District”) for 90 years, since 1934 to today; and

WHEREAS, equestrian riders from local stables and cattle ranches in the East Bay volunteered to clean and build many of the regional trails that Park visitors enjoy today; and

WHEREAS, the first form of public safety officials in the Park District were mounted rangers, voluntarily deputized, who served for thirty years contributing to the safety and welfare of the public visiting public parklands and open space;

WHEREAS, since former Park District General Manager William Penn Mott Jr. commissioned a sworn police force in 1964, mounted officers and members of the Volunteer Mounted Patrol have continued to serve the public on trails for sixty years; and

WHEREAS, the presence of horses, especially the Park District’s Mounted Patrol horses, on regional trails and parks is a source of delight to other park visitors, particularly children who have never encountered a horse before; and

WHEREAS, the Park District provides equestrian centers in several public parks, including Anthony Chabot Regional Park, Las Trampas Wilderness Regional Preserve, Piedmont Stables, and Skyline Ranch, plus facilities such as the Tri-Cities Horsemen’s arena at Ted and Kathy Radke Martinez Regional Shoreline, as well as popular trails in Castle Rock Regional Recreational Area, Diablo Foothills Regional Park, Morgan Territory Regional Preserve, Ohlone Wilderness Regional Preserve, Round Valley Regional Preserve, Sunol Wilderness Regional Preserve, Tilden Regional Park, Wildcat Canyon Regional Park and other public lands; and

WHEREAS, equestrian events have been part of the international Olympic Games since 1912, and since the Games of the XV Olympiad in Helsinki in 1952, women have competed with men in equestrian mixed events, and will do so in the 2028 Summer Olympics in Los Angeles; and

WHEREAS, designating the month of October in 2024 as East Bay Regional Park District Equestrian Trail Riding Month will promote equestrian trail riding and sports as a form of healthful outdoor recreation in Alameda and Contra Costa counties;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the East Bay Regional Park District hereby proclaim the month of October 2024 as Equestrian Trail Riding Month as presented to the Board on October 1, 2024; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the General Manager is hereby authorized and directed, on behalf of the Park District and in its name, to execute and deliver such documents and to do such acts as may be deemed necessary or appropriate to accomplish the intentions of this resolution.

Moved by Director _____, and seconded by Director _____, and adopted October 1, 2024, by the following vote:

FOR:

AGAINST:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: