



Peninsula Office:
3921 East Bayshore Road
Palo Alto, CA 94303
650-961-0545
(Fax) 650-961-0548

South Bay Office:
4020 Moorpark Ave.
San Jose, CA 95117
408-244-2449

www.EVols.org

Contact: Allan Berkowitz
Executive Director
Environmental Volunteers
Tel: (650) 961-0545 x333

Carol Broadbent Fields
Board Member
Environmental Volunteers
(650) 321-3098

Environmental Volunteers Awarded Bay Trail Grant in Support of \$4 Million EcoCenter Campaign

Palo Alto, CA – September 23, 2008 – Environmental Volunteers, www.EVols.org, (The EV), an environmental education nonprofit serving Bay Area schools for 36 years, announced today that it has been awarded a grant, valued at nearly \$60,000, from the San Francisco Bay Trail Project. The grant will help fund the repair of a gap in the 500-mile Bay Trail that is part of the EV’s five-year campaign to restore and construct a new environmental resource for the community, called The EcoCenter, at the Palo Alto Baylands Nature Preserve.

“By completing the gap in the Bay Trail, the new EcoCenter home in the Palo Alto Baylands Nature Preserve will become a wonderful new destination for hikers and bikers on the Peninsula and across the Bay Area,” said Melissa L. Hippard, Ph.D., Director of the Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter.

The grant from the San Francisco Bay Trail Project, administered by the Association of Bay Area Governments, www.baytrail.org, represents approximately half of the cost of constructing and improving the quarter-mile gap in the trail that passes through the EcoCenter site. The other half will be funded by a combination of private donations. To date, the EV has raised more than \$2 million of its goal of \$4 million for the EcoCenter campaign for restoration, construction and new community programs.



Susan Hansen, Member of the Board of Trustees, leads the EcoCenter Campaign for Environmental Volunteers. “The Bay Trail component of the EcoCenter represents a significant way that the EV is establishing new connections in the community to encourage nature enthusiasts of all ages to visit the Baylands and to appreciate its beauty,” she said.

Earlier this month, the EV held a groundbreaking ceremony attended by hundreds of local supporters and community leaders to mark the beginning of restoration and construction of the former Sea Scout Building that, when completed in the fall of 2009, will become the EcoCenter.

The Bay Trail is a planned recreational corridor that, when complete, will encircle San Francisco and San Pablo Bays with a continuous 500-mile network of bicycling and hiking trails. It will connect the shoreline of all nine Bay Area counties, link 47 cities, and cross the major toll bridges in the region. To date, approximately 290 miles of the alignment—over half the Bay Trail’s ultimate length—have been completed.

Invest in the EcoCenter to Build a New Bay Area Landmark

Included in the more than \$2 million that the EV has already raised for the EcoCenter is a \$1 million grant from the David and Lucile Packard Foundation. Anyone interested in supporting the EV’s EcoCenter Campaign goal of raising \$4 million by the end of 2009 should visit <http://www.evols.org/EcoCenter/>

Founded in 1972, Environmental Volunteers is dedicated to promoting an understanding of, and responsibility for, the environment through hands-on science education. In 2003, Environmental Volunteers, a 501(c) (3) corporation, was a recipient of the California Governor's Environmental and Economic Leadership Award in Children's Environmental Education. In July 2008, the EV said it had been awarded a 3-year grant of \$146,250 from the Toyota USA Foundation, the largest corporate grant in EV history, to support its environmental science programs at 60 schools in Santa Clara and San Mateo counties. To learn more about the EcoCenter or to volunteer to be a trained docent, please visit www.EVols.org.

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