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*The SVBC is a 501(c)(3)
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August 12, 2009

VIA US MAIL AND FAX OR EMAIL

**Subject: Property Transfer from Cargill, Inc. to NASA Ames
Research Center, Mountain View, CA to open key Bay
Trail gap**

On behalf of the Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition, I am writing to seek your assistance in completing an important gap in the San Francisco Bay Trail along the edge of the NASA Ames Research Center (NASA-ARC)

Many bicyclists in our area are anxiously awaiting the opening of the 2.2-mile long segment of the trail adjacent to NASA-ARC and are frustrated by delays in finalizing a land transfer from Cargill, Inc. to NASA. This is a chance to complete a key element of the San Francisco Bay Trail, a 500-mile trail ringing San Francisco Bay. Closing this gap will link Sunnyvale Baylands and Shoreline at Mountain View, and open a 25-mile continuous stretch of shoreline trail between East Palo Alto and San Jose.

The Bay Trail is playing an increasingly prominent role in recreation and transportation planning in the Bay Area as its multiple benefits become more widely acknowledged and recognized. The Bay Trail provides easily accessible opportunities for recreation and transportation. As a transportation alternative, the Bay Trail provides access to residential neighborhoods, commercial districts, employment centers, schools and universities, numerous points of interest, and recreational areas like beaches, marinas, parks, fishing piers and golf courses. The Bay Trail contributes to the goal of reducing traffic, air pollution, water pollution and other environmental impacts of motorized transportation.



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We understand that monthly meetings have been held since July 2006 with NASA-ARC staff, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Bay Trail Project, the 129th Air Rescue Wing, the Cities of Mountain View and Sunnyvale, and Cargill to resolve numerous issues allowing the trail segment along the edge of NASA-ARC to be opened to public use. The final step to closing this gap is the donation of a piece of land known as the Northern Channel by Cargill, Inc. to NASA. We understand the property transfer packet was recently forwarded to the Department of Justice from NASA-HQ for review, after delayed NASA action since October 2008. We have been anxiously awaiting news of progress and are extremely disappointed that this process is taking so long.

Any assistance you can provide in expediting this approval at NASA Headquarters and the Department of Justice would be much appreciated. Thank you for your continued support of the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project, the Bay Trail Project, and transportation alternatives in our area.

Sincerely,


QuickTime™ and a
H.264 video decoder are needed to see this picture.
Corinne Winter
Executive Director