

2002 Mountain Star Awards



Robert Doyle (upper left) receives award for lifetime achievement from SMD's Seth Adams. Roger Epperson (lower left) receives award for stewardship from SMD's Ron Brown.

Robert Doyle **Mountain Saver Award** **for Lifetime Achievement**

As a teenager Robert Doyle was a founding member of SMD's Board of Directors. He began as a laborer for the East Bay Regional Park District while living in the State Park's Hetherington cabin. Today Bob is Assistant General Manager of Land Acquisition, Interagency Planning, Environmental Review and GIS, and Regional Trails for the East Bay Regional Park District. His first love has always been Mt. Diablo, however. He served as President of SMD for eight years and works with the organization on a daily basis. He helped create three of Diablo's regional preserves and has been involved in many of the land use issues participated in by SMD. In the past thirty years no one has had a bigger positive impact on the preservation of the East Bay's open space.



Roger Epperson **Mountain Star Award** **for Stewardship**

Roger Epperson is Superintendent of Black Diamond Mines, Morgan Territory and Round Valley Regional Preserves, three of the East Bay Regional Park District's largest and fastest growing parks. Many Park Superintendents might be opposed to an increasing workload in a time of budget constraints but Roger has always been one of SMD's biggest cheerleaders, aiding in acquisition projects, events and land use efforts. He has also been responsible for careful management of his parks and their resources, from repair of the tombstones at the Rose Hill cemetery to careful use of grazing and other management tools. Because of his efforts and those of his staff, these three large preserves enjoy increasing ecological health.

Land Use Around Mount Diablo

Save Mount Diablo responds to nearly every development project proposed around Mt. Diablo. We also work on significant policy issues which might impact or benefit the mountain, such as the County's tightening of the Urban Limit Line several years ago. Below are four issues of huge importance.

Sand Creek Plan (FUA#1)

In the Fall 2002 *Diablo Watch*, we included an insert about Antioch's proposed 5000 unit Sand Creek Specific Plan (FUA#1), which includes a business park, impacts Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve, and adds more than 143,000 new car trips per day to area traffic. During the summer Antioch released a draft Environmental Impact Report, with the intent to approve the project at the end of 2002. When more than a thousand residents expressed their concern with letters and postcards, and after many letters in response to the EIR, the city delayed their consideration until early Spring 2003. We'll keep you posted.

Los Vaqueros Expansion

The Contra Costa Water District (CCWD) completed 1600 acre Los Vaqueros reservoir in December 1997. CCWD was required to acquire 18,500 acres of watershed, relocate Vasco Road, protect Vasco Caves with EBRPD and limit the reser-

voir's size. The reservoir had barely begun to fill when CCWD began planning for an expanded regional reservoir, to serve other water agencies. The existing dam would be torn down, and a larger one constructed. Three times as much land would be flooded and the reservoir's length and width would double - a dramatic barrier to wildlife movement. SMD serves on the Ratepayers' Taskforce and is considering proposed impacts and benefits.

Shaping Our Future

Throughout the nation, planning agencies are considering ways in which to facilitate "Smart Growth" to encourage more efficient development, near transportation where services already exist and where there are fewer impacts. Contra Costa County and the County's cities have sponsored a regional planning study called "Shaping Our Future." SMD is monitoring the effort with others to ensure that future development plans are located in the right places and balanced with preservation.

Measure C - Transportation **Sales Tax & Growth** **Management**

In 1988 Contra Costa County passed a half cent sales tax addition for transportation projects. It passed on a second try, in part

because it was a companion to the East Bay Regional Park District's \$225 million AA open space measure and because it included a growth management plan. AA has been a huge success, while Measure C's growth management policies are considered a resounding failure. The tax must be reauthorized by 2008. SMD and a coalition of environmental, social justice and labor organizations have participated in the measure's planning in hopes of increasing dollars for open space mitigation, mass transit, and to improve C's growth management policies.

