

# **State of San Francisco Bay 2011**

## **Appendix M**

### **STEWARDSHIP – Public Access**

#### **Technical Appendix**

Katherine Smetak, Center for Ecosystem Management and Restoration

**Background and Rationale:** Access to the Bay is a prerequisite for public engagement leading to stewardship outcomes. The public access indicator assesses the extent to which access to the Bay is being provided by evaluating the increases in mileage over time of the San Francisco Bay Trail and the Bay Area Ridge Trail. The Bay Area Ridge Trail is included in the analysis with the rationale that people need to be engaged with the entire watershed and not just the Bay itself.

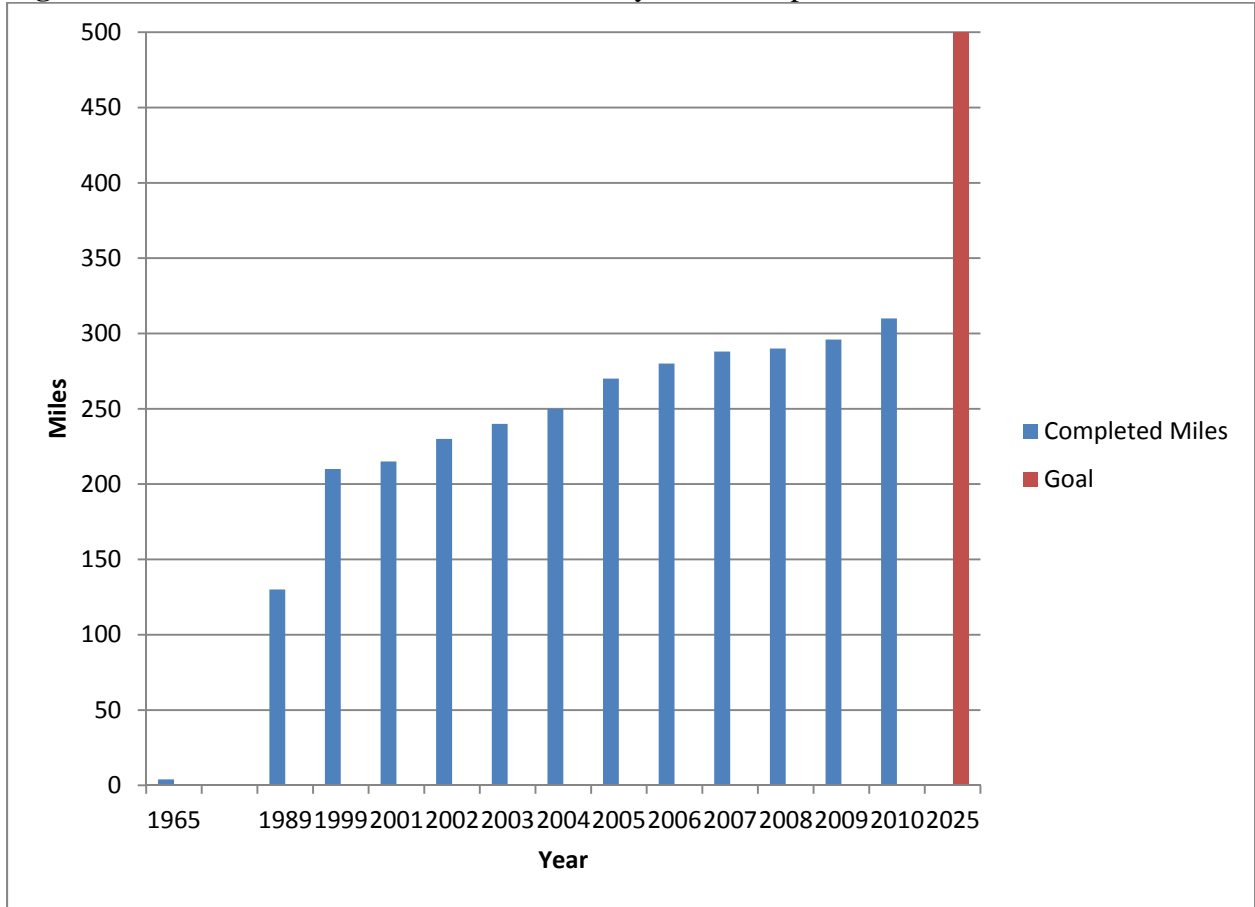
**Data sources:** Data for the San Francisco Bay Trail was obtained from the Association of Bay Area Governments. Data for the Bay Area Ridge Trail was obtained from the Bay Area Ridge Trail Council website ([www.ridgetrail.org](http://www.ridgetrail.org)), which includes a history of trail completion and maps indicating the length of trail segments in miles.

**Methods and Calculations:** This indicator documents a trend over time from the initiation of the Bay Trail and Ridge Trail concepts through their present status. The indicator was calculated by evaluating miles of trail completed annually for the San Francisco Bay Trail and the Bay Area Ridge Trail. The indicator was assessed as the percentage of goals for trail completion that are being met.

**Goals, Targets, and Reference Conditions:** The Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) identified the goal in 1989 of establishing a 500-mile regional hiking and bicycling trail around the perimeter of San Francisco and San Pablo Bays. In 1989 there only four miles of trail existed. The Bay Area Ridge Trail Council identified the goal in 1987 of creating 550 miles of trail for recreational use along the ridgelines surrounding San Francisco Bay. In 2006, the Council identified the near-term goal of completing 400 miles of trail by 2010.

**Results:** Currently, 310 of 500 planned miles of the Bay Trail are complete, or 62 percent of the goal for the entire system (Figure 1). Since the dedication of the Ridge Trail's first segment in 1989, 330 of 550 miles of trail have been completed, or 60 percent achievement of the goal for the entire system and 82 percent achievement of the near-term goal set for 2010 (Figure 2).

**Figure 1.** Cumulative Miles of San Francisco Bay Trail Completion 1965 – 2010\*



\*Data not available for 1966 – 1988

**Figure 2.** Cumulative Miles of Bay Area Ridge Trail Completion 1989 - 2010

