



# Shore Lines

News from Citizens for East Shore Parks

September 2011

## Is Lawrence Berkeley National Lab a trojan horse for the owners of Golden Gate Fields?

Golden Gate Fields in Albany is one of 6 sites for the proposed second campus of the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL). While CESP approached yet another shoreline development proposal with an open mind, we are once again disappointed and dismayed. It has become clear that the owners of Golden Gate Fields (GGF) are using the hook of the LBNL project to pave the way for its own plans for massive development which will totally split the Eastshore State Park in half.

What was at first presented to the public as a 2 million square foot LBNL project has morphed into a 4.5 million square foot small city on the shoreline. GGF's additional development will include commercial retail and labs, residential, hotels and office space with 5,000 parking spaces. GGF has produced drawings showing that the buildings would be at least 8 stories high (110 feet)—two stories taller than the existing grandstand. To put these numbers in perspective, compare them to local buildings:

- Emeryville Ikea is 274,000 sq. ft. with 1,057 parking spaces
- Albany Target is 190,000 sq. ft.
- A Walmart Supercenter averages 185,000 sq. ft.
- SF's Embarcadero Center is 4+million sq. ft.

This Miami Beach-by-the Bay is clearly not what the community wants for the shoreline. **GGF developers need to honor the Voices to Vision results: 75% parks and up to 25% development.** Albany spent a year and \$500,000+ to confirm the community's vision of the shoreline: 75% of the land for park/open space and no more than 25% for development.

We have a wonderful opportunity to complete the Eastshore State Park AND get the LBNL second campus in Albany with modest development on a much smaller footprint, as proposed in other cities. The LBNL buildings could fit on 15 acres of the property in 4- story buildings and a hotel and conference center with adjunct commercial space that would be an excellent amenity to LBNL could easily fit on the remaining 15 acres. This commercial development could generate \$900,000 in sales and hotel room occupancy tax (at now a low 10% room tax with standard assumptions about occupancy rates) and exceed the current contribution of \$600,000 from Golden Gate Fields' only tax on the horse race gambling.

### Protect Measure C: your right to vote on proposal

In 1991 when Santa Fe Railroad proposed a similar 4 million square foot development, Albany voters passed Measure C with

by a 75% majority. Measure C requires any change to the zoning of the waterfront go to a vote of the people. Any change to the zoning on the waterfront such as GGF proposal requires a full EIR before the city council can approve it and put it on the ballot for a Measure C vote. We need to be vigilant that this law is not circumvented.

### You can help protect the Albany Shoreline

Write and email the City Council and tell them:

To honor the people's Voices to Vision by making the shoreline 75% park and complete Eastshore State Park.

Development should NOT be on Fleming Point

All development can fit within the current track without expanding onto Fleming Point, the shoreline or the creek watershed. 4.5 million square feet is too much.

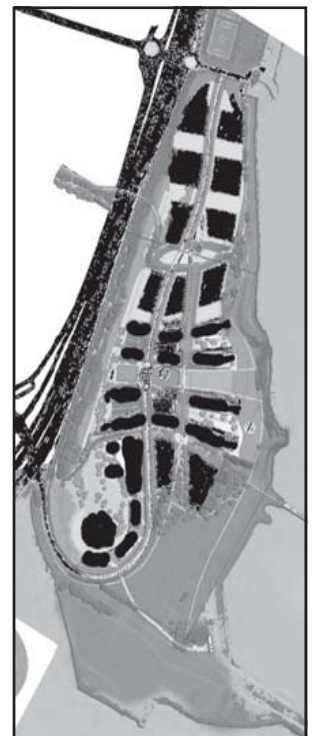
Publicly state that any change to the waterfront zoning can go to a Measure C vote only AFTER a full EIR is done as is legally required.

If LBNL wants to 'own' the land, it should agree to pay the \$1.1 Million in property and parcel taxes for the city, schools, and library.

Please send an e-mail message to Mayor Javandel and all of city council ([cityhall@albanyca.org](mailto:cityhall@albanyca.org)) and to the city manager, Beth Pollard ([bpollard@albanyca.org](mailto:bpollard@albanyca.org)).

Also please send a written letter to: Mayor Javandel and City of Albany City Council, Albany 1000 San Pablo Avenue Albany, CA 94706.

The map of GGF property was adapted from The Technology Collaborative--A Public Private Partnership at Golden Gate Fields, pg 29. Black areas approximately represent buildings and freeway.



GGF Property

---

# McLaughlin Eastshore State Park Passes State Legislature

Resolution ACR 55 has passed both the State Assembly and the Senate requesting the state Department of Parks and Recreation to rename Eastshore State Park as **McLaughlin Eastshore State Park** in honor of Sylvia McLaughlin, long-time environmental activist and co-founder of Citizens for East Shore Parks. "Adding Sylvia McLaughlin's name to this wonderful 8.5-mile ribbon of parkland would be a worthy recognition of Ms. McLaughlin's leadership," said Nancy Skinner, author of the resolution. ACR 55 now awaits implementation by the State Parks Commission.

Sylvia McLaughlin is Secretary and a founding member of CESP. She has an unrivaled reputation as an environmental activist who fought for the preservation of San Francisco Bay and East Bay shoreline open space. In 1961 McLaughlin and two other women founded the *Save San Francisco Bay Association* (*Save the Bay*) to prevent the city of Berkeley from

filling in 2,000 acres of the Bay.

They followed this success with the 1965 legislation that established the *Bay Conservation and Development Commission* (BCDC), which became a permanent regulatory agency in 1969. She has served on the boards of the National Audubon Society, National Recreation and Park Association, Greenbelt Alliance, and Save-the-Redwoods League, among others.

In 2002, McLaughlin received the Berkeley Outstanding Woman award for her tireless commitment to protecting San Francisco Bay and the environment of the Bay Area.



Sylvia McLaughlin at Berkeley Meadow dedication, Earth Day 2011 photo: P. Jones

---

## Norman LaForce to be recognized for his environmental work

**Monday, October 10 from 6 – 8 pm, at Hibiscus Restaurant  
1745 San Pablo Ave. in Oakland (near 19th St/Oakland BART)**



Join the Sierra Club Bay Chapter, CESP and other environmentalists for a special evening honoring long-time Sierra Club activist and leader, Norman LaForce, a founding member and current Vice President of CESP.

Norman has served the Chapter for many years in a variety of roles including Chapter chair, West Contra Costa Group chair, chair of the Legal Committee, and chair of the East Bay Public Lands Committee. He is the former mayor of El Cerrito. His volunteer

indefatigability and enthusiasm have played a particular role in the creation and success of the Eastshore State Park.

In addition, the special guest and speaker for the event is Alameda County District Attorney Nancy O'Malley. O'Malley is considered a national leader for the strong work of her Consumer and Environmental Protection Department for protecting the environment.

Tickets are \$50 for Sierra Club members and \$75 for non-members (a glass of wine is included in the ticket price). Appetizers will be served. For questions, call (510)848-0800.

Purchase your ticket on-line today at:  
[www.sanfranciscobay.sierraclub.org/sierra-salon2011.htm](http://www.sanfranciscobay.sierraclub.org/sierra-salon2011.htm)

---

### *Shore Lines*

*News from Citizens for East Shore Parks*

Patricia Jones, Executive Director  
PO Box 6087, Albany, CA 94706  
Office: 520 El Cerrito Plaza  
T 510-524-5000 F: 524-5008  
[www.eastshorepark.org](http://www.eastshorepark.org)

Supporting organizations include:

Golden Gate Audubon Society • Sierra Club • Save the Bay • Ecology Center  
NRSOSA • Oakland Waterfront Coalition • Berkeley Partners for Parks  
Environmental Defense • Citizens Committee to Complete the Refuge • Oceanic Society  
California Native Plant Society • Friends of Aquatic Park • Regional Parks Association  
Urban Creeks Council Contra Costa Hills Club • California State Parks Foundation  
Citizens for the Albany Shoreline

---

---

# Berkeley Meadow Dedication

On a glorious Earth Day, April 16, 2011, long-time friends, environmental activists, local politicians and EBRPD/State Parks staff joined together to celebrate the completion of the Berkeley Meadow Restoration at Eastshore State Park and to honor Sylvia McLaughlin and Dwight Steele, founding members of CESP.

The meadow is the culmination of years of effort by many individuals and organizations to create a biologically beautiful area for generations to enjoy. The finished meadow has seasonal wetlands, coastal prairie and scrub areas, creating a diverse thriving habitat for plants and animals. Walking paths and interpretive signs support public access.

CESP president Robert Cheasty commented, "It is not an accident that today we are not dedicating the groundbreaking of a pizza parlor parking lot, or of the seventh largest shopping mall in the East Bay, or the latest in a string of Walmarts filling our shores. No, today we stand here in this magical place, this place of unbridled opportunity for our feathered friends to make a new home in their quest to survive and to paint our skies with their majestic presence. We stand here today in the glory that is nature, the power that is this earth in its natural state, and the beauty that is the San Francisco Bay and its compelling shorelands. And we stand here because

of the leadership of two of the clearest visionaries and strongest leaders of the environmental movement in California and the country.

These two, Dwight and Sylvia, were an unstoppable team, leading a ragtag group of organizations and iconoclastic individualists to strike at the heart of corporations who would destroy and despoil the Bay Shore, strike fear in the hearts of those who would bring the wrecking ball to the habitats of our fellow creatures, who would deprive the public of access to our waters. Dwight and Sylvia - who else could muster up



Dwight Steele's daughter Marilyn Steele (center) and her children Jeremy Booth and Azzia Zur join Sylvia McLaughlin for the dedication. photo: P. Jones

an army of Norman La Forces and get them to march in time; who else could bend the will of governors, senators, assemblymembers and mayors; who else could get the entire environmental movement to drink the same kool aid and climb on board the

same bus all going in the same direction?

Who else could convince the wonderful Board of the East Bay Regional Park District and the State Parks Commission that adopting the Eastshore State Park was not only a realistic thing to do, but that everyone was asking why it was taking so long?"

CESP thanks Sylvia and Dwight for all they have done for our East Bay Shoreline.

---

## September 17, 8:30 am - noon 27th Annual California Coastal Clean-up Day

Be one of 80,000 people to take part in the upcoming 27th Anniversary of California Coastal Clean-up Day! Volunteers will remove debris from the coast, creeks, rivers, lakes and shorelines all around California protecting wildlife from harm while taking care of our environment.

**Albany**— 9 am at Albany bulb, next to Golden Gate Fields at the end of Buchanan Street. Call 510-665-3430 or email [Juliana@thewatershedproject.org](mailto:Juliana@thewatershedproject.org).

[www.albanycleanup.eventbrite.com](http://www.albanycleanup.eventbrite.com)

**Bruener Marsh, Pt. Isabel & Pt. Pinole Regional Shorelines:** 8:30 am--noon. Join East Bay Regional Park District to pick up litter and recyclables from these shoreline parks. (510) 544-2515. Registration is required -- call 1-888-327-2757, option 2.

For safety, wear close-toed shoes to avoid stepping on anything sharp and bring a hat or sunscreen for sun protection.

---

---

# Support Open Space on the North Richmond Shoreline with the Richmond General Plan

**October 6, 6:30PM – Richmond Planning Commission Meeting  
Council Chamber, Richmond City Hall, 450 Civic Center Plaza.**

CESP supports the Richmond General Plan vision of the North Richmond Shoreline area as a natural open space restored and protected to continue its historical function as vital habitat and provide enhanced opportunities for public access and recreation.

The North Richmond shoreline, where Rheem Creek flows into San Pablo Bay, is home to millions of migrating birds. Its 500 acres of tidal marshes and 800 acres of mudflats shelter many threatened and

endangered species. Just off shore is the largest eelgrass bed in SF Bay - important feeding, escape and breeding habitat for many species of invertebrates, waterfowl, and fishes. Preserving this shoreline corridor as open space offers a unique opportunity to create a visible edge to the city with stunning long views in every direction.

Please urge the City Planning Commission to support the open space designation on the **North Richmond Shoreline**.

## **NRSOSA North Richmond Shoreline Festival 2011**

**October 8, 10 am to 5 pm**

**Discover, protect and celebrate the North Richmond Shoreline!**

**Point Pinole Park—5551 Giant Highway (off the Richmond Parkway)**

**Free food and entertainment - BBQ - Live music – Hiking –**

**Children’s activities - Boating - and more!**

**For more information visit: [www.northrichmondshoreline.org](http://www.northrichmondshoreline.org)**

Conservation is an investment that does not lose its value. Please help CESP secure future parks.

Thank you!

Friends,  
Please read this newsletter and see how YOUR support helps CESP work to complete a necklace of shoreline parks.  
An envelope is enclosed for you to share your views. All donations to CESP are tax-deductible.

Friends,

510-524-5000

[www.eastshorepark.org](http://www.eastshorepark.org)

Albany, CA 94706

PO Box 6087

Citizens for East Shore Parks

**Shore Lines**



Address Correction Requested

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Oakland, CA  
Permit # 394