

Eastshore State Park Renamed for Environmental Champion

By abhat

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The California State Park and Recreation Commission has renamed Eastshore State Park in honor of Save the Bay co-founder Sylvia McLaughlin. The 8.5-mile ribbon of parkland on the East Bay shoreline will be renamed "McLaughlin Eastshore State Park." "Sylvia McLaughlin has been a force of nature at the very core of protecting our San Francisco Bay over the last 40 years," said East Bay Assemblywoman Nancy Skinner. "Adding her name to East Shore State Park will remind future generations of not only Sylvia, but all of the advocates who fought to protect the Bay and to establish this wonderful state park," said Skinner. In 1961, McLaughlin co-founded the Save San Francisco Bay Association to prevent the Bay's 2,000 acres from becoming a landfill. In 1965, this success was followed by legislation that established the Bay Conservation and Development Commission. Later, McLaughlin was among those who spearheaded the effort to create Eastshore State Park, working with volunteers and civic leaders for more than 20 years to establish the waterfront parkland that stretches through Oakland, Emeryville, Berkeley, Albany and Richmond. "Sylvia is an icon and the main reason the East Bay shoreline has a park for everyone to enjoy – nobody deserves this recognition more," said David Lewis, Executive Director of Save The Bay. In 2011, the State Legislature passed Skinner's resolution, ACR 55, requesting the California Department of Parks and Recreation to rename the park. The Commission voted to approve the renaming of the park on Friday, Sept. 28.

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