

## **Richmond Casino Accord**

September 11, 2008; Robert Cheasty; Berkeley Daily Planet

Editors, Daily Planet:

Our sincerest gratitude to your newspaper, and to the excellent reporter Richard Brenneman, for the continued quality coverage of the lawlessness in Richmond.

Citizens for East Shore Parks successfully sued the City of Richmond for the second time in the past couple of years because Richmond continues to break the rules. The public has a basic right to know the impacts of a project before signing off on it. The majority on the Richmond Council has trampled that right the last two times gambling money has been promised.

Congratulations also to Contra Costa Superior Court Judge Barbara Zuniga, who saw through the self-serving arguments of the casino proponents and ruled that the city had to do an environmental impact study before considering the casino project.

Our environmental protections are essential for the 12 species along our East Bay Shoreline whose existence is threatened and who rely on the bay for survival; and for the residents of the East Bay who rely on the bay for recreation, sustenance and renewal. The continued loss of species and habitat on our small planet ought to be reason enough to protect the environment. Failing that, cities should at least abide by the law.

Robert C. Cheasty

President, Citizens for East Shore Parks

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<http://www.berkeleydailyplanet.com/issue/2008-09-11/article/31088?headline=Letters-to-the-Editor>