



SHORE LINES

News from Citizens for East Shore Parks · Summer 2017

Keep Earth Day Alive and Well

A CALL TO ACTION FROM CESP BOARD PRESIDENT SHIRLEY DEAN



CESP volunteers visualize sea-level rise at 2nd St. and Broadway in Oakland's Jack London neighborhood. Photo by Wayne Miller.

Earth Day came on April 22nd, but it's not gone because while messages were varied, thousands of people came together in the first-ever, history-important effort to say SCIENCE MATTERS. Everyday people marched, waved signs, sang and chanted and supporters and staff from Citizens for East Shore Parks (CESP) held sky-blue banners high at Second and Broadway in Oakland to show where the new shoreline will be in the years to come, if we do nothing now to address sea-level rise.

It was stunning to be confronted with the reality that Jack London Square and the surrounding neighborhood will be underwater, along with the Oakland Airport, around the Oakland Coliseum, the toll plazas at the Bay Bridge and the San Mateo Bridge, as well as parts of freeway, sections of Amtrak, and parks, homes, and businesses along the coast. Economic losses to the Bay Area will be in the trillions, plus the losses of our parks and so much of what we value about our Bay will be overwhelming.

But this loss is needless - there are solutions. Science does matter, and it must be understood and implemented at all levels of government - that's the urgent message behind CESPs' beautiful blue banners.

The first step is to develop a Resilient Shoreline through coordinated efforts in congressional districts, counties, cities, park, water and school districts. CESP launched that effort on Earth Day, providing a visual glimpse of the impact of sea-level rise in the Bay and along California's 1100-mile coastline and estuaries.

It's not a question of IF the sea will rise, it's only WHEN and HOW MUCH, as more and more scientists are refining projections regarding the future of our planet. The April 2017 report, *Rising Seas in California*, authored by a Working Group of the California Ocean Protection Council Science Advisory Team (OPC_SAT) convened by

the California Ocean Science Trust highlights that:

- California is already experiencing the impacts of coastal flooding during storms, periodic tidal flooding and increased coastal erosion. King Tides and weather storms will produce significantly higher levels than sea-level rise alone.
- Sea-level rise affects the world, but the ice loss from West Antarctica causes sea-level rise higher along the California coast than the global average.
- The loss of arctic ice is accelerating.
- Before 2050 there doesn't seem to be many differences between scientific projections, but after 2050, these projections increasingly depend upon the trajectory of greenhouse gas emissions, the most extreme of which is that ice sheet loss on Antarctica could drive rates of potential sea-level rise in California that *could exceed 10-feet by the end of the century*. (CESP banners on Earth Day only showed a sea-level rise of 2 meters (6 ½ ft.) - not the 10 ft. that might occur in the most extreme scenario, one that the Report states must be considered.)
- Flooding in the Delta will overwhelm rivers and strain levees critical to our water supply.

The most important finding of this report is that *"Waiting for scientific certainty is neither a safe nor prudent option"* and *"Consideration of high and even extreme sea-levels in decisions with implications past 2050 is needed to safeguard the people and resources of coastal California."*

That's a pretty clear statement. CESP is building a movement to show where the new shoreline will be - to show people the devastation that will come unless we act now. Our first effort was in Oakland on Earth Day, our second will be July 29, 2017 at the McLaughlin Eastshore State Park, on a date that coincides with the Berkeley Kite Festival. We will also stage an event on October 7, 2017 at the North Richmond Shoreline Festival.

Stand with us to raise awareness of climate change through our "Visualizing Sea-level Rise Program." We will use the same strategy that successfully established the McLaughlin Eastshore State Park and continues expanding parks and open space along the shoreline. CESP advocates protecting our shoreline by expanding existing marshlands, restoring marshlands through creating horizontal levees that reduce shoreline flooding, by restricting shoreline development, and reducing pollution.

To do this we need you to hold the banners and to reach out to your network to enlist their understanding and help, to understand the problem and work together to find solutions. We also need your contributions. Learn more about how you can help at our website or on Facebook, or write to us at PO Box 6087, Albany, CA 94706, or call at 510-524-5000.



Letter from the Executive Director

ROBERT CHEASTY

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Friends:

Today we have people in the highest positions of power who deride science and make up facts. Well, as Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan once observed “You are entitled to your own opinions, but you are not entitled to your own facts.”

But this isn't the only time that science and scientists have been challenged.

- Galileo faced torture by the Inquisition for spreading his theory that the earth revolved around the sun, and not the other way around.
- Admiral He and his flotilla of Chinese explorers were ostracized for their successes in mapping the globe and all its continents in the early 1400s.
- Vasco da Gama sailed south in the face of dire warnings that he would face sea monsters and a wall of fire if he sailed through the southern hemisphere, around the west coast of Africa.
- Dr. James Hansen risked his career when he told Congress in the 1980s that climate was changing and that the acceleration of change appeared to be from industrialization and manmade pollution.

But those challenges never stopped the courageous pursuit of truth and scientific fact.

We face the biggest challenge of our civilization – climate change on a massive scale. And in response I think is a relatively simple choice. We can either address the pollutants now or face massive disruption of our climate with droughts, floods, severe weather, loss of shorelines. This will happen in our lifetime – it's happening now. And we can take early steps to protect our shores by working for a Resilient Shoreline.

In this issue of *Shorelines* we invite you to join in on our campaign for the Resilient Shoreline, attend an upcoming Visualizing Sea-level Rise event, and learn more about how climate change impacts our East Bay shoreline.

Sincerely,

Robert Cheasty
Executive Director



ABC 7 News interviews Robert Cheasty at the Visualizing Sea-level Rise event on April 22, 2017. Photo by Wayne Miller.

The Bay Institute Honors CESP Board Member Doris Sloan, Ph.D.

SLOAN RECEIVES THE CARLA BARD BAY EDUCATION AWARD



L to R: Doris Sloan, Patricia Jones,
Robert Cheasty, Peter Vorster. Photo
by Nina Zhitov.

On May 18, 2017, The Bay Institute hosted the 25th Annual Bay Institute Awards. CESP Founding Board member, Doris Sloan, Ph.D., received the Carla Bard Bay Education Award. This award honors “those who have significantly increased the public’s understanding of and

concern for the San Francisco Bay-Delta Estuary.” Doris Sloan, Ph.D. a founding member of CESP, is a retired Adjunct Professor in the Department of Earth and Planetary Science at UC Berkeley.

At the ceremony Doris shared her memories of Carla Bard, environmental activist and Board member of The Bay Institute. Doris also shared about her first campaigns with The Bay Institute including her work to oppose development of Cullinan Ranch along San Pablo Bay. Doris reflected on sea-level rise, one of the biggest environmental challenges to date, “Over the past several million years, the sea has risen and fallen with the Ice Ages, and the Bay has come and gone several times, taking thousands of years for each change. 10,000 years ago Native Americans living here could move their habitation sites inland as the sea slowly rose after the last Ice Age. Today we don’t have the luxury of time. Today sea level rise is so rapid that we have to act now.”

The Bay Institute honored Fred Keeley, Former Speaker pro Tempore, California Assembly; Matt Weiser, Journalist, Contributing Editor, Water Deeply; and the Oro Loma Sanitary District and Castro Valley Sanitary District Boards of Directors.

Event Calendar

Visualizing Sea-level Rise Events

- Saturday, July 29, 2017, 9:30 am, at McLaughlin Eastshore State Park in Berkeley.
- Saturday, October 7, 2017, 11am-4pm at Pt. Pinole Regional Shoreline Park during the North Richmond Shoreline Festival.

Solano Avenue Stroll

Sunday, September 10, 10am-5pm, on Solano Avenue in the cities of Albany and Berkeley.

Coastal Cleanup Day

Saturday, September 16, 9am-12pm, various locations.

→ Email cespmanager@eastshorepark.org to get involved with any of these events.

CESP Board Member Spotlight: Helen Burke

BY HELEN BURKE

After serving as an elected official on the East Bay MUD Board of Directors for 16 years and years of being a Sierra Club activist, I retired from the US EPA Region 9 in San Francisco as an Environmental Protection Specialist in 2003. In retirement I continued my volunteer community service as Chair of the Berkeley Creeks Task Force and on the Berkeley Planning Commission. I also pursued a lifelong interest in art by taking drawing and watercolor painting lessons.



Photo submitted by Helen Burke.

Last year in 2016 when a vacancy opened up on the CESP Board and I was invited to consider joining the Board, I was delighted for several reasons. First and foremost, CESP offered a wonderful opportunity to continue to save the last remaining urban open space in the East Bay—the Bay shoreline. I thought this was especially important given the reality of climate change and its attendant sea level rise; keeping the shoreline in public ownership and managing it in a way to absorb sea level rise seemed critically important. In addition, I knew Sylvia McLaughlin and other leaders in CESP and admired their vision, dedication and persistence in creating and expanding McLaughlin Eastshore State Park (MESP). It would be a pleasure to serve with them!

So far in my tenure on the CESP Board, I have worked to make the shoreline more resilient by helping to plan and participate in CESP’s first visualization of the issue of sea level rise in Oakland this spring. I have also gone on field trips to see a horizontal levee as an example of resilient shoreline and to see the potential of extending MESP northward along the Richmond shoreline by touring Point Molate. I’ve written letters to the Richmond City Council in support of that latter goal. I’ve attended Fundraising committee meetings of the Board and would like to help in that area. I plan to continue working in these three areas: expansion of the MESP, making the shoreline more resilient and fundraising.

The advice I would give to anyone wishing to join CESP is: plunge in!

Connect

CESP Website: www.eastshorepark.org

Resilient Shoreline Program: www.resilientshoreline.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/citizensforeastshoreparks

Twitter: www.twitter.com/eastshorepark



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East Shore Parks**
PO Box 6087
Albany, CA 94706
www.eastshorepark.org
510-524-5000

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Friends,

Your tax-deductible contributions are crucial to the work that CESP does to create a world-class necklace of shoreline parks along San Francisco Bay.

To make a gift, please use the enclosed envelope or go to our website and click on the DONATE button: www.eastshorepark.org.

Thank you!

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

McLaughlin Eastshore State Park

UPDATE: ALBANY BEACH HABITAT RESTORATION AND PUBLIC ACCESS PROJECT

Progress at McLaughlin Eastshore State Park (MESP) is coming in Phase II of the Albany Beach Habitat Restoration and Public Access Project. East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) held a community meeting on May 16, 2017 to discuss Phase II and III of the project. Many park users attended the meeting, some expressed concern about the Park District's plan for the beach and dune restoration.

The Park District's plan expands the dune area eastward and adds a much awaited Bay Trail link, plus parking. An alternative community plan was presented at the meeting on May 16, allowing more room for the dune expansion and relocating parking to Buchanan St. The alternative plan was well received by park users who claimed that the parking and path layout proposed in the Park District plan could cause more harm than good. The main problem with the alternative plan is that it relocates parking onto land owned by the City of Albany (on Buchanan St.).

CESP submitted a letter in support of the alternative plan to EBRPD and to the City of Albany urging the city to provide the parking to EBRPD. Albany residents and MESP users have waited many years to see the Albany

waterfront Bay Trail completed, and many are willing to wait for the best possible design to benefit park users. On May 23, 2017 the Albany City Council voted to approve a resolution to "make land available to the EBRPD within the Buchanan Street right of way to permit the relocation of the parking as described." However, the city could not provide a finished plan for the parking lot.

The Park District modified the project design incorporating more open space in the dune restoration area. The revised plan was submitted before the BCDC Design Review Board and was reviewed and passed with the modifications to the dune restoration area to incorporate more open space. CESP supported BCDC approving moving the plan along to the full BCDC Commission.

CESP will continue to work with EBRPD to get the best plan possible and to address the parking issue.

Communication Grant Award

The **California State Parks Foundation** (CSPF) awarded CESP with a Park Enrichment Grant enabling CESP to work with an expert communications consultant (TVT Consulting) to improve messaging and promote parkland by connecting individuals, organizations and partners. This project developed approaches for more effective communication to an expanding audience. CESP thanks the California State Parks Foundation for this opportunity!