



# SHORE LINES

News from Citizens for East Shore Parks · Summer 2018 - Update August 2018

## Letter from the Executive Director

**ROBERT CHEASTY**

Dear Friends,

Why is Point Molate worth caring about?

We rarely are presented with an opportunity to both undo shoreline damage and simultaneously preserve magnificent shoreline habitat and recreation plus California history. Point Molate is such an opportunity.

Point Molate has some of the most spectacular views along the Bay. If you have not visited, it sits just north of the Richmond/San Rafael Bridge. Go see the osprey as they circle above the stands of undisturbed native grasses and plants that have maintained and reestablished themselves while Point Molate recovered from being a naval refueling station.



*Point Molate Shoreline. Photo by Patricia Jones*

It is home to the most successful stands of eel grass in San Francisco Bay, and to reestablished oyster beds – both essential to healthy shoreline habitat and part of the ecological barrier in protecting from sea level rise.

### The Winehaven Building and District

And then there is Winehaven – that spectacular castle-like building at Point Molate that was built right after the 1906 earthquake, near the beginning of the California wine industry. This National Landmark deserves to be preserved. Winehaven was the world's largest winery before Prohibition. Winehaven is a window into the time when winemaking was becoming a major agricultural industrial player, with Winehaven having the capacity to hold and ship 12 million gallons of wine at its peak.

And Winehaven is just a glimpse of California history at Point Molate. Point Molate also contains the vestiges of a Chinese shrimp camp; the evidence of early Native American presence; cottages for winery workers; and the last active whaling station in the U.S., a little north of Point Molate on the peninsula.

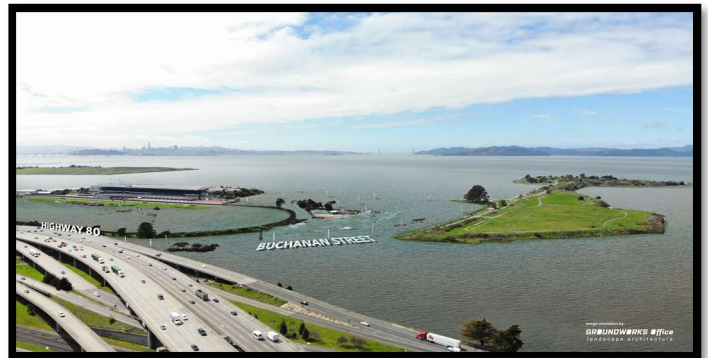
(Cont'd, p. 2.)

## Visualizing Sea Rise Event

**EARTH DAY 2018**

Visualize for a moment the “new” Albany shoreline where, with sea rise, we find much of the current lands west of the I-80 underwater. CESP, community members, and volunteers did just that at our Earth Day 2018 event. We marked a quarter-mile path from the Albany shoreline east to the freeway with sea-blue banners, showing where the new shoreline will reach to with 2-meter sea rise, at a King Tide.

After hearing presentations on sea rise, and with a Mariachi band leading the way, volunteers and community members joined CESP and walked the path holding pennants to show where the new waterline will be. This is a call to action to prevent the devastation of sea rise by creating and restoring marshlands, restricting shoreline development, and addressing climate change.



*Albany Shoreline with 2-meter sea rise, at King Tide. CoSMoS, Our Coast Our Future mapping tool; image simulation by GROUNDWORKS Office.*

The event was sponsored by California State Parks Foundation and presented by PG&E. Our community partner, The Watershed Project, led a coastal cleanup. Additional partners were Clif Bar Family Foundation, East Bay Regional Park District, and the City of Albany. Thank you to all and to the 300 attendees who assisted with cleanup and sea rise event.

Special appreciation to GROUNDWORKS Office, a Berkeley based landscape architecture and urban design firm, for the powerful image simulation of the “new” Albany shoreline. Our rousing speakers included: Albany Mayor Peggy McQuaid; State Senator Nancy Skinner; Kathy Kay, PG&E VP Business Technology; Shirley Dean, CESP President; Jeremy Lowe, Lead Scientist at SF Estuary Institute; Josh Bradt, SF Estuary Partnership; The Watershed Project; and Robert Cheasty, CESP Executive Director.



## **LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (Cont'd from p.1)**

### **ROBERT CHEASTY**

Point Molate is threatened by a frustrated group of pro-developers, led by Mayor Tom Butt, who want housing and shopping for this magnificent shoreline opportunity. They want to cut short public input about the best uses of Point Molate.

#### **Legal Battles**

This current push to develop Point Molate arises out of litigation between the casino developers and the city. An earlier pro-casino City Council (including then Councilmember Tom Butt) worked with the developers to create and approve a resort casino. The developers (a Native American Tribe and Upstream Development) paid over \$5 million to the city for the rights to pursue this casino plan. However, before the development got approved, the citizens passed a measure opposing the casino and elected a new City Council which turned down the casino, with Councilmember Butt switching sides and opposing the casino. The developers sued for their money back and ultimately Mayor Butt led the charge to settle with the developer, allow development rights at Point Molate (of a minimum of 670 units of housing, plus), sell parcels and split the net profits 50/50 between the developers and City, which the City Council approved in non-public meetings by a 4-3 vote – in secret.

In response Richmond residents and environmentalists (including CESP and Citizens for a Sustainable Point Molate) sued to stop the back-room deal on grounds that secret votes violate the Brown Act. That suit is now before the same trial judge - we all await the results.

#### **How can we Save Point Molate?**

We can push to protect the open space, the osprey, Monarch butterflies; to preserve Winehaven as a destination spot; to preserve the cottages, and honor the history: the whaling station, the Chinese shrimp camp, the Native American sites, the other values at the proposed educational facility. And we can move the housing to where there is a need and the infrastructure – downtown Richmond.

#### **The Point Molate Alliance**

The Point Molate Alliance has formed to save Point Molate. CESP (including its members and supporters), Citizens for a Sustainable Point Molate, the Sierra Club, SPRAWLDEF and other groups and environmentalists and people concerned with open government have banded together under this new banner to preserve and protect the legacy that we all want to pass along to the next generations. Let our great grandkids see the osprey flying over Point Molate, let them kayak, cycle, and play at the beach. Let the Monarch Butterfly, hawks, wild life and native plants at Point Molate provide the awe to the people who will come to see this wonderful destination point.

People will come to see Winehaven, and learn about the shrimp camp, the protected Native American sites. They may stay at a conference center or hotel complex near Winehaven. They will tell the world about Point Molate, how the residents of Richmond saved this gem. And they will be joined by the proud residents of Richmond, including ones who will live in the new housing the City had the wisdom to build in the urban core to help its revitalization.

Sincerely,

Robert Cheasty, Executive Director

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Emeritus Co-Chair  
(1914 - 2002)

*Sylvia McLaughlin*  
Emeritus Co-Chair  
Secretary  
(1916-2016)

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## McLaughlin Eastshore State Park ALBANY BEACH PROJECT MOVING FORWARD

By **ROCHELLE NASON**  
Vice-Mayor of Albany

The East Bay Regional Park District is moving forward with the construction of the much-anticipated Albany Beach Restoration and Public Access project, including a ‘missing link’ of the Bay Trail, in the heart of McLaughlin Eastshore State Park.

Construction is to begin in August 2018 and to be completed in November 2019, with the Beach closed for at least the first five months of the project. The rest of the park sites along the Albany waterfront – including the Neck trail to the Bulb, the Bulb, the Plateau with its Burrowing Owl Habitat and trail, and the paved Buchanan trail along the mudflats with its bird-viewing platforms – are all expected to remain open. Visitors should expect construction activity and temporary closures.

The project will complete the Bay Trail from Gilman Street in Berkeley to Buchanan Street in Albany and feature spectacular Bay views from Fleming Point. Runoff that goes straight into the Bay will be treated and the remnant dunes and wetlands that provide important wildlife habitat will be dramatically increased. New fencing will block visitors from entering the wildlife habitat area.



*Albany Shoreline. Photo by Patricia Jones.*

New visitor amenities include: bathrooms, picnic tables, benches, bike racks, and interpretive signage. A ramp for mobility impaired visitors and a new parking lot with ‘blue’ spaces will improve accessibility. Within the new parking lot will be a new open area to support non-motorized recreational watercraft usage, e.g. kayakers, kite surfers, windsurfers, and stand up paddlers.

CESP looks forward to the completion of the project by EBRPD.

## CESP Involved in Multiple Efforts to Protect our Shoreline

A CALL TO ACTION FROM CESP BOARD  
PRESIDENT SHIRLEY DEAN

In this issue of *Shore Lines* you’ve read about the importance of saving Point Molate, the promise of expanding McLaughlin Eastshore State Park through Albany, and our Earth Day Visualizing Sea Rise event, but those are not all of CESP’s efforts.

We’re also supporting clean-up of the 100-year old contaminated Zeneca/Stauffer Chemical site that sits off the shoreline of UC’s Field Station. The State Department of Toxic Substances Control wants to just cap the site because it’s less expensive and so that multi-family housing could be built there. The City of Richmond, the Citizens Advisory Group, and CESP are all working toward *removal* of the contamination. Stay tuned, you’ll be hearing a lot more about this!

Then there is the Marina Project, with 760 housing units in the City of Alameda along the Oakland Estuary. CESP strongly urged consideration of planning for 6 ½ feet of sea rise based on most recent reports. Instead, the Alameda Planning Commission used a projection of 3 feet and approved the proposal, one that will put a large part of the project underwater in the coming decades.

Facing increasing numbers of shoreline developments that are indifferent to environmental consequences and the health and well-being of large numbers of people living around the Bay, we need to reaffirm our commitment to protecting our natural resources, ensuring public access to the Bay, and reducing the inevitable impacts of sea level rise. We can take inspiration from the story about CESP Board Member Doris Sloan who with others led the fight to save Bodega Head (p. 4).

Your vigilance and persistence made the difference then, and more than ever, it’s greatly needed now. It’s really very easy -- make a donation today, become a monthly donor, ask about an employer match, and volunteer.

The shoreline belongs to us. *Its future is at stake, so remember how the battle of Bodega Head was won, and act today!*

### SUPPORT CESP’S WORK

- ❖ Donate to CESP. Make a tax-deductible donation using the enclosed envelope or donate online at: [www.eastshorepark.org](http://www.eastshorepark.org).
- ❖ Check with your employer about **matching gift** programs.
- ❖ **Forward** our email alerts and social media announcements to friends and colleagues.
- ❖ **Volunteer** with CESP: [cespmanager@eastshorepark.org](mailto:cespmanager@eastshorepark.org)

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT. IT IS TRULY  
APPRECIATED

## DORIS SLOAN, PH.D., CESP BOARD MEMBER

### HONORED FOR CONSERVATION OF NORTH COAST



Doris Sloan. Photo by Chris Chung.

Once again, CESP Board Member, Dr. Doris Sloan, has been recognized for her outstanding work to protect the environment.

On May 2, 2018, Dr. Sloan, along with Gaye LeBaron and Lucy Kortum, were honored by the California Coastal Trail Association for their historic roles in the conservation of the North Coast.

Fifty plus years ago, experts told Doris - then a young mother - and others to trust them, that they didn't have to worry about leaking radiation from the first commercially viable nuclear power plant in the United States, despite the fact it would be in the San Andreas Earthquake Fault area. The 70-foot hole in the ground had been dug and the casing for the reactor core was already framed inside the hole. Yet, in what came to be known as the Battle for Bodega Head, Doris and friends rallied the people of Sonoma County and shut it down in 1964.

Today, there's a pathway leading to the hole known as *The Hole in the Head*. It's a beautiful and tranquil site filled with water surrounded by lush native vegetation. Doris, in her usual manner, attributes this stunning victory to the work of many. She says, "I really feel that I was one of so many. And we're all really proud that the hole is there, and there's a place for the birds to roost."

CESP is proud that Dr. Sloan has served on our Board since it was founded. She received her BA in Sociology from Washington University, but after a summer field trip in the High Sierra, she discovered geology, went back to school at age 41, and earned a MS in Geology in 1975 and a PhD in Paleontology in 1981, both from UC Berkeley.

Now retired, she taught on the Cal campus and at UC Extension and traveled with alumni groups around the world from the Arctic to the Antarctic and all points between.

Doris is treasured for leading her fascinating Bay Area field trips, steeped in history and geology, and for writing feature articles for *Bay Nature*.



Doris Sloan leading King Tide walk at MESP, with Robert Cheasty. Photo by Roberta Wyn.

She is the author of the widely acclaimed guidebook, *Geology of the San Francisco Bay Region*, which describes how plate tectonics, waves, rivers and human activities shaped the San Francisco Bay Area and which successfully makes geologic history both fascinating and understanding to ordinary citizens.



### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### Solano Avenue Stroll

Sunday, September 9, 2018, 10am-5pm, on Solano Avenue, cities of Albany and Berkeley. Stop by the CESP Booth. email [cespmanager@eastshorepark.org](mailto:cespmanager@eastshorepark.org) to get involved.

#### North Richmond Shoreline Festival

Saturday, October 6, 2018, 11am-4pm, Point Pinole Regional Park, Richmond.