



Conservation is an investment
that does not lose its value.

Please help CESP secure
future parks and open space.



CITIZENS FOR EAST SHORE PARKS

JULY 2020

SAVING POINT MOLATE

Friends,

Saving Point Molate brings together three crises facing our country right now: racial injustice; climate crisis; and the pandemic.

First:

On racial justice, if Point Molate were in a wealthy white community it would have already been preserved as a major regional park and beach. Black Richmond residents and other families of color have historic ties to Point Molate as a place to go to the beach, to picnic and to fish where they felt welcome because of segregation. Point Molate is home to multiple sacred Ohlone sites and even includes the remnants of a Chinese shrimp camp. Now Point Molate, which is currently public land, will be stolen from a predominantly low-income, non-white community and deeded over to wealthy developers if we and our stellar Richmond allies cannot save it.

Second:

On the climate crisis, the war over climate change is being fought battle by battle. Bad local land use decisions have been collectively damaging the planet. Point Molate is the last natural, undeveloped headland in the San Francisco Bay area, home to rare California native plant habitats, the most robust, carbon-saving eelgrass beds in San Francisco Bay which serve as habitat to Dungeness crab, herring, leopard sharks, bat rays, sea hares. Point Molate is home to abundant biodiversity including species of plants and animals that are under threat. It needs to be saved. We oppose bad planning here as much as we oppose clearing-burning of rain forests in Brazil.



Point Molate, photo by Patricia Jones

Development has to sustain the planet - not destroy it. Richmond needs affordable housing where infrastructure, transit and services exist. Instead, the city proposes to build luxury housing at Point Molate which is a remote location without infrastructure. This violates every principle of good urban planning. Instead, we deserve sustainable planning that provides affordable housing along with open space, recreation and playing fields for people to renew themselves and experience nature.

Third:

During this pandemic, people need magnificent public spaces. Point Molate is just the kind of close-by open space people can readily visit for recreation, to observe nature, to be with others outdoors to feed their souls and balance their emotions in this pandemic. Right now, while Point Molate is still public land, go and see osprey flying overhead - I did last Thursday.

CESP is determined to protect our open space and habitat, to keep our public land in public hands, to stop our remaining resources from being deeded away or desecrated.



Point Molate, Photo by Cameron Martin

Large-scale developer plans at Point Molate will take a wrecking ball to this unique place. Once bulldozed, this land and its environmental resources and its sacred places will never be replaced.

We still have the chance to preserve this unique shoreline and create public parkland, recreation, trails and playing fields for an underserved community, and open space in a dense urban environment.

We are in litigation to protect Point Molate and are pushing against a totally inadequate Environmental Impact Report.

It is a battle, but we know we can win. McLaughlin Eastshore State Park is proof that determination, courage, and community grit work.

We are your organization. We will commit to this fight for a just and sustainable future and a healthy planet. Join with us in any way you can. If you can see your way to helping support the work, please make a donation today (tax deductible). We are more than grateful.

Sincerely,

Robert Cheasty
Executive Director
Citizens for East Shore Parks (CESP)