

CITIZENS FOR EAST SHORE PARKS (CESP)

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Citizens for
East Shore Parks
www.eastshorepark.org



Great Blue Heron at Point Molate: Photographer: Jack Scheinman

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

Friends,

August 2022

I want to update you on Point Molate. You may have heard the announcement by Contra Costa County Supervisor John Gioia that the state allocated \$36 million to East Bay Regional Park District for acquisition and cleanup of Point Molate. The allocation of the dedicated money fits perfectly within California's emphasis on shoreline protection and preservation to counter global warming and focus on under-resourced communities. This is much left to do, but the state has provided a significant boost and an important step forward toward the goal of a regional park at Point Molate.

Supervisor Gioia's July 18, 2022 announcement reads as follows:

"Thank you State Senator Nancy Skinner, Governor Gavin Newsom and East Bay Regional Park District Director Elizabeth Echols for supporting \$36 million in the recently approved state budget

for the East Bay Regional Park District to help our community achieve a regional park at Pt. Molate.

Both the park district's 1996 Master Plan and the Bay Conservation and Development Commission's San Francisco Bay Plan have called for a regional park at Pt. Molate for many years. This significant funding will leverage additional monies and bring us closer to this long-standing vision for a regional park for all Richmond and Bay Area residents.

East Bay voters approved Measure WW in 2008 by over 71% (and 75% in Richmond) which included funding for a shoreline park at Pt. Molate.

The state's allocation of \$36 million to the East Bay Regional Park District for Pt. Molate aligns with all of these actions."

For CESP, our supporters, and our community partners and allies, this allocation opens up the possibility of a decades old vision to protect this extraordinary headland and ecological treasure as a regional park for Richmond and Bay Area residents.

Point Molate is extraordinary. As a regional park it would hold enormous environmental, cultural, and recreational benefit. It is home to osprey, leopard sharks, otters, carbon-sequestering eelgrass, vital watersheds, and irreplaceable habitat and biodiversity. It is home to Ohlone sacred sites, and a vast and important history. It has been looked at for its enormous recreational possibilities including playing fields, sports, hiking trails, beach front recreation, and more.

Thank you State Senator Nancy Skinner, Governor Gavin Newsom, and East Bay Regional Park District Director Elizabeth Echols for supporting \$36 million in the state budget for Point Molate. Thank you also to Contra Costa County Supervisor John Gioia for his stalwart support for open space and parks for the Richmond community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert Cheasty".

Robert Cheasty, CESP Executive Director