



CITIZENS FOR EAST SHORE PARKS

East Bay Environmental Non-Profit

Who we are | What we do

HISTORY/MISSION

Citizens for East Shore Parks (CESP) is an environmental non-profit in Albany, CA working to protect habitat, and open space and to create parks and recreation along the eastern shore of the San Francisco Bay. CESP was founded in 1985 by local environmental groups (Citizens for the Albany Shoreline, Emeryville Shoreline Committee, Golden Gate Audubon Society, Save the Bay, and the Sierra Club) and elected and appointed officials banding together to create a shoreline state park along the eastern bay shore.

CESP's vision: create a continuous shoreline park and preserve shoreline open space for all. CESP is a driving force behind the East Bay shoreline park movement. We partner with communities, public officials, and organizations to advance equitable environmental shoreline policies.

CESP fights poor land use decisions that degrade our communities and advocates increasing shoreline protection, open space, parkland, habitat and recreation. We champion smart land use decisions to mitigate the climate crisis. CESP uses multiple approaches to protect our shoreline - organizing, advocacy, collaboration and, when necessary, we go to court in the public interest, to protect the environment and communities.



*Poppies Along the Shoreline,
CESP Photo Files*

McLAUGHLIN EASTSHORE STATE PARK (MESP) – Save our shoreline

CESP's shared vision of a shoreline park became a state park in 2002 - a testament to engaged communities and local leaders. McLaughlin Eastshore State Park (named after CESP co-founder Sylvia McLaughlin) is 8.5 miles long, spanning the shoreline from Oakland through Emeryville, Berkeley, Albany and into Richmond. The creation of the Park has been called "one of the greatest achievements in the history of open space protection" by the East Bay Regional Park District. CESP is working to extend McLaughlin Eastshore State Park both north and south, completing the park by incorporating Golden Gate Fields when it closes, adding other infill parcels, and protecting the shoreline against sea rise.

POINT MOLATE, RICHMOND – Preserve this historic shoreline for our future

Point Molate, a 413-acre headland on the San Francisco Bay, is the last great place on San Francisco Bay for a waterfront park. It is an ecological treasure, rich with rare native ecosystems, natural and social history.



Point Molate, CESP photo files.

Citizens for East Shore Parks (CESP), alongside terrific local advocates, community organizations, and alliances, has been working to create a magnificent regional park at Point Molate. This park will protect Ohlone sacred land, create playing fields and recreation, preserve habitat such as carbon-sequestering eelgrass, ensure access to open space and shoreline for Richmond residents and the whole Bay Area. It is the right approach for Richmond: protect the shoreline and build needed housing downtown and other areas where public transportation and amenities exist.

In July 2022, \$36 million was allocated in the State budget to East Bay Regional Park District for cleanup and acquisition of Point Molate. There are still steps to go, but this is a major boost forward.

ALBANY – Create an uninterrupted shoreline for the public

Golden Gate Fields is closing sometime in the next months. GGF is located in the heart of the McLaughlin Eastshore State Park. CESP advocates incorporating Golden Gate Fields into the McLaughlin East State Park (MESP)- a truly fantastic opportunity to create an uninterrupted shoreline for the community and the East Bay. Due to CESP's earlier work, the zoning in Albany for the shoreline cannot be changed without a vote of the voters. Current zoning is aimed toward waterfront recreation and does not allow development so we can make this happen – add GGF into the McLaughlin Eastshore State Park. Look at this illustration of what adding GGF to the park could look like.



Illustration of what adding Golden Gate Fields to McLaughlin Eastshore State Park could look like. Illustration by Steve Price.

BERKELEY- Maintain a shoreline commitment to open space, recreation, and habitat protection

Berkeley is replanning its shoreline, as part of the Waterfront Specific Plan. CESP has worked for decades to protect the Berkeley waterfront for essential natural habitat for birds and aquatic species, plus waterfront recreational opportunities for people. Currently, CESP is providing public input to Berkeley's planning, expressing the need for use of the shoreline as open space, recreation and habitat protection; allow for a cleaned-up Marina; provide for small watercraft, windsurfing, cycling and a dog park.

We encourage Berkeley to maintain this as its commitment. We oppose any effort to turn Cesar Chavez into a carnival or show venue, or to burden the open space with structures and concrete. Ultimately our goal is for Cesar Chavez Park to become a part of McLaughlin Eastshore State Park (MESP), as was always intended from the initial concept through the establishment of MESP.

RICHMOND at the ZENECA TOXIC SITE- Full cleanup of toxic shorelines

CESP is fighting for full cleanup of the AstraZeneca shoreline toxic waste site on the south Richmond shoreline. To protect the health of the community, the environment, and San Francisco Bay this site must be cleaned up. Over a century of chemical manufacturing and disposal has left vast quantities of hundreds of toxic chemicals on this Superfund-qualified site. The community has been fighting for more than two decades for a full cleanup. We are working with inspired community allies and environmental groups to cleanup this toxic site, to stop the leakage of toxins into San Francisco Bay and require a proper environmental impact study.

MORE SHORELINE ISSUES

CESP is monitoring and responding to shoreline issues as they arise in Berkeley, Albany, and along the eastern shore of our Bay and beyond. We work with state and local agencies to encourage just, equitable shoreline policies and actions that embrace the future of California and understand the implications of our actions – both large and small – on the survival of the planet. This involves addressing the implications of sea level rise and groundwater intrusion of our shoreline and cities and aligning actions with the state's 30 x 30 goals - to protect 30% of the state's lands and waters by year 2030 and to lead with environmental justice.

STAY CONNECTED

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