



Photo: Patricia Jones



**CESP Marks 40
Years of Protecting
Our Shoreline and
Open Space**
Thank you all!

CESP 40th ANNIVERSARY
Sunday, September 21, 2025
Berkeley Yacht Club, Berkeley

Photo: Jack Scheinman



Photo: Robert Cheasty

Welcome!

Amazing – as we celebrate the 40th Anniversary of Citizens for East Shore Parks, we now have a park at Point Molate!

40 years ago local environmental groups (e.g., Citizens for the Albany Shoreline, Golden Gate Audubon Society, Save the Bay, Sierra Club) and enlightened elected and appointed officials banded together to create a shoreline park in the East Bay.

From its inception CESP was an amalgam of all those wanting to create an eastshore state park. All our victories have been accomplished with the vast alliances that adopted the vision, that voted for the funding, that elected leaders to realize a shoreline accessible to the people.

CESP has since expanded its goals – and reached so many of them – a tribute to our inspirational colleagues who have gone on, leaving their soft footprints on our hearts. We honor them by continuing this important work – transforming our shoreline to protect habitat, create recreational opportunities and allow access to the restorative experience of nature.

Through our collaborations over 40 years we, together, have helped protect and improve significant parts of our East Bay shoreline: McLaughlin Eastshore State Park; Tom Bates Sports Complex; Dotson Family Marsh; Albany and Emeryville Mudflats; expansion of the Point Isabel Dog Park; the Point Molate Regional Park; expanded access for small water craft, windsurfing, parasailing; and completion of miles of Bay Trail.

Our next projects: comprehensively plan the Point Molate Park – with City lands joined with the Point Molate parcels just purchased by the magnificent Park District; get Golden Gate Fields into the McLaughlin Eastshore State Park; link all the shoreline parks and open space into a continuous shoreline experience – Crockett to San Jose.

Everyone here represents an important aspect of our community. We thank you for devoting so much of your lives to protecting and improving our world.

One day, when we are built out from here to Reno, our great, great grandchildren will marvel that we had the wisdom to preserve our precious access to the shoreline and to save room for nature. We can have this world – if we work for it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in green ink that reads "Robert Cheasty". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Robert Cheasty
CESP Executive
Director

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Amaya Williams-Segovia
Deputy Manager



Citizens for East Shore Parks 40th Anniversary Celebration and Awards

September 21, 2025 · 11 am – 2 pm · Berkeley Yacht Club

Welcome & Master of Ceremonies

Hon. Robert Cheasty, CESP Executive Director

Keynote Speaker

Jeremy Lowe, San Francisco Estuary Institute

Golden Gate Fields Site Restoration Concept

Introduced by the **Hon. Norman La Force**, CESP Vice President

Introduction of Awardees

Honored for Commitment to Protecting Our Shoreline and Our Bay

To the **Bennett Family**

by **Arthur Feinstein**, CESP Board President

The Dwight Steele Award for Service for the Public Good

To the **Hon. Doria Robinson**, Richmond City Council Member

by the **Hon. John Gioia**, Contra Costa County Supervisor

The CESP Award for Forging Visions Into Reality

To the **Hon. Gayle McLaughlin**, former Mayor of Richmond

by the **Hon. Eduardo Martinez**, Mayor of Richmond

The Sylvia McLaughlin Award for Environmental Stewardship

To the **Hon. Robert Cheasty**, CESP Executive Director

by the **Hon. Norman La Force**, CESP Vice President

The CESP Award for Extraordinary Conservation

To the **Hon. Nancy Skinner**, former State Senator

by the **Hon. Jesse Arreguín**, State Senator

Commendations

Congressional Commendation by Congressman **John Garamendi**

Commendations by public officials

Concluding Remarks and Next Steps

Arthur Feinstein, CESP President

Closing – **Hon. Robert Cheasty**, CESP Executive Director



Photos: Jack Scheinman

Keynote Speaker

JEREMY LOWE

SAN FRANCISCO ESTUARY INSTITUTE (SFEI)

PRESENTATION: GOLDEN GATE FIELDS SITE
RESTORATION CONCEPT



Jeremy Lowe has been a senior scientist and coastal geomorphologist at the San Francisco Estuary Institute (SFEI) since 2015. He has more than 32 years of experience of tidal wetland restoration and sea-level rise adaptation planning on the Pacific West Coast and in Europe. His work has included the design of sea defenses to reduce flood hazards in Venice, Italy; leading wetland restoration planning and design at Ballona Wetlands in Venice, California; and he is the author of tidal wetland design guidelines for San Francisco Bay, for Puget Sound and for the Lower Columbia Estuary.

More recently, Jeremy has been working on nature-based climate change adaptation in San Francisco Bay and Southern California. He worked with San Mateo County's Office of Sustainability SeaChange project, and with the County of Marin's BayWave project to develop science-based approaches to assess the feasibility of natural and nature-based climate adaptation strategies in the two counties. For the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC), he has led working groups providing scientific input to engineering design alternatives for the adaptation of Highway 37 to sea-level rise.



Photo: Robert Cheasty

CESP 2025 Awardees

THE BENNETT FAMILY

HONORED FOR COMMITMENT TO PROTECTING
OUR SHORELINE AND OUR BAY

Ed Bennett launched a brilliant career in 1949 working as a neuroscientist at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. Simultaneously he began a lifelong service to the environment starting with the Sierra Club.



Ed served as Chair of the S.F. Bay Chapter of the Sierra Club, as a member of its Executive Committee, as Treasurer, and on the Conservation Committee and the East Bay Public Lands Committee. Ed worked hard on successful campaigns to protect the California coastline, including the 1972 Proposition 20 (Coastal Initiative) and the Wildlife, Coastal, and Park Land Conservation Act of 1988, which provided \$25 million for the McLaughlin Eastshore State Park. He was one of the core activists in the 1970's (with friend Sylvia McLaughlin and other luminaries) who stopped the massive development at the shoreline on the Berkeley Meadow.

The Bay Chapter's Ed Bennett Lifetime Achievement Award is named in his honor.

Ed co-founded Citizens for East Shore Parks (1985) serving as Treasurer into his 90's. His unwavering commitment to open space and parks helped us achieve the 8.5-mile-long McLaughlin Eastshore State Park, called one of the most outstanding achievements in the history of open space protection.

Ed helped transform Cesar Chavez Park from a Berkeley dump to a regional treasure and successfully created trails, recreation and habitat as a Berkeley Waterfront Commissioner, and Berkeley Recreation Commissioner.

Ed's sons Keith and Reid understand the importance of treasuring our shoreline, protecting habitat and giving our souls space to regenerate. Their amazing generosity has helped CESP reach the goal of a second major shoreline park, Point Molate, and reach major shoreline improvements we have seen accomplished.

They have introduced CESP to others, community members who share this vision of the shoreline and the Bay for its recreation and beauty. CESP moves forward only with Community beacons like the Bennetts. Ed would be proud to see the inspiration his family has carried forward. Ed Bennett's legacy is now the Bennett family legacy.

Today we honor the dedicated Bennett Family, for Commitment to Protecting Our Shoreline and Our Bay.

DORIA ROBINSON

RICHMOND CITY COUNCIL MEMBER, FOUNDER AND
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF URBAN TILTH

DWIGHT STEELE AWARD FOR SERVICE FOR THE
PUBLIC GOOD



The Dwight Steele Award for Service for the Public Good recognizes the person who captures the concept of commitment to the public good. It is named after Dwight Steele, a successful lawyer, environmental visionary, Board Member of Save the Bay, co-founder of CESP, co-founder of Save Lake Tahoe, and an avid outdoors person who loved the shore and the mountains and skied up into his late 80's. Dwight saw public service as essential to the commonwealth and devoted his best years to protecting nature's beautiful places and precious habitats. His work and his extensive contacts were essential in advancing the goals of all three of those organizations. It is fitting that this Award is named after Dwight.

Citizens for East Shore Parks is honored to confer our Dwight Steele Award for Service for the Public Good to Richmond City Council Member Doria Robinson.

Doria Robinson is an exemplary community leader who founded Urban Tilt, the groundbreaking Richmond nonprofit that engages the community in improving nutrition, health, and self-sufficiency. Urban Tilt's perspective brings together the goals of environmental sustainability, access to home grown food, and creation of a food system that inspires, hires, and trains local residents to cultivate produce in Richmond on repurposed urban land. Considered a dreamer when she started, she has proved that creating sustainable ecological programs makes meaningful change in people's lives and promotes the message that the world benefits when practical dreamers are unafraid like Doria.

Doria has fortunately brought this consciousness with her to her role as Richmond City Council Member. She makes plain the interconnection of parks, open spaces, land stewardship and healthy ecosystems as to our political and municipal world. This insightful perspective emerges when she speaks of facilitating shoreline habitat, open space and parks.

Doria brings her inspiring world view and wisdom to bear in the marketplace of ideas as she brilliantly executes her role as Richmond City Council Member. Doria is one of the Richmond leaders who are helping to make Richmond a model for City governance.

We celebrate Doria Robinson, whose tireless dedication to environmental sustainability and public service makes her the ideal candidate for the Dwight Steele Award for Service for the Public Good.

CESP 2025 Awardees

GAYLE MCLAUGHLIN

FORMER MAYOR OF RICHMOND

CESP AWARD FOR FORGING VISIONS INTO REALITY

The Forging Visions into Reality Award honors the ability to see what could be; to grasp the vision of what could be; and to work tirelessly to make that vision into a reality. The award honors the practical dreamers, the visionary activists of the world. This year, Citizens for East Shore Parks is honored to confer the CESP Award for Forging Visions into Reality to former Mayor and Richmond City Council Member Gayle McLaughlin.

From the very beginning, Gayle McLaughlin caught sight of a vision for a public park at Point Molate. She was inspired to run for Richmond City Council to bring a non-corporate perspective to deliberations and decisions at the Richmond City Council. She became the beacon of public interest and a leader who effectively voiced the interests of the community on each issue before the City Council, including the need for waterfront park and open space where the community could regenerate. She effectively taught community and sustainability by her words as each issue arose at the City Council.

Over ten years ago, during her tenure as Mayor of Richmond, she opened the Beach Park to the public, instead of allowing community space to remain behind chain-link fencing. She has fully supported the magnificent volunteer crews who have cleaned the Beach Park every week so that the park could remain open.

Gayle was the Richmond leader most responsible for a created vision that guaranteed world-class open space and park for a Richmond community that deserved access to its waterfront, along the Point Molate shoreline, the North Richmond shoreline and connecting to the Pt. Pinole Regional Park. And she did all this in a fashion that allowed others to share and join in the vision.

Moreover, Gayle has worked to get toxic shoreline sites cleaned up and has been instrumental in the City Council's adoption of responsible policies for a safe, healthy 32-mile Richmond shoreline. For the wider community Gayle has shared the bounty that is the Richmond shoreline. Her tireless leadership and admirable world view has been key to achieving the dream of a Point Molate Regional Park, and the dream of a safe and beautiful Richmond shoreline.

Gayle McLaughlin, an extraordinary visionary, is the recipient of CESP's Forging Visions into Reality award.

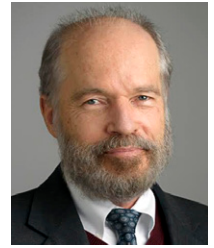


ROBERT CHEASTY

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CESP,

FORMER MAYOR OF ALBANY

THE SYLVIA MCLAUGHLIN AWARD FOR ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP



The Sylvia McLaughlin Award for Environmental Stewardship is given to those who demonstrate Sylvia's qualities: commitment to the environment, to seeing long-term projects to completion, to protecting the Bay and its habitats, to envisioning future shoreline parks and open space. The person demonstrating these qualities with clear, tenacious vision is the recipient of this year's award, Robert Cheasty.

- 1985 Albany City Councilmember Cheasty got Albany to close its waterfront landfill;
- 1986 1) successfully pushed to establish the Albany Mudflats Ecological Reserve; 2) helped Albany sign a 66-year lease for a state park on the Albany Bulb;
- 1988 Albany Mayor Cheasty committed with Berkeley Mayor Loni Hancock, Emeryville Mayor Ken Bukowski and Assemblyman Tom Bates to jointly plan a shoreline park;
- 1988 He joined the CESP Board, became President (2001) and Executive Director (2016);
- 1989-2006 Led 5 successful battles to stop destructive waterfront developments in Albany;
- 1990-91 Robert protected the Albany waterfront by co-authoring Measure C and leading the campaign to pass Measure C, giving Albany voters the final vote on the Albany Waterfront.

As CESP President Robert worked with community and elected leaders and agencies to create the McLaughlin Eastshore State Park (2002); for the creation of the Dotson Family Marsh; and led CESP's decades-long effort to save Point Molate as a park (2025).

Robert is a leader who organizes grass-roots efforts, listens to all, inspires others and brings organizations together for common goals. He is tenacious. Attorney Cheasty (ranked in Super Lawyers) successfully fought numerous legal battles for shoreline access, parks and open space.

For fighting the good fight in protecting our shoreline parks and open spaces that would not have existed but for his persistence, undying dedication and prescient vision of what could be accomplished, it is a great honor to give Robert Cheasty the Sylvia McLaughlin Award for Environmental Stewardship.

CESP 2025 Awardees

NANCY SKINNER

FORMER STATE SENATOR

THE CESP AWARD FOR EXTRAORDINARY
CONSERVATION



This award is given to Nancy Skinner for her lifelong dedication to protecting the environment and her advocacy of parks, recreation and open spaces.

As a City Council Member in Berkeley (1984 to 1992), first elected while a student at Cal, she authored an ordinance to stop the use of Styrofoam cups, committed to the goal of creating an East Bay state shoreline park, supported Berkeley's Measure Q (one of the waterfront zoning measures that helped facilitate the creation of the Eastshore State Park), and worked tirelessly to make the planet greener, safer and more just – because it was the right thing to do.

Nancy co-authored *Fifty Things You Can Do to Save the Earth* and additional articles on global warming. In 2006 to 2008 she became a Director on the East Bay Regional Park District Board where she pushed through park enhancements in Richmond and at the Pt. Pinole Regional Park. She served in both the California State Assembly (2008 to 2014) and the State Senate (2016 to 2024).

During her years at the Assembly and Senate, Nancy pushed through important environmental bills including:

- A bill renaming the Eastshore State Park to the McLaughlin Eastshore State Park in honor of CESP co-founder Sylvia McLaughlin;
- An energy savings bill for schools that provided funds to every California school district to pay for energy upgrades;
- A bill creating large-scale battery storage to reduce the state's reliance on fossil fuel power plants making California the leading state for battery storage;
- A bill for two-way battery use: making electric vehicles power sources for homes and buildings by making the chargers bi-directional;
- A bill to reduce greenhouse gases in manufacturing; and
- \$36 million. As Chair of the Senate Budget Committee she created the budget that secured \$36 million to purchase the land at Point Molate for a Regional Park.

CESP is honored to award Senator Skinner its CESP Award for Extraordinary Conservation at its 40th Anniversary Celebration because of her tireless efforts on behalf of the environment.

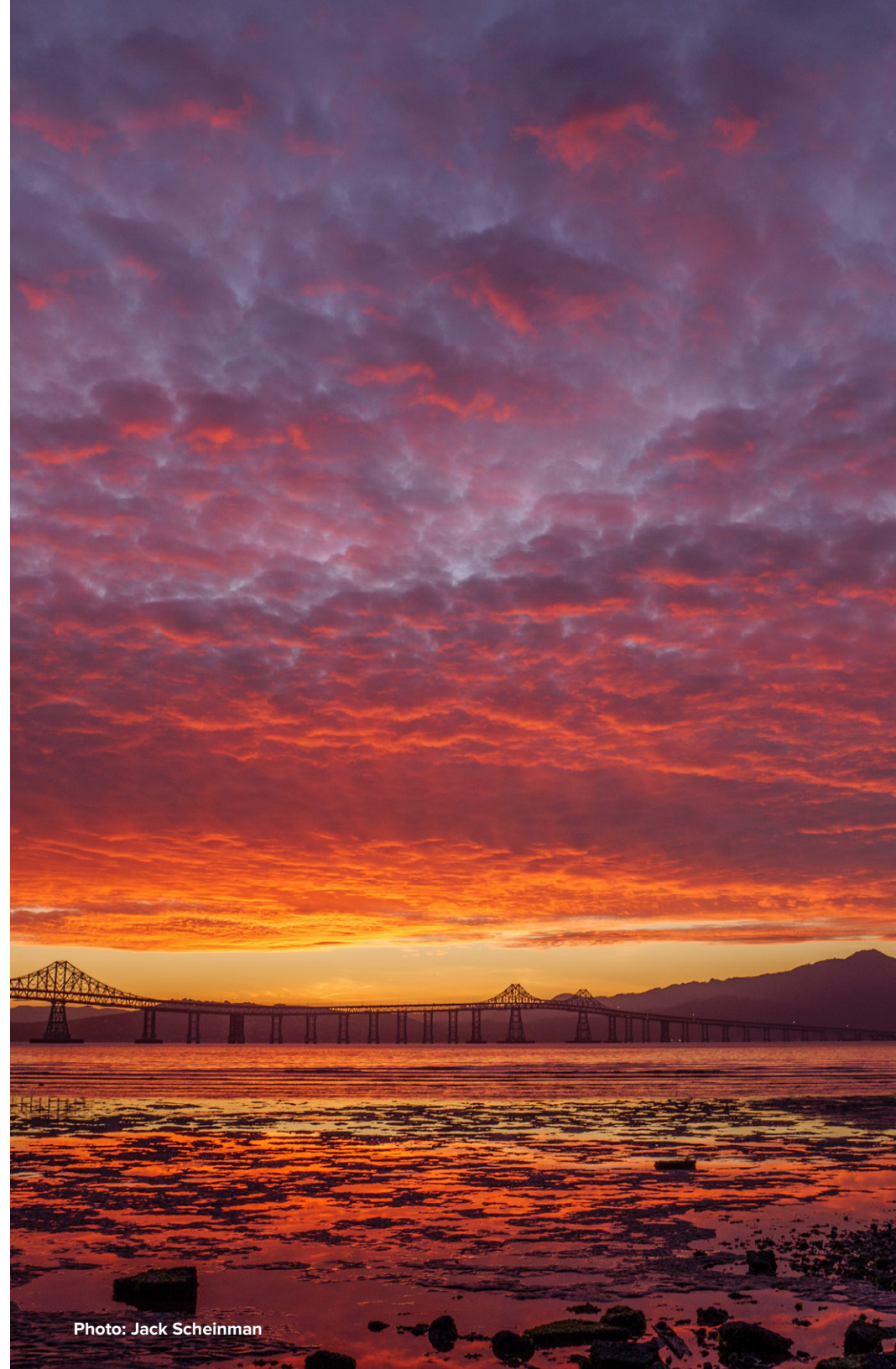


Photo: Jack Scheinman

Photo: Patricia Jones



Photo: Jack Scheinman

A Brief History of the Goals and Achievements of Citizens for East Shore Parks

Citizens for East Shore Parks (CESP) was founded in 1985 as an umbrella organization originally to create the Eastshore State Park. Local environmental groups (e.g., Citizens for the Albany Shoreline, Golden Gate Audubon Society, Save the Bay, Sierra Club) and enlightened elected and appointed officials banded together to create a shoreline park along the eastern shore of the Bay.

CESP was, from its inception, an amalgam of all those interested in creating a shoreline state park in the East Bay. From the beginning, all CESP's victories have been accomplished only with the vast community alliances that adopted the visions, first to establish the Eastshore State Park, and later for the broader visions of CESP for our entire shoreline – allies who voted for the funding and took the bold actions required to realize our dreams of a shoreline accessible to the people.

McLaughlin Eastshore State Park (MESP) became a reality in 2001 because of the work of Citizens for East Shore Parks and its allies. This Park protects and preserves 8.5 miles of open space, wildlife habitat, and public recreation along the East Bay Shoreline from Oakland up through Emeryville, Berkeley, Albany, and into Richmond. MESP provides access to a magnificent public shoreline in a highly urbanized area.

Afterward, CESP shifted focus to the rest of the east shore of S.F. Bay, working for a greater park presence in Richmond including creation of parks, open space, recreational opportunities and habitat protection. Below is a brief history of the goals of CESP and the accomplishments and progress toward those goals.

Point Molate – CESP advocated for Point Molate to be a regional park. The goal was reached in August 2025 when the property was sold to the East Bay Regional Park District. We won this campaign because CESP and its allies filed suit, successfully challenging the environmental analysis under the Supplemental EIR as deficient for its failure to address impacts on Native American sites and its failure to address how thousands of residents would escape a wildfire on a two-lane road.

Over its 40 years, CESP, along with community allies and partners, has set goals that transformed the East Bay shoreline from a dumping ground into a linkage of parks, habitat, and recreational open space. Every single goal has been achieved only with and through our incredible partners, allies and the community as a whole, for which we are eternally grateful. A note: where we note “accomplished” there are always improvements and enhancements to be done.

Goals:

- 1) McLaughlin Eastshore State Park (accomplished).
- 2) Dotson Family Marsh (accomplished).
- 3) Bay Trail extended from Oakland Bay Bridge to Richmond, Pt Isabel (accomplished).
- 4) Tom Bates Regional Sports Complex (accomplished).
- 5) Launch space for sailboarders, parasailors and kayakers along the East Bay (some accomplished, more work needed).
- 6) Enhancement of Albany Beach, trail and perimeter of Albany Bulb (accomplished).
- 7) Point Molate Park acquisition (Richmond) (accomplished).
- 8) Point Molate Park completion. City of Richmond and Park District need to consolidate as a Regional Park the lands just bought by the Park District with the hillside lands still owned by the City and start the park planning process. (Work in progress.)
- 9) Cleanup of Astra-Zeneca Toxic Dump (fight in court for this is still pending).
- 10) Cleanup of Toxic Dumps all around the shore of the Bay (fight ongoing).
- 11) Resilient Shoreline Adaptation Plan. CESP is pushing the adoption of the principles of the RSAP for Nature-Based Solutions to respond to sea level rise. (Work in progress.)
- 12) Golden Gate Fields. CESP's goal is to bring the GGF property into McLaughlin Eastshore State Park. With expected sea level rise/ groundwater rise, CESP advocates the temporary use as recreational space and later, in response to sea rise, to employ RSAP's Nature-Based Solutions for the lowlands. CESP and SPRAWLDEF commissioned Jeremy Lowe of the San Francisco Estuary Institute to develop a Conceptual Restoration Plan to return the lowlands at Golden Gate Fields to their original marsh and wetlands, creating a Resilient Shoreline to protect the shoreline to the East. (Work needed before attainment.)
- 13) Berkeley. CESP and its allies advocate the highest use of the Berkeley waterfront as open space, parkland, habitat protection and recreation. CESP advocates incorporating Cesar Chavez Park into the McLaughlin Eastshore State Park as was originally planned for in creating the Eastshore State Park (later renamed McLaughlin Eastshore State Park). (Work started, goal not yet attained.)



Left to right: Valerie Cheasty, Mike Connor, Chris Werme, Jim McGrath, Sylvia McLaughlin, Ellen Barth, Robert Cheasty, Kaitlin Sweeney. Photo: Paul Kamen.

- 14) Crockett to San Jose. CESP's vision is to link shoreline open space, parkland, habitat from Crockett to San Jose, from Carquinez Strait Regional Shoreline to the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge at the border of San Jose. (Much work needed before attainment.)
- 15) Bay Trail linkage along the entire East Shore of the Bay, uninterrupted. (Partly accomplished, more work needed.)
- 16) West Bay connectivity. Establish a linkage of the entire western shore parks and open space along the shoreline of the Bay, looping across San Jose on up to San Francisco, with the Bay Trail completed and uninterrupted. (Policy yet to be adopted by CESP but on the agenda for consideration.)

For these projects we look forward to working with our dedicated legislators, agencies, community organizations, groups, and like-minded individuals to encourage shoreline policies that align with survival of the planet. All our victories have been accomplished that way – with our magnificent allies. Imagine what we can do together as we move forward.

CESP 40th Anniversary Honorary Committee

Hon. Nikki Fortunato Bas
Supervisor, Alameda County

Hon. Tom Bates
Former Mayor of Berkeley

Hon. Colin Coffey
Board Treasurer, East Bay Regional
Park District

Hon. Lynda Deschambault
Director, East Bay Regional Park
District

Hon. Elizabeth Echols
Director, East Bay Regional Park
District

Arthur Feinstein
President, Citizens for East Shore
Parks; Former Chair, Sierra Club,
San Francisco Bay Chapter

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Contra Costa County Supervisor

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Conservation Chair, California
Native Plant Society, East Bay
Chapter

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Former Assistant General Manager,
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Bay Chapter

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Wildlife Photographer

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Vice Mayor of Richmond



Photos: Jack Scheinman

Thank You to Our Sponsors

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Hon. Colin Coffey, Board Member,
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Wyn & Hinshaw Families
Hon. Marge and Earle Atkinson
Patricia Jones and Jaime Cortez
California Native Plant Society, East Bay
Hon. Helen Burke



Photo: Robert Cheasty

Special Thanks

40th Event Committee

Marge Atkinson
Robert Cheasty
Shirley Dean
Arthur Feinstein
Norman La Force
Sally Tobin
Amaya Williams-Segovia
Roberta Wyn

Event Planner

Shiree Dyson

Caterer

Slippery Fish Catering

Entertainment

The Manzanita Berries –
Val Jordan (Guitar), Valerie Risk
(Fiddle), Carl Wilmsen (Banjo)



Photo: Jack Scheinman

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Autumn Press, Printing

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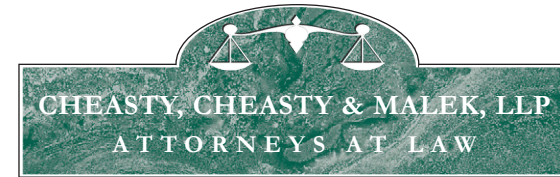
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Robert Cheasty, Patricia Jones,
Paul Kamen, Brennan Cox, CESP
photo files

Event Photographers:
Martir A Zelaya Santos,
Patricia Jones



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Congratulations to CESP on its 40th Anniversary and to the magnificent **Bennett Family**, Urban Tilth Founder and **Richmond City Councilmember Doria Robinson**, **Mayor Gayle McLaughlin**, **Sen. Nancy Skinner** and **CESP Exec. Director Robert Cheasty** for the recognition they are receiving and so richly deserve. They are shining examples of what can be accomplished when dedicated people persevere in the cause of the planet. We are in your debt.

Cheasty, Cheasty & Malek, LLP is an award winning personal injury firm ranked among Super Lawyers and National Trial Lawyers Top 100 with offices in Berkeley and Palo Alto.

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Photo: Robert Cheasty



Photos Clockwise
from Top Left:
Robert Cheasty,
Patricia Jones,
Jeff Peterson,
Jack Scheinman,
Robert Cheasty
Jack Scheinman,
Brennan Cox

