



Citizens for the Eastshore State Park  
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September 17, 2002

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Post-It® Fax Note	7871	Date	10 Sept	# of pages	6
To	Larry Long	From	Don Newirth		
Co./Dept.	EBRPD	Co.			
Phone #		Phone #			
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Dear Secretary Nichols:

The Citizens for the Eastshore State Park (C.E.S.P.) and its affiliated organizations want to thank you, the Resources Agency and the Department of Parks for all your efforts on this project, this creation of a magnificent park out of sheer will and dreams, out of that imagination which ignites all great adventures.

We sincerely appreciate the inclusion of precepts that we hold dearest for this park. We have a vision for this park, one that protects and enhances the wildlife values of the shore while providing recreational opportunities for all who want to come, to see and to play. This is a park in progress, a monument to the efforts of the wildlife around the Bay to reassert itself, given the chance. Attached is a short list of the wildlife, including some endangered species, served by this park and which can be better served if we take a few small steps to improve on the proposed park plan – a plan we would like to support and help get adopted.

While we thank the Planning Team for the many fine ideas and the thoughtful inclusion of values well suited for this Park, we have some suggestions we believe will improve the Plan and the Park. We feel these ideas will help accomplish the goals for the Park while stretching its resource dollars.

1. This is the Eastshore State Park and deserves to be so designated.

This is a one-time opportunity to get this right, to preserve the Bayshore in its majesty for our children and grandchildren and their grandchildren. We need the designation to place the wildlife first. Our people can speak up for themselves. Our wildlife will just vanish silently.

The current proposed designation, "Recreation Area" does not reflect the kind of protections needed for the park, nor does it give the right emphasis to this wonderful place where you can find burrowing owls, the California least tern and egrets on the wing. Those who have worked so tirelessly for this park over the last decades have

labored with the understanding that this was to be the Eastshore State Park. They passed waterfront protection measures and raised the money to acquire the land with bond issues. We believe that the recreational needs of the Park will be protected by the Park designation. But the wildlife will not be protected as the years roll by at a Recreation Area.

2. Ballfields and off-leash dog areas.

The Planning Team has included three to five ballfields in the Park at the Albany Plateau and an off-leash dog run at North Point Isabel in Richmond. We understand that these two uses create an impediment for the State Parks Department to accepting this area as a Park in that these uses contradict park policy. We believe that there is an elegant solution to this difficulty, and one that also addresses concerns we have.

a. The Plateau is an area slowly regenerating itself as a habitat and an area more suited to passive recreation than ballfields. There is an area at Gilman Street long designated for acquisition as part of the Park. This is currently owned by Magna Corp., the most recent owner of Golden Gate Fields Racetrack. The area is not much used for the race track operation and we understand that Golden Gate Fields is willing to consider a sale. This would be an ideal area to acquire and to put into use for the desired ballfields, with far more area for the fields than on the Plateau, and with far less habitat value as the area is mostly paved. We believe dedicating this area for ballfields next to the Eastshore State Park, to be run under a Joint Powers Agreement, will serve everyone's interests far better than the Albany Plateau. There is money sufficient to buy this land left over from the acquisition bonds.

b. North Point Isabel is an area adjacent to Point Isabel, an East Bay Regional Park facility where off-leash dogs are permitted. It is regionally well-known and well-used by dog owners. Dog advocates seek expansion to North Point Isabel, a proposal adopted by the Planning Team. By exempting this area from the State Park and leasing/granting it to the E.B.R.P.D. the off-leash use can be provided without contravening State Park policies.

3. Rafting Waterfowl in the North Basin Cove.

A compromise was reached during the planning process in an effort to both protect the rafting waterfowl and to allow boating in the area. Six months for the wildlife, six months for boaters. This area would be off-limits to watercraft starting October 1 up through the month of April. Boating resumes in May and stops again after September. We want to see that compromise hold. There is language in the Plan that seems to cast a shadow over this hinting of the need for study of this. We believe that the protections for the waterfowl is minimal already. The dates are based upon the accepted standards set forth in the Howard Cogswell treatise on birds in San Francisco Bay, *Waterbirds of California*, U. C. Press, (based, in part, on the studies done by the Fish

and Wildlife Department). We seek clarifying wording in the Plan to assure that there will be no further erosion of the waterfowl protections. This can be done by putting in the restrictions now, while the Park is being phased into life, so wildlife is not accidentally phased out.

#### 4. Parking

The amount of parking included within the Park Plan appears unnecessary. The Park is surrounded by acres of parking that is virtually unused most of the time. While we respect the thinking of the Planning Team that the Park needs to have adequate parking, we also note that this is a long and thin Park, with only approximately 250 acres of land that is not submerged. The Park is easily accessible in most of its areas from the surrounding roads and properties. We believe that a concerted effort to approach this as an opportunity to converge uses, or to get the surrounding municipalities to donate land for parking, will be in some measure successful. Perhaps acquisitions or other arrangements can be made with surrounding private owners. This whole Park has been created by such efforts. There is no harm in including language to encourage such efforts. In the meanwhile, phase in the parking as it is needed, conserving the Park dollars wisely, while the efforts are made to solve the parking issues collaboratively with local resources and opportunities.

#### 5. Promenades

This subject has been revisited by the Planning Team after the public indicated its desire for a more natural and understated shoreline trail/path system. We understand that language will be added in the Plan to ensure that the shoreline trails that are labeled "promenades" are not as concrete intensive as appeared in the artist's renderings. We appreciate the responsiveness and look forward to the natural look and the stretching of the Park dollars that will occur from installing a more natural trail system.

#### 6. Installations

We have urged that the facilities be combined as much as possible in the Park both to conserve Park funds and to keep the area as natural as possible. Combining the Headquarters and the Interpretive Center seems both sensible and desirable.




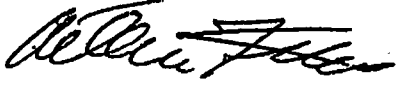
We believe that the same approach we seek for the parking can and should be applied to the planned Hostel. There are so few acres here that this use could be better met by approaching the City of Berkeley, for example, and seeking to have the unused site across the street from the Cal Sailing Club to serve as a hostel site. This site is both near the sailing facility, and to the Marina as well, supplying ready-made opportunities for water recreation in and about the Park without the problems of construction and maintenance in the Park itself. This effort to explore creative solutions does not prevent the Park planning to continue, it merely offers greater options for solutions.

7.. Solidifying wildlife protections and opportunities for more natural settings.

We support such wildlife protections and natural as are in the Plan, including the Berkeley Meadow, the Albany Bulb and the Emeryville Crescent. We look forward to a final Plan that solidifies those protections.

Thank you for taking the time to meet with us today. We invite you to share our vision for the Eastshore State Park, a park that the Sate of California will come to revere as a premier example of how the majesty of nature can be protected and even flourish along the shoreline of an urban area. This is a spectacular place already. It will deliver on all its promise.

Sincerely,

			
Robert Cheasty President C.E.S.P.	Sylvia McLaughlin Co-Founder Save the Bay	Norman LaForce S. F. Bay Chapter Sierra Club	Arthur Feinstein Executive Director Golden Gate Chap. Audubon Society