



Citizens for East Shore Parks

PO Box 6087, Albany, CA 94706

Office: 1604 Solano Avenue, Albany, CA 94707

Office: 510.524.5000 | Fax: 510.526.3672

www.eastshorepark.org eastshorepark@hotmail.com

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August 3, 2017

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City of Emeryville
1333 Park Ave.
Emeryville, CA 94608

via email: sdonahue@emeryville.org
shartz@emeryville.org

Re: Resolution in support of CESP's Resilient Shoreline Program

Dear Mayor Donahue and City Councilmembers,

As you know, Emeryville faces severe damage from sea-level rise unless steps are taken to protect our shoreline. On April 26, 2017, the California Ocean Protection Council adopted a resolution acknowledging a report prepared by seven experts outlining the best available sea-level rise science, including the role of increasing polar ice loss. The 2017 projections by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) show a sea level rise ranging to 10 feet by the year 2100. The scientific consensus: major consequences for California's coast, including San Francisco Bay and its eastern shoreline which Emeryville shares with its neighbor's.

On Earth Day, April 22, 2017, Citizens for East Shore Parks (CESP) launched its Resilient Shoreline Program to raise citizen awareness about the detrimental effects of sea-level rise, promote resilient shoreline solutions and to assure people that solutions are available if we start planning now. **We ask the Emeryville City Council to support this program by passing a resolution and joining the Grand Coalition of public leaders in support of these efforts.** A draft resolution and a sea-level rise data sheet is attached to this request.

The Resilient Shoreline Program (RSP) is a natural extension of CESP's 30-year effort to protect open space and develop a unified shoreline park along the Bay's eastern shoreline. That effort achieved the spectacular McLaughlin Eastshore State Park from the Bay Bridge in Oakland and continuing north along the entire shorelines of Emeryville, Berkeley, Albany and Richmond up to Pt. Isabel. The RSP combines **advocacy, science and education** with the goal of achieving public awareness about climate change and its impact on the Bay shoreline. In organizing a Grand Coalition of public leaders to implement timely solutions, CESP hopes to facilitate getting the funding to implement the Resilient Shoreline.

CESP's Resilient Shoreline Program Components:

1. Engage the public, including individuals, neighborhood groups and organizations and businesses, in Visualizing Sea-level Rise events to raise awareness. CESP held the first Visualizing Sea-level Rise event near Jack London Square on April 22, 2017 as part of the nationwide March for Science. Volunteers held up 5'x10' blue fabric panels and pennants indicating where the new shoreline would be at the 2-meter sea-level rise mark.

The next Visualizing Sea-level Rise event is scheduled to take place on Saturday, July 29, at McLaughlin Eastshore State Park at Frontage Rd. and University Ave. to indicate the new shoreline at a 2-meter rise with king tides.

A third event is planned for October 7, 2017 during the North Richmond Shoreline Festival at Pt. Pinole Regional Shoreline Park.

2. CESP will host a Scientific Forum, tentatively titled *"Getting Our Feet Wet: Sea-level Rise in the East Bay"*. This Forum is aimed at providing the latest scientific information, presented in the visual and written form, that is understandable to the general public.

3. Raise awareness in legislative bodies about sea-level rise impacts due to climate change. Organize a Grand Coalition of public leaders (city, county, state and federal) in support of adopting legislation concerning a resilient shoreline which considers green infrastructure solutions (e.g. restored marshes, Horizontal Levees) in preference to hardscape solutions (e.g. sea walls). To this end, CESP is already meeting with public leaders from Crockett to San Jose to request sign-on to the Grand Coalition for the Resilient Shoreline. Solutions that are limited to individual cities will be largely ineffective to a region-wide occurrence, and also out-of-reach financially for most. For effectiveness and practical reasons, solutions must be collaborative. We hope our efforts will stimulate our political leadership to take decisive action.

4. CESP will continue its efforts to stop inappropriate development on the shoreline which will be increasingly impacted by storms, king tides, erosion and drainage problems and ultimately by sea-level rise. In making land use decisions regarding new development and infrastructure in shoreline areas, they must consider not only sea-level rise at king tide storm levels but also how this will affect drainage into the Bay.

Last year we had an opportunity to meet with then Mayor Danita Rodriguez to discuss this program. Now we are asking for a commitment from the city of Emeryville by passing a resolution of support and officially joining the Grand Coalition of public leaders for a Resilient Shoreline, and we invite you to attend an upcoming Visualizing Sea-level Rise event in Berkeley or in Richmond.

Sincerely,



Robert Cheasty
Executive Director



Shirley Dean
Board President

Supporting organizations include: Golden Gate Audubon Society—Sierra Club—Save the Bay—Oakland Waterfront Coalition—Berkeley Partners for Parks—California Native Plant Society—Ecology Center—Environmental Defense—Citizens Committee to Complete the Refuge—Friends of Aquatic Park—Oceanic Society—Regional Parks Association—Urban Creeks Council—CA State Parks Foundation—Citizens for the Albany Shoreline—Contra Costa Hills Club—NRSOSA (Letterhead created by word processor)