



**CONTRA COSTA COUNTY
EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT
LIAISON COMMITTEE**

**Thursday, October 14, 2021
11 am-12:30 pm
Teleconference**

Pursuant to EBPRD Resolution 2021-09-277 and the Brown Act, as amended by AB 361, the East Bay Regional Park District Headquarters will not be open to the public and the Board of Directors and staff will be participating in the Board meetings via phone/video conferencing. In compliance with said orders, a physical location will not be provided for this meeting. *Please see page 2 for public comment instructions.*

AGENDA

<u>Topic</u>	<u>Staff</u>	<u>Status</u>
1. Public Comment		
2. Lower Walnut Creek Channel Restoration Project Update	CCC- P. Detjens	(I)
3. Thurgood Marshall Regional Park- Home of the Port Chicago 50 Update	EBRPD- D. Reiff	(I)
4. Southern Las Trampas Regional Wilderness Land Use Plan Amendment	EBRPD- K. Thai	(I)
5. Ecological Health Assessment	EBRPD- M. Graul B. Tuden	(I)

(I) Information

(D) Discussion

(R) Recommendation

Committee Members:

EBRPD: Colin Coffey, Beverly Lane, Elizabeth Echols
Contra Costa County: Supervisor Diane Burgis, Chair
Supervisor Federal Glover, Vice-Chair

Staff Liaisons:

EBRPD: Erich Pfoehler, Chief of Government & Legislative Affairs; Kristina Kelchner, Assistant General Manager of Acquisition, Stewardship & Development

Contra Costa County: Abigail Fateman, Department of Conservation and Development; Paul Detjens, Flood Control & Water Conservation District Senior Civil Engineer

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Members of the public can listen and view the meeting in the following ways:

Live via Zoom through the virtual meeting platform: <https://cccouny-us.zoom.us/j/83123224062>

Public comments may be submitted:

1. Live via Zoom. If you would like to make a live public comment during the meeting this option is available through the virtual meeting platform: <https://cccouny-us.zoom.us/j/83123224062>
2. Live via telephone. If you would like to make a live public comment during the meeting this option is available through a call-in option:

Call: (214) 765-0478

Toll Free: (888) 278-0254

Enter conference code: 198675

PUBLIC COMMENT: The committee is limited by State law to providing a brief response, asking questions for clarification, or referring a matter to staff when responding to items that are not listed on the agenda. ***If you wish to speak on agenda OR non-agenda items you will be asked to:***

- State your name, affiliation if applicable, and topic.
- Staff will compile names and will call each speaker in the order received.
- Each speaker will be allotted 3 minutes to speak; the Committee has the discretion to amend the time based on the number of speakers.
- Staff will track time and will inform speakers when their time is up.

A copy of the background materials concerning these agenda items, including any material that may have been distributed to a majority of the EBRPD Board less than 72 hours before the meeting, is available for inspection on the EBRPD website (www.ebparks.org), the EBRPD Headquarters reception desk, and at the meeting.

The Contra Costa County Department of Conservation and Development will provide reasonable accommodation for persons with disabilities planning to participate in this meeting who contact Maureen Parkes at 925-655-2909 or maureen.parkes@dcd.cccounty.us at least 72 hours before the meeting.

LOWER WALNUT CREEK CHANNEL RESTORATION PROJECT UPDATE

October 14, 2021

CURRENT STATUS

The Contra Costa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (FC District) is working to implement two reaches of the Lower Walnut Creek Restoration Project. The North Reach, otherwise known as Pacheco Marsh, is a 232-acre marsh that was diked off, drained, filled and otherwise neglected. The current project is creating a 5+ mile network of dendritic tidal channels to reintroduce the tides into historic marshlands and create healthy tidal wetlands. This new habitat benefits a number of rare and endangered species, such as Salt Marsh Harvest Mouse and Black Rail. Habitat improvements are specifically designed to be resilient to sea level rise to ensure benefits persist for decades to come. Project partner John Muir Land Trust will install public access amenities in late 2022 and will own and manage the Pacheco Marsh portion of the site in perpetuity. The FC District will retain ownership of the Lower Walnut Creek portion of the site.

Similar to the North Reach, habitat in the 47-acre South Reach is being upgraded from low-value uplands and degraded seasonal marsh habitat to fully tidal pickleweed marsh habitat. In this reach, the project is degrading the existing levees and constructing robust new levees approximately 500-feet farther inland from Lower Walnut Creek. The area between the old levee and new setback levee benefits from nearly a mile of newly constructed dendritic tidal channel. The new setback levees are intended to serve as a base for a future extension of the Park District's Ironhorse Trail.

FC District staff will provide a construction update and show photos of construction progress of both reaches.

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**THURGOOD MARSHALL REGIONAL PARK-
HOME OF THE PORT CHICAGO 50 UPDATE**
October 14, 2021

CURRENT STATUS

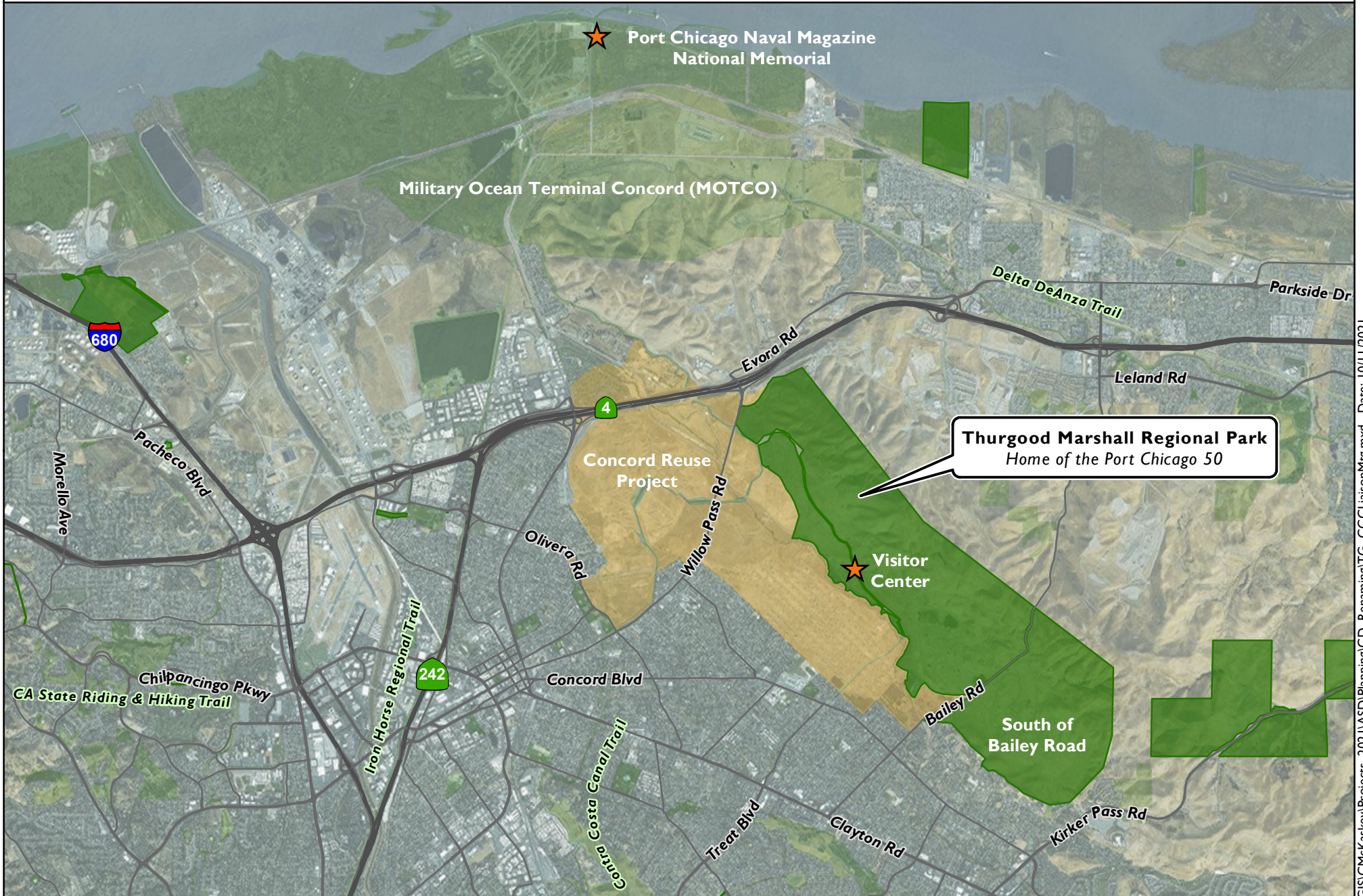
The East Bay Regional Park District (Park District) is working to implement the Land Use Plan for Thurgood Marshall Regional Park – Home of the Port Chicago 50 (Park). The Land Use Plan, adopted by the Park District Board of Directors in 2020, proposes a multi-year program transformation of approximately 2,500 acres of the former Concord Naval Weapons Station (CNWS) with: open space accessible to urban populations; critical links to regional open space and trails; a platform for constructive and creative reuse of former military infrastructure; and a sustainable park with protected habitat for threatened species.

The Park was named to honor Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall, an NAACP lawyer who appealed the U.S. Navy's mutiny conviction of fifty African American sailors who worked loading munitions ships at Port Chicago, the waterside location of the facility which later became the CNWS. The 1944 explosion of two munitions ships at Port Chicago killed and wounded hundreds, many of the victims were African Americans sailors. Surviving sailors refused to continue loading ships without better training and enhanced safety precautions. This work stoppage by the sailors led to fifty being charged with mutiny and court-martialed following their refusal to load munitions. The trial that followed brought to light the discriminatory Jim Crow practices and racial prejudice that existed within the Navy and across the entire U.S. military services. These events are now recognized as an early battle in what would become the Civil Rights Movement.

A new Visitor Center will be developed in partnership with the National Park Service (NPS) to tell the many stories of this land. In addition to the joint Visitor Center, the interpretive programs will reuse existing military infrastructure, such as the dozens of former weapons magazines. History, arts, and culture will be used to tell stories of war and peace, and stories of the uses of the park land; from the Navy to the ranchers who preceded the military, and of the native Chupcan (Bay-Miwok) people who lived on these lands since time immemorial. The communities of Contra Costa County and the region beyond will be welcomed to the Park to learn and share these stories.

The first capital projects are expected at the southern area of Bailey Road, with public access improvements off Bailey Road and a new staging area. Both the Park District and the NPS are strategizing fundraising efforts to develop the Visitor Center. In addition, the Park District is in close contact with the City of Concord and the Community Reuse Project, and the recently selected Master Developer. The Park District is also working with local elected officials to support the new Park.

Although not yet open to the public, the Park is currently in the process of being designed and permitted. The Park District looks forward to welcoming people for programs and events over the coming years. Once open, Thurgood Marshall Regional Park – Home of the Port Chicago 50, will provide many opportunities for education, recreation, and reflection.



**SOUTHERN LAS TRAMPAS REGIONAL WILDERNESS LAND USE PLAN
AMENDMENT
October 14, 2021**

CURRENT STATUS

The East Bay Regional Park District (Park District) is preparing a Land Use Plan Amendment (LUPA) for southern Las Trampas Wilderness Regional Preserve (Las Trampas). This would update the 1993 Land Use Develop Plan for Las Trampas by formally appending five additional parcels to the park. The project proposes to open to the public approximately four miles of new multi-use trails within the 756-acre project area. The project will also provide three additional public access points consisting of a 25-car staging area located along Bollinger Canyon Road, a walk-in entrance with dedicated on-street parking off Wingfield Court in Danville, and a walk-in entrance from the Faria Preserve Residential Subdivision in San Ramon.

An environmental document accompanies the LUPA in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). This environmental document is an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) that describes and analyzes potentially significant environmental effects of the proposed project and discusses ways to mitigate or avoid the effects. More specifically, this EIR focuses on the potentially significant environmental effects relating to aesthetics, biological resources, transportation, and wildfire.

The Park District initiated the project in June 2017 with a public scoping meeting held in San Ramon to provide an overview of the project components, project goals, and to answer question questions from the community. Following the public meeting, Park District staff published a Notice of Preparation of an EIR in August 2019 and accepted additional public comments over a 30-day review period. Staff and consultants prepared the LUPA and EIR by incorporating public input and technical analyses.

A draft of the LUPA and EIR are set to be released for a 45-day public review in October 2021, with anticipated Board approval and certification by the end of 2021/beginning of 2022. Following project approval, Park District staff will work to obtain all necessary environmental permits, with anticipated construction of the staging area and trails to begin in summer 2022.

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ECOLOGICAL HEALTH ASSESSMENT

October 14, 2021

CURRENT STATUS

Matt Graul, Chief of Stewardship and Becky Tuden, Ecological Services Manager will give an overview of the Park District's work on the Ecological Health Assessment (EHA); a landscape-level, quantitative measurement of the health of the East Bay ecosystem.

The EHA identifies key indicators, species of mammals, birds, amphibians, and fish, and establishes metrics and thresholds for determining the health of ecosystem. The EHA will establish a baseline level of health that can be measured and compared in future years. This work represents a partnership of five public agencies and includes over 220,000 acres.