

## The Honorable Kevin de León to headline the 2019 David Brower Dinner

May 24, 2019

We are very excited to announce former State Senator Kevin de León as Keynote Speaker for our David Brower Dinner this fall. The annual gala celebration and awards ceremony will take place on the evening of Saturday, September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2019 at San Francisco's Delancey Street Town Hall.

- **Ed Bennett Lifetime Achievement Award:** Helen Burke
- **Phil Burton Profile in Courage Award:** Speaker Nancy Pelosi (*Chief of Staff Dan Bernal accepting on her behalf with brief video by the speaker*)
- **Trailblazer Award:** John Sutter
- **Youth Award:** Oxford Elementary's Zero Waste Classroom and the Heirs to Our Oceans Club
- **Dave and Pat Michener Outings Leader Award:** Steve Bakaley

### John Sutter is the 2019 winner of the Trailblazer Award



Born and raised in Oakland, where he still lives, John Sutter developed an appreciation for nature as a boy when his parents took the family on trips to the Sierra. Those early trips paved the way for a six-decade career championing environmental protection and the expansion of open space, parks, trails, and the San Francisco Bay.

In 2016, as a member of the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority Governing Board, John helped shepherd through Measure AA, the parcel tax to fund shoreline projects that will protect and restore the Bay. This was just the latest victory in a decades long crusade to preserve the bay; In 1965 he was appointed to serve on the first San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission, created to protect the bay from filling and to expand public access to the shoreline.

One of the many features of the Bay Area that John helped preserve is the 741-acre Martin Luther King Regional Shoreline in Oakland. He was also one of the first to begin advocating for the Gateway Regional Park now planned for the foot of the Bay Bridge; John was working toward that goal as far back as 1967!

John's career in public service included terms as an Alameda County deputy district attorney, an Alameda County Superior Court judge, a member of the Oakland City Council, and a board member of the East Bay Regional Park District. He was also a co-founder of the group now known as the Greenbelt Alliance.



## John Sutter, environmental champion for Bay Area, to be recognized with Club award

September 4, 2019



In recognition of his consistent dedication to environmental protection, park creation, and public service, John Sutter is receiving the Sierra Club's prestigious **Trailblazer Award** on September 21st, 2019 at the 9th annual David Brower Dinner gala.

As a young boy in Oakland, John learned to appreciate the outdoors through family trips to the majestic, tree-studded Sierra mountains. Being close to nature led him to believe that it is not enough for cities to offer jobs, commerce and housing; he felt the need to provide open space and parks as well. This belief formed the basis of a lifelong commitment to protecting our natural resources and creating parks to bring Bay Area residents close to nature.

In 1965, John was appointed by Governor Pat Brown to the original state body – The San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission — to stop the filling of the Bay for land development. In 1967, he initiated the creation of the new park at the foot of the Bay Bridge by advocating that part of the Oakland army base be turned into a park should the base close, which it did. This became Gateway Regional Shoreline.

Also in the 1960s, John headed the Bay Area Greenbelt Alliance, which was concerned about the loss of open space to urban sprawl and advocated open space concerns in city, county and regional planning. From 2008 to 2016 John sat on the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority which placed a \$12 parcel tax on the 2016 ballot; it passed and now funds restoration of Bay wetlands and helps protect the Bay from rising sea levels.

John served on the Oakland City Council from 1971 to 1982, as Alameda County Superior Court Judge from 1982 to 1996, and on the East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) Board from 1998 to 2018.

After a lifetime dedicated to environmental activism, John is winning accolades. On March 29, 2019, the EBRPD Board — on which John sat for 20 years – voted to rename Gateway Regional Shoreline as the Judge John Sutter Shoreline to recognize his leadership in establishing the park. And on September 21st, he will receive the Sierra Club San Francisco Bay Chapter's Trailblazer Award at the 9th annual David Brower Dinner gala

Congratulations John!

*Photo: In 1971, John Sutter ran for Oakland City Council, calling for a shoreline park at what is now the Martin Luther King Regional Shoreline Park. (Courtesy of John Sutter)*

- by Helen Burke