

East Bay Regional Park District and California State Parks Sign 30 Year Contract for McLaughlin Eastshore State Park

In a move to advance regional partnerships to keep State Parks open, East Bay Regional Park District and California Department of Parks and Recreation have agreed to a long-term contract to manage and operate McLaughlin Eastshore State Park along the San Francisco Bay.

The new 30-year agreement continues the “strong partnership we have with the East Bay Regional Park District for the long-term management of this exceptional coastal park resource,” said State Parks Director, Major General Anthony Jackson. The relationship was approved yesterday at the regular meeting of the East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) Board of Directors, extending EBRPD’s original five year operating agreement that expired in 2011.

“East Bay Regional Park District has been a highly qualified, dependable management partner with State Parks over the past decade at McLaughlin Eastshore State Park,” said Robert Doyle, General Manager of EBRPD. “I thank Major General Anthony Jackson for his leadership in making this contract happen...we’ve been waiting for a few years to move forward on this. This is a long-term financial commitment by the Park District to support what residents in the district have told us is a priority for them through their repeated voting in favor of funding it,” Doyle added.

Through the Park District’s efforts, the park’s 1,854 acres and 8.5 miles along the East Bay shoreline from the Bay Bridge to Richmond is fully accessible for all to enjoy. Through State grants and regional funding provided by Measures AA, CC and WW, the District has provided creative parkland management principles to restore the uplands and tidelands for wildlife and recreation. In addition to the long term lease to operate, State Parks has

committed \$5 million in existing Prop 84 park funding to assist in the development of the “Brickyard” portion of the park to be developed and made accessible to the public. The Brickyard site is located at University and West Frontage Roads behind the Sea Breeze Café. New trails, restrooms, parking, picnic sites and other recreational concessions are a few of the amenities planned.

Stretching from Emeryville to Richmond, McLaughlin Eastshore State Park is a beautiful destination for people to walk along the Bay Trail and enjoy the views of San Francisco Bay and the Golden Gate Bridge. Conservationists such as Sylvia McLaughlin, who the Park is named for, worked tirelessly to establish this State Park. Over 4,000 major stakeholders and interested parties met for two decades, led by Senator Loni Hancock, Mayor Tom Bates, Sylvia McLaughlin, Citizens for Eastshore State Park (CESP), and the Sierra Club to reach substantial consensus on the future uses and improvements for the park. The newly designated State seashore is a recreational facility harmonious with its natural setting, yet located in the midst of one of the most highly urbanized areas of California.

“McLaughlin Eastshore State Park is one of the most outstanding achievements in the history of open space protection,” said Major General Anthony Jackson, director of California State Parks. “It is the result of decades of citizen efforts to protect San Francisco Bay as a public open space resource.”

###

Joint News Release – East Bay Regional Park District and
California State Parks

Date: May 8, 2013

Contact:

Emily Hopkins, EBRPD, 510-544-2217

Roy Stearns, California State Parks, 916-654-7538