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EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT BOARD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Tuesday, May 11, 2021
12:30 p.m.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND STAFF WILL ATTEND VIA TELECONFERENCE

Pursuant to Governor Newsom’s Executive Order No. N-29-20 and the Alameda County Health Officer’s current Shelter in Place Order, the East Bay Regional Park District (“Park District”) Headquarters will not be open to the public and the Board Executive Committee and staff will be participating in the meetings via video conferencing.

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

Via the Park District’s live video stream, on the Park District’s YouTube channel, which can be found at:
<https://youtu.be/pvK6M5XWBPI>

(The YouTube link may not function properly when using Internet Explorer. The optimal browser for viewing the live stream of the meeting is Chrome.)

Public comments may be submitted:

- 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://ebparks.zoom.us/j/94499652339>. Note that this virtual meeting platform link will let you into the virtual meeting for the purpose of providing a public comment. If you do not intend to make a public comment please use the Youtube link above to observe the meeting. It is preferred that those requesting to speak during the meeting contact Becky Pheng at bpheng@ebparks.org by 5:00 pm on Monday, May 10, 2021 via email or voicemail at 510-544-2005 to provide their name and subject of the public comment or item to be addressed.
- Via Email** to Becky Pheng at bpheng@ebparks.org by 5:00 pm on Monday, May 10, 2021. Email must contain in the subject line “Public Comments – not on the agenda” or “Public Comments – agenda item #”.
- Via Voicemail** at 510-544-2005. The caller must start the message by stating “Public Comments – not on the agenda” or “Public Comments – agenda item #” followed by their name and place of residence, followed by their comments.

Comments received during the meeting and up until the public comment period on the relevant agenda item is closed will be provided in writing to the Board Executive Committee including transcribed voicemails. All comments received by the close of the public comment period will be available after the meeting as supplemental materials and will become part of the official meeting record. Please try to limit your written comments to no more than 300 words. The Park District cannot guarantee that its network and/or the site will be uninterrupted. To ensure that the Park District receives your comments, you are strongly encouraged to submit your comments in writing in advance of the meeting.

For future meetings, the Park District is exploring additional ways for the public to submit comments.

If you have any questions about utilizing the audio stream, please contact the Recording Secretary of the Committee, Becky Pheng at bpheng@ebparks.org or at 510-544-2005. To ensure the best opportunity for Park District staff to address your question, please contact the Recording Secretary prior to 5:00 pm on Monday, May 11, 2021.

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Ward 4

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Ward 5

EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT BOARD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Tuesday, May 11, 2021

12:30 p.m.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND STAFF WILL ATTEND VIA TELECONFERENCE

The following agenda items are listed for Committee consideration. In accordance with the Board Operating Guidelines, no official action of the Board will be taken at this meeting; rather, the Committee's purpose shall be to review the listed items and to consider developing recommendations to the Board of Directors.

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

Accommodations and Access

District facilities and meetings comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act. If special accommodations are needed for you to participate, please contact the Clerk of the Board at 510-544-2020 as soon as possible, but preferably at least three working days prior to the meeting.

AGENDA

<u>TIME</u>	<u>ITEM</u>	<u>STATUS</u>	<u>STAFF</u>
12:30 pm	1. Roll Call (Virtual)		Becky Pheng
12:35 pm	2. San Francisco Bay Restoration Regulatory Integration Team	I	Ana Alvarez
1:00 pm	3. Concord Hills Regional Park Naming Selection	R	Brian Holt, Devan Reiff
1:50 pm	4. Public Comments		
	Public comments may be submitted:		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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://ebparks.zoom.us/j/94499652339. Note that this virtual meeting platform link will let you into the virtual meeting for the purpose of providing a public comment. If you do not intend to make a public comment please use the Youtube link (https://youtu.be/pvK6M5XWBPI) to observe the meeting. It is preferred that those requesting to speak during the meeting contact the Becky Pheng at bpheng@ebparks.org by 5:00 pm, Monday, May 10, 2021 via email or voicemail at 510-544-2005 to provide name and subject of the public comment or item to be addressed. • Via Email to Becky Pheng at bpheng@ebparks.org. Email must contain the subject line "Public Comments – not on the agenda" or "Public Comments - on the agenda" and indicate the item # by 5:00 pm, Monday, May 10, 2021. • Via voicemail at 510-544-2005. The caller must start the message by stating "Public Comments – not on the agenda" or "Public Comments – agenda item #" followed by their name and place of residence, followed by their comments by 5:00 pm, Monday, May 10, 2021. 		
2:00 pm	5. Board Comments		
2:05 pm	6. General Manager Comments		

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Board Executive Committee Members

Dee Rosario (Chair), Ellen Corbett, Colin Coffey
Beverly Lane, Alternate
Carol R. Victor, Staff Coordinator

R - Recommendation for Future Board Consideration

I - Informational

D - Discussion

2021 Meeting Dates

January 20	July 13
February 4	August 3
March 4	September 14
April 1	October 12
May 11	November 9
June 8	December 12

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EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT

BOARD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Meeting of May 11, 2021

TO: Board Executive Committee

FROM: Sabrina Landreth, General Manager

STAFF REPORT
PREPARED BY: Dr. Ana M. Alvarez, Deputy General Manager

SUBJECT: San Francisco Bay Restoration Regulatory Integration Team (BRRIT)

Dr. Ana M. Alvarez, Deputy General Manager, will make a presentation on this agenda item, along with Amy Hutzler, Deputy Executive Officer of the California Coastal Conservancy, and Luisa Valiela, former Chair of the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority's Advisory Board.

BACKGROUND

The San Francisco Bay Restoration Regulatory Integration Team (BRRIT) consists of staff from six state and federal regulatory agencies with jurisdiction over habitat restoration projects in San Francisco Bay, including:

- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps)
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)
- NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries)
- San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB)
- California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)
- San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC)
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) (participates on an ad-hoc basis)

The BRRIT was formed to improve the permitting process for multi-benefit habitat restoration projects and associated flood management and public access infrastructure in the San Francisco Bay and along the shoreline of the nine Bay Area counties, excluding the Delta Primary Zone. The BRRIT achieves these improvements by collaboratively working with project proponents early in the design and planning process to identify issues that could result in permitting delays.

The East Bay Regional Park District, along with the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority, State Coastal Conservancy, Santa Clara Valley Water District, and Bay Area Toll Authority, providing funding for the BRRIT. Park District projects with the BRRIT include the Coyote Hills Regional Park Restoration and Public Access Project, and the Hayward Marsh Restoration Project.

The presentation will provide an overview of BRRIT progress since it began in August 2019, and will provide an opportunity for the Board Executive Committee to ask questions and provide feedback.

RECOMMENDATION

None. This is an informational item.

EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT

BOARD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Meeting of May 11, 2021

TO: Board Executive Committee

FROM: Sabrina Landreth, General Manager

STAFF REPORT
PREPARED BY: Kristina Kelchner, Assistant General Manager
Brian Holt, Chief of Planning, Trails, & GIS
Devan Reiff, Principal Planner

SUBJECT: Concord Hills Regional Park Naming Selection

Staff recommends that the future regional park at the former Concord Naval Weapons Station (CNWS) be named “Thurgood Marshall Regional Park – Home of the Port Chicago 50.” Staff requests that the Board Executive Committee recommend this name to the full Board of Directors for adoption.

Kristina Kelchner, Assistant General Manager, and Brian Holt, Chief of Planning, Trails and GIS will make a presentation on this agenda item.

BACKGROUND

A. THURGOOD MARSHALL REGIONAL PARK – HOME OF THE PORT CHICAGO 50

Staff supports a name that continues to educate the public about the deadly Port Chicago explosion, the bravery of the fifty men took a stand against unsafe and unjust conditions, and the key role that the disaster and mutiny trial the played in the desegregation of the U.S. armed forces. Further, staff recognizes the significant contributions of Thurgood Marshall in advocating for the Port Chicago 50 and challenging the segregation policies of the U.S. military, and the influence these experiences in the East Bay had in his judicial career.

During World War II, the U.S. military was segregated and Black sailors who signed up to serve their country were relegated to dangerous assignments such as loading munitions. The Port Chicago Naval Magazine operated on the waterfront north of the City of Concord as a major ammunition transshipment facility, where munitions were delivered by train and quickly transferred by hand directly onto ships headed for the front. With no onsite storage for munitions and high demand from the war front, the loading work was done 24 hours a day and was often rushed, with white officers holding competitions and pushing sailors to work faster. On July 17, 1944, these conditions led to disaster when two vessels loaded with ammunition exploded with the force of a small earthquake, blowing out windows as far away as San Francisco and instantly killing 320 men – mostly teenagers – and wounding 390 others. The explosion accounted for

one-quarter of all African-American deaths during World War II. Surviving Black sailors were ordered to return to work loading munitions not long after the explosion, and many refused. Fifty men, who came to be known as the Port Chicago 50, were charged with mutiny and ultimately dishonorably discharged. The trial and the national attention it garnered ultimately led to the desegregation of the armed forces with the signing of Executive Order 9981 by President Harry Truman in 1948.

The Inland Area of the Concord Naval Weapons Station (CNWS), where the future regional park is located, was acquired and added to the Port Chicago Naval Magazine to create safer working conditions by transitioning the site from a transit facility to a weapons storage depot in response to the Port Chicago explosion (Attachment A). The site continued to operate as one base through the end of World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, and the Cold War periods until being placed in a reduced operational capacity in 1999.

The Port Chicago Naval Magazine National Memorial was established by President Barack Obama in December 2009 through the signing of the Port Chicago Naval Magazine National Memorial Enhancement Act. The Act explicitly authorized the National Park Service to partner with the East Bay Regional Park District to establish a joint Visitor Center within the Inland Area of the former CNWS. The Port Chicago Naval Magazine Foundation Document identifies the Inland Area as an affiliated site where the history of Port Chicago is relevant. A Cooperative Management Agreement was signed by the National Park Service and the Park District in 2020.

The Port Chicago 50 wrote to Thurgood Marshall while he was serving as lead counsel for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), requesting that he observe the unfair trial. Mr. Marshall sat in the proceedings, and afterwards published a series of articles, pamphlets, and public speeches that brought public attention to what he described as a trial not about the Port Chicago 50, but about the Navy being “on trial for its whole vicious policy toward Negroes¹.” His campaign to expose the racism in the trial of the Port Chicago 50 ultimately led to the desegregation of the military and was an early precursor to the broader civil rights movements in this country. President Harry Truman signed Executive Order 9981 ordering the desegregation of the U.S. Armed Forces on July 26, 1948.

This history was not well known for many decades until Dr. Robert Allen, a professor of sociology at U.C. Berkley, came across the pamphlet the NAACP produced calling for people to remember the history of Port Chicago². He began to research the history of the Port Chicago disaster and in 1989 published the book “The Port Chicago Mutiny,” detailing the history of the explosion, the events that followed and the desegregation of the military. Dr. Allen went on to become one

¹ Speaking to the press following the court proceedings, Thurgood Marshall declared “This is not 50 men on trial for mutiny, this is the Navy on trial for its whole vicious policy toward Negroes.”

<https://news.berkeley.edu/2014/07/10/remembering-port-chicago/>

²“Mutiny” pamphlet prepared by NAACP in March 1945 <https://tminstituteldf.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Port-Chicago-Mutiny-Pamphlet.pdf>

of the founding members of the Friends of Port Chicago and was central to the establishment of the Port Chicago Naval Magazine National Memorial.

Designation of this park as “Thurgood Marshall – Home of the Port Chicago 50” honors the bravery of the fifty men who organized to protest return to work orders and challenged the U.S. government. Without their bravery, the story of Port Chicago would not be known, and the advocacy of Thurgood Marshall would never come to be. Further, the word “home” and the symbolic designation of this site as the “Home of the Port Chicago 50” is important to the African American community to acknowledge that the Black sailors at that time did not have a home at the base or within the neighboring town of Port Chicago, where they were explicitly not welcomed.

Despite years of advocacy by local elected officials and community organizations, the courageous young men of the Port Chicago 50 have never been exonerated.

This naming proposal has gained the support of numerous organizations including the Black Employee Collective, a self-identified group of individuals working at the Park District; the Citizens for Historical Equity; the Hawaii and California Chapters of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP); the Friends of Port Chicago; United Veterans Council of Pittsburg, California; AFSCME Local 2428; and numerous individuals and organizations (Attachment B).

Staff fully support the name “Thurgood Marshall Regional Park – Home of the Port Chicago 50” as a name that celebrates African American history, honors the history of the site and allows for deeper exploration of themes of equality, safe working conditions, social justice, and protest.

B. PUBLIC PLANNING PROCESS

Since the closure of the Inland Area of the CNWS, the Park District has engaged throughout the reuse planning process to establish a new Regional Park on the site. In July 2019, the Park District took constructive possession of 2,540 acres of the former base for a new regional park (Figure, Attachment A). In July 2020, the Park District’s Board of Directors adopted the Concord Hills Regional Park Land Use Plan (LUP), guiding future development of the new regional park to include over 22 miles of new trails, camping facilities, picnic areas, and a joint operated visitor center facility with the National Park Service.

The working name for the new regional park, which was included in the 2013 Master Plan Update, has been “Concord Hills Regional Park.” Park District staff solicited naming suggestions throughout the public planning process for the LUP. During the month of February 2020, a public survey of top naming suggestions was held with over 1,200 responses. The results of these exercises and surveys were presented to the Park Advisory Committee (PAC) as part of the LUP approval process on April 27, 2020. Key themes that emerged from the public surveys were an

interest in Native American park names and open-ended suggestions that a park name should recognize the history of the events at Port Chicago.

At the April 27, 2020 PAC, and subsequently at the Park District's Board Executive Committee meeting of August 6, 2020, the Committee directed staff to consult with local Native American tribal leaders to research and consider a park name that would reflect the indigenous history of the site. Staff, in consultation with Native leaders and supported by retired Cultural Services Coordinator Dr. Beverly Ortiz, developed two potential names to reflect the park's indigenous history: 1) "Caaco' aanikssan Regional Park" (Miwok-language translation of "Place of our grandchildren's future"), and 2) "Chupcan Territory Regional Park," named for the indigenous people of the Concord area (Attachment C).

These names were presented to the Board Executive Committee on September 3, 2020, where several public commenters suggested that the park name should instead reflect the history of the Port Chicago explosion and its aftermath. The Board Executive Committee directed staff to engage in additional conversations with Native peoples and with the public commenters from African-American communities who had spoken at the meeting regarding a name that reflects the history of Port Chicago and its aftermath (Attachment D).

Following several months of further conversations with community members, additional staff research, and significant public comment, the name for the future regional park – "Thurgood Marshall Regional Park – Home of the Port Chicago 50" – has emerged as an important name honoring the history of Port Chicago, the men who bravely stood up to challenge the U.S. military, and the advocacy of Thurgood Marshall. It has also emerged as a significant symbolic name to the African American community to establish a public space where African American history is celebrated.

Staff recommends the name "Thurgood Marshall Regional Park – Home of the Port Chicago 50" as a name that honors the history of the site and allows for deeper exploration of themes of equality, social justice, and protest. Further, staff supports adoption of a park name that welcomes all people to engage in the ongoing development of the park, storytelling in the park, and long-term stewardship and programming of the park.

C. RELATIONSHIP TO THE EXISTING PORT CHICAGO NAVAL MAGAZINE NATIONAL MEMORIAL

As noted above, the Port Chicago Naval Magazine National Memorial was established in 2009. The waterfront explosion site, operated by the National Park Service, is the memorial and the final resting place for those men who lost their lives in the Port Chicago explosion. Concerns have been raised that naming two park areas for this history may create confusion or perhaps dilution of the Port Chicago history.

However, the public's access to the Port Chicago Naval Magazine is severely limited due to its location on the active Military Ocean Terminal Concord (MOTCO) facility³. Staff believes that naming of a more accessible regional park facility will serve to advance the interest of a larger memorial site and increase the public's understanding of the history of Port Chicago. The establishment of the "Thurgood Marshall Regional Park – Home of the Port Chicago 50" will support the National Park site and increase sustained engagement and support for advancement of public facilities and narratives that will give the appropriate recognition of the history of the former base.

It has also been suggested that the park should be expanded onto the MOTCO property, and that this future expanded park area, rather than the Inland Area, should be named to honor the Port Chicago history. While this is a welcome concept, the U.S. Army has no current plans to end operations at MOTCO. Significant funds have been invested to develop improved facilities at the base, and even if the site were to be made inactive for military use now, it would likely be many decades before public access could be realized in this area. Staff recommends highlighting the history of Port Chicago today by naming the Inland Area acquired to create safer working conditions following the disaster, rather than waiting the decades necessary to do so at the waterfront site of the 1944 explosion.

Staff also notes that the history of Port Chicago is dispersed throughout the Bay Area and the nation. While the explosion happened on the waterfront within the current MOTCO property, there are several associated sites that are relevant to the history of Port Chicago. The surviving sailors, including the Port Chicago 50, were ordered to return to work loading munitions at Mare Island in Vallejo. The mutiny trial of the Port Chicago 50 occurred on Treasure Island in San Francisco. There is a space dedicated to those who lost their lives at the Port Chicago explosion at the National Cemetery in the City of Colma, California. The explosion that occurred on the waterfront at Port Chicago had reverberations that were felt throughout the Bay Area and beyond. The story is both intensely local and personal, with deep impacts on local residents and their families, and undeniably national, as an origin story of a civil rights movement that shook the country.

D. ADDRESSING THE LOSS OF INDIGENOUS LAND, HISTORY, CULTURE, LANGUAGE AND RECOGNIZING THE ONGOING CONTRIBUTIONS OF NATIVE AMERICANS

The interest of the PAC and the Board Executive Committee in exploring a name that reflects the indigenous history of the site is in keeping with the Park District's responsibility of stewarding over 125,000 acres of land that are the ancestral homelands of the Native peoples in the East Bay. This interest was acknowledged in the various naming exercises and surveys that were completed, demonstrating that there was substantial public interest in using the naming of this future regional park to acknowledge the Native history.

³ Now operated by the United States Army, this facility is the Department of Defense's primary ammunition seaport supporting the Pacific area.

The loss of Native American history - cultural, institutional, and personal - has occurred across our society over the course of the past centuries. A more contemporary awareness of the history of colonialism, the Spanish Mission system, Anglo-American exceptionalism, and active resistance by Native people in our post-industrial society is now being emphasized in modern day education and naming recognitions.

As stewards of significant portions of traditional indigenous lands, the Park District has a unique responsibility to address the loss of Native American land, history, culture and language. The need to recognize the history of Native peoples and their ongoing presence and contributions to our community has increasingly led to a recognition that park planning, naming, interpretation, and design all need to recognize and facilitate education about the Native history of the East Bay region.

Throughout this naming process, staff has continued to communicate with Native communities to keep Tribal representatives informed and seek their engagement through consultations. Based on the consultations with the Tribal leaders and the Native American community, staff recommends that working potential programs to provide more substantive and inclusive opportunities to highlight Native ancestries and address concerns regarding erasure of indigenous culture than the naming of a single park⁴. Potential opportunities for ongoing partnership between the Native American community and the Park District could include joint stewardship opportunities at sacred sites now owned by the Park District, naming of other park features within the future park at Concord Hills, future naming of other new regional parks currently in planning, and other programs that may emerge from ongoing consultation with Native peoples.

E. ACTIONS TO RESULT FROM NAMING DECISION

Upon receiving a final recommendation from the Board Executive Committee, Planning staff will inform the Park Advisory Committee of the Board Executive Committee's decision and present the naming recommendation to the full Board of Directors for consideration.

Upon Board adoption of the naming recommendation, Park District staff will complete the following actions:

- Park website, printed brochures and other information will be updated to reflect the change and interpret park history.
- Planning and GIS staff will add this name to the Park District's list of names to avoid future naming redundancy.
- GIS staff will update the park database to reflect the change.

⁴ Conversations with Native tribal leaders were conducted informally, using best practice tribal consultation methods, such as broad and inclusive invitations, sharing meeting notes and consensus meetings. The tribal entities that staff leaders consulted with are: Association of Ramaytush Ohlone; California Indian Water Commission; Confederated Villages of Lisjan; Costanoan Rumsen Carmel; Him're-n of Ohlone, Bay Miwok and Plains Miwok; Indian Canyon Mutsun Band of Costanoan People; Lone Band of Miwok Indians; Ohlone Indian Tribe; Muwekma Ohlone Tribe; Wilton Rancheria.

A park's name gives the public a sense of what they can expect at the park. Park names help to establish the interpretive narrative of a park and can serve to educate the public about the cultural, historical, geological or biological stories of the land.

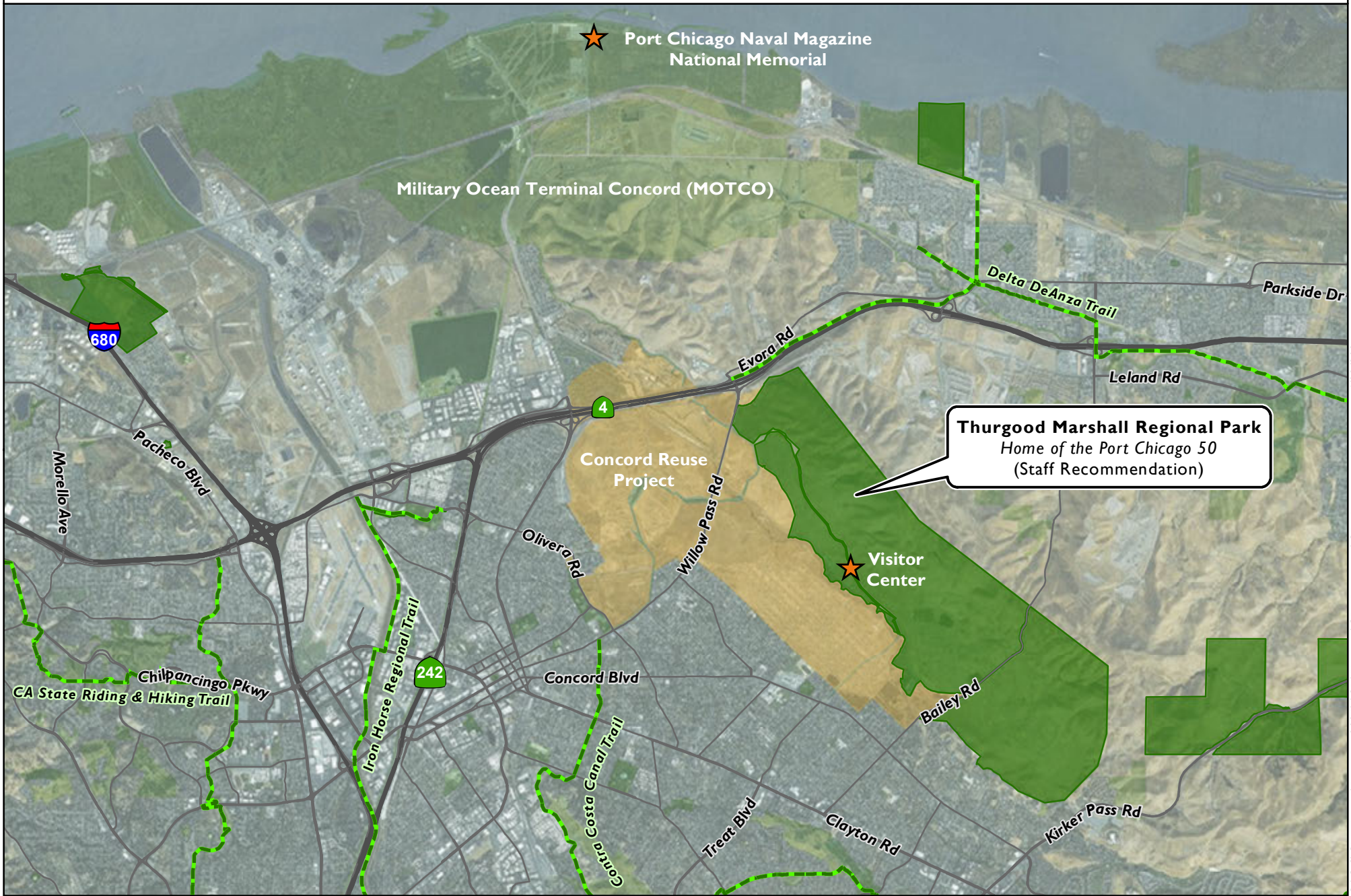
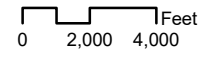
RECOMMENDATION

Staff requests that the Board Executive Committee recommend the name “Thurgood Marshall Regional Park – Home of the Port Chicago 50” to the full Board of Directors for adoption.

ATTACHMENTS

- A. Project area map
- B. Letter recommending “Thurgood Marshall Regional Park: Home of the Port Chicago 50”
- C. Native Peoples of the East Bay Map
- D. September 3, 2020 Board Executive Committee Report

Concord Hills Regional Park Proposed Park Naming Thurgood Marshall Regional Park - Home of the Port Chicago 50





Board of Directors
East Bay Regional Park District
2950 Peralta Oaks Court
Oakland, CA 94605

**Re: Bay Area Black Community Naming Recommendation:
Thurgood Marshall Regional Park – Home of the Port Chicago 50**

Dear Esteemed EBRPD Board of Directors,

Thank you for your good work caring for our regional parklands. We know you are aware heroes define our ideals and aspirations and recognizing our nation's heroes, of all races, is key to building inclusive, equitable, and productive communities. Although the names on our regional public lands should reflect the values of society, they often just reflect the values of those who are in power. This perpetually leaves people of color without acknowledgement of their representative heroes and diminishes the significant sacrifices and contributions people of color have made to our region.

The East Bay Area is severely lacking in Black representation in regional park names. There are currently zero regional parks in Contra Costa County named to honor Black culture or history. This lack of representation has a detrimental effect on self-esteem and pride within our communities and results in many underserved citizens feeling uninvited and unwelcome in our public parklands.

Fortunately, there is now a unique opportunity to honor Black history on the land where so many Black Americans died serving our country at Port Chicago Naval Magazine. This former military base, located in Contra Costa County, is the site of the Port Chicago disaster, the World War II explosion that killed 320 sailors, officers, and civilians. In the aftermath, however, many of the Black surviving sailors were soon ordered to resume handling dangerous munitions. Under the threat of a court martial, ultimately only fifty sailors stood in protest of an order that endangered their lives. NAACP's Thurgood Marshall tirelessly worked to defend the fifty servicemen and advocated to end the vicious policy of segregation that contributed to the deaths of the 320 men. Together these civil rights pioneers were instrumental in desegregating our U.S. Armed Forces, a pivotal step in the journey to national integration.

At this future park, we can pay tribute to these stories to cultivate pride and a sense of self-esteem in our underserved communities while providing a public space where everyone can feel at home in nature. The Park District's unique opportunity is perhaps summed up best by U.S. Congressman Mark DeSaulnier, who said:

"This [park] is a wonderful opportunity for the Bay Area to tell an amazing American story; both its tragedy and its failure but also of the liberating, forceful individuals who decided this wasn't good enough – that we had to reconcile our weaknesses and our prejudice with what we hope for in the future."

In the interest of honoring the national heroes and history of Port Chicago Naval Magazine, a coalition including Friends of Port Chicago National Memorial, NAACP East County, United Veterans Council, and Citizens for Historical Equity has united to unanimously recommend Concord Hills Regional Park be named:

Thurgood Marshall Regional Park - Home of the Port Chicago 50

This park name is supported by a petition of over 700 citizens and has been endorsed by regional organizations, churches, museums, veterans, and historians. The Black Employee Collective of the East Bay Regional Park District, Black Cultural Zone, Black Mecca Museum, Richmond Historical Society, and author Steve Sheinkin (*The Port Chicago 50*) are just a few of the many supporters of this park name recommendation.

The Port Chicago 50 – whose civil rights protest pre-dates Rosa Parks and the Montgomery Bus Boycott – should be revered for courageously standing up for equality. Honoring the Port Chicago 50 will give voice to the patriots who lost their lives in the explosion and bring renewed context to enhance and serve their legacy. The deaths of all the men who perished in that tragic explosion had profound meaning. The explosion that cost these men their lives was a catalyst for a regional civil rights movement that echoed throughout the halls of the White House and forever changed this country for the better. That's a momentous legacy we cannot allow to be forgotten.

Supreme Court Justice and NAACP Chief Counsel Thurgood Marshall represents the highest ideals of our country and is a shining symbol of equality and justice. As a champion of civil rights, he advocated for environmental, racial, and social justice including Indigenous sovereignty and self-determination. These themes resonate throughout the many stories that will be interpreted at the future visitor center. Marshall is a hero and inspiration for future generations.

The enthusiasm and support for this naming recommendation continues to grow. As recently-retired Park District GM Robert Doyle said, "This story is not a Contra Costa story, it is a national story [and] I don't know anywhere in the District where we've had an issue of a national scale... This is probably one of the most important decisions in the Park District's history."

Recognizing the sacrifices and contributions of people of color in this park name, by naming the park after Black patriots, will serve as a beacon to the Bay Area and the entire country that the East Bay Regional Park District values and welcomes Black visitors and honors our veterans and the cultural stories of the lands.

For these reasons, we respectfully ask the East Bay Regional Park District to declare Concord Hills Regional Park be named:

Thurgood Marshall Regional Park - Home of the Port Chicago 50.

Signed,

Citizens for Historical Equity

United Veterans Council of Pittsburgh, CA

Friends of Port Chicago
National Memorial

National Association for the Advancement
of Colored People (NAACP) East County



Cc:

NPS Superintendent of Port Chicago Naval Magazine National Memorial

EBRPD General Manager

EBRPD Deputy General Manager

EBRPD AGM of Acquisition & Stewardship Division

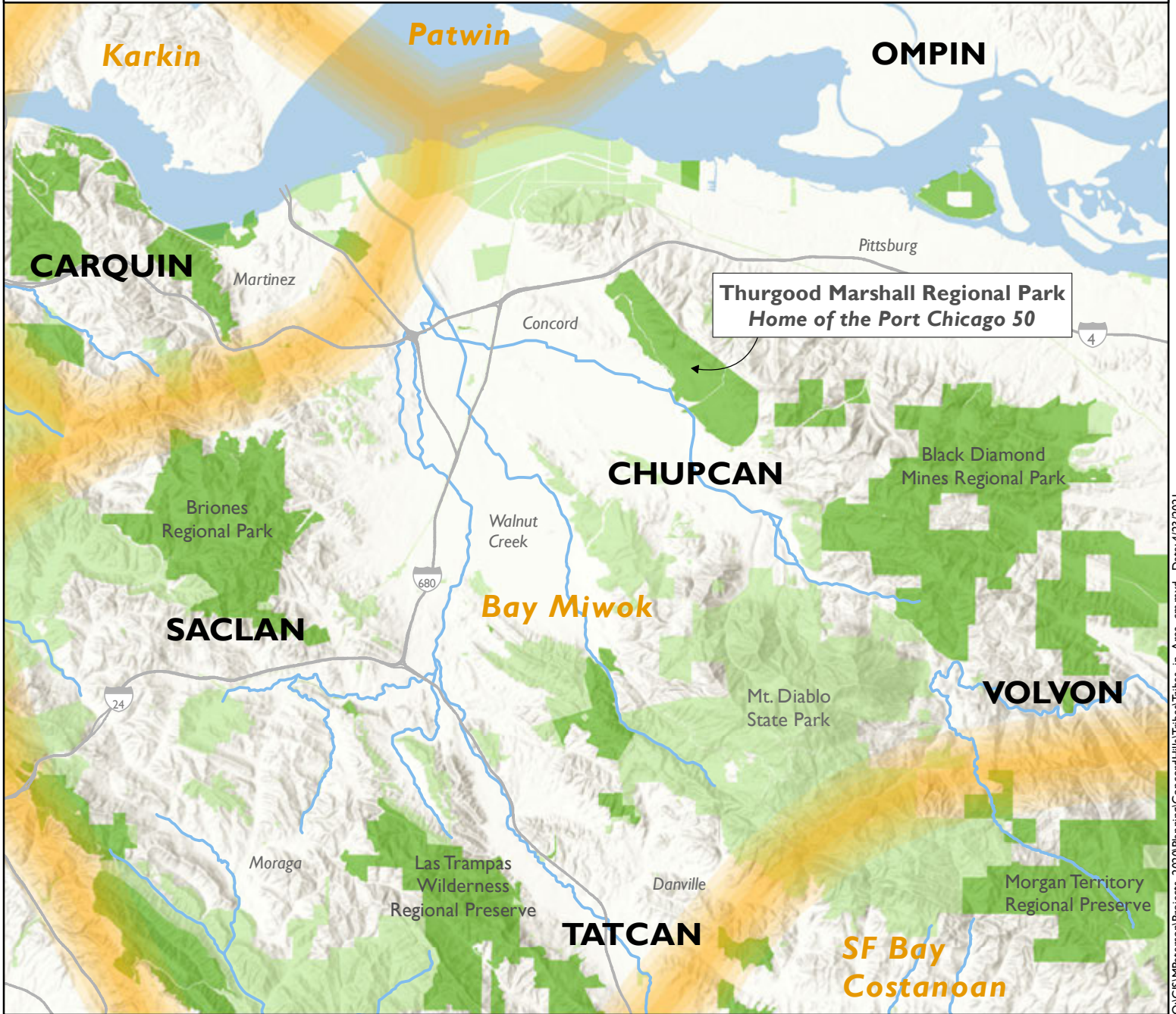
EBRPD Planning Department

EBRPD Black Employee Collective

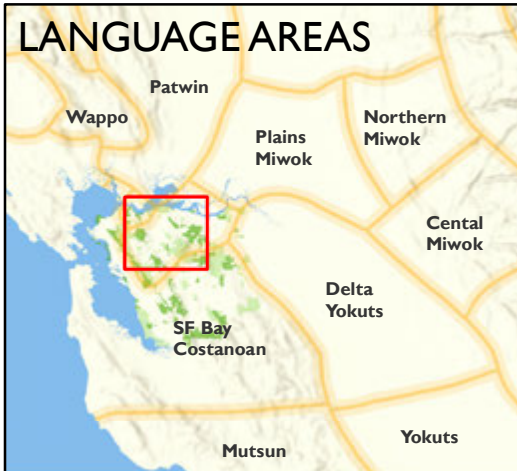
THURGOOD MARSHALL REGIONAL PARK HOME OF THE PORT CHICAGO 50

Native American peoples of Central Contra Costa County

April 2021

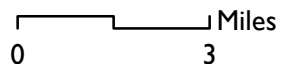


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LEGEND

- Language Areas
- EBRPD Lands
- Other Open Space



EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT**BOARD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Meeting of September 3, 2020

TO: Board Executive Committee

FROM: Robert E. Doyle, General Manager

STAFF REPORT
PREPARED BY: Devan Reiff, Principal Planner

SUBJECT: Concord Hills Regional Park Naming Selection

Devan Reiff, Principal Planner, will make a presentation on this agenda item.

BACKGROUND

On July 7, 2020, the East Bay Regional Park District Board of Directors adopted the Concord Hills Regional Park Land Use Plan (LUP) and certified the Environmental Impact Report, creating a new 2,500-acre park at the site of the former Concord Naval Weapons Station (CNWS). At the May 7, 2020 Board Executive Committee (Committee) meeting, after a staff presentation, the Committee directed staff to continue with consultation with native peoples of the East Bay and their tribal leadership regarding a name for the future park, and to bring the LUP to the full Board separately from the naming selection of the park. On August 3, 2020, after consulting with most tribal leaders in one-on-one meetings, staff brought an informational report to the Committee, pledging to return on September 3rd, with a naming recommendation.

“Concord Hills Regional Park” has been the working name for the future park since 2013, when it was included in the Park District’s Master Plan. Staff solicited input on the name of the future park throughout the planning process during community engagement events for the LUP and through public online surveys. Summaries of these surveys are found in the staff report from the May 7, 2020 Board Executive Committee meeting.

Tribal consultation: With the assistance of former Park District Cultural Services Coordinator Dr. Beverly Ortiz, Park District staff started with a list of contacts from the California Native American Heritage Commission, which included federally recognized tribes, and tribes and tribal entities with cultural affiliations to Ohlone, Bay Miwok, and/or Delta Miwok homelands. From that larger list, staff was able to contact and speak with several leaders of East Bay tribal entities, and all agree the new park in Concord should be named in recognition of the native peoples who lived in the Concord/ Mt. Diablo area, or a name that uses their language, to reflect their culture. The tribal leaders spoken with to date are from:

- *Association of Ramaytush Ohlone*

- *California Indian Water Commission*
- *Confederated Villages of Lisjan*
- *Costanoan Rumsen Carmel*
- *Him're-n of Ohlone, Bay Miwok and Plains Miwok*
- *Indian Canyon Mutsun Band of Costanoan People*
- *lone Band of Miwok Indians*
- *Ohlone Indian Tribe*
- *Muwekma Ohlone Tribe*
- *Wilton Rancheria*

The *Amah Mutsun Tribal Band* declined to participate in the park naming conversation, as the Concord area is outside their traditional tribal territory.

Tribal entities which were contacted, but with whom staff did not speak by the date of this report:

- *North Valley Yokuts Tribe*
- *Santa Rosa Rancheria*

Staff held consensus meetings with all the tribal leaders previously consulted with (one leader did not participate in the consensus meeting). The leaders appeared to reach consensus on a name, “**Chupcan Territory Regional Park**” named for the Chupcan, the Bay-Miwok speaking people who lived in the area now becoming the park. As others tribal leaders had suggested “**Chupcan Regional Park**” be the park name, the choice by some to add the word “Territory” was explained as referring, in a general way, to the larger area where the Chupcan people lived at the time of European contact (see map as Attachment A). It was not intended to demarcate any specific boundary of the Chupcan people, because current representations of tribal boundaries are modern approximations, actual tribal boundaries were based on natural features, and fluid over time. There was a discussion of a non-western spelling of the name, to make sure the park name was linguistically accurate to the Bay Miwok language group, and “**Cupkan Regional Park**” or “**Cupkkaan Regional Park**,” were suggested.

However, further clarification following the consensus meeting reiterated that for some tribal leaders, “Chupcan Territory” was their second choice, and their first choice was for using the Bay Miwok language in the park name, which is important to them to perpetuate their living culture. Tribal leaders considered several culturally-affiliated park names in the Bay Miwok language (see Attachment B). One idea which garnered the most interest for the leaders who wanted a Bay Miwok language name was to convey the past generations of elders and the generations to come in the future: “**Caaco’ aanikssan Regional Park**”—“place of our grandchildren’s future.” Other considerations were “**Wakaaceko’ oonimun Regional Park** – “Rivers coming together,” and “**Wile’weepa Regional Park**” –“Flower Hill.”

Staff noted that there will be naming opportunities for trails and park features in the future interpretive and trails planning for the Park. There was also interest from some tribal leaders in using the Park’s interpretive plan to present a history of Native American participation in the

United States military, connecting the native presence on the land to the use of the land by the United States Navy for the last 75 years. Also, to include interpretive signage of natural features of the park which includes names in the Bay Miwok language. Staff is working on this research for possible inclusion at a later date.

Park District Naming Policy: The Park District’s naming policy states, in part:

Regional Parks, trails, features, areas and facilities will be named after natural features such as plant and animal life, geographic, topographic or paleontological features or for cultural features such as archaeological and historic artifacts, historic persons, families or events Existing historically related names shall be respected.¹

A park’s name gives the public a sense of what they can expect at the park. Park names tell the cultural, historical, geological or biological stories of the land. For the new regional park in Concord, a name will tell about the location of this park, and of the people who have used this land during different periods of history. The name can assist with the interpretive program of the park – telling the stories of the many people who lived and used this land.

The 2004 Naming Policy guides the process by which the Park District selects a name, starting with coordination by the Planning department, either in an “appropriate planning document for the parkland unit or by separate Board Resolution.” Four steps follow in the Naming Policy:

1. Staff will submit naming recommendations for review by the Board Executive Committee. The Board Executive Committee will make a recommendation to the full Board of Directors.
2. The Park Advisory Committee (PAC) will review the Board Executive Committee recommendation and make its own recommendation to the Board of Directors.
3. In a case where the PAC disagrees with the Board Executive Committee’s recommendation, the recommendation will be returned to the Board Executive Committee.
4. The full Board will consider the naming proposal.

As a part of the development of the LUP and naming process, staff conducted an online survey with the leading names suggested throughout the public outreach process to date. As tribal input had not yet been solicited, the survey did not include a native affiliated name. However, interest in a native name was a recurring theme in the “Other” category. The 1,200 votes from the four public surveys indicated a preference for the following four names and Other suggestions: “Concord Hills,” “Diablo Vista,” “Los Medanos,” “Monte Del Diablo,” and “Other.” The top selected names are listed below in alphabetical order, with staff’s evaluation of advantages (pro) and disadvantages (con) for each potential park name. In each case, the future regional park’s name would be “_____ Regional Park.”

¹ “Naming Policy and Guidelines.” Adopted on April 20, 2004, Resolution No. 2004-04-73.

1. Concord Hills: This has been used as a placeholder name for the Future Park during the land use planning process.
 - Pro: straight-forward name—lets people know where they are and what to expect at the park. This name was selected in a resolution by the Concord City Council a few months ago as their preferred name for the park.
 - Con: the name was made-up for the planning process and is not a previously recognized geographic name. The name does not reference the park's location with respect to the City of Pittsburg.
2. Diablo Vista:
 - Pro: name recognizes the view from the future park to neighboring Mt. Diablo
 - Con: not an official geographic, historic or topographic name. Also, it is the name of a school in Danville and a residential development in Livermore.
3. Los Medanos: Named for the 1835 Mexican land grant and ranch of Jose Mesa and Jose Miquel, which included today's communities of Pittsburg, Bay Point, and Antioch, this is the most widely recognized name for the range of hills between Concord and Pittsburg.
 - Pro: broadly recognized geographic name for the hills in the future regional park.
 - Con: future regional park is not actually located on land that was part of Rancho Los Medanos; and, the name is primarily associated with Los Medanos College in Pittsburg.
4. Monte Del Diablo: Name of 1834 Mexican land grant and ranch of Don Salvio Pacheco, land which includes today's City of Concord.
 - Pro: recognizes the period of Mexican history of the land.
 - Con: may be confused with nearby Mount Diablo State Park.
5. "Other": Individual responses from online "Other" suggestions which received more than a single vote were discussed in the May 7, 2020 Board Executive Committee report. In general, the "Other" responses suggested an interest in a native-affiliated name as well as names which honored the sailors who died or were injured in the Port Chicago explosion of 1944 and the "Port Chicago Fifty," who were convicted during the mutiny trial; military history, individuals associated with Concord, and geographic names, such as "Vista Diablo."

While the LUP contains suggested names of trails, roads, and natural park features, it will be during the park's development stages when individual park features are named. For example, the LUP contains proposed names recognizing the area's Native American heritage, such as "Chupcan Trail." It is during the park's implementation stage, at the time of the park opening, that these features will be given their final names.

ACTIONS TO RESULT FROM NAMING DECISION

Upon receiving a final recommendation from the Committee, Planning staff will present the item to the full Board of Directors for consideration.

Upon Board adoption of the naming recommendation, Park District staff will complete the following actions:

- Planning and GIS staff will add this name to the Park District's list of names to avoid future naming redundancy;
- GIS staff will update the parks database to reflect the change;
- The Park Supervisor will install park signage; and
- Public Affairs staff will include this update in the printing of the park brochure, and update the Park District's website.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Board Executive Committee consider either "Chupcan Territory Regional Park" as the name of the future Park in Concord (with the further consideration of a linguistically accurate spelling), or, "Caaco' aanikssan Regional Park," and forward a final recommendation to the full Board of Directors. Aside from staff time, there is no cost associated with this naming.

ATTACHMENTS

- A. Map: Native peoples of Central Contra Costa County
- B. Table: Native naming suggestions for the future Park