

RICHMOND, CALIFORNIA, September 15, 2020

The Richmond City Council Evening Open Session was called to order at 5:01 p.m. by Mayor Thomas K. Butt via teleconference.

Due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, Contra Costa County and Governor Gavin Newsom issued multiple orders requiring sheltering in place, social distancing, and reduction of person-to-person contact. Accordingly, Governor Gavin Newsom issued executive orders that allowed cities to hold public meetings via teleconferencing (Executive Order N-29-20).

DUE TO THE SHELTER IN PLACE ORDERS, attendance at the City of Richmond City Council meeting was limited to Councilmembers, essential City of Richmond staff, and members of the news media. Public comment was confined to items appearing on the agenda and was limited to the methods provided below. Consistent with Executive Order N-29-20, this meeting utilized teleconferencing only. The following provides information on how the public participated in the meeting.

The public was able to view the meeting from home on KCRT Comcast Channel 28 or AT&T Uverse Channel 99 and livestream online at <http://www.ci.richmond.ca.us/3178/KCRT-Live>.

*Written public comments were received via email to cityclerkdept@ci.richmond.ca.us. Comments received by 1:00 p.m. on September 15, 2020, were summarized at the meeting, put into the record, and considered before Council action. Comments received via email after 1:00 p.m. and up until the public comment period on the relevant agenda item closed, were put into the record. Public comments were also received via teleconference during the meeting. **Attached herewith all written public comments received.***

ROLL CALL

Present: Councilmembers Ben Choi, Demnlus Johnson III, Vice Mayor Nathaniel Bates, and Mayor Thomas K. Butt.
Absent: Councilmembers Eduardo Martinez and Melvin Willis arrived after the Open Session adjourned to Closed Session. Councilmember Jael Myrick was absent for the entire Open and Closed Sessions.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The city clerk announced that the purpose of the Open Session was for the City Council to hear public comments on the following items to be discussed in Closed Session:

CITY COUNCIL

LIABILITY CLAIMS - (Government Code Section 54956.9):

Robin Poindexter v. City of Richmond
Mark Cisneros v. City of Richmond

CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - EXISTING LITIGATION (paragraph (1) of Subdivision [d] of Government Code Section 54956.9):

Cooley v. City of Richmond, et al.

CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS (Government Code Section 54957.6):

Agency Representatives: Jack Hughes

Employee organizations:

1. SEIU Local 1021 Full-Time Unit
2. SEIU Local 1021 Part-Time Unit
3. IFPTE Local 21 Mid-Level Management Unit
4. IFPTE Local 21 Executive Management Unit
5. Richmond Police Officers Association RPOA
6. Richmond Police Management Association RPMA
7. IAFF Local 188
8. Richmond Fire Management Association RFMA

There were no public comments via teleconference.

The Open Session adjourned to Closed Session at 5:03 p.m.
Closed Session adjourned at 6:26 p.m.

The Regular Meeting of the Successor Agency to the Richmond Community Redevelopment Agency and Richmond City Council was called to order at 6:38 p.m. by Mayor Butt via teleconference.

ROLL CALL

Present: Councilmembers Choi, Johnson, Martinez, Vice Mayor Bates, and Mayor Butt. **Absent:** Councilmember Willis arrived during Agenda Review. Councilmember Myrick was absent for the entire meeting.

STATEMENT OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None.

AGENDA REVIEW

Item H-7 was removed from the Consent Calendar for discussion at the end of the agenda. Item G-1 was agendized incorrectly and was moved under Resolutions for discussion immediately following the Public Hearings. Item J-1 was continued to the October 6, 2020, City Council meeting.

The city clerk announced the public comment procedure published in the agenda.

REPORT FROM THE CITY ATTORNEY ON FINAL DECISIONS MADE DURING CLOSED SESSION

Interim City Attorney Rachel Sommovilla reported that the City Council approved a settlement for the Cooley v. City Richmond, Contra Costa Superior Court Case #MSC16-01860, by the unanimous vote of the six councilmembers in attendance for an amount of \$47,500 in exchange for the release of claims.

REPORT FROM THE CITY MANAGER

City Manager Laura Snideman stated there were no items to report.

OPEN FORUM FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

The following individuals gave comments via teleconference:

Angela Cox announced that on September 22, 2020, the Richmond Public Library, Richmond Youth Council members, and young adults were hosting a drive-thru safe and secure voter registration event in the parking lot at Barrett Avenue and 25th Street. Ms. Cox stated that voter registrations would be delivered directly to the elections department. The event was opened to Contra Costa and Alameda county residents. Unhoused individuals with a mailing address were also encouraged to participate. The event was held in solidarity with National Voter Registration Day.

Benjamin Therriault expressed concerns regarding comments made by the council-liaison, Jael Myrick, at the September 2, 2020, Community Police Review Commission (CPRC) meeting regarding Richmond Police Sergeant Virgil Thomas, who recently passed away. Mr. Therriault demanded an apology and reprimanded city leadership for its lack of condolences and dignity for Sergeant Thomas. Mr. Therriault acknowledged Vice Mayor Bates and CPRC Commissioner Steven Lacey for their condolences.

Tom Phelps gave comments against the City of Richmond paying for two Human Resource Directors. Mr. Phelps stated that contractors should never have decision-making authority and should be limited to consulting. Mr. Phelps suggested that the extended services of the Interim Human Resources Director, Allison Picard, be included in a contract for public review and Council approval.

Tarnell Abbott gave comments against the City Council's vote in favor of the proposed Point Molate development at its September 8, 2020, special meeting. Ms. Abbott quoted several sections from The American Institute of Architects Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct regarding natural and cultural heritage, human dignity and health, environmental equity and justice, and ecosystems. Ms. Abbott expressed concerns regarding nepotism and the City of Richmond boards and commissions.

SUCCESSOR AGENCY TO THE RICHMOND COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY CONSENT CALENDAR

(This item was agendized incorrectly; it was not a Consent Calendar item, and was moved under Resolutions for discussion and action).

G-1. The matter to adopt a resolution authorizing the issuance of not to exceed \$25,000,000 in tax-exempt and/or taxable refunding bonds for the purpose of financing the prepayment of certain obligations under a loan agreement and the refunding of certain bonds of the Richmond Community Redevelopment Agency and funding a swap termination payment related to the Richmond Community Redevelopment Agency's subordinate tax allocation refunding bonds (merged project areas),

2010 Series A; approving the forms and authorizing the execution and delivery of a First Supplemental Trust Agreement, a Bond Purchase Agreement, a Continuing Disclosure Agreement, one or more Escrow Agreements, a Swap Termination Agreement and documents related thereto; and authorizing and approving certain actions taken in connection therewith was introduced by Jo Mortensen of the Public Resources Advisory Group. Discussion ensued. The Council requested that future items of this nature be placed on the agenda for discussion and not under the Consent Calendar. On motion of Councilmember Martinez, seconded by Councilmember Choi, adopted **Resolution No. 20-1** by the following vote: **Ayes:** Councilmembers Choi, Johnson, Martinez, Vice Mayor Bates, and Mayor Butt. **Noes:** None. **Absent:** Councilmembers Myrick and Willis. **Abstained:** None.

CITY COUNCIL CONSENT CALENDAR

On motion of Councilmember Johnson, seconded by Councilmember Choi, the items marked with an (*) were approved by the following vote of the City Council: **Ayes:** Councilmembers Choi, Johnson, Martinez, Willis, Vice Mayor Bates, and Mayor Butt. **Noes:** None. **Absent:** Councilmember Myrick. **Abstained:** None.

***H-1.** Approved the first amendment to a legal services agreement with Shartsis Friese LLP (Kathleen Keeler Bryski and Jodi Fedor) to continue representation of the City of Richmond in negotiations with the selected Point Molate master developer for the disposition and development of Point Molate, to increase the payment limit by \$150,000 with a total payment limit of \$450,000 to be paid with funds deposited by the master developer, and to extend the term to June 30, 2022.

***H-2.** Approved an amendment to the contract with Koff and Associates in the amount of \$10,000, to assist the City of Richmond with the Executive Management recruitments, for a total amount not to exceed \$20,000.

***H-3.** Approved a standing purchase order with Universal Building Services & Supply Co. for green seal cleaning products and trash bags in an amount not to exceed \$200,000 over a three-year period, with an option to extend the purchase order for an additional two years.

***H-4.** Adopted **Resolution No. 98-20** accepting and appropriating a grant award for Fiscal Year 2019-2020, in the amount of \$8,723, from the Pacific Library Partnership for networking/broadband costs and costs related to Link+, for the Library and Community Services Department, Library Division.

***H-5.** Received the City's Investment and Cash Balance Report for the month of July 2020.

***H-6.** Adopted **Resolution No. 99-20** reaffirming the Contra Costa Mayors Conference letter supporting the 'Plan Bay Area 2050 Baseline Data Methodology' for the Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA).

H-7. The matter to adopt an ordinance (second reading) rezoning the Project Site to a Point Molate Planned Area District (PM-PAD) with -H, Historic District Overlay for the Winehaven Historic District, and adopt an ordinance (second reading)

approving a Development Agreement was introduced by Community Development Director Lina Velasco. David Shriver of Bay Area Economics provided a summary review of the Strategic Economics memorandum and financial analysis peer review for the proposed Point Molate development. Outside legal counselor, Christian March of Downey Brand LLP, gave an overview of the project development agreements. The following individuals gave comments via teleconference: Jonathan Livingston, Pam Stello, Sally Tobin, Jim Hanson, and Robert Cheasty. Further discussion ensued. A motion was made by Councilmember Willis, seconded by Councilmember Martinez, not to approve item H-7. A substitute motion made by Vice Mayor Bates, seconded by Councilmember Choi, adopted **Ordinance No. 22-20 N.S.** and **Ordinance No. 23-20 N.S.** by the following vote: **Ayes:** Councilmembers Choi, Johnson, Vice Mayor Bates, and Mayor Butt. **Noes:** Councilmembers Martinez and Willis. **Absent:** Councilmember Myrick. **Abstained:** None.

***H-8.** Approved an appointment to the Planning Commission: appointed Bruce Brubaker, new appointment, seat #4, term expiration date June 30, 2022; Masoomah Sharifi Soofiani, new appointment, seat #6, term expiration date June 30, 2022; Alpa Agarwal, new appointment, seat #7, term expiration date June 30, 2022.

***H-9.** Approved a contract amendment with Alex Kushner Construction to expand the scope of work and increase the contract amount by \$78,000 to a total contract amount of \$978,000 to pay the final construction change order for the ADA Improvements at the Shields Reid Community Center.

***H-10.** Designated Mayor Tom Butt as voting delegate to represent the City of Richmond at the League of California Cities' 2020 Annual Conference and Expos being held virtually Wednesday, October 7 and 8.

***H-11.** Approved the minutes of the regular July 28, 2020, and special August 5, 11, and 18, 2020, meetings.

**CITY OF RICHMOND CONSENT CALENDAR
RESOLUTIONS RELATING TO POLICY DECISIONS ON
ISSUES THAT PERTAIN TO OTHER JURISDICTIONS**

On motion of Councilmember Johnson, seconded by Councilmember Choi, the item marked with an (*) was approved by the following vote of the City Council: **Ayes:** Councilmembers Choi, Johnson, Martinez, Willis, Vice Mayor Bates, and Mayor Butt. **Noes:** None. **Absent:** Councilmember Myrick. **Abstained:** None. .

***I-1.** Adopted **Resolution No. 100-20** urging the state legislature and governor to overturn Assembly Bill 1838 (2018) and give cities back their right to improve public health and raise revenue by disincentivizing consumption of soda and other sugary beverages.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

J-1. **Continued to the October 6, 2020, meeting** the matter to hold a public hearing to introduce an ordinance (first reading) amending section 15.04.104.020, Definitions, section 15.04.201.020, Land Use Regulations, section 15.04.201.030.A,

Accessory Building Height, section 15.04.201.050.B, Accessory Building Height, section 15.04.202.020, Land Use Regulations, section 15.04.607.040, Calculation of Parking Requirements, and section 15.04.610.030, Accessory Short-Term Rentals ("Home-Shares") and repealing section 15.04.610.020, Accessory Dwelling Units, and adopting section 15.04.610.020, Accessory Dwelling Units and Junior Accessory Dwelling Units of the Richmond Municipal Code Regarding Accessory Dwelling Units and Junior Accessory Dwelling Units. This item was continued from the September 8, 2020, meeting.

J-2. Continued to the September 22, 2020, meeting the matter to hold a public hearing; and introduce an ordinance for the cleanup amendments to Chapter 15.04 - Zoning and Subdivisions Regulations of the Richmond Municipal Code.

COUNCIL AS A WHOLE

K-1. A motion was made by Councilmember Johnson, seconded by Councilmember Martinez, to approve an employment contract with Ms. Stricker appointing her as City Attorney, providing for a three-year term commencing November 9, 2020, at a base salary of \$235,680 annually, and other specified employment terms. Discussion ensued. The motion passed by the following vote: **Ayes:** Councilmembers Choi, Johnson, Martinez, Willis, and Mayor Butt. **Noes:** Vice Mayor Bates. **Absent:** Councilmember Myrick. **Abstained:** None.

K-2. The matter to receive an update on the status of the "Re-imagining Police and Public Safety" process; provide feedback on a possible future consultation and facilitation services agreement with CircleUp Education; and consider appointment methodology recommendation to form a 21-member task force was introduced by City Manager Laura Snideman. Mayor Butt provided an overview of the proposed task force nomination and appointment process. Discussion ensued. The Council expressed concerns regarding the proposed task force appointment process; bidding process vs. sole source; terms and scope of work for the proposed CircleUp Education services agreement and inspection of remote work; and how stakeholders will be chosen and how coaching will be conducted. The Council suggested that the cost of the proposed consultant services could be allocated to the Community Police Review Commission (CPRC) to lead the process. Mayor Butt agreed that CPRC members could be recommended to the task force by councilmembers. Randy Joseph and Benjamin Therriault gave comments via teleconference. Further discussion ensued. Mayor Butt requested each councilmember to recruit and solicit three task force members for recommendation. The Council requested that this matter be placed on the September 22, 2020, City Council agenda for further discussion on the consultation and facilitation services.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS: REFERRALS TO STAFF, AND GENERAL REPORTS (INCLUDING AB 1234 REPORTS)

None.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:46 p.m., to meet again on Tuesday, September 22, 2020, at 6:30 p.m.

Clerk of the City of Richmond
(SEAL)

Approved:

Mayor

From: [Brieanna Aguilar](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept](#)
Subject: Public Comments-Open Session prior to Closed Session
Date: Tuesday, September 15, 2020 12:36:42 PM

Honorable mayor, City Council members, city staff and fellow citizens,

Lately there were many rallies organized by residents throughout California to oppose proposition 16. One car rally was held at El Cerrito, right next to our city Richmond, on 9/5. I learned that Prop 16 is aiming to repeal Prop 209, part of California constitution, which clearly prohibits the state from discriminating against, or granting preferential treatment to, any individual or group on the basis of race, sex, color, ethnicity, or national origin in the operation of public employment, public education, or public contracting. Yet the state wants to repeal it. If Prop 16 passes in the Nov election, it means we the Californians allow the state to discriminate against all of us based on our race, gender or color and allow special treatment by the state in college admissions, jobs and contracting. This is totally unconstitutional and against the American value of equal rights.

Furthermore I have learnt that the ballot label was written in a very misleading fashion. It says Prop 16 allows diversity as a factor in public employment, education and contracting decisions. The legislators are playing word game with the voters. They replaced the word “discrimination” with the word “diversity”. This is discrimination in the name of “diversity”.

Let’s all not be misled by the ballot label. We should all say no to discrimination and most of all discrimination from the state level. Please vote NO on Prop 16 in Nov!

Thank you

A concerned resident

From: [Hao Huang](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept](#)
Subject: Public Comments-Open Session prior to Closed Session-No Prop 16
Date: Tuesday, September 15, 2020 12:25:14 PM

Dear city council and city staff,

Thank you for your hard work. 2020 has been a difficult year for all of us. But now is the time we need you to establish your leadership over your constituency. We need you to take a difficult, but correct stand.

On November 3, 2020, voters will be presented with a proposition that goes against our city. That is proposition 16. It seeks to eliminate the California Constitution that says that government cannot discriminate based on race or gender. If proposition 16 passes, government will be legally permitted to discriminate based on race or gender. This will take us back into the 1960s.

Although Proposition 16 is summarized as providing for diversity, it's really about "governmental preferences". This is a legalized form of discrimination.

That's why, as a resident and constituent, I'm requesting you to a public stand against Proposition 16. Join hundreds of politicians, civil rights leaders, parents, and children to oppose proposition 16.

To find out more about Proposition 16 please click this link: [NoProp16.info](#) and [StopProp16.org](#)

Thank you!

Kimberly

From: [Cordell Hindler](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept](#)
Subject: OPEN FORUM FOR PUBLIC COMMENT
Date: Thursday, September 10, 2020 8:55:17 PM

hello Sabrina, i have some comments to go into the Record

1. To have Andy Katz to make a presentation in Regarding the Need for a Hospital in West County
2. as far as H-2 is Concerned, i am in full Support of having Koff & Associates helping the HR department in recruiting for a Public Works Director.
- 3 my Projects is coming along superbly and i will share it with the Council when i return.

Sincerely
Cordell

From: [Jim Hanson](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept](#)
Subject: Public comments Item H-7
Date: Tuesday, September 15, 2020 12:59:32 PM
Attachments: [Pt. Molate H-7 Council 9-15-20 CNPS.pdf](#)
[SunCal proposed grading in public Open Space Vesting Maps 9-8-20.pdf](#)

Hello, please see attached. thank you



CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

East Bay Chapter

www.ebcnps.org

P.O. Box 5597, Elmwood Station, Berkeley, CA 94705 September 15, 2020

Mayor and Members of the Council
City of Richmond
450 Civic Center Plaza
Richmond, CA 94804

RE: Council Item H-7 – Investigate the Community Plan to Repurpose Pt. Molate

Dear Mayor and Members of the Council:

The Point Molate agenda item tonight does not adequately address the Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) comments by the California Native Plant Society and others on the proposed SunCal project plan, nor does it allow adequate consideration of the Community Plan, the EIR superior alternative.

Many of the issues noted in the FEIR, including environmental issues, stem from the proposed project's out-of-scale, inappropriate development of Point Molate, a place of remarkable natural assets and very real constraints.

The proposed SunCal project proposal before you tonight:

Is inconsistent with the Richmond General Plan – The EIR's proposed project violates at least eleven Conservation and Natural Resources and Land Use policies that the City Council and the people of Richmond adopted to guide Point Molate's, and the city's, development.

Fails to meet the agreement for "70% Open Space" - The Grading Overall Plan in the Vesting Maps (see attached map analysis) reveals intensive grading and other construction-related work within the "70% open space" promised to the public.

Inappropriately and inadequately cares for the site's natural resources – The natural biodiversity of this site - including the remarkable native coastal prairie and coastal scrub plant communities - give it its beauty and intrinsic value. A more in-scale project avoids the destruction of these remarkable natural resources. This project does not respect Point Molate's valuable and irreplaceable natural beauty.

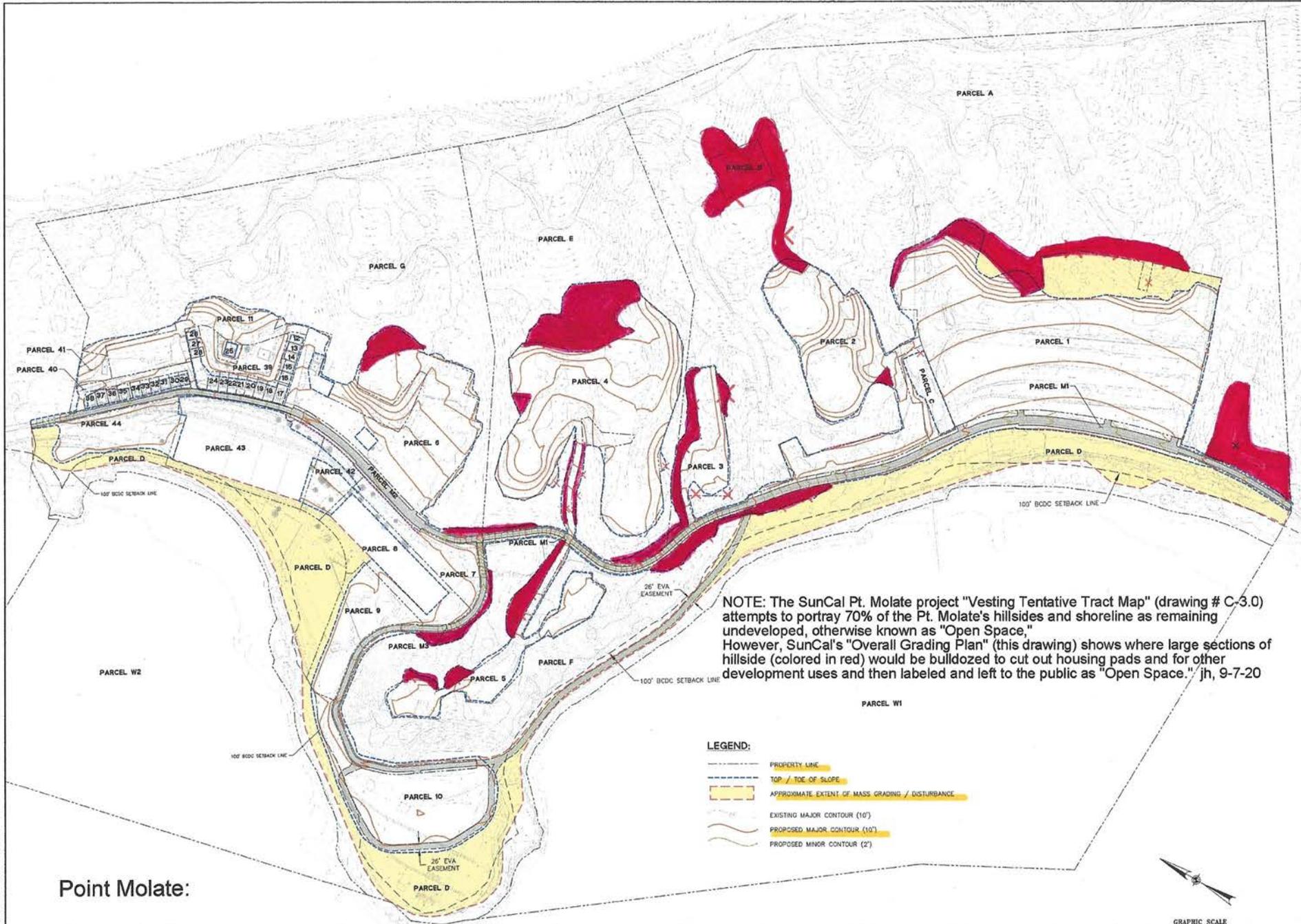
The Council granted SunCal numerous time extensions. In turn, the California Native Plant Society asks your Council to schedule study sessions so that you and we can look carefully at the numerous financial, traffic, fire, environmental and other major issues from the public's EIR comments on the proposed SunCal "mixed use project," as well as look into the EIR's environmentally superior alternative, the Community Plan.

Sincerely,

Judy Schwartz
Judy Schwartz, President

Jim Hanson
Jim Hanson, Conservation Committee Chair

Project	Point Molate
City	City of Richmond
Map No.	07/24/2010 03/24/2010
Drawn By	J. H. J.
Checked By	J. H. J.
Approved By	J. H. J.
Date	08/28/2010



NOTE: The SunCal Pt. Molate project "Vesting Tentative Tract Map" (drawing # C-3.0) attempts to portray 70% of the Pt. Molate's hillsides and shoreline as remaining undeveloped, otherwise known as "Open Space." However, SunCal's "Overall Grading Plan" (this drawing) shows where large sections of hillside (colored in red) would be bulldozed to cut out housing pads and for other development uses and then labeled and left to the public as "Open Space." jh, 9-7-20

- LEGEND:**
- PROPERTY LINE
 - - - TOP / TOE OF SLOPE
 - APPROXIMATE EXTENT OF MASS GRADING / DISTURBANCE
 - EXISTING MAJOR CONTOUR (10')
 - PROPOSED MAJOR CONTOUR (10')
 - PROPOSED MINOR CONTOUR (2')



Point Molate:

SunCal's proposed grading/development in public's "Open Space"

From: [Cordell Hindler](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept](#)
Subject: K-1. APPROVE an employment Agreement
Date: Thursday, September 10, 2020 9:13:24 PM

hello Sabrina, i have a comment in Regarding K-1, in the Words of Clair Huxtable: let the Record show that I had single handed had looked into Koff and Associates in seeking a firm to help with the Recruitment in finding our Next City Attorney: so my recommendation is to 1. APPROVE MS Stricker and 2. to give me an award for my efforts.

Sincerely
Cordell

From: [Sally Tobin](#)
To: [Tom Butt - external](#); [Ben Choi](#); [Nat Bates](#); [Eduardo Martinez](#); [Demnlus Johnson](#); [Jael Myrick](#); [Melvin Willis](#); [City Clerk Dept](#)
Cc: [Lina Velasco](#)
Subject: Pubic Comments - Agenda Item # H-7
Date: Tuesday, September 15, 2020 1:52:20 PM

Sara L. (Sally) Tobin
742 Lobos Avenue
Richmond, CA 94801

September 15, 2020

Re: Agenda Item H-7, City Council Meeting September 15, 2020

Mayor Butt and City Council Members Martinez, Willis, Myrick, Bates, Choi, and Johnson,

I urge you to vote "No" on Agenda Item H-7 for the following reasons:

LOSS OF REGIONAL PARK AND EBRPD FUNDING

Because the proposed development is too large and unwieldy for the site, East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) is unwilling to accept either the Beach Park and/or the hillsides as Regional Park components. This means that nearly 5 million dollars budgeted for a regional park at Point Molate will be lost to the City and its residents. EBRPD has been negotiating with the City, but according to two letters that have been released, the District has two major concerns. The first regards fire danger in the fragmented hillside areas. Because wildlife-urban interface (WUI) boundary between developed areas and open space has been made longer by the development plan, the fire danger is increased substantially. EBRPD, which has extensive experience with fire danger and firefighting in the Bay Area, believes that even with a fire station on site, the danger is too extreme for these hillside fragments to be included in a regional park. Second, EBRPD is concerned about the number of housing units proposed for Drum Lot 2, across Stenmark Drive from the current Beach Park. They fear that the large number of people living in the units will overwhelm the Beach Park, squeezing out diverse Richmond residents. Though negotiations are said to be ongoing, there appears to be an impasse. As expressed in the EBRPD letter of September 8, "To date, the developer has not been willing to make even the most modest of changes the Park District has requested." Result: The residents of Richmond lose 5 million dollars and lose a regional park.

In addition, according to the City's proposal, the development's Master Association of homeowners and businesses will now manage the City-owned recreation and open space. The City will have no control or supervision. East Bay Regional Parks District, in their letter to the Design Review Board, said that the size of the development would convert the Beach Park into a private park for development residents. This means that the proposed development will reduce recreational opportunities for the public, rather than increase them. This is a violation of the General Plan.

PROPOSED GENERAL PLAN AMENDMENTS

The Richmond General Plan is an excellent and farsighted document to guide development in Richmond. The proposed modifications to accommodate the this proposed development permit taller buildings at higher density and remove important environmental protections. In addition, the development violates the

General Plan by reducing recreational opportunities for Richmond residents because the open space will be crowded with residents instead of welcoming the public.

DESIGN GUIDELINES

Design examples show Point Cavallo, Tiburon, and Sausalito. Only Point Cavallo was built on public land, and residential housing was found to be inappropriate. Tiburon and Sausalito were built on private ranchos. Consolidation of drainage outfalls is suggested, a less-than-ideal practice, especially above vulnerable eelgrass beds. Other design flaws show light pollution, and the risk of ecological damage is downplayed. Modifications introduced by Richmond's Design Review Board are excellent, but do not address whether the development is appropriate for public land belonging to Richmond residents.

TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM

This section presents the City's responses to letters received after the DSEIR comment period, after publication of the final SEIR, and at the Planning Commission hearings. The original letters are not presented, only summaries. The City states that there are no new issues. This does not inspire confidence. Why not post the letters for full disclosure?

EASEMENTS THROUGH ALL PRIVATE PROPERTIES

There is a blanket statement saying that there will be an easement through all private properties for the sewer force main. Does this refer to the properties in Point Richmond along Western Drive, Marine Drive, and Tewksbury Avenue? Have the property owners been informed?

POLLUTION AND TRAFFIC

Exhibit B - CEQA Findings and Statement of Overriding Considerations

Air quality and greenhouse gas emissions: Operational GHG emissions would remain significant and unavoidable, even after mitigation measures.

Transportation: The delay index for westbound 580 would increase, resulting in a cumulatively considerable contribution to a significant impact on freeway operations. Both impacts cannot be mitigated. The City needs affordable housing near infrastructure and transit hubs. What possible "overriding considerations" can outweigh the environmental damage and health risks to Richmond residents in the interest of an isolated upscale suburb?

ENVIRONMENTAL DAMAGE

In addition to the air pollution and traffic, the project will destroy a substantial amount of a rare grassland ecosystem, bulldoze more than half of the hillside, remove 212 mature trees, and use inadequate methods to protect existing plants and animals. The offshore eelgrass will be endangered by silt, which will harm commercial fisheries, as well as interfere with carbon sequestration.

PROCESS

The process for providing feedback and information to the City Council is apparently designed to limit public expression. Richmond has informed and involved citizens. The City Council would benefit from public discussion and ideas. If an issue raises an outcry such that it is hard for the City to deal with the volume of public response, maybe it's time to admit that this project wasn't such a good idea after all.

Sincerely,

Sara L. (Sally) Tobin, Ph.D.

From: [Randy Joseph](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept](#)
Subject: Public Comments Agenda Item #K2
Date: Tuesday, September 15, 2020 4:08:36 PM

Hello,

My name is Randy Joseph and I am a Richmond resident, and member of the Richmond Reimagining Public Safety Working Group.

I would like a neutral facilitation from the city of Richmond, not outside of it. We need someone who understands our unique community to be a part of the process. I would also want the city council member to considered individuals that are part of the Richmond Reimagining Public Safety Working Group to be part of the task force because they already have a lot of the work done. Also, this is not a 21 member group, but a 27 member group because 6 members were already founded in the original declaration.

Thank You,

Randy Joseph
Richmond Resident