

EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT

RESOLUTION NO.: 2022 - 06 - 163

June 21, 2022

RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT SJR 15 (GLAZER D-ORINDA) –
PORT CHICAGO 50 EXONERATION

WHEREAS, on July 17, 1944, the deadliest home front disaster of World War II took place when a tragic explosion occurred at the Port Chicago Naval Magazine killing 320 men (of whom 202 were African American) and wounding 390 (of whom 233 were African American); and

WHEREAS, 258 ammunition handlers engaged in a peaceful work stoppage rather than return under the same unsafe working conditions; and

WHEREAS, fifty of these men were charged with mutiny, prosecuted as guilty and sentenced to prison; and

WHEREAS, SJR 15 expresses the sense of the California State Senate that the trial and conviction of fifty African American sailors for mutiny in connection with their service at the Port Chicago Naval Magazine in Concord during World War II were wrongfully pursued because of racial prejudice; and

WHEREAS, Congress and the President of the United States should publicly exonerate the fifty sailors to further aid in healing the racial divide that continues to exist in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Park District has been working closely with the City of Concord, the United States Navy and the National Park Service on the establishment of the Thurgood Marshall Regional Park – Home of the Port Chicago 50 on the inland portion of the former Concord Naval Weapons Station with the official transfer of the property occurring on July 13, 2019; and

WHEREAS, the Park District is working to establish a visitor center within the new regional park which will meet the educational and public awareness goals of the Park District and for the Port Chicago Naval Magazine National Memorial; and

WHEREAS, the full Board adopted a resolution of support for the exoneration of the Port Chicago 50 and support for the previous Federal legislation, H.Con.Res. 40; and

WHEREAS, supporting SJR 15 is consistent with the Board's previous position.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Board of Directors of the East Bay Regional Park District hereby Support SJR 15 (Glazer D-Orinda) – Port Chicago 50 Exoneration; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the General Manager is hereby authorized and directed, on behalf of the Park District and in its name, to execute and deliver such documents, and to do such acts as may be deemed necessary or appropriate to accomplish the intentions of this resolution.

Moved by Director Lane, seconded by Director Corbett, and adopted this 21st day of June, 2022 by the following vote:

FOR: Colin Coffey, Ellen Corbett, Elizabeth Echols, Beverly Lane, Dee Rosario, Dennis Waespi, Ayn Wieskamp.

AGAINST: None.
ABSTAIN: None.
ABSENT: None.



Colin Coffey
Board President

CERTIFICATION
I, Yolande Barial Knight, Clerk of the Board of Directors of the East Bay Regional Park District, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of Resolution No 2022-06-163 adopted by the Board of Directors at a regular meeting held on June 21, 2022
Yolande Barial Knight