

FROM THE DESK OF
MARK DESAULNIER

May 31, 2021

East Bay Regional Park District
Board of Directors
2950 Peralta Oaks Court
P.O. Box 5381
Oakland, CA 94605-0381

Dear Board Members:

I write to express my strong support to name the future regional park at the former Concord Naval Weapons Station: Concord Regional Park as “Thurgood Marshall Regional Park – Home of the Port Chicago 50.”

Adopting this name would have both historical and representational significance. As a defender of the Port Chicago 50 in their historic fight against discrimination and wrongful convictions, Thurgood Marshall played an important role in their story. This trial, and Marshall’s role in it, helped to play a role in the desegregation of the Armed Forces. As the first African American Supreme Court justice, Marshall is more than deserving of this honor.

According to the Mercury News, this would be the first regional park in Contra Costa County named for an African American person. With almost 10% of all Contra Costa residents being African American, it is important to honor and represent an African American hero.

To both recognize the significance of Marshall’s contributions to our region and pay tribute to the important work African Americans like Marshall and the Port Chicago 50 have made throughout history, I strongly support the name “Thurgood Marshall Regional Park – Home of the Port Chicago 50.” I appreciate you taking the time to consider my views on this matter and trust they will be given the fair and thorough review they deserve.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark DeSaulnier', written in a cursive style.

Congressman Mark DeSaulnier