




**EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
AGENDA STAFF REPORT**

DATE	September 3, 2024
TITLE	Celebrating the Public Service Legacy of Director Ellen Corbett
DIVISION	General Manager's Office
FROM	Dr. Ana M Alvarez, Deputy General Manager Sabrina Landreth, General Manager
APPROVED	Sabrina Landreth, General Manager 

RECOMMENDATION

This is an informational presentation acknowledging Director Ellen Corbett's exceptional contributions to public service and the East Bay Regional Park District.

BACKGROUND

Ellen Corbett's extensive career in public service has significantly shaped the community and the environment within the East Bay region. Her journey began with her tenure on the San Leandro City Council, where she served as the city's first woman Mayor from the 1990s to early 2000s. During this time, Corbett played a pivotal role in enhancing local infrastructure and community programs, establishing a robust foundation for future civic improvements.

In 1998, Corbett transitioned to state-level politics, representing the 20th District in the California State Assembly until 2004. Her legislative focus on education, environment, and healthcare led to substantial achievements that benefited many Californians. She further advanced her impact as a California State Senator from 2006 to 2014, where she served as the second woman Majority Leader from 2010 to 2014. Her tenure was marked by significant policy advancements and effective Senate management, with a strong emphasis on environmental protection, workers' rights, and equal rights.

Corbett's commitment to her constituents was evident through her compassionate and responsive approach. Notably, she initiated "walk and talks" with the East Bay Regional Park District to engage with her district constituents in natural settings. Her dedication continued as she was elected to the East Bay Regional Park District Board of Directors in November 2016.

EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT HIGHLIGHTS

Ellen Corbett's contributions to the East Bay Regional Park District have been transformative. Her leadership as Board President during the COVID-19 pandemic was critical in keeping parks accessible to the public despite numerous challenges. Under her guidance, 99% of parklands, trails, and shorelines remained open, demonstrating her commitment to public access and park maintenance amidst increased usage and staff shortages.

Corbett's impact extends to her advocacy for social justice, as evidenced by her support for the Black Lives Matter movement, opposition to Asian hate and promotion of inclusive community values. Her efforts culminated in the naming of Thurgood Marshall Regional Park – Home of the Port

Chicago 50, a significant tribute to civil rights and social justice.

Her environmental advocacy was equally noteworthy. Corbett championed measures to address sea level rise, climate change and the preservation of natural areas. Her efforts were recognized by organizations such as the Sierra Club and the California League of Conservation Voters.

Notable projects during her tenure include the opening of Oyster Bay Regional Shoreline, upgrades at Robert W. Crown Memorial State Beach, the acquisition of the General Service Administration property in Alameda, expansion of Martin Luther King Jr. Regional Shoreline and the initiation of expanded Park District headquarters. These projects underscore her commitment to improving park accessibility and increasing programming opportunities for the community.

Beyond her public service, Corbett is also known for her roles as a Master Gardener, civic leader, mother, sister, daughter, and friend. Her lifelong dedication to her community has left a lasting impact on both the East Bay Regional Park District and the broader community.

ATTACHMENTS

Presentation.