



From Gardens to Green Spaces: Celebrating Director Ellen Corbett's Commitment to our Communities and Environment

Board of Directors Meeting

September 3, 2024



Local and State Level Achievements

- Ellen Corbett served on the San Leandro City Council and as the City's first elected woman Mayor from the 1990s to early 2000s, where she enhanced local infrastructure and community programs.
- She represented the 20th District in the California State Assembly from 1998 to 2004, focusing on education, environment and healthcare.
- As a California State Senator from 2006 to 2014, she was the second woman Majority Leader from 2010 to 2014, advancing key policies and managing Senate operations.
- During this time, she initiated the first, "Walk and Talk" event with the East Bay Regional Park District.



Top: Ellen Corbett during her time in the State Legislature and San Leandro city government.
Below Left: Discussion at a "Walk and Talk" during wildflower season at Sunol.
Below Right: As Senator, presenting then-Assemblymember Wieckowski the Park District's 2017 Radke Award.



Leader in the East Bay and the Park District Board

- Ellen Corbett held a B.Sc. in Political Science from UC Davis and a J.D. from McGeorge School of Law.
- Born in Oakland and with her hometown being San Leandro, she had deep local roots and a strong commitment to her community.
- **Elected to the Board of Directors in November 2016, she represented Ward 4**
- **Co-Chair of Measure FF (2018):** Led the successful effort to extend a \$12/year parcel tax for regional park funding, supporting wildfire prevention, public safety and park improvements.



Top: New Board Member Swearing In.
Below: Former and Current Board Members Attend
90th Anniversary ParkFest.





Top: State Advocacy Conference, Senator Nancy Skinner.
Below: Federal Advocacy Conference, Representative Eric Swalwell.



Leadership at the Park District

- **Board President During COVID-19:** Ensured parks stayed open despite increased demand and safety challenges.
 - Kept parklands, trails and shorelines open during the pandemic for public use.
 - Managed increased park usage, maintenance issues, and staff well-being and safety, as well as staff shortages during the health crisis.
- **Updated Board Guidelines:** Led revisions to Board Operating Guidelines to improve governance and efficiency.

Commitment to Social Justice

- **Support for Black Lives Matter:** Principal champion of resolution 2020-06-132 denouncing racism and standing in solidarity with Black people and all people of color.
- **Opposition to Asian Hate:** Actively supported and led the effort for resolution 2021-04-080 denouncing racism, xenophobia and violence against Asians, Asian Americans and pacific islanders, and reaffirming the East Bay Regional Park District's Commitment to a safe, welcoming and inclusive workplace and park system.
- **Support for LGBTQ+ Community:** Advocated for resolution 2021-06-140 recognizing June 2021 as LGBTQ+ Pride Month.
- **Recognizing Juneteenth:** Championed resolution 2021-06-152 recognizing June 19, 2021 as Juneteenth Day in the East Bay Regional Park District.



Jun 16, 2020 - Board of Directors Meeting

Top: Park District Board Approves resolution denouncing racism.

Right: Federal Advocacy Conference, Representative Barbara Lee.



Commitment to Equity

- **Naming Thurgood Marshall Regional Park:** Advocated for the park's naming to honor the Port Chicago 50, marking the site as a symbol of civil rights and social justice.
- **MLK Shoreline Rally Chair:** Organized and led the MLK Multicultural Rally at Martin Luther King, Jr. Regional Shoreline for seven years, celebrating Dr. King's legacy and promoting unity.
- **Advocacy for the future Visitor Center:** Supported the creation of a visitor center at Thurgood Marshall Regional Park to educate the public about the Port Chicago 50 and their impact on worker and civil rights.



Top: Senator Corbett at community event with constituents.

Below Left: Port Chicago 50 advocacy.

Below Right: Martin Luther King, Junior Multicultural Rally



Environmental and Climate Advocacy

- **Support for international action on climate:** led the effort on resolution 2017-07-184 declaring the East Bay Regional Park District's commitment to uphold the Paris Climate Accord goals.
- **Sea Level Rise Protection:** Advocated for measures to safeguard urban and shoreline communities from rising sea levels.
- **Climate Change Challenges:** Supported efforts to address issues like wildfire, heat, flooding, drought and pests.
- **Adaptive Management:** Endorsed adaptive strategies to maintain park values amidst climate changes.
- **2018 Climate Policy:** Backed the Park District's framework for managing resources in a changing climate resolution 2018-04-081.
- **Environmental Recognition:** Received honors from groups like the Sierra Club and California League of Conservation Voters for her environmental advocacy.



Top: In discussion while serving in the State Senate.



Top: Doolittle Drive Bay Trail opening.
Left: Director Corbett and Alameda Mayor Ashcraft at Alameda Point.
Right: Tidewater Park Expansion rendering.



Park Project Priorities

- **Oyster Bay Opening:** Significant new recreational space.
- **Shoreline Drive:** Restroom replacement and major utility upgrades.
- **GSA Acquisition:** Creation of new open spaces.
- **Tidewater Park Expansion:** Enhancing park accessibility. (*rendering pictured right, bottom*)
- **Veteran's Administration Collaboration Bay Trail** around Alameda Point. (*pictured left, bottom*)
- **Peralta Oaks North:** New headquarters.
- **Doolittle Drive:** Completion of the Bay Trail. (*pictured top*)
- **Increased Programming:** Expanding access to park programs.



Master Gardener, Trees and Roses

“Although nature has proven season in and season out that if the thing that is planted bears at all, it will yield more of itself, there are those who seem certain that if they plant tomato seeds, at harvesttime they can reap onions.”

Maya Angelou





In Memory of Senator, Director, Mayor, Civic Leader, Mother, Sister, Daughter, Friend Ellen Corbett

*“Nothing has ever been achieved by
the person who says, ‘It can’t be
done.’”*

Eleanor Roosevelt