



SPRAWLDEF

Sustainability, Parks, Recycling And Wildlife Legal Defense Fund

802 Balra Drive, El Cerrito, CA 94530
510 526-4362 www.sprawldef.com n.laforce@comcast.net

May 16, 2020

**VIA EMAIL ONLY
CORRECTED**

Mayor Tom Butt &
Council Members Nat Bates, Ben Choi, Delmnus Johnson,
Eduardo Martinez, Jael Myrick, Melvin Willis
450 Civic Center Plaza
Richmond, CA 94608

Re: Agenda Item H-8, City Council Meeting May 19, 2020

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

The City council has the opportunity to save the City from financial ruin and also to save each of you from the ignominy of gifting away public land to developers for nothing more than giving private entrepreneurs the right to make a profit off of that gift of public land. The City faces financial adversity due to the unanticipated covid-19 pandemic to the tune of at least \$27 Million. Extending the ERNs with SunCal over the ill-fated and clearly financial infeasible Point Molate development will drive the City into further debt to the tune of Millions of dollars as Citizens for East Shore Parks, SPRAWLDEF, and Richmond's own Point Molate Alliance have presented to you from the Hatch consultants' report.

The City Council must vote against extending the ERN with SunCAL and call an end to this "planning" charade that is nothing more than a gift of public land to Upstream Point Molate and the Guidiville Tribe, which has no proven connection to this land.

The City has failed to amend the so-called "Amended Judgment." Thus, the City is in legal jeopardy with regard to that "Amended Judgment." The City should declare a tolling of all actions regarding Point Molate and put a halt to any processing of a Draft Subsequent Environmental Impact Report.

The Council should support the Community Plan put together by the people of Richmond which is the “Environmentally Superior” plan for the site because it will provide an appropriate level of development while providing the people of Richmond with a magnificent regional park with playing fields for the kids and people of Richmond. The Community Plan also will provide the City with a positive infusion of tax dollars instead of a negative loss of tax revenue.

If the City Council insists on going forward, then it should not make any decisions until after the November 2020 election and should put on the ballot the Community Plan so the people of Richmond can vote on that plan.

It is time for the City to base its decisions for Point Molate on what makes environmental and economic sense for Richmond and truly reflect what the people of Richmond want.

Sincerely yours,

Norman La Force

Norman La Force,
President