TO: Members of the City Council

FROM: Mayor Jesse Arreguin

SUBJECT: Support the Resilient Shoreline Program of Citizens for East Shore Parks

RECOMMENDATION

1. Adopt a Resolution to support the Resilient Shoreline Program of Citizens for East Shore Parks (CESP) to raise awareness about the detrimental effects of sea-level rise and promote resilient shoreline solutions. Additionally, refer to the mid-year budget process a contribution of $10,000 to participate in CESP’s Visualizing Sea-level Rise event in Berkeley.

2. Adopt a Resolution approving the expenditure of an amount not to exceed $2,000 per Councilmember, up to a total contribution of $10,000, to CESP for the Visualizing Sea-level Rise event in Berkeley. Funds will be relinquished to the City’s General Fund for this purpose from the discretionary Council Office Budgets of Mayor Jesse Arreguin and any other Councilmembers who would like to contribute. Should Councilmember combined contributions fall short of the $10,000 total, the balance shall be referred to the mid-year budget process.

BACKGROUND

On April 26, 2017, the California Ocean Protection Council adopted a resolution acknowledging a report prepared by seven experts outlining the best available sea-level rise science, including the role of increasing polar ice loss. The 2017 projections by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) show an increase up to 10 feet by the year 2100. The scientific consensus is the San Francisco Bay and its eastern shoreline, which includes Berkeley, can expect extensive damage to our built and natural environments if we are not prepared. Impacts will include massive erosion, habitat destruction, inundated freeway sections and flooding of lowland communities.

On Earth Day, April 22, 2017, CESP launched its Resilient Shoreline Program (RSP) to raise citizen awareness about the detrimental effects of sea-level rise, promote resilient shoreline solutions and assure people that solutions are available if we start planning now. CESP is planning a “Visualizing Sea-level Rise” event in Berkeley (tentatively scheduled for Saturday, July 29, 2017) in McLaughlin Eastshore State Park and a future Scientific Forum on various dates throughout the region.

The RSP is a natural extension of CESP’s 30-year effort to protect open space and develop a unified shoreline park along the Bay’s eastern shoreline. That effort achieved
the spectacular McLaughlin Eastshore State Park from the Bay Bridge in Oakland and continuing north along the entire shorelines of Emeryville, Berkeley, Albany and Richmond up to Pt. Isabel. The RSP combines advocacy, science and education with the goal of achieving public awareness about climate change and its impact on the Bay shoreline and organizing a Grand Coalition of public leaders to implement timely solutions.

Taking action now to determine appropriate locations for resilient shoreline approaches including restored marshes, horizontal levees, and other natural is critical to our community’s preparation. And by supporting CESP, the City of Berkeley would become an active member of the Grand Coalition that includes all counties, cities and special districts that share the east shore of San Francisco Bay.

**ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY**
Supports and advances the City of Berkeley Climate Action Plan and Resilience Strategy.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**
$10,000 from General Fund and D-13 accounts and the General Fund

Attachments:
1: Resolution in support of the Resilient Shoreline Program
2: D-13 Expenditure Resolution
3: Citizens for East Shore Parks - Proposal for Visualizing Sea-level Rise event
RESOLUTION NO. ##.###-N.S.

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE RESILIENT SHORELINE PROGRAM OF CITIZENS FOR EAST SHORE PARKS

WHEREAS, the State of California Ocean Protection Council updated the State of California State of Sea-Level Guidance Document in April 2017 to reflect higher sea-level rise projections, including the projection by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) of sea-level rise ranging up to 10 feet by the year 2100; and

WHEREAS, sea-level rise will cause extensive damage to our built and natural environments if we are not prepared. Impacts will include massive erosion, habitat destruction, inundated freeway sections and flooding of lowland communities; and

WHEREAS, CESP’s Resilient Shoreline Program raises citizen awareness about sea-level rise, promotes collaborative resilient shoreline solutions through the Visualizing Sea-Level Rise Event and the Scientific Forum "Getting Our Feet Wet: Sea-level Rise in the East Bay"; and

WHEREAS, taking action now to determine appropriate locations for resilient shoreline approaches including restored marshes, horizontal levees, and other natural solutions to address sea-level rise is pertinent to prepare for sea-level rise projections in the coming decades; and

WHEREAS, CESP’s Grand Coalition of public leaders will gather the political will and momentum to gain funding from local, state, and federal sources for a resilient shoreline.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Berkeley City Council does hereby express its support for the Resilient Shoreline Program and will join the Grand Coalition of public leaders for a Resilient Shoreline.
RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

AUTHORIZING THE EXPENDITURE OF SURPLUS FUNDS FROM THE OFFICE EXPENSE ACCOUNTS OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBERS TO THE CITIZENS FOR EAST SHORE PARKS

WHEREAS, Mayor Arreguín has surplus funds in his office expenditure account; and

WHEREAS, on Saturday, July 29, 2017, Citizens for East Shore Parks will be hosting a “Visualizing Sea-level Rise” event at the McLaughlin Eastshore State Park; and

WHEREAS, a California non-profit tax exempt corporation Citizens for East Shore Parks seeks funds in the amount of $10,000 to cover the costs of the event; and

WHEREAS, the provision of such funds would fulfill the following municipal public purpose: to raise awareness on climate change and the risks of sea-level rise to our community; to promote a better understanding of the importance of preserving our shorelines; and increasing environmental consciousness.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that funds relinquished by the Mayor and Councilmembers from their Council Office Budget up to $2,000 per office shall be granted to Citizens for East Shore Parks.