

## RESOLUTION NO. 110-12

### A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND, CALIFORNIA, REDESIGNATING WHAT HAS BEEN CALLED “BREUNER MARSH” or “PARCHESTER MARSH” TO “DOTSON MARSH.”

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**WHEREAS**, the geographic feature informally known as “Breuner Marsh” or “Parchester Marsh” was purchased in 2000 by *Bay Area Wetlands LLC*, a company that planned on selling the land to the highest bidding developer<sup>[3]</sup>, and;

**WHEREAS**, Bay Wetlands at one point wanted to build "*Edgewater Technology Park*" but were rebuffed by Parchester residents,<sup>[3]</sup> and;

**WHEREAS**, the East Bay Regional Park District purchased a large portion of the historic marsh in 2008 for \$8,830,155, and<sup>[5]</sup> The Park District intends to restore tidal wetlands on the property in addition to adding a component of the [Bay Trail](#).<sup>[6]</sup>

**WHEREAS**, it is located alongside [Parchester Village](#)<sup>[3]</sup> a neighborhood built with the promise of maintaining the marsh development free;<sup>[4]</sup> however, the landowner subsequently sold it to Gerry Breuner and during the time he owned the property during the 1970s much of the wetlands were illegally destroyed with the intention of building a civil aviation airport [Breuner Field](#).<sup>[3]</sup> This was a failure due to community opposition and it became mixed wetlands grasslands with a small model airplane airport of sorts, and;

**WHEREAS**, since then, various proposals to develop the marsh have been put forward. These included upscale housing, an industrial complex, a mixed use [transit village](#) with housing businesses, and a transit center, and expansion of [Point Pinole Regional Shoreline](#) with Breuner Marsh being restored. The latter is the preferred option from the Parchester Village Neighborhood Council which has fought development in the past.<sup>[3]</sup> Development is also being fought by the Sierra Club and the North Richmond Shoreline Open Space Alliance.<sup>[3]</sup> and;

**WHEREAS**, the surrounding boundaries are approximately [San Pablo Bay](#) to the west, [Giant Marsh](#) and Point Pinole Park to the north, a SP railroad embankment and Parchester Village to the east, and [Rheem Creek](#) to the south<sup>[7]</sup>, and;

**WHEREAS**, threatened wildlife in the area includes the [white-tailed kite](#), a state "Species of Concern" and endangered species such as the [Salt Marsh Harvest Mouse](#) and the [California Clapper Rail](#),<sup>[9]</sup> and;

**WHEREAS**, Whitney Dotson, an environmentalist and activist, was raised in Parchester Village since he was 5 years old and is credited for organizing opposition to stop development of the property-even to this day. He is noted for “raising public and institutional awareness of developers’ plans as a way of protecting endangered eco-systems, preserving access so that all bay residents can enjoy all Regional Trails, and promoting health and disease prevention by providing environmental education for all bay residents,” and:

**WHEREAS**, Dotson has a Bachelor’s of Art in Education and Health from San Francisco State University, a Masters in Public Health Administration from University of California; Berkeley, has worked as a program developer for Contra Costa Health Services to develop the Center for Health in North Richmond, and served as Associate Executive Director of the Neighborhood House of North Richmond, and;

**WHEREAS**, Whitney Dotson, as an elected member of the Board of the East Bay Regional Park District has continued to advocate for the preservation of the marsh, and;

**WHEREAS**, there is precedent for renaming Regional shorelines (Miller/Knox).

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that for purposes of designation in City of Richmond official actions and documents, the geographical feature formerly known as “Breuner Marsh” or “Parchester Marsh,” shall hereafter be referred to as “Dotson Marsh in honor of Whitney Dotson’s extraordinary leadership, passion for environmental justice, and avocation for protecting Richmond’s shorelines,” and;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the City Council of the City of Richmond requests that the East Bay Regional Park District also adopt the designation “Dotson Marsh,” and’

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the City Council of the City of Richmond shall file a request with the U.S. Board on Geographic Names to have the marsh officially named “Dotson Marsh,” and:

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the City Council directs the Clerk to promptly forward a copy of this Resolution to the clerk of the Contra Costa Board of Supervisors, the clerk of the East Bay Regional Park District Board and to the Contra Costa County Surveyor.

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I certify that the foregoing Resolution was passed and adopted by the Members of the City Council of the City of Richmond at a regular meeting held on September 11, 2012, by the following vote:

AYES:	Councilmembers Bates, Beckles, Boozé, Butt, Ritterman, Vice Mayor Rogers, and Mayor McLaughlin.
NOES:	None.
ABSTENTIONS:	None.
ABSENT:	None.

DIANE HOLMES  
CLERK OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND

(SEAL)

Approved:

GAYLE MCLAUGHLIN  
Mayor

Approved as to form:

BRUCE GOODMILLER  
City Attorney

State of California	}	
County of Contra Costa	}	: ss.
City of Richmond	}	

I certify that the foregoing is a true copy of Resolution No. 110-12, finally passed and adopted by the City Council of the City of Richmond at a regular meeting held on September 11, 2012.

## References

[Coordinates: !\[\]\(1d3a1175dd4902218e694b9c098adb83\_img.jpg\) 37.98227°N 122.362697°W](#)

[North Richmond's Wetlands Threatened by Development](#), Pacific Institute, access date August 8, 2008

[Breuner Marsh Stewardship](#), by Aleta George, Bay Nature, March 2006, access date August 8, 2008

[Parchester Village Residents Fight to Preserve Breuner Marsh, Open Space](#), by Tomio Geron, November 12, 2004, access date August 8, 2008

[Park District may save Breuner Marsh, Sierra Club Yodeler](#), access date August 8, 2008

[Park Board Package](#)

[EBParks News Archive](#)

[San Francisco Bay Area Wetlands Restoration Program](#), Letter of Review/Breuner Marsh Mitigation Bank, January 28, 2003, access date August 8, 2008

[Breuner Marsh to become parkland at last!](#), Citizens for East Shore Parks, access date August 8, 2008

[Government report](#), p. 6, access date August 10, 2008

[About](#), BARCS.org, January 20, 2008, access date August 10, 2008

[Richmond](#), Gallagher & Lindsay Realtors, access date August 10, 2008

[Google maps](#), access date August 15, 2008

[Parchester's Marsh](#), by Kathryn Gillick, Ecology Center, access date August 13, 2008

[Collective pitch change system for teter-bar type gyroplane rotary wing aircraft](#), United States Patent 4741672, May 3, 1988 access date August 15, 2008