

Resilient by Design Nomination Form
NORTH RICHMOND

Site Ideas Form

- Name * Jody London
- Title (optional)
Sustainability Coordinator
- Agency or Organization representing (if any)
Contra Costa County
- Email *
- Describe the site location *
Maximum Allowed: **250** words.

Use geographic coordinates if you think it would be helpful.

North Richmond is a census-designated place adjacent to and nearly surrounded by the City of Richmond. Contra Costa County provides services and governance for the part of North Richmond located in the unincorporated County. This area is identified a disadvantaged community under CalEnviroScreen 3.0, ranking just below the 95th percentile.

North Richmond historically was home to the Ohlone and other native Californians. In the early part of the 20th century, North Richmond was populated by Italian-Americans. During World War II, many African-Americans moved from the South and Midwest to North Richmond, to work in Richmond's shipyards. Subsequently many of the residents were employed in the petroleum, railway, ship building, and shipping industries

North Richmond is located near several industrial facilities, including the Chevron Refinery, West County Waste Water District treatment facility, a closed landfill that continues to operate as a waste transfer station, a refuse corporation yard, and a recycling facility. North Richmond is home to many natural features, starting with the San Francisco Bay, San Pablo Creek, and Wildcat Creek. The Contra Costa County Flood Control District is rehabilitating levees on Wildcat and San Pablo Creeks.

The proximity of North Richmond to ports and rail combined with vacant land makes this area an attractive location for warehouses and related businesses to consider locating. The County has land use permitting authority for new development within the unincorporated area.

229 words

- Link to Google Map with Location

<https://www.google.com/maps/place/North+Richmond,+CA+94801/@37.9588126,-122.3696653,523m/data=!3m2!1e3!4b1!4m5!3m4!1s0x80859d42b2a88099:0xe376ab915c035af9!8m2!3d37.9588126!4d-122.3674713>

- What would make this site a good fit for the design challenge? *
Maximum Allowed: **250** words. *Currently Used: 0 words.*

North Richmond is a mix of natural areas along the shoreline that can provide habitat and flood protection benefits, engaged community members, and a number of undeveloped parcels. There has been extensive planning and analysis of the shoreline that can inform the Resilient by Design process. The San Francisco Estuary Partnership is currently leading a community visioning process for North Richmond that integrates sea level rise vulnerability and planning for the upland transition zone. This process will identify a number of these types of multi-benefit projects along the shoreline.

The State Coastal Conservancy has been using a marsh in North Richmond for testing climate change adaptation features, including a “horizontal levee” as part of its “Living Shorelines Program.” The Coastal Conservancy recently awarded \$862,000 to Contra Costa County for a Watershed Connections project, to be performed in collaboration with Urban Tilth and The Watershed Project. The County also recently received a \$3 million Active Transportation grant to integrate clean water and/or green infrastructure in North Richmond.

North Richmond has a good likelihood of implementation funding for designs developed through this process. The passage of Measures AA (Restoration Authority) and WW (East Bay Regional Park District) provide opportunities to leverage state grant funds which favor disadvantaged communities such as North Richmond.

210 words

- What are the potential physical vulnerabilities that threaten this site?
i.e. flooding, seismic, sea level rise, storm surges

Physical vulnerabilities include sea level rise, creek flooding, exposure to contamination, and exposure to contaminants from adjacent industrial activities. Traffic also can be a concern, as the Richmond Parkway separates the residential area from the industrial facilities that immediately border the Bay.

- What are the social vulnerabilities?
Maximum Allowed: **250** words.

(i.e. risk of displacement, poverty, health indicators) (200 word max)

North Richmond's population of 3,717 is racially diverse. The Adapting to Rising Tides study notes that in North Richmond, along with several other communities in Contra Costa County, "there are low-income households, individuals with low educational attainment, people of color, and a high number of renters and households without a vehicle...most residents are housing and transportation cost-burdened." North Richmond scores 92.45 on CalEnviroScreen 3.0. North Richmond is in the CalEnviroScreen 100th percentile for hazardous waste and asthma, the 99th percentile for cleanups, and the 97th percentage for solid waste.

North Richmond has one elementary school. The community has several churches, low-income housing developments, and several branches of County offices. The Community Housing Development Corporation has its offices in North Richmond, and there is a branch of Catholic Charities in North Richmond.

- Who owns or controls this site?

Property owners in North Richmond include Contra Costa County, Republic Services, the East Bay Regional Parks District, the West County Wastewater District, other industrial businesses, and private property owners.

- What's threatened at this site?
Maximum Allowed: **200** words.

i.e. homes, highways, public transportation, wildlife habitat, recreational areas

North Richmond is subject to flooding from sea level rise. Several of the industrial facilities in North Richmond are located closer to the Bay, meaning that rising waters will reach those areas first. The Adapting to Rising Tides study notes that "direct disruption of the closed landfill could have significant consequences for public health and nearby ecosystems if contaminants were released into the environment." Sea level rise will impact the vacant parcels near the Bay and Wildcat and San Pablo Creeks. Flooding could impact the Richmond Parkway, a major thoroughfare. For the residential area of North Richmond, there could be impacts from street or basement flooding.

- What local partners would need to be involved for it to be successful; what has their involvement been to date?
Maximum Allowed: **150** words.

Many government entities and non-profits are active in North Richmond, as described above. A key organization will be the North Richmond Municipal Advisory Council, which advises Supervisor John Gioia. In addition to the County, the City of Richmond, the State

Coastal Conservancy, East Bay Regional Parks District, and Association of Bay Area Governments have undertaken different planning and development projects in North Richmond. Numerous non-profit and environmental groups are involved in North Richmond. Other important partners will be the community centers, churches, and the elementary school.

80 words

- What local plans exist or are underway in this area?

Maximum Allowed: **150** words.

Feel free to add links or describe these plans here.

The North Richmond Shoreline Community Vision Process has engaged planners, managers, scientists, and community members to develop a community-based vision for the North Richmond shoreline. The County is embarking on the Watershed Connections project with a grant from the California Coastal Conservancy. This project will complement the North Richmond Urban Greening Project being led by the County's Public Works Department in partnership with some of the environmental groups. There are master plans for the Point Pinole Regional Shoreline Park, the Rheem Creek Watershed, and Wildcat Watershed.

- Is there any additional information that you would like to add about the site? Maximum Allowed: **300** words.