

Friends Of The Richmond Hills

dedicated to preserving the natural beauty of the El Sobrante Valley

Hello, everyone!

Six years ago, the Richmond Hills Initiative (RHI) was conceived as a means of permanently protecting the beautiful and fragile hillsides of the El Sobrante Valley against ill-advised development. Two years later, the RHI was adopted unanimously by the Richmond City Council - thanks to a massive effort by all of you!

Since then, we've seen several attempts on the part of speculators to overturn the will of the people by filing lawsuits against the City of Richmond. Happily, all these lawsuits have failed. In each of these cases, the Friends Of The Richmond Hills (FOTRH) has aided the City of Richmond by providing additional expert legal support to assist their attorneys in the defense of the RHI.

Now, a new legal challenge has arisen. It's being presented in two phases. The first phase has already been through the court and was quickly and summarily dismissed. The second phase, which has its first hearing on December 9, 2021, is more complex, and we feel that we need to provide further specialized legal support to the City to ensure that the RHI remains intact. So, we are once again asking for your financial help to fund that support.

It may seem that the RHI is in court a lot. That's just how the law works. After a major judgment is rendered, challenges, appeals, cross-appeals, etc., can continue for some time. Although this may be frustrating, it's one of the strengths of our legal system, and helps confirm that a ruling was correct - and ultimately will make the RHI stronger. Be aware that the RHI stands on very solid ground, has widespread support among the public and the Richmond City Council, and has withstood all legal challenges to date.

Let's also remember that, instead of fighting to stop the individual projects which certainly would have been put forward during this time, we have accomplished the same by halting any immediate proposals while, in addition, providing a permanent resolution to the continual threats to our hills.

We have a strong case for defending the hills, but we can't do that without community support. We need to raise a total of \$20,000 to pay for the legal assistance we are providing. Please take a minute to send your donation of any amount - every contribution counts!

Together we can preserve these beautiful hills for generations to come.

The Friends Of The Richmond Hills

To donate via **Go Fund Me**, go to:

<https://tinyurl.com/shwtbnmx>

Donations made via Go Fund Me are not tax-deductible.

To donate by check:

Make payable to **SPRAWLDEF**

In memo line, write **Richmond Hills Case**

Mail to: **Norman La Force, 802 Balra Drive, El Cerrito, CA 94530**

In addition to your check, please include a separate note stating Name, Address and Phone Number *even if this is already on the check!*

Please follow the above instructions to the letter. We are using a new fiscal agent and this is very helpful to them, and enables them to send you a confirmation letter.

Donations to SPRAWLDEF, a 501 (c) (3) non-profit, are tax-deductible.

This information, as well as updates and a history of the RHI can be found on our web site at:

<https://www.savetherichmondhills.org/>