

# Daily Journal

APRIL 27, 2011

## REAL ESTATE

### TOP LAND USE LEADERS 2011



#### Zane O. Gresham

Morrison & Foerster LLP  
San Francisco

**Notable Clients:** The Nature Conservancy, Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport, SKS Investments, Gilead Sciences, San Diego International Airport

3.25 million square feet | Total Square Feet/Acres of Projects Worked on in 2010-11



Oyster Point, South San Francisco

**G**resham spent a formative part of his childhood wandering the streets of Rome and exploring Italy.

He lived in Rome from age 11 to 15 when his father was on assignment with the Air Force at the U.S. embassy. Being surrounded by thousands of years of architecture and history gave Gresham an early appreciation of land use and urban planning.

“From a fairly early age I’ve had a fascination with the way cities develop,” Gresham said, “and the way the built environment reflects the way people live and work.”

Gresham graduated from Northwestern University School of Law in 1970, and got his early experience when many environmental and zoning laws

were still new or being developed.

“It is fair to say I grew up with this area of law developing as I practiced it,” he said.

Last year he represented SKS Investments and Shorenstein Properties in a \$1.5 billion proposed redevelopment of a former municipal garbage dump and industrial park in South San Francisco. With Gov. Jerry Brown urging the Legislature to cut funding for local redevelopment agencies, Gresham had to race against the clock to negotiate with the city of South San Francisco and several bureaucracies with interests in the land before funding dries up.

“That put a special time pressure on our completion,” he said.

The project, which won final approval by the city, will include a 2.25 million-square-foot research campus and public park and recreational facilities.

Gresham also advised The Nature Conservancy in contract negotiations to create a 60,000-acre conservancy in Kenya to establish an “ecological corridor” linking the World Heritage Site at Mt. Kenya to the Northern Kenyan Grasslands. The project hopes to protect endangered species and biodiversity while creating tourism jobs for local residents.

— Brandon Ortiz