

From: [Portobello HOA Board](#)
To: [Portobello HOA Board](#)
Subject: Jack London community opposes proposed Estuary Park development
Date: Monday, July 29, 2024 10:20:46 AM
Attachments: [image.png](#)
[image.png](#)

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Portobello Residential Owners Association

7 Embarcadero W Oakland CA 94607 portobellohoaboard@gmail.com

July 29, 2024

To whom it may concern:

The Portobello HOA Board was extremely distressed to learn that Signature Development Group, the developer of Brooklyn Basin, is seeking the City of Oakland's approval to construct 80-90 market-rate housing units on "Parcel N" land. Parcel N is a 4-acre abandoned former parking lot between the Embarcadero and Estuary Park that Signature agreed to remediate and then deed to the City as public open space. Parcel N together with Estuary Park comprise the footprint of the [Estuary Park Master Plan](#), a *voter approved and voter funded* design to turn a neglected piece of Oakland's waterfront into a world-class public gem. Over the past several years, the City expended ~\$1.4 Million in design development that included stakeholder input from four community engagement meetings. Oakland residents, overwhelmingly supportive of the plan to restore and expand Estuary Park, approved \$198M in bond funding through Measure DD. Oakland residents have been eagerly awaiting the start of Estuary Park's restoration, which was slated to begin in FY 24/25.

We learned at the July Measure DD Community Coalition meeting that Brooklyn Basin's developers are seeking to build luxury housing on Parcel N and renege on the Tideland Trust Exchange Agreement to deed Parcel N to the City, denying Oaklanders of the long-promised world-class waterfront park. Imagine our concern upon hearing that the City removed Measure DD funding from the FY 24/25 budget and is halting all work plans involving Parcel N in order to give the developer time to submit a revised development proposal.

Oakland needs a future-thinking city plan that includes safe, beautiful, dedicated waterfront open space. The developer has land *within* their planned building siting, *not* promised for public open space, on which to build 600 additional units. We are concerned that short-sighted planning decisions influenced by the current budget deficit will result in the loss of this public waterfront parkland, diminishing the quality of life for residents and the larger Oakland community, destroying a potential tourist and travel destination, and decimating watershed and wildlife habitat. Townhomes built on Parcel N would block stellar views and hinder public access, essentially privatizing the remaining waterfront area. It could potentially limit activities for the park's existing users, such as the Fire Department's training sessions, rowing clubs' early morning rowing camps, and the brass band that practices of an evening.

Estuary Park's restoration would ensure that Oakland is a place where people *want* to live and that Jack London Square becomes a destination location. Consider last week's reporting by the [SF Chronicle](#) and [SF Gate](#) on the "world-class" park redesign and restoration of Embarcadero Plaza along the San Francisco waterfront, creating "...a waterfront destination that embraces iconic views and contributes to the City's ongoing revival." San Francisco is in the process of redesigning public spaces "to make downtown a place where people want to be." Oakland has already created the plans for its own waterfront destination, funded the plan's execution, and secured public support. We need the City's commitment to realizing the Estuary Park Master Plan.

The Portobello HOA Board represents 200 homeowners. We strenuously oppose the development of Parcel N. We stand behind the Measure DD Community Coalition's position statement in calling for City policymakers and staff to reject any privatization of the legally-defined public land known as Parcel N and we urge the City to *move forward with the Estuary Park Master Plan as designed for and approved by the Oakland community*.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeremy Laurin". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Jeremy Laurin, Board President
on behalf of the full Portobello Residential HOA Board

cc:

Mayor Sheng Thao
Chief of Staff Leigh Hanson
City Council President Nikki Fortunato Bas
City Councilmember Carol Fife

City Administrator Jestin Johnson
Assistant City Administrator Betsy Lake
Assistant City Administrator LaTonda Simmons
Assistant City Administrator Harold Duffey
EWD Director Ashleigh Kanat
EWD Project Manager Kelley Kahn
OPRYD Director Fred Kelley
OPRYD Capital Improvements Coordinator Quincy Williams
OPW Interim Director Michael Kashiwagi
OPW Manager Christine Reed
OPW Watershed Program Supervisor Terri Fashing
Planning & Building Deputy Director Ed Manasse
Planning & Building Director William Gilchrist
Planning & Building Manager Catherine Payne
Planning & Building Planner Christopher Tan

PRAC Chair Tam Tran
OPRF ED/CEO Mandolin Kadera-Redmond
Lake Merritt Boating Center Advisory Committee
Measure DD Community Coalition

Artemis Rowing
California Rowing Club
East Bay Rowing Club
Friends of California Crew
Golden State Rowing Club
Lake Merritt Rowing Club
Marcia's Enthusiastic Masters of Oakland
Oakland Athletic Rowing Society
Oakland Barracuda Aquatic Club
Oakland Strokes Rowing
Oakland Triathlon Club
Odyssey Open Water Swimming
The Embarcadero Rowing Club
West Grand Brass Band

Alameda Post
Broke-Ass Stuart
East Bay Times
Jack London Oakland
KALW
KQED
KTVU
Rockridge News
San Francisco Chronicle
SF Streets Blog
SFGate
The Oaklandside

350 Bay Area
350 East Bay
1000 Grandmothers Bay Area
Alameda County Interfaith Climate Action Network
Alliance of Californians for Community Empowerment – Oakland
Asian Pacific Environmental Network
Audubon California
Bay Area Climate Action Mapping Project
Bay Area Regional Collaborative
Bay Conservation and Development Commission
Bay Planning Coalition
Bike East Bay
California Coastal Conservancy
California Environmental Justice Alliance
California Foundation on the Environment and the Economy
East Bay Alliance for a Sustainable Economy
EcoCity Builders
Broke Ass Stuart
Greenbelt Alliance
Oakland Climate Action Coalition
Protect the Bay Coalition
San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority
Sierra Club
Sunflower Alliance
Urban Creeks Council

From: [Aileen F.](#)
To: [Office of the Mayor](#); officeofthecityadministrator@oaklandca.gov; [Duffey, Harold](#); [Kashiwagi, Michael](#); [Gilchrist, William](#); [Manasse, Edward](#); [Payne, Catherine](#)
Cc: [Fortunato Bas, Nikki](#); [Fife, Carroll](#); [Tan, Christopher](#); [Fashing, Terri](#)
Subject: Fulfill the Estuary Park Master Plan
Date: Monday, August 26, 2024 11:34:06 AM

Mayor Sheng Thao

City Administrator Jestin D. Johnson

G. Harold Duffey, Asst. City Administrator for Public Works & Parks

Michael Kashiwagi, Interim Director, Public Works Department

William Gilchrist, Director of Planning & Building

Edward Manasse, Deputy Director of Planning

Dear Mayor Thao and City Administrators,

I support the City of Oakland plan for renovating and expanding Estuary Park—the City's major park with access to the waterfront and the Estuary.

I appreciate the work of the Sierra Club, Trust for Public Land, the Measure DD Coalition, and taxpayer and donor-funded open-space development to complete the Bay Trail with a string of parks, wetlands, and natural habitat. I wish the City of Oakland to genuinely fulfill the parameters of the Estuary Park Plan. This was once a 7-acre park, with a distinguished, stepped series of amenities designed by award-winning landscape architect Lawrence Halprin. Later it was obvious that if the conspicuous Jetro Warehouse could be removed and that parcel could be combined with the existing park property, Estuary Park could become an 11 acre park with room for ball play plus picnicking, boating, strolling and other leisure pastimes.

Now this is a node in the waterfront greenbelt that extends from Jack London Square which deserves to be expanded and well-maintained. https://cao-94612.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/Estuary-Park-Master-Plan-9-21-2022_rev.pdf

This month I learned that the developer of Brooklyn Basin is seeking City approval to construct 81 private homes on “Parcel N”—a portion of the Estuary Park site. I understand that if approved, this proposal would invalidate the \$1.4M [Estuary Park Master Plan](#) already developed by the City of Oakland, forcing a complete redesign to a smaller park without many of the features sought by the community. Such a change would be depriving Oaklanders and visitors of the broad vistas and

expanded parkway promised to us. Taking part of the land for private residences would mean “downsizing the park” preventing a beautiful expansion of Estuary Park we citizens have been counting on. The Oakland City Council and planning staff should stand by its value of “Public Land for Public Good.

Please adhere to the goals of the Measure DD Community Coalition and The Portobello Residential Owners Association—neighbor to Estuary Park—to refuse any changes in the Master Plan. Please immediately implement the community-approved Estuary Plan.

Sincerely.

Aileen Frankel
15 Binnacle Hill
Oakland, CA 94618

From: [Cathy Garrett](#)
To: [Office of the Mayor](#); [Payne, Catherine](#); officedofthecityadministrator@oklandca.gov; [Duffey, Harold](#); [Kashiwagi, Michael](#); [Gilchrist, William](#); [Manasse, Edward](#)
Cc: [Fortunato Bas, Nikki](#); [Reed, Christine](#); [Fife, Carroll](#); [Fashing, Terri](#); [Tan, Christopher](#)
Subject: Protect the future of Estuary Park
Date: Saturday, August 24, 2024 9:13:57 AM

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Mayor Sheng Thao
City Administrator Jestin D. Johnson
G. Harold Duffey, Asst. City Administrator for Public Works & Parks
Michael Kashiwagi, Interim Director, Public Works Department
William Gilchrist, Director of Planning & Building
Edward Manasse, Deputy Director of Planning

Dear Mayor Thao and City Administrators,

Estuary Park is an important part of the life of the community of Oakland. As a member of Oakland's business community I strongly support the City's plan to renovate and expand Estuary Park. It is the City's major park with access to the waterfront and the Estuary.

I just learned that the developer of Brooklyn Basin is seeking City approval to construct 81 private homes on "Parcel N"—a portion of the Estuary Park site. If approved, this proposal would invalidate the \$1.4M [Estuary Park Master Plan](#) already developed by the City of Oakland, forcing a complete redesign to a smaller park without many of the features sought by the community. Such a change would be costly, wasteful of City staff resources, and disappointing to local citizens. Instead, we support the City Council's principle of "Public Land for Public Good".

I stand firmly with the Measure DD Community Coalition and The Portobello Residential Owners Association—neighbor to Estuary Park—in opposing any changes in the Master Plan. I strongly urge the City to proceed immediately with the community-approved Plan.

Sincerely,

Cathy Garrett ASLA

President

PLA CA 4073 NV 1074



444 17th Street Oakland, CA 94612

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www.PGAdesign.com

Friday, September 6, 2024 at 07:58:50 Pacific Daylight Time

Subject: Estuary Park

Date: Wednesday, September 4, 2024 at 8:11:51 PM Pacific Daylight Time

From: Simret Nanda

To: Tan, Christopher

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To Oakland City,

I was made aware on 8/30 that the City of Oakland is going to sell Estuary Park to developers and make more condos to block our water views and crowd our building due to parking/excessive tenants. I OPPOSE allowing Estuary Park's Parcel N to be turned into townhomes and SUPPORT the voter-funded Estuary Park to be built for Jack London Square. This voter funded Estuary Park will be good for our community and also will be helpful to have more room and space by the water where dogs and children can play outside in our neighborhood. We don't need more expensive, high rise, luxury condos that the common Oakland resident cannot afford. The noise of building these apartments plus the blockage of our already existent water views will decrease our condo prices and cause more problems than we already have. The Brooklyn basin project has already built a great number of housing units already, more is not needed. This is corporate greed.

I have been a resident of the city of Oakland for the past 14 years and there are many problems in this city. One of the issues is the lack of community resources like parks and sports teams. This is giving Oakland a lack of community and lack of coming together and its going to cause long-term greater harm if this continues. When there is a lack of open spaces and lack of community then mental health issues rise like crime, substance abuse, homelessness and other issues we are already trying to mitigate and battle.

I will be attending the meeting on Sept. 11th to oppose this issue. Thanks for your time and please feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions. Thanks.

Dr. Simret Nanda