



# Oakland Measure DD Trust for Clean Water and Safe Parks Community Coalition

Meeting minutes – May 15, 2023, 7:10 p.m.

A [video recording of this meeting is available here](#)

Additional [meeting files are available here](#)

Welcome by Agenda Committee Member, Adrian Cotter and introductions of other agenda committee members Myra Redman and John Bowers.

Review of Zoom meeting protocol: recording, chat, mute, raise hand and transcription.

**1. Introductions of Coalition meeting participants [Note: Coalition is open to the public]**

Adrian Cotter	Community for Lake Merritt, DD Agenda Committee
Assata Olugbala	Oakland resident
Bob Redman	Essex Community Action Committee
Dee Rosario	East Bay Regional Parks District
James Vann	Coalition of Advocates for Lake Merritt
John Bowers	Lake Merritt Institute, Measure DD Agenda Committee
Mandolin Kadera-Redmond	Oakland Parks and Recreation Foundation (OPRF), DD Coalition Administrator
Hazel Tesoro	Oakland Parks and Recreation Foundation (OPRF), DD Coalition Administrator
Myra Redman	Lake Merritt Institute, Measure DD
Naomi Schiff	Oakland Heritage Alliance, Measure DD
Rick Rickard	Bike East Bay
Bill Threlfall	Waterfront Action
Sandy Threlfall	Waterfront Action

**City of Oakland Attendees**

Christine Reed	Oakland Public Works, Project & Grants Management Division
Terri Fashing	Oakland Public Works, Watershed Division, Measure DD, Acting Manager

**2. Changes to agenda**

- I. Reconsider location change for how Bay Trail will go from Union Pt. Park to 23<sup>rd</sup> Ave.
- II. Request for staff effort/cost reports re: proposed repair of Lake Merritt walking paths (degraded path)

**3. Final March 20<sup>th</sup> meeting notes adopted without revision [link to minutes]**

**4. DD Program Manager Report.....Terri Fashing,  
Watershed Division, Oakland Public Works, Acting Manager [slides to be provided soon]**

- **7<sup>th</sup> Street Pedestrian Crosswalk:** Complete but damaged. Once a DD project is complete, repairs are done based on various City groups’ prioritization systems. People should file a 311 complaint and copy Terri to request repair. Previous 311 service request has not been completed.
- **7<sup>th</sup> Street Tide Gate:** Terri has not heard back from Alameda County Flood Control but will continue to reach out.
- **Acquisitions:** No update, may have more by July meeting
- **Beaconsfield Creek Restoration:** No update. Project may be on hold for some time.
- **Capital Improvement Project (CIP) Process:** Terri has made lots of progress in learning about this process over the last two months but is not ready with a proposal. Bond capacity is a factor due to Measure Q affecting when series D bonds can be sold. Terri is working with the Budget Office to determine timing. Another issue is that many storm drainage projects will need to be prioritized. Further, the 3<sup>rd</sup> tranche has not been fully spent due to stalled projects. The 4<sup>th</sup> tranche can’t be accessed until the 3<sup>rd</sup> is expended.
- **Courtland Creek Restoration:** Tree removal complete. Construction contract to be executed June 1<sup>st</sup>.
- **East Bay Regional Park District sites:** No update
- **Fruitvale Land Crossing Bay Trail Segment:** Contractor has been selected and project to be completed this summer.
- **Glen Echo Creek:** No update, moving through project slowly
- **Lake Merritt Granite Path Repair:** No further update. Terri will follow up with Craig Pon, Project Manager, and will follow up with Agenda Committee to address agenda change II above.
- **Lake Merritt Interpretive Signs:** To be installed week of May 15<sup>th</sup> [[link to sign info](#)]
- **Lake Merritt 10<sup>th</sup> St. Channel:** Other agencies involved want to extend post project monitoring from 3 years to 5 to 10 years. City in negotiations. Documents for 65% replanting submitted for review.
- **Measure DD Coalition Admin Support Contract:** OPRF assisting, Mike to update maps
- **Union Pt. Park:** Recent change in project managers. Terri’s team is looking into project management alternatives and reviewing reports. Also waiting for an order-of-magnitude cost estimation report from a consultant. This is a challenging project, and the consultant’s report will help determine whether OPW should keep this project. Terri to clarify if the cost estimation is just for easement acquisitions or for entire project. Further, the Dept. of Transportation is currently looking to improve the pedestrian crossing on Park Street, so there is a possibility of an alternative route here.

**5. Estuary Park Renovation & Expansion Update .....Christine Reed, Project & Grants Management Division, Oakland Public Works**

Terminology clarification: ‘Master Plan’ is different from ‘The Project.’ ‘The Project’ = Renovation & Expansion Project. The Master Plan delineates The Project AND identifies areas that require further planning design and environmental review and future project(s). The Project elements have not changed from what has been presented to DD Coalition before. The Project is the basis for planning approvals and environmental review but may be implemented in phases or sequential construction packages. For planning, it helps to do environmental review for a larger area even though OPW may seek independent minor conditional use and building permits for each construction scope.

Project started without indication of what funds are available for construction. Only have funding for design now. Christine and Terri are strategizing on fund sources/timing for construction. They are looking at using some series C for one phase, some series D for another phase, and potentially Measure Q and other sources for another phase. Areas that may require future study include the Jack London Aquatic Center (JLAC) and nearby boating amenities, parking lot, seawall, and Bay Trail segment. These are too low for long-term sea level rise. Holistic planning and design are needed to see whether renovation or significant rebuilding is necessary. The JLAC area is noted as a project that needs to be done in the Capital Improvement Program's budget document, but it is currently an unfunded project. More information on the Estuary Park Project is available [here](#).

Terri is tracking DD budget and actual spending on a separate spreadsheet from the first DD Project Summary spreadsheet. Terri will use the new one to summarize DD projects going forward and will share with the MDD Coalition when it is complete. Terri will confirm whether \$18 million was initially budgeted for Estuary Park. So far only about \$3M allocated, and funds have been under-allocated for this project.

**6. Lake Merritt as related to the likelihood of a summer harmful plankton bloom.....Terri Fashing**

OPW is looking into installing an aeration device in one of the Lake's arms and an oxygenation device in the other. They are waiting for a consultant's report to put together a bid package and then would also need to present to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission (PRAC). The devices would be located by the existing fountains, and potentially replace the existing fountains, which are not effective for increasing dissolved oxygen in the water. The visual appeal may be an issue. Terri plans to schedule time for public input. Funding from Measure Q and DD may be used, but Terri is still working on the full plan.

**7. Announcements**

- a. [Rotary Nature Center Friends](#).....The Age of Invasions Meets the Age of Plastics, Friday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 7:00 – 8:00 PM
- b. [Lake Merritt Weed Warriors](#).....Volunteer Day, Saturday, May 27<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

**8. Assigned tasks & agenda suggestions for next meeting, July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

**Terri Fashing:**

- Check with previous Union Point Park to 23rd Avenue Trail (aka Miller Milling to Cemex) (aka E. 7th Street to 23rd Ave/29th Avenue)project manager if cost estimate already available for whole project and clarify if pending order-of-magnitude cost estimation report is for easement acquisitions only or for whole project.
- Make available tracking spreadsheet to summarize DD project allocations.
- Find amounts originally planned for DD projects, including \$18M for Estuary Park.
- Staff performance/cost reports re: proposed Lake Merritt walking path, whether there's an original contractor, and how to keep pathways open under bridges (James Vann's request)
- Present Series C and D conceptual allocation plan to DD Coalition.
- Follow up on funding plan to Lake Merritt aeration and oxygenation devices pilot project.

**DD Agenda Committee:** Follow up on decision for in-person meetings, make hybrid, or keep virtual.

**OPRF:** Ask City if hybrid meeting can be supported at Garden Center or elsewhere? Does meeting need to happen at the Garden Center?

**Suggestion for topics where City staff may not need to be present:**

- I. Billboard ordinance updates.... Naomi Schiff
- II. Encampment Management Discussion. Reminder to email [Homelessness@oaklandca.gov](mailto:Homelessness@oaklandca.gov) and copy [watersheds@oaklandca.gov](mailto:watersheds@oaklandca.gov). Include in message how a specific DD project may be affected (water quality or habitat).