



## Oakland Measure DD Community Coalition

March 25, 2013

Members of the Oakland City Council  
City of Oakland  
1 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza  
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Council Member:

We are writing on behalf of the Oakland Measure DD Community Coalition to advocate budget priorities that recognize, preserve, and protect the substantial investment in Measure DD improvements at Lake Merritt by the citizens of Oakland.

The Measure DD Community Coalition was formed in 2003 and sanctioned by the Oakland City Council to provide public input concerning projects and expenditures designated in the 2002 Measure DD Bond. It is an inclusive coalition with active participation by community members and 22 Oakland organizations and agencies. The Coalition, meeting regularly with City staff for the last decade, has been involved in the design process for many of the recent improvements at Lake Merritt.

We recognize the importance in the budget process of public demand for expenditures to increase public safety, but we emphasize that the public has other concerns as well, including preservation of public investments and maintenance of clean, safe, and graffiti-free park facilities that draw people to Oakland for recreation and commerce.

The Measure DD Community Coalition formally endorses Public Works Agency requests to augment the maintenance budgets applicable to Lake Merritt and its recent capital improvements.

After the highly-publicized February 22, 2013 Channel Opening media event, and in view of the Mayor's intention to highlight the planned June 9 celebration of Measure DD funded projects, including the 12<sup>th</sup> St reconstruction, public and media attention will remain focused on the Lake Merritt improvements for some time. However, these popular park enhancements require ongoing maintenance that by law cannot be funded by the Measure DD bond proceeds, which are restricted to use for capital projects. Existing maintenance budgets have proved insufficient for the expanding requirements.

We therefore strongly support an appropriate budget augmentation to preserve and maintain the new facilities that represent a public investment of more than \$88M from the bond and nearly than \$23M from matching grants. The upcoming Lake Merritt to Estuary connection projects represent a further public investment of over \$29M. To keep faith with the voters who approved Measure DD by a margin of 80%, maintenance and preservation of the bond improvements are essential.

We appreciate the opportunity to express our collective voice in support of Council policy direction in preparing the FY '13 – '15 budget that assigns high priority to providing resources to maintain the Measure DD improvements at Lake Merritt.

Sincerely,

Measure DD Community Coalition Advocacy Committee

Glenda Barnhart

George Duncan

Naomi Schiff

Mike Udkow

Copies to: Vitaly B. Troyan, Director of Public Works

Budget Advisory Committee

c/o Bradley Johnson, Budget Office. [bjohnson@oaklandnet.co](mailto:bjohnson@oaklandnet.co)