



Oakland Measure DD Community Coalition

November 10, 2022

Board Chair Douglas Bosco
California State Coastal Conservancy
1515 Clay St 10th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

RE: Support for the City of Oakland's Proposition 68 grant application

Dear Mr. Bosco:

The Measure DD Community Coalition's Estuary Park Plan Study Group supports the City of Oakland's application for a grant to fund additional design for the Estuary Park Renovation and Expansion project.

The Estuary Park project is partially funded by the City of Oakland's Measure DD, a bond measure focused on waterfront improvements at Lake Merritt and the Oakland-Alameda Estuary. The project design has been constrained by limited bond funds, and the Coastal Conservancy grant will permit the City to expand the scope of project design to incorporate nature-based shoreline resilience components. These will include a sand and gravel beach that will complement the official Water Trail site and pier at the Jack London Aquatic Center and will also provide additional kayak and small boat access to the Oakland Estuary. In addition, the expanded design will provide a nature-based model for sea level rise adaptation design planning in other cities and counties.

The Measure DD Community Coalition is an inclusive community organization founded in 2003 and recognized by the Oakland City Council. It has representation from a large number of community groups and City staff involved in Measure DD. The Coalition meets regularly to provide ongoing dialogue between the community and the City of Oakland, and it maintains an overall view of Measure DD implementation.

Measure DD has sought to improve public access to the Oakland shoreline by nearby communities, some of which are disadvantaged. The enhanced design will provide new, rich opportunities for Oakland residents to access their shoreline and engage in waterfront recreation.

When discussing Estuary Park renovation at its meeting of January 22, 2019, the Measure DD Community Coalition formally adopted the following position, which provides a foundational rationale for the expanded scope of park design:

"The redevelopment of Estuary Park with Measure DD funds deserves specific attention be paid to its unique character, in that it is one of the only free public sites from which watercraft may be launched onto the water. It is the position of the Measure DD Coalition that this access, and the infrastructure needed to facilitate this objective, be given significant consideration in the park's redevelopment."

The Coastal Conservancy grant will directly address this goal, permitting additional project design elements supporting public access to the estuary waterfront.

We appreciate the opportunity to express our unreserved support of this grant application.

William Threlfall
Chair, Oakland Measure DD Community Coalition Estuary Park Plan Study Group