

Army Corps letter to U.S. legislators

Following is a model letter seeking legislator's efforts to persuade the Army Corps of Engineers to grant a Bay Trail easement for the Estuary. The letter, with appropriate individualization, can appropriately be sent to:

· Rep. Barbara Lee
1301 Clay Street, Suite 1000-N, Oakland, CA 94612
Lee.house.gov

· Sen. Diane Feinstein
One Post Street, Suite 2450, San Francisco, CA 94104
Feinstein.senate.gov

· Sen. Barbara Boxer
1700 Montgomery Street, Suite 240, San Francisco, CA 94111
Boxer.senate.gov

DRAFT

Date:

To:

RE: San Francisco Bay Trail/Oakland-Alameda Estuary

Dear

Please help us complete the San Francisco Bay Trail in the East Bay. It is now complete from the San Mateo Bridge to Martin Luther King, Jr. Regional Shoreline in Oakland, a distance of about 20 miles. There are, however, gaps in Oakland, some of which cannot be completed because of a policy of the US Army Corps of Engineers. As you know, several years ago, the Corps regional office declared a self-imposed moratorium on any new construction within the Oakland/Alameda estuary. A waiver of the Corps moratorium is needed to allow completion of the Bay Trail, including construction of a new 0.5 mile boardwalk in the estuary in the High Street Bridge area. Currently, bikers and pedestrians must traverse Tidewater Avenue, which is a highly industrialized, unsafe private road. If the Corps would grant a waiver, a new portion of trail would connect the existing trail north of High Street Bridge to the existing Bay Trail at Martin Luther King, Jr. Shoreline and to the newly constructed \$5 million Tidewater Boating Center. The requested waiver should also apply to other parts of the estuary where the City of Oakland is working to complete the Bay Trail.

The Water Resources Development Act of 2007 provides the Corps with the discretion to convey the Oakland Inner Harbor Tidal Canal property. A public interest exemption to the Corps' self-imposed moratorium is thus permitted and justifiable in this case.

Your efforts to persuade the Corps to grant the requested easement would be appreciated.