



Oakland Measure DD Community Coalition

January 6, 2017

Office of City Council Member XXXXXXXX
1 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza
2nd Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Re: The Bay Trail in Oakland Along Estuary Shoreline

Dear Council Member XXXXXXX,

The Measure DD Community Coalition is a citizen oversight group authorized by the City Council following passage of the \$198 million bond measure in 2002. The coalition works with city staff to review projects funded through Measure DD. The undersigned are members of the Measure DD Bay Trail Subcommittee.

We congratulate the city that many DD projects have been successfully completed, but we are concerned by the slow progress on sections of the Bay Trail through Oakland. Measure DD allocated \$53 million for shoreline improvements including the Bay Trail. Today, 14 years after passage of the bond measure, there remain numerous gaps in the trail as shown on the attached map. A trail, like any road, requires continuity, and any gap eliminates that continuity and reduces the value of the trail to users and potential users.

Our neighboring cities have made more progress than we have in completing the trail. The trail is largely complete through Emeryville and Berkeley, and Richmond has the most completed miles of the trail of any bay area city. To the south, the trail is complete to the San Mateo bridge.

This letter is not intended to be critical of city staff; we understand that staff is burdened with many other projects and have done good work within the constraints of numerous projects. But work to fill critical gaps at the High Street Bridge, the Miller Milling property (formerly Conagra), and other sites have apparently been stalled due to reassignment of project management staff to other projects.

Another problem is the city's reluctance to use its power of eminent domain. If property owners believe that the city will not condemn, the property owners can block trail completion indefinitely.

The issue is one of priorities. Are the mayor and city council willing to establish priorities and assign adequate staff to complete these important trail segments? Or will we continue to face further delays in connecting the Bay Trail through Oakland?

We urge the mayor and city council to reexamine city priorities and provide the necessary resources to complete the Bay Trail through Oakland soon. In particular, Council Member XXXX, we ask you to pledge your best efforts to bring about completion of the Bay Trail in Oakland within 5 years, to provide the necessary staff to achieve this goal, and to support use of

eminent domain where needed. Please let us know as soon as possible if you will agree to this pledge so that we may advise our fellow community coalition participants and other interested citizens.

Sincerely,

Measure DD Community Coalition, Bay Trail Subcommittee

John Sutter
EBRPD Former Director

Joel Peter
Former Measure DD Project Manager

Rick Rickard
EBRPD Park Advisory Committee
Board Member, Bike East Bay

Mike Udkow
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