



## Oakland Measure DD Community Coalition

June 3, 2016

Brooke Levin, Public Works Director  
blevin@oaklandnet.com

Dear Brooke,

The Measure DD Community Coalition has formed a task force of Naomi Schiff, James Vann and me to investigate the use of the \$400,000 allocated in the Council's '15-'16 budget for the enhanced maintenance of Measure DD-funded landscaping at Lake Merritt. Please see the attached excerpts from the Mayor's proposed budget and the Council's adopted budget, which make clear that the intention was for additional staff to work on maintaining the landscaping funded by the DD bond.

In July 2015 when you attended the Coalition meeting, you advised that reports can be created on the use of the funds that the Council allocated for enhancing maintenance. At the April 24, 2016 Finance Committee meeting, your staff was asked about the use of the funds, and a follow-up report on the use of the funds was requested.

We understand that three gardeners were hired as of mid-April '16, two of whom now work at the lake perimeter, which includes DD-funded landscaping. The third gardener appears to be assigned to Lakeside Park proper, which does not contain DD-funded landscaping maintained by OPW. Furthermore, one gardener who used to work at the lake perimeter has apparently been reassigned elsewhere, so it appears we only have a net increase of one gardener in the DD-funded areas. The current assignments do not appear to meet the funding conditions expressed in the budget; that is, that the funding should augment existing funding, and that it be spent on maintaining the new DD-funded improvements.

At the April 24 meeting of the Finance Committee, Public Works' Brian Carthan and Assistant City Administrator Christine Daniel stated that a projected \$157,000 of the \$400,000 would be unspent. We request a written itemized accounting of expenditures to date, and planned future expenditures. Please confirm that only the salary of the one additional gardener working on DD landscaping is currently being charged to the \$400,000 allocation.

Looking forward to the next fiscal year, we request an ongoing reporting of expenditures to the Coalition on a regular basis. This will give OPW the opportunity to demonstrate that this \$400,000 maintenance enhancement is being managed responsibly and with complete transparency, which will garner community support for other infrastructure funding enhancements that may be proposed in the future.

Finally, we were gratified to hear Assistant City Manager Christine Daniel say at the Finance Committee meeting that the unspent funds would be carried forward to add to next fiscal year's \$400,000 for use in enhancing the maintenance of DD-funded improvements at the lake. Please confirm for us that this carry-forward is being implemented. Now that the 12<sup>th</sup> St project plant establishment period has ended and the project's maintenance has come to Oakland Public Works, the enhancement is all the more necessary.

On behalf of the Measure DD Coalition task force on Enhanced Maintenance of DD-funded projects at Lake Merritt,

Naomi Schiff  
James Vann  
Jennie Gerard

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**\$400K annual Lake Merritt Measure DD area maintenance funding**

From Mayor's proposed budget:

Service Impact Statements

The following summarize the service changes anticipated in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2015-2017 Proposed Policy Budget

Page A-4:

Public Works & Transportation

- Dedicate ongoing funding for Lake Merritt Park maintenance by \$400,000 annually after it reaches plant establishment in May 2016 to preserve this new public space.

From Adopted Council Budget Amendments, page 2, item 28

<http://www2.oaklandnet.com/oakca1/groups/cityadministrator/documents/memorandum/oak054000.pdf>

Item #	Dept	Purpose Description			
28	OPW	Investment	Improve Quality of Life ADD: Lake Merritt Maintenance Money to maintain Measure DD		
FY 2015 - 16		FY 2016 - 17	One-Time	Totals	Notes
\$		\$	\$ 400,000 \$	400,000	Support's the Mayor's maintenance fund but begins in Year 1