



November 16, 2011

Debbie Schechter, Brownfields and Site Assessment Section Chief
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9
75 Hawthorne St.
San Francisco, CA 94105

Re: Letter of support for Brownfields Assessment Grant Application

Dear Ms. Schechter:

Waterfront Action is writing in support of the City of Oakland's application for a \$200,000 brownfields assessment grant for the Oakland Measure DD Cryer Boatworks Site project area. The Cryer Site shoreline is contaminated, and the EPA grant will permit the City to prepare the necessary remediation plan.

Waterfront Action is an Oakland non-profit whose mission is to promote public access to the Oakland-Alameda Estuary and Lake Merritt through public awareness, education, and direct action.

We support the City's grant application as a key step toward removing barriers to shoreline access in the Cryer Site area. Even though the Bay Trail passes through the site, the shoreline and beach are closed to the public and fenced off due to hydrocarbon and heavy metal contamination. Cleanup of the site would permit removal of the existing fence, beach access by the public, launching of kayaks or canoes for exploration of the Estuary, and an enhanced Bay Trail experience.

Further, as the site is located in an area with a lack of public open space and poor economic conditions, we believe the grant will be a key component in improving public access to our city's waterfront and enhancing social justice in the neighborhood.

Thank you for the opportunity to voice Waterfront Action's support for this grant application.

Sincerely,

Sandy

Sandy Threlfall, Executive Director

Board of Trustees:

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