



# Oakland Measure DD Community Coalition

October 2, 2017

Oakland Athletics  
Attn: Dave Kaval, President  
  
7000 Coliseum Way  
Oakland CA 94621

Peralta Community College District  
Attn: Board of Trustees  
  
333 East 8th Street  
Oakland CA 94606

The Measure DD Community Coalition, an alliance of Oakland residents and organizations with broad community wide interests, is sanctioned by the Oakland City Council to monitor the projects and expenditures of the \$198 million 2002 Bond Election. Of 56 Measure DD projects, approximately 45 have been successfully completed. Moreover, the Coalition has coordinated with City staff on projects in the vicinity of Peralta's Administrative Offices, specifically the new Lake Merritt Blvd, Amphitheater Park, new bridges at E10 St and E12th St, restored marsh areas, and continuing water quality improvements of the Lake Merritt Channel and its accompanying sculpture-park walkways along each side of the Channel from the Lake to the Estuary.

At the Coalition's meeting on Monday, September 18, a report was received of the Oakland A's September 12 announcement of the team's desire to construct a new baseball stadium at the site of the Peralta College District Administrative Offices. In response, this communication was directed.

The Measure DD Coalition is delighted that the A's have chosen to remain in Oakland. The team is a welcomed entertainment, economic, and social asset to the city, and the Coalition wishes the team success in Oakland for many years into the future.

As the Channel itself and 100 ft. at both sides of the adjacent parkway that borders the Peralta parcel are "protected" property of the City of Oakland and are also projects of Measure DD Bond improvements, the Coalition has serious concerns for the negative impacts of a 35,000 seat mega-stadium project adjacent to the Channel. Among these concerns are:

- increased pedestrian traffic through the sculpture-park's walkways along the length of the Channel from the Lake to the Bay will produce maintenance and expense burdens on park facilities and under-staffed crews.
- trampled landscapes, crowd management, and overburdened hardscape accompanying victory celebrations -- as example, each of the Warriors' 2015 & 2017 victory celebrations centered at the Lake Merritt area cost the city approximately \$1.5 million -- the unbudgeted costs of which are only now being partially compensated.
- as the nation's oldest nationally-designated bird and waterfowl refuge, Lake Merritt is host to tens of thousands of some 200 protected species of birds and waterfowl. A mega-stadium will be a direct intrusion on the migratory flyway.

- amplified music, fireworks, and noise of the stadium's crowds and PA systems can frighten migrating birds causing disruption of habitats, abandoned nests, and shortened lives of fowlings.
- increased vehicular traffic along the few streets in the vicinity of the Lake Merritt Channel will deposit harmful pollutants and toxins in the recently restored Channel, posing health risks to both wildlife and humans.
- trash emanating from stadium fans, blowing winds, pedestrians and vehicles along the roadways and bridges is unsightly and is dangerous to fish and wildlife, and will pollute the Channel and its parkways. Moreover, discarded food scraps will attract rodents and scavengers that spread disease and prey on birds, their nests, and wildlife that live along the Channel.
- the bright lights of the ballpark, scoreboard, parking areas, and associated buildings can disrupt the flyways of migrating birds, disturb bird and animal sleep patterns, and disorient birds that migrate or fly at night.
- increased air, water, noise, and environmental pollution will compound the existing negative impacts of freeway truck and commuter traffic; freight, rail, and train movement; and vehicular surface traffic.
- intense commercial and high-density residential development of adjacent neighborhoods invariably accompanies a ballpark installation, which will transform and degrade what is currently a human-scale, wildlife-friendly, contemplative and relaxing green area of the city into a hyper-active thoroughfare.

The Measure DD Coalition mutually shares with the Audubon Society concerns for the potential negative effects on Lake Merritt, its water quality, wildlife, the Bay Trail, and the Channel connecting to the Bay. The toxic impacts to air and water and by the noise and lighting of the proposed stadium on the lives and qualitative habitation of humans and wildlife all serve to undermine the enormous investment for which residents, elected officials, city staff, and contractors have worked so long and hard, and for which the residents of the city will be paying for years into the future.

In the event that the proposed stadium project should proceed at the Peralta site, the Coalition requests that comprehensive physical, social, and environmental analyses be undertaken early in the process, and that the Coalition be informed and provided with findings and proposed mitigations that impinge on the above listed concerns.

Sincerely,

The Measure DD Community Coalition

CC: Oakland City Council <[council@oaklandnet.com](mailto:council@oaklandnet.com)>  
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