



Oakland Measure DD Community Coalition

Statement & Recommendation

16 March 2010

TO: Members, Oakland Planning Commission:

SUBJECT: MEASURE DD COMMUNITY COALITION - POSITION ON VIEW
CORRIDORS (per Oakland Master Plan)

At its March meeting, the Measure DD Community Coalition reviewed the report on “View Corridors” as prepared by the Planning Department and submitted to the Zoning Update Committee. By unanimous consent, the meeting agreed to support the methodology and content of the staff proposal, and to recommend that all five views identified in the study be approved by the Zoning Update Committee and the Planning Commission, and be forwarded to the City Council with your strong recommendations for adoption. .

The Measure DD Community Coalition, a broadly representative body of some 200 concerned citizens, organizations, and dedicated staff, was sanctioned in 2003 by the City Council to monitor the progress of Measure DD projects; to serve as a community soundboard of the various constituencies; and to oversee the fiscal integrity and spending for the myriad of parks, open space, creeks, waterways, and Recreation Center developments authorized under the Measure DD bond referendum -- adopted in 2002 by 80% of the Oakland electorate.

The Coalition has a special interest in view corridors at Lake Merritt. As improvements progress around the Lake, and with recent Council approval to initiate the flagship reconstruction of the 12th Street overcrossing, views to and from Lake Merritt are extremely important to enhancing the visual experience for pedestrians, motorists, and users of the new and expanded lakeside facilities.

The Coalition also applauds Planning staff for the fine job of constructing an orderly process of mapping, describing, and constructing the view corridors. With this singular exception, the Coalition values all the identified views equally. The changing vistas from vantage point to vantage point provide a varying diorama – each with special distinction -- as viewers progress around the Lake. Moreover, each vista provides for a greater spread of views as the distance from lakeside increases. The Coalition contends that all vistas are equally valuable and strongly urges the Commission’s approval of the complete report.

With the large investment in Measure DD now taking place at Lake Merritt, and with the millions of leveraged funds received to date from state and federal sources, designating these five views supplements the quality of DD improvements for the heavily used Lake, its parks, and related attractions.

James E Vann, for and upon direction of the
Measure DD Community Coalition