



Oakland Measure DD Community Coalition

May 20, 2014

Lynette McElhaney, Rebecca Kaplan, Oakland City Councilmembers
Tom Guarino, PG&E
Brooke Levin, City of Oakland Public Works

Dear Councilmembers McElhaney and Kaplan, Acting Public Works Director Levin,
and Mr. Guarino,

The Measure DD oversight coalition voted last night to express our most urgent concern at PG&E plans to trim or remove trees in the Glen Echo Creek area in central Oakland. One of the few remaining visible creeks in the area, it is one of the main freshwater flows into Lake Merritt.

The adjoining neighbors have worked long and hard to preserve this watershed. For decades they have protected it from unwise developments, spent time on weekends to maintain the banks and park area, and have advocated with public agencies. In doing so they have helped improve the water quality of Lake Merritt, the nation's oldest wildlife sanctuary.

Oakland's Public Works Department is getting outstanding results from its major Measure DD projects, totaling \$198 million dollars, which includes a large amount towards Lake Merritt parks, water quality and habitat improvements, and a significant effort toward creek preservation. The Measure DD Community Coalition urges that the City, PG&E, the neighborhood, our group, and other concerned organizations and agencies meet right away to discuss any proposed trimming, pruning, or removal of trees, and not proceed until an agreement and understanding are worked out. Issues should include water quality, creek bank preservation, wildlife habitat, environmental impacts, parks, open space, and neighboring community.

We hope that PG&E will recognize and honor the importance of our oaks in the City of OAKland. We look forward to working toward safe utilities without mutilating an important resource and without causing sediments and debris to clog our improving Lake Merritt.

To contact us, email our administrative coordinators at info@waterfrontaction.org, or telephone Naomi Schiff at 510-835-1717. We thank you for your help,

Sincerely,

Naomi Schiff