

Measure DD Project Request (9/17/2020)

PROJECT NAME
Lake Merritt Channel Water Quality and Pedestrian Improvements
PROJECT DESCRIPTION
This project involves the improvement of the park along the Lake Merritt Channel, particularly the areas between 10 th st and 880, on both sides of the Flood Control. Goals include improvement of existing deteriorated paths, creating new path connections where possible, looking at drainage into the channel, addressing deteriorating banks and community paths, improving landscaping, and other park improvements. With new housing being built close by, and future housing and offices proposed by the Downtown Specific Plan, the channel could see more use in the future. A tiered list of possible improvements is listed with the second page.
LIMITATIONS
Because of lighter traffic, the area sees a lot of homeless activity.
AGENCIES/ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED
Peralta/Laney would need likely need to be involved, if nothing else because of the land. BCDC would be involved, but only for the shoreline between 7th St and the freeway.
LAND TENURE/RIGHTS OF WAY ISSUES
It has been said that there is a “Right of Entry” agreement made in 2012 between the City and Peralta. This agreement gives the City the right to construct Measure DD improvements and occupy the land. The limit is the outside edge of the pathways. Reconstruction of the pathways, landscaping between the pathway and the channel, and any work within the channel is covered. The area below 7th St on the east bank, adjacent to Peralta’s administrative offices, is not included.
FUNDING
DD funding might cover many things (~6m currently existing available, with potentially an additional ~4m from Series D).
PUBLIC OUTREACH
Community groups that run the community garden, OMCA’s Green Team (who’ve been doing site restoration near the ceramics lab), and the organizers of the Sunday flea market might be good groups to involve. School groups (probably from MetWest) also use the

green for PE. And there is likely Laney college groups (like those who organized against the stadium) who would be interested. Homeless encampment community.

Project Items

Top Priority

Item title	description
Reconstruction of pedestrian/bikeways between 10 th and the freeway	The pathway near the Community Garden is being eaten away. This is may be due to BART backfilling with sand after construction, and that dumping and compacting a load of soil there, laying a low layer of cobble-size rocks at the water's edge, and planting with marsh plants would be an easy fix. Given the connection to the Bay Trail, following Bay Trail Design guidelines might be worth while.
Landscape Design w/ Restoration/Revegetation	Landscape design to beautify and enhance the parkway. Seeking visual appeal to draw citizens to the shoreline and provide public amenities such as benches to accommodate them. This would include revegetation/restoration of native plants between the path and the channel. This would include the area alongside the Laney College parking lot where trees were cut down, and wood chips left in big piles along the bank. Functional design to coordinate/accommodate the future LM2BT bridge touchdowns.
Improve fencing along the restored marshland between 10 th and 12 th	The tidal marsh revegetation needs to be completed to stop the ongoing erosion of the bank there, and to fulfill permit requirements. A permanent fence will keep the campers out so that the City can complete this work. There may already be a design completed for the fence and revegetation?

Medium Priority

Item title	description
Addressing community paths along the banks	This might be addressed in the landscape design above. Particularly between the flood control and 880, fisherman have worn paths along the banks which seem to be contributing to erosion, suppressing the pickle weed from holding firm.
Improving the seating area by the athletic fields	Again this might be addressed by the landscape design above. The current landscaping of this might just be badly maintained, but the seating area is not a welcoming area – it feels like a closed room, has no view of the water, and does not feel safe (given some of the activity that can be seen there).

Low Priority

Item title	description
Portage ramps for boats	In order to fulfill the bond language to provide boat access, portage spots could be put in on either side of the flood control gates.
Trash Cans	This might require more servicing, but currently there's not much place to discard trash. Having receptacle nearest where the Sunday flea market occurs might create some incentive for people to properly discard their trash.

Unlikely ideas

Item title	description
"high line" conversion of unused railway bridge	The bridge is still owned by the Railroad. The City is unlikely to pursue given the difficulty of working with the Railroads.
Addressing issues with the tunnels by the flood control (light, airflow, flooding)	There is a very old City-County agreement that puts responsibility for maintaining those tunnels, and adjacent ramps and stairs, on the City. The City started designing a tunnel upgrade several years ago, but the project stalled. It makes sense to wait for the County's pump station assessment in any case. Alameda County will be doing some repairs to the tide gates in 2021. The new road level crossing provides one option for crossing the road that won't be prone to flooding.



10th St.

Boundary follows back edge of path

Channel Park Boundary

7th St.

I-880

EXHIBIT A
July 11, 2012