FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Oakland Measure DD Community Coalition c/o Waterfront Action P.O. Box 11456
Oakland, CA 94611

Oakland – An Oakland city advisory group called upon Mayor Libby Schaaf and city council members to speed up completion of the Bay Trail along the Oakland waterfront. In a letter to the elected officials, the Measure DD Community Coalition cited the city's "slow progress" in building the Oakland section of bicycle/pedestrian trail planned to encircle the San Francisco Bay.

Measure DD is the \$198 million park bond issue passed by 80% of Oakland voters in 2002. It included \$53 million for waterfront improvements including the Bay Trail. The measure called for a "pedestrian and bicycle trail...along Estuary waterfront to provide continuous public access from Jack London Square to Martin Luther King, Jr. Regional Shoreline." The Coalition, the citizen oversight group authorized by the City council following passage of the bond measure, stated:

"Today, 14 years after the passage of the bond measure, there remain numerous gaps in the trail...A trail, like any road, requires continuity, and any gap eliminates that continuity and reduces the value of the trail to users and potential users. Our neighboring cities have made more progress than we have in completing the trail. The trail is largely complete through Emeryville and Berkeley, and Richmond has the most completed miles of the trail of any Bay Area city. To the south, the trail is complete to the San Mateo Bridge."

The letter included a map showing over a dozen gaps in the trail between Jack London Square and Martin Luther King, Jr. Regional Shoreline. The gaps include the bridges to Alameda and the Miller Milling, formerly ConAgra, property.

The Coalition emphasized that it is not critical of project staff, and congratulates the city for "many DD projects that have been successfully completed," but noted that work on the Bay Trail sites has "apparently been stalled."

The coalition calls upon the Mayor and councilmembers to pledge their best efforts to complete the Bay Trail in Oakland within five years.

END OF PRESS RELEASE

For further information, contact:
John Sutter, Chair, Measure DD Community Coalition
Bay Trail Subcommittee
sutteroakland@comcast.net
Phone: (510) 597-1440

Fax: (510) 597-1403

