

**Measure DD Community Coalition  
Notes from September 15, 2003 meeting**

Ira Jinkins Recreation Center  
by Donald Walls, Agenda Chairperson

The meeting was called to order by meeting chair Don Walls at 7:05 pm. Those in attendance are identified below. The Agenda Committee for this meeting included John Momper, John Sutter and Donald Walls. The main purposes of the September meeting were to (1) review the EDAW Waterfront Pathway Study, (2) evaluate plans for the East Oakland Sports Complex, (3) discuss recommendations for on-going administration and outreach for the Coalition, and (4) report on progress of the Audit Subcommittee.

**1. Introductions and Selection of Next Quarterly Agenda Committee**

The meeting was graciously hosted by the Paul Bates, Ira Jinkins Recreation Center Director and began with participant introductions. Jennie Gerard, Judy Johnson and Danita Scott volunteered to serve of the Agenda Committee for the final quarter of 2003. [By mutual agreement, Sandy Threlfall, who had also volunteered that evening has replaced Danita Scott on the Agenda Committee.]

**2. EDAW Waterfront Pathway Study**

In 2002, the City received a \$400,000 grant from the Coastal Conservancy and the Bay Trail Project to study the feasibility of constructing a trail along the edge of the Oakland Estuary. EDAW, Inc., along with a host of other consultants (see attached "Waterfront Feasibility Study Presentation.doc" for list), recently completed an analysis of the Oakland Bay Trail which would consist of **6.6 miles of trails** either running parallel to the shoreline or as a floating walkway system under bridge crossings. Kerry Jo Ricketts-Ferris (CEDA Planning) presented a 40-minute slideshow summary of the EDAW Study and took questions from the Coalition. While it is not possible to do justice to the excellent presentation in these notes, a brief outline of the Waterfront Feasibility Study Public Presentation is attached ("Waterfront Feasibility Study Presentation.doc").

The Trail Project includes 40 projects, 10 new parks and one joint effort with East Bay Regional Park District (Martin Luther King Shoreline). Four unique **character districts** along the waterfront have been identified: *Downtown, Marina, Industrial* and *Marshlands*. Each district is tied to a palette of materials and finishes for benches, railings, and edge treatments typically found within that district. These will then be applied to site specific design solutions as sections of the trail are developed either publicly or privately. In addition, the concept for the waterfront trail lighting and signage element is derived from the existing railroad light towers that parallel I-880 and the City's waterfront. Signage and markers (gray metal) will be consistent with character districts.

Kerry Jo described a variety of trails with different edge treatments to complement specific portions of the shoreline. The trail was designed with an emphasis on environmental stewardship that includes integration of

environmentally sustainable materials, grading techniques, wetland transitions zones and wildlife and landscape buffer zones. At minimum, the trail width will be (a) 12' where elevated structure is required, (b) 20' where separated paths can be accommodated and (c) 15' where the right of way limits the path width to a single multipurpose path. Neighborhood connections (or loops) are being contemplated, so that neighbors can use portions of the trail. The ten "opportunity sites" (Estuary Park, Brooklyn Basin/Crowley Site, Superfund Site, Cryer Site/Union Point Park Phase II, Park Street Triangle, Derby and Lancaster Street Mini Parks, Tidewater Park, Oakport Park and 66th Avenue Gateway) are described in more detail in the attached presentation document.

Estuary projects have been broken into 40 discrete segments that could be accomplished independently of one another. **First priority** is being given to those projects that ensure the creation of a continuous trail; the secondary priority is providing parks and trail amenities. The next steps in the process are (1) Public review and comment on the EDAW Study from September 1, 2003 to November 3, 2003; (2) land and easement acquisitions along the trail; (3) design of Estuary Park; and (4) construction at a number of sites. The current target is for Council to use the EDAW Study recommendations to adopt a revised Bay Trail plan by December 2003. In addition, it was pointed out that there are planned private developments of portions of the Estuary that will also impact the Measure DD efforts.

A number of questions were raised about HOW "hard choices" would be made if the significant budget gap was not closed. Kerry Jo stated that the Phase I strategy was to focus on acquisitions in order to keep land costs from rising and to complete the entire trail. New parks now account for the majority of the budget gap and could be delayed, if necessary, without endangering the completion of the Oakland Bay Trail. The issue of adequate parking to provide access to the Trail was also raised. Kerry Jo stated that parking areas would be distributed along the Trail.

**RESOLUTION:** The Coalition agreed that a detailed reading of the EDAW Study was necessary and encouraged Ms. Ricketts-Ferris to make copies of the Oakland Waterfront Access Study available in as many forms as possible. The document and Executive Summary, along with the public presentation schedule, may be viewed on the City of Oakland website at <http://www.oaklandnet.com/Oaklandwaterfront>. Study copies are also available for reference use at the following locations:

- a. Each of the Oakland Public Libraries Branches (15 locations) and the Oakland Main Library
- b. City of Oakland's Community and Economic Development Agency, Planning and Zoning Division (250 Frank Ogawa Plaza, Suite 3330)
- c. City of Oakland's Office of the City Clerk (One Frank Ogawa Plaza, 1st Floor)

Copies of the of the Oakland Waterfront Access Study, an Executive Summary of the Oakland Waterfront Access Study and a project poster are all available for purchase at CEDA, Planning and Zoning Division (Suite 3330 on the third floor of 250 Frank Ogawa Plaza):

- a. Oakland Waterfront Access Study (148 pages) \$50.00 per document
- b. Oakland Waterfront Access Study (CD) \$ 5.00 per disk
- c. Study Executive Summary (18 pages) \$20.00 per document
- d. Waterfront Access Study Project Poster \$30.00 per poster

### **3. East Oakland Sports Complex**

Clarence Mamuyac, ELS Architecture & Urban Design, and Jean Zastera, Public Works Agency, presented a slideshow of the design concept for the East Oakland Sports Complex which was approved by the Oakland City Council in 2002. The design of the state-of-the-art facility which is being touted as the "greatest facility of its kind in the Western U.S.," was, indeed, impressive. There is a gradual upslope to the main entrance on the top level of the facility. The Complex includes two pools: one for recreation and one competitive pool with moveable bulkheads making it useful for a wide range of competitive events. There is a gymnasium, workout area, recreation center, and expansive public promenade that overlooks all the sporting areas. The promenade—the focal point of the expansive facility—is intended to be a "meet-and-greet area" for the community and users of the facility. Using a considerable amount of glass and exposure to the outdoors emphasizes the expansiveness of the design. There are also provisions for spectators at major events.

Again, these meeting notes are inadequate to fully describe the design of the East Oakland Sports Complex which was illustrated with an animated presentation by Clarence. Some of the design/planning goals were (a) to keep as much open space as possible, (b) maintain connections to the existing senior center and school, (c) create a state-of-the-art facility that was economically feasible to operate, (d) provide a consistent level of service and (e) provide scholarship and job sharing opportunities for neighborhood access. The total project costs are estimated to be \$56M, with Measure DD and other known sources currently accounting for \$14M. In addition, the annual operating budget would be approximately \$5M with 96 employees. Representatives from Oakland have visited a similar complex in Denver, CO that is characterized as a successful example of public sports management.

Jean Zastera (PWA) said that PWA has recommended to Council that they hire a fundraising firm to explore membership sales, corporate sponsorship, naming rights, and other fundraising sources and to develop a plan for the City to both (a) close the funding gap and (b) ensure that it can operate the facility successfully. Detailed studies of the East Oakland Sports Complex, for public review, will be put up on a Measure DD web page and on the PWA website as soon as practical.

A number of questions were asked about HOW the City would avoid wasting money designing a \$56M facility if the available funds were considerably less. Jean answered by stating that only schematic plans are being developed and that no design or development would be done without the necessary funds being in place. She felt that, within 3-6 months, the project team would have a pretty good idea of what funds could be raised. Another issue raised was parking (especially for large events). Clarence stated that the parking in the current design was "more than adequate" for any event the Complex might host. Lastly, it was suggested that the Measure DD Team contact USA Swimming (<http://www.usswim.org/index.shtml>) which has been a leader in organizing swim clubs in the U.S.

**RESOLUTION:** The Coalition recommended that the Measure DD Team put as much information on the City's website as possible to educate the public about the Sports Complex and the issues surrounding its development.

#### **4. Administrative Support and Outreach**

The Subcommittee on Coalition Administrative/Process Issues concluded that there is significant effort involved in assuring continued community involvement, scheduling meetings and creating a useful record of Coalition discussions for those who cannot attend meetings. Consequently, the committee proposed to bring to closure, by the October meeting, separate requests for proposal for (a) Coalition administrative support and (b) Measure DD Coalition web site development and support. Kerry Jo Ricketts-Ferris agreed to meet with the Subcommittee to discuss a "not-to-exceed" amount that could be funded out of Measure DD funds.

**RESOLUTION:** The Coalition agreed that any organization or individual interested in responding to either request for proposal should notify Jennie Gerard by October 1, 2003. Requests for proposal would be available no later than October 20, 2003 with a November 1 deadline for proposals. Award recommendations would be made to the Measure DD Team at November Coalition meeting.

#### **5. Periodic Compliance Audits**

Caroline Kim and Jennie Gerard reported on a meeting with Councilperson Danny Wan in which he reiterated his view that regular independent audits of Measure DD were desirable. Kerry Jo also stated that it was the Measure DD Team's intent to create monthly and quarterly management reports that would make Measure DD spending "transparent" to the public.

**RESOLUTION:** The Coalition Audit Subcommittee agreed to work with the Measure DD Team to develop templates for reports that could be discussed at the December 2003 Executive team meeting.

#### **6. Executive team Meeting and Next Coalition Meeting**

The quarterly Measure DD Executive Team meeting was scheduled for

Wednesday September 17<sup>th</sup> and the Coalition sent Don Walls and Rick Richard as their representatives. Separate meeting notes will be provided for that meeting.

The next Coalition meeting is **Monday, October 20<sup>th</sup>**, 7 pm - 9 pm at the **F.M. Smith Recreation Center** (1969 Park Boulevard). The Agenda Committee for that meeting will be Jennie Gerard, Judy Johnson, Sandy Threlfall and Donald Walls.

**Representatives from the following organization, agencies, commissions and committees attended the meeting:**

Chabot Park Highlands Homeowners Association – Ken Benson  
Coalition of Advocates for Lake Merritt – James Vann  
East Bay Bicycle Coalition – Rick Rickard  
East Bay Regional Parks District – John Sutter, Brian Wiese  
East Oakland Multipurpose Senior Center – Minnie M. Jackson  
Friends of Oakland Parks and Recreation – Judy Johnson, Don Walls  
Greater Mandana Action Coalition – Bruce De Benedictis, Caroline Kim  
Golden Gate Audubon Society – John Bowers, Caroline Kim  
Lake Merritt Institute – Elizabeth Borowiec, Stana Hearne  
Lake Merritt Rowing Club – Jerry Denham  
Oakland Heritage Alliance – Naomi Schiff  
Oakland Parks Coalition – Jennie Gerard  
San Francisco Bay Trail Project of Association of Bay Area Governments – Brian Wiese  
Waterfront Action – Sandy Threlfall, Brian Wiese

**Interested citizens:**

Norma Cureaux  
Charlie Mae Davis  
Rubiedell Harris  
Danita Scott  
Mary Louise Vibe  
Lucille Wilson

**City Officials and Staff:**

District 2 Council member Danny Wan's office – Pat Kernighan  
District 4 Council member Jean Quan's office – Richard Cowan  
District 7 Council member Larry Reid's office – Pat Mossburg  
Community & Economic Development Agency – Kerry Jo Ricketts-Ferris  
Office of Parks & Recreation – Paul Bates  
Public Works Agency – David Rashe, Jean Zastera

**Presenter:**

ELS Architecture & Urban Design – Clarence Mamuyac