

April 8, 2005

Senator Edward Vincent, Chair
Senate Governmental Organization Committee
State Capitol, Room 2203
Sacramento, CA

sent via facsimile: 916.445-5258

re: SB 674

Dear Senator Vincent:

This letter is in support of the Oakland Army Base Trust Exchange Act, SB 674. This legislation was developed as a joint initiative in support of the redevelopment efforts at the Oakland Army Base. The proposed exchange will permit both the City and the Port of Oakland to move forward on improvements to the 374 acre site.

Waterfront Action, Inc. (WAI) is an organization that works to improve public access to the waterfront in the Bay Area. We believe this legislation would open an area that previously was inaccessible to the general public. The spit of land running along the Bay Bridge entrance on the south side will be enhanced and improved as a safe route for both bicycles and pedestrians to access the planned Gateway Park, which will be developed by the East Bay Regional Park District. This park has been a dream of the community since the original discussions of Bay Closure. The combination of 15 acres under the jurisdiction of EBRPD and the 15 acres that OBRA will dedicate as open space, will result in access to nearly a mile of Bay front.

Another significant improvement for the community will be realized when a designated area for trucking (both parking and services) of over 100 acres is developed. This will be another step forward in the separation of community housing and industrial traffic.

The Tidelands Trust provides a major tool for the community to preserve its shoreline. This proposed legislation provides for the trading of trust lands to improve both maritime use and public access. WAI supports this exchange.

Sincerely,

Sandra Threlfall
Executive Director

cc: Senator Don Perata
Paul Thayer, Executive Director SLC
Tay Yoshitani, Executive Director, Port of Oakland
Mayor Jerry Brown, City of Oakland
Aliza Gallo, Executive Director, OBRA