March 7, 2013

Diane Tannenwald, Project Manager
City of Oakland, PWA
250 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, Suite 4314
Oakland, CA 94612-2033

RE: San Francisco Bay Trail to Lake Merritt Bicycle/Pedestrian Bridge Grant

Dear Ms. Tannenwald,

Waterfront Action is an Oakland-based volunteer non-profit whose mission is to promote public access to the Oakland-Alameda Estuary and Lake Merritt through using public awareness, education, and direct action. Our members place high value on the region's waterfront as a vibrant economic, recreational, and natural resource.

We are writing to express our strong support for a pedestrian/bicycle bridge to connect the San Francisco Bay Trail to the Lake Merritt trails for bicyclists and pedestrians. The Union Pacific railroad tracks create a barrier to crossing denying safe access to the Oakland Alameda Estuary. Each step the City of Oakland and the granting agencies make to complete the connection of Lake Merritt to her Estuary is a clear statement of support for the people.

Lake Merritt reconstruction is nearly complete, with the 10th Street project in the bid/award phase and the 7th Street project is in design stage. This pedestrian/bicycle bridge is the last gap that needs to be completed to finally connect the Lake Merritt Trail system to the San Francisco Bay Trail system.

The proposed bridge will allow local and regional users to safely reach public transport such as BART, AC Transit, Capitol Corridor, and the Alameda-Oakland Ferry. Pedestrians and bicyclists would also be able to reach developing areas such as Oak to 9th and the proposed Lake Merritt BART Station Transit village. The well designed Class I pedestrian/bicycle bridge will complete this missing link in the city's bicycle and pedestrian system. It will also create a destination for local and regional users.

Thank you for your support in improving the city's infrastructure. Please do not hesitate to contact our office at 510.336-1824 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Sandra Threlfall
Sandra Threlfall
Executive Director