



Oakland Measure DD Community Coalition

November 16, 2011

Debbie Schechter, Brownfields and Site Assessment Section Chief
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9
75 Hawthorne St.
San Francisco, CA 94105

Re: Letter of support for Brownfields Assessment Grant Application

Dear Ms. Schechter:

The Measure DD Community Coalition supports the City of Oakland's application for a brownfields assessment grant for the Cryer Boatworks Site project area. The Cryer site is one of the waterfront projects in the City of Oakland's Measure DD, a bond measure focused on waterfront improvements at Lake Merritt and the Oakland-Alameda Estuary. The Cryer Site shoreline is contaminated, and the \$200,000 EPA grant will permit the City to develop a remediation plan.

The Measure DD Community Coalition is an inclusive coalition recognized by the Oakland City Council. It has representation from a large number of community groups and City staff involved in Measure DD. The Coalition meets regularly to provide ongoing dialogue between the community and the City of Oakland, and it maintains an overall view of Measure DD implementation.

The Cryer Boatworks Site has been developed as a public park, and contains a section of the San Francisco Bay Trail. The shoreline is a gently sloping beach, which is a rare commodity in Oakland. Unfortunately, the beach and tidal area are contaminated with hydrocarbons and heavy metals, so the shoreline is currently fenced off and closed to the public. Cleanup of the beach and sediments will likely require dredging and disposal of the material.

A successful cleanup would provide a sheltered beach where children could play - an ideal complement to the picnicking, fishing, and lawn areas available at the adjacent Union Point Park. It would provide appealing shoreline access to residents of a dense urban neighborhood that is located in a depressed economic area, marked by blight and limited public opportunities. Further, removal of contaminated sediments would provide benefits to the aquatic environment.

We appreciate the opportunity to express our collective voice in support of this grant application.

Measure DD Community Coalition Advocacy Committee

James E. Vann
Rick Rickard
Naomi Schiff