

Measure DD Coalition  
Minutes of September 24, 2007 Meeting

In attendance: Ron Bishop, Robert Raburn, Rick Rickard, David Bolanos, Barbara Newcombe, David Mix, John Wilson, Kathy Raymond, Jesse Roseman, John Bowers and Ken Pratt.  
City Staff Attendees: Joel Peter and Kristin Zaremba

The meeting was a walking tour between 12<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> St. along the channel. We met outside the Kaiser Convention Center to begin our tour.

The Culvert on 12<sup>th</sup> St. is currently 48 ft. wide and is a restriction to the channel. It was apparently built in two phases and while the exact dates were unknown it was believed that the first part was done in the 20's or 30's and then the second part was probably done in the 50's as there is a dogleg in the culverts. It was discussed and there was some disagreement about whether the pumps or the culverts are really the biggest obstacle. The reconfiguration will have the East Bound lanes of 12<sup>th</sup> St. redone and a pedestrian way that will go under the bridge. The West Bound lane will be gone and turn into parkland. The pathway that will go under the bridge on both sides and there will be some public art on the walls under the bridge. Between 12<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> St. they will be removing the artificial fill and returning it to the tidal marshlands that it was originally.

There will be a second pedestrian bridge that is 15 ft. that will connect with the trail around the lake. There is a question if the new marshlands would pose a problem with mosquitoes but the experts don't believe this will be a problem due to the flow of the water and the fish eating the larvae. Mosquitoes pose the largest problem in standing water not water with a current. The Channel will be widened to around 100ft. it is approximately 60 ft. now. There are some trees that will need to be removed when widening the marsh these are Redwood, Cedar and some Monterey Pines. It was stated many of the pines are dying.

Along 10<sup>th</sup> St. there will be a spanning bridge and the culverts will be removed and be 100 Ft wide. Both projects will hopefully start next spring. Originally 12<sup>th</sup> St. was going to happen first but due to the delays they will probably be occurring around the same time. Along 10<sup>th</sup> St. traffic will be open and they will be doing ½ the bridge at a time.

We then went through Laney College they have a new art center and tennis courts. Laney also has a plan to build a new sports center and parking lot. This is on the opposite side of the channel from where most of the DD improvements are planned. This is Laney College property so their prerogative. On the channel side continuing from 10<sup>th</sup> St. the plan is to create more fringe tidal marsh along the channel. The City apparently has an agreement for maintaining this section, though there was some discussion on how cooperative Laney really will be. The City says they have had meetings with the top people at Laney and they are on board with the plans. There will still be a pathway on both sides of the channel though the improvements will be on the side by the new arts center. The pathway will be pulled further away from the channel where possible to create more marshland. David Mix stated he has been trying to locate a written agreement between Laney and the City and can not locate any such agreement. Joel Peter indicated that they are not ready for a concrete written agreement yet for this part but they are in contact with Laney and that they believe Laney is on board and will enter into such agreement before the project is constructed. The current pedestrian bridge on Laney property is currently staying though the City would like to encourage Laney to replace.

There was also discussion about Bart as it runs directly underneath the channel and how that would impact. It was believed it was only about 1.3 ft under the mud.

The group then proceeded to the 7<sup>th</sup> St. pumping station that was built in 1967 by the Alameda County Flood Control. The station can pump in either direction and there are automatic gauges that can be monitored from Hayward. The DD plan now calls for not touching the station. Instead they will excavate out and open up a new 20 ft channel with a flood gate. There will be a pathway next to the channel and the current tunnel here will be closed. This will provide a more open feeling and you will be able to look

into the channel. It will also open up the channel for larger fish to get through. The tunnel on the other side of the pumping station will stay in place but they will try to find ways to enhance with items such as public art. After the pumping station we walked out towards the freeway, there will be tidal marsh on both sides by the freeway. There are existing sculptures here that they are looking to find out what to do with, some may be relocated, some may be in the museums collection and some may be entered into the museums collection. Kristin from the Public Art division indicated they are doing the research on these sculptures. The 880 Freeway widening project will be taking place right next to here so the project will currently stop where the freeway project starts. That is estimated to be about a 7 year project. Once it is done it would be nice to find a way to continue the pathway under the freeway to the estuary. However, pipelines, railroad tracks, etc. prove to be obstacles. Caltrans will remove the columns for the freeway that are currently in the water. There are currently two railroad bridges, one steel and one wood, right next to each other; the wood bridge will be removed. It has been suggested to possibly make a bicycle trail through here but it is believed that Union Pacific Railroad owns the bridges.

It was stated that due to the pipeline you would only be able to navigate the water at low tide to be able to get under the pipeline. The possibility of connecting to the estuary in the future would be to build a pathway over the obstacles (this would be expensive) or you could go down and connect to 5<sup>th</sup> Ave. but this wouldn't be as nice of plan.

Kristin provided a brief update on Public Art, they have a Public Art Master Plan and they have a project team selected for 12<sup>th</sup> St. and another for the channel project. John Rogers and Tom Blair are the artists selected for 12<sup>th</sup> St. and John Roloff and Lewis DeSoto are the Channel project artists. Kristin also handed out postcards with a call for artists for the East Bay Sports Complex project.

David Mix brought up that one of the issues is that people don't seem to come to this area. The City is hoping that the new pedestrian access will solve this issue. Kristin also indicated the artists are also interested in how to bring people to this space.

It was asked if the soil had been tested around the channel and that it could be toxic. Joel indicated that testing had been done and that it is not contaminated. Rajappan and Meyer had contracted for this testing to be done.

As it was getting late it was decided to not go to the meeting room and end the meeting after the walk.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.