

**From:** Denny deFreitas

**Sent:** Thursday, June 23, 2022 6:06 PM

**To:** BCDC PublicComment **Subject:** A's Ballpark, Howard Terminal

Dear Commissioners of the Bay Conservation and Development Commission,

Along with the Town Business and the initiative launched by 125+ Oakland business leaders to promote economic and civic progress in Oakland, I am writing in strong support of removing the Port Priority Use Area designation at Howard Terminal at the Port of Oakland. This project is a once-in-a-generation economic development opportunity for the region that will link the waterfront with downtown Oakland.

After BCDC approved the San Francisco Giants and the Oakland A's witnessed what it did for the Bay Area it makes good sense that the seldom used Howard Terminal could be transferred into another attraction benefiting the entire Bay Area. I'm sure you recognize a stadium at Howard Terminal will bring in \$7 billion in economic activity and will help revitalize the Jack London Square. These things will transform the Howard Terminal area to a beautiful setting with needed housing.

The Port of Oakland has already determined this site is not needed now or in the future for Port activities. Danny Wan, the Port of Oakland's Executive Director, is on record stating "the use of Howard Terminal for the Oakland A's ballpark, housing and retail will not hurt the operations or business of the Port's shipping partners. The Port of Oakland has also voted unanimously in favor of the A's proposed project, making clear that redevelopment is the better course of action for the Port's long-term viability. Lastly, the A's proposal includes a significant commitment to return 20% of the site area to the Port of Oakland should the Port determine the land is needed to expand the Inner Harbor Basin.

For the reasons stated above, I urge you to approve the removal of Howard Terminal from Port Priority Use at your upcoming meeting on June 30th and stand ready to support the project's success for decades to come.

Respectfully,

Dennis de Freitas

USS Hornet Museum