

From: Steven Douglas
Sent: Friday, June 24, 2022 7:28 AM
To: BCDC PublicComment
Subject:

San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission

375 Beale St., Suite 510

San Francisco, CA 94105

Dear Commissioners of the Bay Conservation and Development Commission,

As a member of Town Business, an 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.

A new ballpark at the waterfront will generate more than \$7 billion in economic activity for the region and revitalize the Jack London Square District with thriving retail, restaurants, and small businesses. This project will help fix roads, improve pedestrian and rail safety, and build 3,000 units of desperately needed housing. Furthermore, Oakland residents deserve the transformative environmental and community benefits this project will bring. As it currently sits, Howard Terminal is an underutilized industrial site with a history of activities that pollute the West Oakland community. The A's project promises to clean-up this industrial site with private dollars and return public access to the waterfront with over 18 acres of public parks and open greenspace.

As we think about the future use of Oakland's waterfront, it is important to note 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,

Steven Douglas

Douglas Parking LLC/Airpark

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