



Dear BCDC Commissioners:

Environmental, economic, and social justice for the West Oakland community must be a driving principle of the A's Ballpark and the development of the Howard Terminal property.

Like tens of thousands of other Southern Black rural migrants, my grandfather and other family members came to West Oakland in the 1940s to work in the shipyards. My family has lived and worked in this community for generations, and while we have heard much about shipping and trucking companies' opposition to the A's stadium, we've felt the negative impacts of these companies' operations for decades in terms of traffic, groundwater contamination, and air pollution, but little of the positive benefits have trickled down to the community outside of the seaport.

The A's Ballpark Village project is an opportunity to see meaningful cultural, environmental, economic, recreational, and social benefits for our community to begin to redress the racial inequity metrics documented in Oakland's Baseline Racial Equity Indicators Report.

I was a Co-Chair of the Howard Terminal Community Benefits Agreement (CBA) Steering Committee's Culture and History Topic Cohort and our organization is also a participant in the West Oakland Benefits for Equity (WOBE) collaborative. WOBE, along with other community stakeholders, are currently negotiating community benefits terms with both the Port and City that would provide targeted local hiring of jobs that will prioritize employing East and West Oakland residents and disadvantaged workers with barriers to employment. It will deliver contracting opportunities for local, small, and minority-owned businesses. The draft term sheet resolution approved by Oakland's City Council includes funding for hundreds of units of affordable housing, including \$50MM for creating and maintaining ownership for long-time and displaced Black West Oaklanders. The community-governed Community Fund will allocate hundreds of millions of dollars from a special condo transfer fee to support the recommendations developed by the CBA Steering Committee. The community benefits funding is hundreds of times larger than any previous community benefits package in Oakland and is a step in repairing damage to the impacted communities.

As part of this project, the Port will also be able to fund transportation infrastructure improvements that will reduce the traffic pressure in our community and improve its operational effectiveness and safety. It will give us access to that waterfront area and build new public parks for our families.

The project will create significant economic opportunities for our community that was redlined for decades and demolished by urban renewal as documented in Oakland's Report on Redlined Neighborhoods in District Three. Tens of thousands of new stadium visitors, residents, and office workers will create demand for our existing local small businesses and create opportunities for new ones. However, we first need to counter the local disinvestment practices of the past and allow this development to continue to see these potential benefits.

A project that creates opportunities like this only comes along once in a generation. The bill for generations of redlining, disinvestment, "urban renewal", and environmental racism by our local governments is long overdue. I urge the Bay Conservation and Development Commission to allow this development to continue in the name of economic, environmental, and social justice for West Oakland.

David Peters
West Oakland Cultural Action Network