

October 1, 2021

Supervisor Keith Carson, President  
Alameda County Board of Supervisors  
1221 Oak St. #536  
Oakland, CA 94612

RE: Support for Howard Terminal

Dear President Carson and Alameda County Supervisors,

Alameda County has an opportunity to support a major project of regional significance that will transform an underutilized portion of Oakland's waterfront, create thousands of good-paying union jobs and keep our beloved A's baseball team here in the East Bay. We write to urge you to support the Waterfront Ballpark District at Howard Terminal in Oakland.

The Howard Terminal project is more than a ballpark. It will transform an underutilized, functionally obsolete cargo terminal into a vibrant new neighborhood of 3,000 homes and nearly two million square feet of new office, retail, dining, and performing arts spaces, with great union jobs and almost 20 acres of new public parks on the Oakland estuary. Anchored by an iconic new waterfront ballpark with views of the bay, San Francisco and beyond, this new district will be a must-see, must-visit destination for Alameda County. It will open up 55 acres of currently inaccessible waterfront property for all of our residents and create a long-awaited connection for the Bay Trail. The project is strongly supported by labor, including the Alameda County Building Trades and the Alameda Labor Council, and is expected to create 25,000 construction and over 7,000 permanent jobs at full build-out. Finally, as part of the project, the City, together with its State and Federal partners, will be investing in offsite infrastructure to enhance the safe, equitable and sustainable movement of goods and people to and around the Oakland waterfront, and ensure that the Port of Oakland remains a vibrant economic engine for the region for years to come.

As you are aware, the A's and City of Oakland are hard at work to convert this ambitious dream into a reality. However, a project of this size and scope cannot happen unless it receives support from all our regional partners who stand to benefit from this historic project, including Alameda County.

We strongly urge the Board to take action to "opt-in" to the infrastructure finance district that will fund key elements of the project, including open space and critically needed affordable housing. The Enhanced Infrastructure Finance District (EIFD) that the County is being asked to join would only capture property taxes that are generated by the project itself and wouldn't put the County's general fund or taxpayers at risk. In fact, if the Ballpark District were built today, even after contributing its net-new property taxes to an EIFD, the County would receive more than five million dollars per year in sales and transfer taxes to support essential healthcare, homelessness, and early childhood education services – funds that would not exist "but for" the project.

A once-in-a-generation project takes extraordinary vision and leadership. We urge the Alameda County Board of Supervisors to show their vision and leadership and vote to support a unique opportunity all Alameda County and Bay Area residents will enjoy for generations to come.

Sincerely,

CC:

Susan Muranishi, County Administrator