



SIERRA CLUB
SAN FRANCISCO BAY

NORTHERN ALAMEDA COUNTY GROUP

ALAMEDA ALBANY BERKELEY EMERYVILLE OAKLAND PIEDMONT SAN LEANDRO

June 10, 2021

Mayor Ezzy Ashcraft
Members of the Alameda City Council
SUBMITTED VIA E-MAIL

RE: Request to Fund DePave Park at \$250,000 in Budget

Dear Mayor Ezzy Ashcraft and City Council,

The Sierra Club is again appealing to you to include funding in the amount of \$250,000 (Park Director's figure) in the current budget for a DePave Park master plan. The Alameda Point Waterfront and Town Center Plan specifically states that DePave Park will be created "when funding becomes available." **However, this park is unlike the rest of the proposed parks around the Seaplane Lagoon in two important respects:**

- 1) It will be a wetland that lies outside the levee system; and
- 2) Funding for DePave Park is unlikely to ever be tied to a waterfront development project, as is the case with Site A's Seaplane Plaza, or Marina Promenade on the east side, or Seaplane Lagoon Park on the north side.

While Parks Director Amy Wooldridge may again submit a planning grant proposal to the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority in the Fall, **the odds of being awarded funds for actual planning are slim.** Per the Restoration Authority guidelines, *only one out of every ten dollars is awarded for planning purposes.* The other nine dollars go to construction-ready projects. The city can overcome this risk by funding the master plan itself and, in doing so, place this project on a level playing field competing for future grant funding for construction.

Thus, the city should front the nominal amount of money for creating a master plan to get us to the point of applying for the major construction grants. If the city is fortunate enough to be awarded funds for a master plan by the Restoration Authority in early 2022, the funds that have been budgeted for a master plan could be freed up for other uses.

Timing is crucial. From a planning perspective, it would be desirable to have DePave Park completed during the same timeframe as the VA's wetland project. The adjacent wetland on VA property will soon be expanded and upgraded. DePave Park will become an extension of this tidal wetland.

Respectfully,

Igor Tregub, Chair
Sierra Club Northern Alameda County Group