

December 11, 2024

Gail Payne,
Project Manager,
City of Alameda

Dear Ms. Payne,

The Board members of the Jean Sweeney Park Open Space Park Fund do not believe that using the open space area of the park is a proper place to send brackish street runoff water. The Placeworks design for the park voted on by the City Council on July 5th, 2016 and the presentation by then ARPD Director Amy Wooldridge indicates that the area wanted for storage of the runoff water is planned for an urban forest of California native trees, especially California Coastal Oak trees.

The Alameda resiliency plan also directs the need for trees to be planted in Alameda to help with global warming. It is unfortunate that the lack of funding has delayed the final build out of this planned use for the Jean Sweeney Park.

Our concern for the plan to send street runoff water into the Park are 1st, it is a use that is not conducive with the vision Jean Sweeney had for open space, and 2nd it is not conducive for the long term plan to create this environment as a person friendly place for all of Alameda citizens to have to enjoy being outside.

Alameda Recreation and Parks Department studies report that during the rainy season the ground water level in the Park is only 18". That means there will not be room for the added street runoff water to properly dissipate into the soil in the 24 to 48 hours required by the present plan. If the street runoff water cannot dissipate, the Park will remain a swamp environment not conducive to public use. Street runoff water is not clean and will leave toxic substances on the surface of the Park land where children will be visiting to use the planned trails through out the Park. After years of sending street runoff into the Park, the soil used to dissipate the toxic water will need to be removed and the area completely re-soiled and replanted. We do not see any part of the proposed plan that provides funding for that to happen. As we know by the fact that funding has not been available for finishing the approved plan for the major portion of the Park, that funding is always an issue, and it is not assured that funding would be available to repair the Park in any future date. The soil left in the center of the Park, which is a major portion of the Park, would no longer be safe as a place for the public, especially children, to use for open space activities.

Since the vision of Jean Sweeney and the public, when they voted to protect this land to be usable open space, would no longer be a safe place for public use, we do not see this as a good plan for the use of the open space in the Jean Sweeney Open Space Park.

Respectfully,
Dorothy Freeman
Co-Chairman

Jean Sweeney Open Space Park Fund

cc: Justin Long ARPD Director

Design Development Plan





Board of Directors

December 16, 2024

Denyse Trepanier
President

RE: [Item 5-C: Oakland Alameda Adaptation Committee \(OAAC\)](#)

Brian Fowler
Treasurer

Dear Members of the Planning Board and Staff,

Tim Beloney
Secretary

This is a vitally important initiative for Alameda and we wanted to express full support for it. Investing in infrastructure that will keep us dry, keep us moving on and off the island safely, and allow for continued enjoyment of assets like the Bay Trail and shoreline is critical. We wanted to take this opportunity to comment on a few specific items:

Cyndy Johnsen
Board Member

Maria Piper
Board Member

Oakland-Alameda Shoreline Access – There should be good coordination with cross-estuary bicycle and pedestrian projects and stakeholders. Among them, the [Oakland Alameda Access Project](#), the water shuttle (the landing in Jack London Square will need to be moved), and the planned [estuary bike bridge](#) (four of the candidate landing locations are within the OAAC project area – three in Oakland, and one in Alameda).

Lucy Gigli
Founder, non-voting

Wooden bridge on Bay Farm Island – We understand this bridge needs to be rebuilt (or another connection needs to be built to replace it), and that this work is not part of the Veteran's Court project. We just wanted to reiterate how important this connection is to thousands of school children and other users, and how it enables people to make more sustainable transportation choices that are a key part of our resilience strategy. It would behoove us to ensure that access here is not interrupted.

Open Space (Jean Sweeney Open Space Park) – The [goals of the OAAC project](#) include protecting and restoring water quality, habitat, and community resilience. We noted in the presentation that there's a slide of the Jean Sweeney Open Space Park, which is within the project area, and wanted to reiterate [our concern about the new parking lot](#) that's proposed for the Aquatic Center. This lot is almost twice the size of the parking lot that's in the Master Plan, but any new parking lot here, claiming limited open space, would work against these goals. And by inducing more driving trips, it will generate emissions and pollution that exacerbate climate and flooding issues into the future. Our hope is that the need for large parking lots will be carefully studied and rethought in the context of climate change realities that are already here, and will only intensify in the years ahead.

Thank you for your consideration,

Bike Walk Alameda Board