

CITY OF ALAMEDA RESOLUTION NO. _____

SUPPORTING A CONVEYANCE OF THE SURPLUS
FEDERAL PROPERTY ON MCKAY AVENUE FOR PARK
AND OPEN-SPACE PURPOSES

WHEREAS, Robert W. Crown Memorial State Beach and its adjoining Crab Cove Visitor Center is a popular Bayside destination attracting over a million visitors each year; and

WHEREAS, tens of thousands of school age children use the beach and surrounding habitat to learn about marine life and the science of eco-systems; and

WHEREAS, for 50 years Crown Beach, the adjacent Alameda Beach and Crab Cove have been operated year-round by the East Bay Regional Park District ("Park District") in partnership with both the State of California and the City of Alameda; and

WHEREAS, in 2008, the Park District and Alameda public officials jointly identified Crown Beach and the expansion of Crab Cove Visitor Center, including the acquisition of the approximately 3.9 acre surplus federal property on McKay Avenue ("the Property"), as projects to be funded by Measure WW bond funds; and

WHEREAS, on November 4, 2008, Measure WW a \$500 million park and open space bond measure passed with 72% support throughout the East Bay, including the city of Alameda; and

WHEREAS, the Property presents an opportunity to expand and modernize the Crab Cove Visitor Center, open up the shoreline for recreational use, and create a new gateway entrance to Crown Beach; and

WHEREAS, a concerned and acting group of Alameda citizens sponsored a "Crab Cove Open Space Initiative" to preserve the Property for park and open space purposes; and

WHEREAS, On July 15, 2014, by Ordinance No 3102 the City Council unanimously adopted that Initiative and rezoned the Property for open space; and

WHEREAS, the City's Ordinance finds that the expansion of Crown Beach for open space use is the highest and best use of the Property; and

WHEREAS, the United States is currently pursuing a condemnation action to acquire the state-owned McKay Avenue which is the entrance to Crab Cove; and

WHEREAS, the State of California, State Attorney General Kamala Harris, the Park District and a coalition of environmental activists representing over 500,000 California members have stated their strong opposition to United States' effort to condemn this public property.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Alameda hereby states its strong support that the Property be used for purposes of expanding Crown Memorial State Beach and urges the United States General Services Administration to negotiate a low or no cost sale to the Park District or the State of California to accomplish these purposes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the City Council urges the federal legislators representing the residents of the City to support this effort and directs City staff to forward this resolution to those federal legislators and to the General Services Administration to demonstrate the City's support of a conveyance for park and open space purposes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council hereby states its opposition to the United States' actions to condemn McKay Avenue from the State of California as contrary to the City's determination that the highest and best use of the Property is for expansion of Crown Memorial State Beach.

* * * * *

I, the undersigned, hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was duly and regularly adopted and passed by the Council of the City of Alameda in regular meeting assembled on the 3rd day of March, 2015, by the following vote to wit:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTENTIONS:

IN WITNESS, WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the official seal of said City this 4th day of March, 2015.

Lara Weisiger, City Clerk
City of Alameda

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Janet C. Kern
City Attorney