

Item 7-B Public Comment monarchs threatened in Alameda

From: muirmia@comcast.net
Sent: Saturday, January 21, 2017 9:56 AM
To: NANCY McPeak
Cc: Emma Pelton
Subject: monarchs threatened in Alameda?

Dear Alameda Planning Department:

It has come to the attention of The Xerces Society and SFBay Area lovers of nature (and monarch butterflies!) that there is some good news in Alameda: in addition to the well-known overwintering site at the Chuck Corica Golf Course there are two new sites at Alameda Point (known to locals for nearly a decade but just recently "officially" documented. Hosting monarchs in a city setting adds such value to a community and residents enjoyment of our area's beauty but is also especially important to young people. This was recognized last fall when the Alameda Library invited me and others to a well-attended program on monarchs and their return each year to East Bay overwintering sites.

I can not attend Monday night's meeting but do strongly urge you to factor in not only strong protection for the monarch butterflies but also use the opportunity of creating a park to actually enhance the site's features to offer even more refuge for monarchs....this could mean altering the development of the site for housing as well as some character-changing features in the proposed park but since "not built" and under construction this could be just the time to consider...and, now knowing monarchs use this area there is a special obligation to factor their needs into your planning...thank you for taking this into strong consideration.

Please be in touch with The Xerces Society if you'd like some immediate information about monarchs in this area and guidelines for how to responsibly "manage" this important natural treasure in your community's midst...there are many resources available and nearby examples that we can provide to help make this a great part of your community's steps towards future improvements.

Mia Monroe

Volunteer with the Xerces Society



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January 20, 2017

City of Alameda Planning Board Members
Andrew Thomas, Assistant Community Development Director
Jennifer Ott, Base Reuse Director

Subject: Item 7-B, Site A Neighborhood Park Design Review

Dear Planning Board Members and Staff:

Bike Walk Alameda is excited to see the designs for the planned neighborhood park at Site A. It will serve as a great asset to the planned neighborhood that is sure to have many pedestrian and bike friendly characteristics. In reviewing the current design details, we have the following comments.

The park is sure to be visited by significant numbers of children riding bikes on the sidewalk, as well as parents riding bikes with child seats and trailers. It is unlikely these park visitors will stick to Coronado Avenue's 13 foot travel lanes. We understand that the narrowness of the park creates a design challenge.

Given the anticipated use of the sidewalk, we suggest widening the sidewalk beyond the currently proposed six feet to a width that would prevent significant conflict between people walking and riding bikes in opposite directions. **We suggest ten foot sidewalks, especially for blocks 20 and 21.**

We notice that almost all of the bike racks for the park are sited at the corners of each block. With such a narrow park, we hope that those locations are close enough to activity centers to serve visitors well. In our analysis of the park layout, it is clear that the central lawn of block 20 will be the hub of activity for the entire park with its location between the playground and picnic area. This is where parents and children on bikes are likely to enter the park and want to "set up shop." It is even designated for "focal element or signage" on the plans. **We suggest placement of bike racks adjacent to the playground and central lawn.**

Bike Walk Alameda is not convinced that 13 foot lanes are an appropriate spot for use of sharrows. In the cross section provided in exhibit 1 (L2.1), it shows seven foot parking lanes and 26 feet for travel lanes. **We suggest consideration of striping Coronado Ave with 10 foot travel lanes, a class II bike lane westbound and sharrows in the eastbound lane.** This would calm traffic, provide a bike option for westbound traffic other than the cycletrack on the south side of Atlantic, and provide some separation for families loading and unloading next to the park.

We look forward to the successful completion of this park and appreciate the opportunity to provide feedback.

Respectfully,

Brian McGuire
Vice-President, Bike Walk Alameda