

## LARA WEISIGER

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**From:** Dorothy Freeman <dfreeman@pacbell.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 03, 2020 9:55 AM  
**To:** dfreeman@pacbell.net  
**Subject:** ARPD Project Priorities City Council Meeting 6-D March 3, 2020

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Mayor Ashcraft,  
Vice Mayor Knox-White  
Councilmember Daysog  
Councilmember Oddie  
Councilmember Vella

Honorable Mayor Ashcraft and Councilmembers,

The list of accomplishments by our Recreation and Parks Department over the past 7 years is nothing short of miraculous. ARPD is a very busy group of people. Upgrading our existing parks, plus constructing 2 very large parks and working with the many developments, each with their own park and open space requirements, are just some of the projects on the staff list. This list of current projects presently undergoing upgrade or development is quite impressive for a town the size of Alameda.

Of the three parks on the Commission priority list, Public Access Pathways on Fernside and Eastshore plus the Towata Park Kayak Launch, are upgrades to existing parks. But De-Pave park would be another brand new park. We presently have two new parks that are sitting in a condition of partial completion.

In our work with the Jean Sweeney Park community we hear two major comments. One, can I sign up for a community garden plot? Of course the plots are part of phase two and do not exist yet. The other question is when will the park be finished?

De-Pave Park will be a fabulous and important addition to Alameda Point. It will be important in combating climate change and in preserving wildlife at Alameda Point, but so will the forests and orchards planned for Jean Sweeney Open Space Park.

ARPD is already very busy. Let's finish up some current projects before taking on more. We have two very important parks in the process of construction. I would like to suggest that maybe we should work on completing Jean Sweeney Park and Estuary Park before taking on another major construction project. Both of these parks are very important to the community who want to enjoy them to the fullest.

Dorothy Freeman  
Jean Sweeney Open Space Park Fund

cc: City Clerk Lara Weisiger, City Manager Eric Levitt



March 3, 2020

Mayor Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft  
Vice Mayor John Knox White  
Councilmember Tony Daysog  
Councilmember Jim Oddie  
Councilmember Malia Vella

RE: Support for Agenda Item 6-D - Recommendation to Approve the Park and Recreation Facilities Project Priorities

Dear Members of the City Council:

Community Action for a Sustainable Alameda (CASA) supports the park and recreation facilities project priorities, but requests that the City Council direct staff to move forward on the next phase of implementation for De-Pave Park during the current two-year budget cycle (2019-2021). Specifically, we request that the City conduct a Request for Proposals (RFP) process for a Master Plan/Conceptual Design or Feasibility Study for De-Pave Park.

As described in the staff report, De-Pave Park is detailed in the Alameda Point Town Center and Waterfront Specific Plan and was listed as a top priority by the Recreation and Parks Commission. In addition, the City's Climate Action and Resiliency Plan calls for implementation of nature-based shoreline protection measures to mitigate the impacts of sea level rise and specifically references the Alameda Point Town Center and Waterfront Specific Plan and the development of De-Pave Park.

Unlike other park development projects, De-Pave Park would be designed specifically to address climate change adaptation and resiliency in Alameda. Moving forward with an RFP process for a Master Plan/Conceptual Design or Feasibility Study for De-Pave Park will provide the City with the information needed to obtain grants for adaptation projects sooner rather than later. Putting off the RFP until the following two-year budget cycle (2021-2023) will delay the project and miss potential grant funding cycles. As recognized in the City's Climate Emergency Declaration, climate resiliency is an urgent issue for Alameda.

We recognize the impacts on City staff in managing the multiple park development projects before you and support a staffing plan that provides more staff resources to the Park and Recreation Department during the mid-cycle budget review process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ruth Abbe".

Ruth Abbe, Steering Committee  
Community Action for a Sustainable Alameda  
415-235-1356

March 2, 2020

To: Mayor Ezzy Ashcraft  
Members of the Alameda City Council  
SENT BY E-MAIL

**Subject: Item 6-D, Recommendation to Approve the Park and Recreation Facilities Project Priorities**

Dear Mayor Ashcraft and Members of the Alameda City Council,

As a resident who lives along Alameda's shoreline, I am aware of the need to address issues related to climate change and sea level rise. I am also impressed with the extent of the city's concern for the environment and the animal, as well as human, inhabitants of and visitors to this island city. Because of this, I believe that the Alameda City Council needs to do everything it can to prepare for sea level rise, to limit carbon emissions and to sequester carbon. I am therefore interested in the speedy development of De-Pave Park, and urge the City Council to move quickly to select and hire an engineering consultant to develop a master plan for the park. As the master plan is being developed, the Recreation and Parks Department can begin the process of preparing grant requests for the additional funding that will be needed to complete the park, and the City Council can address the fiscal question of the need for additional staff in that department.

Especially as the rest of Alameda Point is developed, which will increase the human use of the space that has been largely uninhabited since the Naval Base closed, it is important to plan for the effects of increased human use of the west end of the island than has been the case for the past several years. Development of marshland where there is now almost unused pavement will further the goals of the City's Climate Action and Resiliency Plan while countering the increased human presence at Alameda Point.

Increased human use will limit the space and resources available to the many species of birds that now nest in the area around De-Pave Park, including Great Blue Herons, Endangered California Least Terns, and Caspian Terns. Increased human use will also increase the generation of carbon, which will need to be sequestered. In addition, De-Pave Park is one of the few remaining shoreline areas available to become restored

marshland, necessary as Alameda prepares for sea level rise.

Once the planning process is underway, the Recreation and Parks staff can begin the process of seeking funding for additional activities related to the development of the park. At the appropriate time, the City Council should also consider and implement the Recreation and Parks request for funding for an additional staff position so there is someone to help with the preparation of grant requests for the future development of De-Pave Park.

As Councilmembers Jim Oddie and Tony Daysog expressed by their 2019 referral, I urge the City Council to move expeditiously to select and hire an engineering consultant to develop the master plan for De-Pave Park.

Sincerely,

Marjorie E. Powell



To: Mayor Ezzy Ashcraft and Members of the Alameda City Council

RE: City Council Meeting, March 3, 2020, Item 6D, Recommendation to Approve the Parks and Recreation Facilities Project Priorities

Date: March 2, 2020

Ladies and Gentlemen:

We are writing in support of Item 6-D and to urge you to direct staff to issue a Request for Proposals to begin the planning process for De-Pave Park. In October 2019, in response to a referral requesting the start of planning on De-Pave Park, the City Council asked the Recreation and Parks Commission to prioritize its park facilities projects. The Commission has now delivered its prioritization report and has prioritized De-Pave Park as its highest new park project (other than the Towata Park launch, which the Commission is now considering part of the existing Pathways project).

The Council should accept this highest priority recommendation and begin planning work as soon as possible. The city's recent Climate Action and Resiliency Plan focuses on "an integrated approach consisting of both adaptation and GHG (greenhouse gas) reduction." De-Pave Park is planned to create, in part, a tidal marsh. Tidal marshes reduce carbon dioxide, a major cause of climate change, and mitigate the effects of sea level rise. Marshes reduce GHG by operating as "carbon sinks" because of the amount of carbon dioxide absorbed through photosynthesis by the prolific wetland vegetation. These sinks are especially important in highly urbanized areas, like the San Francisco Bay Area. Tidal marshes, a form of living shoreline, adapt to higher sea level by buffering waves and absorbing storm surges.

Seaplane Lagoon and its surrounding area for many years provided rare and precious habitat for wildlife, including ospreys, herons and other resident and migrating shore and water birds. As the city increases the commercial and transportation uses at Alameda Point, it is critical to consider the needs of the wildlife that are being compromised by that development. The additional wildlife area planned in De-Pave Park will be particularly valuable because it will enhance and support the Veteran's Administration's adjacent wildlife area. Many birds such as the Great Blue Herons, Least Terns, Caspian Terns and more that nest on the VA properties rely on the protected waters of the Seaplane Lagoon to forage. These calm waters are especially important for the endangered California Least Tern during storms creating high winds and rough waters on the open SF Bay. In addition, wetlands provide high tide roosting areas, much needed by shorebirds in urban communities. With its proximity to Seaplane Lagoon, De-Pave Park will increase the value of the Lagoon for the foraging birds.

**GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY**

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De-Pave Park can't give us any of these critical benefits until it is built. Every year that goes by without increasing our wetlands contributes to climate change and poses more risks to wildlife and people while raising the price tag of doing what is needed.

We urge the Council to direct the staff promptly to issue a Request for Proposals to locate the most qualified engineering consultant to prepare a preliminary design, with community input, that would include cost estimates for the various phases.

We understand that the Commission and the Recreation and Parks director are concerned that the department does not have sufficient human resources to manage all of the ongoing and new park projects. In the coming months when budget is considered, we urge you to consider these additional staffing requests to provide sufficient staff time for the future phases of the project.

GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY

*Linda Carloni*

Linda Carloni  
President, Board of Directors

*Leora Feeney*

Leora Feeney  
Co-Chair, Friends of the Alameda Wildlife Reserve

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SAN FRANCISCO  
**BAYKEEPER®**

February 28, 2020

Mayor Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft  
2263 Santa Clara Avenue  
Alameda, CA 94501

**RE: Item 6-D, Recommendation to Approve the Park and Recreation Facilities Project Priorities  
Support for Alameda Point shoreline ecological project ("DePave Park")**

Dear Mayor Ashcraft,

On behalf of San Francisco Baykeeper and our more than five thousand members and supporters who enjoy San Francisco Bay, I urge you to support the proposed shoreline resiliency and restoration project at Alameda Point by approving the Park and Recreation Facility Project Priority List and proceed with a master planning process for DePave Park. This project will strengthen the ecological health of the Bay while leveraging nature-based solutions to defend Alameda from flooding, helping to establish Alameda Point as a regional magnet of innovation and recreation.

DePave Park will transform Alameda Point from wasted space into an amenity for all Alameda residents while also introducing an invaluable asset to Alameda's sea level rise and drought adaptation portfolio. By contrast, the concrete land cover currently found at Alameda Point does not benefit residents, nor does it fulfill any functional roles within Alameda's infrastructure. Furthermore, leaving this area in its current state directly harms the Bay ecosystem by exacerbating the flow of pollution into the water. Constructed wetlands can restore critical habitat for native fish, amphibian, mammal, and bird species alike while simultaneously absorbing massive amounts of greenhouse gases and pollutants bound for the Bay.

Sea-level rise and climate change threaten Alameda's future. As one of the largest low-lying regions in the Bay Area, Alameda must prepare for a future with higher tides and increased frequency of intense weather events driven by climate change. Constructing a new shoreline wetland will help to protect Alameda's residents and infrastructure from flooding. At the Bay's edge, wetlands absorb destructive waves from storm surges and dissipate tidal energy that can destroy property. As a result, tidal wetlands mitigate the effects of sea-level rise and severe storms. Constructing DePave Park will immediately improve Alameda's flood preparedness and it will continue to mitigate hazards into the foreseeable future.

The City of Alameda should capitalize quickly on DePave Park's potential for filtering local runoff and limiting flooding related to storms and sea-level rise by approving the park and recreation facilities project priorities. We strongly encourage Alameda's City Council to initiate a master plan process for the Alameda Point shoreline ecological park and to pursue the project as quickly as possible. Baykeeper hopes to see the City of Alameda continue to lead other Bay Area communities in nature-based infrastructure adaptations to climate change, beginning with DePave Park.

Thank you for your consideration. You may reach me at [cole@baykeeper.org](mailto:cole@baykeeper.org) if you have any questions.

Warmly,

Cole Burchiel  
Field Investigator and Science Associate



Pollution hotline: 1 800 KEEP BAY  
[www.baykeeper.org](http://www.baykeeper.org)

1736 Franklin Street, Suite 800  
Oakland, CA 94612  
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February 27, 2020

To: Mayor Ezzy Ashcraft  
Alameda City Council  
SENT BY E-MAIL

**Subject: Item 6-D, Recommendation to Approve the Park and Recreation Facilities Project Priorities**

Dear Mayor Ashcraft and Members of the Alameda City Council,

The Recreation and Parks Commission reviewed the list of ongoing and proposed park projects at its December meeting as you requested. The Commission unanimously voted to place DePave Park at the top of the list of new major projects. We recommend that you now begin the implementation process called for in the October 2019 agenda referral made by Councilmembers Jim Oddie and Tony Daysog.

A Request for Proposals for a master plan will give you the information needed to move to the next step in the implementation process.

The Sierra Club has advocated for the implementation of DePave Park since 2014 when it was incorporated into the Alameda Point Town Center and Waterfront Specific Plan. We agreed with the planning board's concerns at the time that future city councils may be reluctant to remove buildings on the west side of the Seaplane Lagoon because of having good tenants and, therefore, De-Pave Park would not be prioritized and pursued. The Sierra Club reiterated its support again in 2016 when the lease for Building 29, located in the park footprint, was up for renewal.

DePave Park will achieve the goals of climate change adaptation, carbon sequestration and habitat enhancement that are firmly in line with the City's recently adopted Climate Action and Resiliency Plan.

Prioritizing DePave Park would also signal a commitment to the urgency outlined in the Climate Emergency Declaration adopted by the City Council in March 2019. The emergency declaration resolved, in part, that "[T]he City of Alameda should actively participate in an effort to safely draw down carbon from the atmosphere and accelerate adaptation and resilience strategies in preparation for intensifying climate impacts."

We recommend that you to begin the master planning process by soliciting qualified master planning design consultants with engineering expertise in shoreline adaptation projects. We further recommend that after you select the most qualified master planning candidate, you expend City



funds to immediately hire the winning candidate, rather than further delaying the planning process by sending out applications for grant funding.

In the coming months, we urge you to consider the additional staffing needs identified by the Recreation and Parks Director to allow her to devote proper time to managing this project during the funding and construction phases.

Sincerely,



Olga Bolotina  
Chair, Sierra Club SF Bay Chapter



Igor Tregub  
Chair, Sierra Club Northern Alameda County Group

## LARA WEISIGER

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**From:** Chase Martin <chasermartin@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 04, 2020 9:17 PM  
**To:** ezzyashcraft@alamedaca.gov; John Knox White; Jim Oddie; LARA WEISIGER; Malia Vella; Tony Daysog  
**Subject:** Please support Depave Park

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Dear Mayor Ashcraft and City Councilmembers:

I am writing to express my strong support for the Depave Park proposal.

I live in Alameda and my family and I really enjoy all of the natural resources here. Further, I have recently become an environmental activist (working locally in the Saving Life on Earth campaign - see [savelifeonearth.org](http://savelifeonearth.org)), and this park would definitely help Alameda become a more resilient island in the face of climate change.

Currently the UN predicts that 1 million animal and plant species will go extinct in the next few decades around 150 a day!) Habitat loss is a huge part of why this is happening. This park would not only be a wonderful new recreational resource, but it would help save species and protect the island from rising seawaters.

The Depave Park is a win-win for Alameda. By creating and preserving wetlands in this way we can provide a good example of environmental stewardship for the rest of the Bay Area . Thank you for considering my views.

Chase Martin