

Lara Weisiger

From: sjslauson <sslau99950@aol.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 20, 2020 2:13 PM
To: City Clerk
Subject: Item 2, Special Council Meeting May 20, 2020 at 5:30 p.m.

*** **CAUTION:** This email message is coming from a non-City email address. Do not click links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe. Please contact the Help Desk with any questions. ***

*** **CAUTION:** This email message is coming from a non-City email address. Do not click links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe. Please contact the Help Desk with any questions. ***

Mayor Ashcraft and Council Members:

This is a request to immediately suspend the Alameda sales tax which was recently enacted. This will help our small businesses recover their losses from the shutdown.

Thank You

Stephen Slauson
2426 Otis Drive

Lara Weisiger

From: sjslauson <sslau99950@aol.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 20, 2020 2:09 PM
To: City Clerk
Subject: Agenda Item 2, Special Council Meeting May 20, 2020 at 5:30 p.m.

*** **CAUTION:** This email message is coming from a non-City email address. Do not click links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe. Please contact the Help Desk with any questions. ***

*** **CAUTION:** This email message is coming from a non-City email address. Do not click links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe. Please contact the Help Desk with any questions. ***

Mayor Ashcraft and Council Members:

This is a request to reinstall the 4th of July parade. This is a an important event in Alameda and will help to restart the economy in Alameda. This event will greatly help our small businesses recover their losses from the shutdown.

Thank You

Stephen Slauson
2426 Otis Drive

May 20, 2020

Mayor Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft
Members of the Alameda City Council
RE: Funding for DePave Park

SUBMITTED VIA E-MAIL

Dear Mayor Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft and Members of the Alameda City Council,

We hope this letter finds you well. Thank you for all your work, especially in these trying times.

Since its inception as part of the Alameda Point Town Center and Waterfront Plan in 2014, the Sierra Club has written numerous letters of support for DePave Park. Most recently, the Sierra Club wrote to the Alameda Recreation and Parks Commission in December urging the commission to prioritize DePave Park, and to the City Council in February urging the council to adopt the commission's recommendations and take steps to begin the planning process.

We applaud the initiative of Council Members Jim Oddie and Tony Daysog in placing DePave Park on the agenda in October 2019, and the subsequent support that came from the entire City Council, the entire Recreation and Parks Commission and a broad range of groups, including Golden Gate Audubon Society, San Francisco Baykeeper, Community Action for a Sustainable Alameda (CASA) and Bike Walk Alameda.

We are now dismayed to learn that the City Manager is proposing to delay the funding of a master planning consultant until the indefinite future. The line item for a master planner submitted by the Recreation and Parks Department for \$100,000 has been moved to the section titled "Budget Considerations for Future Years."

We hasten to point out that just last year the City of Alameda declared a Climate Emergency, which remains just as much of an emergency today, regardless of other ongoing crises. This master plan funding should enjoy a commitment similar to maintaining City services.

We urge you to authorize the funding of a master planning consultant in the budget update as you originally directed at your March 3, 2020 meeting. It is a relatively small but crucial expense necessary to issue a Request for Proposals for a consultant that will launch the planning effort for this widely supported climate adaptation project.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Igor Tregub', with a stylized, flowing script.

Igor Tregub
Chair, Northern Alameda County Group

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Olga Bolotina', with a stylized, flowing script.

Olga Bolotina
Chair, San Francisco Bay Chapter

Funding for DePave Park master plan

May 20, 2020, Mid-Cycle Budget Workshop

Dear Mayor Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft and members of the City Council,

I am writing to urge you to include the \$100,000 funding in the current budget for hiring a master planning consultant for DePave Park and not delay the process.

Delaying the beginning of the master planning process will delay the city's applications for construction grants from various agencies. The sooner we have a master plan, the sooner the city can apply for a construction grant from one of the most likely sources of funding, the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority (SFBRA). During its third round of grant awards announced just weeks ago <http://sfbayrestore.org/announcement/projects-recommended-third-round-measure-aa-funding-heard-governing-board>, the largest amount was \$5 million for partial funding of a project.

DePave Park will undoubtedly require multiple grant awards, and the sooner the city gets an SFBRA grant, the sooner it will become a catalyst for winning other grants. It would be wasting precious time to look for a grant to pay for the master planner. Paying for the master planner from city funds, on the other hand, would show the City is strongly committed to the project.

The bold vision for the west side of the Seaplane Lagoon adopted in 2014 has only grown more immediate during the past six years in its profound connection to climate change and how we respond. When we look back on this Covid-19 pandemic in the coming years, it will be a testament to the values of Alameda that we launched the planning effort right now for transitioning part of our shoreline for the health of the entire San Francisco Bay Estuary.

And if you go forward with funding the master plan process for DePave Park, it should not go unnoticed that you will have begun the process for conversion to natural habitat on the west side of the Seaplane Lagoon just as you are completing a parking lot for the new ferry terminal on the east side of the Seaplane Lagoon. It is a balanced approach to be doing hardscape and softscape improvements at the same time.

Thank you,

Richard Bangert

Alameda Point Environmental Report

<https://alamedapointenviro.com/>

Lara Weisiger

From: Cole Burchiel <cole@baykeeper.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 19, 2020 6:02 PM
To: Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft
Cc: John Knox White; Tony Daysog; Jim Oddie; Malia Vella; Lara Weisiger
Subject: 5/20/2020 Alameda City Council Meeting item 3-A - DePave Park Funding
Attachments: DePave Park Letter of Support - Alameda City Council Meeting 20May2020 Item 3-A.pdf

*** **CAUTION:** This email message is coming from a non-City email address. Do not click links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe. Please contact the Help Desk with any questions. ***

Dear Mayor Ashcraft and Members of the Alameda City Council,

I am pleased to submit this letter on behalf of San Francisco Baykeeper requesting that the Alameda City Council allocates funding in the FY 2020-21 Mid-Year Budget Update to pursue a master planning process for the Alameda Point shoreline ecological project ("DePave Park").

I also request that this letter be included in the record for the May 20, 2020 City Council meeting.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. Thank you for your consideration.

Best regards,
Cole Burchiel

Cole Burchiel | *Field Investigator and Science Associate*

San Francisco Baykeeper | baykeeper.org | 1736 Franklin, Ste 800 | Oakland, CA 94612

Office: (510) 735-9700 x114

Defending San Francisco Bay from polluters since 1989



SAN FRANCISCO
BAYKEEPER®

May 19, 2020

Transmitted Via Electronic Mail

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

RE: Item 3A, Alameda City Council Budget Workshop – DePave Park Funding

Dear Mayor Ashcraft and Members of the Alameda City Council,

Following the Alameda City Council meeting in March 2020, San Francisco Baykeeper (“Baykeeper”) was pleased to see the decision passed by councilmembers to direct funding in the FY 2020-21 Mid-Cycle Budget Update to begin a master planning process for the shoreline ecological project at Alameda Point known as DePave Park. It is with deep regret, then, that we must write to you once more in defense of this project. On behalf of Baykeeper and our more than five thousand members and supporters who enjoy San Francisco Bay, I urge the City Council to allocate the necessary funding (estimated at \$100,000) in the FY 2020-21 budget required to proceed with a master planning process for DePave Park.

The COVID-19 pandemic has forced federal, state, and municipal governments to reprioritize funding allocations in unexpected ways; Baykeeper empathizes with the difficult task of planning amidst so much uncertainty. However, the value of added green space for local recreational purposes has been made abundantly clear during these past few months, which alone should justify the decision to prioritize this project.

What’s more, we contend that DePave Park will serve as a critical investment toward the ecological health and climate resiliency of Alameda. Sea-level rise and climate change are imminent threats which compromise the future of Alameda’s integrity. Leading climate scientists agree that these impending hazards must not be addressed on a leisurely timescale of decades, but instead require the immediate attention of local leaders. As one of the largest low-lying regions in the Bay Area, Alameda must prepare for higher tides and increased frequency of intense weather events driven by climate change. At the Bay’s edge, tidal wetlands mitigate the effects of sea-level rise and severe storms. Shoreline ecological development such as DePave Park provides an inexpensive yet potent climate mitigation strategy.

We strongly encourage the Alameda City Council stake its claim at the forefront of Bay Area resiliency by prioritizing a master plan for DePave Park in FY 2020-21. 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 if you have any questions.

Warmly,

Cole Burchiel
Field Investigator and Science Associate



Pollution hotline: 1 800 KEEP BAY
www.baykeeper.org

1736 Franklin Street, Suite 800
Oakland, CA 94612
(510) 735-9700

CC Via Electronic Mail:

Vice Mayor John Knox White

Councilmember Tony Daysog

Councilmember Jim Oddie

Councilmember Malia Vella

City Clerk Lara Weisiger

Lara Weisiger

From: Patricia Lamborn <patricia.lamborn@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 19, 2020 2:37 PM
To: Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft; John Knox White; Jim Oddie; Tony Daysog; Malia Vella; Eric Levitt
Cc: Lara Weisiger
Subject: May 20th Budget Workshop - Adaptation Measure- DePave Park

*** **CAUTION:** This email message is coming from a non-City email address. Do not click links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe. Please contact the Help Desk with any questions. ***

Dear Mayor Ashcraft, Vice Mayor Knox White, Councilmembers Oddie, Daysog and Vella,

I understand that funding for the master planning process for DePave Park is at risk of being delayed for at least a year and potentially ending up in limbo, as part of budget trimming.

The City Council workshop on the budget update shows a line item for DePave Park master planning in the amount of \$100,000. However, there is a proposal to postpone the master plan funding to "future years" due to budget constraints caused by the Covid-19 crisis. I understand that we are living in very difficult times. However, climate change and sea level rise were not wiped out by this virus. Flooding and extreme weather face us as well.

We can't criticize the current federal administration and then follow in their footsteps delaying preparation for our own future crisis--- flooding all along our shoreline. DePave is mislabeled as a "Park". It can be a tool in our tool box to mitigate the inevitable climate change impact on Alameda.

While postponing the funding will save a small amount in the short term, **when WILL we spend money on sea level rise mitigation?**

Unlike most of the proposed budget cuts, the DePave Park master planning funds are a form of seed money to bring in *more* funds. The importance of a Restoration Authority grant in acting as a catalyst for further construction grant awards cannot be overstated.

The annual 4th of July Parade was just cancelled, freeing up \$50,000 that was in the original budget. Where there is will--- there will be a way forward.

This project received support of the Sierra Club, Golden Gate Audubon Society, San Francisco Baykeeper, Community Action for a Sustainable Alameda (CASA) and Bike Walk Alameda when last considered.

The words of San Francisco Baykeeper in its letter to the Recreation and Parks Commission in December are worth remembering :

"DePave Park has the potential to significantly alter the ecological usefulness of Alameda Point. Constructed wetlands confer an immense benefit for wildlife by providing habitat for aquatic, amphibian, terrestrial, and avian species alike. Coastal wetlands are also notoriously efficient mechanisms for carbon sequestration and storm water filtration, thereby mitigating anthropic environmental impacts on a local and global scale. ... The proposed park is an investment towards Alameda's future resilience in the face of climate change and rising sea levels as well as its ecological role in the Bay."

Sincerely,
Patricia Lamborn
patricia.lamborn@aol.com



To: Mayor Ezzy Ashcraft and Members of the Alameda City Council; Lara Weisiger, City Clerk

RE: City Council Meeting, May 20, 2020 – Budget Workshop – De-Pave Park Funding

Date: May 18, 2020

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Historically, Golden Gate Audubon has strongly supported the creation of De-Pave Park, including most recently in March 2020, when, responding to strong community support, the City Council directed the addition of funding in the Mid-Cycle Budget Update to begin the master planning for the park. We understand that in responding to the need to reduce the City's expenditures to respond to the budget challenges posed by COVID-19, the City Manager is now recommending that the \$100,000 funding to support this master planning be deferred to future years.

We are writing to urge you to include the \$100,000 master planning funding in the current budget. We understand that because of the pandemic, revenues will be reduced and some expenses will increase. But this planning expense opens up the possibility of significant external funding resources, including the significant Measure AA funds through the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority. In the greater scheme, this master planning funding is modest, and opens up much larger funding possibilities.

De-Pave Park is a critical climate adaptation and resiliency project. The city's own Climate Action and Resiliency Plan focuses on "an integrated approach consisting of both adaptation and GHG (greenhouse gas) reduction." De-Pave Park will 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 low-lying Alameda. A form of living shoreline, tidal marshes adapt to higher sea level by buffering waves and absorbing storm surges.

San Francisco Baykeeper, Community Action for a Sustainable Alameda, the Sierra Club, numerous citizens and we, Golden Gate Audubon, have all supported beginning the De-Pave Park master planning process quickly. As San Francisco Baykeeper noted, "This project will strengthen the ecological health of the Bay while leveraging nature-based solutions to defend Alameda from flooding ..."

We urge you to include the \$100,000 master planning budget item in the current budget to allow the master planning for De-Pave Park to move forward as soon as possible.

GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY

Linda Carloni

Linda Carloni

President, Board of Directors

Leora Feeney

Leora Feeney

Co-Chair, Friends of the Alameda Wildlife Reserve

GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY

2530 San Pablo Avenue, Suite G, Berkeley, CA 94702

phone 510.843.2222 web www.goldengateaudubon.org

email ggas@goldengateaudubon.org

May 18, 2020

To: Mayor Ezzy Ashcraft and Members of the Alameda City Council; Lara Weisiger, City Clerk

RE: City Council Meeting, May 20, 2020 – Item 3A- Budget Workshop – De-Pave Park Funding

Date: May 18, 2020

May 20 Budget Workshop - De-Pave Park Funding

Mayor and Members of the Alameda City Council:

I spoke at the March 3, 2020 City Council meeting in favor of moving ahead with the planning for a tidal marsh park in the area now known as De-Pave Park. As I indicated in my testimony, it is vitally important to the environment and the quality of our lives in the City of Alameda that the City develop tidal marshland wherever possible along the Alameda shoreline.

A marshland park at De-Pave Park will help buffer sea level rise by providing space to absorb some of the water and wave action, at least for a small portion of Alameda's shoreline. The ecological benefits of marshes are clearly set forth in the letter from Golden Gate Audubon Society, so I will not repeat them here.

Marshland will also help maintain both water and its nutritional resources for our birds and other wild inhabitants of the Alameda shoreline. Perhaps the best known of those birds are the Endangered California Least Terns that, along with Caspian Terns, nest and raise their young on the Reserve at Alameda Point and rely on fishing in the waters of Seaplane Lagoon and off of De-Pave Park. There are also thousands of Brown Pelicans that roost on the breakwater through our summer months and use the waters neighboring the De-Pave Park shoreline. And, of course, many harbor seals swim in these waters and use the haul-out just south of De-Pave Park, built and maintained with funding from WETA.

Creation of a marsh at De-Pave Park will help to counter the environmental pressures that will inevitably develop from increased urban development throughout Alameda Point as more people drive to the various businesses opening at that end of the Point. Increased residential use of a portion of the City that has seen very few people over the past twenty years, as well as the commercial services located there for residents throughout the city, will also add to the environmental stresses affecting the birds, animal, fish and other aquatic species.

A marsh's Improvements to our environment's ability to absorb and store carbon and other greenhouse gases will have a positive effect our climate and environment, as evidenced by the improvements in air quality brought about by the decreased driving and commercial activity resulting from the current shelter-in-place orders.

I know that creating marshes along the Alameda shoreline is a continuing concern of the City, including staff and members of the City Council, as evidenced by the work of a cooperating organization to restore marshland along the shoreline south of Elsie Roemer bird sanctuary, parallel to Bayview Drive, as well as by past support for development of a marshland park at De-Pave Park.

I recognize that the current shelter-in-place orders have created many unplanned stresses on the City's budget and that the future of the commercial activities within the City is not yet clear. However, I also know that the existence of a Master Plan for De-Pave Park will create options for additional funds from multiple sources to enable the City to move forward with further development of a marsh park, which will enhance Alameda Point. Those government entities that are able, over the next months, to address both future benefits and current problems will be best situated to obtain funding in future

years from dedicated sources, such as the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority as it distributes funds from Measure AA.

In addition, it is important to maintain the quality of the environment within the City, especially as travel may be restricted for the foreseeable future as the state continues to deal with the continuing presence of the virus

Development of a marsh park at De-Pave Park has the support of many members of the community, as evidenced by the number of people who attended the March 3 City Council meeting to support development of a marshland park at De-Pave Park, as well as various Bay-wide organizations such as Golden Gate Audubon Society and Community Action for a Sustainable Alameda.

In closing, I urge the City Council to include in the current budget for the City the \$100,000 that will allow staff to proceed as soon as possible with the master planning for De-Pave Park.

Sincerely,



Marjorie Powell

2465 Shoreline Drive
Apt 306
Alameda CA 94501

cc: Mayor Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft

Vice Mayor John Knox White

Council member Tony Daysog

Council member Jim Oddie

Council member Malia Vella

City Clerk Lara Weisige

LARA WEISIGER

From: Patricia Gannon <pg3187@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 18, 2020 12:16 PM
To: John Knox White; Jim Oddie; Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft; City Clerk; Mark Villa
Subject: Funding for DePave Park

*** **CAUTION:** This email message is coming from a non-City email address. Do not click links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe. Please contact the Help Desk with any questions. ***

Dear Mayor Ashcraft and City Council Members:

On Wednesday, May 20th, your Council will hold a virtual workshop on the DePave Park issue. As a long time member (and former Board member-of Golden Gate Audubon) and founding member of the Friends of the Alameda Wildlife Reserve I urge you to move ahead with this project. At your March 3d meeting in response to strong community support you directed staff to add a line item in the mid-cycle budget. However, the City Manager is proposing to postpone the master plan funding to future years due to budget constraints due to Covid 19.

This would be a huge mistake. While eliminating \$100,000 for DePave Park would save a small amount in the short term, this delay will eliminate a myriad of opportunities for construction grant funding. Without an adopted master plan no agency will award construction funds. The San Francisco Baykeeper enthusiastically endorses this project. It points out that constructed wetlands benefit wildlife by providing habitat for numerous species, avian, marine and terrestrial. They also are an extremely efficient mechanism for carbon sequestration and mitigating rising sea level. The proposed park is an investment toward the future of Alameda.

If this is not enough incentive, this project could be a huge job-creator and play an immense role in restoring Alameda's ability to continue to provide vital city services.

In closing, please do the right thing and approve the \$100,000 seed money to proceed with creating a beautiful DePave Park.

Thank you.

Patricia M. Gannon
pg3187@gmail.com
1019 Tobago Lane - 94502

LARA WEISIGER

From: Heinrich Albert <heinrich.albert@outlook.com>
Sent: Sunday, May 17, 2020 2:32 PM
To: Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft; John Knox White; Tony Daysog; Jim Oddie; Malia Vella
mvella@alamedaca.gov
Cc: Lara Weisiger
Subject: Maintain funding for DePave Park. May 20 Budget Workshop - DePave Park Funding.

*** **CAUTION:** This email message is coming from a non-City email address. Do not click links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe. Please contact the Help Desk with any questions. ***

All,

I fully understand and support the need for fiscal austerity at this time. However, eliminating the truly minor funding (\$100k) for DePave Park master planning at this time would be a poor economy indeed. The Covid 19 pandemic is a huge problem, but it is not the only critical problem we face now or in the near future. Sea Level Rise (SLR) will impact Alameda in a huge way, and the impacts are likely to be felt soon. DePave Park will help to mitigate the effects of SLR, while simultaneously improving the quality of life in Alameda.

San Francisco Baykeeper recently said it well: "DePave Park has the potential to significantly alter the ecological usefulness of Alameda Point. Constructed wetlands confer an immense benefit for wildlife by providing habitat for aquatic, amphibian, terrestrial, and avian species alike. Coastal wetlands are also notoriously efficient mechanisms for carbon sequestration and storm water filtration, thereby mitigating anthropic environmental impacts on a local and global scale. ... The proposed park is an investment towards Alameda's future resilience in the face of climate change and rising sea levels as well as its ecological role in the Bay. More importantly, the park will restore a sense of place and community that has been lost from this corner of the island."

Thanks for your consideration,

Heinrich Albert
2525 Webb Ave
Alameda, CA 94501