

From: [Christopher Buckley](#)
To: [Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft](#); [Malia Vella](#); [Tony Daysog](#); [John Knox White](#); [Trish Spencer](#)
Cc: [Eric Levitt](#); [Gerry Beaudin](#); [Erin Smith](#); [Lara Weisiger](#); [Jesse Barajas](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 2021-23 Budget --Funding for tree maintenance and urban forest master plan update
Date: Tuesday, June 15, 2021 3:01:59 PM

Dear Mayor Ashcraft, Councilmembers and staff:

I would like to thank the City Council and staff for supporting increased funding for tree maintenance (including increased funding for species-specific tree trimming) and funding the urban forest master plan update, including provision of additional funds. I urge the Council to approve this funding as part of your final consideration of the budget at tonight's meeting.

Christopher Buckley

From: [Frank Matarrese](#)
To: [Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft](#); [John Knox White](#); [Trish Spencer](#); [Tony Daysog](#); [Malia Vella](#); [Lara Weisiger](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Action on CC/SACIC Agenda Item 3B and Regular Agenda Items 6C and 6G
Date: Tuesday, June 15, 2021 11:53:37 AM

Honorable Mayor and City Council Members

Under Item 3B of the special joint meeting of the Council and SACIC, I ask the the City Council takes the opportunity when discussing and approving the 2021-22 / 2022-23 Budget, to make it clear that there will be specific goals for the City Manager for achieving and maintaining equitable and fair law enforcement in Alameda. And, there will be routine, ongoing scheduled reporting to the community on the progress in meeting these goals.

Along with this, please vote *tonight* to set law enforcement policy by selecting from the options in regular meeting agenda item 6C. I believe our City Council must set policy to assure that the law is being enforced with equity and fairness for all, not just until things "get better" but continually monitoring and correcting to ensure equal treatment under the law..

And, please vote *tonight* to uphold the HAB determination allowing the demolition of buildings at 620 Central under regular agenda item 6-G. I believe the HAB made the correct decision and followed proper procedure, and it looks like there is no new information that supports overturning the HAB vote. By upholding the HAB's decision, the City Council can clear the path for our community to truly help some among us who are in desperate need. .

Thank you for your consideration and attention.

Respectfully,

Frank Matarrese

June 14, 2021

By email

Mayor Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft – mezzyashcraft@alamedaca.gov

Vice Mayor Malia Vella - mvella@alamedaca.gov

Councilmember Tony Daysog - tdaysog@alamedaca.gov

Councilmember John Knox White - jknoxwhite@alamedaca.gov

Councilmember Trish Herrera Spencer - tspencer@alamedaca.gov

RE: Funding for DePave Park Planning in 2021 – 2022 Budget

Dear Mayor and Council Members:

Alameda is a city of parks, many designed for active play, such as the various ball game facilities at Lincoln Park, but others designed for observation of nature, such as Elsie Roemer Bird Sanctuary. For several years, one of the latter has been proposed for Alameda Point in the far west end of the city – DePave Park. However, that park remains only a promise, without even a master plan.

To start to make this marshland park a reality, I recommend that the City Council include funding within the 2021-2022 budget for the development of a DePave Park master plan. In 2020 the city applied for, but did not receive, external funding for the development of the master plan and then the detailed plans necessary to secure the approvals before the actual deconstruction and construction work can begin, but the city did not receive that funding. From my experience in both writing and reviewing grant requests, albeit in a different field, I know that funding sources often consider whether the requesting party, in this case Alameda, has sufficient commitment that the city has invested money in the project. In other words, the city will improve its chances of receiving external funding for the next steps for DePave Park if the city demonstrates its commitment by investing money to develop the park's master plan.

I am sure others will address the carbon sequestration benefit of re-creating marshland in place of impermeable cement-topped landfill and the benefit of a marshland connected to the wetland in the Alameda Wildlife Reserve. In the proposed DePave Park's current state, observers have reported more than 100 different bird species on and over the land and in the water. As the Department of Veterans Affairs moves ahead with its development of the wetland within the Reserve, the benefits of a marshland park will only increase if the city honors its commitment to restore a wetland to that space.

Other cities within the San Francisco Bay Area are moving ahead with plans for development of marshlands that will sequester carbon and provide some protection from sea level rise. Indeed, there is a strong push within the California legislature to fund a variety of efforts to sequester carbon and to slow sea level rise. For example, SB 1 (Atkins), now in the Assembly, would increase the powers of the California Coastal Commission to act to lessen sea level rise as well as to invest \$2 million each year to help local communities plan for sea level rise. SB 27 (Skinner), also in the Assembly, to track municipalities' efforts to develop, seek funding for and implement carbon sequestration plans.

I request that the City Council include funding for the development of a master plan for DePave Park or at least indicate that development of such a plan is within it list of priority tasks for the near future, should funding become available during the 2021-2022 budget year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marjorie Powell". The ink is black and the signature is fluid and connected.

Marjorie Powell
Alameda Resident

cc: City Clerk Lara Weisiger

From: [Patricia Lamborn](#)
To: [Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft](#); [Malia Vella](#); [John Knox White](#); [Tony Daysog](#); [Trish Spencer](#)
Cc: [Lara Weisiger](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Please Fund MasterPlanning Item for DePave Park
Date: Monday, June 14, 2021 12:33:23 PM

Dear Mayor Ashcraft, Vice Mayor Vella and City Council Members Daysog, Spencer and Knox White,

I am writing to you in support of the Sierra Club position that funding in the amount of \$250,000 (Park Director's figure) be included in the current 2022-2023 budget for a DePave Park master plan. A Master Plan process can address the issues Council Member Knox White raised to me in an email--- more inclusion of neighbors and other environmental and environmental justice representatives is needed in the DePave Planning Process. . Without a commitment to a Master Plan, with funding for the planning process, our City appears to be giving up on both inclusivity and this key sea level rise defense option.

While Parks Director Amy Wooldridge may again submit a planning grant proposal to the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority in the Fall, the odds of being awarded funds for actual planning are slim (1 out of 10 grants) .

Our City city should front the nominal amount of money for creating a master plan -- that will get us to the point of applying for the major construction grants from the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority.

The adjacent wetland on VA property will soon be expanded and upgraded. DePave Park can become an extension of this tidal wetland.

Our City has not defined a comprehensive plan for sea level rise and it is disconcerting to see a serious, environmentally positive plan like wetland restoration be ignored in this budget cycle. If not now, when?

Sincerely,

Patricia Lamborn
patricia.lamborn@aol.com

Meeting date: June 15, 2021

Re: Budget and De-Pave Park – Item 3-B

Dear Mayor and Council,

The community has spoken and the timing is right. I respectfully again ask you to allocate funds for creating a master plan of DePave Park.

The vision for this park has gone through numerous levels of approval, starting with the Town Center Plan, to the Infrastructure Plan, to the Climate Action Plan, and to the Recreation and Parks Commission deeming it as their top priority park.

In July 2016, the city hosted a two-hour walking tour around the Seaplane Lagoon to showcase its plans for the area. The Sierra Club and Audubon Society members were invited to give presentations during the tour on DePave Park. Hundreds of people participated and were excited to learn about the vision for the wetland park. If you allocate money in this budget cycle for master planning, it guarantees further community outreach and engagement.

From a coastal-planning perspective, the master-planning process should begin sooner rather than later because the U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs will soon be upgrading the nearby wetland, which would connect to DePave Park. Both projects envision introducing tidal channels into the wetland area, greatly enhancing its ecological viability, since it would never dry up. By removing the lens of jurisdictional boundaries and viewing this area as one contiguous tidal wetland, it becomes obvious that timely planning and construction of DePave Park is more desirable than a piecemeal approach.

One of reasons the city was denied grant funding by the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority was because the city had not invested any of its own money. Let's not allow that to be a reason for denial again.

Allocating seed money is a modest but meaningful action that will accelerate adaptation to climate change and realizing an exemplary, magnificent ecological park. And the city will be making a statement that it sanctions a community planning process for a tidal wetland park, that the pro bono high-level design work by CMG is valued, and that there really is a climate emergency.

Sincerely,
Irene Dieter

From: [Patricia Gannon](#)
To: [John Knox White](#); [Jim Oddie](#); [Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft](#); [City Clerk](#); [Malia Vella](#); [Tony Daysog](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: Depave Park
Date: Saturday, June 12, 2021 2:08:05 PM

June 12,2021

Honorable Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft

Mayor, City of Alameda
Honorable City Council Members

RE: Depave Park

Dear Mayor Ashcraft and City Council Members

I am writing to urge the City to move ahead and make Depave Park a very high priority. There are several compelling reasons for doing so:

It would result in sequestration of carbon, helping Alameda to adhere to goals in its master plan.

Alameda would definitely benefit from considering sea level rise.

It would enhance adjacent wetlands at the Wildlife Reserve and expand opportunities with a collaboration.

It would offer trail and overlooks that could become a grand open air learning center for all and provide quiet recreational opportunities.

It would mitigate water surface loss and wildlife disturbance by other activities from increased activity on the lagoon.

In order for the City to request grant funds, it must be a priority project and partially funded by the City.

The Alameda Parks and Recreation Department believes that \$250,000 would be sufficient to develop a master plan for the park which is the next step.

It would be extremely beneficial for the City to fund the master plan and make Depave Park a "high priority project." I strongly encourage the City to move forward on this project which would benefit the City all its residents.

Thank you.

Patricia M. Gannon
1019 Tobago Lane
Alameda, CA 94502
Pg3187@gmail.com



SIERRA CLUB
SAN FRANCISCO BAY

NORTHERN ALAMEDA COUNTY GROUP

ALAMEDA ALBANY BERKELEY EMERYVILLE OAKLAND PIEDMONT SAN LEANDRO

June 10, 2021

Mayor Ezzy Ashcraft

Members of the Alameda City Council

SUBMITTED VIA E-MAIL

RE: Request to Fund DePave Park at \$250,000 in Budget

Dear Mayor Ezzy Ashcraft and City Council,

The Sierra Club is again appealing to you to include funding in the amount of \$250,000 (Park Director's figure) in the current budget for a DePave Park master plan. The Alameda Point Waterfront and Town Center Plan specifically states that DePave Park will be created "when funding becomes available." **However, this park is unlike the rest of the proposed parks around the Seaplane Lagoon in two important respects:**

- 1) It will be a wetland that lies outside the levee system; and
- 2) Funding for DePave Park is unlikely to ever be tied to a waterfront development project, as is the case with Site A's Seaplane Plaza, or Marina Promenade on the east side, or Seaplane Lagoon Park on the north side.

While Parks Director Amy Wooldridge may again submit a planning grant proposal to the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority in the Fall, **the odds of being awarded funds for actual planning are slim.** Per the Restoration Authority guidelines, *only one out of every ten dollars is awarded for planning purposes.* The other nine dollars go to construction-ready projects. The city can overcome this risk by funding the master plan itself and, in doing so, place this project on a level playing field competing for future grant funding for construction.

Thus, the city should front the nominal amount of money for creating a master plan to get us to the point of applying for the major construction grants. If the city is fortunate enough to be awarded funds for a master plan by the Restoration Authority in early 2022, the funds that have been budgeted for a master plan could be freed up for other uses.

Timing is crucial. From a planning perspective, it would be desirable to have DePave Park completed during the same timeframe as the VA's wetland project. The adjacent wetland on VA property will soon be expanded and upgraded. DePave Park will become an extension of this tidal wetland.

Respectfully,

Igor Tregub, Chair

Sierra Club Northern Alameda County Group

From: [Rob Halford](#)
To: [John Knox White](#); [Tony Daysog](#); [Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft](#); [Malia Vella](#); [Trish Spencer](#)
Cc: [City Clerk](#); [Manager Manager](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Sogorea Te Land Trust Budget Item
Date: Tuesday, June 1, 2021 8:28:57 PM

Dear Members of the City Council,

I am writing to express my firm opposition to City Council's intent to allocate taxpayer funds to the Sogorea Te Land Trust. Irrespective of the validity and good intentions this organization may possess, designating city funds to a special interest, paid by Alameda taxpayers, is not, in my view, an appropriate use of your budgetary obligation.

Over the last few years, we have seen multiple parcel tax increases and a sales tax increase which has put our city at the upper range of taxed municipalities in the Bay Area. To then determine that some of these receipts should be diverted to a partisan cause is not indicative of the fiscal responsibility we should be able to expect. The current amount is immaterial, as I believe there is a real likelihood that it will become a recurring, increasing line item in coming years.

Please reconsider this use of Alameda taxpayer dollars.

Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,

Rob Halford