

October 18, 2021

Mayor Marilyn Ezzy-Ashcraft, Vice Mayor Malia Vella, Councilmember John Knox White,  
Councilmember Trish Herrera Spencer, Councilmember Tony Daysog

Amy Wooldridge, Director, Recreation and Parks  
Lara Weisiger, City Clerk

RE: City Council Meeting October 19, 2021  
Agenda Item 7B – Recommendations regarding auto-oriented events at Alameda Point

Dear Mayor and Council Members:

I want to echo other writers by first thanking the City Manager and staff for the fencing and barricades put up in the area near the planned De-Pave site. These barriers are making a difference in reducing reckless driving and other dangerous auto behavior.

This Item recommends options fore the Councel for further actions to reduce the auto danger and the environmental damage being caused. I urge the Council to adopt Option 1, rather than the staff-recommended Option 2.

Option 2 would create a long narrow drive leading to a small parking area at the southern shoreline. While this would limit the space that can be accessed by vehicles, it also creates a long tempting “drag race” type area, potentially very dangerous. It is likely that the parking will be insufficient at peak times, leading to much turning and back and forth driving – another hazard if done at high speed.

A group of Alamedans spent part of Sunday morning picking up a lot of trash at the area. It was clear that the current public use of the area is hazardous to wildlife - the vast number of cigarette butts and small plastic pieces are very harmful when washed into the Bay and eaten by animals. Diminishing the auto access to the area will also reduce the trash, beginning the environmental improvement of the area.

The City Council, City staff and many residents are all working towards the creation of a peaceful sanctuary with increased protection for wildlife. There is no reason to delay banning general vehicle access to the De-Pave Area starting now. We understand that access will need to be provided for the tenants of the current buildings, and are confident that can be achieved through thoughtful design while still preventing general auto and motorcycle access.

Sincerely,  
**Linda Carloni**

Linda Carloni  
1528 Paru St.  
Alameda 94501  
[Lindacarlioni532@gmail.com](mailto:Lindacarlioni532@gmail.com)

## Irma Glidden

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**From:** Leora Feeney <leoraalameda@att.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 18, 2021 1:02 PM  
**To:** City Clerk  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Fw: City Council meeting's agenda - Item 7-B  
**Attachments:** We sent you safe versions of your files; Alameda City Council - letter council meeting Item 7-B Oct 19, 2021.pdf

Mimecast Attachment Protection has deemed this file to be safe, but always exercise caution when opening files.

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With Lara Weisiger out of office, I'm sending this e-mail to "clerk" to insure Council gets it. Thank you.

Leora

----- Forwarded Message -----

**From:** Leora Feeney <leoraalameda@att.net>  
**To:** mezzyashcraft@alamedaca.gov <mezzyashcraft@alamedaca.gov>; mvella@alamedaa.gov <mvella@alamedaa.gov>; Tony Daysog <tdaysog@alamedaca.gov>; Trish Herrera Spencer <tspencer@alamedaca.gov>; John Knox White <jknoxwhite@alamedaca.gov>  
**Cc:** awoodridge@alamedaca.gov <awoodridge@alamedaca.gov>; Lara Weisiger <lweisiger@alamedaca.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 18, 2021, 12:21:04 PM PDT  
**Subject:** City Council meeting's agenda - Item 7-B

Please find attached a letter with comments regarding "auto related activities at Alameda Point and specifically at and near the future De-Pave Park".

Thank you for considering.

Leora Feeney  
1330 Eighth Street  
Alameda, CA  
510-522-0601

October 17, 2021

Mayor Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft  
Vice Mayor Malia Vella  
Councilmember Tony Daysog  
Councilmember John Knox White  
Councilmember Trish Herrera Spencer

RE: Agenda Item – 7-B: Recommendations regarding auto-oriented events @ Alameda Point.

Respected Council Members,

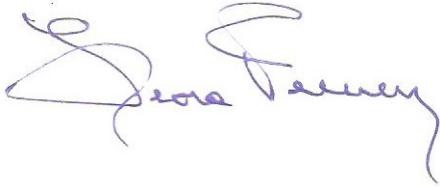
It has been a pleasure to see efforts to discourage automobile games at the west end of Alameda Point. I've seen a reduction in the dangerous mischief on the paved area just west of the Seaplane Lagoon, the future De-Pave Park, which had become routine all times of day. Frequently monitoring birds in the same area, I'd become familiar with some of the drivers and made an effort not to judge them. It is a comfort to be able to do surveys now with "reduced" noise and some fear of having a car go out of control. Reduced, but not entirely eliminated yet.

I have limited mobility and have struggled to consider asking you to accept Option 1 for access to the future De-Pave Park. For several reasons I believe it is the best plan for the site. Keep in mind that I spend many hours each month at this site monitoring important numbers of pelicans, osprey, terns, and several other species. It offers best access for viewing this wildlife. I have encountered many people behaving in many ways during surveys. Cars and other vehicles allow for privacy that invites some rather unsavory activities. Removing vehicles would bring a cleaner, quieter atmosphere to this open space. It is planned to be free of motorized vehicles in the future. There seems to be no reason to wait.

I read results from a US Fish and Wildlife study some years ago that revealed that nearly 10% of the public ignore "Keep Out" or "Trail Closed" signs at US National Wildlife Refuges. I suspect we would experience a similar result with restrictive signs. It will be difficult to keep motorized vehicles from entering any gate that will allow it. I also feel that the resources at this site need stronger protection than currently available. Some current activities endanger wildlife with careless disposal of trash, trespassing to the VA property, and also reduce potential appreciation of our precious waterfront property.

If I can make it to the south shore of De-Pave Park by walking with a walker or taking a wheel chair, those without handicaps who want to fish or picnic or enjoy the rare views and other resources can as well. We would all benefit. I realize that at this time some businesses will require a roadway access. A thoughtful design would provide for that and eliminate room for mischief and careless behaviors. I recommend Option 1 and thank you for consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Leora Feeney". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Leora" and last name "Feeney" clearly distinguishable.

Leora R. Feeney  
1330 Eighth Street  
Alameda, CA 94501  
510-522-0601  
leoraalameda@att.net

cc: Lara Weisiger – Alameda City Clerk  
Amy Woodridge – Director of Alameda Department of Recreation

## Irma Glidden

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**From:** Laura Fies <laura.fies@uss-hornet.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 18, 2021 11:31 AM  
**To:** City Clerk  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Tomorrow's City Council Meeting, Agenda Item 7-B  
**Attachments:** We sent you safe versions of your files; City of Alameda Council meeting\_Epperson.pdf; 2021\_Alameda Council Letter\_Car Shows.pdf

Mimecast Attachment Protection has deemed this file to be safe, but always exercise caution when opening files.

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Good Morning,

We received word that tomorrow's City Council meeting is going to include a conversation about reducing the negative impacts of automobile events at Alameda Point. I was hoping that we might be able to have our thoughts on the matter heard, particularly considering our recent Use Permit approval that gave us permission to host a number of Car Shows each year. I'm attaching two letters to this email, one from myself (the one with "2021" in the title) as well as one that our CEO, Mark Epperson, wrote to the Council earlier this year in May when the situation was also addressed.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns but we would love to work with the City on this issue to ensure that Alameda Point is a safe and enjoyable place to visit!

Thanks,  
Laura



### Laura Fies

Executive Officer (she/her)

Tel: (510) 521-8448 x 280

[Laura.Fies@USS-Hornet.org](mailto:Laura.Fies@USS-Hornet.org)

P.O. Box 460 • Alameda, CA 94501



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May 31, 2021

Alameda Mayor and Council Members

Greetings,

I am writing to provide the Council background information on car events that occur on Alameda Point and on the parking lots surrounding the USS Hornet Museum. In January, the Museum was approached by Hemmings Motor News to discuss the feasibility of an annual Auto Show that would be held every September on the Hornet. This show would be a three-day event and would mirror the Annual Moscone Center and Monterey shows which are very lucrative for those communities.

After initial discussions, I contacted the Alameda City planners to discuss the impact on the community of such an event. I am certainly aware of the traffic concerns of the citizens of Alameda and the Museum is committed to cooperate with all the stakeholders in the planning and execution of this event. Currently, the auto show is on hold pending further discussions.

I would like to address the current issues of reckless driving and car gatherings in Alameda Point and in the vicinity of the Museum. The Hornet has fully cooperated with the Alameda County Health Department and the City of Alameda to provide a safe environment for our guests. Two car gatherings that were tentatively scheduled for April and May were cancelled after collaboration with the City Manager and the Health Department. The parking lots surrounding the Museum have been the location for numerous "side shows" and were not approved by the Museum. When these gatherings occur, Hornet Security Staff contacts the Alameda Police and Fire Departments and coordinates the response to prevent an escalation. These events negatively impact our guests and there is the perception that these are "Hornet Events", which is simply not true.

Reckless driving at Alameda Point is a community issue and the Museum will continue to cooperate in eradicating this dangerous situation. It impacts our museum, our guests, and our Alameda community. The Hornet has a long history of serving our community and we want to ensure that we are a valuable resource for the City of Alameda and its citizens. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or need more information.

Sincerely,

  
Capt Mark Epperson

CEO

USN (ret)



clerk@alamedaca.gov  
City Clerks Office  
2263 Santa Clara Ave., Room 380  
Alameda, CA, 94501



To Whom it May Concern,

It has come to our attention in the upcoming October 19<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting, agenda item 7-B is addressing options for reducing negative impacts of automobile events at Alameda Point. First, let me say on behalf of the USS Hornet Sea, Air & Space Museum that we thank you for seeing this issue as a matter of broader public safety for the whole City of Alameda. Reckless driving at Alameda Point is a community issue and the burnout marks on our public parking lot as well as the sounds we can hear from our ship of the racing taking place on the airstrips well over half a mile away are concerning for us as well as other businesses we have spoken with.

I also want to clarify, however, that the City Council is not unintentionally conflating this sideshow issue with peaceful, positive car club showcases the Museum has hosted. The former were flash gatherings unknown to the Museum who spun donuts in our lot then undoubtedly tore out of the base at high-rate speeds. The latter were clubs vetted and approved by us with signed agreements and rules of behaviors and consequences given to individual drivers who misbehaved.

When the sideshows occur during our Museum's operating hours, we have and will continue to call the authorities. We have, in fact, become so sensitive to the City's concerns about congregations of cars that we have told unauthorized car clubs to leave our lot during business hours even if they were only photographing their vehicles against the backdrop of our historic aircraft carrier. That said, in our recently approved new Use Permit, the City did approve that the Museum would be able to host Car Shows under the following conditions:

*Car Shows, defined as a public exhibition of more than fifteen (15) automobiles in or out of production, ticketed or not ticketed, shall be prohibited, except that up to four (4) time per calendar year, no more than seventy five (75) military or antique vehicles may be temporarily displayed on Pier 3 and/or on board the ship in a manner compliant with other conditions of this Use Permit. For purposes of this use permit, Antique shall mean any vehicle over fifty (50) years old based on its manufacture date.*

One ask we recently received, for example, would be a collaborative, holiday event with a car club and Toys for Tots along with first responders and military representatives. We would like to be able to facilitate this event as it is such a lovely community opportunity, but want to be sure that we are in line with the City's goals. I trust that the Council and broader City government will be able to discern the difference between good and bad car groups rather than felling everything with too broad an axe swing.

Please let me know if you have any questions—representatives from the Museum will likely be attending tomorrow's Council meeting, but I'm happy to address anything in advance should you prefer.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Laura Fies', written over a horizontal line.

Laura Fies  
Executive Officer, USS Hornet Sea, Air & Space Museum

City Council Meeting

October 19, 2021

Item 7-B Recommendations regarding auto-oriented events at Alameda Point

Dear Mayor and City Council:

Thank you to the City Manager and the Public Works and Police Departments for the work that has been done so far in making the west side of Alameda Point a more pleasant place to visit. Blocking off the area between Building 25 and the old Air Traffic Control Tower was a huge first step.

I am glad to see that they are recommending further steps to make the area designated for De-Pave Park a more welcome space. However, I disagree with the staff recommendation to implement Option 2. I urge the City Council to instead direct staff to implement Option 1 for the following reasons:

**FUTURE USES** - The future use of this area as an ecological park will not feature auto access through a wetland to the south shore, so it is prudent to prepare people for the future conditions of a serene area without cars.

**OSPREY NEST** - It appears that all the cars driving out to the end of the area, especially after dark with headlights on, are responsible for the ospreys not nesting on the light stand on the west jetty in recent years. Instead, they have been choosing to nest on the east jetty osprey platform.

**UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES:** Option 2, recommended by staff, would feature a small parking area at the south shoreline. That may sound good in theory, until you think about all the curious drivers on weekends creating a steady parade of turn-arounds and unnecessary traffic. That spot could also become an attractive location for drivers of powerful cars to hang out and do burnouts, as it has in the past. Option 1, on the other hand, would not allow for public auto access to the south shore.

**SUGGESTIONS:**

I would also suggest adding additional signage leading into the De-Pave Park shoreline. Besides the one that says "Bicycle and pedestrian access only," it should also say specifically, "No motorized vehicles" other than "disabled mobility vehicles." This redundant sign would make clear that the city does not want motorcycle riders, such as the dirt or mini motorcycle riders that like to practice doing long wheelies, disturbing the quiet enjoyment of the area.

Lastly, while Public Works is putting up signs, I would urge them to put the sign back up (or make a new one) that was there in August 2015 (attached below) that said, "Future Home of De-Pave Park."



Thank you,  
Richard Bangert

Photo site: \*\*\*\*\*[flickr.com/photos/63740093@N03/](https://www.flickr.com/photos/63740093@N03/)

Blog: \*\*\*\*\*[alamedapointenviro.com/](http://alamedapointenviro.com/)

