

City of Albany

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Teen Center PH (510) 525-0576 February 10, 2011

East Bay Regional Park District **Board of Directors** Ward 1 Board Member Richmond

Attn The Honorable Whitney Dotson

Dear Mr Dotson

The undersigned chairperson of the Albany Waterfront Committee wishes to extend to you a cordial invitation to attend one of our upcoming meetings, your schedule permitting

Starting in March, our committee will begin meeting on the first Wednesday of each month at 7 30 PM – please confirm your arrangements with Albany Community Development Director, Ann Chaney (who is copied on this letter)

The purpose for your visit first is to recognize the contribution the EBRPD more recently has provided to the City of Albany, to wit, grants of Measure WW funding dedicated to the City in the amount of about \$770,000, establishment of the burrowing owl habitat on the Bulb, and your current efforts involving an Albany Beach Feasibility Study and extending the Bay Trail

Currently the Waterfront Committee is advising the City Community Development Director on a planned project, using \$50,000 of the aforementioned dedicated funding, to upgrade the area of our waterfront commonly referred to as The Cove (at the foot of Buchanan Street inside the right of way easement leading to the Neck). More details will be forthcoming as the City submits its plan for review and approval.

Recently the Waterfront Committee also sponsored one of the several presentations of the Feasibility Study for restoration of the Albany Beach, for which the EBRPD entered into a contract in the amount of about \$165,000. That presentation proved a huge success, drew a great turnout, and is regularly rebroadcast on our city cable station That was a brilliant example of the excellent work that the EBRPD is doing to improve the waterfront

The Waterfront Committee wishes to explore with you ways that the City of Albany may assist the EBRPD in assuring that a project will follow, provided the Beach Restoration feasibility study so recommends a follow-on project

And lastly, we understand that Measure WW funds include an element (then about \$26M) held in reserve for unanticipated future needs and opportunities We may share with you some ideas for use of a portion of that funding on the Bulb, the last remaining portion of our waterfront to transfer to the EBRPD as part of the Eastshore State Park Plan

Toward that end, we are pleased to report that the Waterfront Committee is in the process of tackling several issues of concern i e, dogs and pets, homeless encampments, driftwood sculptures and art, and exposed rebar dangers

We look forward to sharing with you our appreciation for the efforts by the EBRPD, an update on our progress to date, and working together with you to continue to improve our regional waterfront resource

Sincerely,

Kathy Diehl,

Chairperson, Albany Waterfront Committee

Cc Ann Chaney, Community Development Director