

DRAFT

March 6, 2012

Fern Tiger
Fern Tiger Associates
201 Clay Street, Suite 290
Oakland, CA 94607

Dear Fern,

The Albany City Council wishes to extend its gratitude for the extraordinary work of Fern Tiger Associates (FTA) in engaging and informing the community about the proposed possibility to locate the second campus of the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory at Golden Gate Fields (GGF).

When the City Council learned that GGF was one of six finalists competing as a preferred site for the Lab, we were grateful to have the guidelines from your previous work with the Albany community - Voices to Vision - to inform the planning, analysis, and evaluation of the proposal. When we learned that a site selection would be made in a matter of months, we were grateful that you agreed to start work immediately to help the Albany community understand and engage in what was being proposed.

Despite the fact that you had limited time and information, you crafted a process that was inclusive, intelligent, and informative. Voices to Vision 2, as the process was called, provided the community with as much information as you could gather in the transparent and engaging format that is your trademark. Your creation and facilitation of the 22-member Golden Gate Fields/Waterfront Task Force was masterful; it provided a broad spectrum of the community with a platform on which to learn, thoughtfully discuss, and carefully consider the property owner's proposal for the Lab and associated development.

Your willingness, as well as the willingness of Liz Newman, to work virtually every Sunday evening for two months, is in itself remarkable. Added to that commitment is the tremendous work that you, Liz, and other members of your team dedicated to gathering data and information, obtaining professional analyses, and creating summaries and matrixes. It was a complex proposal, involving multiple – and at times conflicting - public agencies and interests. Throughout Voices to Vision 2, it was clear that your primary interest was that the community deserved to be informed, engaged, and respected.

Thank you, Fern, for your working once again with excellence in Albany about the future of this very special property on our waterfront.

Sincerely,

Farid Javandel
Mayor

Marge Atkinson
Vice-Mayor

Peggy Thomsen
Council Member

Joanne Wile
Council Member