



CITY OF OAKLAND

Community and Economic Development Agency, Planning & Zoning Services Division
250 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, Suite 3330, Oakland, California, 94612-2032

NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF DRAFT TIERED ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

The Oakland Community and Economic Development Agency, Planning and Zoning Division, is preparing a Draft Tiered Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Lake Merritt Channel Improvements Project. Your comments on the scope and content of the EIR are requested.

The Lake Merritt channel improvements are proposed as part of the 12th Street Reconstruction Project, one of the projects approved by Oakland voters as part of the Clean Water, Safe Waterfront Parks and Recreation Trust Fund Bond Measure ("Measure DD"). During the detailed design process for the proposed channel improvements additional work encompassing channel restoration and habitat enhancement were added; these components are considered to be beyond the scope of the original 12th Street Reconstruction Project. The City has now determined that additional review pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) is required prior to final approval and implementation of this project.

An "Initial Study" was prepared in 2002 for all projects proposed under Measure DD and the City determined that all potentially significant impacts could be reduced to a less than significant level through mitigation measures that had already been incorporated into the project subsequent to their identification in other certified environmental documents. Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15162, the City found that no further environmental review was required and an Addendum was prepared and approved for all Measure DD projects.

This Draft EIR will tier off of the previous environmental analyses to provide sufficient additional data to support environmental clearance of the proposed improvements to the Lake Merritt channel with the additional project components of channel restoration and habitat enhancement.

The City of Oakland is the Lead Agency for this project, which means that the City of Oakland is the public agency with the greatest responsibility for either approving or carrying out the project. This notice is being sent to Responsible Agencies and other interested parties. Responsible Agencies are those public agencies, in addition to the City of Oakland, that also have a role in approving or carrying out the project. Responsible Agencies will rely upon the EIR that has been prepared when considering approvals related to the project. When the Draft EIR is published, it will be sent to all Responsible Agencies and to others who respond to this Notice of Preparation or who otherwise indicate that they would like to receive a copy.

Please send any response you may have regarding this notice so that it is received no later than **November 21, 2005 at 4:00 p.m.** Your response should be directed to Joel Peter, via mail to City of Oakland, Public Works Agency, 250 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, Suite 4344, Oakland, CA 94612, or via facsimile to (510) 238-7235, or via email to jmpeter@oaklandnet.com. Please reference case number ER050015 in your response. Any questions concerning this notice should be directed to Joel Peter at (510) 238-7276 or jmpeter@oaklandnet.com.

PROJECT TITLE: Lake Merritt Channel Improvements

PROJECT LOCATION: The project area includes the Lake Merritt Channel and adjoining banks between Lake Merritt and I-880 in the City of Oakland, Alameda County, California.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The project includes the removal of culverts and widening of the Lake Merritt channel to improve tidal flow and flushing, creation of a tidal marsh along the edges of Lake Merritt channel and the introduction of native plant species to restore native habitats along the channel and adjoining areas.

The Lake Merritt Channel Improvements project is an augmentation of the 12th Street Reconstruction Project, which includes consolidation of 12th Street into a 6-lane boulevard as well as creation of a new clear span bridge over the Lake Merritt channel, creation of a new pedestrian bridge over the channel, creation of new open space areas, pathways, and landscaping, and improvements to utilities and storm water infrastructure. The proposed EIR will also analyze future channel improvements to be conducted as part of the 10th Street and 7th Street Reconstruction Projects.

Lake Merritt Channel Improvements – Notice of Preparation of Environmental Impact Report

PROBABLE ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS: The proposed project would enhance the hydrological tidal function of the channel by increasing tidal flow between Lake Merritt and the estuary. The proposed improvements would also enhance the habitat value in the channel and adjoining upland areas through the creation of a tidal marsh and planting of appropriate native inter-tidal and upland species.

Date: October 20, 2005
File No.: ER050015

Claudia Cappio
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