

Estuary Park Action Committee
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To the Alameda City Planning Board:

RE: Zoning of the Dutra/Fox/Collins property along the Estuary

We'd like an item placed on the agenda of the next meeting of the Planning Board, to be held 28th January, to discuss a part of the proposed Housing Element which considers developing the Dutra/Fox/Collins property for housing instead of a park, as was stated in the 1991 Alameda City Master Plan.

The 1991 General Plan stated:

"This park will require a major funding commitment by the City, but will probably do more than any other single project to ensure Alameda's long-term quality. It could have the character of San Francisco's marina Green and would attract all age groups to enjoy large and small boats on the Estuary, views of the Oakland skyline and hills, and active sports. The new park would serve a sector of the City that is short of park space, and would guarantee the high quality of housing proposed for the area."

The necessity of the park is clear, but implementation is difficult. Developers are already after the property. In the proposed Housing Element the area designated as a future park in the last Master Plan has been re-designated for housing development! Already one developer's plan has been through eight revisions with the Planning Department.

The City Recreation and Parks Department has not pursued the recommendations of the 1991 General Plan. It has not investigated funding possibilities nor has it done anything to bring this park to life.

The Estuary Park Action Committee (EPAC) is a group of concerned citizens dedicated to making a park on the Estuary. We need to secure funding, enlist the aid of outside groups, and provide impetus to the Recreation and Parks Department. To do this, we need time. If the Housing Element is approved in its current form, we'll have no time to even try to make Estuary Park a reality—the land will simply be thrown to developers. They'll profit, but the neighborhood won't. We support balanced development that provides housing and necessary civic infrastructure for transportation, education, health care, and recreation. The people in East Alameda need that park in that location. Certainly all citizens will benefit.

If the Housing Element before you is altered and that space designated as open space, we will at least have time to try to get a park there. That designation would have to be amended before housing would be allowed on the site. We are asking you to keep that property designated as open space for the reasons outlined in the 1991 General Plan. Give us the time to make our park a reality.

We'd like to present our opinions on the Housing Element at the next Planning Board meeting. We've been circulating petitions to gather signatures of like minded citizens. We enclose the petition leaflet and copies of the 206 signatures collected so far.

Thank you.