

Addendum

Dear Board members,

I understand the City of Alameda's De-Pave Park is recommended for partial funding of \$800,000 to cover the master plan process and 30 percent construction drawings, but not enough to cover permitting. Further, I understand staff is also recommending not issuing a request for proposals for next year and instead asking current applicants to resubmit requests by the Fall, and that next year's funding allotment will be disbursed among current applicants.

In light of these recommendations, I urge the board to allocate the full amount requested by Alameda for De-Pave Park this year. Delaying permitting for this important and beneficial project will make it much more difficult to obtain construction funding. Time is of the essence as our bay area cities work to adapt to a future with significant sea level rise.

Thanks for your consideration,
Heinrich Albert
2525 Webb Ave
Alameda, CA 94501

Addendum

San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority
c/o State Coastal Conservancy
1515 Clay Street
Oakland, CA 94612

Leora Feeney
1330 Eighth Street
Alameda, CA 94501

February 23, 2022

RE: February 25, 2022, board meeting
Agenda Item 13. Grant Round 5 Overview
Alameda's De-Pave Park project.

Board Members of SFBRA,

Thank you for recommending \$800,000 of the \$1.12 million requested to get De-Pave Park planning launched. The award is very much appreciated.

We can all grasp the wetland losses the East Bay has suffered over the years. It has been shown that Central San Francisco Bay is a magnet for fish eating species of birds and mammals. Wetlands are an essential component to this fully functioning ecosystem. De-Pave Park will add to already established areas that draw large numbers of Harbor Seals and what has been called a California "megaroost" for Brown Pelicans.

Recall also, that in the spring of 2019, Allie, the Humpback Whale, sought refuge to rest and heal in Alameda Point's Seaplane Lagoon waters, waters that are adjacent to the proposed De-Pave Park. Allie, after three weeks, ventured back out into the Bay and likely joined her kin in migration. There are few locations close to the Golden Gate that could have allowed her this quiet opportunity. The Humpback Whale is just one of seven marine mammals documented in Alameda waters. This location is an important wildlife site in an urban community.

Once again, thank you for recommending funding of \$800,000 to De-Pave Park, a name chosen to show a possibility for wetland restoration. It would be wonderful if you could provide the full \$1,200,000 to insure we hasten the project's completion by including funding for the extensive permitting process that could commence in tandem with planning.

Sincerely,



Leora Feeney
510-522-0601
leoraalameda@att.net

Addendum

Public Comment

To: Governing Board, San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority
From: Richard Bangert, Alameda Point Environmental Report and resident of Alameda.
Subject: Agenda Item 13, Grant Round 5 Overview, February 25, 2022, board meeting

Dear Chair Dave Pine and members of the board,

As a local advocate for De-Pave Park, I thank the staff for its recommendation for partial funding and ask that you increase the grant to the full amount requested.

Having funds available for starting the permitting process early in the planning process will allow for Alameda to take advantage of the new streamlined permitting system overseen by the Bay Restoration Regulatory Integration Team. This will accelerate the project toward the next phase of very competitive construction-grant funding, with only a modest increase in the current grant award of \$300,000.

I would also like to point out an important co-benefit of De-Pave Park not mentioned in the staff briefing. The De-Pave Park site is directly adjacent to an existing wetland on federal VA property currently undergoing expansion and enhancement. Therefore, the benefits of the De-Pave Park project will extend beyond the jurisdictional boundary of the city and magnify its impact as part of a greater wetland complex.

Receiving the full grant request will facilitate having the De-Pave Park project move toward completion in tandem with the federal wetland project in a holistic fashion.

Addendum



February 24, 2022

San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority
c/o State Coastal Conservancy
1515 Clay Street, 10th Floor
Oakland, California 94612

February 23, 2022

RE: Staff's Anticipated Recommendations on Projects to be Considered for Funding in Grant Round 5

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Golden Gate Audubon Society and its Alameda Conservation Committee, Friends of Alameda Wildlife Reserve, are pleased that staff recommends that the grant request for the planning work for De-Pave Park receive funding. However, we are disappointed that staff has recommended that the grant receive only a portion of the requested funds. We urge the Authority to allocate this year some of the money that will be available next year in order to fully fund the De-Pave Park grant request. This will enable the City of Alameda to complete the permitting process so that the City can work to secure construction funding.

The review process resulted in a conclusion that the De-Pave Park project—to convert a paved area adjacent to Seaplane Lagoon into a restored wetland that will sequester carbon and expand on the wetland being restored by the US Department of Veterans Affairs on its adjoining land—was worthy of funding. But funds for planning without funds necessary to secure all the myriad construction permits will not result in the City being able to complete this project in a timely manner. In light of recent analyses of the speed of sea level rise, projects such as De-Pave Park take on added importance. While planning is necessary, it is not sufficient to address climate change and sea level rise without actual construction, and construction can not happen without the permits.

As we noted in the letter from FAWR at an earlier step related to De-Pave Park, the area covered by the grant request is mostly fill created by the US Navy many years ago, replacing open water and wetlands with concrete. The area that will become De-Pave Park is adjacent to a rock breakwater that serves as a “mega-roost” for Brown Pelicans.

GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY

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The VA's adjacent 512 acres, reserved for a large nesting site for endangered California Least Terns, has also hosted at least 209 species of birds, including a Great Blue Heron rookery, wintering Burrowing Owls, Horned Larks, Bryant's Savannah Sparrow, and other species that need protection to slow their recent losses. The waters to the west and south of what will become De-Pave Park host Sea Otters, Harbor Seals (with their own unique floating haul-out platform maintained by WETA), Humpback Whales, and other marine mammals, all of which will benefit from an expanded wetland and its support for marine life.

Coastal wetlands (in particular, intertidal sites) excel at carbon sequestration, which is critical to efforts to slow global climate change. The carbon they sequester is sometimes called "blue carbon," a high-density carbon that accumulates in coastal systems as a result of their high productivity and sediment-trapping ability. Estimates show that the rate of carbon sequestration in coastal wetlands is greater than in all of the terrestrial forests combined, despite forests having a much larger area. Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, Briefing Note 10 (2018).

https://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/documents/library/bn10_restoration_climate_change_e.pdf

Multiple organizations were involved in the initial planning for this wetlands restoration effort. The growing community being developed in the former Naval Base at Alameda Point needs this restored wetland, both to counter the urbanization of the area and to increase the options for residents to learn more about the nature that surrounds them. The City of Alameda, occupying a low-lying island subject to sea level rise, will benefit from the sequestration of carbon to help lessen sea level rise. And the many birders and outdoor enthusiasts will benefit from the replacement of the current concrete area with a wetland with a walking path and space for birds and mammals to breed and live.

We urge the Bay Restoration Authority to fully fund the City of Alameda's grant request for De-Pave Park through the permit process, so this project can proceed as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,



Glenn Phillips

Executive Director

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Addendum

RE: Funding of De-Pave Park, Alameda CA

Dear Governing Board of the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority,

I am writing to support the funding of Alameda's De-Pave Park for \$800,000 to cover the master plan process and 30% construction drawings. However, that is not enough to cover the permitting process as well.

It is my understanding that the staff is recommending not issuing a request for proposals for next year and is instead recommending asking current applicants to resubmit requests in the Fall.

I would support allocating some of next years funding now-- and give Alameda's De-Pave Park the full amount so that all 3 expenses are covered:

- **Master Plan**
- **30 percent Construction Drawings**
- **Permitting Process.**

We have been advocating for this Climate Change adaptive restoration--De-Pave Park-- since 2014 when it was first incorporated into the City's land use plan around the Seaplane Lagoon.

Please increase Alameda's funding to the full amount !

Sincerely,

Patricia Lamborn
Alameda Resident
patricia.lamborn@aol.com