



The League of Women Voters - where hands-on work to safeguard democracy leads to civic improvement

March 16, 2021

Mayor Libby Schaaf  
President Nikki Fortunato Bas  
Council Member Carroll Fife  
Council Member Noel Gallo  
Council Member Dan Kalb  
Council Member and Vice Mayor Rebecca Kaplan  
Council Member Treva Reid  
Council Member Loren Taylor  
Council Member Sheng Thao  
Oakland City Hall  
1 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza  
Oakland, CA 94612

Re: Extension of Time to Respond to Howard Terminal EIR

Dear Mayor Schaaf and Members of the Oakland City Council:

The League of Women Voters of Oakland requests that you and staff of the Planning Department give serious consideration to requests from Oakland citizens and organizations for an extension of the initial 45 day comment period with respect to the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) recently issued on the Oakland Ballpark Waterfront District Project (the proposed Howard Terminal ballpark development).

The Ballpark Project is unique in its potential impact on the entire Oakland community. It is also the largest such project proposed in many years, as evidenced by the fact that the EIR runs to thousands of pages and has taken several years to complete. It contains dense technical detail, which may require parties seeking to respond to consult with experts in order to interpret and evaluate.

While some parties may have the resources to quickly seek and fund such consultations, other groups and individuals, including League members, need more time to consider and organize their responses. We are particularly concerned that individuals and groups who will potentially bear the impacts of the project, if it is approved, have adequate time to voice their concerns and participate fully as the EIR is a key component of the approval process. Additional time for responses would support more participation in the process. In a project of such magnitude, which could have significant long term consequences for Oakland residents, all voices and viewpoints should have a real opportunity to be heard and considered.

Finally, we note that the city website references an informational webinar workshop that occurred on March 6, 2021. The webinar apparently highlighted important elements of the EIR. We ask, if possible, that the city provide a link to the recording on its website so that those who missed the onetime event can benefit from it in preparing their responses.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Deborah Shefler", followed by a horizontal line.

Deborah Shefler, President  
League of Women Voters of Oakland

Cc: Betsy Lake, Deputy City Administrator  
William Gilchrist, Director of Planning  
Peterson Vollmann, Project Planner