

From: [Ben Eichenberg](#)
To: [Lake, Betsy](#)
Cc: [Fortunato Bas, Nikki](#); [Kaplan, Rebecca](#); [Kalb, Dan](#)
Subject: Waterfront Ballpark District Project -- request for comment period extension
Date: Tuesday, March 9, 2021 2:52:48 PM

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Dear Ms. Lake,

Due to its complex and lengthy nature, San Francisco Baykeeper would like to request an extension of the public comment period for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIR) for the Oakland Waterfront Ballpark. Baykeeper strongly feels that 90 days, rather than the 45 provided in the City's February 26, 2021 DEIR notice of release, is more appropriate for the importance of this project and the public input and transparency such a project requires.

Baykeeper's mission is to protect San Francisco Bay from the worst threats and to hold polluters accountable. Thus, Baykeeper, along with our more than 5,000 members and supporters, is deeply concerned with multiple aspects of this Project. Toxic remediation, for instance, is one of the biggest threats facing the Bay, especially in the era of climate change and sea level rise. The Project site will require significant remediation for legacy toxics, but our initial review of the DEIR does not show a comprehensive plan for remediation of these toxics. This means that Baykeeper and other concerned members of the public must research the site and the potentially necessary remediation to ensure that the Project does not adversely impact public trust resources, such as San Francisco Bay.

The DEIR and its appendices contain thousands of pages of detailed information, potentially including many more issues such as toxics remediation. These issues will have impacts on the City and its residents, as well as surrounding areas, for many decades to come. This merits significantly more than 45 days of public review.

Also of concern are the expedited procedures being contemplated for this Project. As you know, this Project is of keen interest both to Oakland residents across the City and to the entire Bay Area. Under some expedited procedure proposals, this may be the only opportunity all of these people have to comment and participate meaningfully in this process. As you know, stakeholder participation is vital for project legitimacy, especially in highly visible circumstances such as ballpark construction. Such participation should be as robust as possible, which cannot happen under the constrained timeline initially proposed.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Ben Eichenberg

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San Francisco Baykeeper



Keeping an eye on the Bay since 1989

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