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12Mar2021

re: Request to Extend Comment Period for Howard Terminal DEIR

Dear Oakland Planning Department,

We write to respectfully ask that you extend the 45-day comment period for the Howard Terminal Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) by at least 45 days in the interest of allowing the community an opportunity to fully consider and respond to its findings. The City of Oakland has taken over two years to produce the report, resulting in a detailed and complex document that is over 1,600 pages long, not including the additional 4,000 pages of appendices.

Golden Gate Audubon is concerned the current, short window would prohibit members of the environmental community ample time to read, digest, and respond to the numerous issues addressed within the report. With so much at stake in the project – from air quality issues, to toxic substances exposure, to potential habitat destruction – we believe it is vital that all impacted parties have a more reasonable timeframe in which to comment.

A fair extension of the comment period would allow our organization and any others sufficient time to bring to the attention of the city any deficiencies in the DEIR and the project itself. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Pam Young
Executive Director

Cc:

City Administrator's Office

Betsy Lake, Deputy City Administrator: elake@oaklandca.gov

Oakland City Council

Council President Rebecca Kaplan: Rkaplan@oaklandca.gov

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