THE A'S AT HOWARD TERMINAL: UNSAFE, IMPRACTICAL, WRONG

Earthquakes

There is a 72% chance of a magnitude 6.7 or higher earthquake striking the San Francisco Bay Area within the next 25 years.[1] The Port of Oakland is especially vulnerable to earthquake damage due to its proximity to the Hayward Fault and San Andreas Fault, which caused the destructive, magnitude 6.9 Loma Prieta earthquake during the 1989 World Series that featured the A's.[2] Additionally, the Port of Oakland is identified as a liquefaction hazard zone where infrastructure such as bridges are more likely to collapse in a high-magnitude earthquake.[3] Having the A's stadium there will place tens of thousands of fans in even greater danger.

Security choke point

A route dependent on a gondola will create a nightmare situation for first responders during emergency scenarios like earthquakes and criminal activity. The site has no accessible evacuation or emergency-access routes in the event of a crisis and the nearest BART station is over a mile away. The walk along industrial terrain and active railroad tracks is unsafe for pedestrian traffic, particularly with trains that frequently stop and block access for long periods of time

Climate change and sea level rise

The San Francisco Bay is expected to rise dramatically in the coming decades, leading to greater threats to coastal inundation and storm surges. In Oakland, the sea level is projected to rise 24 inches by 2050 and 66 inches by 2100,[4] which could flood parts of West Oakland, including the Port of Oakland and Howard Terminal.[5] Moreover, rising groundwater could increase the potential for liquefaction-induced damage during earthquakes.[6]

Tsunamis

The Port of Oakland is at a major risk to tsunami inundation.[7] This poses a major threat to the safety of A's fans as well as the investments in new housing and infrastructure. It's another reason why the area should stay zoned as industrial, keeping the number of visitors lower and preventing more people from traveling in an area facing these risks.

Works Cited:

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