

August 26, 2016

Ann Clevenger, Planner III, AICP
City of Oakland, Bureau of Planning
250 Frank H. Ogawa, Suite 2114
Oakland CA 94612

Dear Ms. Clevenger:

I live directly behind the historic Claremont Hotel property. And have been a resident of Oakland for over 50 years.

I find it remarkable and unbelievable that in the Notice of Preparation, planning staff anticipates that this project will have no environmental impact or not have significant environmental impacts on Hydrology and Water Quality. The serious probable impact to the Hydrology of this watershed from a project of this scale has been overlooked and needs to be fully analyzed by your educated and knowledgeable staff in preparation of the Draft EIR.

Claremont creek is the north fork of Temescal Creek and runs through the Claremont Hotel property and the Berkeley Tennis Club. Temescal is one of the principal watercourses in Oakland and delivers fresh water into the San Francisco Bay. This watershed has a history of human impact including quarrying and development of natural springs used to supply water to the city of Oakland. Claremont creek was undergrounded in the 1970's to make room for tennis courts and a parking lot. There are at least three wells on this property that draw water from this creek and an aquifer exists under the Hotel property parking lot. This water pumped from this creek and aquifer is used for irrigation of the gardens and to fill the swimming pools at the Claremont hotel and the Berkeley Tennis Club.

For water quality and watershed restoration it would be best to daylight the creek, remediate damage to the watercourse and bring back the native landscape. Allowing further development in this area will only exasperate existing damages and further degrade the environment.

I contest the NOP assessment and formally request that the Draft EIR contain full analysis of probable Hydrologic impacts of this proposed Project .

Please provide answers to all of the following.

- Was there a movement to stop the undergrounding of Claremont Creek by residents of Berkeley in the 1970's?
- Was a DFW 1602 LSAA permit applied for and approved when Claremont Creek was culverted?
- What is the course of the undergrounded creek?
- Has there been any effort to daylight Claremont creek?
- Will water for this project come from wells tapping ground water?
- Where exactly are the wells on this property?
- Is the California Water Resources Control Board aware of this project?
- Do the property owners have water rights?
- Has the California Division of Water Rights been notified of this project?
- Will they be getting a water hookup from EBMUD?

- How will the increased water use impact local residents during droughts?
- Where is the location of the aquifer and quarry mentioned in historical documents ?
- Was a quarry on the property filled to build parking lots?
- What is the current condition of the culvert that diverts the creek?
- Will the aquifer be disturbed in the event of development?
- Are there efforts to bring back the native COHO Salmon in this creek?
- What is the Total Maximum Daily Pollutant Load allowed to this underground watercourse?
- Has the San Francisco EPA TMDL department been notified of this project?
- Is flood control a concern in this area?
- Is Alameda County flood control aware of this project?
- Which government agencies will be consulted when preparing the EIR?

Best regards,

Justin Baldwin
Oakland, California