

## **New Development on Bay Farm Island**

This message is being forwarded as a safety advisory that affects everyone in our community. The Presidents Council, which is comprised of the 20 Presidents of our local home owner associations, and the President of CHBI, have met with representatives of other Bay Farm home owner associations as well as one on the east end of the main Island, to talk about this and other significant issues that pertain to the “swap”. Because of the very short period of time that is available for residents and the officers of your boards to become more familiar with the attendant issues and to then respond appropriately to the City Council before they take their vote, the Presidents Council strongly recommended that we utilize the emergency e-mail system to notify residents of key times and dates of relevant meetings.

As many of you know, there is a proposal being made to the City of Alameda to swap a 12 acre site on North Loop Rd. for an equal piece of land which is currently the Mif Albright Golf Course. The land on North Loop Rd. would be used for youth athletic fields, and the Mif Albright acreage would be used for the development of 130 homes.

The Board of Directors of the Community of Harbor Bay Isle Owners Association, per our governing documents, can only take action that relates to home values, quality of life and safety. Consequently, the BoD has already sent a letter to the City Planning Board and will likely send a resolution to the City Council regarding:

- The negative impact the development will have on our home values by (at a most inopportune time when the housing market is in a slump), adding an additional 130 homes to the inventory of saleable properties on Bay Farm Island,
- The exacerbation of an already significant traffic problem on Island Drive during peak commute times,
- The inadequacy of the proposed solution for addressing the traffic problem,
- The decreased safety for both pedestrians, drivers and passengers as a result of the increased traffic especially in the event of a community wide crisis.

There are three key dates;

- An open meeting called by the *Citizens Against the Land Swap* (846-7151) will take place starting at 7:00 pm on Thursday, September 29 at the Casitas Clubhouse located at 1101 Verdemar\*.
- The City Council plans to vote on approval of this proposal on October 18<sup>th</sup>, and pending their approval;
- The Alameda Planning Board will hear responses to the proposed Environmental Impact Report at their meeting on 10/24.

Following tomorrows meeting, those of you who have any concerns regarding the “swap” proposal should absolutely plan on attending the meetings at City Hall on the 18<sup>th</sup> and on the 24<sup>th</sup>. An in-person showing is the only effective way to “vote” when an important matter like this will not appear on any ballot for the citizens to vote on ourselves. Additionally, you should contact your city council to state your opinion. Their contact information is:

Mayor Marie Gilmore	747-4701	<a href="mailto:mgilmore@ci.alameda.ca.us">mgilmore@ci.alameda.ca.us</a>
Vice Mayor Rob Bonta	747-4726	<a href="mailto:rbonta@ci.alameda.ca.us">rbonta@ci.alameda.ca.us</a>
Lena Tam	747-4722	<a href="mailto:ltam@ci.alameda.ca.us">ltam@ci.alameda.ca.us</a>
Doug DeHaan	747-4728	<a href="mailto:ddehaan@ci.alameda.ca.us">ddehaan@ci.alameda.ca.us</a>
Beverly Johnson	747-4745	<a href="mailto:bjohnson@ci.alameda.ca.us">bjohnson@ci.alameda.ca.us</a>

*\*Disclaimer – The Community of Harbor Bay Isle Owners Association is not affiliated with and does not represent in any way its support of any of the positions or views that may be ascribed to Citizens Against the Land Swap. This announcement is only made as a public service.*