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ALBERT WONG

October 28, 2020

Lindsay Vivian
Caltrans District 4, Office of Environmental Analysis
111 Grand Avenue
MS-8B
Oakland, CA 94612

The Honorable Pauline Cutter, Chair
Alameda County Transportation Commission
1111 Broadway, Suite 800, Oakland, CA 94607

Re: The Oakland Alameda Access Project (OAAP)

On behalf of Oakland Chinatown Chamber of Commerce (OCCC), we thank Alameda CTC and Caltrans for the opportunity to review the Oakland Alameda Access Project (OAAP) Draft Environmental Document. We appreciate the outreach the Alameda CTC staff has provided to Chinatown to move this project forward after 30 years of numerous attempts.

OCCC advocates for small businesses in Oakland Chinatown and a safe environment for our residents, as well as promotes Chinatown as an attractive destination. OCCC embraces OAAP's project as it promises to bring many improvements to Chinatown and is a good first step towards reversing the social injustice impacted by past planning mistakes. This will begin to reduce impacts from a regional traffic on to disadvantaged community. We support the overall project to improve the safety of pedestrians and bicyclists, reduce traffic in Chinatown from Alameda Points development, and improve connectivity between Chinatown and Jack London Square. The removal of the Broadway off-ramp will eliminate the blight under the freeway and revitalize the 6th Street corridor. We especially believe that the main "horseshoe" project element is essential in achieving these goals for Chinatown.

Our organization represents hundreds of small local businesses, thousands of residents, and thousands of daily visitors and workers within the project area. OCCC agrees that in 2020, with climate change-driven fires burning all around us and freeways vastly overwhelmed by capacity at all hours, we must quickly prioritize the transportation improvements and address long-standing community priorities of safety and connectivity. This project provides much needed improvements that our community has been waiting for all these years. The project may not address all the transportation needs but is sorely needed and should be implemented now.



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Separately, OCCC is a co-signer of the letter prepared by Chinatown, Jack London District and Bike East Bay coalition. We fully support the list of requested improvements. Additionally, OCCC advocates specific requests that are pertinent to and have impacts to our Chinatown business community:

- Provide permanent signage to direct traffic to Chinatown as an attractive-destination.
- Incorporate an architecturally pleasing retaining wall design that reflects the culture of the Chinatown community.
- Ensure affordable public parking under the freeway to replace the loss of street parking
- Ensure bike route to bypass the main corridor (8th and 9th Street) of the Chinatown business core center so as not to impact small businesses.
- Ensure local community input on design elements so that the character of the community can be reflected.

We look forward to working closely with you throughout this project to achieve our mutual goals and make this project a proud reality after 30 years.

Sincerely,

Carl Chan

OCCC Board President

Sugiarto Loni, Structural Engineer, (CA S3041)

OCCC Board Director

Cc:

Ryan Russo, Oakland Department of Transportation Director

Jessica Chen, OCCC Executive Director

Rick da Silva, OCCC Board Director