



PRESS RELEASE

October 13, 2009
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:
Beverly J. Johnson, Mayor
510-747-4701

MAYOR JOHNSON CONCERNED ABOUT FINANCIAL IMPACT OF SUNCAL BALLOT INITIATIVE

On Thursday, September 24, SunCal Companies submitted signatures to the Alameda City Clerk's Office to place the Alameda Point initiative on a 2010 ballot. The County Registrar of Voters is now proceeding to verify that a sufficient number of signatures have been submitted.

"It is important for Alameda residents to realize this is a developer-driven initiative," stated Mayor Beverly J. Johnson. "Although I am a strong supporter of development at Alameda Point, this initiative over reaches, usurping the City's ability to negotiate a fair development deal that financially protects the City. After studying the election report, I've come to the conclusion that it is completely one-sided."

In accordance with election law requirements, the City has issued a two-part Election Report that provides a detailed analysis of the 283-page initiative. The Election Report is available on the City's website at www.ci.alameda.ca.us.

According to Mayor Johnson, "The Election Report should be required reading for all Alamedans before they vote on this initiative. I was certainly surprised when I read this document and have drastically changed my understanding of the SunCal initiative. This ballot initiative is well-beyond what supporters of development at the Point believed was to be in a development initiative."

While Mayor Johnson acknowledged that SunCal's proposed project offers some great ideas for Alameda Point development, particularly the sports complex, trails and transit oriented development, she also noted that "if passed as written, this initiative will

jeopardize the City's long-term fiscal sustainability, which we are working so hard to preserve.”

The City Council will set the election date for this initiative at a City Council meeting in November. Prior to that date, Mayor Johnson intends to ask City staff to make a public presentation on the initiative at a City Council meeting to ensure that the City Council and the public thoroughly understand the provisions of the initiative.

“Like many, I was initially enthusiastic about the SunCal initiative,” Mayor Johnson explained, “But, it is now a question of fairness - what voters expected versus what we are now told in the initiative. After thorough review of the measure, I believe that the SunCal initiative will have devastating financial impacts on the City.”

The City continues to negotiate with developer SunCal through its exclusive negotiation agreement in hopes of reaching a successful agreement on the funding of numerous public improvements needed at Alameda Point. The exclusive negotiation period ends in July 2010, several months after the anticipated election date for voter decision on the ballot initiative.

####