

CITY OF ALAMEDA RESOLUTION NO. 14780

AFFIRM SUPPORT FOR CREATION OF A NATURE RESERVE
AT ALAMEDA POINT

WHEREAS, the 1996 Community Reuse Plan identifies the southwestern portion of the former Naval Air Station-Alameda airfield for preservation as a wildlife refuge under management of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; and

WHEREAS, the 1996 Community Reuse Plan, page 2-27, states that “a major portion of the historic airfield area would remain as open space to provide for the preservation of wetlands, sensitive species, and regional open space uses”; and

WHEREAS, the General Plan of the City of Alameda was amended in 2003 to add Chapter 9 on Alameda Point, which includes Policy 9.3.ss encouraging funding and implementation of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s Comprehensive Conservation Plan for the Alameda National Wildlife Refuge; and

WHEREAS, Policies 9.3.kk and 9.3.mm of the General Plan call for maintaining “a Wildlife Refuge that balances natural conservation with public access, education and ship navigation” and supports “a system of trails that provide public access to and within the Wildlife Refuge”; and

WHEREAS, Policy 9.3.nn of the General Plan supports the creation of “education facilities and programs, similar to other conservation areas such as the Elsie D. Roemer Bird Sanctuary, in conjunction with either Alameda Point Park or the Wildlife Refuge”; and

WHEREAS, the wildlife refuge site is home to one of the most successful nesting sites in California for the endangered California least tern; and

WHEREAS, Breakwater Island is part of the wildlife refuge vision in the 1996 Community Reuse Plan, and it is the only night roosting area of its kind in San Francisco Bay for California Brown Pelicans, which were only recently removed from the Endangered Species List; and

WHEREAS, the wildlife refuge, and the entirety of Alameda Point and its adjacent waters, are subject to special restrictions for protection of the California least tern contained in the 2012 Biological Opinion issued by the US Fish and Wildlife Service, which is the agency responsible for enforcement of the federal Endangered Species Act; and

WHEREAS, the proposed 511-acre refuge area offers a rare and vast inner urban opportunity for limited public access and education, a respite and retreat from the built environment, introduction of native plant species, expansion of wetlands, and

Approved as to Form
Janet C. Kern
Janet C. Kern, City Attorney

wildlife recovery and protection efforts consistent with the existing or any future Biological Opinion issued by USFWS; and

WHEREAS, the wildlife refuge would complement the land uses contemplated for the mixed-use area of Alameda Point, as well as complementing the entire City of Alameda and the Bay Area; and

WHEREAS, numerous federal, state, and regional public agencies possess the experience and mission for collaboratively managing a wildlife conservation area; and

WHEREAS, environmental cleanup and remediation will be completed by the Navy in compliance with federal and state environmental laws; and

WHEREAS, the Navy currently anticipates transferring the 511 acres proposed for the wildlife refuge area to the VA, which will remain as undeveloped/open space consistent with the 2012 Biological Opinion issued by USFWS and the remaining Alameda Point upland and submerged property to the City; and

WHEREAS, the wildlife refuge vision is compatible with, and complementary to, proposed plans for a VA clinic and columbarium; and

WHEREAS, the proposed wildlife refuge is a part of the 1996 NAS Alameda Community Reuse Plan (as amended in 1997) (Reuse Plan). See Reuse Plan, pp. 2-27 to -2-28. As part of the Reuse Plan, it was analyzed in the Final EIR for the Reuse of Naval Air Station Alameda and the Fleet and Industrial Supply Center, Alameda Annex and Facility (State Clearinghouse No. 96022105), which was certified in 2000. In addition, Chapter 9 (Alameda Point) of the General Plan contains Policies 9.3.kk through 9.3.uu (pages 10-11) concerning the proposed wildlife refuge. Chapter 9 of the General Plan was analyzed in the Alameda Point General Plan Amendment EIR (State Clearinghouse No. 2001012057), which was certified in 2003; and

WHEREAS, this resolution of support would not require major revisions to either previously certified EIR due to new or substantially increased significant environmental effects. There have been no substantial changes to the proposed wildlife refuge or with respect to the circumstances under which the wildlife refuge would be undertaken, that would require major revisions to either EIR due to new or substantially increased significant environmental effects, and no new information of substantial importance has been discovered that would trigger or require major revisions to either EIR due to new or substantially increased significant environmental effects. Therefore, no subsequent or supplemental environmental impact report is required before approval of the proposed resolution. In addition, this resolution of support is not an approval of "project" for purposes of CEQA.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Alameda that it affirms its commitment to and support for the creation of a wildlife

conservation area at Alameda Point consistent with the avoidance and minimization measures within the existing Biological Opinion for City owned property; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Alameda will support the zoning of the wildlife conservation area as "Nature Reserve," or similar conservation zoning designation, to promote the protection and implementation of the values and goals recited in this Resolution.

* * * * *

I, the undersigned, hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was duly and regularly adopted and passed by the Council of the City of Alameda in a regular meeting assembled on the 19^h day of March, 2013 by the following vote to wit:


AYES: Councilmembers Chen, Daysog, Ezzy Ashcraft, Tam and Mayor Gilmore – 5.

NOES: None.

ABSENT: None.

ABSTENTIONS: None.

IN WITNESS, WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the official seal of said City this 20th day of March, 2013.



Lara Weisiger, City Clerk
City of Alameda#