CITY OF OAKLAND

Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission

AGENDA FOR REGULAR MEETING

Date: Wednesday, September 10, 2025

Time: 4:30 PM

Location: Lakeside Park Garden Center, 666 Bellevue Avenue

Remote access instructions:

The following options are available to join this meeting remotely via Zoom;

- To join online, please click on the following link: https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82580888763.
- To join by phone, please use one of the options below:
 - o One-tap mobile.
 - +16694449171,,82580888763# US, +14086380968,,82580888763# US (San Jose)
 - O Dial one of the numbers below for higher quality based on your current location.
 - +1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose), +1 408 638 0968 US (San Jose),
 - +1 669 444 9171 US, +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma),
 - +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston), +1 719 359 4580 US, +1 253 205 0468 US,
 - +1 309 205 3325 US, +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago), +1 360 209 5623 US,
 - +1 386 347 5053 US, +1 507 473 4847 US, +1 564 217 2000 US,
 - +1 646 876 9923 US (New York), +1 646 931 3860 US, +1 689 278 1000 US,
 - +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC), +1 305 224 1968 US
 - International numbers are available at https://us06web.zoom.us/u/kyiUgv6Bx.
 - o Webinar ID: 825 8088 8763.

How to submit Public Comment before and during the meeting:

- 1. To submit comments for review by the Commission before the meeting date, email comments to publiccomments2prac@oaklandca.gov.
- 2. To comment in person during the meeting, please complete a Speaker Card and provide to meeting coordinators before the Chair opens the floor to Public Comment on <u>that Item</u>. Each speaker will be called to the podium by name and permitted to comment for the allotted time.
- 3. To comment during the meeting online, click "Raise Your Hand" when prompted. When it is your turn to speak, please unmute yourself. You will be permitted to comment on the open Item for the allotted time and re-muted. See instructions on how to "Raise Your Hand" here: https://support.zoom.com/hc/en/article?id=zm_kb&sysparm_article=KB0068290.
- 4. To comment during the meeting by phone, please call one of the phone numbers listed above. You will be prompted to "Raise Your Hand" by dialing *9 to request to speak. When it is your turn, please unmute yourself by dialing *6. You will be permitted to comment on the open Item for the allotted time and re-muted.

If you have questions, email <u>publiccomments2prac@oaklandca.gov</u> or contact Oakland Parks, Recreation and Youth Development at 510-238-7275. Thank you.



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Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission

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NOTE: Public Comment will be taken during this meeting as follows...

- If you have a comment to make about an Item on this agenda, you may do so after the Chair opens the floor to Public Comment on <u>that Item</u>.
- If you have a comment to make about a topic that is <u>not</u> on this agenda, you may do so under **Items 5 and 10**, Open Forum and Continuation of Open Forum.

Agenda Items

- 1. Call to Order
- 2. Roll Call / Determination of Quorum
 - Alper, Barach, Cervantes, Henderson, Kos-Read, Omolo, Thomas, Tran, Watkins,
 Whitmore
- 3. Modification of the Agenda
- 4. Disposition of Minutes
 - Draft minutes from regular meeting on July 9, 2025.
- 5. Open Forum
 - Comment on all items not on this agenda will be taken at this time.
- 6. Measure Q Update
 - Monthly OPW Informational Report on Measure Q and Performance Measure Updates.
 - Q4 Maintenance Update
 - Measure Q Financial Report
- 7. New Business
 - 7A. Request for the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission (PRAC) to approve Association of Professional Designers request for vendor sales of plants at their plant fair to be held at Lakeside Park Garden Center on Wednesday, October 22, 2025, from 9:00am-4:00pm.
 - 7B. Request for Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission (PRAC) to approve Water Lantern Festival request to collect funds onsite for sales of lanterns, vendor sales of merchandise, crafts, mobile food trucks sales of food and beverages (non-

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alcoholic) at the Water Lantern Festival to be held at Lakeside Park (Edoff Memorial Bandstand and beach area) on Saturday, November 1, 2025, from 3:30pm-9:00pm.

- 7C. Request for the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission (PRAC) to review and approve the Public Art Conceptual Design Proposal by artist Vanessa "DJ Agana" Espinoza for the De Fremery Park "Snack Shack" public art project in West Oakland (District 3).
- 7D. Informational report to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission (PRAC) on draft Slow Streets network recommendations which include paths within Oakland parks.
- 7E. Informational report on the General Plan Update.
- 7F. PRAC Review of Measure Q Findings and Recommendations in the 2024 -2025 Alameda County Grand Jury Final Report.
- 8. Planning and Conditional Use Permits (CUPs)
- 9. Update from the Director, Committees, and Announcements
- 10. Continuation of Open Forum
 - All final comments on items <u>not</u> on this agenda will be taken at this time.
- 11. Adjournment

AGENDA FOR REGULAR MEETING

Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission

Date: Wednesday, September 10, 2025

Time: 4:30 PM

Location: Lakeside Park Garden Center, 666 Bellevue Avenue

CITY OF OAKLAND

Visit PRAC's website for Agendas, Meetings, Minutes, and more information.

Next Regular PRAC Meeting

Date: Wednesday, October 8, 2025

Time: 4:30 PM

Location: Lakeside Park Garden Center, 666 Bellevue Avenue

Accessibility Information:

This meeting location is wheelchair accessible.

To request disability-related accommodations or to request an ASL, Cantonese, Mandarin or Spanish interpreter, please email publiccomments2prac@oaklandca.gov or call Oakland Parks, Recreation and Youth Development at (510) 238-7275 or TDD/TTY (510) 238-3254 at least ten (10) days before the meeting. Please refrain from wearing scented products to this meeting as a courtesy to attendees with chemical sensitivities. Thank you.

Esta reunión es accesible para sillas de ruedas. Si desea solicitar adaptaciones relacionadas con discapacidades, o para pedir un intérprete de en español, Cantones, Mandarín o de lenguaje de señas (ASL) por favor envié un correo electrónico a <u>publiccomments2prac@oaklandca.gov</u> o llame al (510) 238-7275 o (510) 238-3254 por lo menos cinco (5) días hábiles antes de la reunión. Se le pide de favor que no use perfumes a esta reunión como cortesía para los que tienen sensibilidad a los productos químicos. Gracias.

會場有適合輪椅出入設施。需要殘障輔助設施,手語,西班牙語,粵語或國語翻譯服務,請在會議前五個工作天電郵 publiccomments2prac@oaklandca.gov 或致電 (510) 238-7275 或 (510) 238-3254 TDD/TTY。請避免塗搽香氛產品,參加者可能對化學成分敏感。

CITY OF OAKLAND

Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission

DRAFT MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING

Date: Wednesday, July 9, 2025

Time: 4:30 PM

Location: Lakeside Park Garden Center, 666 Bellevue Avenue

Agenda Items

1. Call to Order: **4:30 p.m.**

2. Roll Call / Determination of Quorum

Alper, Barach, Cervantes, Henderson, Kos-Read, Omolo, Thomas, Tran, Watkins, Whitmore

Present (6): Commissioners Cervantes, Henderson, Kos-Read, Thomas, Tran,

and Watkins

Remote (0):

Excused (3): Chair Barach, Vice Chair Omolo, and Commissioner Alper

Absent (1): Commissioner Whitmore

Action: Quorum confirmed.

2A. Pro Tem election for July PRAC Meeting.

Commissioner Watkins nominated Commissioner Tran for July Pro Tem.

Commissioner Tran accepted the nomination.

Motion: To elect Chair Tran for July Pro Tem.

Moved by: Commissioner Watkins **Seconded by:** Commissioner Henderson

Vote: Yes (5) Cervantes, Henderson, Kos-Read, Thomas, Watkins

No(0)

Action: Motion Passed.

3. Modification of the Agenda

Item 7C will be heard after 7E.

Motion: Pro Tem Tran entertained a motion to approve the modification.

Moved by: Commissioner Hendersom **Seconded by:** Commissioner Cervantes

Vote: Yes (6) Cervantes, Henderson, Kos-Read, Thomas, Tran, Watkins

No(0)

Action: Motion Passed.

4. Disposition of Minutes

- Approval of draft minutes from regular meeting on **June 11, 2025**.

Motion: Pro Tem Tran entertained a motion to approve the minutes.

Moved by: Commissioner Henderson **Seconded by:** Commissioner Thomas

Vote: Yes (6) Cervantes, Henderson, Kos-Read, Thomas, Tran, Watkins

No(0)

Action: Motion Passed.

5. Open Forum

Comment on all items not on the agenda are taken at this time.

In-Person: 1
Remote: 0
Email: 1

- 6. Measure Q Update
 - Monthly OPW Informational Report on Measure Q and Performance Measure Updates.
 - No report this month.

Public Comment

In-Person: 1 Remote: 0 Email: 0

7. New Business

7A. Request for Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission (PRAC) to approve Omnira Institute request to collect onsite donations, vendor fees, vendor sales of wares, sales of foods, beverages, and merchandise at the Ninth Annual Black-Eyed Pea Festival to be held at Marston Campbell Park on Saturday, September 13, 2025, 11:00am-6:00pm.

Public Comment

In-Person: 0 Remote: 0 Email: 0

Motion: Pro Tem Tran entertained a motion to approve the request.

Moved by: Commissioner Kos-Read **Seconded by:** Commissioner Henderson

Vote: Yes (6) Cervantes, Henderson, Kos-Read, Thomas, Tran, Watkins

No(0)

Action: Motion Passed.

7B. Request for Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission to support two new bike share stations adjacent to Lakeside Park.

Public Comment

In-Person: 0 Remote: 0 Email: 0

Motion: Pro Tem Tran entertained a motion to approve the request.

Moved by: Commissioner Cervantes **Seconded by:** Commissioner Kos-Read

Vote: Yes (6) Cervantes, Henderson, Kos-Read, Thomas, Tran, Watkins

No (0)

Action: Motion Passed.

7D. Request for the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission to support a gift-in-place donation in the amount not to exceed fifty-two thousand five hundred thirty-five dollars and thirty-one cents (\$52,535.31) from the non-profit group, Vertical Skillz Outreach, at San Antonio Park tennis court and Right of Entry Agreement between the City of Oakland, Vertical Skillz, and its selected vendor to install two (2) 8 by 20-foot containers, two (2) 8 by 40-foot containers, and awning for the storage of equipment, supplies, office space, and protection from severe weather at San Antonio Park's converted tennis court.

Public Comment

In-Person: 0 Remote: 2 Email: 0

7E. Informational report on the reconstruction of the Clubhouse at Lake Chabot Golf Course.

Public Comment

In-Person: 0 Remote: 0 Email: 0

Motion: Pro Tem Tran entertained a motion to accept and file the report.

Moved by: Commissioner Kos-Read **Seconded by:** Commissioner Cervantes

Vote: Yes (6) Cervantes, Henderson, Kos-Read, Thomas, Tran, Watkins

No (0)

Action: Motion Passed.

7C. Informational report on alternatives to the Estuary Park Master Plan by Planning and Building Department (PBD).

Public Comment

In-Person: 20 Remote: 5 Email: 60

Com. Kos-Read left the meeting at 6:45pm. Quorum lost.

- No Action taken due to lack of quorum.
- 8. Planning and Conditional Use Permits (CUPs)
 None.
- 9. Update from the Director, Committees, and Announcements **None.**
- 10. Continuation of Open Forum
 - Final comments on items not on the agenda are taken at this time.

In-Person: 0 **Remote:** 0

- 11. Adjournment: **7:21 p.m.**
 - No Action taken due to lack of quorum.

Next Regular PRAC Meeting

Date: Wednesday, September 10, 2025

Time: 4:30 PM

Location: Lakeside Park Garden Center, 666 Bellevue Avenue

Visit PRAC's website for Agendas, Meetings, Minutes, and more information.

Respectfully submitted,

Jasmine S. Bellow

Executive Assistant to the Director

PRAC Recording Secretary

CITY OF OAKLAND Oakland Public Works

TO: Marc Barach, Chair, Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission (PRAC)

FROM: Kristin Hathaway, Assistant Director, Public Works (OPW)

DATE: September 10, 2025

SUBJECT: Informational Report: OPW's Measure Q Updates

SUMMARY

This report provides updates on delivery of Measure Q-funded park services for the fourth quarter of Fiscal Year 2025 (April 1- June 30, 2025).

BACKGROUND / LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

Measure Q, approved by Oakland voters in March 2020, provides funding for parks maintenance, homelessness services, and water quality. The City Council assigned PRAC the oversight role regarding the Measure Q expenditures related to parks maintenance and water quality services. Given PRAC's oversight function, OPW routinely submits these updates.

STATEMENT OF THE ISSUE

This report covers Quarter 4 (or Q4) of Fiscal Year 2025 from April 1, 2025 to June 30, 2025. The Q4 reporting format continues the use of color coding within the tables to indicate where OPW is meeting or falling short of targets. It continues to implement PRAC's suggestion that the narrative be simplified to *target*, *results/variances*, and *addressing variances*. Similarly, this Q4 report includes equity analysis where the disparities between parks' maintenance in equity priority neighborhoods (versus others) are identified. Parks with an asterisk (*) in the tables at Attachment A, B, C, and D are in high priority equity neighborhoods based on the Department of Transportation's Geographic Equity Toolbox (available at https://www.oaklandca.gov/resources/oakdot-geographic-equity-toolbox) and parks with ** are in highest priority equity neighborhoods.

Staff seek PRAC's input on this report and its analysis.

1. **Dedicated Staffing Per Park:** Measure Q Section 3(B)(1)(m): "Providing dedicated staff at major parks. 'Major Parks' means City operated Community Parks, Region-serving parks, and Resource Conservation Areas, as those terms are used in the Open Space Conservation & Recreation (OSCAR) Element of the Oakland General Plan."

Target: Staff define Measure Q's dedicated staffing goal as at least one full-time equivalent (FTE) devoted per month at each major park. Staff also developed a preliminary industry standard for number of parks maintenance FTEs per acre of park maintained. In 2008, the International City/County Management Association recommended a best practice of one park maintenance staff member per 12 acres of parkland and indicated a higher ratio if population density is higher. Oakland has a high population density, and its parks face frequent illegal dumping, so staff adjusted the industry standard to one park maintenance staff per 10 acres. The park assessments will reevaluate whether this is the right standard and, if not, recommend a new one.

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To approximate FTEs per major park, staff track total labor hours worked by staff at each major park. Then these total labor hours per park are converted into a FTE count per park by dividing the total work hours per park by the number of hours a FTE works per month. This results in an approximate number of FTEs per park per month.

Results/Variances: Attachment A shows the results. Q4 averages show that all major parks are meeting the Measure Q-derived target of one FTE per major park. Seven of the 11 parks met the industry standard target.

Addressing variances: Our two larger regional-serving parks—Lakeside and Joaquin Miller—continue to fall short of the industry standard. Both are in low priority equity neighborhoods. The development of parks assessments will address the maintenance needs of these region-serving parks and, if gaps exist, consider approaches to addressing these gaps.

2. **Ballfield Mowing:** Measure Q Section 3(B)(1)(a): "Mowing City operated sports fields frequently, every other week, or as may be required by the time of year."

The Parks and Trees Division in Public Works' Bureau of the Environment is responsible for ballfield mowing. Measure Q sets a priority to mow "frequently" and defines frequently as every other week (or roughly two times per month), or "as [frequently as] it may be required by the time of year."

Target: Public Works sets a mowing target based on time of the year. During the off peak (or rainy) season from November to March, rain is likely, turf growth is slowed, and ballfields are used less, thus mowing is less frequent. Staff's goal in the off-peak season is one mow per month at each field.

	Off Pe	ak (Rainy	Season)		Peak (Dry Season)										
Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct				
	ballfiel	d mowing	1x/month	Į.	ballfield mowing 2x/month										

Peak (or dry) season is April to October. Rain is unlikely, turf growth is higher, ballfield use increases, and mowing is, and should be, occurring regularly. Measure Q says mowing should be occurring "every other week." In peak season, staff's target is mowing ballfields twice per month.

Results/Variances: Attachment B shows the results. For Q4, the average of citywide mows met Measure Q target (64 per month mows on average versus a target of 60). For individual parks, 63% are meeting the monthly mow target. The parks in the high and/or highest priority equity neighborhoods were more likely to meet the mowing target than parks in the non-priority neighborhoods.

Addressing variances: The data suggest that another ~10-15 mows per month would enable every individual park to meet the Measure Q goal. Staff estimate that the one additional Park Equipment Operator is sufficient to ensure these 10-15 mows per month. As of June 2025, Measure Q funded seven Park Equipment Operators, six of which were filled and one vacant (frozen through June 30).

In late May/early June, SEIU 1021 issued a cease-and-desist restricting Park Equipment Operators (PEOs) from operating large-capacity mowers used for sports fields. This action, combined with the

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frozen Park Equipment Operator position, reduced the frequency of sports field mowing during this most recent period. The order was lifted in August, and mowing levels are expected to increase through the start of the rainy season in November. The frozen PEO position has since been authorized for recruitment in FY 2026–2027, which will support compliance with Measure Q mowing goals. Other contributing factors impacting mowing schedules include labor availability, equipment access, and an extended hiring timeline.

3. **Trash and Litter:** Measure Q Section 3(B)(1)(b): "Collecting trash and litter several times per week, including Saturdays and Sundays, from the City's most used parks, assuring equitable distribution of resources..."

Staff define the City's most used parks as the community parks and regional-serving parks in the General Plan's OSCAR element. Trash cans are emptied and litter removed at these parks every Monday and Friday by the Bureau of Environment's Parks and Trees Division.

Target: Staff set two goals for trash and litter pickup. The baseline goal is emptying cans and picking up litter two times per week (or eight times per month). To derive a Measure Q goal, staff took the baseline goal of two pickups per week, added a pickup on Saturday and Sunday to reflect Measure Q's language "including Saturdays and Sundays...", and then included an overall completion rate of 75% of the time. This Measure Q-derived goal translates into three or more weekly pickups (four pickups multiplied by 75%) at the most used parks. As explained below, staff will no longer include this measure in future quarterly maintenance reports.

Results/Variances: Attachment C shows the results. In Q4, staff emptied an average of 1,422 trash cans monthly, short of the baseline goal of 1,888 per month and well below the Measure Q-derived goal of 2,832 per month. For Q4, an average of four parks of 11 met the baseline goal and an average of two met the Measure Q-derived goal.

Addressing variances: Staff estimate an additional Gardener can empty an average of 560 cans per month. Based on this estimate, hiring three Gardeners would enable staff to meet the Measure Q-derived goal for trash can emptying. In June, there were six existing Gardener vacancies, but these recruitments were on hold due to the City's budget challenge.

Trash Can Emptying Reporting for FY 2025/2026: In past discussions, PRAC has suggested the trash can emptying data is not sufficiently connected to the complaints of over-filled/over-flowing litter cans. Given this, staff plan to discontinue reporting of trash can emptying in FY 2025/2026. Instead, staff will continue tracking this metric internally and start a discussion with PRAC about a substitute measure more connected to the issue of over-filled/over-flowing cans in City parks.

4. **Restroom Cleaning:** Measure Q Section 3(B)(1)(e): "Cleaning Park Restrooms more than once per day, especially on weekends."

The Facilities Services Division of Public Works' Bureau of Maintenance and Internal Services is responsible for outdoor restroom cleaning. A custodial unit is dedicated to outside restrooms and pools. Five custodians were funded by Measure Q in June 2025. Four of those positions were filled, and one vacant.

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Target: Staff set a baseline goal of cleaning every parks' outdoor restroom once per day. To derive a Measure Q goal, staff considered the ballot text's language to clean park restrooms "more than once per day, especially on weekends." Staff set a target of twice per day cleanings including weekends and then included the goal of meeting this twice-per-day standard 80% of the time.

Each cleaning count represents the restroom or restrooms being cleaned at the listed location. Where only one bathroom exists at a location, one count equals one restroom cleaning. In locations with multiple restrooms, one count represents multiple restrooms being cleaned. No reporting is provided for the cleanings of parks restrooms that are closed or operate only seasonally or by event. These include Arroyo Viejo** (McConnell Field), Caldecott, Carter Gilmore**, DeFremery**, Joaquin Miller-Sequoia Arena, Lafayette Park**, Oakport Field*, Otis Spunkmeyer Field*, Raimondi, Officer Willie Wilkins*, Willow Park*, and Woodminster.

Results/Variances: Attachment D shows the results. In Q4, average citywide restroom cleaning counts exceeded the baseline goal (911to 899). However, those citywide restroom cleaning counts continue to fall short of the Measure Q-derived goal (911 to 1,538), a gap of 627 monthly cleanings on average. Further, none of five parks in equity neighborhoods met the baseline target, while 8 of 24 restrooms in non-priority neighborhoods did meet the target.

Addressing variances: Restroom cleaning counts continue to be challenging because of staffing, closures resulting from vandalism, and some staff requiring re-training on the cellphone-based reporting application. Staff estimate that one custodian can clean 14 restrooms per day, which equates to ~280 cleanings per month. By filling the one vacant custodian position plus adding two more custodian FTEs, the Measure Q-derived goal would regularly be met. OPW has submitted hiring requisitions for the one vacancy custodian position, but it has not yet been approved by the Finance Department. In addition, to ensure restroom cleanings are being accurately counted, staff are re-training the custodian who serves most of the restrooms in the highest and high-priority neighborhoods.

RECOMMENDATION

OPW recommends that PRAC receive this informational report.

Respectfully prepared and submitted by:

/s/ Kristin Hathaway
Assistant Director
Oakland Public Works

Attachments: A – Dedicated staffing at major parks

B – Ballfield mows

C – Trash can emptying

 $D-Restroom\ cleanings$

E – Examples of vandalism in outdoor restrooms

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Attachment A – Dedicated Staffing at Major Parks

Meets both goals	· ·	5 E	<u> </u>	Meas	ure Q	-deriv	ed go	al = 1	or mo	re sta	ff FTI	E per p	ark; I	ndust	ry Sta	ndard	= 1 F	ΓE/10	acres
Meets one goal, not other	Acres	Industry standard	MQ Goal	Q1	FY 20	25		Q2	FY 20	25		Q3	FY 20	25		Q4	FY 20	25	
Does not meet either goal	♥	Inc	~ 0	Jul	Aug	Sep	Avg	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg	Jan	Feb	Mar	Avg	April	May	Jun	Avg
Arroyo Viejo Park**	10.1	1.0	1.0	6.69	6.55	4.93	6.06	5.50	4.67	4.70	4.96	5.03	1.80	1.75	2.86	1.62	3.60	3.18	2.80
Brookdale Park	4.7	0.5	1.0	1.73	1.42	1.04	1.40	1.08	0.13	0.80	0.67	2.09	1.70	1.69	1.83	1.56	2.20	2.60	2.12
Brookfield Park*	14	1.4	1.0	5.42	2.11	2.35	3.29	6.21	4.43	4.40	5.01	3.16	3.60	3.60	3.45	2.34	2.30	2.10	2.25
Bushrod Park	10.1	1.0	1.0	3.05	3.93	3.44	3.47	2.79	2.38	2.40	2.52	2.45	2.60	2.47	2.51	2.19	2.20	2.80	2.40
Defremery Park**	14	1.4	1.0	3.44	2.93	3.00	3.12	3.37	3.01	3.10	3.16	3.25	2.10	2.20	2.52	2.06	1.90	2.10	2.02
Dimond Park	14.3	1.4	1.0	3.96	4.69	2.19	3.61	2.35	1.43	2.30	2.03	1.56	1.40	1.33	1.43	1.07	1.30	1.20	1.19
Joaquin Miller Park***	150	15.0	1.0	3.24	5.30	11.46	6.67	12.30	4.79	10.10	9.06	8.18	3.40	5.97	5.85	7.39	3.70	5.10	5.40
Lakeside Park	122	12.2	1.0	16.17	11.90	11.47	13.18	8.91	11.55	10.40	10.29	6.88	11.60	9.46	9.31	10.22	8.64	7.90	8.92
Montclair Park	6.7	0.7	1.0	2.18	2.27	2.42	2.29	3.62	0.83	2.60	2.35	2.34	1.80	1.90	2.01	0.92	1.10	1.30	1.11
Mosswood Park	11	1.1	1.0	1.14	4.12	3.44	2.90	4.96	1.85	3.10	3.30	4.35	3.80	2.78	3.64	3.80	2.80	3.92	3.51
San Antonio Park*	11.6	1.2	1.0	0.12	0.02	0.50	0.21	1.47	0.33	0.70	0.83	2.54	1.10	1.13	1.59	0.74	2.50	1.11	1.45
Parks mee	ting M	Ieasure	Q Goal	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	11.0	8.0	9.0	9.3	11.0	11.0	11.0	11.0	9.0	11.0	11.0	10.3
Parks not mee	ting M	I easure	Q Goal	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.0	3.0	2.0	1.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.7
% of Parks mee	ting M	[easure	Q Goal	91%	91%	91%	91%	100%	73%	82%	85%	100%	100%	100%	100%	82%	100%	100%	94%
Parks meet	Parks meeting Industry Standard			9	8	8	8	9	7	7	8	9	7	7	7	7	8	7	7
Parks not meet	Parks not meeting Industry Standard			2	3	3	3	2	4	4	3	2	4	4	3	4	3	4	4
% of Parks meet	ing Ind	lustry St	tandard	82%	73%	73%	76%	82%	64%	64%	70%	82%	64%	64%	70%	64%	73%	64%	67%
***Joaquin Miller Park has 500 total acres, but 3	660 acres are	resource conse	ervation areas.					_				_							

Attachment B –Ballfied Mows

	Q1	FY 202	24		Q2		Q3	FY 20	25								
	July	August	Sept		Oct	Nov	Dec		Jan	Feb	Mar		April	May	June		
	2	+mow/mo)	Q4 Avg	2+ mow	1 mo	w/mo	Q1 Avg	1	mow/mo)	Q2 Avg		2+mow/m	0	Q3 Avg	
Allendale Rec Center Field	1	1	0	0.7	1	1	0	0.7	1	0	2	1.0	4	2	3	3.0	
Аттоуо Viejo-McConnell Field**	4	5	4	4.3	2	0	0	0.7	4	0	5	3.0	4	3	1	2.7	
Arroyo Viejo-Ricky Henderson A's Field**	0	0	0	0.0	3	2	1	2.0	3	0	2	1.7	3	1	1	1.7	
Brookdale Rec Center Field	4	3	2	3.0	1	1	1	1.0	2	0	3	1.7	5	1	1	2.3	
Brookfield Rec Center Field*	2	2	5	3.0	6	2	2	3.3	2	0	4	2.0	1	9	2	4.0	
Burckhalter Park Field	0	0	0	0.0	2	0	0	0.7	4	0	3	2.3	2	1	3	2.0	
Bushrod- Lower Field	3	3	3	3.0	5	1	0	2.0	1	0	1	0.7	2	2	2	2.0	
Bushrod-Upper Field	1	0	0	0.3	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	1	2	2	1.7	
Central Reservoir Park Field*	0	1	0	0.3	2	1	2	1.7	0	0	1	0.3	1	1	1	1.0	
Concordia Park Field*	1	1	2	1.3	2	2	- 1	1.7	2	1	0	1.0	1	2	2	1.7	
Curt Flood Field*	4	5	4	4.3	4	2	1	2.3	1	1	2	1.3	5	2	1	2.7	
Franklin Field	5	2	4	3.7	3	0	0	1.0	2	1	0	1.0	2	3	2	2.3	
Garfield Ballfield**	1	3	- 1	1.7	1	1	1	1.0	2	0	4	2.0	3	2	3	2.7	
Golden Gate Rec Center Field	0	0	1	0.3	2	0	1	1.0	0	1	2	1.0	2	2	3	2.3	
Greenman Field/Carter Gilmore**	5	8	9	7.3	5	2	2	3.0	4	3	2	3.0	4	3	3	3.3	
Jefferson Square Field	5	- 1	0	2.0	1	0	0	0.3	0	0	1	0.3	2	1	1	1.3	
Joaquin Miller (Robin Perry) Field	1	2	0	1.0	0	0	1	0.3	0	0	1	0.3	1	0	2	1.0	
Lowell Park Field**	3	8	3	4.7	1	1	2	1.3	2	1	1	1.3	0	1	4	1.7	
Montclair Recreation Center Field	3	3	2	2.7	5	2	1	2.7	3	0	2	1.7	2	2	1	1.7	
Mosswood Rec Center Field	6	7	7	6.7	5	1	1	2.3	2	1	0	1.0	5	3	2	3.3	
Oakport Field*	3	2	5	3.3	2	2	1	1.7	2	1	3	2.0	1	2	1	1.3	
Otis Spunkmeyer Field*	5	5	3	4.3	7	4	1	4.0	2	0	2	1.3	1	2	0	1.0	
Poplar Recreation Center Field	8	4	1	4.3	4	3	0	2.3	1	0	1	0.7	1	1	1	1.0	
Pinto Park (Jones Field)	1	3	4	2.7	5	2	1	2.7	1	1	3	1.7	5	2	4	3.7	
Raimondi Field	2	2	3	2.3	2	1	2	1.7	1	1	4	2.0	4	2	3	3.0	
San Antonio Field*	3	3	2	2.7	2	0	3	1.7	2	1	1	1.3	2	4	1	2.3	
Shepherd Canyon Park Field	2	2	0	1.3	0	1	- 1	0.7	1	0	0	0.3	2	2	1	1.7	
Sobrante Park Field*	1	1	4	2.0	1	1	0	0.7	0	2	0	0.7	1	3	4	2.7	
Tassafaronga Rec Center Field**	2	2	2	2.0	0	1	1	0.7	0	1	0	0.3	3	1	0	1.3	
Wade Johnson Park Field**	0	4	3	2.3	4	0	1	1.7	1	0	1	0.7	2	0	2	1.3	
Total Mows	76	83	74	78	78	34	28	47	46	16	28	30	72	62	57	64	
% to goal citywide	253%	138%	123%	172%	130%	57%	47%	78%	77%	53%	93%	74%	120%	103%	95%	106%	
Number of parks meeting goal=	18	21	19	19	20	10	6	12	15	13	23	17	20	20	17	19	
Number of parks short of goal= % of parks meeting goal=	12 60%	9 70%	11 63%	11 64%	10 67%	20 33%	24	18 40%	15 50%	17 43%	77%	13 57%	10 67%	10 67%	13 57%	11 63%	
/o or banks meeting goal=	UU / 0	/0/0	03/6	04/0	0 / /0	JJ/0	20/0	4V/0	JU/0	43/0	11/0	J1/0	07/0	07/6	J1/0	03/6	

Attachment C – Trash Can Emptying

Meets Measure Q goal		Q4	FY 20	2024 Q1 FY 2025						Q2 FY	2025			Q3 FY	2025		Q4 FY 2025				
Meets baseline goal	# of trash							Q1				Q2				Q3				Q4	
Doesn't meet either goal	cans	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Avg	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg	Jan	Feb	Mar	Avg	Apr	May	Jun	Avg	
Arroyo Viejo**	5		67	44	51	57	56	55	44	46	73	54	68	4	16	29	79	4	17	33	
Brookdale Park	6		27	17	25	32	29	29	47	0	19	22	80	37	50	56	45	73	64	61	
Brookfield Park*	6		83	57	48	64	76	63	64	57	57	59	54	58	58	57	60	60	38	53	
Bushrod Park	10		227	103	95	111	136	114	73	58	81	71	60	78	62	67	110	86	60	85	
Defremery Park**	13	ata	117	13	156	156	156	156	169	156	156	160	156	156	156	156	156	120	0	92	
Dimond Park	16	0 D	60	85	67	62	79	69	112	78	28	73	64	70	75	70	77	81	0	53	
Joaquin Miller Park	49	ž	395	407	40	149	350	180	659	297	427	461	504	567	362	478	334	325	287	315	
Lakeside Park	95		786	828	822	885	521	743	431	548	392	457	372	981	592	648	623	464	235	441	
Montclair Rec Center Field	13		16	13	29	0	29	19	36	59	30	42	83	73	134	97	85	102	69	85	
Mosswood Park	2		12	0	0	43	48	30	46	10	18	25	24	32	32	29	36	32	28	32	
San Antonio Field*	21		134	14	0	0	21	7	21	0	36	19	120	105	168	131	126	243	147	172	
Monthly Total			1924	1581	1333	1559	1501	1464	1702	1309	1317	1443	1585	2161	1705	1817	1731	1590	945	1422	
Baseline s	goal cit	ywide	1888	1888	1888	1888	1888	1888	1888	1888	1888	1888	1888	1888	1888	1888	1888	1888	1888	1888	
% to baseline	goal cit	ywide	102%	84%	71%	83%	80%	78%	90%	69%	70%	76%	84%	114%	90%	96%	92%	84%	50%	75%	
Parks meeting	baselin	ie goal	6	3	5	6	5	5.3	4	2	6	4.0	4	2	6	4.0	5	5	2	4.0	
Parks short of	baselin	ie goal	5	8	6	5	6	5.7	7	9	5	7.0	7	9	5	7.0	6	6	9	7.0	
% of Parks meeting	baselin	ie goal	55%	27%	45%	55%	45%	48%	36%	18%	55%	36%	36%	18%	55%	36%	45%	45%	18%	36%	
Equity Parks meeting	baselin	ie goal	3	1	3	3	3	3.0	2	2	3	2.3	2	2	3	2.3	3	2	0	1.7	
Measure Q	goal cit	ywide	2832	2832	2832	2832	2832	2832	2832	2832	2832	2832	2832	2832	2832	2832	2832	2832	2832	2832	
% to Measure Q	goal cit	ywide	68%	56%	47%	55%	53%	52%	60%	46%	47%	51%	56%	76%	60%	64%	61%	56%	33%	50%	
Parks mee	ting Mo	Q goal	3	0	1	2	4	2.3	4	1	2	2.3	2	1	2	1.7	3	2	1	2.0	
Parks shor	t of Mo	Q goal	8	11	10	9	7	8.7	7	10	9	8.7	9	10	9	9.3	8	9	10	9.0	
% of Parks mee	ting Mo	Q goal	27%	0%	9%	18%	36%	21%	36%	9%	18%	21%	18%	9%	18%	15%	27%	18%	9%	18%	

Attachment D – Restroom Cleanings

Meets Measure Q goal Meets baseline goal	Baseline goal=1x/day, 100% of the time Measure Q-derived goal=2x/day, 80% of the time																	
>20 cleanings/mo, <baseline< td=""><td></td><td>01 F</td><td>Y 2025</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>7 2025</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>Y 202:</td><td>5</td><td colspan="6">Q4 FY 2026</td></baseline<>		01 F	Y 2025				7 2025				Y 202:	5	Q4 FY 2026					
<20 cleaning/mo	July	ť	Sept.	Avg	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg	Jan	Feb	Mar	Avg	Apr	May	Jun	Avg		
12th St & Lake Merrit Blvd	44	47	36	42	42	32	40	38	30	17	15	21	20	19	23	21		
Astro Park / Eastshore Park	50	43	33	42	49	37	38	41	34	29	33	32	30	24	24	26		
Bella Vista Park	12	17	25	18	38	22	25	28	24	28	27	26	19	30	22	24		
Brookdale Park	24	24	33	27	43	30	26	33	32	34	34	33	26	37	21	28		
Burckhalter Park	45	37	37	40	55	38	42	45	49	51	49	50	50	45	39	45		
Central Reservoir Recreation Area*	12	14	26	17	36	24	25	28	24	26	25	25	20	34	21	25		
Cesar Chavez Park*	25	22	30	26	43	24	26	31	25	30	30	28	22	35	19	25		
Concordia Park*	19	20	26	22	41	23	26	30	24	27	28	26	23	33	24	27		
Davie Tennis Stadium	26	23	19	23	22	25	27	25	26	24	22	24	21	27	17	22		
Dimond Park	36	31	29	32	48	28	30	35	20	18	17	18	17	35	21	24		
Estuary Park	27	28	21	25	31	24	26	27	17	19	20	19	15	19	- 11	15		
Frog Park Rockridge-Temescal Greenbelt	62	30	49	47	52	40	46	46	62	50	53	55	50	61	59	57		
Joaquin Miller - Fire Circle	24	50	29	34	73	41	42	52	45	44	49	46	47	49	45	47		
Joaquin Miller - Ranger Station	-	-	-	-	49	43	41	44	37	48	48	44	47	52	44	48		
Joaquin Miller - Redwood Glen	47	26	45	39	47	26	26	33	41	37	36	38	39	41	38	39		
Joaquin Miller Park - Meadow	56	66	40	54	51	33	40	41	56	38	44	46	49	53	31	44		
Lakeside Park - Sailboat House	45	42	34	40	47	37	41	42	33	26	32	30	29	25	25	26		
Lowell Park**	15	15	24	18	34	23	19	25	21	26	24	24	20	33	22	25		
Madison/Wilma Chan Park	36	37	31	35	31	26	26	28	23	21	24	23	24	24	20	23		
Maxwell Park	23	26	35	28	47	29	28	35	29	34	35	33	27	40	27	31		
McCrea Park	19	29	29	26	40	26	24	30	29	34	35	33	27	43	28	33		
Montclair Park	54	50	44	49	52	40	40	44	52	50	56	53	53	53	54	53		
Morcom Rose Garden	41	43	35	40	44	24	21	30	19	17	19	18	20	25	21	22		
Mosswood Park - Theater Building	29	26	17	24	22	9	16	16	22	20	24	22	28	24	18	23		
Pine Knoll	45	47	36	43	41	37	42	40	35	26	23	28	23	23	23	23		
San Antonio*	39	35	30	35	34	27	28	30	18	18	21	19	18	33	22	24		
Shepherd Canyon Park	55	51	48	51	51	40	44	45	49	49	55	51	67	74	57	66		
Snow Park	45	46	36	42	46	35	35	39	27	26	24	26	22	23	25	23		
Union Point	21	15	22	19	26	25	27	26	18	19	19	19	17	30	18	22		
Monthly Total		940	899	938	1235	868	917	1007	921	886	921	909	870	1044	819	911		
Baseline goal citywide			840	849	868	868	840	859	899	870	899	889	899	899	899	899		
% to baseline goal citywide		108%	107%	111%	142%	100%	109%	117%	102%	102%	102%	102%	97%	116%	91%	101%		
Parks meeting baseline goal=	15	15	17	16	26	13	13	17	13	12	14	13	9	19	8	12		
Parks short of baseline goal=	13	13	11	12	3	16	16	12	16	17	15	16	20	10	21	17		
% of parks meeting baseline goal=		54%	61%	56%	93%	46%	46%	62%	45%	41%	48%	45%	31%	66%	28%	41%		
Measure Q goal citywide=		1538	1440	1473	1538	1538	1440	1505	1538		1538	1505	1538	1538	1538	1538		
Parks meeting MQ goal=	5	4	2	3	6	0	0	3	3	5	3	3	4	5	3	3		
Parks short of MQ goal=	23	24	26	25	23	29	29	25	26	24	26	25	25	24	26	25		
% of Parks meeting MQ goal=	18%	14%	7%	12%	21%	0%	0%	12%	10%	17%	10%	12%	14%	17%	10%	12%		

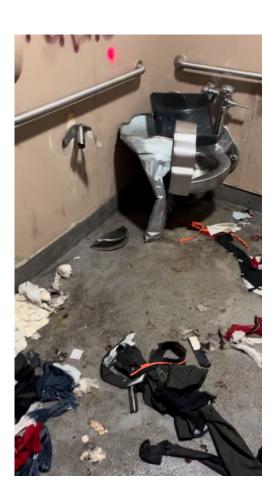
Attachment E – Examples of Vandalism in Park Restrooms



















CITY OF OAKLAND Oakland Parks, Recreation & Youth Development

TO: Marc Barach, Chair, Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission

FROM: Tanya Nicholson, Public Service Representative, Central Reservations Unit

DATE: June 23, 2025

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR THE PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY

COMMISSION (PRAC) TO APPROVE ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONAL LANDSCAPE DESIGNERS REQUEST FOR

VENDOR SALES OF PLANTS AT THEIR PLANT FAIR TO BE HELD

AT LAKESIDE PARK GARDEN CENTER ON WEDNESDAY,

OCTOBER 22, 2025, FROM 9:00AM-4:00PM

SUMMARY

Oakland Parks, Recreation & Youth Development received a request from Laura Kukulski, with Association of Professional Landscape Designers (APLD) a non-profit founded 1988 by Donna Swanson and Peggy Connors to advance the profession of landscape design and to promote members as qualified professionals.

Association of Professional Landscape Designers is requesting vendor sales of plants at their Plant Fair to be held at Lakeside Park Garden Center on Wednesday October 22, 2025. The applicant is aware of the additional permits required. Approval from the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission is required per the O.M.C. section 12.64.080.

BACKGROUND / LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

In 1986, two landscape designers, Donna Swansen and Peggy Connors, met and discovered that they had similar professional concerns and issues. They met to plan how an association for professional landscape designers might address these issues and how it might be structured. In 1988, the name, Association of Professional Landscape Designers, known as APLD, was chosen. They decided to embrace the idea that great design is global in scope and that the association would welcome an international landscape design membership.

PROJECT / PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Plant Fair is an annual event for industry plant enthusiasts. Local plant vendors will bring plants to showcase and discuss. Each vendor will have a table to showcase their plants and will present a slideshow of 3-5 plants that fit the theme of the event.

APLD is requesting the sales of plants, each vendor will bring about 3-15 plants ranging in size from 4" to 5-gallon pots. Plant prices range from \$2.00 to \$25.00. The vendors will benefit from sales of their plants. APLD does not collect funds onsite or benefit from any funds collected.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact to Oakland Parks, Recreation and Youth Development. APLD is paying the associated rental fees for the event in the amount of \$2,286.90

PUBLIC OUTREACH / INTEREST

Association of Professional Landscape Designers use their website to promote their annual Plant Fair.

COORDINATION

OPRYD staff works closely with the event promoter to ensure the reservation process is followed and the required permits are obtained and submitted to finalize reservations.

- Site walkthrough with event promoter and OPRYD staff
- Submit completed rental application for processing
- Submission of PRAC Proposal Letter
- Pay OPRYD applicable fees
- Certificate of Insurance
- Non-Profit Certificate (501c3)
- Oakland Business License from Vendors
- Fire Services Application/Site Map
- Marketing Flyer
- Post Event Report is due 30 days after event

RECOMMENDATION

Respectfully Submitted,

Staff recommends that the Park and Recreation Advisory Commission approve Association of Professional Landscape Designers request for vendor sales of plants at their Plant Fair to be held at Lakeside Park Garden Center on Wednesday, October 22, 2025, from 9:00am-4:00pm

Tanya Nicholson Tanya Nicholson (Jul 2, 2025 13:53 PDT)
Tanya Nicholson (Jul 2, 2025 13:53 PDT) Prepared by:
1
Tanya Nicholson
Public Service Representative
Zerm Ce Thomas (Jul 2, 2025 13:54 PDT)
Reviewed by:
Zermaine Thomas
Special Events Coordinator
Fred Kelley Fred Kelley Util 9, 2025 16:38 PDT)
Approved by:
Fred Kelley
Director, OPRYD

Identification of Support Documents:

Attachments: Exhibit A – Association of Professional Landscaper Designers Proposal Letter

EXHIBIT A



June 24, 2025

Dear Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission,

On behalf of the Associate of Professional Landscape Designers (APLD) please accept this Proposal Letter as part of our application for use of the Lakeside Garden Center in Oakland on October 22, 2025, from 9am-4pm for the purpose of our annual Plant Fair.

Brief History of APLD

The Association of Professional Landscape Designers was established in 1988 by Donna Swanson and Peggy Connors as a way to advance the profession of landscape design and to promote members as qualified and dedicated professionals. APLD includes members through the United States including many local and state chapters as well as individual international members.

Overview of Event

The Plant Fair is an annual event for industry plant enthusiasts. Local plant vendors will bring plants to showcase and discuss. Each vendor will have a table to showcase plants and will present a slideshow of 3-5 plants that fit the theme of the event.

Request to collect funds onsite

• Our plant vendors would like to sell the plants they bring to our members. Each vendor brings about 3-15 plants ranging in size from 4" to 5 gallon pots. Plant price ranges are from \$2.00 to \$25.00.

Why funds are collected onsite

- Our vendors are eager to sell plants so that they do not have to carry them back to the nursery.
- Our members are eager to buy the plants that have been discussed during the presentations.

Who will benefit from collecting funds onsite

• The Vendors will benefit from selling the plants. APLD does not collect funds onsite or benefit from any funds collected onsite.

Thank you to PRAC and the OPRYD staff for their support in ensuring our event is successful.

Sincerely,

Laura Kukulski

Bay Area District President, APLD



CITY OF OAKLAND Oakland Parks, Recreation & Youth Development

TO: Marc Barach, Chair, Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission

FROM: Zermaine Thomas, Special Event Coordinator, Central Reservations Unit

DATE: September 2, 2025

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY

COMMISSION (PRAC) TO APPROVE WATER LANTERN

FESTIVAL REQUEST TO COLLECT FUNDS ONSITE FOR SALES OF LANTERNS, VENDOR SALES OF MERCHANDISE, CRAFTS, AND MOBILE FOOD TRUCKS SALES OF FOOD AND BEVERAGES (NON-ALCOHOLIC) AT THE WATER LANTERN FESTIVAL TO BE HELD AT LAKESIDE PARK (EDOFF MEMORIAL BANDSTAND AND BEACH AREA) ON SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2025, FROM 3:30PM-9:00PM.

SUMMARY

Oakland Parks, Recreation & Youth Development received a request from Justin Rash, Event Coordinator for Water Lantern Festival requesting to collect funds onsite for the sales of lanterns, vendor sales of merchandise crafts, and mobile food trucks sales of food and beverages at the first Water Lantern Festival in Oakland. The Water Lantern Festival experience is unparalleled, uniting individuals with diverse stories and backgrounds. For many, it serves as a vital moment of respite—a chance to relax and appreciate the remarkable tapestry of life. The event promoter Justin Rash is aware of the additional permits required. Approval from the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission is required per O.M.C. section 12.64.080.

BACKGROUND / LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

The Water Lantern Festival was named the #1 cultural event of 2019 by USA Today. This festival offers an emotional journey, bringing thousands of people together to share profound feelings of love, loss, hope, and joy. In a fast-paced world, the Water Lantern Festival provides a unique opportunity to pause and reflect on life's beauty. It is truly moving to witness a crowd filled with laughter, tears, and heartfelt connections.

PROJECT / PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Water Lantern Festival experience is unparalleled, uniting individuals with diverse stories and backgrounds. Water Lantern Festival is requesting approval to collect funds on site through vendor sales of the following:

- Hoodies
- Shirts
- Glow sticks
- Flower crown
- Vendors sales of crafts, wares and miscellaneous items
- Mobile food trucks selling food and non-alcoholic beverages
- Sales of lanterns

Water Lantern Festival partners with Make-A-Wish foundation as well as Water.org and portion of all proceeds goes to these organizations. The remaining proceeds goes towards other events that the Water Lantern Festival host throughout the year.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact, Water Lantern Festival is paying all rental fees associated with the event.

PUBLIC OUTREACH / INTEREST

The Water Lantern Festival use a company based in Toronto to engage with the public regarding participating in their events. They give out tickets and use promos as well as encourage people to share their uplifting messages on the water lantern festival through social media.

COORDINATION

- Site walkthrough with event promoter and OPRYD/OPW staff
- Submit completed rental application for processing
- Submission of PRAC Proposal Letter and Post Event Report
- Pay OPRYD, OFD, OPD, OPW applicable fees
- OPRYD staff schedules meeting with event promoter and EWD Special Events Department staff, OFD, OPD, OPW, Environmental Services (trash, recycling, compost)
- Certificate of Insurance
- Alameda County Temporary Food Handler's Permit
- OPD Police Services and/or Security Guard agreements (security guards must be license/bonded)
- Portable Restrooms (Standard/ADA) and Hand Washing Stations Agreement
- Waste Management Plan (Trash, Compost, Recycling)
- Additional Cardboard Trash Boxes can be ordered/purchased from OPW
- Marketing Flyer
- Day of Event, OFD scheduled inspection is done to ensure vendors are licensed and vendors setup meets the requirements.
- After event walkthrough with OPRYD staff and event promoter
- Post Event Report is due 30 days after event

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission approve the request from Water Lantern Festival to collect funds onsite for sales of lanterns, vendor sales of merchandise, crafts, mobile food trucks sales of food and beverages (non-alcoholic) at the Water Lantern Festival to be held at Lakeside Park (Edoff Memorial Bandstand and Beach Area) on Saturday, November 1, 2025, from 3:30pm-9:30pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Zermains Thomas Zmaine Thomas (Sep 3, 2025 13:07:38 PDT)

Prepared by: Zermaine Thomas Special Events Coordinator

Sarah Herbelin

Approved by:
Sarah Herbelin
Assistant Director, OPRYD

Identification of Support Documents:

Attachments: Exhibit A – Water Lantern Festival Proposal Letter

WF WATER LANTERN

EXHIBIT A

08/07/2025

Dear Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission,

On behalf of Water Lantern Festival please accept this Proposal Letter as part of our application for the use of the Edoff Bandstand at Lake Merritt on November 1, 2025, from 3:30pm-9:00pm for the purpose of our Water Lantern Festival.

BRIEF HISTORY OF ORGANIZATION

The Water Lantern Festival was named the #1 cultural event of 2019 by USA Today. This festival offers an emotional journey, bringing thousands of people together to share profound feelings of love, loss, hope, and joy. In our fast-paced world, the Water Lantern Festival provides a unique opportunity to pause and reflect on life's beauty. It's truly moving to witness a crowd filled with laughter, tears, and heartfelt connections.

This experience is unparalleled, uniting individuals with diverse stories and backgrounds. For many, it serves as a vital moment of respite—a chance to relax and appreciate the remarkable tapestry of life. Every aspect of the event, from the initial website introduction and ticketing process to the festival experience and cleanup, is designed with the guest experience in mind. If your company or business aligns with our vision, we would be thrilled to have you as part of this unforgettable experience.

OVERVIEW OF EVENT

VENDORS & BOOTHS

We arrange for vendors or booths to be included in the event. Sponsors are given space in the main staging area for a booth or tent.

PORTABLE TOILETS

We contract out with local sanitation companies to fulfill this need. The number of receptacles and toilet units depends on the number of guests. We fully comply with standards and ratios put in place by the venue and local health department.



FIRST AID & SECURITY

We arrange to have local law enforcement, security, and EMS as necessary.

AUDIO SETUP

An amplified sound system is used. We contract with a local sound company for our amplified sound needs. Music/announcements will be made from three hours before sunset until an hour and a half after sunset.

EVENT CLEANUP

We are committed to providing sustainable events for all of our participants by cleaning up every floating lantern and following our "leave no trace" policy.

EVENT SIGNAGE

We will have event signage displayed throughout the event area. This signage will include the use of both banners and flags to effectively communicate with our guests.

PARKING

We will work closely with OPRYD regarding the parking plan.

REQUEST TO COLLECT FUNDS ONSITE

We sell our merchandise from a tent at the event. These items include; hoodies, shirts, glow sticks, flower crowns, and craft vendors selling wares and miscellaneous items. Mobile food trucks selling food and non-alcoholic beverages.

We will also have lanterns available for purchase on-site. Method of payments available cash and by card.

STATE WHY FUNDS ARE BEING COLLECTED ONSITE

Funds are collected only for sales of merchandise, lanterns for the event, food and beverages. No other fees are charged on-site.

STATE WHO WILL BENEFIT FROM THE FUNDS BEING COLLECTED

We partner with Make-a-Wish foundation as well as Water.org a portion of all proceeds goes to these organizations. The Remaining will go towards other events that the water lantern festival will put on throughout the year.



PUBLIC OUTREACH / INTEREST

We have a company that we use, they are based in Toronto, and they engage with the public about participating in the our events. They give out tickets and use promos as well as encourage people to share the uplifting messages the water lantern festival has to share on social media.

Thank you, Commissioners, and the OPRYD staff for your support in ensuring our event is successful.

Sincerely,

Justin Rash Event Coordinator Water Lantern Festival

justin@waterlanternfestival.com 435-227-5315

CITY OF OAKLAND Oakland Parks, Recreation & Youth Development



TO: Marc Barach, Chair, Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission

FROM: Kristen Zaremba, Public Art Coordinator, Cultural Affairs Division, EWDD

DATE: September 10, 2025

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR THE PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY

COMMISSION (PRAC) TO REVIEW AND APPROVE THE PUBLIC ART CONCEPTUAL DESIGN PROPOSAL BY ARTIST VANESSA "DJ AGANA" ESPINOZA FOR THE DE FREMERY PARK "SNACK SHACK" PUBLIC

ART PROJECT IN WEST OAKLAND (DISTRICT 3)

SUMMARY

Public Art Program staff recommend that the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission (PRAC) receive a presentation and approve the conceptual design proposal by Oakland-based artist Vanessa "DJ Agana" Espinoza's conceptual design proposal for the DeFremery Park "Snack Shack" Public Art Project in West Oakland. Final designs will be reviewed and approved by the Oakland Public Art Advisory Committee (PAAC). The project, commissioned by the Public Art Program in compliance with the associated percent-for-art grant funds for Oakland parks, will beautify the facility and surrounding park walls with painted murals.

The project is being administered through the Public Art Program, Cultural Affairs Division, Economic and Workforce Development Department (EWDD), in conjunction with other Public Works-initiated park improvements. The Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission reviews all public art project designs proposed for Oakland Parks, Recreation and Youth Development (OPRYD) facilities, either as part of a larger capital improvement design review or when the artwork is designed independently.

Approval from the PRAC and the PAAC is required, as per Oakland's Percent for Public Art Ordinance, Number 13562 C.M.S.

BACKGROUND / LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

Project Opportunity

In the spring of 2025, Public Art Program staff met with OPRYD and Oakland Public Works Project Delivery and facilities staff to coordinate plans for commissioning a new public art mural to coincide with DeFremery park facilities improvements at the "Snack Shack" located between the Town Park skate park and softball field, in an amount not to exceed \$155,000. Project scope details were reviewed and approved by the PAAC as part of the City Council-approved FY 2025-27 Public Art Plan. See project summary (Exhibit A).

Artist Selection

Artist recruitment for the DeFremery Park – Measure WW "Snack Shack" Public Art Project was initiated using a list of qualified artist candidates from the 2024 Oakland Prequalified Artist Roster.

A list of sixty-one (61) eligible Oakland artists/artist teams from the roster, with experience in designing and painting murals, was developed by Public Art Program staff for review by a panel of

OPRYD and community representatives. A community-based selection panel met on May 29, 2025, to review the credentials of artists from the eligible pool.

Artist finalists attended orientation meetings, held at DeFremery Park on June 12, 2025, and June 17, 2025, to become familiar with aspects of the project, receive direction on how to develop their proposals, prepare for interviews, and ask questions of City staff.

The selection panel met again on July 17 and 18, 2025, to interview the finalists and review their preliminary proposals. After careful consideration and discussion of the merits of each presentation, the panel agreed unanimously to recommend awarding the commission to Vanessa "DJ AGANA" Espinoza.

Voting members of the DeFremery Park – Measure WW "Snack Shack" Public Art Project selection panel were community representatives Keith "K-Dub" Williams, artist and founder of Town Park Skatepark at DeFremery Park; Cale Davis, Special Day Class Teacher for Oakland Unified School District's (OUSD) Young Adult Program at DeFremery Recreation Center; Keiyana "Kei Kei" Kemp, Co-Founder of Panther Skate Plaza at DeFremery Park and West Oakland resident; Chris Nguon, Associate Director of Community-Based Grant Funded Programs for Lincoln Families and facilitator for the West Oakland Community Collaborative (WOCC); and Jilchristina Vest, curator of West Oakland Mural Project and The Women of The Black Panther Party Museum. Advisory panel members representing OPRYD and the Public Art Program included Greg McClain, DeFremery OPRYD Recreation Center Director; Elissa Berall, DeFremery Pool Staff; and Mario Navasero, artist and Public Art Advisory Committee member. Public Art Coordinator Kristen Zaremba and Assistant Public Art Coordinator Josie de Mira facilitated the panel.

The Public Art Advisory Committee (PAAC) approved the panel's recommendation to award a contract to Vanessa "DJ AGANA" Espinoza at the monthly PAAC meeting held on August 4, 2025.

Project Schedule

The artist and program staff will coordinate community engagement and design refinement during September and early October. The PAAC will review and approve final designs before mural installation, which is estimated to take 2 months. The artwork is scheduled to be installed on site between October and December 2025.

The project must be completed by December 31, 2025, to meet Measure WW state grant requirements.

PROJECT/PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

DeFremery Park is located at 1651 Adeline St, Oakland, CA 94607 (District 3). The DeFremery Park "Snack Shack" field house is situated adjacent to the DeFremery Pool and in between the softball field and Town Park skateboard park. After improvements are complete, the "Snack Shack" building's main functions will include support of recreational activities, food preparation and distribution, storage, and public restrooms.

For this public art commission, the artist Vanessa "DJ AGANA" Espinoza will design and install a painted mural on all four exterior walls of the "Snack Shack" and the adjacent walls of the handball courts. In the artist's own words, the mural concept (Exhibit B), titled "Reimagining Justice," is

anchored by Martin Luther King Jr.'s quote: "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." It will connect historical liberation movements to current justice struggles through personal and community narratives. The mural centers solidarity because it merges the Black Panther Party's Oakland legacy with the Mexican Zapatista movement of indigenous resistance, Zapantera Negra. It centers revolutionary art traditions through a shared aesthetic and social justice lens of dignity, autonomy, and international solidarity.

The mural will flow like water across the Snack Shack, symbolizing continuity of life. It amplifies interconnected portraits of key community figures such as Lil' Bobby Hutton beneath an oak tree, representing growth and rebirth. It will also feature transparent paint on windows to mimic stained glass while maintaining privacy for an interactive experience from both inside and outside the building. The goal of the mural is to transform the building into a visual beacon of hope and resistance.

Through Espinoza's community engagement plan, the mural process will be transformed into a collaborative and educational storytelling experience, where community voices will be present in both content and design. The target audiences for the community engagement efforts will include local youth and elders, regular users of DeFremery Park, adjacent community organizations, and cultural groups involved in historic and ongoing social justice work. The goal of community input is to encourage participation in the design process, foster pride and a sense of belonging, promote ownership through visibility, and amplify community identity through authentic visual storytelling.

The mural will be painted on the entire exterior of the "Snack Shack" building, approximately 1,500 square feet, and the adjacent handball court walls. The artist will be responsible for mural design, community engagement, and mural installation. Wall preparation with primer and UV/anti-graffiti coating application may be completed by the artist or by a separate licensed contractor, due to current State of California labor laws. Currently, the Contractors State License Board (CSLB) requires unlicensed muralists to be employed or subcontracted by a licensed C-33 painting contractor or a general contractor (Class B) for public art projects on public property.

The mural will be finished with four sheer coats of anti-graffiti/UV protection mural shield. The final artwork will be added to the <u>City of Oakland Civic Art Collection</u> and maintained by the City as part of the collection. The preliminary design, research, and community engagement proposal is attached.

FISCAL IMPACT

The DeFremery Park "Snack Shack" Public Art Project is funded through City of Oakland percent-for-art funds associated with Measure WW (East Bay Regional Parks grant funds) for park facility improvements (per Ordinance Number 13562 C.M.S). The artist will be contracted directly for design development, and the installation scope will be administered through a licensed general contractor in coordination with the Public Works Project Delivery Division. The total budget for design, fabrication, and installation of the project is up to one hundred fifty-five thousand dollars (\$155,000). There is no direct fiscal impact to OPRYD for the creation of the artwork.

PUBLIC OUTREACH/INTEREST

The artist was selected by a community-based selection panel, through a competitive interview process, to develop conceptual designs for her proposal. The community panel unanimously

recommended approval to the Public Art Advisory Committee at their August 4, 2025, meeting. The PAAC, comprised of Oakland public artists and curators, reviewed and unanimously approved awarding the commission to the artist. The artist will be contracted to engage with the community at on-site community meetings and during upcoming programmed activities in the park, including Panther Skate Park events and the Life is Living Festival, to further refine the mural's designs for review and approval by the Public Art Advisory Committee before commencing in late 2025.

COORDINATION

Project planning, community panel recruitment, artist orientation, and future community outreach facilitation are being coordinated with Public Works facilities and OPRYD capital projects, as well as on-site management. Additional outreach will be coordinated with City staff and Council offices. The project will be subject to future review and approval by the Public Art Advisory Committee at various stages of its development: artist selection final shortlist (approved at the June 2, 2025, meeting); final artist recommendation (approved at the August 8, 2025 meeting); conceptual design review; final design review; and final project acceptance.

RECOMMENDATION

Public Art Program staff in Economic & Workforce Development recommends that the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission approve Oakland-based artist Vanessa "DJ Agana" Espinoza's conceptual design proposal for the DeFremery Park "Snack Shack" Public Art Project in West Oakland (District 3).

Respectfully submitted,

Josie De Mira (Sep 2, 2025 16:07:12 PDT)

Prepared by: Josie de Mira

Assistant Public Art Coordinator

Division Williams (Sep 2, 2025 16:17:28 PDT)

Reviewed by:

Quincy Williams

Assistant Capital Improvement Project Coordinator

Kristen Zaremba (Sep 2, 2025 16:27:34 PDT)

Approved by:

Kristen Zaremba

Public Art Coordinator

Cultural Affairs Division, Economic & Workforce Development

Identification of Support Documents:

Attachments: Exhibit A – DeFremery Park "Snack Shack" Public Art Project Summary

Exhibit B - Conceptual Public Art Proposal by Artist Vanessa "DJ AGANA"

Espinoza



Cultural Affairs Division

Economic & Workforce Development Department

EXHIBIT A

DeFremery Park – Measure WW Public Art



Project Overview

The City of Oakland successfully secured funding from the East Bay Regional Parks grant program (Measure WW), which provides grants to preserve and protect open space for recreation and wildlife habitats. A portion of the grant has been dedicated for new public art at DeFremery Park. The grant funds will be awarded to an artist/artist team for the creation of new permanent artwork at the DeFremery Park "Snack Shack" field house, as part of a series of improvements to the area.

After the improvements are complete, the "Snack Shack" building's main functions will include support of recreational activities, food preparation and distribution, storage, and public restrooms. On one side, the building faces the open recreation area and skate park, and the other side faces the DeFremery Pool which will also undergo improvements through Measure WW.

The "Snack Shack" Measure WW public art will be complete by December 31, 2025.

About DeFremery Park

Occupying a full city block in the heart of West Oakland, <u>DeFremery Park</u> is a landmark destination steeped in Oakland history and culture. With its many large, mature trees and vibrant green fields, DeFremery Park is a calm and serene setting brought to life by locals using the park's many facilities. The park's <u>swimming pool</u>, tennis courts, softball field, play structures and <u>Town Park</u> skateboarding ramps, along with the <u>Panther Prowl Skate Program</u> attract young children, teens and families from across the Oakland. Community members gather for birthday parties, repasts, reunions and meetings in the BBQ areas of the park and in the Social Hall inside the recreation center. DeFremery Park has an active recreation center and community calendar, with programs, classes and events scheduled throughout the year.



The DeFremery Mansion in the 1860s.Photo: Oakland Public Library, Oakland History Room

Historically, DeFremery Park has been the backdrop of many important events in Oakland's history. In 1907, the DeFremery family's former mansion and grounds were sold to the City of Oakland and transformed into Oakland's first municipal playground. During World War II, the DeFremery estate served as the local Black United Servicemen Organization, providing recreational activities for African American servicemen amidst racial segregation. DeFremery Park was a vital hub for the Black Panther Party, hosting frequent rallies, including the 1972 Black Community Survival Conference, and providing essential "survival pending revolution" programs, a legacy that continues with the annual Lil' Bobby Hutton Memorial Day.



Black Panther rally at DeFremery Park, c. 1968.Photo: Kenneth Green, Sr., from Oakland Museum of California exhibit on Black Panthers, January 2017.



Cultural Affairs Division

Economic & Workforce Development Department

Learn more about the history of DeFremery Park HERE

Public Art Opportunity

In collaboration with Oakland Public Works (OPW) and Oakland Parks and Recreation & Youth Development (OPRYD), the Public Art Program will commission an artist or artist team to design and install a painted mural on the exterior walls of the "Snack Shack." The surface material of the building's exterior walls is painted brick. The size of the mural may be up to approximately 1,500 square feet but could be smaller if it does not cover the entire building exterior. The artist will be responsible for mural design, community engagement, wall preparation with primer, mural installation, and UV/anti-graffiti coating application.

The muralist(s) will be selected from the City of Oakland's <u>Prequalified Artist Roster</u> by a dedicated artist selection panel comprised of community stakeholders (voting) and City staff (advisory). All public art award recommendations will be forwarded to the Oakland Public Art Advisory Committee (PAAC) for review and approval.

Project Details

Budget

The budget for this project is \$155,000 (including design, community engagement and outreach costs, materials, project installation and installation coordination costs). <u>Installation for this project will include</u> coordination with and supervision by state-licensed contractors.

Timeline*

Artist Selection: Three Phase Process: Shortlist Review, Finalist Orientations, Artist Interviews	May-July 2025
Selected Artist Recommendations to Public Art Advisory Committee	August 2025
Design Development + Review	September-October 2025
Installation	October - November 2025

^{*}Schedule subject to change

Artwork Theme

The theme of the artwork will be developed by the selected artist(s), informed by their artistic practice, project vision and community input. The selected artist should demonstrate initiative to engage with the surrounding community and users of DeFremery Park to learn more about the history and activities of the area to influence their designs.

For more information, contact the City of Oakland, Cultural Affairs Division, Public Art Program:

Kristen Zaremba; <u>kzaremba@oaklandca.gov</u> Josie de Mira; <u>idemira@oak</u>landca.gov

Public Art Program Website and Artist Resource Page

PRAC – 09/10/2025 Item 7C



Front north side of the "Snack Shack" field house



West side of the "Snack Shack" field house



Cultural Affairs Division

Economic & Workforce Development Department



Southwest corner of the "Snack Shack" field house with grated windows



East side of the "Snack Shack" field house, public restroom doors

EXHIBIT B

DeFremery Park Mural Proposal:

"Justice Everywhere"

Artist AGANA

Large scale mural and contemporary street artist from Oakland painting prolific calls to action.













Artist Journey Map: Vanessa Espinoza

Pinpoint important moments in your twisting creative journey.

Few and Far Women

Joined all female street art crew where my art finally began to get recognition with paid travel gigs.

The Dream Krew

Joined Mike Dreams crew where I met my mentor Vogue, one of the best aerosol artists in the world.

Franklin Elementary

Painting murals for steph curry, finally getting paid what I'm worth.

Visual Element

East Side Art Alliance mural graffiti program as a youth, eventually teaching the workshop.

Traveling Artist

Painted in mural festivals in Switzerland, Senegal, Spain, France, art Basel Miami, and met artists from all over the world.

Brava Theater

Artist in residency painting murals and designing signage and window installations.

Sf Giants

Painting murals for their games and campaigns, getting paid well, appreciated with all the perks.



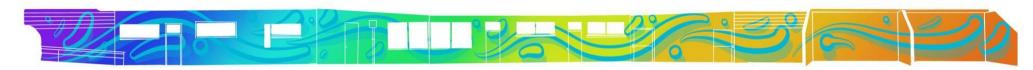
Conceptual Design

The mural centers on Martin Luther King Jr.'s powerful declaration: "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." This foundational quote drives a visual narrative that connects historical liberation movements with contemporary struggles for justice woven together by personal experience and community history. The design bridges the Black Panther Party's Oakland legacy with the Zapatista movement indigenous resistance, creating a "Zapantera Negra" aesthetic that honors both movements' revolutionary art traditions.

The composition flows like water across the Snack Shack, featuring interconnected portraits of key figures from the community, including Lil' Bobby Hutton beneath an oak tree symbolizing continuous growth and rebirth. The design incorporates transparent paint on windows to create stained-glass effects while maintaining privacy, transforming the building into a beacon of hope and resistance.

Conceptual Design

Background



Imagery







PRAC – 09/10/2025 Item 7C EXHIBIT B







The Core Artistic Idea or Theme

The core theme centers on **food justice**, **multicultural solidarity**, **intergenerational unity**, **and black and brown liberation** through a social justice lens. The mural serves as a prolific call to action for self-determination and collective liberation, emphasizing that "no one is free until we are all free."

The artwork honors the land while igniting hearts toward action, collective healing, and life celebration. It weaves together the aesthetic languages of Emory Douglas's Black Panther art with Zapatista women's embroidery and Mayan cultural motifs, creating a unique visual dialogue between movements separated by geography but united in struggle.

The Core Artistic Idea or Theme Continued...

The murals highlight Black Panther leaders Lil Bobby Hutton, Kathleen Cleaver, Bobby Seale, Ericka Huggins alongside Oakland swimmer Hilton Woods, Panther Skate Plaza and Emani White, Black Cowboy Association's Wilbert McAlister, my niece, son and daughter, the SF Skater Sisters, more.

Depending on community input we can highlight NBA's Bill Russell, NFL's Marshawn Lynch, local leaders in tennis and sports. Picket signs being held by additional Black Panther members such as Huey P. Newton, Angela Davis, Eldridge Brown, Elaine Brown, Fred Hampton, Assata Shakur and many more. The goal is the uplift intergenerational healing through services provided and those whom have benefted by the programs started by the Black Panther Party.

How the Design Responds to Site and Community Context

The design directly responds to DeFremery Park's role as Oakland's first municipal playground and its transformation into a sacred space for the Black Panther Party. Research reveals the park's origins from James de Fremery's Victorian mansion, whose interracial family's courage in standing up for their beliefs established the park's legacy of resistance, honoring the park's evolution from the Playground Movement through its role as a Black Panther meeting place, where over 65 survival programs were created. The design acknowledges the 2016 official naming of Bobby Hutton Grove and incorporates elements representing the park's diverse current uses—from the Town Park skate area to the Black Cowboy Association's activities—spaces integral to my own intimate family history.

Visual elements flow seamlessly between the park's existing activities, from skateboarding and swimming to tennis and basketball, creating unity between historical significance and contemporary community and family life.



Intended Impact and Message

The mural aims to position the Snack Shack as an integral part of the park's public art installation, creating a visual story that invites future movement leaders to contribute to its rich legacy. The artwork addresses the interconnection between police brutality against Black people and ICE enforcement, showing how systemic racism manifests across different systems of oppression.

Rather than dwelling solely on injustice, the mural focuses on solutions and hope, inspiring change while acknowledging struggle. It celebrates the 65+ survival programs created by the Black Panthers during the largest global social justice rebellion in history, emphasizing love as a guide for serving the people.

The intended impact extends beyond park users to the wider community, fostering spaces where people can engage with art meaningfully while learning about overlooked histories and voices.



Site-Specific Context

The "Snack Shack" serves as a visual bridge between graffiti and traditional mural art, reflecting and interacting with DeFremery Park's immediate surroundings. The building's position allows the mural to flow organically with existing park elements—skateboarding, swimming, tennis, and basketball areas—creating visual continuity across the space.

The design can includes designated legal wall space for rotating graffiti pieces and a small production area near the Town Park where artists can sign up and follow agreements to paint respectfully under curatorial guidance. This approach honors the park's role as a creative hub while providing structured opportunities for artistic expression.

The building windows will be painted on the outside with transparent paint so that the light shines through and gives a stained glass effect to the inside ambiance while also providing privacy. This allows the mural to be enjoyed by those inside as well as outside the Snack Shack.

Example of windows painted with transparent paint, outside and inside





Historical & Community Context

DeFremery Park's history as a predominantly Black neighborhood hub, particularly after railroad connections to San Francisco in the late 1860s, informs the mural's multicultural approach. The area became home to Oakland's first Mexican and Latino community, building cultural unity through shared American experiences.

West Oakland's identity as a center for African American workers during and after World War II, combined with its vibrant music scene and businesses on Seventh Street, provides rich source material for the mural's community narratives. The neighborhood's experience with urban renewal displacement—including I-980 and I-880 freeway construction—and the community activism that created Mandela Parkway demonstrates ongoing resistance to harmful infrastructure decisions.

Collaboration with organizations like West Oakland Community Collaborative, Mandela Partners, West Oakland Cultural Action Network, and West Oakland Stories Positive Feeling Movement ensures authentic community voice integration and oral history preservation.

Thematic Tone

The research directly strengthens the artistic theme by revealing DeFremery Park's continuous role as a space for resistance, healing, and community building. The historical context of the Black Panther Party provides concrete examples of the "injustice anywhere" principle in action—showing how local organizing creates far-reaching impact.

Intergenerational connections emphasized throughout West Oakland's narratives inform the mural's approach to connecting elders' experiences with contemporary struggles. My personal history in the community around the park, ensures the artwork reflects authentic community identity while fostering pride and belonging through culturally relevant symbols and stories pulled from this research. For example: in 2013 I was invited as one of 16 individual artists and the only woman in the Life is Living Estria Invitational Graffiti Battle at Defermery park. Later, in 2022 I was chosen to paint a portrait of a local activist, journalist and filmmaker Jean Malasine for Brett Cook's Gardeners of Belonging exhibit. That portrait earned a place on display at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, a proud and monumental moment in my career in art and activism.

Thematic Tone Continued....

I also helped my niece into horse therapy to cope with the grief of losing a parent—her first love was the horse she rode at Defermery Park. She has since joined Horses With Styles and accomplished her dream of riding in the parade. I would like to add her to the mural as a symbol of resilience and self-determination.

Even closer to my heart, my two children were born and grew up on Linden Street, around the corner from Defermery Park. My husband, their father, also grew up and lived in West Oakland before passing two years ago. Today, my kids' favorite memories—riding horses with the Black Cowboy Association and playing frisbee in the park with their father—are forever tied to this place. We continue to frequent the Town Park and hold sacred and brave spaces throughout the park to cry, laugh, and share memories of their father as we keep his legacy alive. These personal experiences set a universal, driving tone of contemporary community care and inclusion integral to the space's history.

Community Engagement Plan



Objectives

The community engagement plan aims to create an educational storytelling space where community members contribute input, ideas, photos, and drawings for potential inclusion in the mural composition. Each ideation session features organizational representatives presenting facts, sharing stories, and educating participants about DeFremery Park and West Oakland's history.

The process emphasizes shared decision-making, allowing community voting on themes and 2-3 design options before final rendering. This approach ensures the artwork reflects community identity while fostering inclusivity, togetherness, and belonging. The engagement serves as advocacy and awareness-raising about important issues while building relationships between community members and organizations.

Target Audience

The engagement targets local youth, seniors, park users, adjacent community organizations, and cultural groups connected to past and present social justice movements. Specific outreach includes Panther Skate Plaza users, Town Park artists, Life is Living participants, Black Cowboy Association members, and regular park attendees. The approach remains open to the public while prioritizing input from regular park attendees to ensure the imagery reflects the audience and fosters a sense of pride and purpose through participation in the decision-making process.

Methodologies

Methodologies include ideation sessions, community workshops, online surveys, and volunteer paint days. Public workshops provide opportunities for community members to voice opinions about local issues and collaborate on imagery, colors, and composition. The process incorporates both in-person park meetings and online platforms to maximize accessibility and participation.

Volunteer painting days engage community members across age groups in the actual creation process, providing paint-by-number opportunities for simple shapes during early mural stages. This hands-on participation ensures community members feel genuine ownership of the final artwork. The collaborative planning process works with community members to develop strategies for ongoing engagement, partnering with local organizations to deliver ideas that can organically evolve into imagery reflecting community needs.

Preliminary Proposal Budget

Total Project Budget: \$155,000

Budget Allocation:

- **Design Fees: \$31,000** (20% of total budget)
- Licensed Contractor Administration Fees: \$24,000 (20% of remaining budget after design fees)
- Materials and On-Site Installation: \$100,000 (Remaining budget for materials, labor, and installation)

Budget Breakdown:

Design Phase (\$31,000):

- Community engagement sessions and workshops
- Research and concept development
- Final design rendering and approval process

Materials and Installation (\$100,000):

- Premium exterior mural paints and primers
- Transparent paint for stained-glass window effects
- Surface preparation and protective coatings
- Scaffolding and safety equipment
- On-site labor for painting and installation
- Community volunteer coordination and materials
- Collaboration honorarium with supporting and guest artists (Emory Douglas, Rachel Wolfe-Goldsmith and K-Dub)

Budget Breakdown Continued.....

Contractor Administration (\$24,000):

- Project management and coordination
- Permits and regulatory compliance
- Insurance and liability coverage
- Quality control and inspection

Note: Any unused contractor fees will be allocated back to the on-site labor budget to maximize resources for mural execution and community engagement activities.

Note: A more detailed spreadsheet with expenses and materials is available upon request for your viewing pleasure.

Note: A breakdown of costs per square foot including labor an materials can be provided upon request.



CITY OF OAKLAND

Oakland Parks, Recreation & Youth Development

TO: Marc Barach, Chair, Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission

FROM: Jason Patton and Stephen Tu, City of Oakland Department of Transportation

(OakDOT), Safe Streets Division, Bicycle & Pedestrian Program

DATE: September 2, 2025

SUBJECT: INFORMATIONAL REPORT TO THE PARKS AND RECREATION

ADVISORY COMMISSION (PRAC) ON DRAFT SLOW STREETS

NETWORK RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH INCLUDE PATHS WITHIN

OAKLAND PARKS

SUMMARY

OakDOT Bicycle and Pedestrian Program staff will present on draft recommendations for a Slow Streets network in Oakland, and the interface and potential benefits of the Slow Streets network with city parks. Slow Streets were initially an OakDOT innovation during the Covid-19 pandemic to provide physically-distanced outdoor spaces for residents.

BACKGROUND/LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

The City of Oakland's 2007 Bicycle Plan proposed 32 miles of bicycle boulevards: routes on residential streets that prioritize through trips for bicyclists with traffic calming, pavement markings, and wayfinding signs. The City's 2019 Bicycle Plan, "Let's Bike Oakland", renamed the bicycle boulevards as neighborhood bike routes (NBRs) and increased the recommendations to 75 miles of streets.

During the first two years of the Covid-19 pandemic, OakDOT experimented with Slow Streets, using temporary materials to close 21 miles of streets to through traffic, in particular on NBRs. This pandemic response had many successes, but also significant challenges which ultimately led to its conclusion in early 2022. OakDOT staff worked through the lessons learned to determine if permanent Slow Streets could be developed in a manner that would keep the successes but avoid the challenges, and developed a planning framework and methodology to transition NBRs to Slow Streets.

PROJECT / PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

OakDOT staff are taking lessons learned from the pandemic and applying them to Oakland's work-to-date developing bike boulevards and NBRs. Staff are proposing these routes be reenvisioned as Slow Streets for travel at human-powered speeds while simultaneously making these streets more welcoming for residents to use as public spaces. Slow Streets are suitable when traffic speeds and volumes are low. Additional suitability factors include avoiding truck routes, AC Transit routes, and emergency vehicle access and egress to fire stations and hospitals.

Slow Streets improvements are primarily implemented in coordination with OakDOT's paving program and other street construction projects. The City's 2019 Bicycle Plan proposes 75 miles of neighborhood bike routes, of which 50 miles are included in the City's current Five-Year Paving Plan. For these 50 miles of streets, OakDOT staff are identifying locations for new speed humps and traffic circles; how to minimize the number of intersections where cross traffic does not stop; and crossing improvements at major intersecting streets.

When streets are repaved, staff coordinates the installation of traffic calming elements such as speed humps, traffic circles, and other traffic calming tools and signs. Street beautification and vibrancy can also be a part of Slow Street implementation, such as partnering with local artists to paint utility box and street murals. For a demonstration project of Slow Streets, see the 8th Street West Oakland Traffic Calming Project: https://www.oaklandca.gov/Government/Oakland-Improvement-Projects/8th-Street-West-Oakland-Traffic-Calming-Project

An interactive web map of the draft Slow Streets network recommendations can be found at: https://tinyurl.com/oakland-slow-streets-draft

More information about the OakDOT Slow Streets program can be found at: www.oaklandca.gov/slowstreets

OVERLAP BETWEEN CITY PARKS AND SLOW STREETS

Streets that end at parks are often quiet and calm because they do not provide a through route for motor vehicles. These low-traffic streets are opportunities for the Slow Streets Network by providing welcoming routes for people to walk, bike, and roll through their neighborhoods and to access Oakland parks. By thoughtfully connecting Slow Streets through parks, whether by enhancing existing paths or creating new ones, the City can turn these corridors into connectors that invite movement, recreation, and community interaction. These connections can also support future investments in mobility and park access, helping the City make the most of what it already has with parks and streets.

OakDOT staff is working with OPRYD staff in planning Slow Streets connections through parks to strengthen neighborhood ties and expand access to green spaces. These pathways make it easier for residents to choose walking or biking for everyday trips in their neighborhood. With thoughtful design and agency partnership, these routes can feel intuitive, safe, and enjoyable, encouraging more people to walk or bike to the park as part of their daily rhythm. Over time, these connections can help parks feel even more integrated into the fabric of community life.

OakDOT staff have identified the following locations of existing or proposed pathways through City parks that help connect the Slow Streets network:

- Arroyo Viejo Park
- Cesar Chavez Park
- Dimond Park
- Driver Plaza Park
- Lincoln Square Park
- Lowell Park
- Peralta-Hacienda Park
- Raimondi Park
- Snow Park
- William D. Wood Park

FISCAL IMPACT

This is an informational report with no fiscal impacts. Construction of Slow Streets is anticipated primarily through coordination with OakDOT paving projects and streetscape projects. Implementation may also be pursued through grant applications specifically for Slow Streets projects. OakDOT projects are funded through a variety of transportation funding sources including Alameda County Measure BB, Alameda County vehicle registration funds, City of Oakland Measure U, state gas tax revenue, and other transportation grant programs.

PUBLIC OUTREACH / INTEREST

OakDOT staff opened the public comment period for the Draft Slow Streets Network recommendations in July 2025 and have been receiving comments and feedback through the summer. The comment period is planned to close on September 12, 2025. Comments in response to this PRAC report and presentation are welcome through September 30, 2025.

OakDOT staff previously presented to the following City of Oakland advisory bodies:

- July 3, 2025: Bicyclist and Pedestrian Advisory Commission Infrastructure Committee
- August 18, 2025: Mayor's Commission on Persons with Disabilities
- August 21, 2025: Bicyclist and Pedestrian Advisory Commission full commission

Members of the public may sign-up to receive email updates on the Slow Streets Program via a link at www.oaklandca.gov/slowstreets. The public comment period has been publicized through this program contact list, an additional pedestrian/bicyclist announcements list, and an article in the summer 2025 edition of the "We [bike] Oakland" newsletter (www.oaklandca.gov/bikenewsletter).

RECOMMENDATION

OakDOT staff recommends that the PRAC accepts this informational report on the Draft Slow Streets Network Recommendations and provide any comments by September 30, 2025.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephen Tu
Stephen Tu (Sep 2, 2025 17:28:25 PDT)

Prepared by:

Stephen Tu Transportation Planner

Jay/n Patton (Sep 2, 2025 17:25:40 PDT)

Approved by:
Jason Patton
Supervising Transportation Planner

Identification of Support Documents:

Attachment: Exhibit A — Developing a Network of Slow Streets: Planning the Routes &

Connections (September 10, 2025)



Slow Streets Definition & Name



Slow Streets are for pedestrians, bicyclists, and micro-mobility users with limited local access for motor vehicles. Slow Streets provide public spaces for residents in Oakland's neighborhoods. Slow Streets are slow in practice and in name. Slow Streets form a network for human-powered movement and play.

Why "Slow Streets" as a name? Covid-19 sparked people's imaginations for neighborhood streets that prioritize people.

- More inclusive than Bicycle Boulevards
- More intuitive than NBRs
- More urban than Neighborhood Greenways

"Slow Streets" simply says what it means.



Dover St, April 2020

Slow Streets Network



OakDOT proposes a slow streets network based on the 74 miles of neighborhood bike

routes (NBRs) proposed in the 2019 Bicycle Plan.

- 1) Some proposed NBRs are on streets not suitable to be slow streets. These streets will be proposed for other bikeway types or the bikeways will be re-routed to more suitable streets.
- 2) Additional streets will be added to the slow streets network to create slow streets connections between more neighborhoods.
- 3) All slow streets will be part of the bikeway network, replacing the proposed neighborhood bike routes.
- 4) Each proposed change is itemized and explained for transparency and discussion.



Planning the Routes & Connections



Bicycle & Pedestrian Program staff developed a step-wise process that builds upon the

2019 Bike Plan to propose a network of slow streets.

1) Start with the 2019 Bike Plan's bikeway network.

- Focus on the neighborhood bike routes (NBRs).
- 3) Identify the NBRs well-suited to be slow streets.
- 4) Retain the suitable NBRs as slow streets.
- 5) Add slow streets on new routes to close gaps.
- 6) Add "connectors" to close more gaps.
- 7) Integrate slow streets into the bikeway network.

A "slow streets connector" is a route suitable for all abilities (e.g., path, separated bike lane) where the connection cannot be made on a calm local street.

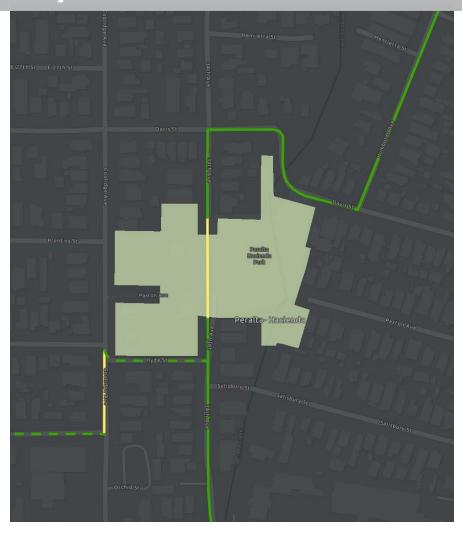


Planning the Routes & Connections

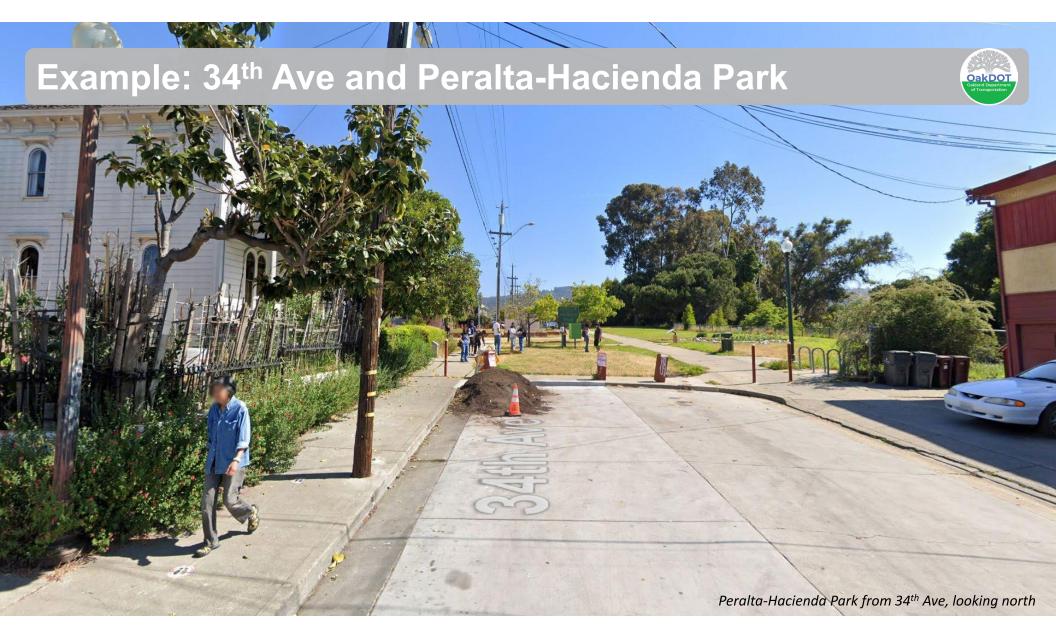




Example: 34th Ave and Peralta-Hacienda Park







PRAC – September 10, 2025 Item 7D EXHIBIT A

Proposed Slow Street Connectors through Parks

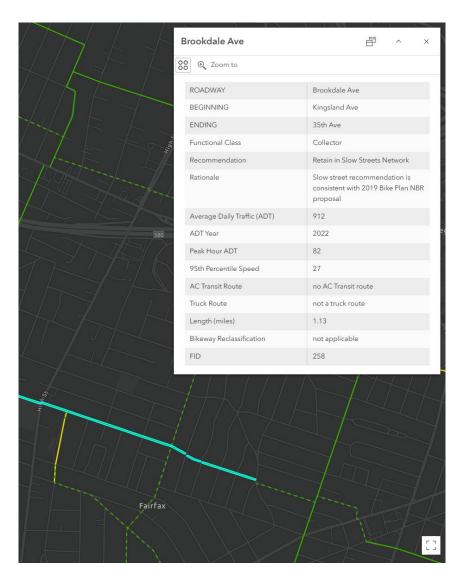


PATH CONNECTOR	BEGINNING	ENDING
Arroyo Viejo Park Path	78th Ave	Ritchie St
Cesar Chavez Park Path	37th Ave	Harrington Ave
Cesar Chavez Park Path 2	Cesar Chavez Park Path	38th Ave
Cesar Chavez Park Path 3	38th Ave	39th Ave
Dimond Park Path	Dimond Ave	Fruitvale Ave
Driver Plaza Park Path	61st St	King St
Lincoln Square Park Path	10th St	11th St
Lowell Park Path	12th St	14th St
Peralta-Hacienda Park Path	34th Ave	34th Ave
Raimondi Park Path	18th St	20th St
Snow Park Path	19th St	Harrison St
William D. Wood Park Path	McKillop Rd	School St

Reviewing the Recommendations



- Explore the web map, zooming in on particular neighborhoods and streets: <u>Oakland Slow Streets</u> Recommendations
 - Click on an individual street to get more information about it.
 - Each street has a "rationale" explaining its recommendation.
 - See the narrative explanations that provide longer descriptions for segments with complex considerations and inter-related recommendations.
 - Data nerds can download the spatial and tabular data to run their own analyses.
- For additional background, see the <u>Slow Streets</u>
 <u>Program web page</u> and this <u>framework presentation</u>.



Public Review & Next Steps



OakDOT's Bicycle & Pedestrian Program welcomes "big picture" feedback and input on specific streets.

- Provide comments to <u>slowstreets@oaklandca.gov</u> throughout summer 2025.
- Visit 8th Street in West Oakland, a demonstration project of slow streets.
- Visit the website for review materials: www.oaklandca.gov/slowstreets

Next steps include:

- Outreach through summer 2025.
- Revisions and additional review into summer 2026.
- Adoption of a slow streets network anticipated in fall 2026 or later.



8th Street at Chester St



City of Oakland, Department of Transportation
Safe Streets Division, Bicycle & Pedestrian Program
slowstreets@oaklandca.gov

Jason Cook, P.E., Transportation Engineer Pierre Gerard, Transportation Planner II Jason Patton, Senior Transportation Planner David Pené, P.E., Transportation Engineer Patrick Phelan, Transportation Planner III Noel Pond-Danchik, Transportation Planner II Stephen Tu, Transportation Planner III

General Plan Update (GPU) Options for How We Stabilize and Grow

Presentation to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission September 10, 2025

Planning and Building Department Khalilha Haynes, Bebe LeGardeur



Agenda

- General Plan Update (GPU) Background
- Overview: Options for How We Stabilize and Grow
- Options Details
- Discussion
- Next Steps

General Plan Background

Reminder: What is a General Plan?

"Constitution" for development and conservation

Establishes citywide vision and supporting goals, policies, and implementation measures

Identifies past challenges & accomplishments

Provides consistent direction for future development

Opportunity to Reduce Racial Inequities & Do Inclusive Engagement

Engage our community in the planning and decision-making process

Phase 2 Elements

Land Use and Transportation Element (LUTE)

- Address population growth, housing, arts and culture, jobs
- Outlines what can be built in different places
- Build a transportation system where people can get around safely and easily

Open Space, Conservation, and Recreation (OSCAR) Element

- Create equitable, well-maintained, accessible network of parks and rec facilities
- Preserve open space and enhance connections to open space

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Phase 2 Elements

Infrastructure and Capital Facilities Element

- Plan for well-maintained, resilient, and high-quality critical systems, like water and sewage, electricity, and internet
- Support an equitably distributed and well-maintained network of public facilities, like libraries, educational facilities, and civic buildings

Noise Element

 Minimize the adverse effects of noise pollution on public health from sources such as the airport and industrial activities

Phase 2 Timeline

FALL 2024

Initial Engagement

Build on Phase 1
input and get
thoughts on
Phase 2 issues
and strategies

WINTER 2024 – SUMMER 2025

Develop Options

Evaluate
different
conceptual
options and
tradeoffs to
achieving
community
goals

SUMMER 2025 – WINTER 2025

Preferred Option

Combine preferred options into the Preferred Plan

WINTER 2025 – SPRING 2026

Element Development

Using community input, develop elements for public review

SPRING 2026 – SUMMER 2027

Hearings and Adoption

Elements go to decisionmakers for consideration

*Community engagement opportunities sharing out of how input has been incorporated will occur at all steps PRAC – September 10, 2025

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Oakland for All: Options for How We Stabilize and Grow

What are the Options?

- Represent high-level concepts and big-picture ideas for where/how Oakland might grow
- Shows ways land uses (housing, commercial, industrial, parks, etc.) could be located
- Tool to help community consider tradeoffs and preferences

Where are we going?



How do we get there?

From Options to Preferred Plan

- Each Option represents a thematic collection of big-picture ideas to mix and match
- Other ideas, themes, and strategies that may not be in options currently are encouraged
- The community's preferred ideas will form the basis of the *Preferred Plan*

Next Steps- Beyond the Options

- More specific policies to address key issues will come later, such as:
 - Finer grained, neighborhood-level improvements
 - Recommendations for bike and pedestrian paths
- Policy-level improvements
 - Zoning changes
 - New Standards
 - Policies related to workforce/jobs training, climate change, cultural districts, arts, etc.

How Options were Developed

- Combination of:
 - Community feedback
 - Jobs and housing projections
 - Existing city plans, community plans, and other major projects
 - Opportunity sites

How Options were Developed-Community Input

- Includes Phase 1 and Phase 2 input
- Builds upon Vision and Guiding Principles, as well as City commitments to racial equity
- A few key community themes reflected in Options:
 - Complete, walkable neighborhoods
 - Safe transportation for all modes
 - Housing for al
 - Equitable parks access
 - Inclusive economic growth

Options Details

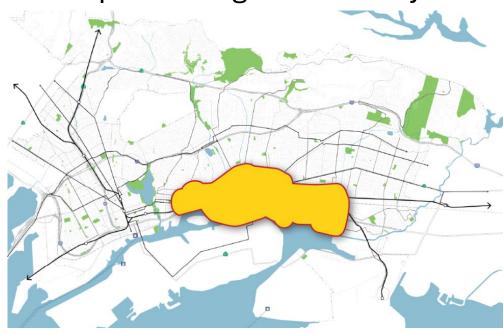
Options



Overall: Each Option starts with a Baseline of Shared Growth and Improvements for all Oaklanders



Option A – City of Neighborhoods shows 18 neighborhood centers developed throughout the City



Option C -Midtown Waterfront District focuses development in a new waterfront district along the central estuary



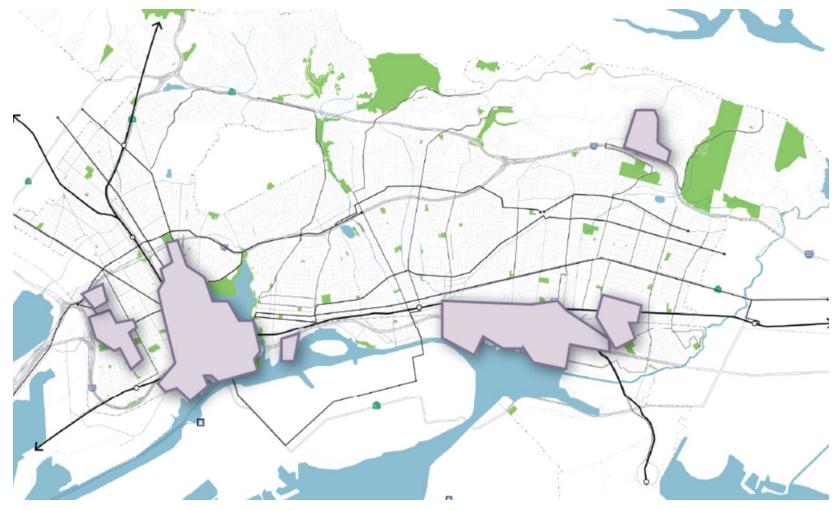
Option B – Connected Corridors and Gateways focuses development along major transit corridors throughout the city



Other Ideas!

Baseline: What is Shared Across All Options

- Land Use: Add new housing and jobs across the City, especially Downtown, near the Coliseum, along major transit corridors and BART stations, and in neighborhoods. Limit development in environmental hazard areas.
- Transportation: Improve walking, biking, and transit connections



Baseline Map: Simplified map representing the baseline of shared growth and improvement.

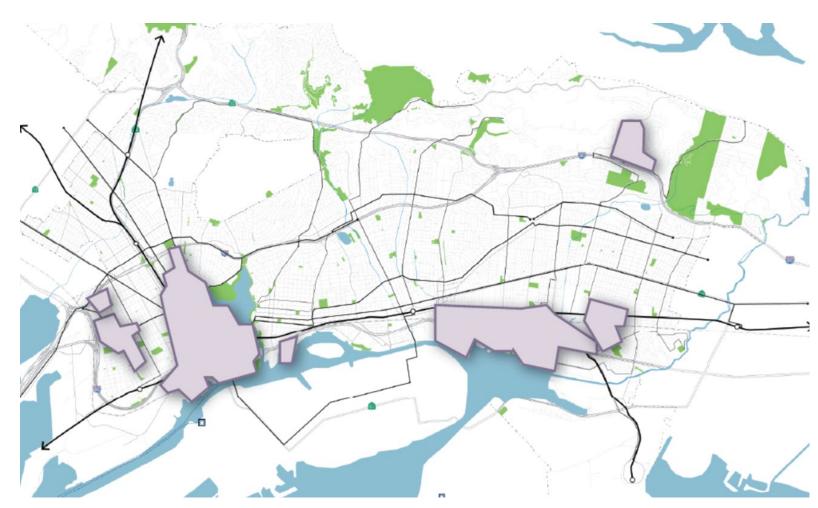
Highlights in lavender key growth areas, like those in Downtown and near Coliseum

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Baseline: What is Shared Across All Options



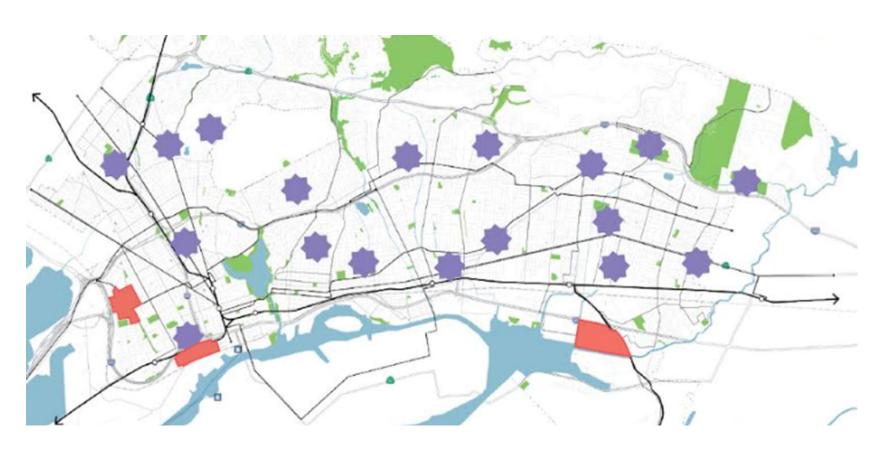
Baseline Map: Simplified map representing the baseline of shared growth and improvement. Highlights in lavender key growth areas, like those in Downtown and near Coliseum

- Parks and Open Space: Create new waterfront trail connections along the Central Estuary shoreline and the San Leandro Creek, south of I-880
- Employment: Support existing important job sectors and modernize industrial areas. Create Research and Development (R&D) jobs in technology, life sciences, the green economy, and advanced manufacturing.

Key Differences Between the Options

- The locations and density of new housing and jobs
- The total amount of growth
- The locations and types of proposed transportation and park improvements

Option A: City of Neighborhoods



Option A Map shows 18 neighborhood centers developed throughout the City (purple stars) and new R&D centers in West and East Oakland and Jack London (red shapes)

Land Use

• grow throughout the City within mixed-use, multi-block "neighborhood centers" that contain housing, employment, and commercial uses like grocery stores

Employment

- add jobs along corridors
- create 3 new R&D centers in West
 Oakland, Jack London, and the Port's
 Airport Business Park

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Option A: City of Neighborhoods

Transportation

- improve connections to existing transit stations
- make it easier, safer, and more comfortable to walk within neighborhoods

Parks and Open Space

- add/improve parks within or close to neighborhood centers
- make parks a central focal point for new development



Rendering of what Option A could look like, showing people crossing the street at improved intersections and people biking

Option B: Connected Corridors and Gateways



Option B Map highlights growth along major corridors throughout the City (purple) and new R&D centers in West and East Oakland (red)

Land Use

 new mixed-use development along major transportation corridors throughout the City

Employment

- add jobs along corridors
- create 2 new R&D centers in West
 Oakland and at the Port's Airport
 Business Park

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Option B: Connected Corridors and Gateways

Transportation

- more frequent buses along key corridors and improve
- bicycle/pedestrian safety and connectivity along major streets

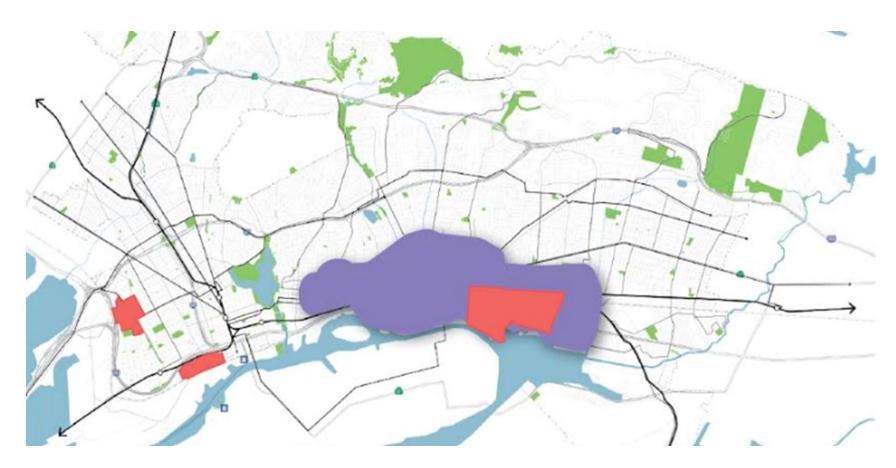
Parks and Open Space

- new parks and greening at transit gateways and corridor intersections
- smaller parks and plazas along the corridors



Rendering of what Option B could look like, showing people crossing the street at improved intersections, people biking, bus only lane

Option C: Midtown Waterfront District



Option C Map highlights growth (housing, jobs, park services) in a new waterfront district along the central estuary to replace old industrial land (purple) and new R&D centers in West and East Oakland (red)

Land Use

- focus development in a new mixed-use waterfront district on the Central Estuary
- added housing and transit-oriented growth near Fruitvale BART and a new San Antonio transit hub

Employment

create 3 new R&D centers – in West
 Oakland, Jack London, and one larger
 center in the South Estuary
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Option C: Midtown Waterfront District

Transportation

- Enhance pedestrian and bike access to the shoreline and Estuary
- add a new San Antonio transit station to support a future BART connection

Parks and Open Space

- new parks and connect trails along the waterfront shoreline
- create a new linear trail along Sausal
 Creek leading to the Estuary



Rendering of what Option C could look like, showing people enjoying the waterfront, walking along paths, playing in grass, and biking in protected lanes

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Discussion

Discussion Questions

- Which ideas are most exciting? Which do you have concerns about?
- Are there any big-picture ideas or concepts that you do not see represented?
- Are there any ideas or concepts that need more explanation?
- Are you aware of any other efforts (community plans or things your agency is undertaking) that should be considered?
- Do you have any suggestions for strategies to implement these bigpicture ideas?

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Next Steps

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Options Engagement

- Options for How we Stabilize and Grow
 Survey open now until September 24, 2025
- Deeply Rooted Engagement
 - Pop-ups, deep listening sessions, etc.
- Focus Groups
- Town Hall August 13, 2025
- Boards and Commissions presentations



QR Code for Options
Survey

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Next Steps

 Visit the website and sign up for the mailing list:

oaklandca.gov/gpu

 Stay tuned for other community events and opportunities to engage



A group of people at the General Plan Update booth at a kickoff event at Oakland Museum

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AGENDA ITEM 7F

Link to Full Report:

2024 - 2025 AC Grand Jury Report Final

OAKLAND'S POOR STEWARDSHIP OF MEASURE Q JEOPARDIZES ITS EFFECTIVENESS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In March 2020, Oakland voters approved Measure Q, a 20-year parcel tax designed to enhance funding for parks maintenance, homelessness services, and stormwater quality improvements. The measure promised Oakland residents significant, sustained, and increased investment in parks and recreational areas, with clearly defined funding allocations and strong oversight and accountability of the measure's intentions.

After a broad investigation, the Alameda County Grand Jury found that the City of Oakland's stewardship of Measure Q implementation has been unsatisfactory. The city has failed to establish clear baselines and consistent reporting on the measure's effectiveness. This, combined with inconsistent and ineffective oversight and communication by the City of Oakland, has led to widespread frustration among community stakeholders. The city auditor's report from 2023 disclosed that only one of 16 audit recommendations had been fully implemented by the end of 2024.

While Measure Q stipulates that at least 45% of new park-related funds be added to existing maintenance budgets, the city invoked an undefined extreme fiscal necessity clause which allowed the city to bypass this requirement. This clause was adopted and later a definition was offered and expanded without public debate and remains a source of concern, undermining transparency and trust.

Additionally, the Grand Jury questions the use of Measure Q funds for additional expenditures, including high-level administrative salaries and capital projects not aligned with the measure's intent. This, combined with the city's failure to conduct required audits or provide detailed public reporting, demonstrates a breakdown in fiscal stewardship and accountability.

The Grand Jury found that Oakland's administration of Measure Q falls significantly short of voter expectations, undermining public trust and jeopardizing the success of future parcel tax measures. This report calls for immediate corrective actions to improve transparency and accountability, define extreme fiscal necessity criteria, and restore confidence around the implementation of Measure Q funding.

BACKGROUND

Parks are the lifeblood of a city, providing enjoyment and vital services for its citizens of all ages. As the Oakland Parks Foundation states: "Oakland's parks system serves over 400,000 residents and includes more than 140 playgrounds, 100+ sports fields and courts, and community spaces that serve as essential resources for wellness, education, and neighborhood connection. Parks are also a vital tool for addressing climate change—providing shade, clean air, and natural habitat in one of the most environmentally burdened urban areas in the country."

The administration of Oakland's park system is essential to maintain one of the city's great assets. Oakland's residents not only expect parks to be maintained but have voted to fund the enhanced maintenance and improvement of the park system through overwhelming support of Measure Q.

Parcel Tax Measures

Voters often approve ballot measures to fund public services such as parks, libraries, and schools through special parcel taxes. In Oakland, property taxes are the greatest source of revenue (\$325 million in FY 2024-2025), while parcel tax measures are the second largest source of funds (\$181 million in FY 2024-2025).

In March 2020, Oakland voters passed Measure Q, the Parks and Recreation Preservation, Litter Reduction, and Homelessness Support Act, a 20-year parcel tax. Measure Q outlines how the parcel tax funds the following:

Program	Percentage
Parks, Landscape Maintenance, and Recreational	64 %
Facilities and Services	
Homelessness Services	30 %
Water Quality and Related Litter Reduction	5 %
Audit and Evaluation of the Strategies and Services	1 %

Measure Q represents a long-term financial commitment by Oakland residents who voted to tax themselves with rates increasing annually to offset inflation. FY 2024-2025 rates are as follows:

- Single-family residential parcels: \$182.33 per parcel
- Multiple-unit residential parcels: \$124.52 per residential unit
- Non-residential: \$182.33 per parcel

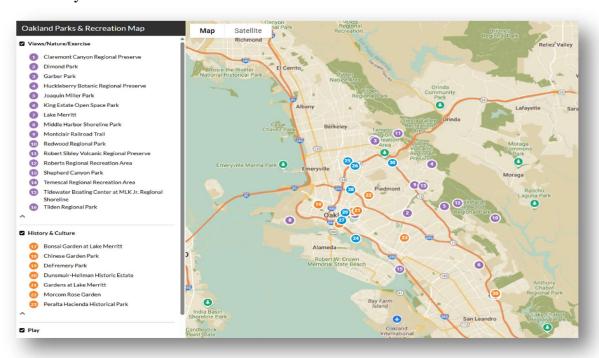
In FY 2024-2025, the amount budgeted to be received from Oakland taxpayers is \$46.78 million. Oversight of Measure Q programs was assigned by ordinance to two commissions: the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission (PRAC) which is responsible for parks maintenance and stormwater quality, and the Commission on Homelessness which is responsible for unhoused services. The Grand Jury found that these oversight commissions addressed their responsibilities very unevenly.

Maintenance of Effort

Maintenance of Effort (MOE) provisions generally refer to the requirement in which a new funding source will provide substantial funding (e.g., Measure Q revenue) to an existing program (e.g., parks maintenance); they mandate that a receiving agency (the City of Oakland) maintain a specific level of funding from prior funding sources. With increased total funding, the overall goal is to increase and improve services around the three broad purposes in Measure Q through 2040.

Measure Q allows for up to 55% of its park revenues to be used for existing park maintenance with the remaining 45% of revenues for new services, increasing funding over existing levels of support for the duration of the measure (through the year 2040).

However, Measure Q included an escape of the MOE requirement with the city's declaration of an "extreme fiscal necessity." The measure states "the City Council may temporarily suspend the MOE provisions by resolution to meet urgent and changing needs in the event of an extreme fiscal necessity."



Parks in Oakland Map (Source: VisitOakland.com)

INVESTIGATION

The Grand Jury spent months reviewing Measure Q documents, including an initial audit, interviewing City of Oakland officials familiar with Measure Q, members of nonprofit organizations, and Measure Q oversight commissions. In addition, members of the Grand Jury attended city council and commission meetings.

Unfortunately, the Grand Jury found the PRAC meetings conducted on Zoom were difficult to follow due to poor audio or video broadcast capabilities. We found meetings of the city's Commission on Homelessness easier to follow because they were broadcast on KTOP.

Extreme Fiscal Necessity and its Impact on the MOE Requirement

A definition of "extreme fiscal necessity" was initially provided by the Oakland City Council in June of 2023. A year later, in June 2024, the city council revised the definition as follows:

" ... the City Council adopts the following revised definition for Extreme Fiscal Necessity: An intervening step of fiscal austerity, such as when total projected General Purpose Fund revenues will be less than the current year's revenues, where there is an actual or projected reduction in total General Purpose Fund revenues, or when expenditure growth dramatically outpaces revenue growth, or when there is an actual or projected deficit exceeding 10% of the current fiscal year's adopted budget. It is the lessor of a catastrophic situation where the City entity would need to suspend provisions of local laws related to enhanced public services, such as Maintenance of Effort provisions or to prevent a dramatic decrease in essential services, relating to health, safety, and welfare; may include using Vital Services Stabilization Fund "Rainy Day Funds," suspension of Use of One-time Revenues policy, or suspension of accelerated liability repayments, or layoffs to achieve cost savings must be considered in order to sustain City Services but short of accessing emergency reserve monies. A dramatic reduction is defined as a more pronounced decrease in City services characterized by substantial disruptions or limitation in service availability which may result in layoffs, and service closures to essential services that lead to noticeable hardships for residents and businesses."

The Oakland Parks and Recreation Foundation objected to the revised 2024 definition because 1) it expands the definition of what constitutes an extreme financial necessity, and 2) it makes it easier to mitigate the measure's effectiveness. Regarding an acceptable definition, the Grand Jury learned that the Foundation's primary objective is clarifying the criteria (or conditions) that trigger a declaration of extreme fiscal necessity. They also are requesting assurances that the city council will take all reasonable steps to avoid making such a declaration in the future.

In September of 2024, after hearing of these concerns, the city council's finance committee directed the parties of interest to meet and address concerns. This meeting took place seven months later in April 2025, without resolution. The Grand Jury learned that PRAC and the Oakland Parks and Recreation Foundation remain extremely frustrated by this impasse. The ongoing lack of resolution is very concerning to the Grand Jury.

It is essential for all concerned to resolve this matter. Without resolution of the definition of extreme fiscal necessity the MOE provisions in Measure Q can be easily dismissed without any public transparency. The current situation is untenable. On this point, one city official commented: "It is important that the city comply with the MOE thresholds to keep the city's promise. Not doing so betrays this trust and could adversely affect the passage of future (ballot) measures."

Further, the Grand Jury also learned that members of PRAC and the Oakland Parks and Recreation Foundation do "not have confidence" in the MOE calculations and other financial information presented by the city.

Biennial City Audits & Independent Financial Audits

Measure Q included provisions to assure voters that they would receive good oversight and accountability. Prior to the March 2020 election, the city attorney provided an impartial analysis of the Measure Q, stating, "The measure is subject to biennial audits by the city auditor, annual financial audits, and citizen oversight."

As required by Measure Q, the city auditor-published a report in December 2023: "<u>Budget Transparency</u>, <u>Performance Management</u>, and <u>Stronger Oversight Needed to Ensure Oaklanders Benefit from the 2020 Parks & Recreation Preservation, Litter Reduction, And Homelessness Support Act."</u>

The initial biennial audit report, which covered the first two years (FY 2020-2021 to FY 2021-2022) of Measure Q, disclosed two primary findings relevant to the Grand Jury's investigation: 1) the city needs more performance data to evaluate the effectiveness of Measure Q funds towards improving parks conditions, stormwater quality, and homelessness services; and 2) the city needs to strengthen its oversight and reporting of Measure Q funds.

The auditor also found that the city did not establish a baseline to evaluate park conditions. The report noted that without a baseline, it would be unable to determine maintenance needs and compliance with Measure Q. After the release of the report, the Grand Jury notes that PRAC and city staff worked to develop some basic measures of specific park maintenance services (e.g., grass mowing, bathroom cleaning, etc.). However, in the auditor's December 2024 "Audit Recommendations Follow Up Report," it reported that of the 16 recommendations

from the initial audit, only one recommendation had been implemented, seven partially implemented, and eight not implemented.

The Grand Jury points out that the following additional recommendations have not been implemented, as suggested by the auditor:

- Development of performance measures, with emphasis on reducing the number of people experiencing homelessness in or adjacent to city parks.
- Facilitation of citizen oversight on homelessness efforts with the city bringing regular operational and expenditure reports to the Commission on Homelessness, and that the Commission establish a regular agenda item for the purpose.
- The Commission on Homelessness fulfill its statutory obligation by publishing an annual report including a section on Measure Q.
- Conduct an annual audit of Measure Q funds collected and expended, as required by California Government Code sections 50071.1 and 50075.3.
- For future special tax programs, the City Administrator's Office initiate a best practice policy requiring an annual report on revenues, expenditures and the status of open projects, to make sure that the City satisfies California Government Code sections 50071.1 and 50075.3.

Based on the findings in the auditor's report, the Grand Jury is of the opinion that the city was not prepared to implement or evaluate the services mandated by Measure Q.

Annual Reporting

Reporting is required by the State of California for special parcel tax measures. Government Code section 50075.3 requires the chief fiscal officer to file annual reports with its governing body (for Oakland that would be the finance director, reporting to the city council) on the amount of funds collected and expended, and the status of associated projects. The Grand Jury learned that the finance director submitted a Measure Q funding report to the city council in March of 2022, documenting revenues and expenditures, but did not include the status of associated projects.

Reporting to the city council is also required by the two oversight commissions (PRAC and the Commission on Homelessness) associated with Measure Q. Local ordinances have specific reporting requirements for parcel tax measures (Ordinances 13622 and 13584). The Grand Jury researched the city's website and conducted interviews with city staff and discovered that while PRAC was in large part compliant with ordinance requirements, the Commission on Homelessness was not.

Concern Over Measure Q Expenditures

The lack of reliable reporting, audits, and the declaration of extreme fiscal necessity has led park advocates to question if Measure Q funds are being spent in accordance with the measure. The Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission outlined concerns in its annual report covering Fiscal Years 2022-2023 and 2023-2024: "During the reporting period, funds from Measure Q were allocated to other unrelated city expenses under the framework of extreme fiscal necessity despite stated concerns from PRAC and park advocates."

Examples of other questionable expenditures include:

- In FY 2020-2021, salaries of three police officers and a high-level human services employee, including the director, were charged to Measure Q. After concerns were made public, these charges were reclassified and not charged to the measure.
- Capital expenses associated with Union Point Park were charged to Measure Q.
 Park advocates asserted that the measure's funding is meant for maintenance and
 minor repairs, and not capital projects. The Grand Jury learned that the city
 attorney opined that this expenditure was allowed under Measure Q, and the
 matter is still being challenged.
- Excessive charges for high level administrators: for example, 6.4 positions in the city administrator's office at a cost of \$3.9 million that had previously not been billed to Measure Q.

Given these concerns, the Grand Jury is alarmed by the fact that no annual financial audit has been conducted for Measure Q since it was passed.

CONCLUSION

When voters choose to tax themselves for specific purposes (e.g., park maintenance) they expect increased services to be provided. The Grand Jury finds the lack of transparency, accountability, and reporting by the City of Oakland is troubling, creating serious doubts about what Oakland residents are actually getting from Measure Q.

The Grand Jury calls for better stewardship of Measure Q. Maintenance of effort requirements should be protected and implemented whenever possible. The declaration of extreme fiscal necessity should be resolved based on transparent criteria. In addition, biennial and financial audits must be conducted as prescribed by the measure. The Oakland City Council needs to provide better oversight of the implementation of Measure Q.

FINDINGS

Finding 25-17:

The Oakland City Council added the "extreme fiscal necessity" clause to Measure Q without open discussion and public debate.

Finding 25-18:

The Measure Q ballot language passed by voters in March 2020 did not define what constitutes an extreme fiscal necessity.

Finding 25-19:

The declaration of extreme fiscal necessity allowed the Oakland City Council to divert funds intended for additional park services

Finding 25-20:

In its last disclosure of the maintenance of effort calculations, the City of Oakland reported a decrease in Measure Q funding for new park services from 45% to 32%.

Finding 25-21:

To date, community park stakeholders and Oakland city staff still do not agree on a definition of "extreme fiscal necessity."

Finding 25-22:

Measure Q requires biennial reports, and the Oakland City Auditor did not conduct the second biennial audit covering FY 2022-2023 and FY 2023-2024.

Finding 25-23:

Measure Q was not included in the Oakland City Auditor's FY 2024-2025 workplan.

Finding 25-24:

As recommended and funded in Measure Q, no independent financial audit has been conducted.

Finding 25-25:

Oakland's Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission complies with the reporting requirements in Ordinance No. 13622 (an ordinance updating the duties of the commission).

Finding 25-26:

Oakland's Commission on Homelessness has not met its oversight mandate of Measure Q including the preparation of annual reports as required by Ordinance No. 13584 (an ordinance updating the duties of the commission).

Finding 25-27:

The City of Oakland has not prepared annual reports documenting revenues, expenditures and the status of projects funded by Measure Q as required by California Government Code 50075.3.

Finding 25-28:

It is difficult to observe Oakland's Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission meetings recorded on Zoom due to poor broadcast capabilities. (The Commission on Homelessness meetings recorded on KTOP are broadcast with better video and audio than PRAC meetings.)

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation 25-9:

The Oakland City Council should hold public hearings prior to declaring an extreme fiscal necessity to allow transparency and public debate.

Recommendation 25-10:

The City of Oakland should develop maintenance of effort metrics and calculations that are published and available to the public for Measure Q and other applicable tax measures.

Recommendation 25-11:

The Oakland City Auditor's workplan for FY 2025-2026 must include the required second audit covering FY 2022-2023, FY 2023-2024, and FY 2024-2025.

Recommendation 25-12:

The Oakland City's Auditor's workplans beyond FY 2025-2026 must include biennial audits in workplans for the life of Measure Q until FY 2039-2040, as required by Measure Q.

Recommendation 25-13:

The City of Oakland should conduct the recommended independent financial audit of Measure Q within the next six months, with funding allowed by the measure.

Recommendation 25-14:

To comply with state requirements for special parcel tax measures and to provide transparency to voters, the Oakland City Council must ensure that annual reports documenting revenues, expenditures, and the status of projects are completed in a timely manner.

Recommendation 25-15:

The Oakland City Council must ensure that the Commission on Homelessness complies with its Measure Q oversight responsibilities as required by city ordinances.

Recommendation 25-16:

In addition to Zoom, Oakland's Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission meetings should be conducted at city hall, and broadcast and recorded on KTOP.

RESPONSES REQUIRED

Oakland City Council Findings 25-17 through 25-28

Recommendations 25-9 through 25-16

Mayor, City of Oakland Findings 25-17 through 25-28

Recommendations 25-17 through 25-16

Auditor, City of Oakland Findings 25-19, 25-20, 25-22, 25-23, 25-24 and 25-27

Recommendations 25-11 through 25-14

RESPONSE REQUIREMENTS – CA PENAL CODE SECTION 933.05

Pursuant to California Penal Code section 933.05, the Grand Jury requests each entity or individual named to respond to the enumerated Findings and Recommendations within the specific statutory guidelines, no later than 90 days from the public release date of this report.

As to each Grand Jury finding, the responding person or entity shall indicate one of the following:

- (1) The respondent agrees with the finding.
- (2) The respondent disagrees wholly or partially with the finding, in which case the response shall specify the portion of the finding that is disputed and shall include an explanation of the reasons therefor.

As to each Grand Jury recommendation, the responding person or entity shall report one of the following actions:

- (1) The recommendation has been implemented, with a summary regarding the implemented action.
- (2) The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future, with a timeframe for implementation.
- (3) The recommendation requires further analysis, with an explanation and the scope and parameters of an analysis or study, and a timeframe for the matter to be prepared for discussion by the officer or head of the agency or department being investigated or reviewed, including the governing body of the public agency when applicable. This timeframe shall not exceed six months from the date of publication of the Grand Jury report.
- (4) The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable, with an explanation therefor.