COUNCIL MEETING DATE:

Monday, July 17, 2017

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED AFTER COUNCIL PACKET PREPARATION

Study Session: Economic Development Plan

DO NOT REMOVE

Please return to Eileen Harrington, Administration
Dear City Council,

In the city economic development plan, I hope you will consider regional eco-tourism and arts tourism opportunities presented by the increasingly attractive McLaughlin Eastshore State Park, Bay Trail and growing arts activities at the Albany Bulb. Albany should consider itself a gateway community to the State Park and Bay Trail and benefit from revenues from visitors through food, future lodging, and equipment sales and rentals related to water sports, eco-tourism, arts activities and the general attractiveness of our unique shoreline.

Please make Urban Village by the Bay not just a slogan, but a reality. Albany's waterfront location could bring in revenue from food trucks, pop-up cafes, eco-arts festivals, and other temporary uses that could take place on the racetrack parking lot. And with appropriate marketing, visitors drawn to our shoreline could also patronize Solano Ave. and San Pablo Ave. restaurants and shops.

At a time when arts organizations priced out of San Francisco and Oakland are desperate for space, the Cleveland Ave. warehouse district could also be developed as an Albany Arts District. There could be synergy with arts, environmental education and sports activities at the waterfront, with Cleveland Ave. providing important supportive space for arts and waterfront activities, whether as storage, back-office, and studio space for performing arts and other arts organizations, or as retail space for water-related sports.

I regret that I cannot attend Monday's meeting as I will be out of town. Thanks much for your work on this important plan. I hope you will think creatively about Albany's unique assets.

Sincerely,

Susan Moffat
Albany Resident