Jacob, Melinda

Subject: FW: Subject: ZAB Item 6B – Golden Gate Fields Demolition – Request for Environmental Review

From: Susan McKay <smckay221@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 5, 2026 9:53 AM
To: Zoning Adjustments Board (ZAB) <Planningzab@berkeleyca.gov>; Jacob, Melinda <MJacob@berkeleyca.gov>
Subject: Subject: ZAB Item 6B – Golden Gate Fields Demolition – Request for Environmental Review

WARNING: This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Zoning Adjustments Board Members,

I am writing to urge the City of Berkeley to require a full environmental review before approving the proposed demolition of the jockey living quarters and barns at Golden Gate Fields.

I support the creation of a public park at Golden Gate Fields, but I am concerned that demolition is moving forward before the environmental impacts, legal obligations, and long-term consequences have been adequately evaluated. In particular, the demolition of existing residential units raises serious questions that deserve careful consideration.

This is an extraordinary public investment, and we owe it to the community to ensure that the acquisition and demolition are conducted responsibly, transparently, and in the public's best interest.

I respectfully ask the ZAB to withhold approval of the demolition until a full environmental review has been completed and the City's reliance on a statutory CEQA exemption has been thoroughly examined.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Susan McKay

Susan McKay Landscape Design
CA Landscape Architect 2872
913 Virginia Street
Berkeley, CA 94710

Jacob, Melinda

Subject: FW: ZAB Item 6B – Golden Gate Fields Demolition – Request for Environmental Review

From: K. Slaughter <kslaughter33@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 4, 2026 3:53 PM
To: Zoning Adjustments Board (ZAB) <Planningzab@berkeleyca.gov>; Jacob, Melinda <MJacob@berkeleyca.gov>
Subject: ZAB Item 6B – Golden Gate Fields Demolition – Request for Environmental Review

WARNING: This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Zoning Adjustments Board Members,

As a Berkeley native, longtime resident, and parent of two Berkeley High student-athletes, I am writing to urge the Zoning Adjustments Board to require a thorough environmental review before approving the proposed demolition of the jockey living quarters and barns at Golden Gate Fields.

I strongly support public ownership and the opportunity to create an extraordinary regional waterfront park. My family regularly enjoys this part of the waterfront by bike and on foot, including visits to the Albany Bulb and César Chávez Park. I also see firsthand how important public recreational spaces are to our community. One of my children uses Tom Bates Regional Sports Complex for rugby, while the other has experience playing beach volleyball. Through our travels, we've seen how other communities have transformed waterfront properties into vibrant destinations that combine open space, organized sports, recreation, events, and amenities that attract visitors and support local economic activity.

Golden Gate Fields has the potential to become the premier waterfront destination on the Bay, with world class views and opportunities for environmental restoration, active recreation, and community programming. We should not narrow that vision or make irreversible decisions before fully understanding the property's environmental, recreational, and economic potential.

In particular, the proposed demolition of existing residential units and barns raises important questions about environmental impacts, legal obligations, and opportunities for adaptive reuse. These structures should be evaluated as part of a comprehensive planning process rather than assuming demolition is the only path forward.

This is an extraordinary public investment and a once-in-a-generation opportunity. We owe it to Berkeley residents and the broader East Bay community to make thoughtful, transparent decisions that protect the environment while preserving flexibility for what this waterfront can become.

I respectfully ask the ZAB to withhold approval of the demolition until a full environmental review has been completed and the City's reliance on a statutory CEQA exemption has been thoroughly examined.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kieron Slaughter
Berkeley Resident

Jacob, Melinda

From: Nick Pilch <npilch@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 4, 2026 2:00 PM
To: Zoning Adjustments Board (ZAB)
Subject: ZAB Item 6B – Golden Gate Fields Demolition – Request for Environmental Review

WARNING: This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Zoning Adjustments Board Members,

I am writing to urge the City of Berkeley to slow down the approval of the proposed demolition of the jockey living quarters and barns and any other structures on Golden Fields land in Berkeley.

I support the comments of Friends of Golden Gate Fields Park.

I support the creation of a public park at Golden Gate Fields, but I am concerned that demolition is moving forward before the environmental impacts, legal obligations, and long-term consequences have been adequately evaluated. In particular, the demolition of existing residential units raises serious questions that deserve careful consideration, including lack of reuse. These structures contain a lot of embodied carbon.

This is an extraordinary public investment, and we owe it to the community to ensure that the acquisition and demolition are conducted responsibly, transparently, and in the public's best interest.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Nick Pilch
Former Albany Mayor

Nick Pilch
npilch@gmail.com
Sent from a mobile device