



January 10, 2017

Mr. Curtis Banks
610 Foster City Boulevard
Foster City, California 94404

Subject: Foster City Levee Protection Planning and Improvements Project

Dear Mr. Banks:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the above-referenced document. As you are aware, the San Francisco Bay Trail is a planned 500-mile walking and cycling path around the entire San Francisco Bay. 350 miles are currently in place and enjoyed by countless Bay Area residents.

The Bay Trail Project appreciates the level of detail and attention given to the Trail overall, and to the detours, signage, outreach, and education in particular. It is clear that Foster City residents and visitors depend on and value the Bay Trail for links to and between work, transit, home, and school, in addition to its provision of an easily accessible recreation facility. While the Draft EIR appears to address construction related issues which will necessarily disrupt trail access for the duration, we have the following comments/suggestions.

Finished Trail Width

The Draft EIR states that the Bay Trail will be replaced “in-kind or better” as part of the project, with improvements including observation points, trash cans, benches/seating, and improved access points meeting Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements. Additionally, the current eight-foot wide path will be replaced by a paved surface ten feet in width with two-foot gravel shoulders and an additional foot of clearance adjacent to the sea wall. The recently released Bay Trail Design Guidelines, which can be downloaded from our website at www.baytrail.org, recommend a minimum traveled width of 12-feet with two-foot shoulders on either side. While this additional width may not be possible with the proposed levee configuration, it is our hope that consideration can be given to a wider path. The level of use the Bay Trail in Foster City receives currently, combined with a reasonable expectation for future increased growth in both commuter and recreational users suggests that more width would be appropriate in this location.

Trail Detours

The Bay Trail detour routes depicted in the Draft EIR do not appear to have bike lanes, though they do appear to have right-of-way to accommodate bike lanes in some areas. While Beach Park and Edgewater Boulevard seem to be the logical choices for the detours, given the duration of construction, perhaps temporary bike lanes could be installed to aide safety of cyclists who will now need to share the road with traffic.

Aesthetics

We strongly encourage Foster City to provide attractive landscaping as part of any sea wall construction. Either height option will have visual impacts, and it is important that these impacts be mitigated to the greatest degree possible. The Draft EIR states that interpretive signage will be erected to inform the public about the levee improvement project and we applaud this action. Foster City should also consider a modified/updated version of the interpretive signage to be placed upon completion of the project. Such signage could continue the conversation around climate change and sea level rise.

The Bay Trail Project appreciates being thoughtfully included in the pre-planning for this important levee repair work. We are happy to provide information regarding detours on our website and Facebook page when construction commences. If you have any questions about these comments or about the Bay Trail, please do not hesitate to contact me at (415) 820-7935, or by e-mail laurat@abag.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Laura Thompson".

Laura Thompson
Bay Trail Project Manager