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December 21, 2017

President Saltzman and Members of the Board  
Bay Area Rapid Transit District  
300 Lakeside Drive  
Oakland 94604

via email to District Secretary [Kduron@bart.gov](mailto:Kduron@bart.gov)

Re: Possible Property Developments at Lake Merritt Station

Dear President Saltzman and Board Members:

As a representative of the Sierra Club, I attended the “first Lake Merritt BART Transit-Oriented Development Stakeholder Committee Meeting” on December 11th. Four things stood out, and I want to bring them to your attention.

*First*, it was great to learn that BART intends to build affordable housing as a part of the proposed residential development.

*Second*, there was a lot of information distributed by your staff, but there was no mention whatsoever that the site is within a large Priority Development Area. This is a significant omission, as PDAs are a key to the Sustainable Communities Strategy of Plan Bay Area 2040.

*Third*, there was a discussion of providing parking spaces as part of the proposed development. How does parking at Lake Merritt Station fit with BART’s Station Access Policy?

Please consider not providing any parking with any new property development at Lake Merritt Station. Two of the outcomes of a successful PDA are fewer vehicle miles traveled in cars and light trucks and more people walking, riding a bike or taking transit. There is a Ford GoBike station there now, and besides the train station, there is a lot of bus service provided by AC Transit (more cars are not good for pedestrians, bike riders or AC Transit’s operations). The PDA has too many cars now!

*Fourth*, the consultant stated that residential development at the station doesn’t pencil out. This is worthy of your review, since the District already owns the land. Other developers in Oakland are building residential developments, and presumably they all “pencil out”. What this PDA needs is more housing; another office tower will not help

ease the housing crisis in the region or fit within the first point made above about affordable housing.

If you have any questions about this Comment letter, please contact me at [mwillia@mac.com](mailto:mwillia@mac.com). Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Matt Williams  
Chair, Transportation and Compact Growth Committee

cc: Oakland Mayor Schaaf  
Caltrans District 4 Office of Transit and Community Planning Chief Gerhard  
Chair, Chapter Executive Committee  
Chair, Northern Alameda County Chapter Group