

October 15, 2003

Re: **Targeted Site Assessment Application for 3860-3884 Martin Luther King, Jr. Way in Oakland, California**

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing this letter to convey the support of the MacArthur BART Citizen's Planning Committee (CPC) regarding the Redevelopment Agency's application for a Targeted Site Assessment for the two properties located at 3860-3884 Martin Luther King, Jr. Way. The CPC has worked with BART and the City of Oakland on planning the MacArthur Transit Village since 1993. The CPC is comprised of residents, business owners, and representatives of the community organizations and has a mailing list of over 200 people.

The original plans for the MacArthur Transit Village, as envisioned by the CPC, included both the Telegraph Avenue (east) and the Martin Luther King, Jr. Way (west) sides of the station. It has always been my belief that the development of the west side of the station is as critical, if not more important, than development on the east side. When the MacArthur freeway and the BART station were constructed in the 1960's, it divided a previously unified community. Since that time, the east side of the station has prospered while the west side has suffered from poverty, crime, and blight.

It has been a top priority of the CPC, since its inception, to work towards the revitalization of the neighborhood on the west side of the BART station. We believe that development adjacent to the BART station is a key factor towards realizing this revitalization. However, we recognize that there are some potential environmental concerns with the properties on the west-side related to both current and past uses of the properties that are a potential impediment to their development.

On behalf of the CPC, I strongly encourage the Cal/EPA Departments to assist us with testing for contamination on these properties so that we can encourage development on the site. This will help to reduce the overall blight in our neighborhood that stems, in part, from these vacant property and underutilized properties. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



Walter Miles  
Chairperson,  
MacArthur BART Citizen's Planning Committee