An Open Letter to the People of Oakland from the Port of Oakland

The Port of Oakland is planning to replace the old Galbraith Golf Course with a splendid new, world class, championship 18-hole golf course, one that we can all be proud of.

This will be done at no expense to Oakland taxpayers.

The new course will be built in five to seven years. Meanwhile, those who use the Galbraith course will play on the public course at Chabot.

What had been a major problem for the Port in its efforts to provide more jobs, more tax revenues, and more business opportunities for all the people of Oakland, will then produce an additional payoff for golfers—a world class public course.

By November the Port of Oakland must provide land for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to accommodate between 800.000 and 1.2-million cubic yards of dredge material taken from the Inner and Outer Harbor Channels.

This dredge material is clean—not toxic. It will not threaten the neighborhood in any way. And when it dries it will make an ideal base for the new golf course.

As you know, the Galbraith Golf Course land, which once served as a sanitary landfill (garbage dump) for the East Bay, is now owned by the Port of Oakland. The Port leases it to the City for recreational use and the Port and the City supposedly share any revenue it might make. Unfortunately, there has never been any revenue to share.

That might change, once the Port builds the championship course.

Port engineers and environmentalists have been studying the dredge disposal issue for more than 18 months. They have looked at more than 30 potential Bay Area locations. They have closely examined the high costs of disposal at crious sites. And they have realistically reviewed the delays imposed by special permitting requirements in other jurisdictions.

Without question, the Galbraith site is the best in the Bay Area. It is large enough to hold the material: it is close enough to the Bay to afford relatively easy access, and the addition of dredge material will substantially benefit the new golf course. It is the only location the Port can provide to meet the November deadline.

If the Port could accomplish its goals without temporarily closing the old golf course, it surely would do so. Impartial experts retained by the Port reviewed proposals to keep nine holes open at Galbraith during the disposal period. Unfortunately, it won't work. It can't be done.

As President Clinton said during his recent visit to Oakland, it's time to "Get on with it." Dredging the Port of Oakland. first authorized in 1972, has been delayed now for 21 years.

Those who would again postpone the start of dredging by opposing plans for a championship golf course at Galbraith are playing Russian roulette with jobs for all the people of Oakland, Dredging the channels means 2400 jobs and \$513-million in new payroll and state and local tax revenues. With the closure of military bases in the East Bay, this is revenue and jobs we desperately need. Don't let a few special interest obstructionists take it away from the rest of us.

Enough already. It is time to get on with it.



Patricla Murphy Associate Port Environmental Scientist (510) 272-1373 FAX (510) 465-3755

530 Water Street Oakland, California 94607 May 6, 1993

Mr. Ronald J. Owcarz
Hazardous Materials Specialist
ALameda County Department of Environmental Health
Hazardous Materials Division
80 Swan Way, Rm. 200
Oakland, CA 94621

Dear Mr. Owcarz:

I received your May 5, 1993 letter requesting that a deposit/refund account be established for review of the Preliminary Groundwater Quality Investigation Report of the Galbraith Golf Course. The attached transmittal letter shows that the Port submitted this report to your Department October 9, 1991. Until your May 5, 1993 letter, we did not receive any indication from your Department that a formal review of the report was necessary. Is it appropriate under your new regulatory oversight fees program to charge the Port for a report that was previously submitted to your Department? Please notify me in writing of the regulatory basis for this oversight fee for a report submitted in 1991.

Sincerely,

Patricia Murphy

Environmental Department

Attachment

cc: Ed Howell, Alameda County Hazardous Materials Division Neil Werner

RAFAT A. SHAHID, Assistant Agency Director

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH Hazardous Materials Division 80 Swan Way, Rm. 200 Oakland, CA 94621 (510) 271-4320

May 5, 1993

Ms. Patricia Murphy Associate Port Environmental Scientist Port of Oakland 530 Water Street Oakland, CA 94607

Re: Preliminary Groundwater Quality Investigation Report Galbraith Golf Course, 10505 Doolittle Drive, Oakland

Dear Ms. Murphy:

I am in receipt of the Preliminary Groundwater Quality
Investigation Report of the Galbraith Golf Course prepared by
Baseline Environmental Consulting dated June 1991 that you
submitted on April 21, 1993. For this department to review this
case, you will need to have a deposit/refund account established.
The deposit/refund mechanism is authorized by the Alameda County
Ordinance Code 3-141.6 which allows fees to be levied for the
regulatory oversight of site mitigation projects. You are
requested to submit a check for \$750.00 made payable to the
County of Alameda. This account will be billed at a rate of
\$75.00 per hour. Any unused portion of these funds will be
returned to you at the completion of the project. I have
enclosed a refund recipient designation form that will need to be
submitted with the deposit (see both sides of form).

The review of the case will proceed as soon as funds are received. If you have any questions, please contact me at (510) 271-4320.

Sincerely,

Ronald J. Owcarz, REHS

Hazardous Materials Specialist

Enclosure

cc: Yane Nordhav, Baseline Environmental Consulting

Rich Hiett, RWQCB Ed Howell - file



October 9, 1991

Mr. Dennis Byrne Alameda County Department of Environmental Health Hazardous Materials Program 80 Swan Way, Rm. 200 Oakland, CA 94621

SUBJECT: PRELIMINARY GROUNDWATER QUALITY INVESTIGATION, GALBRAITH GOLF COURSE, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

Dear Mr. Byrne:

Enclosed please find the preliminary report on groundwater quality at 1395 Middle Harbor Road in Oakland, California. A copy of the report has also been forwarded to the Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Francisco Bay Region.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact me at 272-1178.

Sincerely,

Andrew Clark-Clough Environmental Scientist

ABC/abc

cc: Tom Gandesbery - RWQCB

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