

## June 8<sup>th</sup> ACWF Event

### *“Oakland’s Measure DD: An Essential Element of Oakland’s Green Revival”*

On Tuesday, June 8<sup>th</sup>, the Alameda County Watershed Forum (ACWF) and the City of Oakland co-sponsored a presentation and site visit entitled *“Measure DD: An Essential Element of Oakland’s Green Revival”*.

Nearly 30 people attended the event - which included a presentation at the Oakland Museum and a walking tour of several Measure DD projects along the shore of Lake Merritt - to learn about the City of Oakland’s efforts to enhance its natural assets and bring people to the waterfront once again. With great determination and positive vision, residents, city officials, Measure DD staff and many funders/partners have committed to a variety of projects that will bring benefits to water quality, enhance wildlife habitat, public access to lake and waterfront, provide flood control, and improve safety for pedestrians and bicyclists. Creek restoration projects are a priority too, as a public survey ranked *“restore/acquire urban creeks”* as the number one priority of Oakland residents!

One of their most complex projects is completing a 6-mile waterfront walkway and biking trail that will take people along the entire stretch of bayside waterfront - from 29<sup>th</sup> Street to Hegenberger Drive – making loops under the bridges and greatly improving both scenery and safety. A connection between the Bay Trail and Lake Merritt is planned as well.

Lake Merritt is also being enhanced with a visionary movement of the roadways back from the lake shore, expansion of the natural channel that leads to the bay, creation of wetlands and walkways, and construction of a footbridge that leads from the enhanced parkland to a naturally-vegetated shoreline.

Creative engineering near the Lake Chalet Municipal Boathouse has involved a biofiltration swale that catches stormwater runoff and filters it naturally before it enters the lake. The Boathouse is LEED Gold certified, now a highly energy efficient historical building – complete with double pane windows and recycled or reused wood for decking.

To top it all off - literally - the City has gotten very creative and used the top of a trash enclosure as a living green roof. This carpet of native plants on the rooftop not only filters the water that would otherwise land on an impervious surface, but provides enhanced aesthetics for the neighbors in the many high-rise condos that surround it.

Says City Project Manager Joel Peter, *“Our biggest detractors when this was first proposed have become our biggest supporters of this project.”*

The ACWF Steering Committee hopes that other citizens in the East Bay communities of Alameda County will take up a similar effort to enhance their local natural resources. *“The \$198 million bond that was passed in Oakland is not only enhancing the natural landscape, it’s putting people to work in*

the construction, landscape architecture and engineering industries.” said ACWF Coordinator Betsy Diaz. “Community funding put to a good cause can have the secondary benefit of helping to stimulate the local economy.”

“Don’t assume that this is a bad time to move an issue forward, “ said Joel Peter.”When people are inspired there is great potential for change, “ he said.