

Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission
Feb 10, 2021

Regarding relocation of OFD Fire Station #4 currently at 1235 International Blvd. to San Antonio Park and removal of existing tennis facilities

More information : <https://www.oaklandca.gov/projects/sanantoniopark>

Dear Commissioners:

During the “San Antonio Park Master Plan Community Engagement” meetings conducted January 27, 29 and 30th, it was revealed to the public that plans are in the advanced stages to relocate Oakland Fire Station #4, currently at 1235 International Blvd. into the park and to remove all or part of the existing tennis courts along 18th Ave. near Foothill Blvd. This process was not previously made public, nor was there any public input or information made available by the City.

We the undersigned neighbors object to this process and plan on the following grounds:

- Taking away parkland and tennis courts permanently removes valuable acreage and recreation facilities needed for public health, water drainage, and plant habitat.
- The City wants to pave over part of a park to save a couple million dollars. There is no price that can be set to give away a half an acre, or even a quarter acre.
- Lands that were designated as parks are for the people. For the City to determine that parks can be sacrificed is an affront to all the efforts of conservationists and park lovers in the past who worked for many hours, days and months to preserve our parks for future generations.
- We, the residents of Oakland, voted to tax ourselves when we passed Measure KK, which is supposed to pay for parks improvements. It is a breach of trust for the City to turn around and use the money to plan for a new fire station. (note: these plans are well underway, and an architecture firm has already produced plans for the new station.)
- A park giveaway now sets an extremely bad precedent that will be replicated in other areas of Oakland and potentially also other East Bay cities.
- Giving away parkland to pave over and turn it into a Fire Station violates the City’s [2030 Equitable Climate Action Plan](#), which promised a “deep decarbonization” and committed to “Rehabilitate Riparian Areas and Open Space”

- The taking of public parkland violates the City's **Open Space, Conservation and Recreation (OSCAR)** plan, which was passed by council after years of input and collaboration among community members [in 1996](#). One of the key stipulations of [OSCAR](#) was that **there should be no net loss of public open space in the city**. (Chapter 2, Open Space, page 2-2.) OSCAR is part of Oakland's General Plan.
- On [page 2-4 of the Open Space document](#) (OSCAR) is a table listing the amount of Open Space as a % of total land area by neighborhood / district. The San Antonio district's Open Space is as a % of total land is 5.2% - among the lowest ratio by neighborhood in Oakland!
- The City has still not shared any information on why San Antonio Park is the only feasible site.

We are asking you to object to this land grab and immediately voice your opposition to the City Council and particularly to Council President Bas, who represents our district.

Sincerely,

Kent Lewandowski
1636 East 20th St.
Oakland, CA 94606

Naomi Schiff

Javier Alvarado

Darin Lounds
2145 E 19th Street

Diego & Jasmine Gonzales

Lauren Blanchard
2001 18th Ave

Sam Eisen

Eric LaSalle

Marlon Tan
2001 18th Ave

JP Posma

Katherine Mancera
1726 19th Ave

Gabi Parsons

Ryan Lester & Kimberly Batten