



SIERRA CLUB
SAN FRANCISCO BAY

NORTHERN ALAMEDA COUNTY GROUP

ALAMEDA ALBANY BERKELEY EMERYVILLE OAKLAND PIEDMONT SAN LEANDRO

March 2, 2021

Mayor Libby Schaaf
President Nikki Fortunato Bas and Oakland City Council
1 Frank Ogawa Plaza
Oakland, CA 94612

Re: Relocation of Fire Station to San Antonio Park

Dear Mayor Schaaf, Council President Fortunato Bas, and Oakland City Council,

The Sierra Club supports continuing and improving fire services in Oakland. However, **it opposes the taking of any portion of San Antonio park by the City of Oakland for use as a Fire Station, or for any use other than as a public park.**

Urban parks are a key resource for all of Oakland. Some of their many benefits include:

- Opportunity for Mental and Physical Health Improvement (playgrounds, basketball, soccer fields and DIY gardens sponsored by Oakland Parks and Recreation)
- Storm Water Collection
- Reduction of Urban Heat Island Effect
- Community Centers / Areas for Community to Interact / Opportunity Sites for Resiliency Hubs
- Cleaner Air
- Protected space where native trees and plants can grow

For many of Oakland's residents, especially those who are disadvantaged, parks are the only opportunity to interact with nature and the environment. Urban parks play a key role for many of our younger residents to develop a healthy and positive relationship with nature.

Oakland City Council wisely adopted the Open Space, Conservation and Recreation (OSCAR) Element of the City's General Plan in 1996. Permanently paving over a portion of San Antonio Park contradicts OSCAR and intent of the community members and leaders who participated in that process.

For all these reasons, the Sierra Club urges you to consider alternate sites for Fire Station #4.

Respectfully,

Igor Tregub, Chair
Sierra Club Northern Alameda County Group