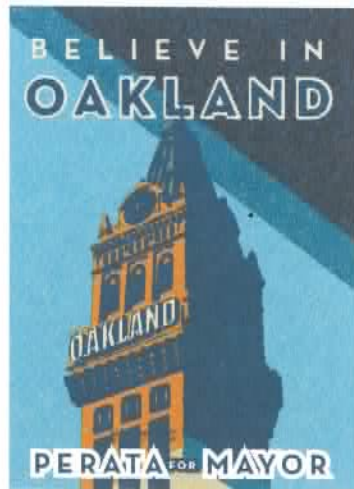


May 30, 2010



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Dear Neighbor:

A number of our neighbors have contacted me seeking my opposition to the City of Piedmont's plans to build the **Moraga Sports Complex** in **Moraga Canyon**.

I oppose the proposal; I opposed it when in the state senate and I oppose it now. In fact, as a candidate for Oakland mayor in November, I have "tuned up" my opposition to compensate for Oakland City Hall's weak response to the City of Piedmont.

Frankly, it is all too typical of Oakland City Council: wasting time and money without a clear, winning strategy. "Passive resistance" won't stop the MSC. Assigning four city staff (two each from the City Council and City Planning) to "monitor" the project's progress is hardly a strategy to stop it.

And we need not wait for an Environmental Impact Report to know the sports complex is an unmitigated disaster for our neighborhoods. On its face, cutting deeply into the hillside and constructing massive retaining walls will destroy the natural integrity and beauty of the canyon.

So what would I do? I'd use diplomacy and unequivocal determination when meeting with Piedmont's elected leaders. I'd leave no doubt that Oakland will stop their project cold. But I'd also offer options.

One could be a joint-venture between Oakland and Piedmont for a site that the youth of both cities can use. A second option is to rent one or more of Oakland's existing fields to Piedmont. Our cash-strapped recreation programs can use the money.

Simultaneously, I would convene a meeting of local conservation and environmental public interest groups to enlist their opposition. This Moraga Canyon project cannot be dismissed simply as a NIMBY issue. It goes well beyond inconvenience or poor location. It's an ecological mess.

The Sierra Club, League of Conservation Voters, Audubon Society and NRDC are among those with local chapters that would be quick to help us; especially if the Mayor of Oakland asks!

That's how Oakland's City Council should be championing our cause. It's clearly not. Nonetheless, I'm prepared to do whatever is necessary to act in Oakland's best interests. If you'd like to assist, please feel free to email me at perataformayor@gmail.com. Thank you.

DON PERATA