

# Joe Tuman *for* Oakland 2010 Mayor

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Dear Oakland Neighbors,

As a long-time resident of Oakland, I am keenly aware of the controversy surrounding the proposed sports complex in Moraga Canyon. For the record, I oppose any development of Moraga Canyon.

The proposed design of the Moraga Sports Complex would replace the natural, rustic beauty of Moraga Canyon. A visible pedestrian walkway, fencing, and a large retaining wall would obscure and change the feel and aesthetic quality of the canyon. In my view, bringing new design ideas into a location that has traditionally been rustic requires, at the very least, a design concept that blends with what was originally there.

As the father of two children who played many sports, I understand Piedmont parents' desire to provide a space for young people to play. However, neighboring communities need to be sensitive to, and respectful of, the needs of one another. Piedmont cannot ignore Oakland residents' concerns in this situation, including those of safety and traffic congestion.

Leadership from the City of Oakland requires attention from a strong Mayor, and as your Mayor, I would be directly involved in discussions with the City of Piedmont, looking for alternatives to this site, and exploring mutually acceptable ways out of this controversy.

Rather than focus on ineffective stalling tactics, such as the Oakland City Council's nit-picking of the environmental impact report, or, alternatively, threatening the City of Piedmont with a lawsuit, I would prefer to go straight to the heart of the problem – the perceived need for a new sports facility versus the desires and concerns of both Oakland and Piedmont residents.

An example of an alternative that meets both sides' wishes might include a collaborative project between the two cities to develop sports facilities on public land in Oakland for use by young people from both Oakland and Piedmont. Piedmont clearly possesses financial resources to develop this project; the city of Oakland has public land. Are we really so far apart on this that we cannot combine those two strengths to come up with a solution?

As your new mayor, I can and will resolve this controversy to everyone's satisfaction. In the meantime, while I am still a concerned citizen of Oakland, I am happy to lend my name and time to helping both sides resolve this issue.

Sincerely,

Joe Tuman

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